

IWERNE MINSTER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2026

A COMMUNITY DRIVEN WHATSAPP GROUP



Key organisations within the village have come together to support a new 'messaging out' WhatsApp group. It is named:

IM Village Community.

Each community group will have full administration rights, giving them access to easily post out their upcoming events, news, emergencies and lots more. The connection of all these groups is about harnessing a shared interest and that is our village community.

Join us now by following the link shown here. Alternatively, you will be contacted by your various presidents, chairpersons or business owners asking you to sign up. Or contact the team by email: IMvillagecommunity@gmail.com giving your name and mobile number.

This WhatsApp group is a 'noticeboard'. It will give you the opportunity to receive information only and can help you remember what's on or what is coming up. This will be the route for alerts and information from our Emergency Response Team in the event of an emergency affecting the village.

Please note this is an addition to the other communication tools we already have out there and is not a replacement. There will also be a new village website to add to this list. Both will be driven by the community for the community.

Kerry O'Connor



HOLME COURT SCHOOL

As many villagers will have noticed, the Art Department at Clayesmore which in its turn had been converted from the old Village School, has undergone yet another transformation. It is now called Holme Court School. At the last Parish Council meeting on September 14th, staff from the new school came to introduce themselves to the village. The new headmistress, Helen Dyer, explained that they are recruiting children with special needs from all over Dorset. They will start small but eventually expand to cater for as many as 36 children.

Ms Dyer is hoping that there will be meaningful links with people in the village and welcomes anyone who is interested in learning more about the school to contact her by email: head@holmecourt.com or by phone: 07957 924287.

Hopefully we will have more news about this new venture in the heart of our village in future newsletters.

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IWERNE MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

To those unfamiliar with the workings of the Iwerne Minster Parish Council, this serves as a brief introduction.

The Parish Council consists of seven councillors. Paul Le Prevost is the chairperson, and Kerry O'Connor serves as his deputy. In addition, the other councillors are Tom Brown, Tony Freestone, Heather Overton and Keith Skinner and each one has special roles and responsibilities which are described on the IM Parish Council website :

www.iwerneminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk

The PC has been one councillor short, however, since the resignation of John Goodliffe. At the meeting on September 14th, Chairman Paul Le Prevost was pleased to co-opt a new member onto the PC. This is Mark Newland who is no stranger to Iwerne Minster. After a career as a Naval Officer, Mark became a teacher and worked at Clayesmore for many years. He is now retired and has decided that he would like to play a bigger part in the village and to take the opportunity to do this by serving as a parish councillor. We wish him well.

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IWERNE MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL PLAYPARK PROJECT



A big thank you to everyone who joined us for Cream Teas on two gloriously sunny afternoons in August at the Village Club. This was our first fundraising event in the village and we were really pleased to raise £411 plus a further £265 in donations and pledges for the Play Park Fund. Our thanks go to all the Play Park Fundraising Team who baked all the delicious scones and worked hard on the day to make the event such a success.

On **Saturday October 10th** and **Saturday November 14th**, we will be holding '**Soup Saturdays**' in Abingdon Hall from 12.00 till 2.00pm. Come along for lunch and to have a chat with friends while enjoying homemade soup with crusty bread or cheese scones. Please watch out for posters round the village.

On **Saturday October 24th** Sam Ryall will be at St Mary's Church for a '**Hymnathon**' raising funds for both the Play Park and maintenance of the Church Organ. The event will start early in the morning and finish around 3.00pm. All are welcome to pop in and enjoy the music throughout the day and perhaps sing along to your favourite hymn! Tea, coffee and cakes will be available all day. Please see the posters around the village.

On **Friday October 30th** there will be a Jazz Evening in the Tithe Barn at Home Farm. Once again, there will be posters advertising this event in a short while from now. Please save the date!

We look forward to seeing you there!

Kerry and Heather

SNADS are doing it again! They are visiting Dibley again. Come with us in **October – 29th, 30th & 31st 7.30 pm at The Exchange Sturminster Newton DT10 1FH** to see all your favourite characters - together they will show you a wonderful **DIBLEY CHRISTMAS**. Now I can hear you asking, "Why at Halloween?" Well, we really think you will be *haunted* by the final scenes (I know the cast will!) – just you wait and see.

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE CLUB

Autumn got off to a terrific start at the Club. The first meeting was "Old Iwerne" in pictures presented by Mervyn with commentary by Penny. This was a collection of pictures taken by my father over the 25 years of his incumbency of all sorts of events, buildings and villagers. The clubroom was packed with some standing, to find out how the village has changed during the 70+ years that a few of us have lived in the village. Houses built and rebuilt, six farms gone, shops and the wherewithal to be a self-supporting community when we got snowed in.

A group of us were soon recalling life 70 years ago with several friends from outside the village including a couple from Winchester, with close connections. There have been a number of enquiries for a repeat from people who missed the evening. Time will tell.

The season continues with a Quiz Evening on October 1st and the AGM in November with the popular "Dutch Supper" following it. This is your chance to come along and support the Club with any ideas for future events etc. New members are always welcome, and this is a good time to come long and join us.

Penny Marsh

IWERNE MINSTER 100 CLUB

May draw

£15 Andrew Hebron (36)
£12 A. Young (12)
£10 Debbie Cranton (73)
£5. Penny Marsh (48)

June Draw

£15 Anne Gorman (72)
£12 Roger Naylor (4)
£10 Wyns Cummins (59)
£5. Mandy Cleaver (87)

July Draw

£15 Richard Andrews (54)
£12 Jim Westwood (7)
£10 Terry Payne (43)
£5. Amanda Taylor (100)

August Draw

£15 Ron Benfield (55)
£12 Sue Hoare (19)
£10 Heather Newson (67)
£5. Amanda Taylor (100)

IWERNE MINSTER SUMMER SHOW 2026

The Summer Show was again an amazing success - a busy and thoroughly enjoyable day with a profit of just over £1000, although we are still awaiting laundry costs!

I would like to thank everyone who helped to set it up, to the many sponsors and those who donated to the raffle, tombolas and cakes, helped on the day in so many ways and finally took everything down and put away ready for next year!



Despite the challenging growing conditions, there were plenty of show entries which created a wonderful display in the main marquees, and it was particularly satisfying to see more children's work this year again. Particularly well done to all children who grew potatoes; I hope they tasted good afterwards!

The WI were kept exceedingly busy providing refreshments and many compliments were again paid. The Children's Area proved popular with a bouncy castle, games, hair braids and especial thanks to Clayesmore for the loan of some games, and to Tom Brown for Rugby Tots.

Vintage cars and a stationary engine offered more interest, alongside stalls selling books, art work, beautiful plants, tools and homemade knitted and sewn wares at various sites around the field.

Musical entertainment provided by the Iwerne Minster's own Sara Jones Band added to the enjoyment for everyone. The day was rounded off when IMPHA President, Mervyn Marsh, presented the cups and prizes followed by the Grand Raffle draw. Congratulations to all who entered and particularly those who won!

Again, I thank everyone for their many and various contributions to the Show, and I look forward to being able to report on our donations to our supported charities in a month or two.

Sue Le Prevost Chairman IMPHA

DORSET FEDERATION SHOW



Ron and Dianne Benfield represented IMPHA at the Dorset Federation Show on the September 20th at Tarrant Keynston. Heather Overton supplied six pot plants and the garden at Jayne supplied the rest of the produce. IMPHA won fifteen 1st prizes, ten 2nd prizes and six third prizes and were awarded the Flora Ashton Trophy for the best floral exhibit which was a class entitled 'Your Garden in a Vase' and also a Trophy for the best dish of fruit. IMPHA was awarded the Banksian Medal.

It took two trips to get all the exhibits to the show so a big thank you to Penny and Mervyn who helped us pack everything away at the end of the afternoon and filled their car with the items we couldn't get into the van.

Dianne Benfield

NATIONAL VEGETABLE SOCIETY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dianne and Ron also attended the National Championship which was held at the St Fagans National Museum in Cardiff. As usual, they presented several stunning selections of their vegetables and came away with several rosettes. Their continuing energy and devotion to producing the very best vegetables and flowers and going all over the land to take part in competitions is to be commended!

RIDE + STRIDE EVENT 2026



It was a perfect day for hiking. An intrepid team of striders set off from St Nicholas in Ashmore greeting sheep and cows on the way. The steep climb through Fontmell Woods was amply rewarded with stunning views over Fontmell Downs, then it was downhill all the way to St. Andrew's Fontmell Magna where we picked up more striders and continued cross-country to Shroton via the churches at Sutton Waldron, and our own Iwerne Minster, a distance approaching ten miles.

This year a dozen people did all or part of the walk (a few stalwarts completing the whole route & then back to Iwerne Minster!) raising sponsorship/donations for Dorset Historic Churches Trust and for our own St. Mary's as part of this annual fundraiser.

In addition to our striders, a team of volunteers manned St. Mary's during the day, offering a friendly face and refreshments to walkers and cyclists visiting our church as part of the event.

Thanks are due to many people: the walkers; to Sian Thornton for providing a delicious lunch of soup, bread & cheese to revive our weary trekkers before the last stretch to Shroton; to the volunteers manning the church and to all who have generously donated. DHCT provides grants to maintain and repair historic churches across the county. The amount raised will be shared once available.

Debbie Giddings

REST IN PEACE: DENNIS WEBB

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Dennis who had been living in Iwerne Minster since the late 1980s. When he and his late wife Shiela moved to Preston House from London, they became very much part of the community. Dennis was always happy to talk to everyone and was a stalwart supporter of village events. He loved his football and was especially happy in the company of fellow football lovers at the Talbot on Tuesday evenings. He was also a keen walker and even when he could no longer manage the distances, he would come to keep us company at lunch and to indulge his passion for ham, egg and chips ! He will be missed.

MG

THE VIEW FROM ST MARY'S

A sure sign of autumn is the annual Harvest Festival service at St Mary's that this year was held on 27 September 27th, so will have taken place by the time you read this. We asked, as usual, for gifts of food and produce for Alabare, the charity based in Salisbury which supports the homeless and vulnerable. As ever we will enjoy singing the traditional harvest hymns.

Music is a very important part of our worship at St Mary's. Visiting preachers often comment on the quality of the congregational singing. We are blessed with a number of very strong voices, including several former choristers. On the fourth Sunday of each month, we hold a Sung Communion with a small choir who make a great sound. We also hold regular services of choral Evensong with a professional choir. The next such service will be presented by the Clayesmore School Choir on 9th October 9th at 4.30 pm.

The quality of the singing is enhanced by our organ. This was installed in 1913 – a gift from the two elder daughters of James Ismay. Visiting organists love to play this superb instrument which was built by the leading firm of J W Walker & Sons Ltd. We are very fortunate to have excellent professional organists to lead us in worship.

This summer's hot weather did some damage to the instrument and of course an organ which is over 110 years old takes a lot of maintenance. To raise funds for this (and for the playground fund), Sam Ryall is doing a Hymnathon on October 24th when he will play one verse from each of the 571 hymns in our hymn book. This will take place between 8.15am and around 3pm. Refreshments including delicious cakes will be available throughout the day. Entry is free but contributions will be welcome. Do drop in, chat to friends, and enjoy the sound – and sing along if you like!

Another sign of autumn is the annual Ride and Stride – the walk between the churches at Ashmore and Shroton via Fontmell, Sutton Waldron and St Mary's, is undertaken to raise funds for Dorset Historic Churches Trust and St Mary's. Superbly organised by Debbie Giddings, it was a wonderful opportunity for people to talk and to get to know one another. Debbie has written a separate report elsewhere in this newsletter.

And finally, Saturday 31st October sees All Soul's Day. The service at St Mary's is an opportunity to remember and pray for Christians who have died. All are welcome to the service to remember their own loved ones.

David Parkhouse

Ian Swarbrick
July 5th 1949 – August 2nd 2026



Ian was born on 5 July 1949 at Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport. His parents ran a greengrocer's and florist shop in Gorton a suburb of Manchester. He had one elder brother Malcolm who also became a Police Officer in Greater Manchester and then in Dorset. Ian became a cadet with Greater Manchester Police and he loved this role because of the high level of sport.

He took up swimming, gymnastics and table tennis at a high standard which he continued to do until recent years (just the swimming!). He was also a proficient cricket player and a very keen supporter of Manchester City Football team throughout his life. He was part of a police lifesaving team and whilst training in Wales he took part in a lifesaving rescue of a boy which made national TV news.

He joined Greater Manchester Police and after spending two years in uniform he became a detective Constable in the CID unit. Some years later he transferred to Dorset Police and it was here in 1991, whilst working on The Regional Crime Squad, that he met Pip who also worked on the RCS. They married in October 1993.

Ian always loved his work as a detective and for many years he specialised in the Drugs Profit Confiscation Department. On one occasion he gave evidence at the Old Bailey in London and that particular case has now become a cited Law case on the basis of Ian's thorough investigation and his punctilious file preparation.

In March 1997 Ian retired from Dorset Police and within days of his retirement Ian and Pip moved to Iwerne Minster from Corfe Mullen.

Ian was first attracted to Iwerne Minster after sending his son Matthew to board at Clayesmore School. Ian had always wanted Matthew to have an education that had eluded him.

Both Ian and Pip fully engaged with the "Hot Fuzz" life offered in Iwerne Minster and Ian, upon retirement worked as a Life Guard at Clayesmore School. Ian was in his element combining his love for sport particularly swimming and also playing cricket for the village. Ian went on to drive the school mini buses and made many friends from the Staff at Clayesmore. He supported Pip with her many charity events and being dog owners enjoyed village shows especially dog competitions. He was attracted to the outdoors with the many good walks. Pippa and Ian were a pair with similar tastes. They shared a passion for National Hunt horse racing and often travelled abroad to watch horse racing: The Czech Republic, USA, Ireland. For a while Ian was part of a syndicate with other friends from the Talbot Inn and the area, and he owned a small share of a racehorse called Sturbury. He learned to ride horses himself and competed in a cross country event at Affpuddle on Pip's horse.

Ian was extremely fit and active up until the last three years of his life when he was officially diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease.

He was a great supporter of the Talbot especially when Kim and Richard took over and was a good friend to Lester and Jane Wareham when they managed the pub. Since Ian died the sale of Guinness Zero has plummeted!

One of Ian's great passions was as a First World War historian and he read extensively on the subject. He also organised trips to the Somme battlefield and to Ypres. He took numerous villagers and friends on tours imparting his considerable knowledge.

He was incredibly proud of his father a World War II veteran and always stood proudly wearing his father's medals as he delivered the Kohima epitaph at the War Memorial prior to laying the Village wreath on Remembrance Sunday.

Ian was a valued member of the Local Western Front Association.

An extremely popular man, very modest with an excellent dry Northern wit. Not very good at telling jokes because he would forget the punch line which would make him cry with laughter, tears rolling down his face.

He died very peacefully at home with the sound of the cricket playing in the background and holding Pip's hand.

He leaves behind: Pip his wife, Matthew his son and his two grandchildren, Thea and Oliver.

He will be missed by many and remembered with considerable affection.

WELCOME PACK FOR NEW RESIDENTS

The Parish Council (PC) joined with St Mary's Church to put together an information pack for new residents. The PC last revised their section about five years ago and we are in the process of doing that now.

We are anxious to make sure that any group that meets within the Village is listed, if that is what they want, especially if they are looking for new members. So far, we have mentioned Art Group, Cricket team, IMPHA, Pilates, Speedwatch. Table tennis, Tapestry, Village Club, WI and Yoga. Please contact Tony Freestone at antonyfreestone@icloud.com if your group needs to be listed.

In a similar vein, the previous version listed local trades. If I know they still operate, I have listed them and will confirm their details before printing. I have a boiler service and maintenance company, a dressmaker, an electrician, a garden maintenance company, a specialist building service company and a window and door repair and adjustment company. If you are local to Iwerne Minster and would like to be listed then please contact me at the email address in the previous paragraph.

Cllr. Tony Freestone

HIGHWAYS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

When John Goodliffe retired from the Parish Council he passed on to me one of his responsibilities ... Highways.

It has been hugely contentious since January. I rather suspect that things will take their course with regard to the 20mph limit and the traffic lights. The PC is not part of the decision making group although we can submit views like everyone else. What I want to raise with you today is the issue of maintenance of roads and pathways. I was hugely grateful to Clayesmore School when they speedily dealt with overgrown hedges near to the Village Club. I have been frustrated that when issues are raised with Dorset Council, the response can be less prompt, less understanding. Being genuinely charitable I suspect that often officers and councillors are frustrated, as what holds back action is the issue of resources. What is important though is that we should not become accepting and allow our environment to become less safe and increasingly less cared for. There is a process to report issues on the Dorset Council website and it also allows an appeal of any rejected concern. I do not pretend that it is the easiest of processes, but it is becoming easier with practice.

If you choose to raise a concern about potholes, signs, hedges, then please do but would you also tell me and give me the reference number you will be allocated. I will keep a log and do my best to keep track of what is done and what is not. If you want me to raise the concern, then just contact me at antonyfreestone@icloud.com and I will take it further.

Cllr. Tony Freestone

PLUSH WALK 19.9.26



Seven walkers and one dog set off from the Brace of Pheasants on a 4.5 mile walk. We had three new people join us, one from Shroton, another from Iwerne Minster and his sister from Surrey. The forecast had suggested that it would be overcast and windy with rain but we started in sunshine and it was very pleasant, dry, walking weather, although some of the views were not as bright and clear as when we did the recce. Fields were looking a lot greener. We started with quite a steep ascent. Some walkers shot off ahead with the result that they missed a right fork and ended up having to turn back and have a much longer walk. It was easy to imagine Tess of the D'Urbervilles doing this walk and indeed, Plush featured in the book as 'Flintcombe Ash' where she sheltered from the rain, leaning against a cottage wall there to warm herself. We had a mixture of undulating fields with sweeping views, and some woodland. Part of the walk was along the Wessex Ridgeway towards Dorset Gap. Because of large maize fields, some of the end of the walk was blocked but we managed to find a gap after a narrow overgrown path, over a fence, and then an even steeper descent back into Plush.

Five of us stayed for a lovely lunch and interesting conversation (joined by one other) in the very pleasant Brace of Pheasants which started off as two 16th Century cottages and a forge, becoming an inn in the 1930s. Another literary reference is that Cecil Day-Lewis stayed there with his actress wife, Jill Bacon, in May 1960 and, under the name of 'Nicholas Blake', he wrote 'The Deadly Joker' which was set in Plush. He called it 'Netherplush Cantorum' and the inn 'The Quiet Drop'.

Claire Watson

IWERNE MINSTER CRICKET CLUB: REPORT FOR THE 2026 SEASON



The 2026 IMCC season included three weekday games though none took place due to wet weather (yes there was rain!) in May, June half-term player shortages and the hot weather in July. The future of the IMCC was questioned without our having been able to play a game. However, I felt it was too easy to give up and so we renewed our focus on our three Sunday games.

A private hire of the pitch and facilities in August finally brought cricket to the village, followed the next day by our first IMCC Sunday game and a small crowd who felt entertained, even though we came second. A couple of weeks later our next game was played with another good contest, producing the same result. Our bowling and fielding performance whilst good on the day, despite the heat, was not matched by our batting performance. A lack of net practice perhaps?

Moving on to the events of Sunday September 20th. We hosted Stansted Park Cricket Club on tour from Rowlands Castle in Hampshire. The weather was fine with lovely views around the ground. A great day with a team including some new additions, our attracting new players paying off and a positive sign for 2027. Following this game, ten new players have been added to the squad with more welcome.

This last game was arranged following a request from the English Cricket Board (ECB). Could we offer Stansted Park a game at the end of their tour? This was their last fixture as agreed on a 35 over game. IMCC batting first scored 173 for 8 with Skipper Will Emerson top scoring on 52, helped by Stuart Robbins on 37 not out. Another excellent tea was provided with contributions from the players, the preparation overseen by Janet Meise and Julia

Osborne to whom sincere thanks are due. After tea IMCC took to the field to play for a win which is exactly what happened. Stansted Park CC reached 163 for 9 at the start of the 35th over when the 10th wicket was taken on 168 with two balls to spare, giving the IMCC a win in a close, enjoyable game, played in a good spirit by all concerned. We finished the summer season with six games arranged, three played as Sunday fixtures, but more importantly a first victory.

Both teams appreciated the setting of the ground itself, allowing for the fact that one of our visitors missed the turning, ending up on the approach to Preston Hill Farm, not an easy place to execute a three point turn!

What about 2027? We have, over recent years, sought a clear commitment from players, struggling at times to get enough for the planned fixtures. The hot weather has not helped with the preparation of the playing area, outfield and square, but in playing these games, we have teams wanting to arrange fixtures for 2027 and may well include more private hire matches.

Our playing squad has grown, following the last game, with a significant increase in players who play league cricket on Saturdays and wish to play friendly games on Sundays.

This is good news for our ability to commit to playing games, confident we will have a team, bringing in much needed funds for the club. These funds will be helpful when demonstrating our intent to grow cricket in the village, contributing to the ground costs that have very generously been met by the Iwerne Estate. We continue to be very grateful to the Iwerne Estate for their support and patience.

Challenges for 2027 include finding a larger machine (a small tractor and gang mower system) to manage the outfield, with further work to increase the quality of the outfield itself. Maintenance of the pavilion itself will form part of our commitment to look after the facilities. We will also wish to view coaching sessions for anyone who would like to play cricket, ladies and younger players with planning and safeguarding issues to be considered.

More details will be made available for 2027 such as encouraging more players of all abilities to make use of the nets when the outdoor sessions begin again.

The decision to push the Sunday games paid off in that we whilst we completed all three fixtures, we attracted more players keen to join and linked to Blandford Forum Cricket Club. All are a welcome addition to the playing squad we now have. The fact that we won the last game of the summer was particularly pleasing.

Andrew Osborne

THE BENEFITS OF REGULAR EXERCISE

I always feel a sense of anticipation in August... looking forward to September when the season begins to change and schools open up after the summer break. That seems to give me an advantage if I decide to change any of my routines at this time of year. Advantages are great if I want to swim against the tide of my own inertia.

Humans are wired to conserve energy. Exercising on a regular basis can feel like hard work, even if you have a solid exercise habit formed.

We need to find ways to enjoy movement (or at least tolerate it) and do it long enough to see the benefits. Walking is a good way to start.

I like to get my steps in and recruiting a friend (2 legged or 4 legged) to walk with is a good way to hold ourselves accountable.

Can you walk around the block? Start with 5 minutes per day and add 5 minutes every week until you are at 30 minutes to an hour per day. I have a walking pad, so I'm able to get my steps in no matter what the weather is doing. I can watch TV or read a book while I walk because I have a standing desk that fits over my walking pad. The walking pad is smaller than a treadmill and easy to use.

If you prefer to dance, put some good music on and shuffle, bop, or boogie.

Cardiovascular health is important, but I'm going to make a case for the equal value of strength training in my next article. If you need help starting your own fitness routine or have questions about any exercises I've mentioned, please email me for advice or recommendations.

Denisekjones@yahoo.co.uk

"A BAG O' COW-DUNG VOR TO BURN"

William Barnes (Dorset poet)

The August-September newsletter had just 'gone to bed' when the Great Tower Hill Stink happened. It set me thinking: about what a valued commodity dung is and has been throughout the world and the ages. Anyone who has been to Asia or Africa will have seen, at first hand, the many uses made of animal waste, fertilizer and fuel in particular.

For generations Dorset was legendary for its huge flocks of sheep. But it wasn't the wool or mutton or lamb that they were farmed for. That was a welcome by-product. Rather, it was the dung. Sheep converted otherwise useless (for farming purposes) chalk upland grasses into fertilizer. During the day the sheep grazed and in the evening they were tight

herded, 1200 -1300 sheep into an acre sized pen, where they spent the night ... pooing. Next day the sheep were taken back up the hills and the pens were moved to a new part of the field on which corn, wheat or barley were to be sown. Their droppings were the fertilizer for the corn crop. The fold was moved each day according to a planned rota so that every farmer got his fair share. Given Iwerne Minster's location, with its chalk uplands to the west, this most certainly happened here. Only when cheap artificial fertilizers became available in the C19th did this practice decline.

Dung was also used as fuel. Peter Mundy travelling in Dorset wrote in 1635: "For Fewell they use Cowdung, kneaded and tempered with short strawe ... into flat cakes and clapping them on the side of their stoney walls...".

On the Isle of Portland, that bleak rock, a C19th observer records the practice of 'Chamber-Lye': "In the Isle they have a practice of long-standing, of preserving the urine that is made in winter, carrying it out in casks, and distributing it over the wheat crop ... [where] it has been found to answer well."

Returning human waste to the earth has many benefits. It provides both fertilizer, carbon and humus, and it solves the problem of what to do with it. Yes, it can stink, very unpleasantly, and care should be taken about where and when and how it is placed. But it is sound environmental practice. **John Goodliffe**

IWERNE MINSTER NEWS

Published every two months on the first of the month.

Next issue: December 1st, 2026

Contribution deadline: November 20th, 2026

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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.
- 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).
- 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