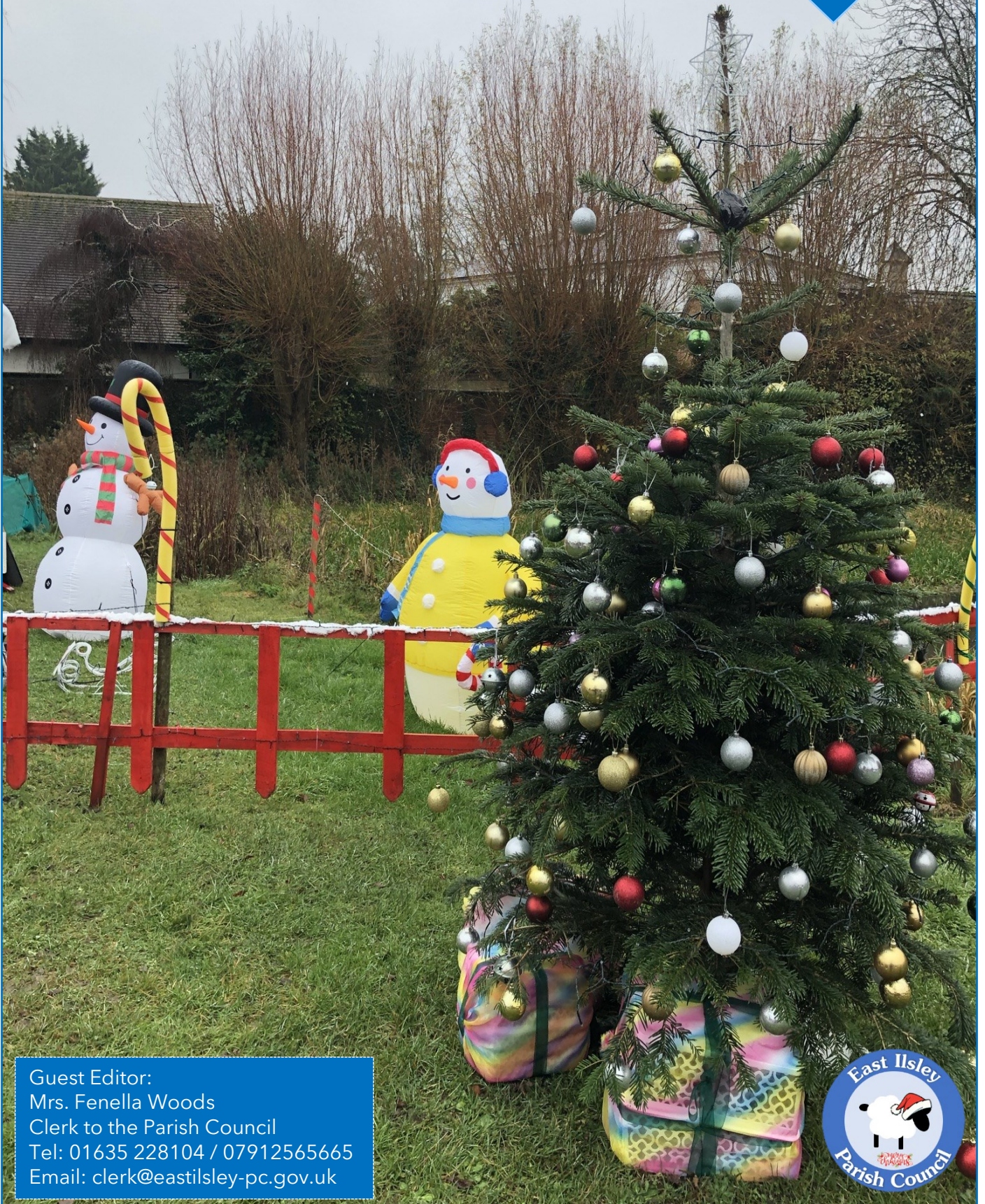


EAST ILSLEY COMMUNICATOR

Est. 2003

Welcome to the December Edition
of the EIC

ISSUE
102



Guest Editor:
Mrs. Fenella Woods
Clerk to the Parish Council
Tel: 01635 228104 / 07912565665
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Tales from your Parish Clerk



Welcome to issue 102 of the EIC, just in time for Christmas! What a joy it is to see the village adorned with all the decorations. The Pond Lot have gone to town this year, the Crown & Horns have made the pub look super festive and the inflatable snowman on Broad Street gave me a chuckle! It is so wonderful to see all the lights and the enjoyment people are getting from the displays. Well done East Ilsley!

At a time when work usually winds down in preparation for the Christmas break, your Parish Council have been hard at work. Behind the scenes we have been preparing the draft budget for the new financial year, applying for grants and funding to help us with various projects and generally being busy bees!

A couple of exciting things have happened at the Playground; first of all, thanks to your donations on Double Matched Funding Day back in July the new Pyramid Net has finally arrived! It is a wonderful and challenging addition to our playground for the children to use and I hope lots of you can wrap up warm and head over for a climb, do send us your pictures as we love to see them. The second thing is that we have finally got the Zip Wire fixed, so as well as climbing, you can whizz along the Zip Wire after its long spell of inactivity. I think you will agree that this year has been a bumper year for the Playground, thank you so much to our Playground Officer Cllr. Brendan McGrath for all his efforts, negotiations, phone calls and site visits. Also, thank you to the Playground Team who have supported Brendan and helped to initiate the plans. Finally, thanks to you dear reader as we could not have made the impact we have without your donations.

No 'tales' is ever complete without a Pond Watch update. The heavy rains we saw in November were concerning but our Flood Warden, Nick Watkins, was there to check on the flow and drainage and it withstood those onslaughts reasonably well. There is still lots to do, we are desperate to excavate but cannot fund the works needed. We have recently been awarded a £1,000 grant from West Berkshire which will be put towards the project to include a nature trail around the perimeter of the pond and a new CIL fund has just been released by West Berkshire Council. We are writing the application proposal to bid for financial support for the whole project. Deadline for submission is early January so expect an update on that early next year. This is a good time to remind all those with Riparian Responsibilities to ensure they keep the channels and gullies clean, free flowing and well maintained, all these little things do help.

Remember the war memorial we rescued from the Baptist Chapel? It is currently waiting for restoration in Cardiff under the care of the War Memorial Restoration Company who have put forward a proposal for the works. On 31st December we find out if we have been successful with our grant application to the War Memorial Trust to fund this and the Diocese of Oxford have agreed in principle for it to be re-homed in St Mary's Church once restoration is complete. We are just waiting for the faculty to be issued by the Registrar and we will be good to go.

Finally, as we come to the end of a pretty hideous year, we are completely in awe of the community spirit that is ever present in East Ilsley. We would not have been able to provide the support people in the village needed during the lockdowns without our amazing East Ilsley Superheroes, so thank you to each and every one of you.

The Parish Council would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, thank you for working with us and joining in with our meetings. Lets make 2021 a totally brilliant year and celebrate everything we have achieved together. Stay safe and well, enjoy being with your families and have a lovely Christmas!

Fen



Future Meeting Dates of the Parish Council

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 12 th January 2021	7.30pm	via Zoom*
Tuesday 9 th March 2021	7.30pm	via Zoom*

* Parish Councils are authorised to continue with online meetings until 6th May 2021. We will continue to meet via Zoom until we are advised it is safe to conduct face to face meetings. We will return to The Ilsleys Primary School as our meeting place once safe to do so.

The Zoom log in details for the above meetings can be found below:

January Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84710188420?pwd=ZEdSUmkwV1cxUXltYjJTVlVQ3NwUT09>

Meeting ID: 847 1018 8420

Passcode: 4bfuxx

March Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84676008922?pwd=UHJWNVZlemNsbE03WnZTbTB1bUpHdz09>

Meeting ID: 846 7600 8922

Passcode: 2G2Zka

How to contact the Parish Council:

Phone: 01635 228104 or 07912 565665

Email: clerk@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk

Post: Swimbrels, Newbury Hill, Hampstead Norreys, Berkshire, RG18 0TR

Facebook: @eiparishcouncil

Twitter: @eastilsleypari1

Instagram: @eastilsleypc

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8ba375kx9qqSeeEpPgyCLw/>



NEWS FLASH

Santa has agreed to tour East Ilsley again this Christmas Eve! He has told us that due to Covid-19 his sleigh will not stop along the route but instead he will drive slowly round the village so that he can wave at the children (and their parents) who will hopefully be out to wave back at him and small bags of sweets will be handed out.

Santa's Route: starting at 6.00 p.m. Sun Rise - Compton Road - The Pond - Hildesley Court - Church Hill - Church Side - High Street - Old Stanmore Road - High Street - Crown & Horns - The Swan - Abingdon Road - Farriers Lane - Sheepdown and should finish about 6.45 p.m.

Regrettably there will not be a house to house collection for The Air Ambulance however, we have set up a Just-Giving web page should you wish to donate to them and collection boxes will be in both The Crown & Horns and The Swan. Please be generous to this essential service that many downland villages rely on.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/fatherchristmasineastilsley>



From the Guest Editor...

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the EIC.

I think this might be my last edition as guest editor (insert sigh of relief from all parties here) 😊 I am hopeful our new editor will be ready to take over my quill and scroll from the new year! In all seriousness, I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of pulling these editions together, it has been a lot harder than I thought, kudos to Geoff and Matthew for what they managed for all those years, I can completely appreciate what you had to do!

So, we have finally made it to Christmas after a horrible year and we are allowed to get together with families during the 5 day 'break' between 23rd December and 27th December in a 'Christmas Bubble'. It is fantastic news that we can celebrate together and be with people we love at long last. We can travel and we can stay over night and generally feel a little bit more normal. It goes without saying that it is not an invitation to forget all we have been taught this year about hand hygiene, symptom spotting and personal judgement of situations, but at least we can celebrate this special time with people we really care about.

Thank you for reading the EIC this year and for all the lovely comments I have received. It has been wonderful to have engagement with readers who have sent in photos, and I couldn't do this without all the contributions from the various groups, charities, schools, churches and people. Thank you so much for helping me curate these editions, I hope it continues when the new editor takes over in the new year and I will very much look forward to reading future editions.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas, stay safe, and enjoy the festivities as best you can.
Fen



A thank you letter to school staff from West Berkshire Council

We have all experienced a very challenging and different 2020, none more so than teaching staff in schools and children learning in a new environment. Teachers already have to deal with copious amounts of work in the normal world, let alone adding to it the realities of COVID-19 such as teaching online, learning online technologies, and providing safe places for children of key workers and vulnerable children. Teachers reach out to pupils on a level that goes beyond the curriculum in classrooms. Delivering a quality education under these new restrictions is a noble achievement.

Like our courageous key workers that selflessly continue to keep vital services running for us, teaching and admin staff in our schools are among the unsung heroes of COVID-19. Teachers have not only had to juggle parenting and teaching at home with their own children but also prepare for remote learning; ensure that children's education is not compromised; clean classrooms for everyone's safety; and continually stay in contact with children and parents to make sure they are coping with homework.

There are still challenges ahead but what this pandemic has shown is that so much can be achieved by working together and creatively. Teachers and admin staff in schools deserve our thanks and appreciation for continuing to deliver a high quality education to our school children. During this reality of COVID-19, we've all had to adapt our lives during 2020 and beyond. For teachers and admin staff in schools all across West Berkshire, I want to personally say thank you, every day. You are, and always will be, our heroes.

Cllr Howard Woollaston
Chairman, Health and Wellbeing Board at West Berkshire Council





East Ilsley Parish Council

Precept Increase Survey 2021 / 2022

East Ilsley Parish Council are proposing to increase the Precept for 2021/2022 to allow them to complete the major work that is needed for the Pond.

The Pond provides us with an area of tranquillity within the village, it is home to a number of ducks and moorhens, and on occasion, goldfish even make an appearance. It has a number of benches around the outside and is the perfect spot to sit and spend some time outside in nature.

The Pond also has another role, and that is to aid the drainage of rainfall from the roads and to help filter the excess water away to the fields. In order for it to complete this task it needs to work properly and after investigation we know that this is no longer the case.

With help from West Berkshire Council, 3 Contract Engineers were contacted and ask to quote us for the costs of a full excavation of the silt and reeds, and the transfer of the excess silt and reeds when they have dried out. Each of these quotations were similar in price, between £22,000 and £25,000 for the total work but these could be subject to further increase depending on the amount of silt removed from the pond and how many lorries would be needed to transport it all away.

Thanks to the small Precept increase for 2020 / 2021 we have managed to ringfence £11,000 towards the Pond Project, but as you can see, we fall short of the amount required to complete the work. In order for us to be able to carry out this vital work are proposing to increase the Precept for 2021 / 2022 by £10,020, taking it to £24,450.00. This equates to the following figures for each Council Tax Band Property:

Table below shows the amounts of Parish Council Precept in total for all bands:

Year	Total Precept	Council Tax Base	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
2020/21	£24,450	262.84	£62.01	£72.35	£82.69	£93.02	£113.69	£134.37	£155.04	£186.04

Table below shows the amount the increase would be in addition for all bands if we increased the Precept by £10,020.00:

Year	Total Precept Increase	Council Tax Base	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
2020/21	£10,020	262.84	£25.41	£29.65	£33.89	£38.12	£46.59	£55.07	£63.54	£76.24

Therefore, we are looking at a Council Tax Precept increase of £38.12 **extra** a year for a Band D property, equivalent to £3.81 per 10 month annual payment schedule or 95p a week to enable this project.

We now want to survey all residents and find out your views and we invite you to participate in the online survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HFVB62H>

The deadline for responses is Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Or complete the form on the next page and hand into the Crown & Horns Pub who will gather them all for us to collect. The results of the survey will be collated and presented at the Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 12th January 2021 which due to Covid-19 will be held via Zoom and recorded for you to watch back on our YouTube Channel.



East Ilsley Parish Council Precept Increase Survey 2021 / 2022


Project Pond

East Ilsley Parish Council are proposing to increase the Precept for 2021/2022 to allow them to complete the major work that is needed for the Pond.

1. Are you in favour of the Parish Council going ahead with the major work required in the Pond?
☐ YES
☐ NO
2. Are you in favour of the Parish Council going ahead with the major work required on the Pond if it includes a Council Tax precept increase of an additional £38.12* per year (or 95p* per week) * for Band D properties
☐ YES
☐ NO
3. If you are not in favour of the proposed work on the Pond please indicate your reasons here:

4. Are there any other projects you would like to see the Council work on in the coming year?

Thank you for completing this survey.

 *cut me out and hand in to the Crown and Horns Pub before 5th January 2021.*



Newbury Town Centre Masterplan - Make your views count on the development of Newbury!

West Berkshire Council has appointed Hemingway Design to lead a major new master planning study on the future uses of Newbury Town Centre. The design firm will be part of a multi-disciplinary team that also includes New Masterplanning, GL Hearn, and Urban Movement. Please have your say and support this important project by filling out a 10 minute online survey (linked below). The goal of the survey is to begin to identify the town's needs. This exercise will form the first stage of a broad engagement strategy with the local community.

The study will be developed over the next 9 months to outline how the Town Centre can evolve into the future, resulting in a full masterplan. It will take into account the significant changes in the retail and hospitality industries and the impact of Covid-19 in accelerating the review of alternative uses for town centres and public spaces

Visit: <https://www.newburytowncentremasterplan.co.uk/>
to give your views



HM Government

NHS**TIER 2**

HIGH ALERT

FROM 2 DEC

MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY  <p>No mixing of households indoors, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six outdoors.</p>	BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS  <p>Pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals. Venues must stop taking orders at 10pm and must close by 11pm.</p>	RETAIL  <p>Open.</p>	WORK AND BUSINESS  <p>Everyone who can work from home should do so.</p>
EDUCATION  <p>Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Childcare, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.</p>	INDOOR LEISURE  <p>Open.</p>	ACCOMMODATION  <p>Open.</p>	PERSONAL CARE  <p>Open.</p>
OVERNIGHT STAYS  <p>Permitted with household or support bubble.</p>	WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS  <p>15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships, wedding receptions and wakes; 30 for funerals.</p>	ENTERTAINMENT  <p>Open.</p>	PLACES OF WORSHIP  <p>Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.</p>
TRAVELLING  <p>Reduce the number of journeys you make and walk or cycle if possible. Avoid busy times and routes on public transport. Avoid car sharing with those outside of your household or support bubble. Avoid entering a Tier 3 area, other than where necessary such as for work or education. Further exemptions apply.</p>	EXERCISE  <p>Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but cannot take place indoors if there is any interaction between people from different households. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue.</p>	RESIDENTIAL CARE  <p>COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits. Outdoor/airtight visits only (rollout of rapid testing will enable indoor visits including contact).</p>	LARGE EVENTS  <p>Sport, live performances and business meetings limited to 50% capacity or 2000 people outdoors (whichever is lower) and 50% capacity or 1000 people indoors (whichever is lower).</p>

Find out what support you can get

For example, if you're out of work, need to get food, or want to take care of your mental health.

[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

If you have any coronavirus symptoms:

A high temperature • A new, continuous cough
A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste.

Get a test and stay at home

For more information and detailed guidance visit:
[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)



From 23 December to 27 December the coronavirus rules are changing. Each household can form a 'Christmas bubble' with up to two other households.

However, once you've decided which two households you want to spend time with you can't change them. Your bubble remains the same throughout this period. For example, you can't spend Christmas Eve with two households and then Christmas Day with two different households. Even if you are 'clinically extremely vulnerable' you can still form a Christmas Bubble

You can spend time with the people in your bubble in someone's home, garden, places of worship or in an outside public space. In terms of hospitality settings such as bars and pubs, you have to follow the guidance for the highest alert level in your Christmas bubble. For example, if someone in your bubble is from a Tier 3 area, everyone in the bubble must follow the hospitality guidance for Tier 3.

If you have coronavirus symptoms then the rules don't change - you should still get tested and self-isolate. You shouldn't be part of a Christmas bubble if you have symptoms.

No matter your local alert level these rules apply to everyone this Christmas but only from 23 December to 27 December.

If you're already part of a support bubble then you and the people in this bubble will count as one household and can meet with up to two other households. However, if you're in a childcare bubble, you and the others in this bubble will count as two separate households if you're in the same Christmas bubble and so can only meet with up to one other household.

You can't spend time indoors with anyone that isn't in your Christmas bubble from 23 December to 27 December but you can meet up with others outside in public spaces. However, this has to be done in line with the guidance in your local area.

You can travel across the UK to form your Christmas bubble, regardless of tiers. Any travelling should also take place between 23 December and 27 December. If you're travelling on public transport, it's a good idea to plan ahead as services are likely to be busier than normal. If you're driving, it's best to only travel in a car with people in your household or support bubble.

Once you've formed your Christmas bubble, you can stay overnight at someone's house if they're in your bubble. If you need to stay overnight elsewhere, you can stay at a hotel but can only do so by yourself or with those in your household or support bubble - this doesn't include those in your Christmas bubble.

As the lockdown measures are eased for the five-day period there is an increased risk of the virus spreading. So, before forming a Christmas bubble, it's important to think through the risks and what you can do to stay as safe as possible. You, and the people in your Christmas bubble, should do what they can to reduce their exposure to coronavirus in the two weeks leading up to 23 December. This might mean avoiding busier places and limiting who you see - no matter what tier you're in. Also, limit who you spend time with after 27 December to help reduce the risk of the virus spreading. Keep washing your hands regularly. If you're spending time indoors, keep the space as well ventilated as possible by opening doors and windows - of course, until people start getting too cold! You can still decide to keep your distance more than you normally would if that would make you feel more comfortable.

*This advice was correct at the time of going to print.
Keep an eye on UK Government Briefings for any
amendments or changes to the advice.*

Keep Warm Keep Well

Coping with cold weather and COVID-19

Keep Warm



Heat your home to at least 18°C



Ensure you have adequate food, medication and warm clothes



Check if you are eligible for help to keep your home warm

Keep Well



Stay as active as you can, any exercise can bring health benefits



Make sure you get your flu vaccine



Follow COVID-19 guidance

Keep Connected Safely



Get help if you need it. Speak to your GP, pharmacist, carer or key worker for advice



Keep in touch with friends, family and your community



Look out for others. Ask how they are keeping warm during cold weather

Further Information



[Simple Energy Advice](#) provides free advice on energy efficiency and National grants to help with energy bills: 0800 444202



Plan ahead. Stay up to date with the weather forecast



If you're worried about your health, visit the [NHS Website](#), call NHS 111 or in an emergency call 999



We have been contacted by Dr Richard M Clarke, a Research Fellow from the University of Southampton, Faculty of Medicine.

They have asked for our help in sharing a project they are working on and would like your help.

They are looking to recruit members of the public to take part in a large scale survey on the preventative behaviours people are taking to avoid catching Covid-19 and the long term effects of those who have suffered from Covid-19 during the pandemic.

They are searching for a broad range of participants from all over the UK and are hoping that there will be some people in East Ilsley willing to participate in the study.

All you need to do is head to the online survey which can be found here:
<https://pharma.unige.ch/limesurvey/index.php/326544?lang=en>

Or find them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/RtoCovid19> and Twitter https://twitter.com/RTO_Covid19 for direct links to the online survey.

This study will help them to answer several questions about Covid-19, including:

What did people do to avoid Covid-19? ● How did this affect their risk of becoming ill? ●
What treatments did people use when they were ill? ● Did this affect how ill they became? ●
How many people have developed long-lasting symptoms following Covid-19? ● Which
symptoms are most common? ● Can we predict who will experience longer-term symptoms? ●
How do behaviours and treatments differ between different countries? ● What are the potential
implications of this?

The results of the study will be published in scientific publications, sent to participants who provide their email address, published online, and sent to key stakeholders.

As a thank you for your participation between now and March 2021 we are awarding over 60 vouchers (ranging from £5 to £500) as prizes to be won. See the survey for further details.



News from your
West Berkshire
councillor.
Representing West
Ilsey, East Ilsey,
Compton,
Hampstead
Norreys, Frilsham
and Yattendon.



Hello everyone, I hope you are all keeping well.

We are still waiting for the Sunrise Hill business units and the Compton Institute site to go to Western Area Planning Committee to be voted on.

In January we planted a community orchard next to the allotments. Earlier this month Hampstead Norreys planted an orchard. Last weekend I went to Goldwell Park with lots of other volunteers to plant trees as part of Friends of the Earth's Lockdown Wood project. There will be three new woods in West Berkshire, with many trees being dedicated to people who have lost their lives to Covid.

At the council meeting on 3 December myself and my two Green Party colleagues argued against an increase in councillors' allowances from April 2022. The proposal to increase allowances was passed with three votes against.

We also proposed a motion, seconded by the Liberal Democrats, calling on the council to support a universal basic income and have a discussion with the local community about how a trial could be run. UBI is a basic payment everyone would receive so that nobody would be left destitute in times of crisis. It has been trialled around the world and is gaining increasing support among councils across the UK. We lost the vote 23-17 but at least we got a motion debated. Most of them are delegated to confidential 'advisory groups' that the public are excluded from.

West Berkshire Council is inviting members of the public to have their say on the emerging draft version of its new Local Plan. The public consultation closes on Friday, 5 February. Residents can read more here <http://consult.westberks.gov.uk/kse>

The draft plan looks at future need for new homes, employment and associated infrastructure. There are new policies for contributing to the health and wellbeing of residents, minimising the demand for energy, and protecting water. The draft plan also takes into account the Council's declaration of a climate emergency in July 2019 and pledge to become carbon neutral by 2030. It seeks to locate the majority of development in places that reduce car dependency.

The plan also proposes working with partners to conserve and enhance the district's heritage, local distinctive character of towns and villages, and North Wessex Downs area of outstanding natural beauty.

Local Plans are going to be even more important in the future because if the proposals in the government's White Paper on planning become law, it will be easier for developers to get planning permission as long as they tick boxes in the Local Plan. It would be more difficult for me to 'call-in' planning applications to committee. So please take this opportunity to participate in the public consultation.

I hope you have a restful Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Carolayne Culver
District Councillor for Ridgeway ward
Green Party group leader
West Berkshire Council
(m) 07976 374146





East Ilsley Sheep Fair 'Gingerbread Trail'

The Sheep Fair committee are laying on the above for the children around the village from Monday, 21st December – Wednesday 30th December.

Pick up your Advent Calendar sheet & map from the Crown & Horns from 10am on the 21st. (Don't forget your pen!)

Find them all and return the sheet to the pub for a chocolate prize!

Good Luck & have fun.....



Christmas Toy and Food Bank Appeal 2020



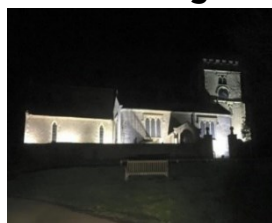
Well, everyone, you certainly did East Ilsley proud with your huge donations to the above appeals!

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity. Swift Couriers have collected the toys and we are taking the food boxes to the Food Bank.

Your generosity and care have meant that there will be a lot of children and families who will now have better Christmas this year.



Christmas Lights at St. Marys Church 2020



Follow us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/eichurch>

Thank you, thank you, thank you all of you who sponsored the switching on of lights on St Mary's Church again in this particularly difficult year. It looks so great shining out over the village at Christmas. We still have two days left if anyone would like to sponsor them. Although we were hoping to put the Sponsor Sheets outside this year, because of the weather we have again put them inside. The Church will also be open on Christmas Day at 10.00 am for a Family Service and the Sponsor Sheets will be on show still until the 5th January.

Your donations will be a great help in covering our running costs this year as we have lost money with not being able to have services or money raising activities. Thank you most sincerely from all the PCC at St Mary's Church and a Very Happy Christmas to everyone.

CHRISTMAS ON THE POND 2020

MAKE A CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

We are now putting boxes in the Crown and Horns and The Swan for the entries to the Card Making competition. If you would like to enter, read on:-

Card size: no more than 5 cm x 7 cm

Classes: Pre School

5yrs to 7 yrs.

8 years to 11 yrs.

Teenage and Adults

Card must be hand made and in an envelope with the name of the child/teen/adult on the front and the age. Also contact details so we can get the prizes to the winners.

We are shortly putting post boxes in The Swan and The Crown pubs for the entries. The cut-off date is 23rd December. Winners will be contacted to get their prize.

Get your creative juices flowing and we look forward to receiving all your entries!!



CHRISTMAS DAY

FAMILY SERVICE

**Friday 25 December
at 10:00**

**St Mary's Church
East Ilsley**



Musings from our Licenced Lay Minister, Wendy Willoughby-Paul



What a year we have had! Looking back, I wonder what have we learned from it!

Everyone will have been affected in some way, but many of us now are looking forward and wondering whether we will be able to spend Christmas with loved ones. Already lights and Christmas trees have been put up, some as early as October I believe, to bring a sense of joy and hope!

As I write, we have just heard that a vaccine is well on the way to being tested and made available, which must be good news to cheer us up!

We are now in the season of Advent, which is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the coming of Jesus into the world at Christmas and the four weeks of Advent are used to prepare ourselves and remember the real meaning of Christmas.

The children get excited marking off the days on their Advent calendars and eating the chocolates inside and there are Christian calendars containing chocolates, which also tell the nativity story.

Churches are planning events to lift our spirits. There are plans for socially distanced listening to carols in Yattendon Square, Hampstead Norreys churchyard, in Hermitage and in Compton. In Cold Ash, the church and community will be decorating the church inside and out with scenes of the nativity. East Ilsley church is already illuminated as a beacon of light leading up to Christmas and for Frilsham villagers, there will a nativity trail following decorated houses, each with a different part of the story. Do check posters in your village for details of local events.

We all know that Christmas will be different this year, but as we wait to come out of lockdown on 2nd December, perhaps we could find time to reflect on the reason we celebrate Christmas and know that Jesus came into the world to save us and bring us into a relationship with the living God. He loves each one of us and longs for us to come to him.

O come let us adore Him!

No matter how we are feeling, God is with us in the midst of everything.

Blessings for a happy and joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Wendy



Services for the end of December 2020 and January 2021

Date	East Ilsley Church	Compton Church
Sunday 20 th December (Advent 4)	No Service here today	8.00am Holy Communion (CW)
Thursday 24 th December (Christmas Eve)	4.00pm Nativity Service on Zoom Meeting ID: 874 3557 3877 Passcode: nativity 11.30pm Midnight Christmas Celebration on Zoom Meeting ID: 811 2291 3168 Passcode: Midnight	
Friday 25 th December (Christmas Day)	10.00am Christmas Holy Communion (CW)	10.00am Christmas Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 27 th December (Christmas 1)	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Hampstead Norreys Church 10.00am Team Service at Frilsham Church All are welcome	
Sunday 3 rd January (Epiphany)	9.30am Holy Communion (CW)	11.00am All Age Praise
Sunday 10 th January (Baptism of Christ)	No Service here today	9.30am Holy Communion (CW) 6.00pm Time with God on Zoom
Sunday 17 th December (Epiphany 2)	11.00am All Age Praise	9.30am Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 24 th January (Epiphany 3)	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Hampstead Norreys Church 10.00am Team Service at Holy Trinity Church in Hermitage All are welcome	
Sunday 31 st January (Candlemas)	No Service here today	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.00am Christingle Service (joint for Compton & East Ilsley)

We will continue to offer some online services via Zoom, all are welcome but particularly for those of you not yet ready to meet up inside the Church.



We will continue to add recorded services to our YouTube Channel, please subscribe and you will be alerted when a new service has been added. <http://bit.ly/hermitageteam-youtube>



A message from Fr. Andrew from St. Patricks Catholic Church:



Services continue at St Mary's, East Hendred, but regrettably we cannot yet re-open St Patrick's, East Ilsley, for Sunday Mass. The problem is social distancing: St Patrick's, though lovely, is not large. We plan to review this decision in the New Year.

To book for Sunday Mass at St Mary's, East Hendred, please contact hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Mass is at 9.30am, 11.15am, and 6pm. There is room for about thirty people at each. For the time being, the Bishops of England and Wales have suspended the Mass Obligation, so many of the vulnerable are choosing to watch Mass on line. For further details, including in due course details of our Christmas services, look at our website www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk

Prayers for all the residents of East Ilsley and the surrounding area.

Fr Andrew Burnham aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk 01235 835038



Little Angels is back at Hampstead Norreys! Next session on Friday 8th January at 10am. Come along to the church for Bible Stories, Music and Play time! Parent, Grandparents, and Carers all welcome for a chat and all Covid guidelines will be followed.

St Mary's Church Parochial Church Council



May we please remind all dog owners that dogs are **not** allowed to run free within the Churchyard. If you choose to walk through the Churchyard, please ensure your dog is kept **on a lead** at all times. Also, do not allow your dog to do its business in the Churchyard, this is disrespectful to those who are laid to rest there and for the families visiting their loved ones. Signs will be placed in the Churchyard to remind you all of these two courtesies we would like you to observe at all times.

Thank you for your help and understanding.



Here's to Christmas

A time of Remembering

A time of Loving

A time of Giving

A time of Believing

A time of Gratitude

A time to Slow Down

A time to Simplify

A time of Magic

A time of Peace

From all at the Autumn Group





DOWNLAND VOLUNTEERS GROUP COMPTON SURGERY OFFICE

GREAT NEWS RESTARTING THE CAR SERVICE FOR HOSPITAL APPOINTMENTS
WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU.

After a long closure we are opening in a very small way to help our Clients. Starting on 24th November 2020 the Downland Volunteer Office will be open two mornings a week Tuesday and Friday for receiving telephone calls, to take bookings for car transporting Clients to a hospital appointment.

Our opening hours for the office are 09.30 till 11.30 but you will be able to leave a message on our answer phone.

At the present time we do not have many Drivers who are able to help us because of age restrictions and we would appreciate if new people under 70 could get in touch with us to be a volunteer Driver. We desperately need new Drivers. PLEASE HELP US.

Booking a trip must be by telephone only.
01635 578394

www.downlandvolgroup.org
Charity Commission Reg. No 112181
Registered Company No 5572984



Why did Mary and Joseph have to stay in the stable?

Because there was no zoom at the inn!

Where do Bee's like to stay when they go on holiday?

In B & B's!

Two chaps were standing together and having a chat, one said to the other "I hear you have just had a new baby daughter! What is her name?" The other chap said "Henrietta". The other chaps said, "Oh I'm sorry to hear that".

with thanks to Neil Hatton

Let's make 2021 your year!

Take back control – lose those lockdown and Christmas kilos for good through managed weight loss. Call me to find out how.



Sally Allsop
07973 518385

Downlands Weight Management
www.one2onediet.com/Sally_A

10% discount on all products through January

THE 1:1 DIET

by Cambridge Weight Plan®

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year!

To all our Friends, and Neighbours in East Ilsley from

Alan and Erica, Uhuru, Cow Lane

Not forgetting all our doggy friends from Penny and Millie

*We will be donating to the Salvation Army Homeless Christmas Appeal
and The Marie Curie Nurses in place of Christmas cards.*



The Downland Practice

Welcome to the Downland Practice patient info sheet. This edition will concentrate on the following issues:

1. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update
2. Patient Appointments
3. GP Appointments
4. Flu Clinics 2020
5. Shielding Patients



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

The current COVID situation is still very unpredictable, the surgery is constantly monitoring this issue and will adjust the service according to the severity of the COVID-19 spread of infection. The current situation is being managed as best as we can, all patients must wear a face mask when attending the surgery (unless they are exempt). Updates on the Downland Practice can be found at the practice website news section www.downlandpractice.nhs.uk.

Patient Appointments

Nationally it has been reported that hospital waiting times are at their highest level since 2008, this is a direct result of the COVID situation. The standard wait for a patient to be seen at a hospital is 18 weeks, it has been reported that in September 2020, close to 140,000 patients have been waiting over a year to be seen at a hospital. This is up from 1,600 patients waiting longer than one year in February 2020. Currently there are 4.35 million people waiting for a hospital appointment in the UK. What this means in real terms is that patients waiting to be seen at the hospital are suffering longer from their conditions and need more support from their GP/Nurse at the GP practice. As this situation is no closer to ending, the demand for patient appointments is increasing at all GP practices UK wide. In addition, the practice staff both clinical and administrative who work at the practice are not immune to being infected by COVID. GP/Nurse clinics have had to be cancelled in the last few months as staff have been absent due to COVID testing for themselves or their families. The last thing the practice wants to do is cancel appointments for patients who may have been waiting for a few weeks to be seen by their GP but safety must come first. Patients will be waiting slightly longer to see their GP in the coming months, we are offering as many appointments as we are able to and practice staff are working very hard to ensure that patients are seen appropriately according to their needs. The biggest concern we have at the practice is the demand for appointments during the COVID national crisis that we are all dealing with.

GP Appointments

Please ring the surgery before 12.30 if you require a telephone consultation with a GP on the day. Calls received from patients in the afternoon may have a GP telephone call booked for the next working day. The way that appointments are requested is changing, we now ask that patients go to our website and submit requests via the ask the GP a question. These requests are then processed by the reception team and actioned as required. As this system develops then there will be less reception staff answering the telephones as some reception staff will be dealing with the patients who have submitted their request on line. The Downland Practice will be having their computer system updated in the next few months, this will allow for patients to use the practice website for submitting requests for GP appointments to run smoother. Once the new system is about to go live the surgery will issue a patient update to inform patient how best to use this system. Patients registered at the Downland Practice are offered face to face appointments when this is appropriate for their care. The GP's are only routinely seeing the patients who are on their list, this is to provide continuity for the care of the patient, patient's may feel frustrated that they may need to wait longer than normal to be seen by their GP. We do have a duty doctor on every day who deals with urgent on the day medical issues.

Flu Clinics 2020

Thank you to all of the patients who have given the practice good feedback on this year's flu clinics. The staff booking these appointments do so in to a timed clinic and will book the next available appointment. This may be slightly inconvenient for some of our patients but we need to operate a system that is safe and effective so that we can vaccinate the patients for their flu. We did have an error occur on a flu clinic a few weeks ago. This error was caused by a number of reasons, staff unplanned absences did contribute to this error and the delivery of the flu vaccinations had not been checked. By the time the error was discovered it was the day of the clinic and patients had their flu vaccination cancelled at very short notice. The Downland Practice apologises to all of our patients who were affected by this error and we have rebooked a new flu clinic for those patients who had their flu vaccination cancelled. This year we have seen a huge increase in those patients who wish to have their flu vaccination.

Shielding Patients

All of the practice patients who are deemed to be 'CLINICALLY EXTREMELY VULNERABLE' have been sent a letter advising them on COVID related issues and given advice on the different methods that they can arrange for their medications to be collected for them or delivered where appropriate.

Keep an eye on the 'News' page of the Downland Practice as this is updated often and there will be lots to read in the coming weeks: https://downlandpractice.nhs.uk/news_archive/

Finally, on behalf of the GP partners and staff at the Downland Practice we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and we hope that 2021 brings us all a COVID safe year.

Update from the Downland Practice on the Covid-19 Vaccination

You will be aware of the exciting news that the NHS is rolling out a vaccination program for the COVID-19 virus. You might be aware that this is going to run by a number of hospital sites, clusters of GPs and later mass vaccination sites too.

The Downland Practice is linked with Strawberry Hill Medical Centre and Eastfield House GP practice into a Primary Care Network (PCN). The final details of the program for GP clusters or PCNs came out on Friday evening. Over the weekend and again on Monday the practice studied and discussed how we might deliver the vaccination safely and at the same time not destabilise the practice's every day work. Unfortunately the deadline for agreeing to do this work was midnight, Monday 7th December and we have yet to find a solution.

We have written to the NHS asking for more time to iron out a number of significant issues with them and are hopeful that over the coming days and weeks we will reach a satisfactory conclusion. Rest assured we are committed to you receiving your vaccination in a timely manner. You will have read and heard that there are significant logistical issues with the vaccination produced by Pfizer.

To give you an example we have calculated that to draw up and administer the vaccine safely and give it to our 80+ year olds without expecting them to queue in the freezing cold means we can vaccinate 23 people an hour at our practice site. We have been told we will have 3½ days to give out 975 vaccinations before the vaccine spoils. This would mean having to offer 40 hours of clinics over that time. This would be impossible without shutting the practice to all other work.

We recognise there are plans to improve this- find a bigger site to use for example, and put in place a number of mechanisms to improve the speed of vaccination. The Oxford vaccine also offers a simpler process and could be rolled out more easily once it is (hopefully) approved.

We will keep you informed on the website and through our Parish Patient Representatives as things develop.

Dr James A H Cave

East Ilsley - 100 years ago

11th November 1920

PETTY SESSIONS held on Friday, 5th November before Mr. J. A. Fairhurst in the chair, Brig-Gen E. S. Burder, C.M.G., and Major Cooper, O.B.E., M.C. Christopher Bosley and Harold Bosley, of Worlds End, Hampstead Norris, were summoned at the instance of the Wantage Board of Guardians to show cause why they should not contribute towards the maintenance of their father, Henry Bosley, an inmate of the Berks Asylum, and the Wantage Union. James Sanderson, relieving officer, gave evidence. Defendants were ordered to pay, Christopher 3s., and Harold 1s. 6d., per week, to date from the 15th September.



9th December 1920

PETTY SESSIONS held Friday, 3rd Dec., before Brig-General Burder, C.M.G., and Major Cooper, O.B.E., M.C., Gilbert Bosley and Frederick Bosley, of Worlds End, Hampstead Norris, were summoned at the instance of the Wantage Board of Guardians to show cause why they should not contribute towards the support of their father, an inmate of the Berks Asylum. The bench ordered them to pay each 3s., per week.

Cecil Frank Quelch of Farnborough, for riding a bicycle without front or rear lights, was fined 5s. P.C. Lynn stated the facts.

Eric Saxton

The Millennium Green Update

Twenty Years of our Open Space

Under the present lockdown an ideal place for up to six people to meet, out of doors, is East Ilsley Millennium Green.

Here you can sit, jog, drink your coffee, or run among pleasant surroundings in the fresh air.

The Green was created with the aim of providing an open green space for all the community to enjoy. The key word here is 'open'. The recent laudable project to plant as many trees as possible to save the planet, has prompted suggestions that more trees be planted on the green.

Over the first twenty years of its existence a wooded area has been created in the corner of the green, and other plantings have been carefully spaced elsewhere. To keep the ethos of an open space, a conscious decision was made during planning and implementation not to surround the space with hedges which, when mature, would heighten the feeling of an enclosed space rather than one where the surrounding beautiful views of the countryside could be seen and appreciated.

As we enter the 21st year of this amazing space, the trustees are keen to ensure that the Green still meets the needs of our special community here in East Ilsley, we are always willing to answer your questions, and listen to the views of local people on ways to preserve and improve the facilities we can offer.

In the meantime, the trustees would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful Festive period.

Eric Saxton (Chairman), Ian Wilson (Treasurer), Jane Bexx (Secretary), Raine Hunter, Sally Allsop, Sheila Kidd, and Paul Finch.





ROYAL BRITISH LEGION COMPTON, ILSLEYS & NORREYS BRANCH Update

Poppy Appeal 2020 - In this difficult period for all of us, our RBL Poppy Appeal Organisers have worked doubly hard this year distributing poppies and collecting funds from our catchment villages. This Charity remains vital in providing support to the serving and ex-service men & women and their families who have fallen on hard times. This year, we have seen inspiring generosity from you all and funds raised have been boosted by two exceptionally large donations from local organisations. On behalf of the Poppy Appeal can we say a sincere thank you.

Poppy Appeal Lunch 2020 - it will be no surprise to our readers that this event, scheduled for Saturday 24th October, had to be cancelled. We usually squeeze up to 70 supporters of this annual event into the Foinavon dining area. Regrettably, gathering this large number together in a confined space was always going to be against the rules! Our guest speaker was to have been our new Member of Parliament, Laura Farris. She has kindly agreed, her work programme permitting, to come to any re-scheduled event we manage to organise when Covid19 restrictions allow it.

West Ilsley Remembrance Sunday Service 8th November 2020 - it was the turn of West Ilsley to host the Branch's event this year. We are pleased to report that it went ahead but, due to ever changing Covid19 restrictions, in a very much reduced format. Originally planned under the "rule of six" regime we were going to have a parade of 6 people marching from the Harrow - Piper, Standard Bearer and wreath layers - but just days before Remembrance Sunday, restrictions were tightened further. The result - a socially distanced Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial was permitted. A congregation of about 30 attended this solemn and memorable service led by Reverend Clive Jones. In attendance were Ian Knight (piper), Aimee Jones (cornet) and Mick Crockford (RBL Standard Bearer). Main wreath layers were Steve Alison (Branch Chairman), Rollo Duckworth (W Ilsley PC Chairman). They were joined by representatives from our catchment villagers and youth groups. Our thanks to those who attended.

Membership - come and join us! - our small RBL branch would welcome you as a member. You do not have to be ex services (or a senior citizen!) to join the RBL but only supportive of the charity's objectives of looking after the serving and ex-serving community. The membership annual subscription is small at £17. To join, please contact one of the undersigned. Steve Allison tel: 07812 991013 email steveallison1888@aol.com or David Norbury TD, tel: 07770 326128 email davidnorbury@btinternet.com - thank you.

May we wish you a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year!



Hampstead Norreys W.I. would like to wish everyone an enjoyable Christmas and a safe, peaceful, and happy New Year.

We wish all our friends & neighbours in EI a very happy Xmas & healthy 2021. No cards but instead a donation to the BHF. Tess, Jon, Jamie & Matt xx



Christmas Updates



Rubbish and Recycling Christmas and New Year Collection Dates

Your Normal Collection Day		Your Revised Collection Day
Monday 21 December	no change	Monday 21 December
Tuesday 22 December	no change	Tuesday 22 December
Wednesday 23 December	no change	Wednesday 23 December
Thursday 24 December	no change	Thursday 24 December
Friday 25 December	will be collected on	Tuesday 29 December
Monday 28 December	will be collected on	Wednesday 30 December
Tuesday 29 December	will be collected on	Thursday 31 December
Wednesday 30 December	will be collected on	Saturday 2 January
Thursday 31 December	will be collected on	Monday 4 January
Friday 1 January	will be collected on	Tuesday 5 January
Monday 4 January	will be collected on	Wednesday 6 January
Tuesday 5 January	will be collected on	Thursday 7 January
Wednesday 6 January	will be collected on	Friday 8 January
Thursday 7 January	will be collected on	Saturday 9 January

Friday 8 January	will be collected on	Monday 11 January
Monday 11 January	will be collected on	Tuesday 12 January
Tuesday 12 January	will be collected on	Wednesday 13 January
Wednesday 13 January	will be collected on	Thursday 14 January
Thursday 14 January	will be collected on	Friday 15 January
Friday 15 January	will be collected on	Saturday 16 January

****Collections will return to normal from Monday 18 January 2021****

Christmas Tree Recycling: We will be collecting real Christmas trees from Monday 4 January until Friday 29 January. Please remove all decorations, lights, and any pots. Trees can be placed out with your recycling and you do not need to have a garden waste subscription to recycle your tree.

Barry and Karen wish all their friends and neighbours in East Ilsley a very Happy Christmas and hope 2021 brings us all good health and happiness.

We have donated money saved on cards and Barry's shoe leather to the Alzheimer's Society.

Wishing all EIC readers a very Happy and Blessed Christmas and all good wishes for 2021. From Trish and John Napper

We wish our many friends in East Ilsley a very Happy Christmas and here's hoping that 2021 will be a much better year for us all.



***Very Best Wishes from Geoff & Sue Tooke
Our chosen charity this year is "Swings & Smiles"***



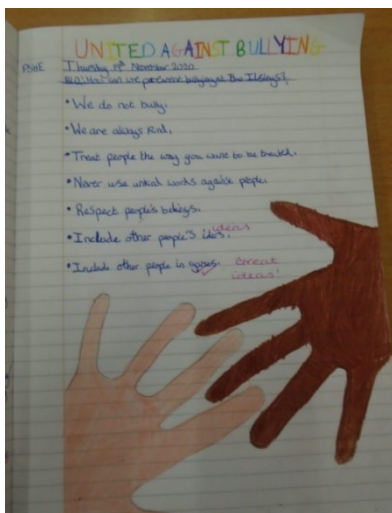
'Awni and Sue wish all our friends in East Ilsley a Merry Christmas and all good wishes for a brighter, happy and healthy New Year! We have chosen to donate to the homeless this year instead of sending Christmas cards. '



News from The Ilsleys Primary School

Well, it has certainly been a different run up to Christmas than usual but we have tried to make it as exciting as possible here at The Ilsleys!

Arctic Class have put on a fantastic nativity which has been recorded for parents to watch – hopefully with a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie! We have also tried to maintain many of our Ilsleys traditions, such as Christmas lunch, Christmas Carousel and Christmas parties, all in our bubbles of course!



In school this term, the children have been as busy as ever. In Atlantic Class, pupils have been learning about discrimination and how over periods of time people have been treated differently. They have written their own stories, using the story of Harriet Tubman as their inspiration, and found out lots about how the underground railroad helped slaves to escape from plantations. They have also enjoyed our recent writing week which was all about the wordless picture book, 'Window'. They have learnt about the effects of deforestation and considered the ways that we can ensure a more sustainable planet for future generations. The week culminated in the pupils writing their own balanced arguments about the impact of pollution etc. on our environment.

In Pacific Class, the children have worked really hard on their descriptive writing, learning how to include their senses, and writing techniques, such as simile and metaphor to describe their own fictional story settings. They have also continued their learning about our interesting topic, the Oceans. They have been learning all about plastic pollution and the damaging effects it is having on our environment and oceans. They enjoyed participating in a heated class debate about whether plastic should be banned and have written some very persuasive letters to Boris Johnson, encouraging him to think about prohibiting plastic packaging on all food and drink items in a bid to help protect our animals and environment.

In Arctic Class, the children have been very busy with putting on a lovely Nativity. We did miss the other classes joining in this year and, of course, Mrs Pearce, but they have done an amazing job. In class children have been enjoying learning about Castles and Knights. They designed and made their own model castles and then used them as inspiration for writing instructions texts entitled, 'How to Make a Castle Model.' Unfortunately, we could not go on our planned trip to Windsor Castle but we watched a virtual tour and looked at some interactive maps of Windsor and other castles in the UK. Children then made their own leaflets based on their research. They enjoyed using their knowledge of coins and notes to gain entry to their class castle for our 'Royal Ball and Banquet'. They even learnt some medieval dancing to perform.

Across the school, we have continued to improve our ability in sport this term with a variety of different coaches. In Arctic, they have been learning



all about Dance with John. Pupils in Atlantic and Pacific have also had the opportunity to do gymnastics. As well as this, they have continued their games sessions with Danny each week. It has been cold and muddy but that hasn't stopped them enjoying competitive sports such as tag rugby!

It is now that we take the opportunity to look back on what has been an incredibly challenging year for everyone. Here at The Ilsleys we have tried to ensure that the positive atmosphere of school has been maintained for the pupils and that we have allowed them to continue with as many of their favourite activities as possible, such as sport, watching the pantomime via a live stream and producing a school nativity production.



We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas break and a very Happy New Year! We will look forward to seeing you all again in January!



The Governing Board of the Federation of
Hampstead Norreys Church of England Primary School
and The Ilsleys Primary School



Opportunity to become a School Governor

The Governing Board are seeking to recruit new Governors who can provide strategic support and guidance ensuring high standards of achievement for our Schools.

Applicants are invited from anyone with an interest in education and the progress of our schools. Your valuable contribution of time and support will form a crucial part of developing the future of our schools.

Please get in touch by calling the Clerk to the Governors on
07912 565665 or emailing clerk@ilsleys.w-berks.sch.uk

FREE PARKING DAYS

in West Berkshire Council's public car parks this December



Don't forget! Free Parking in all Council-run car parks - 21 to 25 December and Council's staff car park in Market Street, Newbury - every weekend in December starting 12-13 December.



ILSLEY EVERGREENS

Hello Everyone, as we have come out of another lockdown and emerged into a Tier 2 situation, hopefully this time people will adhere to the advice so that families can have a far better Christmas than previously looked likely and we can say goodbye to this terrible year that has brought so much misery, cost too many lives, and

left us with memories we would rather not have.

The news of positive results to the various drug trials has given us hope of a vaccination against this awful virus and the beginning of a period of quiet optimism for a year of recovery and revitalising of the economy and support for the many families and businesses that have suffered so much this year. The Evergreens hope to have a committee meeting in the New Year, if we are allowed, when we aim to put together a plan for 2021.

May I on behalf of the Ilsley Evergreens wish you all a safe and pleasant Christmas, and the hope of a positive and healthy New Year. With all good wishes and kindest regards.

Tony Elliott ~ Secretary



NEW YEAR, NEW ME

Helping you and your communities wellbeing in 2021

FREE online training, led by local charity Connecting Communities in Berkshire, focusing on how we can ensure ourselves and our communities can feel healthy and well in 2021. Working with the 5 Ways of Wellbeing we will focus on small and easy changes we can all make to our daily lives, and support our community, to improve our wellbeing in the current environment.

This session is free, via Zoom, on Friday
15th January 2021, 10.30am - 12.30pm

To book please email
admin@ccberks.org.uk or call
01189612000

**Voluntary Sector
Training Alliance**
Supporting the voluntary sector

Charity Number: 1056367.



Volunteer Centre
West Berkshire



Connecting
Communities
in Berkshire

Helping Berkshire communities thrive

The Crown & Horns, East Ilsley



CROWN & HORNS
EAST ILSLEY

CELEBRATE WITH US OVER THE FESTIVE PERIOD

- CHRISTMAS EVE 12PM - 11PM
- CHRISTMAS DAY 11AM - 6PM
- BOXING DAY 12PM - 10PM
(BOXING DAY PARTY FROM 5PM)
- NEW YEARS EVE 12PM - CLOSE
(NEW YEARS EVE PARTY FROM 5PM)
- NEW YEARS DAY 12PM - 3PM

CHRISTMAS PARTY MENU AVAILABLE FOR PRE-ORDER
AND FULL MAIN WINTER MENU

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR
CUSTOMERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND NEW YEAR




Christmas Party menu
@crownandhornseastilsley

Two course for £18.95 OR Three Course for £21.95

Starters

- Homemade French Onion Soup - Served with warm bread rolls & butter
- Chicken Goujons - Served with Side Salad and BBQ Sauce
- Vegan Broccoli Tempura - Served with Ponzu Dipping Sauce
- Creamy Garlic Mushrooms - Served with toasted ciabatta slices

Main Course

- Traditional Roast Turkey Lunch served with All The Trimmings
- Pan Seared Fillet Of Sea Bass - served with Hassleback Potatoes and Seasonal Veg
- Roasted Root Veg & Mixed Nut Roast - served with hassleback potatoes and veg gravy
- Slow Braised Lamb Shank - served with creamy mash, vegetables and mint gravy
- 8oz Rump or Sirloin Steak - served with chunky chips side salad

Desserts

- Traditional Christmas Pudding served with Homemade Brandy Sauce
- Homemade Sticky Toffee Pudding served with Custard
- Biscoff Cheesecake served with Fresh Cream or Ice Cream
- Vegan Chocolate Brownies served with Vegan Ice Cream

Starters

- | | |
|---|---|
| Creamy Garlic Mushrooms £5.95 (v) (GF)
served with toasted ciabatta slices | Fresh Mussels in creamy garlic & white wine sauce £6.95
served with toasted ciabatta slices (GF) |
| Soup of the day £5.95 (ve) (GF)
served with warm bread rolls and butter | Chilli and Chorizo King Prawns £7.95 |
| Chicken Wings £6.95 (GF)
choose from (BBQ, Buffalo, Salt & Pepper, Sweet Chilli) | Pan seared Scallops, black pudding, bacon crumb and pea puree £7.95 |
| Slow cooked Sticky Ribs £6.95 (GF)
choose from (bbq, buffalo, salt and pepper, sweet chilli) | Chicken Goujons with BBQ sauce £6.95 |
| | Veggie Kebab with sweet chilli sauce £5.95 (ve) (GF) |

The Classics

- | | |
|--|---|
| Fresh Cod, lightly battered £12.95
served with chips, mushy peas or garden peas and tartar sauce | Mac and Cheese £9.95
Macaroni in our 3 cheese sauce, topped with Parmesan and herb bread crumbs, served with garlic ciabatta |
| Hunters Chicken £12.95 (GF)
whole chicken breast, oven roasted with bacon, cheese & BBQ sauce,
served with chips and side salad | Homemade Shepherds Pie £12.95 (GF)
Minced lamb, topped with creamy mash
served with sautéed seasonal vegetables |
| Bangers and Mash £9.95 (GF)
Three prime pork sausages, creamy mash,
homemade red onion gravy,
served with side of seasonal vegetables | Vegan veg pot curry £9.95 (ve) (GF)
Spicy chickpeas, mixed lentils
served with seasonal vegetables |

Winter Warmers

- Slow Braised Lamb Shank £15.95**
Lamb shank, creamy mash
served with seasonal vegetables and homemade mint gravy
- Sea Bass £12.95 (GF)**
Pan seared fillet of sea bass,
served with garlic and lemon hassle back potatoes, sautéed seasonal vegetables
- Beef Casserole with Dumplings £12.95**
slow cooked beef with red wine, homemade dumplings
served with a side of braised red cabbage and warm bread
- Meatballs Tagliatelle £12.95**
Homemade beef & pork meatballs cooked in a rich tomato garlic and basil sauce
served on tagliatelle pasta with garlic ciabatta and topped with fresh Parmesan shavings
- Seafood Tagliatelle £13.95**
Mix of fresh seafood cooked in creamy, white wine and parsley sauce
served on tagliatelle pasta with garlic ciabatta and topped with fresh parmesan shavings
- Vegan One Pot Tagine £10.95 (GF)**
Slow roasted vegetables packed with warm Moroccan flavours
served with warm naan bread (ve)

Burgers

- All burgers served with chips, side salad and burger sauce on a lightly toasted brioche bun
- Steak Burger** - Vicars game prime minced steak £12.95
 - Chicken Burger** - Whole grilled chicken breast £11.95
 - Hunters Burger** - Grilled chicken breast, bacon, cheese and bbq sauce £12.95
 - Mushrooms and halloumi burger (v)** - Two confit field mushrooms and grilled halloumi £9.95
 - Vegan Sloppy Joes (ve)** - Mixed lentils, onion, peppers fresh tomatoes £9.95
- EXTRA TOPPINGS : £1.50**
cheese, bacon, bbq pulled pork, blue cheese, halloumi, crispy onions, fried egg, onion rings, gherkins...
Double up for £3 (extra beef, chicken breast or mushroom and halloumi)
- All our burgers are available as a gluten free option, please ask your waiter for more details

From the grill

- All served with choice of chips, mash, new potatoes or seasonal vegetables and side salad
- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 10oz Gammon (fried egg or pineapple salsa) £14.95 (GF) | |
| 10oz Sirloin £17.95 (GF) | 10oz Fillet £22.95 (GF) |
| 10oz Ribeye £19.95 (GF) | 16oz T-bone £24.95 (GF) |
- Add sauce for £1.50**
Peppercorn | Diane | Garlic butter | Salsa verde | Blue cheese

Light Bites

- Available 12-5pm
- All served on a toasted ciabatta with side of chips and salad
- Steak Melt £12.95 (GF)**
Rump steak with melted mozzarella
 - Hunters £12.95 (GF)**
Sliced chicken, bacon, bbq sauce and mozzarella
 - Meatball Melt £12.95 (GF)**
Meatballs in rich tomato sauce with melted mozzarella
 - Tuna Melt £12.95 (GF)**
tuna mayo topped with melted mozzarella
 - Minted Lamb £12.95 (GF)**
Pieces of lamb in a thick mint gravy
 - Roasted Mediterranean Veg £9.95 (ve) (GF)**
Roasted mediterranean veg in nut-free pesto

Sides

- Coleslaw £1.95 (GF)
- House salad £4.95 (GF)
- Sweet potato fries £4.95
- Chunky Chips/Fries £3.95
- Onion rings £2.95
- Halloumi fries £4.95
- Garlic ciabatta £2.95
- Sautéed seasonal vegetables £4.95 (GF)
- Bread and butter £1.95

Gluten Free options available are marked (GF).
Please inform your Waiter should you require this, or any dietary requirements

Hampstead Norreys Community Shop

A big thank you to all who supported our Christmas Appeals. For the whole of November, we acted as collection point for new/as new toys and gifts for children who would otherwise receive very little, if anything, for Christmas.

We were astounded at the generosity of all the local villagers - the picture shows approximately one third of the large number of donations.



Our December appeal is to help the many people and families who are struggling in these difficult times. When you buy your shopping, you will see a board with paper angels, each showing a different amount of money. Please select an angel and take it to the till. That amount of money will be added to your bill and the total will be shared equally, between the West Berks Food Bank and the West Berks Baby Bank.

What else are we doing over Christmas? Well, we had our Orchard Planting Day on 5 December—over 80 volunteers of all ages came and helped plant 65 heritage fruit trees and an edible fruiting hedge. Such a great day! Photos are on our website www.hncs.co.uk, under the community events page.

We are passionate about supporting local businesses, so have been pleased to welcome different stallholders at the weekends in December, offering them a (free) chance to show their wares. It has not been easy for small traders this year and this was a chance to get some unique and unusual Christmas presents and goods. Even Lord Carnarvon came along to support the sales of Highclere Gin!

We are busy planning our contribution to the Healthy Eating campaign for January, run by Carolyn Culver and others, and are pleased that our new café menu now includes vegan options. The new menu can be seen on www.hncs.co.uk, café pages.

Finally, in order to give our amazing staff some much needed rest, we will be closed from Christmas Eve 4pm to Tuesday 29th Dec (8am to 4pm).

A very happy Christmas to all our lovely customers, whichever village you live in, and above all, thank you for your support. Happy New Year!





i volunteer



@ Volunteer Centre West Berkshire
Charitable Incorporated Organisation No: 1156302

Latest volunteer opportunities bulletin – December 2020

Contact us for more information on these or for free interviews, help and advice about volunteering.

www.volunteerwestberks.org.uk

01635 49004

info@vcwb.org.uk

1 Bolton Place, Northbrook Street, Newbury (alley opposite Camp Hopson)

Adventure Leaders

Help young people around West Berkshire explore outside safely and have a great time! After months of being unable to meet, Scout groups locally are preparing to get together, initially with outdoor socially distanced activities. They would like to hear from volunteers who could assist young people with gaining skills for life through problem solving, working in a team and leading. Volunteers should enjoy learning new skills and working as part of a team.

Help is required in Wash Common (Beavers and Cubs), central Newbury (Beavers and Scouts), Hungerford (Cubs and Scouts) and Shaw (Explorers). There is also a need for a Newbury group chair for someone who would like to support behind the scenes.

Ref NY2161

Treasurer

A charity that works with victims of domestic abuse is seeking a volunteer with book-keeping expertise to become their treasurer.

The treasurer is responsible for maintaining an overview of the charity's financial affairs, ensuring its long-term financial viability. This involves ensuring proper procedures are followed and financial records are maintained, keeping trustees up to date with financial affairs.

Time commitment is flexible and expected to be no more than five hours a month. Monthly trustee meetings are held in the evenings, currently via Zoom.

Ref NY2163

Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinators

Would you be interested in helping make your community safer? Get to know your neighbours and recreate the community spirit by starting a Neighbourhood Watch group in your area.

Schemes can cover anything from 6 houses to a whole road. As a co-ordinator, you will receive information on local crime and suspicious activity, which you can then make your neighbours aware of.

Help reduce crime rates by volunteering for this important role. Co-ordinators will receive free signs and stickers, and details of discounts available to scheme members.

Ref NY142

School Governors

Governors are ordinary people with an interest in the education of children and young people. Governors are required for schools across West Berkshire.

As a governor, you would work alongside a headteacher and other governors in setting the strategic direction of a school. The skills and experiences required vary from school to school; you may have experience in data analysis, human resources or finance, or simply have an interest in schooling.

Ref NY974

Arthritis Champions

Do you have experience of arthritis, either personally or via a family member or friend? Could you provide peer support to others who are living with the condition?

A national charity is recruiting volunteers to give information and peer support to individuals living with arthritis at some of its local services. As well as one-to-one services which provide guidance on factors such as exercise, nutrition, pain management and surgery, there are also group workshops. Currently support is being offered by phone.

The role is flexible and you can choose in advance which services you help with. If you are friendly, helpful and approachable, the charity would be interested in hearing from you.

Ref NY1472

Engineer Volunteer

A national charity helps people with disabilities become more independent by providing custom-made equipment that is not available to buy.

The charity's Berkshire branch is interested in hearing from skilled DIYers, model makers and craftspeople who have access to their own workshop, as well as the ability to design and make unique equipment that can help someone with a disability.

You will work from home, although you will need your own transport to visit clients and find out about their needs and buy equipment. The cost of materials and petrol will be reimbursed.

Ref NY1797



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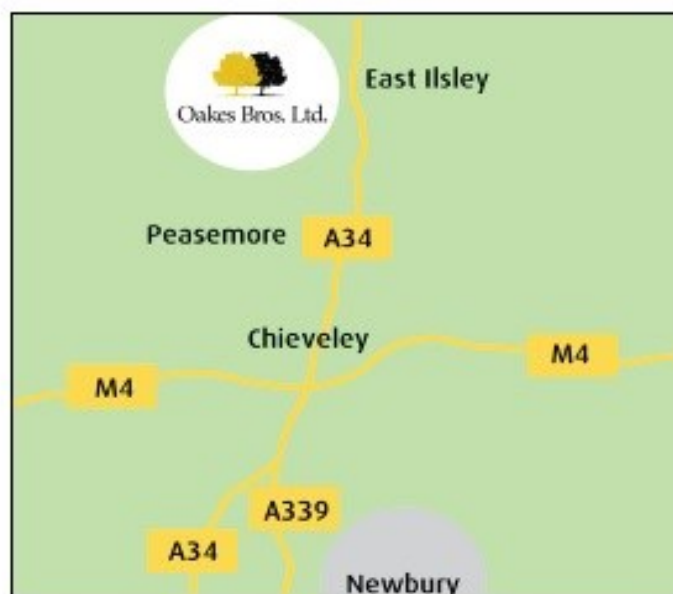
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NEWBURY THE WHARF - SHAW - HERMITAGE - HAMPSTEAD NORREYS - COMPTON - THE ILSLEYS

Connect
SERVICE

6

6a

MONDAYS - SATURDAYS

SERVICE No.	6a	6a	6	6	6	6	6
NEWBURY Station [T] ➡	.....	0842	1022	1222	1422	.....	1807
Newbury The Wharf [D]	0650	0850	1030	1230	1430	1615	1815
Newbury - Park Way [P]	0652	0852	1032	1232	1432	1617	1817
Donnington, The Castle Inn	0657	0857	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Shaw Cemetery	.....	.....	1040	1240	1440	1625	1825
Chieveley, East Lane	0707	0907	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Beedon, Coach PH	0711	0911	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hermitage Post Office	.....	.....	1050	1250	1450	1635	1835
Hampstead Norreys, Water Street	.....	.....	1057	1257	1457	1642	1842
Compton, High St, opp The Swan	.....	.....	1105	1305	1505	1650	1850
East Ilsley, Broad Street	.....	.....	1109	1309	1509	1654	1854
WEST ILSLEY, The Harrow PH	0721	0925	1115	1315	1515	1700	.....

MONDAYS - SATURDAYS

SERVICE No.	6	6	6	6	6	6a	6a
WEST ILSLEY, The Harrow PH	0722	0930	1117	1317	1517	1702	.....
East Ilsley, Broad Street	0728	0936	1123	1323	1523	1708	1854
Compton, The Swan	0732	0941	1128	1328	1528	.....	.....
Hampstead Norrey, Water Street	0741	0950	1137	1337	1537	.....	.....
Hermitage Post Office	0748	0958	1145	1345	1545	.....	.....
Beedon, Coach & Horses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1721	1901
Chieveley, East Lane	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1725	1905
Donnington, The Castle Inn	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1729	1914
Shaw Cemetery	0756	1006	1153	1353	1553	.....	.....
Newbury, Park Way [Q]	0805	1012	1159	1359	1559	1733	1918
Newbury The Wharf [H]	0806	1013	1200	1400	1600	1735	1919
Newbury Station ➡	.....	1018	1205	1405	.....	.....	1922R
The Oaks	0816	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
NEWBURY College	0818	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tesco The Triangle	0818	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Park House School, Monk's Lane	0821	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wash Common, Glendale Avenue	0825	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

No service on Sundays or Public Holidays. For additional journeys between Chieveley and Newbury, see Service 5c. Tickets are inter-available.

Notes:

— Served when the College is in session

— Served when the College is not in session

➡ – Rail station nearby

R – Continues to the Rail Station if requested by passengers



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Contact Keith Pentecost Tel: 07985-797333 & 01635-281389 (East Ilsey)

www.klp-electrical.co.uk <http://www.electricalsafetyregister.com/>

Electrical Safety Council Product recall online link : www.esc.org.uk/real

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Last year, West Berkshire Libraries worked with children's reading charity BookTrust to deliver over 3,500 Bookstart book packs to families with babies of 0-12 months and to children aged 3-4 years. Packs are normally distributed for us by the district's Health Visiting Teams and by pre-schools and nurseries, but during lockdown this wasn't possible.

If you have a baby who has already had their 8-week check or a child who is now nearly 5 and you have not yet received a Bookstart pack for them, you can collect one from your local library. Please ring any West Berkshire library to arrange a collection time.

Directory



District Councillor:

Cllr. Carolyne Culver
Ridgeway Ward

Tel: 07976 374146

Email: Carolyne.Culver1@westberks.gov.uk

East Ilsley Parish Council:

Cllr. Andrew Sharp
(Chair)

Tel: 07778 800024

Email: andrew@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk

Cllr. Tracey Murray
(Vice Chair)

Tel: 07876 740890

Email: tracey@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk

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Tel: 07816 875914

Email: brendan@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk

Cllr. Stephen Meadows

Tel: 07584 125737

Email: stephen@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk

Cllr. Mike Lewis

Tel: 07717 156912

Email: mike@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk

Fenella Woods

Tel: 07912 565665

Email: clerk@eastilsley-pc.gov.uk

(Clerk)

Website: www.eastilsley-pc.gov.uk

Hospitals & GP Surgeries

West Berkshire Community Hospital 01635 273300

Royal Berkshire Hospital 0118 3225111

Radcliffe Infirmary 01865 311188

John Radcliffe Hospital 01865 741166

Downland Practice Chieveley 01635 248251

Police

Thames Valley Police 01865 841148

Emergency 999

Non-Emergency 101

Crime Stoppers 0800 555111

Schools

Ilsley Under 5's 01635 281327

The Ilsleys Primary School 01635 281225

The Downs School Compton 01635 27000

Utilities

BT Faults 151

BT General Enquiries 0118 957 5877

Southern Water 0845 7708090 (Emergencies)

Thames Water 0845 9200900 (Emergencies)

Southern Electric (SSE) 105 or 0800 0727282 (Emergencies)

Handy Bus

DVG Co-ordinator 07437 543098

dvg.handybus@gmail.com

Citizens Advice Bureau 0300 222 5941

Hermitage Team of Churches

Reverend Wayne Lautenbach 07825 502309

wayne@hermitage-team.org.uk