

# IWERNE MINSTER NEWSLETTER

JUNE – JULY 2026

## WELCOME TO NEW FAMILIES IN IWERNE MINSTER



A big welcome to families that have recently moved here.

We do have a Family WhatsApp group to be able to get in touch with other families and make new friends in the village.

If you would like to join, then message

Kerry 07974 972716

## Iwerne Minster Parish Council Renewing our Play Park in Watery Lane

Updated information on the proposed Play Park Project can now be found on the Parish Council Website. This includes an update on all progress to date, plans and costings.

[Play Area Project - Iwerne Minster Parish Council](#)

Local fundraising events to support this project are being planned.

Look out for more news soon

If you would like to meet up with other ladies and neighbours here's your chance!  
**LADIES!** Please come and meet with the Sutton Waldron and Iwerne Minster WI for:

**CREAM TEA, A CHAT AND EGYPTIAN DANCING!**



Join us on **WEDNESDAY, July 15<sup>TH</sup>**  
at 2.30 pm

at the Iwerne Minster Village Club.

There will be a small charge of £5 for non-members and the chance to win one of our raffle prizes (£1 per ticket)

Contact Numbers:

IM – Jules Power – 07377 720596 SW –  
Sandra Jelbart – 01747 812468

## HEDGES

There are several hedges in the village which are overhanging the highway, especially opposite the Post Office and towards the Chalk and Watery Lane. Some of these are making it difficult for drivers to see what is coming towards them. Even the stream is covered over in places, and this was never the case in the past. I can see an accident waiting to happen. Just trimming the hedge will do no good at all; they need to be split when growth can be cut back well into the hedge.

Stop using up the highway, thus narrowing the roads! Please show some consideration for drivers. [MJM].

# BOULES COMPETITION: SATURDAY, JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup> 2026



**IWERNE MINSTER VILLAGE CLUB  
ARE HOSTING A FUN CHILDREN'S  
BOULES TOURNAMENT  
ZERO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 13<sup>th</sup> on the Parish Field**

**£2 each child entry** - this includes a Mr Freeze ice lolly & drink

**Registration at 12.30 p.m. for 1.00 p.m. prompt start**

The village club is really keen to offer more activities to involve the children of Iwerne Minster. This is a little bit of fun with a trophy prize. Please come along and meet other children and their family spectators. Families- there will be a cash bar open for you on the day. Pimm's, beer and wine available to help raise funds for the club renovation. Feel free to bring a picnic, blanket and camping chairs.

**Message Kerry O'Connor 07974972716 to say how many children you'd like to enter by Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**Teams are made up on the day.**



**IWERNE MINSTER VILLAGE CLUB  
"BOULES" TOURNAMENT FOR ADULTS**

**SATURDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

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

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

**CASH BAR :: CHAMPAGNE RAFFLE :: FUN TOURNAMENT**

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

Enter by Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> June - [No late entries]

**CONTACT PAUL LE PREVOST TO ENTER  
YOUR TEAM [07879 377565]**

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

This is a Club Fund Raiser so players and supporters, please support the Cash Bar.



# IWERNE MINSTER SUMMER SHOW AUGUST 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2026

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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](mailto:anne.richard.andrews@gmail.com) or phone 07825 862037.

## MORE STALLS FOR THE SHOW

Would you like to have a stall at the show to sell cards or crafts or any other ideas? We will provide a pitch on the Parish Field and ask for 10% of the sales. Please contact me to discuss [anne.richard.andrews@gmail.com](mailto:anne.richard.andrews@gmail.com) or phone 07825 862037.

## SNEAK PREVIEW OF SUMMER SHOW SCHEDULE

The Summer Show is approaching and although the schedules have not yet been distributed, many people like to know some classes in advance, so that they can prepare. Please see below:

### ART

A local landmark  
Flowers  
A water colour  
Abstract in any medium  
SIXTEEN AND UNDER: Any one of the above

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Garden insect or mini beasts  
Sunrise or sunset  
Castles  
Rivers

An everyday object  
SIXTEEN AND UNDER: Any of the above

### HANDICRAFTS

Hand knitted or crochet article in double knit or heavier  
A handmade greeting card  
Unmounted piece of tapestry or embroidery

Machine or hand sewn item  
Any other craft - wood, metal, pottery, etc.  
SIXTEEN AND UNDER: Any one of the above.

## IMPHA SUMMER SHOW

Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>

**There are lots of opportunities for children aged from 4 years to 12 years to be creative and take part in the Show this year.**



The classes this year are:

- ❖ Create your dream holiday home from Lego
- ❖ Design (on paper or card) a T-Shirt for a gardener
- ❖ Decorate a terracotta pot (13cm)
- ❖ Create a model of an insect (real or imaginary)
- ❖ Bake some cupcakes and decorate them with a flower theme.

**The Potato growing competition is underway. Don't forget to keep watering and feeding your pot!**

**Look out for more details in the Summer Show Schedule due out in June and we look forward to seeing lots of children's creative entries at the Show.**

## NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE CLUB

The Club Coffee Mornings seem to go from strength to strength. The room is always full of members and friends enjoying coffee, delicious cakes provided by members together with lots of chatter, catching up on village news [and gossip!].

The Coffee Morning in April was followed in May with "Majority Rules" organised by Steve and Marion. This proved very popular and was well supported providing much discussion on what was the most popular of a variety of items.

We now look forward to the Annual Boules Tournament on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> June. This will include a fun tournament for the children as well as the main event. See posters for details on how to enter or just come along to watch and enjoy the Pimms! Licenced CASH BAR on site.

Penny Marsh

## IWERNE MINSTER 100 CLUB RESULTS

### January 2026

£15 Andrew Hebron (36)  
£12 Jim Westwood (69)  
£10 Malcolm Green (89)  
£5 Amy Benfield (100)

### February 2026

£15 Susan Trim (98)  
£12 Wyns Meise (59)  
£10 Jules Power (57)  
£5 Malcolm Green (89)

### March 2026

£15 Penny Marsh (48)  
£12 Neil & Jane Daves (68)  
£10 Richard Martin (2)  
£5 Sue Le Prevost (1)

### April 2026

£15 Jackie Hebron (33)  
£12 Kathy Martin (21)  
£10 Pam Jelley (83)  
£5 Philip Lishman (85)

## REPORTING PROBLEMS TO DORSET COUNCIL

If you find a problem which you think the County Council should do something about, for example: potholes, fly tipping, damaged road signage, bins not collected ... **don't be shy about reporting it to Dorset Council.** Our parish council regularly reports, but the more

parishioners do, the more weight the reports will carry.

Go to the Dorset Council website: [Home - Dorset Council](#) and choose from the menu. And/or you can go to the website called 'Fix My Street', [FixMyStreet](#) which offers a kind of advocacy service. Sometimes they are quicker!

JG

## IMPHA PLANT SALE



The Plant sale was very well supported and thank you to everyone who attended. All profits go toward supporting the Summer Show - in particular, it helps to pay for the two big marquees that house all the exhibits. This is why we also ask for sponsorship of classes and donations and Paul Le Prevost will always happily receive your contribution!

There are a few plants left over from the sale and are available either outside The Hollow, Tower Hill or Orchard House, Blandford Road. There are also a couple of large house-plants remaining at The Hollow (please ask).

## OPEN GARDENS AT THE HOLLOW

Please do support the NGS Open Gardens at The Hollow, open Saturday 20th June, Sunday 21st June and Wednesday 24th June. There will also be cream teas, cakes and drinks available.

Sue Le Prevost

## CIRCUIT CLASS

Join us for a weekly circuit class in the Village Club, Wednesdays from 8:45 am to 9:45 am. Classes consist of exercises to improve cardiovascular health and strength. Beginners are welcome and all exercises can be modified for existing conditions. We do a 15 minute warmup, 30 minutes of circuit training and a short cool down/stretch. Contact Denise Jones at [denisekjones@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:denisekjones@yahoo.co.uk) for further information or to reserve a spot. Membership is £10 per month.

## THE VIEW FROM ST MARY'S

Easter was, as always, a joyous occasion of celebration, starting with a service of meditation led by Rev Alan Amos on Good Friday afternoon, followed by Choral Evensong, as well attended as ever. The church was then transformed for the Easter Sunday service at which we celebrated the resurrection. This was led by Rev Garry Bennett, and thanks are due to Penny Marsh and her team for the glorious floral decorations.

We have started a series of evening talks in the church to help raise funds and to make good use of the excellent space that we have. Our vicar, Rev David John, spoke about his time in the Metropolitan Police, and displayed some of his mementoes from his 26 years as a serving policeman.

Dr Basil Purdue gave us a fascinating talk regarding his career as a forensic pathologist. Despite some technical problems, his erudite and witty talk was very well received, and the audience were generous with their contributions to the upkeep of St Mary's. It makes one realise how important St Mary's historic part in the life of the village, going back hundreds of years, is to many people in Iwerne, churchgoers or not.

Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to our organist, Sam Ryall, who has played at our Sunday services for many years. He will now be entertaining people on cruise ships. A presentation was made to Sam after his last service in March. We shall miss him. However we are very fortunate that Alison Davies has agreed to play regularly at our services, and we are very grateful to her.

On May 3<sup>rd</sup> we held our Annual Meeting after the service. We heard reports from our churchwarden and treasurer, and from the vicar and others. If anyone would like a copy of the report presented to the meeting, please let me know. At the meeting itself there was some lively discussion about various aspects of church life.

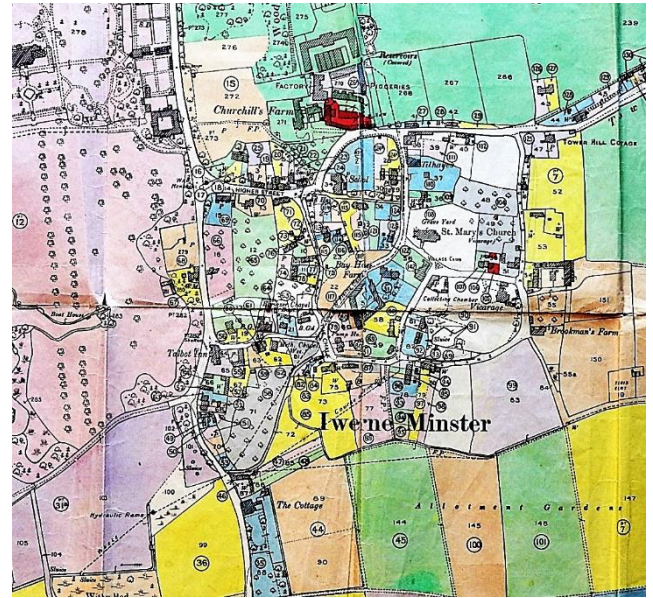
We also carried out elections, of our churchwarden, Jenny Parkhouse and the Parochial Church Council (PCC). This now comprises David Sirl (Treasurer), Debs Purdue, Andrew Osborne, Charlotte Bowater and David Parkhouse (Secretary), as well as the Vicar. All give a great deal to the church, and we thank them for their contributions – financial, administrative and practical.

We are always looking out for new blood; if you are interested in getting involved with the church in any way please have a word with

Jenny or any of the other PCC Members to find out how you can help and what is involved.

**David Parkhouse**

## A VILLAGE HISTORY SOCIETY?



**Detail from the 1930 sale of Iwerne Minster Estate**

Would you be interested in being part of a village history society? If so, please contact me, John Goodliffe by email, preferably, [john@hairy-barbarian.com](mailto:john@hairy-barbarian.com), or by phone: 01747 442 970.

What interests you and what would you like to explore and research? All periods from prehistory to today are in the pot! So, visits to the Dorset History Centre, collecting oral histories from each of us (yes, including people like me, a 'blow in' – why did I come here?), walking the parish to understand boundaries, estates, dwellings ... We also would like to start and catalogue a village archive. This may involve acquiring good reproductions of old documents ... anybody got a rostrum camera?

Let us know!

**John Goodliffe**



## IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP APRIL 2026

Well, it was a small but perfectly formed group of five members and two dogs who met on a fabulous weather day in the car park near the Lobster Pot café on Portland Bill on Saturday 18 April.

We set off on a short (3.5 mile) walk around the peninsular and met lots of other dog walkers, horses and donkeys all out enjoying the sunshine. Neil was a font of knowledge about the birdlife and we think we even saw a peregrine falcon. Well it was a bit blustery too but nothing we didn't enjoy. The quarries were most interesting and we obviously saw the famous Portland stone.



The views were spectacular on paths as close to the coast as we dared. We arrived back at the Lobster Pot café in time for a very nice lunch including fresh crab sandwiches and warm scones - YUM!

All in all, we had a lovely morning and wished more of us could have enjoyed it.

**Pam Jelley and Kathryn Reed**

## IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP MAY 2026

Nine humans and four dogs did this lovely walk on Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. After a week of quite unsettled weather and under some lowering cloud, we managed the whole walk in the dry.

We started at Chettle Farm shop which has been refurbished and is filled with the exotic as well as staples like delicious bread. Our route took us through the village and then across the fields at the back, a long sweep of fields with placid cows. We then turned east and south and made our way eventually to Farnham, a picture-perfect Dorset village with thatched cottages and a church with a stubby tower. On the way there we crossed through waist-high rape and a

cool wooded area before being accosted by a resident who seems to feel that it is his duty to give directions to walkers. This can be quite alarming, but the trick is to keep firmly to the designated path across a stony field.

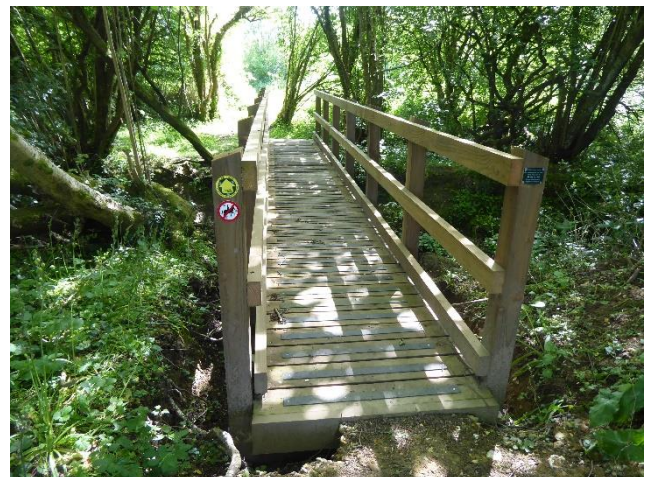


After leaving Farnham, the walk goes along shaded paths and past a wildflower meadow and then back down part of the Jubilee Trail back to the starting point.

In Chettle, we settled down at an outside table to consume our preordered pies and hot drinks, a simple but delicious lunch. Thank you to the walkers for making it such a pleasant occasion and to Molly, Rosie, Parsnip and Cloud for adding to the fun!

**Monique Goodliffe**

## SPLENDID NEW BRIDGE OUT NEAR WIGMORE COPPICE



Thank you to Dorset Council and their footpaths team for finally getting around to installing this sturdy new bridge over the stream. There is a lovely walk from Clayesmore School over to Shillingstone Lodge, along New Road, over the fields to this bridge and then back along the fields to Marsh Lane. It is particularly good at sunset with Hambledon Hill in the background.

**Monique Goodliffe**

2026 - 18<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

£7.00  
FOR ALL  
GARDENS

# BLANDFORD'S HIDDEN GARDENS

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**SUNDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 11AM TO 5PM**

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY AT:  
Blandford Information Centre (01258 454770)  
Blandford Town Museum (01258 450388)

Organised by Blandford Environmental Trust Ltd and sponsored by Colten Care.

**Contact:** [blandfordhiddengardens@gmail.com](mailto:blandfordhiddengardens@gmail.com) to enter your garden.

Please visit and support the beautiful outlying gardens.

All monies raised go to charities and good causes.



WHITECLIFFE HOUSE  
BLANDFORD FORUM



COLTEN  
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## ART EXHIBITION AT DURLSTON CASTLE



© Kim Pragnell

A stone carver and a seascape artist ( both well known in the village, John Goodliffe and Kim Pragnell) have joined together in an exhibition at Durlston Castle, Swanage. Titled 'On Dorset's Edge' , it seeks to explore the physical elements that make up the boundary between the sea and land of Dorset.

John has created some works, in Purbeck and Portland stone, with a nod to both Saxon carving and modern iconography.

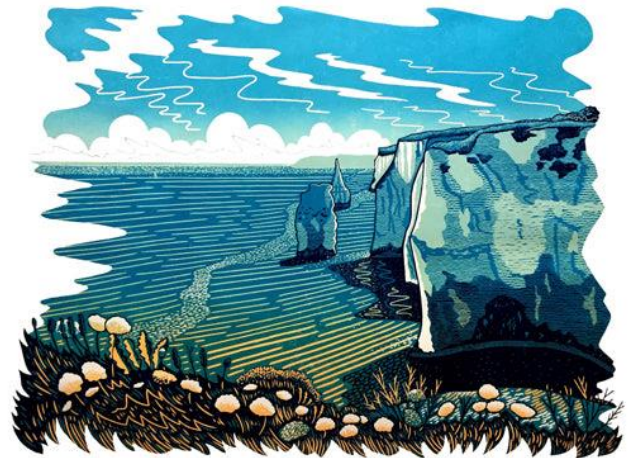


© John Goodliffe

These pieces, such as Dilemma above, are intended to be either wall mounted or free standing, for both house or garden environments.

Kim, known for his often dark and elemental seascape paintings, has drawn upon the coast around Swanage and Wareham to create a variety of large and medium sized work, in oil on linen. These pieces are far from depicting the often sunny sky and gentle sea often associated with Dorset, and can be demanding in terms of emotion.

Alongside and in association with the two artists is invited printer Robin Mackenzie. He is well known in Swanage as an artist who regularly exhibits at Durlston, with his work based on the coast and inland areas of Dorset. Using lino cuts and woodcuts, his evocative style has complimented John and Kim's work quite beautifully.



© Robin Mackenzie

This exhibition starts on the 11th June and runs for two weeks. It is free to view and all pieces are for sale. At least one artist will be in attendance every day and they are more than happy to discuss their work.

There is an excellent café on site for coffee and lunches. Please come and visit!

**Kim Pragnell**

### IWERNE MINSTER NEWS

Published every two months on the first of the month.

Next issue: August 1st, 2026

Contribution deadline: July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

#### Editor

Monique Goodliffe  
The Corner House  
Church Hill  
Iwerne Minster  
DT11 8LS

01747 442970 [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.

#### 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