

# IWERNE MINSTER NEWSLETTER

## JUNE-JULY 2025



*Photo courtesy of Andrew Osborne*

### INCIDENT ON THE CRICKET PITCH

Sunday 18th May was the first village open cricket event this year for the Iwerne Minster Cricket Club.

Everything pointed to a fine day for cricket as we assembled for a 2pm start. The ground was prepared, boundary markers in place with a playing surface set out on a scale similar to the Surrey Cricket Club home ground, the Oval.

With a determined band of players watched by a good number of spectators, we decided to play a single wicket competition with one batsman facing a number of overs before passing the batting opportunity to the next player. Unfortunately, during the second over, the batter collapsed. Immediately several people rushed to his aid.

Members of the team and some spectators volunteered support with CPR, a 999 call was made, the emergency services relayed advice over the phone.

The defibrillator was collected from outside The Talbot and the arrival of a villager with many years' experience as a paramedic was invaluable both in helping with CPR and to administer the defibrillator.

In time the air ambulance arrived (their third call out that day) and this was joined by three more ambulances and two solo medical first responders. With all this help, the patient was stabilised and transferred to hospital in the air ambulance.

From a community perspective the response was fantastic. The whole situation has also been seen by some as a concern in terms of how we should all be able to respond to an emergency situation, doing so with confidence in terms of communication and crisis management. It may well be that the ability to test ourselves in situations such as these should become part of a programme to raise our awareness and resilience collectively.

A footnote here concerns the Dorset/Somerset Air Ambulance organisation who are marking this year as their 25th anniversary and are currently fundraising for a second helicopter - what could we do to help them with this?

**Andrew Osborne**

With reference to the incident above, the Parish Council is undertaking an investigation into the whole event which will be published at a later date.

### VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS

Following the use of one of the village defibrillators recently, it might be helpful to give a brief summary of their locations and use, particularly for new arrivals to the village.

The defibrillators were funded by villager donations approximately seven years ago and we have three in the village located as follows:

- on the wall at the back of The Talbot in Post Office Road
- in the porch of St Mary's Church
- on the wall at the far end of Leopard Dairy (the long building on the left as you start to go up the hill towards Home Farm)

The cabinets containing the defibrillators were originally installed with combination locks, as is usually the case with public access cabinets. The default was to phone 999 to obtain the combination. However, this caused problems and delay when the defibrillator was recently used. Learning from this experience, all the combination locks have now been disabled and the cabinets are permanently 'unlocked'.

The defibrillator consists of a unit connected to two pads. After unzipping the outer container press the ON button and the unit will give verbal instructions on what to do. There is a pack in the front of the container containing scissors etc. It is necessary to completely bare the chest and shoulders to affix the pads - clothing must be torn or cut as necessary. *(Continued on page 2)*

It is worth emphasising that a defibrillator, in itself, is no use if Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is not performed promptly after a cardiac arrest, and continued without pause until a defibrillator or paramedic etc arrives. This can't be stressed enough. CPR saves lives. It needs to be done efficiently and is very hard work. If you don't know how to perform CPR, do please consider taking a First Aid course!

**Dougal Wilson-Croom**

## **IMPHA SUMMER SHOW**

This year the Iwerne Minster Summer Show takes place on Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. Schedules for the show detailing all the different classes people can enter are due to be delivered soon to everyone in Iwerne Minster. There are several new themes this year especially for the younger members of our village. Hopefully many will have collected a sunflower in order to grow the tallest plant. If you haven't, there may be a few left. Contact Heather Overton for information 07747 620996.

We intend to have a bouncy castle again this year but also have additional games, providing we can obtain enough volunteers to help on the day.

There are 6 chillies still available to grow on for the Chilli Class but no other plug plants now - sorry!

Please do sponsor a class for £5 to support the entire Show - Paul Le Prevost (Treasurer) 01747 812173.

**Sue Le Prevost**

## **IWERNE MINSTER 100 CLUB RESULTS**

### **March 2025**

£15 Bernie Hart (70)

£12 Dennis Webb (11)

£10 Jonathan & Susan Maguire (33)

£5 Janet Meise (60)

### **April 2025**

£15 Steve Harrison (44)

£12 Barry Hoare (22)

£10 Dougal Wilson-Croom (93)

£5 John & Carol Carter (97)

The new year is just beginning and there are a few numbers available. If anyone would like to join in, please contact Dianne on 01747811507 or Mervyn on 01747811339. The cost is £12 for the year.

## **VILLAGE OPEN GARDENS**

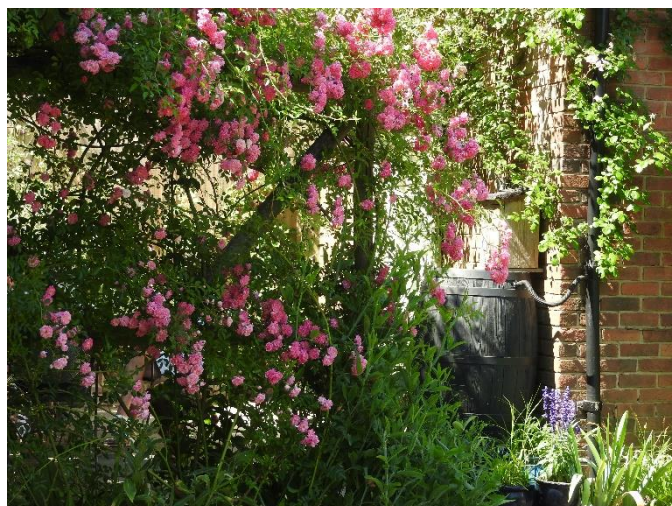
This wonderful weekend of Open Gardens in Iwerne Minster will take place on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th June 2025, from 11.00am to 5.00pm with a map available on the Parish Field. Some gardens are yet to confirm their opening but at least fifteen have confirmed! Light lunches will be available at Abingdon Hall and then afternoon teas at The Hollow, Tower Hill and Oyles Mill, off Blandford Road.

All profits will go to support Abingdon Hall and the Village Club. All offers of help during the weekend will be gladly accepted by either Dianne Benfield 811507 or Sue Le Prevost 812173. We will need lots of volunteers to sell maps, prepare and serve lunches, afternoon teas and sit in some gardens.

Please do support your village and enjoy being part of a thoroughly enjoyable weekend. Even if you are unable to help, please do visit the gardens and see what beautiful gardens are hidden behind walls and fences!

**Sue Le Prevost**

### **One of the Open Gardens taken in 2018**



*Photo courtesy of John Goodliffe*

## **NGS OPEN GARDENS AT THE HOLLOW, TOWER HILL**

The Hollow was accepted into the National Garden Scheme in 2016 and has been opening since then, raising about £1000 annually. The garden will again open on Saturday 21st, Sunday 22nd and Wednesday 25th June this year. It is an ongoing project with various changes each year.

Cream teas and cakes including gluten free will be served in the garden (cover available if sunny or wet!). Please do support this incredibly worthwhile organisation, which in turn supports many health charities who are struggling to find an adequate income.

**Sue Le Prevost**

## NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE CLUB

We had a Coffee Morning in April when once again the club hummed with chatter as people enjoyed coffee and delicious cake. On 8<sup>th</sup> May the clubroom was decorated with union flags as we celebrated VE Day. A quiz set by Steve Harrison included a question about VE day in every round. Dennis Webb gave a short talk about his memories. Sausage rolls and Spam sandwiches were served during the interval.

See below for details of Boules Competition.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July we will have our Members' Summer Party – good food, drinks and a really sociable evening.

Meanwhile, several members of the club have been working hard to tidy up the club – painting and repairing where necessary. The shed has been repaired, treated and has new felt on the roof. The benches have also been treated with preservative.

The Club is being used regularly for Pilates, Circuit Training, Table Tennis and Snooker and various other events.

**Penny Marsh (Chairperson)**

### IWERNE MINSTER VILLAGE CLUB

#### BOULES TOURNAMENT

**SATURDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

**Open to Iwerne Minster residents and their guests only**

**SPECTATORS WELCOME**

Three persons per team - **£21 per team**

**PIMMS, WINE and BEER BAR**  
**CHAMPAGNE RAFFLE. FUN**  
**TOURNAMENT**

**Registration at 2.30 p.m. for 3.00 p.m. prompt start**

Enter by Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> June - [No late entries]

**CONTACT PAUL LE PREVOST TO**  
**ENTER YOUR TEAM - [01747**  
**812173]**

Email: [paul.leprevost@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.leprevost@btinternet.com)

This is a Club Fund Raiser so players and spectators please support the Cash Bar

## FUN BOULES TOURNAMENT ON THE PARISH FIELD

The traditional French sport of Boules (or Pétanque) is a test of skill, accuracy and precision throwing of steel balls on a gravel court.

However, when it is played on the parish field, with random tussocks of grass and the odd wormcast, anything can happen on contact with the court – so that's why it is called a fun tournament!

The tournament is open to teams of villagers and their families and the event is restricted to 12 teams. Each 3-person team will play at least 2 games on the day. Spectators are welcome to bring along your chairs and nibbles and enjoy the afternoon

This is a fundraising event for the upkeep of the village club and a Pimms bar with wine beer and soft drinks will be available as well as a champagne raffle.

As a curtain raiser to the main event, we are going to host a children's fun boules competition too. No experience necessary with a mini lesson taking place at 1pm before the start. This will give the children and families of Iwerne Minster an opportunity to meet others in a relaxed setting.

**Steve Harrison**

### ABINGDON MEMORIAL PARISH

#### HALL

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**THURSDAY 12 JUNE 2025 7:00PM**

#### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 30 May 2024
3. Chairman's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Retirement of the members of the 2024/2025 Committee
6. Appointment of Trustees to the 2025/2026 Board of Trustees
7. Election of Trustees to the 2025/2026 Board of Trustees
8. Any other business
9. Date of next Annual General Meeting

This meeting is open to all members of the public as the Hall is held in trust for the benefit of the Village, **so please do attend the meeting and show your support for the hall.** If you would like further information, please contact the secretary at [rita.ten@jynet.co.uk](mailto:rita.ten@jynet.co.uk).

<https://iwernevillagehall.com>



## FAMILIES OF IWERNE MINSTER

The Parish Council recently held a well-supported meeting for families of Iwerne Minster. Over coffee and cupcakes, parents and children shared many ideas on how to develop our community for children; their suggestions included family events, children's clubs, BBQs and a range of sporting activities. This would provide opportunities for our children and families to come together, develop new friendships and socialise. A big thank you to all the mums, dads and children who came along. As this would promote greater use of the village field and could also incorporate the facilities of the Village Club, a suggestion has been made by a number of people as to whether the playpark is currently in the best location. Would it be better if the new playpark was sited in a section of the Parish Field? On discussion, points were made such as ease of parking, inclusive play space for children at village events and expanded use of the Village Club. Food for thought!



Following this meeting, a family WhatsApp group will now be established as part of our Community WhatsApp. This will enable families to begin to join together by organising some social events such as picnics in the field and a Friday night kickabout.

**To join the Family WhatsApp group (mums, dads, grandparents, carers all welcome) please WhatsApp Kerry O'Connor on 07974972716. In your message please state your request to join the Family WhatsApp group and a link will be sent to you.**

**Kerry O'Connor and Heather Overton**

### SECRETARY NEEDED FOR ABINGDON HALL COMMITTEE

**THE ABINGDON HALL Committee are still looking for a new secretary. We have four meetings a year. We need someone to take minutes at these meetings and send out agendas and minutes to the committee members. If you are interested please contact Dianne Benfield on 01747811507.**

## A350 TRAFFIC CALMING

Firstly, I would like to thank all those who replied to the questionnaire. We had 89 responses from the village with some very sound insights and thoughts on how things could be alleviated.

On the question of whether you would support action to lobby for a 20mph speed limit, the replies were split almost exactly 50/50. On the question of whether speeding on the A350 was a problem, 61% thought it was and 39% thought not.

As a result, the Parish Council will not lobby Dorset Council (DC) for a 20mph limit, but will press for traffic calming measures, particularly at the War Memorial where Clayesmore students and staff cross all through the day, and by The Talbot where residents of Oakwood Drive and Talbot Court cross to the village shop, the pub, church and other amenities, again, all day, and school children cross to the bus stop. Several people high-lighted the fact that among us we have people who because of age (including young children) or infirmity, cannot rush across the road, but need to be able to take their time. They must be provided for. Traffic must be calmed!

So, what can be done? Based on your suggestions and conversations with DC Highways engineers, our principal arguments will be for SIDs (Speed Indicator Device) such as the one deployed in Fontmell Magna; for proper pedestrian crossings at the War Memorial and The Talbot, although DC engineers say that such crossings are not possible at those places. Failing that, we'll try for speed bumps and colour changes to the road surface at these places. And along the length of the A350 through the village, additional signage, in particular at the southern end where the change from 50mph to 30mph is very abrupt, resulting in vehicles, although decelerating, still going faster than 30mph when passing the first Oakwood Drive entrance road.

All this will take time, so what can we do now to calm traffic? Well, Speed Watch is effective and the Speed Watch team can always use new members. To join, contact Geoff Peters at [geoff.peters13@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:geoff.peters13@hotmail.co.uk). Training will be provided.

**John Goodliffe**

## BEAUTIFUL DUCKLINGS



## NEW FOOTPATH TO SHROTON FROM OYLES MILL



*Ann Kraunsoe in front of the new bridge; photo courtesy of Niels Kraunsoe*

There is a new footpath at Oyles Mill running past the tennis court towards Shroton. This is a shorter route than the old path and will provide residents of the Mill with greater privacy. It also shortens the way through the water meadow which can be very wet and boggy. The new route is well sign-posted; Dorset Council are considering making this diversion permanent.

The byway, D33107, to Park Farm, will be unaffected.

## BLANDFORD OPENS ITS GARDENS FOR CHARITY

Blandford's Hidden Gardens will be on display again on Sunday June 8th, when private gardens, large and small, in the Georgian town centre and outlying areas will be open to visitors in support of local and national charitable causes.

It's an opportunity to explore parts of the town you may not have seen, and in the gardens of Georgian, Victorian and more modern houses you will find ponds, wildlife planting, World War II and natural defences, sometimes ancient and award-winning trees, artworks and ceramics, and a wide selection of shrubs, perennials, annuals and climate-resilient plants.

Proceeds from ticket sales go to local charities chosen by the organisers, the Blandford Environmental Trust, and those opening their gardens raise funds for a cause of their choice by offering refreshments or plants for sale.

Last year over £3000 was raised bringing the total raised since the event was first held in 2008 to over £30,000.

Most of the gardens will be open to the public between 11am and 5pm on the day, and tickets giving details and allowing entry to them all are on sale from the Town Museum in the Market

Place and the Blandford Information Centre in West Street.

For further information, email  
[blandfordhiddengardens@gmail.com](mailto:blandfordhiddengardens@gmail.com)

## DOGS AND THEIR BEST FRIENDS

Most of us love dogs and are happy to see them enjoying their walks around the village and in the surrounding countryside. Most of us, however, are filled with despair when we observe the poor behaviour of irresponsible dog owners.

Several villagers have commented on the state of the dog poo bins recently and in fact it was a topic that came up in the last Parish Council meeting. One concerned resident sent in the photo below:



If a bin is full, it is not acceptable for dog owners to deposit their poo bags next to the bin. Who do they expect is going to pick them up?

**If you see a poo bin is full, contact Dorset Council on their website and report it.**

Go to: <https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/report-a-public-litter-bin-problem> and follow the prompts.

Another point for dog owners to note: please don't let your dog run through the growing crops; dogs can poo in the crop and then walk on as if nothing has happened. Please be vigilant when walking your dog and be aware of its habits.

And lastly, several people have commented on the annoyance caused by barking dogs especially in the Shute Lane/Post Office Road area. One cannot always control dogs but if a dog owner is around and their dogs bark, they should be trying to bring them under control.

Apologies to dog owners if this comes across as the sort of rant you might read in a publication which sees the likes of 'Disgusted of Dorset' sending in endless complaints about their pet peeves but it seems necessary to remind people from time to time that they need to take responsibility for their beloved dogs.

**MG**



## REST IN PEACE

Gill Simonds of Home Farm

### BLUEBELLS IN THE WOODS



*Photo courtesy of Roger Saurin*

### THE VIEW FROM ST MARY'S

Easter is a busy time at most churches and St Mary's is no exception! Since the last newsletter we have enjoyed two more Lent lectures. One of the highlights of Clare Amos's talk about the Lord's Prayer was a recital by Alan Amos of the Prayer in Aramaic, the language that Jesus spoke. David John tackled the Problem of Evil, which led to a lively discussion afterwards.

The Good Friday Choral Evensong, as well attended as ever, was preceded by a service of contemplation led by Alan Amos – a complete contrast, and a great opportunity for the congregation to consider the events of that momentous weekend more than 2000 years ago.

On Easter Sunday itself Garry Bennett led a large congregation in a celebration of the Resurrection, the culmination of Holy Week. The church, which remained bare for Good Friday was once more filled with colour, including the traditional Easter lilies

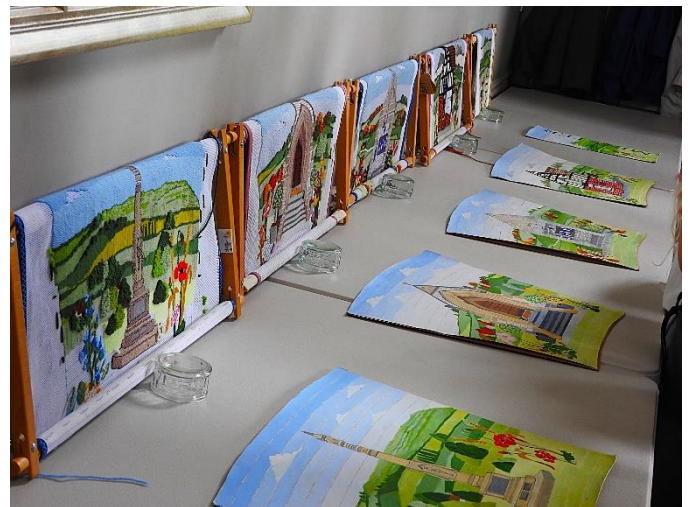
On 6<sup>th</sup> May VE Day was remembered with a service led by Garry Bennett which was attended and appreciated by folk from all the villages in the Benefice.

The church's Annual meeting took place shortly before Easter, and turned out to be an occasion of change! St Mary's has been without a churchwarden for two years and Jenny Parkhouse has now taken over this important role. Niels Kraunsoe has served on the PCC for over 20 years, the last nine as Church Secretary. He has now retired and his place has been taken by David Parkhouse, while David Sirl has replaced Peter Wintle as Treasurer. We are most grateful to Niels and Peter for their faithful service, and to those who have stepped forward to fill the gaps.

For the last 6 years Linda Jones, Jenny and David have been leading a more informal service (Worship for All) on the fourth Sunday of the month. They will be stepping down as Lay Worship Leaders after the service on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. David John has decided to introduce something a little more formal to Iwerne - Sung Communion – which has proved popular in Fontmell. A small choir of around a dozen has already been recruited and we will look forward to hearing them singing the Gloria and the responses, and maybe the occasional anthem? Do come and join us.

**David Parkhouse**

### ABINGDON HALL TAPESTRY PROJECT



On Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup>, the Tapestry Group held a very successful coffee and cake morning to raise money for the further development of the project especially the funds needed to fix the final pieces to the wall above the arched window in the Abingdon Hall. Those who attended the morning saw the progress which has been made over many months. The tapestries were displayed next to the original art work by Judith Dutch and everyone was impressed by the skill and dedication of all the people who beaver away each Wednesday morning under the enthusiastic direction of Maggie Hale. The splendid sum of £728.40 was raised at the coffee morning.

**MG**



## IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP

The Iwerne Valley Walking Group recently celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday and we would be very happy to invite new interested walkers including those who may never have heard of us.

We normally walk on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month for 3 to 5 miles, followed by an (optional) meal at a pub or café, or maybe having a picnic. It's a very friendly group, usually featuring two or more dogs, and some people who are no longer able to do the walks and just come to the lunch.

We tend to meet between 10.00 and 10.30 a.m. depending on where the walk is. There are a few exceptions to this pattern, e.g. in June, the walk is always on the Summer Solstice (21 June) and is in the evening, culminating in watching the sunset from a high spot and having a picnic. Funnily enough, this month's walk will be up Hambledon Hill and will start at 6pm at the Cricketers. The date of July's walk is currently under consideration as it clashes with the Shaftesbury Fringe.

**If you are interested in joining us, the best thing is to contact Helen English on 07789 845498 or [englishhv49@gmail.com](mailto:englishhv49@gmail.com)**

### WALK REPORT FOR MAY 2025



Eight of us and two dogs met at Pamphill Green on May 17<sup>th</sup> to walk a circuit down to the River Stour and back. We were fortunate to find the churchwarden at St Stephen's tending to the churchyard as we set off and so were able to look around the delightful little church that's usually kept locked and hear his anecdotes of when the Bankes family owned the Kingston Lacey estate. The walk took us down through a wooded hollow and then off through another wood to the banks of the Stour where we were thrilled to hear one and perhaps two cuckoos. After following the river for a short distance, we reached the Eye Bridge and from there traversed some fallow meadows before reaching the woodland steps that delivered us back to the green.

This was followed by a picnic in the glorious sunshine.

**Louise Parry**



*Photos courtesy of Louise Parry*

## IWERNE MINSTER CRICKET CLUB - 2025

### Key dates for anyone interested in playing for or supporting cricket in Iwerne Minster

**Net practice every Tuesday from 5.30 to 7.30 - all welcome**

- **Monday 9th June - 6pm - game against Clayesmore - ground to be confirmed**
- **Sunday 15th June - 2pm - village game**
- **Monday 30th June - 6pm - game against Clayesmore - ground to be confirmed**
- **Sunday 20th July - 2pm village game**
- **Sunday 17th August - 2pm village game**
- **Sunday 21st September - 2pm village game**

Other fixtures are being pursued with dates to be notified.

The IMCC website can be found at

<https://iwerneminster.play-cricket.com>

The "WhatsApp" group platform is in place for anyone interested in playing or supporting the club, with further ground development work being carried out by the IMCC, guided by the ECB and Dorset Cricket Association.

If you are interested in playing cricket here please let us know. A mobile phone number means we can add you to the "WhatsApp" group, making communication easier.

The IMCC are grateful for the ongoing support for this venture provided through LEWISIA LIMITED / the Iwerne Estate, also to Rob Smith through Iwerne Valley Lawn Maintenance Limited. If you have any questions please call Andrew Osborne on 01747 811433 or via e-mail to



## CLAYESMORE JOINS INSPIRED LEARNING GROUP

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, Clayesmore joined the Inspired Learning Group which describes itself as a leading provider of independent education in the UK. It is essentially an umbrella organisation of independent institutions which includes both prep and senior schools and standalone nurseries. ILG was founded by businessman, Amit Mehta whose mission, according to their website, is to improve the quality of education, boost local communities and make a real difference to the lives of all the young people in the ILG group of schools. The emphasis seems to be on focusing on the individual student and on providing an education which is forward-looking and innovative while also being based on traditional values.

On the Clayesmore website, the following comments clearly seek to reassure everyone that the school community will benefit from this move.

Rosie Stiven, Chair of Clayesmore Governors said, 'After an extensive selection process, we are thrilled to be joining the ILG family of schools whose shared ethos of outstanding teaching and learning as well as a focus on kindness and community is so closely aligned with our own.'

Commenting on the partnership, Head Jo Thomson said, 'Visitors to Clayesmore are always struck by the warm, inclusive and unpretentious atmosphere in which all pupils can thrive and achieve success. Inspired Learning Group shares our ethos and vision and I am excited about the possibilities that come with being part of a strong and forward-looking group of schools and educators.'

Amit Mehta, CEO of ILG, shared his excitement: "Clayesmore School is a gem in the educational landscape, and we are honoured to welcome it into the Inspired Learning Group family. This underscores our commitment to providing world-class education while preserving the unique character and traditions of every school we partner with. We are excited to work alongside the dedicated staff, students, and families of Clayesmore to build on its outstanding legacy."

Clayesmore will join ILG on 1st September 2025

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## CAVORTING HOUSEMARTINS!



*Photo courtesy of Roger Saurin*

### IWERNE MINSTER NEWSLETTER

Published every two months on the first of the month. Next issue: August 1st, 2025  
Contribution deadline: July 20th, 2025

Editor Monique Goodliffe [monique@hairy-barbarian.com](mailto:monique@hairy-barbarian.com)

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. Please send any contributions by email or hard copy through the letter box.

Digital photos should be high resolution (i.e. direct from the camera, not down-sized for websites). Please send the image file rather than embedding it into a text document.

Copyright should be agreed with the photographer.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor.

### 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](mailto:paul.leprevost@btinternet.com)

### Printer

Parish Magazine Printing

## FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP

We are a small and friendly group who meet on Monday evenings between 6 and 7pm in different houses and gardens to practise our French. It would be lovely to have new members. Any level of French is welcome. If you would like to join, please email Dougal at: [dougalwc@btinternet.com](mailto:dougalwc@btinternet.com). Join us for a bit of French fun and un verre de vin!