

IWERNE MINSTER NEWSLETTER

APRIL – MAY 2024

STARRY NIGHTS

Not just five but fifteen stars shone over the village on the last weekend in February. For three evenings, the Iwerne Minster Village Club was packed out for the annual pantomime. Written and produced by Adrian Delso, was this the best pantomime in recent years? “Oh yes it was!” answered some. “Brilliant!” was another accolade among many.



This was Aladdin set locally in Dorset, with the opening scenes taking place in Shaftesbury. The colourful scenery was skilfully painted by Saskia Darell and Caroline O'Brien. Adrian's script was brisk and witty, with a generous mix of innuendo and risqué jokes, and the dialogue was interspersed with songs. Audience participation was enthusiastic; they laughed, hooted and shouted loudly throughout and rose to pantomime's traditional prompts – oh yes they did.

The cast, all villagers, glittered, with some obviously destined for the West End stage. Of particular note was Richard Thomas as Widow Twankey (claiming not to be wearing underwear to the delight of some children in the audience!) – His winks and leers at the audience were hilarious and his amazing lipstick was an arresting sight. Also Simon Kidd as the Genie, with his white underpants and vest over

a body-hugging gold lame onesie, was showstopper. Jackie Eades' cameo role as Cilla Cone (Cilla Black) delighted with her perfect Liverpudlian accent and purple (bright pink??) wig in an inspired scene from Blind Date. Oh, so much stage talent! All the costumes were hugely colourful and innovative.



This super show was made possible by all the backstage boys and girls, and those who provided music, sound, lighting and props. Gifts donated to the raffle were generous, and the bar takings were high.



All in all, a magnificent £2,085 was raised for Village Club funds. Thanks to all participants.

Continued support for this traditional village event is assured; bookings for next year will open shortly. Watch the village noticeboards!

IMN Pantomime Correspondent

NEWS FROM THE CLUB

February's quiz night was again a much enjoyed if noisy evening. The weather being very wet didn't deter a number of teams trying to outdo each other. This was followed by the pantomime. As usual this was a huge success both as entertainment and financially. Our thanks go to Adrian Delso and his cast for providing three nights of good village fun. There is a report about it elsewhere.

Spring is hopefully on the way and we look forward to a Coffee Morning on April 6th when besides coffee and cake there will be room for some Table Top Stalls – limited number [contact Penny 811339]. Also bring along your mobile phone to discover how to use WhatsApp as there will be someone available to help you understand it. In May a team from the Club will take on a team from IMPHA in a popular "Call-My-Bluff" contest. The planned event for June is now to take the form of "Picnic in the Park". As the name suggests it will be an afternoon to bring a picnic with fun and games for the children [and adults!]. There will be a bar and various entertainments. Make a date – Sunday, 9th June.

Please remember that the club is available for hire [Mervyn 811339]. There is table tennis on Tuesday afternoons [Dot 811852] and of course the snooker table which should be available even though the Snooker Room is being re-vamped. **Penny Marsh**

APOLOGY

Profound apologies to the family of Brian O'Reilly for misspelling his name in the February-March 2024 newsletter.

100 CLUB RESULTS

January 2024

£15 Jonathan & Susan Maguire (33)
£12 Richard Andrews (54)
£10 Neil Davies (31)
£5 Sue Hoare (19)

February 2024

£15 Jane Davies (26)
£12 Marian Harrison (50)
£10 Jean Kennard (3)
£5 Anne Andrews (58)

FLOWER ARRANGING AFTERNOON



IMPHA are holding a morning for anyone [male or female] who would like to learn basic flower arranging. This is in response to some requests and also to encourage more entries for the Summer Show and arranging in the church. It will be in the Village Club on the morning of Wednesday, 15th May. Full details from Penny [811339].



TAKE THE BUS TO SALISBURY!

The PlusBus is a fortnightly bus service, operated by Dorset Community Transport, which runs from bus stops in Iwerne Minster to the centre of Salisbury (outside the Odeon) and back. On alternate Tuesdays the 16-seater bus offers free travel to those over 60 who have a bus pass. (Without a bus pass the fare is £8.00 return.) You save on petrol and parking fees.

Leaving Iwerne at 9.30 am and returning from Salisbury at 12.30 pm on Tuesdays, the fast service is great for a 2-hour visit to Salisbury – enough time to do some shopping, meet up with a friend for coffee, or revisit the cathedral or museum.

To use this service, a passenger must register to become a member by completing an application form available from Vanessa on 01258 287987. Once membership is confirmed, a seat must be reserved in advance. (Note: this is NOT a normal request or 'hop on' service.) **Travel Correspondent**

DAFFODILS ON SHOW



Gold Club supplied IMPHA members with daffodil bulbs to be grown and shown in April. We found, however, that they were flowering earlier than expected, so show day was moved forward to Saturday 23rd March. Twenty pots of daffodils were displayed, including one with a photograph of when it flowered in February! Anyone daring to visit the shop or pass us by in Post Office Road was accosted, asked to vote for their number one daffodil and make a donation to our collection for Marie Curie Daffodil Appeal.

I am delighted to say that Pam Payne won and was presented with the Bob and Edna Slade Memorial Trophy. Mary Deane came 2nd with Shirley Asbury a very close 3rd.

Well done to everyone who put a daffodil pot on the table and especially thanks to Penny, Mervyn, Ron and Dianne for all of their work on Saturday morning in the cold and rain and to Pam and Malcolm for the use of the Chapel frontage, coffee and cake.

We raised £243.22 for Marie Curie.org.uk - many, many thanks to everyone who donated.
Sue Le Prevost

CAT OWNERS

I'm sure it would help if you kept a litter tray outside in the garden [under cover] for your cat to use. We did this with success.

It is so annoying when people's cats are using other people's gardens to urinate, dig holes and leave their poo. They scratch around in seed beds and damage plants. One cannot cover everything up.
MJM

IWERNE MINSTER SUMMER SHOW 2024

IMPHA Sub-committee held its first meeting to prepare the Schedule for the 78th Village Show and to discuss arrangements for the day.

Show Day will be August 18th, 2024 on the Iwerne Minster Parish Field.

We plan to have the Steam Car and our usual display of vintage cars and if there is anyone who would like to show their special vehicle please let me know, so that space can be made available.

If anyone would like to sell or display at the show, again please notify me and ideally have their own gazebo, as we only have a limited number.

Potatoes have already been distributed for the "heaviest bag" and I only have a few competition geranium, petunia and fuchsia plug plants left but if anyone would like one, please contact me a.s.a.p. Ron Benfield will have chilli plants available soon for growing to show.

I know it is early days yet but any sponsorship for the various classes would be welcomed.

**Sue Le Prevost Tel. 812173 or
email: sue.leprevost@btinternet.com**



BLANDFORD PROBASS CLUB

The Blandford Men's Probuss Club, which is part of a worldwide Probuss organisation, is looking for new members. We were formed in 1986 with a membership from the local community who are either near retirement, or already enjoying a more relaxed lifestyle. The aim of the club is to promote fellowship and friendship among its membership, with regular monthly lunchtime meetings and social events.

We meet on the 4th Wednesday each month, at 11am, in the private function room of the Langton Arms, Tarrant Monkton where the bar is always available. There is a short formal meeting and then a talk by a guest speaker, which is followed by an enjoyable meal provided by the pub's excellent restaurant.

The Club will warmly welcome you as a guest to one of our meetings. If you are interested, please contact the Secretary at blandfordprobuss@gmail.com Our website can be found at <https://probuss.org.uk/blandford> where you will find more information. All enquiries are welcome.

Iwerne Minster Information Pop Up

Thursday April 11th

10 am—12 noon

at the Iwerne Minster Village Club

Free tea, coffee and biscuits



Dorset Police—Meet our local Police Team and join the village neighbourhood watch scheme.

Dorset Council—Please pop along and say hello to one of Dorset Council’s customer service representatives who will be very happy to chat to you about any of Dorset Council services from bins to potholes!

Dorset Councillor Jane Somper—Meet our local councillor and discuss the range of services that Dorset Council provide.

Dorset Council Emergency Planning—Promoting Resilience, to help communities and individuals to prepare for emergencies.

Help and Kindness—Get help, give help, work together.

Digital Dorset—Helping those who face challenges in the digital age, offering digital training and support for individuals.

Livewell Dorset—Free Coaching and support to live a healthier, happier life.

Firewise—Learn how to make your home, garden and community safer from the threat of wildfires.

Shroton Oil Scheme—Join the local oil scheme to save money and reduce the number of tankers on our roads.

Weldmar Hospice Care—A Dorset based charity specialising in end of life care for any adult over the age of 18 who has a life limiting illness.

[Join the Iwerne Minster WhatsApp Community to be kept up to date with village news.](#)

For further information please contact Susan Trim 01747 810334/0781 131 4694



IWERNE MINSTER EMERGENCY PLAN

PREPARED Maybe there are still some villagers who do not know that Iwerne Minster has an Emergency Plan.

This is not for the everyday “emergencies” but is to make sure that we are prepared if there is a more long-standing event that needs us to act until aid arrives from other sources.

The Plan itself can be found on the Parish Council website:
http://www.iwerneminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk/Emergency_Plan_47306.aspx or alternatively, contact:

Susan Trim on **07811 314694**,
Heather or Jeff Overton on **07747 620996** or **07949 147878**
Richard Andrews on **07748 181588**

Every household will shortly be receiving some self-help documents to enable you to prepare for such an emergency; please keep them safe and don't throw them away.

If we need to activate the Plan, the Village Diary contact list and WhatsApp Community Group will be used, so please keep yourself up-to-date with these systems. To join the WhatsApp Community contact Susan Trim as above or alternatively contact Paul Le Prevost on **07879 377565** to be on the Village Diary and Newsletter emailing list.

We are still looking for volunteers to help in such emergencies; please consider it and let one of the co-ordinators above know. Also, people who wish to be registered as vulnerable should also let us know; please be assured everything is kept in utmost confidence.

Paul Le Prevost

ABINGDON HALL FOR HIRE

Abingdon Hall is available for hire for classes and social events.

There are three sessions per day (morning, afternoon and evening) and each session costs £20.

**For more details, please contact Jules Power:
abingdonhall1@outlook.com**

HEAT: PREPARING FOR HOTTER SUMMERS

Despite the present weather, summer is coming. And with it, due to global warming, we may experience seriously hot weather conditions. So, we must be prepared.

There is a comprehensive and detailed series of papers on the effects of heat in The Lancet: [Reducing the health effects of hot weather and heat extremes: from personal cooling strategies to green cities - The Lancet](#) But the NHS website give a straight forward set of guidelines:

To help prevent heat exhaustion or heatstroke:

- drink more cool drinks**, especially if you're active or exercising
- wear light-coloured, loose clothing
- avoid the sun between 11am and 3pm
- avoid excess alcohol
- avoid extreme exercise
- if you're inside on a very hot day, close curtains, close windows if it's hotter outside than in your home and turn off any electrical equipment and lights that get hot

** very chilled drinks are not recommended. Chilling in your core may confuse your body into thinking that it is cold, resulting in it burning calories and so warm up, actually making the problem worse.

Passive preventative measures:

If you can, choose to be in a room on the north or even east side of your dwelling during the hottest times of day. If you do not have such a room, choose one with curtains or blinds that can be closed to keep direct sunlight out. Follow the NHS guidelines above, and drink plenty of non-alcoholic fluids!

Electricity dependent measures:

Some people install air conditioning, but this needs electricity (LX) whose generation currently contributes to global warming. Even using it as a heat pump in reverse, that is, turning your dwelling into a refrigerator, requires electricity. If the electricity supply fails, so will the air conditioning and heat pump. And in some towns, because of the use of many air conditioning units, the LX demand in the summer is exceeding the wether demand! So, the LX supply is more likely to fail.

John Goodliffe

THE VIEW FROM ST MARY'S

It is always a pleasure to welcome visitors to St Mary's. People come for all sorts of reasons – because the church building is beautiful and historic and has a special atmosphere of its own; for a few moments of peace and prayer, or to visit the grave of a relative or friend. The church is open every day so if you want some peace and quiet, it is there for everyone.

Just before the Mothering Sunday service, a lady came into the church with her grandson. It turned out that her grandfather had returned to Iwerne after the First War, having lost a leg. James Ismay, the owner of the Estate, paid for him to train as a barber and set him up as the Estate barber in Barber's Cottage, which of course still stands. It was for actions like this that Ismay was portrayed as Boaz, Ruth's protector in the Old Testament, in the mosaic just inside the church door.

The singing of hymns is an important part of Christian worship. Our hymn book contains 571 hymns, many much loved but many that are hardly ever sung. The book itself was published 28 years ago. Since then many fine hymns have been written, with good words and very singable tunes now sung in churches throughout the land. So that we can include some of these hymns in our services, Carolyn Jervis has put together a small supplementary hymn book containing some of the best of these songs for use during our Sunday services. We will still be singing the old favourites but interspersed with an occasional new song. We are very grateful to Carolyn for putting this together.

By contrast, many people have said how they miss some of the older forms of worship. On Friday 12 April at 5pm there will be a service of Choral Evensong with a high-quality choir, and Sam Ryall on the organ, directed by Ashley Stafford and Mike Brown. Please do come along. There will be further such services in July, September and November. Easter falls on March 31st this year, so services will have taken place by the time this newsletter is published. At the time of writing, we are very much looking forward to the traditional Maundy Thursday Passover supper at Shroton, Good Friday's walk up Hambleton Hill with the cross, and of course the celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday itself.

David Parkhouse

IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP JANUARY 2024 WALK



We met at The White Horse pub in the centre of Hinton St Mary. Our walk took us through the village, stopping at St Peter's church and onto the Manor House. The Hinton St Mary estate has been in the hands of the Pitt-Rivers family for over six hundred years. Our walk continued to the Home Farm and back into the village.

We then walked down to the B3092, crossing over and continuing along Marriage Lane to Cutt Mill which stands by the River Stour. Although now derelict, it is an interesting place to see. More about its history can be found online. Our walk then continued along the river. Although we had recently experienced severe flooding, fortunately the water had receded but we could see clearly how high the river had reached by the amount of debris attached to the fencing. We stopped to talk to a fisherman who had just landed a very good sized pike (over 14lbs) with large teeth!



We left the river to join Wood Lane which led us back up to the B3092. At the top of the lane is the site of the Hinton St Mary mosaic which was originally discovered in 1963. The site has been excavated several times and most recently for the past three years. The mosaic is with the British Museum at the time of writing. Plenty of information is available online. We crossed back over the main road and continued up Stearts Lane to arrive back at the pub where we started. Some of us then enjoyed an excellent lunch at The White Horse.

Caroline Hart

FEBRUARY SWIM W.I.

Our February speaker was Grace Lovelass and her talk titled Glitz, Glamour and Blowing Raspberries was a very enjoyable and lively description of her life as a singer.



After doing classics at university because she loved it, she took up a role in PR and ended up in Dorset Police as Communications Officer. She joined the Rex Players in Wareham and they gave her lots of encouragement but it was when her mother gave Grace an opera lesson for her thirty first birthday that she found her true metier. She took master classes and a diploma in opera and worked for the Bournemouth Tourist Board at the same time. Just as she went professional, the pandemic struck. But she persevered and, as soon as she was able, she did auditions in everywhere in England and abroad. She has sung a varied repertoire with semi-professional companies, choral societies as a soloist and in solo concerts. At the moment she is in a production of Hansel and Gretel.

Grace was a very expressive speaker and especially impressive when she treated her audience to a little bit of Carmen, filling Abingdon Hall to its high roof with the sounds

of her strong voice. She also had us all standing up to do a warm up, including learning to blow raspberries (harder than one might think).

She understands the value of keeping fit and, in addition to her work as a singer, is a keen runner having completed two Iron Man challenges!

MARCH SWIM W.I.

Our speaker this month was former Inspector Alan Jenkins, Planner and Ground Commander in the Operations Department of the Dorset Police. His talk, entitled The Royal Visit that Went Wrong (but not due to any fault of the speaker!) gave us an insider's view of the complexity of preparing for royal visits and the big headaches when things don't go quite according to plan. When Inspector Jenkins was asked to plan for the visit of Princess Anne to Dorchester Citizens Advice Bureau, the number of different people involved was extensive. Every eventuality had to be thought about.

When the day arrived and Inspector Jenkins was out doing a last minute recce in the early morning, he was horrified to notice a bike chained to the railings outside the CAB, something he had never seen before. Bike equals bomb in the eyes of a visit like this so the sniffer dog handler was called out to check it out and declare it safe and then the bike had to be disposed of.

This was only the first of several things to go wrong. The royal helicopter was rerouted twice, which sent cars, motorbikes and the Lord Lieutenant scurrying to catch up with it; the change in the schedule meant that people including the 'chain gang' were not always in the right places at the right time and, to top it all, Princess Anne was not in the best of moods and didn't seem to like the Lord Lieutenant. She cut short one visit and extended another – she was most cheerful when she reached the equestrian centre, of course. More headaches for the Inspector.

But he thought on his feet and put Plan B into operation; in the end he earned the praise of his superiors and has made it into an amusing tale ever since.

Monique Goodliffe

TELEPHONE SYSTEMS IN IWERNE MINSTER

During the power cut in sections of the village in January, we discovered the Vodafone mobile mast did not remain live for the promised two hours. I am currently working with members of The Church and Vodafone to rectify this. I will report again if and when I have more information.

Landline telephones are switching over to digital and residents in Iwerne Minster are starting to find their lines are being transferred. Clive Lee has produced a guide to give residents more detail of what to expect, and this guide will be on the Parish Council website shortly:

http://www.iuerneminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk/Emergency_Plan_47306.aspx. The Digital Switchover Guide will be available to view at the Iwerne Minster Information Pop Up at The Village Club on Thursday 11th April from 10 am to 12 noon.

Susan Trim

BOOK LOVERS' CORNER

This month, I would like to recommend a novel which I have found very interesting called *The Sun Walks Down* by Fiona McFarlane. It is set in 1883 in the South Australian outback surrounding Flinders Ranges where farmers scratch a hard living on the arid land. It is hot and mostly rainless and at the beginning of the book the land and its people are overcome by a dust storm. After it is over, a young boy called Denny is missing and everyone takes an interest in the search for him. Has he been snatched by someone with malign intent or has he just wandered from the path and got lost? How will he survive in this harsh climate?

In kaleidoscopic fashion, the action and points of view shift from one person to the next and we learn the intimate details of the lives of the colonists and the indigenous people who work for them and the different ways in which they react to the search for Denny. It is an exploration not just of the psychology of the people but also of what it means to be a colonist in a strange land, imposing on it values and customs which don't always make sense in the context.

The land itself becomes a kind of character and McFarlane is past master at conveying its harsh beauty.

Some people might criticise McFarlane for taking on too much in this novel and for misappropriating a culture to which she doesn't

belong. To me she strikes a fine and sensitive balance between describing the lives of both the white settlers and the aboriginal people. Each character is fully realised; I especially liked the way she portrayed the children including the fierce Cissy who wants to challenge the role of the female in her society and her brother Denny wandering the outback with all his strange visions, speaking to invisible things and linked more vividly to his father's aboriginal hand with his than he is to his sensible family.

It would, I think, make a good book for a reading group.

Monique Goodliffe

IWERNE MINSTER 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.

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

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