

West Ilsley News

FEBRUARY 2026

www.westilsley.org

Editors

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Deadline for the next publication is:

5 pm on Wednesday 25th February

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

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 – help to save paper and shoe leather!

What's on in West Ilsley

FEBRUARY

6th	Village Hall Nature Talk
10 th	PC meeting

FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday 10th February 2026 7:30 pm Full Council

Tuesday 19th May 2026 7:00 pm

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Tuesday 19th May 2026 8:15 pm

Annual Parish Meeting

FEBRUARY AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Sunday 1st Family Service at 11.00am

Sunday 8th Communion at 8.30am

Sunday 15th Communion at 9.30am

Sunday 22nd No service at All Saints'

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 February.

Café in All Saints' Church

Our next monthly cafe will be on Sunday 8th February at 10am. No charge for refreshments, but each month

donations are sent to a different charity. Last month your generous donations of £180 went to the Children's Society. Everyone is invited for coffee, cake and a chat, so come and meet up with friends old and new!

Private Prayer

All Saints' will continue to open on Saturdays and Sundays for private prayer between 9.30am and dusk.

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, do contact the wardens or clergy who will do their best to help.

To subscribe to the weekly pew sheet, which contains readings, prayers and notices about church events in the benefice, please go to the East Downland website (see above).

Contacts:

Churchwardens: Ian – 01635 281625; Alexandra – 07769 645470

Rector: Revd John Toogood – 01635 247566 or 07748 822336 - edownlandrector@gmail.com

Associate Priest: Revd Douglas Dales – 01635 247404 – revdjdales@gmail.com

East Downland Benefice Office: 07957 458107 - eastdownland@btinternet.com – Usually manned on Thursday & Friday mornings between 9am and 1pm.

Kay and Ian Fewtrell-Smith

THE ILSLEYS NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year!

It has been a busy start to 2026 for The Ilsleys, but first, let's tell you about something exciting we did before Christmas. Last term, as part of their 'The Apprentice' topic, Atlantic Class created their very own pop-up shops! Half of the money they made was donated to Cancer Research and the other half will be spent by the class on something they would like. The groups were called: Delicious Desserts, Chewy Chomp, Kool Bracelets & Fine Food and Squish Delight!

Recently, the whole school went on a trip to see 'Matilda the Musical' in the West End in London. The children enjoyed a change of scenery and it was an incredibly entertaining show! It was a long journey there and back but well worth it!

As it is a new term, all of the classes have new topics. Arctic Class's new focus is 'The World is in Our Hands', Pacific Class's new topic is 'Ocean Explorers' and Atlantic Class's is 'Ancient Mayans'. The children have some exciting trips and workshops booked to help bring their topics to life!

On January 20th, we were very fortunate to be invited to a netball tournament at Park House School. We had a team of seven players and were put into a small

school league. We were so happy because we won all of our games and were the winners of the league! The team played three matches and scored 4-0, then 2-0 and, in the last match, 2-1. At the end, all of the children got a gold medal each for winning!

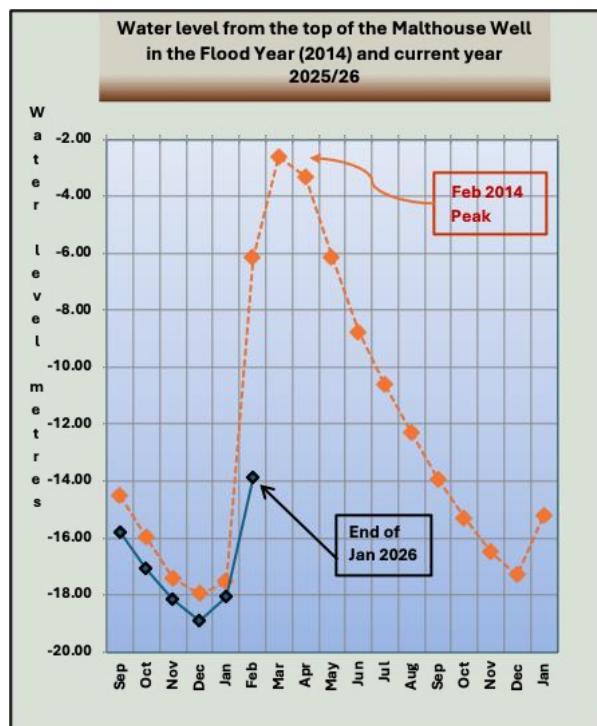
Please remember, if you would like to visit our school and spend some time with your child in our Reception and Year 1 class, the next 'Stay and Play' date is Monday 9th March. This is a great opportunity to meet our Early Years teacher, Miss Parsons, and get to know more about our school. There are always lots of activities for your child to enjoy too!

Written by A Year 5 and a Year 6

MALTHOUSE WELL – FEBRUARY 2026

After a fairly wet January where we had over 100mm rain, the well water level rose by about 4 metres during the month to just under 14 metres below ground level.

As the graph below shows the ground water level is now about 8 metres below the February 2014 level and so we have some leeway before the tricky situation we found ourselves in 12 years ago. Roll on Spring.



Quiz Night

Friday 13th March from 7pm

at Brightwalton Village Hall

Come along and support local mental health organisation 'Recovery in Mind'. We provide free of charge courses and workshops (based in Newbury) to help adults living in West Berkshire to self-manage & improve their own mental health & wellbeing. We have helped over 800 local people since 2016. Local support, self-referral and no waiting lists – all vital when you are struggling with your mental health.



Tickets £10 include a glass of wine or beer

Maximum team size of 8

BYO supper or snacks for the interval

Bar and raffle

To buy your tickets please email: Helen@recoveryinmind.org

Thank you for your support –

Angela Ryan – Founder of Recovery in Mind

Dave Judge will be our quizmaster for the evening

www.recoveryinmind.org for more information on what we do and how to book



WHO TO CONTACT

DEFIBRILLATOR is outside the village hall - code: C159

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT Olivia Bailey MP

If you want to get in touch with me or book a surgery appointment you can email me at olivia.bailey.mp@parliament.uk or write to me at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. If you want to keep up to date with what I am doing in Parliament and in the constituency, I send out a weekly email newsletter to constituents. If you would like to receive it, you can sign up at <https://shorturl.at/qqoHw>.

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

PARISH COUNCIL

Council members are:

Alan Bloor alan.bloor@westilsley.org

Georgie Carlisle-Smith georgie.carlislesmith@westilsley.org

Katy Morris katy.morris@westilsley.org

Tim Pearey timothy.pearey@westilsley.org

Rachel Hudson rachel.hudson@westilsley.org

Johnny Rayfield jonny.rayfield@westilsley.org

Sarah Marshman – Clerk clerk@westilsley.org

PATIENT REPRESENTATION GROUP rep is Joe Clerkin (01635) 281150 or 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 "Pay & Play" is available to non-members for £10 per hour. Non-members can book up to 24 hours in advance. To book the court please use <https://westilsleytennis.jezzam.com> or scan the QR code!

For all enquiries, please contact the Tennis Committee via <https://westilsleytennis.jezzam.com/contact>

VILLAGE HALL

Bookings & enquiries:

Any new bookings should now be done via the village

Website: <https://www.westilsley.org/>

Any booking enquiries please contact Jo by email: village.hall@westilsley.org

Anyone without access to the internet can leave a message on: 07958 239891

Rates: £12/hour for villagers and £15/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>

HOW TO CONTACT WEST BERKS COUNCIL REGARDING

EMERGENCIES 01635 551111

<https://westberks.gov.uk/emergency-contact#reporting%20outside%20office%20hours>