

IWERNE MINSTER NEWSLETTER

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2026

IWERNE MINSTER SAYS GOODBYE TO PARSNIP



Some of you will be aware that we, as volunteer Guide Dog Puppy Raisers, are raising a Guide Dog puppy in Iwerne. Parsnip, the GD golden retriever puppy, has been with us since he was eight weeks old and, at 16 months of age, it is now time for him to go Guide Dog "Big" School.

Parsnip is our second GD puppy, and as volunteer puppy raisers our role has been to give him the basic training to enable him to be well socialised, to walk calmly and behave well around people, other dogs and in any situation.

Iwerne has been a fantastic place to introduce a puppy to the world, from being accepted by Bernie in the shop allowing him to get used to standing in a queue quietly and behaving appropriately alongside lots of tasty goodies, to the Iwerne Valley Walking Group who have allowed an excitable teenage puppy to walk with them and learn how to "free run" with other dogs, to Richard and Kim welcoming him to The Talbot, giving him the experience of settling quietly in a crowded room amidst noise and the tempting smells of food. Walking round the village with Parsnip, we have focused on training him to ignore people when they come up to say "hello" – he will have to do this once he is a fully fledged working guide dog – so it's an important skill for him to learn. This has been challenging as he is a very handsome boy – and he loves people; however, villagers have been very respectful in this activity and, on the whole, he will ignore everyone – although not perhaps all the other dogs - this is still work in progress!

It is always a bitter sweet moment when the puppy goes onto Big School. We feel super proud

that all our efforts have helped the dog to get to the next stage, but it is also sad to say goodbye, as he has been living with us for over a year and is a well-loved part of the family. However, we know he is going on to change someone's life, and with an 18 month waiting list for guide dogs, and over 900 visually impaired people on the list every puppy is valued.

We would like to thank everyone for being so supportive as we've gone through this journey with Parsnip and, if anyone wants to find out more about becoming a Puppy Raiser (it's a fabulous thing to do!), stop us as we walk round to find out more.

In the meantime, good luck to Parsnip and we look forward to introducing you all to our third guide dog puppy when he/she arrives sometime in the future.

Kathryn, Mike and Parsnip

Thank you to Kathryn for offering to write something about Parsnip. We love to publish news from the village especially any achievements or stories you would like to share. Please get in touch: monique@hairy-barbarian.com

IMPHA SUMMER SHOW SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST 2.00PM

The Summer Show is now fast approaching and everyone should have a Schedule. Please do try to enter something - I am aware that this year's growing is even harder with the lack of rain but please do have a look around, and you might be surprised.

Other areas of the schedule might appeal this year, as we do try to vary things to encourage new participants!

The annual begging letter is going to print very soon and we are very grateful for every offer available, be it: volunteering, tombola or raffle donations, sponsorship or books. See page 2 for the kinds of volunteers that are needed before, during and after the show. Please help if you can!

Also remember to make a note in your diary to come and enjoy the day!

Sue Le Prevost

IMPHA OUTING TO HESTERCOMBE



On 7th July, 40 members of IMPHA and local gardening clubs visited Hestercombe - historic house and gardens near Taunton. It combines 300 years of garden design, a 16th century house on the edge of the Quantock Hills, with acres of lakes, temples and woodland.

There was something of interest for everyone including the formal and landscaped gardens, exhibits in the house and grounds, and a well-stocked second hand book shop. We all enjoyed the delightful trails through the landscaped gardens which provided much needed relief from the sun and heat!



Thank you to everyone who joined us and I hope you will support the day out in 2027.

Anne Gorman

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE 80TH IWERNE MINSTER HORTICULTURAL SHOW SUNDAY AUGUST 23RD, 2026

Can you spare an hour to help with one of these activities?

- ✚ Erecting gazebos and setting up tables /chairs
- ✚ Taking entrance fees
- ✚ Potato weighing competition

- ✚ Various stalls
- ✚ Tombola
- ✚ Tent stewards
- ✚ Grand raffle and whisky and champagne raffle
- ✚ And many more!

This is a great annual event and we want to make it very successful so please offer to volunteer and spread the workload.

Please contact Anne Andrews by email anne.richard.andrews@gmail.com or phone 07825 862037.

IWERNE MINSTER PLAY PARK PROJECT



Join us for a Cream Tea Afternoon

**On Sunday 9th & Sunday 16th
August**

**at the Village Clubhouse
2pm to 4pm**

*Come along and enjoy a lovely
village afternoon with delicious
homemade scones, jam, cream
and a cup of tea or coffee.*

*All are welcome – bring a friend
and enjoy a classic British treat!*

**All proceeds to go towards
the new Play Park Project**

HEARTFELT THANKS

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with refreshments and/or visited The Hollow for its annual NGS openings. We battled with the excessive heat but still had plenty of visitors and raised £1011 which is wonderful! So again, thank you to everyone.

Sue Le Prevost

HEDGES!

It would appear that my request regarding the cutting back of hedges along Watery Lane has fallen on deaf ears. One person has clipped theirs, whereas others have done nothing. The village stream is completely hidden in places, and this is part of our beautiful village and needs to be seen. This hedge not only comes right out into the road but obstructs the view for drivers which is very dangerous, especially when the recycling bins have been put out. I hate to keep on but something needs to be done; after all we are sensible people who respect our village. Let's keep it that way.

MJM

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE CLUB

Saturday June 13th – a lovely warm afternoon for a game of boules. The afternoon began with the fun games for the youngsters, organised by Kerry and helpers. Two teams of children battled it out for the medals and then they played a game of rounders.



Proud winners of the children's competition

They obviously enjoyed themselves as they stayed to enjoy the rest of the afternoon.

The grown-ups didn't disappoint. Teams of three played several games each for both the Hicks Trophy and The Plate. When there was a dispute, Kerry swooped in with her piece of string to measure the differences.

Spectators enjoyed watching and encouraging the players while sipping glasses of

Pimms from the bar run by Steve and his helpers. There was also a raffle for a bottle of Champagne. The David Hicks Trophy was eventually won by the Tower Hill Mob (Jane Hood, Steve Piper and Steve Harrison).



After some fierce competition, The Plate was finally taken by The Corezzians (Will, John and Helen, all related to the Newland family!)



Many thanks go to Kerry and Paul for organising a very enjoyable event.

This was followed in July with the Members' Summer Party, when we enjoyed a very sociable evening, feasting on a delicious spread of food and glasses of wine. Thanks to everyone who brought the super food which was enjoyed by all while puzzling over one of Dot's intriguing quizzes.

The Village Club welcomes new members. Only £5 per annum and mountains of fun!

Penny Marsh

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

Many people in our community value the presence of the church at the heart of the village. Some may have attended talks and other events rather than the worship which goes on and will appreciate the beauty of this historic church. Many visitors write grateful comments in the Visitors' book and appreciate that we keep it open for anyone to come in and enjoy the peace and beauty of the space and learn about its history.

Support from the Church of England authorities for maintenance, repair and essential facilities is very limited and the costs more than the congregation can raise alone. It is vital therefore to raise funds in other ways.

We are proposing to set up a "Friends of St. Mary's" dedicated to maintaining and preserving the fabric of the church and its churchyard, continuing the church's cultural heritage and helping realise St Mary's potential to be used more fully as an asset for the whole community through events and activities. The Friends group will be a charity dedicated to raising funds to achieve this.

You would be welcome to become a Friend, wherever you live, regardless of whether you have a religious faith or not, and whatever aspect of St Mary's you are interested in. By becoming a member, you will help to ensure the preservation of the fabric of the church, its ornaments and furnishings, thus guaranteeing the future of one of Dorset's finest medieval churches.

Please contact Jenny Parkhouse for further information or, at this early stage, to register an interest: Jenny.parkhouse@gmail.com Tel 01747 812603

TALK ON THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS OF ST MARY'S

What a glorious collection of glass windows we have here in our church in Iwerne Minster! From medieval to Victorian, from Gothic revival to Arts and Crafts, and even to the new engraving on the atrium. One focus was the east window by Christopher Whall, the leading light for stained glass in the Arts and Crafts movement. His book became the standard text book for all stained glass artists and restorers in the C20.

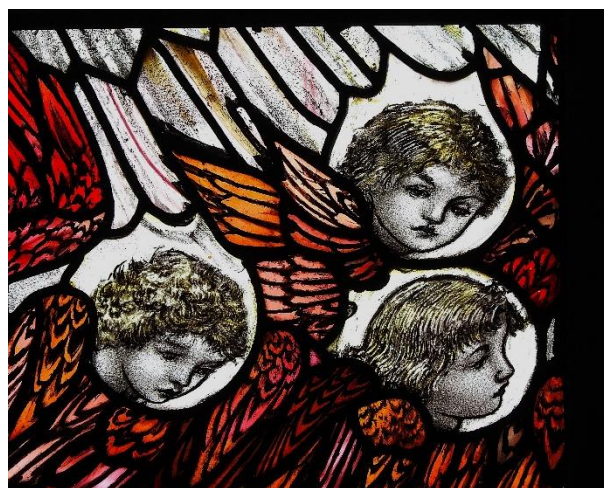
What's so special about the five-light window? Well, firstly the design of the picture. How do you create an image that spans five lights and yet when you look at it, you're not distracted by the stone pillars and by the support bars? Whall achieves this by directing the rays from the Holy Spirit (represented by a dove) across all the lancets, thus drawing them together.

The second striking feature of this window is the colour palette. This window has vivid colours – purples, mauves, dark greens, pinks, oranges and colours shaded by using painting, stippling and

colour washes. There is a small amount of actual silver staining – in the cherubs' hair and the Angel Gabriel's robe. Different types of glass are used - antique, Prior's Early English slab and streaky glass.



The third striking feature is the beauty of the figures – Saint George and St Michael appear to be protecting the annunciation scene of the Angel Gabriel, Mary and the five cherubs, even the forlorn dragon under St George's boot. The way the contrast of black and grey on the Saints' armour creates the illusion of a reflection and thus makes the armour look metallic is extraordinary.



The slide show on July 9th covered all the stained glass windows: the northwest medieval window and the window depicting St John's life; the south side and the memorial to Beatrice Channell, who died in 1871 aged just 30; the Wolverton Gothic Revival chapel, and the chancel where the windows include one commemorating those who died as a result of WWI.

The church is open every day, so please do go and have a look! Salisbury Cathedral offers stained glass windows tours every Monday at 1200.

Mike Deeming

FIRST MEETING OF THE IM HISTORY GROUP

As announced in the June-July Newsletter, the IM History Group held its inaugural meeting. After a welcome and brief introduction everyone spoke a little, in three or four minutes, about themselves: where they came from, what they did, what their interests were. Areas of potential research were discussed and ideas about what, as individuals and small teams, we'd like to study. To begin with, the consensus was to focus on things that interest us, and on beginning an aural history collection. It was noted that no 'indigenous' villagers were present at the meeting (we were all retirees from other parts of the UK), and it is the memories and knowledge of families who have lived long in the village that must be documented.

One principal that was emphasised was that, wherever possible, stories, facts, information should be referenced and, where possible, independently corroborated.

So, if anyone asks you about aspects of the village's history, please don't be surprised! Please try to help them. Thank you.

John Goodliffe

THE VIEW FROM ST MARY'S

The Sunday after Easter is traditionally known as "Low Sunday", as Christians draw breath after the great Easter Celebrations. (It is also known as Quasimodo Sunday – nothing to do with hunchbacks; it is simply the first word of a Latin chant at the beginning of Mass in the Catholic church). Worship continued as usual at St Mary's. Since Covid we now have coffee (and, of course cake) after most services. It is a great opportunity to get to know one another better.

We have also enjoyed another in our popular series of talks. This time Mike Deeming took us on a tour of the stained glass windows that grace the church, from the 12th century window in the North Aisle to the glorious East Window above the altar. Mike was an excellent guide, as befits one who is a leading guide to the windows of Salisbury Cathedral. His talk was erudite and interesting, and many of those who attended enjoyed walking round the church afterwards with a glass of wine looking at the windows close up. See page 4 for write up of talk.

The talk was free, with donations requested for the upkeep and maintenance of St Mary's. Those who were present responded, as usual, with great generosity and Mike was warmly thanked for his presentation.

Mike has also been working hard on getting the clock and the carillon back into full working order. Both were installed in the mid-18th century, so it is not surprising that they need regular maintenance. Mike hopes to have the clock in operation shortly – the carillon may take a little longer as a part needs to be made.

David John, our vicar, has been on sabbatical since 13th April. He returns to his ministry on 23rd July. We are looking forward to hearing how his time away has benefitted him. Huge thanks are due to Rev David Sinclair, our curate, who has, in the vicar's absence, worked tremendously hard to look after the Benefice, taking Sunday services (often three in a day), undertaking pastoral work, and chairing PCC and other meetings. We are tremendously grateful to him and trust that he may now have the opportunity to recharge his batteries.

And finally, it is with deep sadness that we say farewell to our dear friend, Dennis Webb, who died on 7th July. Dennis was a staunch member of St Mary's for many years and undertook a number of roles within the church, including as Churchwarden. He will be remembered for his kindness and for his strong faith in God. He will be much missed by our congregation and all those who knew him.

David Parkhouse

Dorset Historic Churches Trust RIDE + STRIDE

Saturday 12th September 2026

Take part in this year's Ride + Stride event raising money for Dorset's Historic Churches Trust, while enjoying a great day out. Walk, cycle or ride between churches sponsored by family & friends. With many of Dorset's churches open on the day, you can plan your own route, set your own pace and make the day as relaxed or as adventurous as you like.

Or join (or sponsor) the team walking the five churches in the Benefice from Ashmore to Shroton via Fontmell Magna, Sutton Waldron & Iwerne Minster. Half of the money raised is returned to St Mary's in Iwerne Minster (ref MB36) and the other half is used by DHCT to provide grants to maintain & repair historic churches across the county.

For information about taking part, sponsoring, or volunteering at St Mary's on the day, please contact Debbie (01747 708096) or see further info in the church porch. (debbieciddings@hotmail.co.uk)

S.W.I.M. W.I. JULY MEETING AND CREAM TEA EVENT



Over 30 ladies came together on July 15th at the Village Club in Iwerne Minster, for our annual cream tea event and open meeting.

On an extremely hot day, it was lovely to see so many of our members and a good number of guests.

Our 'speakers' were Sue and her colleague Paula, from T Snook, Hatters and Outfitters, from Bridport. Sue gave an extremely entertaining and interesting history of many different hats and headwear, together with an opportunity for us all to try on the many samples she brought with her. There was an amazing variety of styles and colours and we all had lots of fun and laughter whilst we passed them around to try on.



My personal thanks go to my amazing WI team and several other wonderful ladies from the village, who baked mouthwatering cakes, arrived early to help set up and clear up at the end, and served a

delicious cream tea. Thanks also to Liz Westwell for organising the raffle.

A very enjoyable and convivial afternoon.

Jules Power (SWIM WI Chairwoman)

TIPS ON KEEPING FIT

I've come to a certain age when many of my friends and family seem to be at greater risk of illness and injury. It can be heart breaking to see it happen to others and sobering to think of it happening to oneself. We all want to live to our potential lifespan with the best chance of maintaining our health or 'health-span'. We may not be able to avoid all the pitfalls of aging, but we can make a difference when it comes to chronic diseases, such as Type 2 Diabetes, heart disease, and even dementia. By maintaining our strength as we age, we can decrease the chances of falling and other debilitating physical conditions.

We know, from extensive studies, that superior nutrition, regular exercise, getting enough high-quality sleep, managing our stress levels, and being connected socially can decrease our risk of chronic disease. These are the biggest levers to pull if you're interested in improving your health-span. I've studied nutrition and strength training for many years and have found that I'm in better physical condition now than I was for many of my earlier adult years. It's never too late or too early to improve our condition. If you can move, you can improve. If you can't move, there may be another lever you can pull.

When I begin something new, I like to jump into the deep end head first. I don't recommend this approach for most people. To start something new, it's sometimes best to make small incremental changes. What could you do that is too easy to avoid? What habit could you stack a new behaviour onto so that it will become automatic, like brushing your teeth? Could you walk for one minute? Could you eat an extra fruit or vegetable each day?

Timelines for change can be tricky. A reasonable timeline might evolve. I like to consider any improvements I make as things that I can do for the rest of my life. Building a consistent healthy habit is one of the most important aspects of improvement. Don't depend on willpower to make yourself do something, as it is a finite resource and gets quite scarce after a challenging day. Clear obstacles if you are adding a habit and place obstacles if you are avoiding a habit. Celebrate your wins and build momentum. It's great to have a support group, as well. If you have any questions about health and fitness that I might be able to address in this space, please email me at denisekjones@yahoo.co.uk

IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP REPORTS

SUMMER SOLSTICE WALK



On a warm June evening seven walkers and two dogs met on Castle Hill and set off to walk around the southern perimeter of Shaftesbury.

We headed south on the footpath down the hill and entered Breach Common, emerging on the slopes of Foyle Hill. From there we walked along St James Street, pausing to admire the planting and views from the Millenium Garden with its beautiful views across the valley to the south; it is an oasis of peace created by some determined townspeople and well worth a visit. Walking through the allotments was also peaceful. We then went down Watery Lane (fortunately not watery at this time of year) and along Gascoigne's Lane and adjoining field to Three Ways.

We started walking back towards Shaftesbury along French Mill Lane and then went cross country to join the end of Brinscombe Lane and return through town to Castle Hill to enjoy our picnics, joined by Helen and Pauline, while watching the sun set over the Blackmore Vale, another magnificent view.

Louise Parry



JULY WALK

We set off at 10.30 from the parking spaces near the new house on the Stubhampton Road. There were ten of us walking but no dogs for the first time. There are a lot of new trees and new paths put in by the owner of the estate, the Prime Minister of Bahrain. The new shooting lodge looks like a Central European mansion.



We took the path towards Pimperne and eventually we came out on the Home Farm road. We went down the road to a bridle path which is part of the Wessex Ridgeway going northwards where it was shadier and cooler under beech trees. We saw two hares and a lot of tree fellings. Some of the tracks were very stony. After going across more fields and through what is sometimes known as Bluebell Woods, we came back out on Stubhampton Road and walked back to the cars. We squeezed ten people into two cars and retired to the Talbot in Iwerne Minster where six others joined us for lunch.

Neil Davies

CHILD OKEFORD ART TRAIL 2026 FRIDAY 28TH TO MONDAY 31ST AUGUST 2026 11 AM TO 4 PM DAILY

Our popular Art Trail is now in its sixth year! Once again, we will be hosting 23 talented artists and craftspeople in their own homes, studios and community spaces. The trail offers visitors the opportunity to explore our beautiful village at leisure, allowing you to view and purchase a diverse collection of paintings, prints, pottery, and crafts.

Fly tipping your waste?

Dorset Council's Environmental Enforcement team has recently been made aware of rogue 'waste collectors' driving around estates, taking items left for collection from resident's gardens, and then dumping anything without any value in the countryside.

Under UK law, your rubbish remains your legal responsibility until it is disposed of legally. If waste from your property (home or business) is removed by unauthorised persons and fly-tipped, you can face unlimited fines or legal action, even if you paid someone else to take it away.

To protect residents from being victims of crime, we would like to reiterate the following.

To ensure compliance with Dorset Council and Environment Agency regulations, we recommend referring to the national **S.C.R.A.P.** code.

Suspect: Assume all waste carriers are unlicensed until you see proof. Be wary of unexpected "man in a van" offers on social media.

Check: Verify the person's Waste Carrier's Licence on the Environment Agency Public Register.

Refuse: Do not use anyone who refuses to provide their licence details, vehicle registration, or an explanation of where the waste is going.

Ask: Ask where the rubbish will be dumped (e.g., licensed transfer station or recycling centre).

Paperwork: Always get a receipt, invoice, or Waste Transfer Note. Business waste producers are legally required to keep these notes for at least 2 years.

Reporting a Breach: If you suspect someone is an unauthorised carrier or has illegally taken and dumped your waste, you can report them directly to the authorities.

Report a rogue trader: You can submit an anonymous tip-off regarding unlicensed waste carriers on [Tip-Off - Unlicensed waste carriers - Dorset Council](#)

Report a fly-tip: Use the [Dorset Council Fly-Tipping Form](#) or call 01305 221040.

If you suspect your waste has been collected by a rogue trader, do you have any paperwork, vehicle registration, or contact details for the person who took it? All these can help Dorset Council catch the offenders.



AND FINALLY, SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER...

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Contributions are welcome from residents of Iwerne Minster or anyone with an interest in the village. Get in touch if you know of anything that is newsworthy.

Village Diary

Paul Le Prevost compiles the Iwerne Minster Village Diary, available by email and pinned to noticeboards. Please let Paul know of new events at paul.leprevost@btinternet.com

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