

# West Ilsley News

## OCTOBER 2023

[www.westilsley.org](http://www.westilsley.org)

### Editors

Andrea Cook

281224

Liz Dray

07766 413174

Email: [westilsleynews@westilsley.org](mailto:westilsleynews@westilsley.org)

Deadline for the next publication is:

5 pm on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October

### EDITORIAL POLICY

We are editors (though we don't edit unless we have to) – we are not reporters, so we only write something if we want to. We rely on villagers to contribute news and information and welcome updates from groups, committees and businesses to let the village know what is going on in their area of interest. We are always happy to receive feedback about WIN so please get in touch if you have anything to say.

### DISTRIBUTION

Our aim is to reach every dwelling in the village. Most homes have signed up to receive WIN by email, but for those who haven't, the Parish Council produces paper copies which are delivered by volunteers. If you have received a paper copy of this newsletter but have access to email, please join the email distribution list by contacting [westilsleynews@westilsley.org](mailto:westilsleynews@westilsley.org) – help to save paper and shoe leather!

### What's on in West Ilsley

#### OCTOBER

1<sup>st</sup>

Harvest festival and lunch

8<sup>th</sup>

Catmore Church harvest festival 5pm

### FULL COUNCIL MEETING DATES

#### 7.30 in the VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday 14th November 2023

Tuesday 20th February 2024

----

Tuesday 14th May 2024, 7:00pm - Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Tuesday 14th May 2024, 8:15pm - Annual Parish Meeting

### PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

The intent of my messages to the WIN is to summarise Parish Council meetings for those who are interested but are unable to attend the meetings.

The Parish Council held a meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> September and a range of items were discussed.

Before going into them, I would like to extend my thanks to Fred Carter on behalf of the village. Fred has represented the village on the Patient Participation Group run by the Downland Practice for around 14 years. Thank you Fred. Joe Clerkin has kindly offered to take up the reins and I have already seen messages from Joe seeking feedback from the village.

The Village Hall Management Committee have had many of the village hall windows replaced. This will help with the running costs over the winter months and looks much better aesthetically, a separate project will be initiated to replace the front windows. As a reminder, funding for the completed project came from external grants as well as contributions from the village.

The recurring topic of a Neighborhood Plan was also discussed and whilst it is clear there is limited appetite within the village to create a plan at this time, the Parish Council cannot contribute to a neighborhood plan so either volunteers are required or funding would be required to get external help. The District Council strategy is not clear at this point so I anticipate this is a topic for discussion in the future.

Households who have garden vegetation and obstructions encroaching on the Main Street pavements were also brought up during the meeting. There are areas along Main Street which are difficult to use for mobility scooter users and families with prams. It would be appreciated if everyone could ensure pavements are kept clear for all passersby.

The weed growth along pavements has been reported to West Berkshire Council. It is clear the weeds will damage the pavements if not treated.

Organization of the annual fireworks was also discussed and the Village Hall Management Committee will be coordinating the event along with volunteers. I am sure more details will be publicised nearer the time.

Graham Woods - Chairman

### UPDATE FROM CLLR CAROLYNE CULVER

Dear Residents

Since May I have been chairman of Scrutiny Commission. On 14 September we looked at the council's revenue and capital budget performance. The council is currently trying to save around £6million. We also had a presentation from DCI Evans from Thames Valley Police. The next meeting will be 6.30pm on Wednesday 11 October to review the activities of Thames Water and the Environment Agency. I have received lots of questions from concerned residents, flood forums and organisations that campaign to protect our rivers from sewage. The meeting will be streamed live on [the Council's YouTube channel](#) for residents wanting to follow the meeting as it happens or at their convenience later.

Scrutiny is crucial to the democratic process, allowing residents and opposition and backbench councillors to explore the detail of Council decisions and challenge anything of concern. In an 'executive-led' Council like West Berkshire where power is centralised, the role of the Scrutiny Commission is essential. We have a very lengthy work programme of subjects we want to look at in more detail including foster care provision, why West Berkshire has a poor record of educational achievement for children who have free school meals, and why we have a poor record of helping disabled people find employment. Scrutiny will be holding a series of meetings starting in October to learn lessons from the covid pandemic.

The deadline for Members' Community Bids, whereby WBC match funds parish council and community projects, is 31<sup>st</sup> October. I have been in touch with the parish council about this. If you would like to know more please contact me.

West Berkshire Food Bank provides emergency food to local people.

Please see <https://westberks.foodbank.org.uk/> for more details about how to be referred to the service and collection locations. You can also donate to the food bank. Their phone number is 01635 813390 and their email is info@westberks.foodbank.org.uk

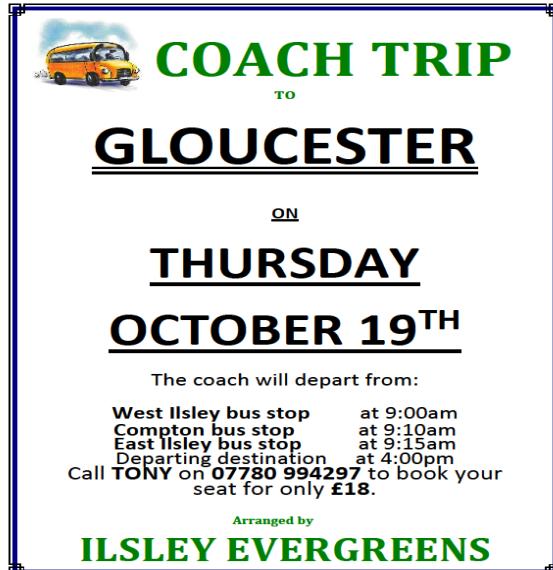
Information about benefits can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/low-income>  
The Citizens' Advice Bureau can also advise you via 01635 516605.

Don't forget that you can report problems including fly tipping, unemptied bins, and pot holes via [www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem)

Alternatively, email [customerservices@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@westberks.gov.uk)

Or call 01635 551111. If you don't get a satisfactory response let me know. For information about road works (eg utility companies digging up roads) please look at One Network <https://uk.one.network> which contains a map where you can search for details of what is happening in the area.

Best wishes  
Councillor Carolyne Culver  
Ridgeway ward  
West Berkshire Council  
[carolyne.culver1@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:carolyne.culver1@westberks.gov.uk)  
(m) 07976 374146



**COACH TRIP**  
to  
**GLOUCESTER**  
on  
**THURSDAY**  
**OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup>**

The coach will depart from:

West Ilsley bus stop	at 9:00am
Compton bus stop	at 9:10am
East Ilsley bus stop	at 9:15am
Departing destination	at 4:00pm

Call **TONY** on **07780 994297** to book your seat for only £18.

Arranged by  
**ILSLEY EVERGREENS**

## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

### October Services at All Saints' Church

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Harvest Festival at 11.00am

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion at 8.30am

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Communion at 9.30am

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> *No service in West Ilsley*

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> *No service in West Ilsley*

Please look on the notice board in the lychgate or on the East Downland website:

<https://www.eastdownland.org.uk/news-and-notices/this-week>

for other services in the benefice during October.

### Harvest Festival and Lunch

Our Harvest Festival service is on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 11am and will be followed by Harvest Lunch in the village hall. Non-perishable food donations can be brought to the service and we will deliver them to the West Berks Foodbank. Hopefully, you will have booked your tickets for Harvest Lunch by now. Do come to the service even if you are unable to join us for lunch but we look forward to seeing you at either or both events.

### Café in All Saints' Church

Our monthly cafe in church continues on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October between 10.00am and 11.00am. Donations go to a different charity each month. Everyone is welcome to join us there for coffee, cake and a chat!

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October

Although there is no service in West Ilsley that day, we will be meeting at St Mary's Church, Chieveley for a Group Eucharist. This will be your chance to say 'goodbye' to Revd William McDowell who, after around 8 years in this benefice, is moving to Walbury Beacon benefice. If anyone would like to donate to his leaving present, please send a cheque to the rector, marked clearly 'for WMCD' or hand to a member of the PCC.

### **Dates for your Diary**

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Church and churchyard tidyup.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Day service at 10.55am

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December – All Saints' Carol Service, followed by mulled wine & mince pies.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Christingle

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Winter Warmer

**Put all these dates in your diary now and come and join us!**

### **Private Prayer**

All Saints' continues to open on Saturdays and Sundays for private prayer between 9.30am and 6pm.

### **Pastoral**

If you would like prayer (or other support) for you or someone else, please get in touch. We are happy to be contacted by phone or email using the details of contacts shown below. If anyone needs help or would just like to chat, do contact the wardens or clergy who will do their best to help.

### **Contacts:**

**Churchwardens:** Ian – 01635 281625; Alexandra – 01635 281306

**Rector:** Revd John Toogood – 01635 247566 or 07748 822336 - [edownlandrector@gmail.com](mailto:edownlandrector@gmail.com)

**Associate Priest:** Revd Douglas Dales – 01635 247404 – [revdjdales@gmail.com](mailto:revdjdales@gmail.com)

**Associate Priest:** Revd William McDowell – [rev.w.mcdowell@gmail.com](mailto:rev.w.mcdowell@gmail.com)

**East Downland Benefice Office:** 07957 458107 - [eastdownland@btinternet.com](mailto:eastdownland@btinternet.com) – Usually open on Thursday & Friday mornings between 9am and 1pm.

Kay and Ian Fewtrell-Smith

### **CHILTON BABY AND TODDLER GROUP**

We meet in Old Chilton village hall,  
Fridays 9.30 till 11.30.

Come and join us for tea, coffee and snacks for  
the children.

Info: Margaret McGahey 01235 861 350.

**WEST ILSLEY  
VILLAGE HALL  
PRIZE BINGO  
FIREWORK SPECIAL  
FRIDAY 6TH  
OCTOBER  
STARTS at 7:30pm  
EXCELLENT PRIZES  
AND A GREAT RAFFLE  
COME ALONG AND SUPPORT  
THE VILLAGE BONFIRE  
AND FIREWORKS**



## **ILSLEY EVERGREENS**

Our Chairman Julia Rockall was recently admitted to hospital in a serious condition, but through the hard work of the staff at the JR in Oxford, Julia is now back at home and recovering well.

As a result of this scare and her ongoing health issues Julia has decided to resign as Chairman of the Evergreens with immediate effect. Julia has been a member since 2005, served on the committee for many years and as Chairman since 2015. I am sure that we all thank her for her many years of service and wish her good health in the future.

Mary Studart as Vice-chairman will assume the role of Chairman until the next AGM in February 2024.

The recent trip to Evesham, a bustling market town beside the river Avon with many interesting historic buildings, was enjoyed in sunshine with just the odd heavy shower and had something for everyone.

The list of the remaining trips for this year are;

Thursday - October 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Gloucester

Thursday - November 30<sup>th</sup> ~ Winchester Christmas Market

Please come along on the trips and support the Evergreens.

Tony Elliott ~ Secretary/Trips Officer

### **THE ILSLEYS NEWSLETTER**

It is a new school year at The IIsleys Primary School and all the pupils are excited for the year ahead. In the last couple of weeks, we have been experiencing fun and excitement after a long six week break. We have all settled into our new year groups and have been learning about new topics. All the pupils have been working hard and we hope that they will keep up the good work. We are all looking forward to the new year ahead.

You may already know that, on the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> of September, it was the Newbury Show. The pupils contributed to the school tent at the show by creating various items to put on display. These included dreamcatchers, poems and drawings of plants, as the theme of the tent this year was nature. We spent most of the Wednesday before the show outside, embracing it; all the children enjoyed making things for the show.

Every two weeks, the school invite young children - whose parents are looking for a school for them- to have a morning with them in Arctic Class. Miss Parsons has been showing them all the advantages of joining The IIsleys. In a few years the teachers hope that, because of these visits, they will be joining our wonderful school. We hope that they enjoyed the visit

and will be back in two weeks' time. The next session will be on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October from 10 – 11.30.

Written by 2 Year 6 pupils.



**WEST ILSLEY**  
INVITES YOU TO THEIR ANNUAL  
**BONFIRE & FIREWORKS**  
AT THE  
**RECREATION GROUND**  
**SUNDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 5TH**  
BAR OPENS AT 5:30PM  
BBQ AT 6:00PM  
BONFIRE AT 6:30PM  
FIREWORK DISPLAY AT 7:00PM  
**FREE ADMISSION**  
DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

## PANG VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION EXHIBITION

Saturday 4th November 1pm-6pm

Hampstead Norreys Village Hall, Newbury Hill,  
RG18 0TR

Free to attend, no booking required!

Join us at our upcoming Pang Valley Flood Protection Exhibition, where you can find out about local projects and speak to key organisations about your concerns surrounding flooding in the area.

Hosted by the Pang Valley Flood Forum and supported by Project Groundwater, West Berkshire Council and the local Parish Councils, the event will take place on Saturday 4th November from 1pm-6pm.

With a variety of organisations present to answer your questions on flooding in the Pang Valley area, you can improve your knowledge of who is available to support you and how you can prepare for future flood events. These include:

- Pang Valley Flood Forum
- West Berkshire Council
- Project Groundwater
- Environment Agency
- Thames Water

And more!

There will be stands displaying flood protection devices, and an opportunity to see how flood resilience measures work in the Floodmobile, a 'flood house on wheels', which is packed with around 50 different property flood protection measures that demonstrates the variety of measures you can take to make your home more flood resilient.

Refreshments will also be available for you to enjoy as you speak to the various stallholders.



## WHO TO CONTACT

**DEFIBRILLATOR** is outside the village hall - code: C159

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR** – Carolyne Culver 07976 374146  
Carolyne.Culver1@westberks.gov.uk

## PARISH COUNCIL

Council members are:

**Alan Bloor** [alan.bloor@westilsley.org](mailto:alan.bloor@westilsley.org)

**Clive Hooker** [clive.hooker@westilsley.org](mailto:clive.hooker@westilsley.org)

**Katy Morris** [katy.morris@westilsley.org](mailto:katy.morris@westilsley.org)

**Alan Muir** [alan.muir@westilsley.org](mailto:alan.muir@westilsley.org)

**Tim Pearey** [timothy.pearey@westilsley.org](mailto:timothy.pearey@westilsley.org)

**Graham Woods** [graham.woods@westilsley.org](mailto:graham.woods@westilsley.org)

07905 558884

**Sarah Marshman – Clerk** [clerk@westilsley.org](mailto:clerk@westilsley.org)

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT** – Laura Farris  
[laura.farris.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:laura.farris.mp@parliament.uk) 01635-551070

**PATIENT REPRESENTATION GROUP** rep is Joe Clerkin (01635) 281150 or [joeclerkin@georgeweb.co.uk](mailto:joeclerkin@georgeweb.co.uk)

**PRESCRIPTIONS** are delivered from Compton on Tuesday mornings at 8.30. Please collect yours from Ann Barnes, 3 Morland Close on **Tuesdays only between 2 pm and 4.30 pm**. Repeat forms can be posted through the letter box at any time before Monday evening for the following week's delivery.

**TENNIS COURT** membership and enquiries email - [tennis.bookings@westilsley.org](mailto:tennis.bookings@westilsley.org)  
Book and play without joining via [westilsleytennis.jezzam.com](http://westilsleytennis.jezzam.com)

## VILLAGE HALL

### Bookings & enquiries:

Any new bookings should now be done via the village Website: <https://www.westilsley.org/>  
Or by email to: [village.hall@westilsley.org](mailto:village.hall@westilsley.org)

Anyone without access to the internet can leave a message  
on: 01635 281762  
Rates: £10.00/hour for villagers and £12/hour non  
villagers.

**WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL – REPORT A PROBLEM:**

<https://westberks.gov.uk/reportaproblem>

**WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL – REPORT SPEEDING:**

<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/speedingtraffic>

**WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL – REPORT DOG FOULING:**

<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/article/36781/Report-Dog-Fouling>