

IWERNE MINSTER NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY – MARCH 2024

PRESTON HILL BENCH

Good progress has been made regarding the Preston Hill bench. A concrete hard standing has been laid and is now curing, a process for which we must allow several weeks. The bench itself will soon be ordered and, all being well, will be delivered and installed in the spring time. We must thank Councillor Anne Thomas for her hard work for the organisation of this.

A big 'thank you' to all those who have contributed to the £575 collected so far towards the cost. Your generosity is much appreciated! If you still would like to make a contribution, please contact our parish clerk, Nicky Phillips, on 01747 850515 or clerk@iwerneminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk

PLUSBUS COMMUNITY TRANSPORT - DORSET COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

PlusBus currently operates a 16 seater bus to Salisbury on alternate Tuesdays from the bus shelter opposite the Talbot leaving at 9.20am with the return journey departing Salisbury at 12.30pm.

To use this service you must be over 60 years and, if you have a bus pass, you travel free of charge. You may use the service without a bus pass for a fare of £8.00 return. However, this is not a normal request or 'hop on' service and prior registration of membership is essential – and free.

An application form for membership can be obtained by calling 01258 287987. Once membership is confirmed a seat on the bus, when required, needs to be reserved by calling the same number.

This could be of interest to a lot of people who might not be aware of this service and, if more extensive use is made of it, the company will consider running the service on a weekly basis.

Pam Payne

IWERNE MINSTER EMERGENCY PLANNING

There was an excellent turnout for the presentation of the Iwerne Minster Community Emergency Plan. Paul Le Prevost, who made the presentation, thanked villagers for their responses to the questionnaires which had helped to shape the plan and also the many people who have spent time discussing and formulating ideas which will help all of us keep safe in the event of emergencies. These could include a power failure, severe weather both extreme cold and extreme heat, a pandemic, flooding, a major traffic accident, fire, a terrorist incident or an aircraft crash.

Paul emphasised that personal preparedness is key and that we must all see how we can both help ourselves and act to help those who are more vulnerable by ensuring that we stay in touch with our neighbours. Be prepared for emergencies by keeping a 'grab bag' ready and by having things like candles and torches at the ready. It was also pointed out that we cannot always depend on digital technology as this may go down when the electricity fails and therefore we need to be able to revert to more old-fashioned methods like notice boards and word of mouth.

Each household will be given a card with the information which tells everyone what they need.

For now, Paul reiterated that we still need volunteers to step forward to help the initial team of co-ordinators. If you're not on the village email list, email Paul at cllrpleprevost@iwerneminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk . Another channel for village information is WhatsApp and to join you can get in touch with Susan Trim at cllrstrim@iwerneminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk .

All the information about Emergency Planning can be found at: iwerneminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk .Check it out!

Monique Goodliffe

NEWS FROM THE CLUB

The club year began with a Coffee Morning in January. After the busy Christmas Season, it was great to see so many villagers come along and enjoy coffee, mince pies [yes really] and chat. Coffee, the raffle and Rod's Books raised £152 for club funds. Planned events for this year so far are a Quiz Night on 8th February [BYOB, nibbles etc. supplied]. Then the big event - The Pantomime "Aladdin in Dorset" - has three performances – February 29th, March 1st and 2nd. Tickets are on sale at the shop – they are going fast, and March 1st and 2nd have already sold out. Oh yes they have! April sees another Coffee Morning plus a Table Top Sale. These seem very popular.

For the last few years, we have had one really big village event per year- Jubilees, Coronation etc. As this is Olympic year we are planning "Iwerne Fun Olympics" and we really mean fun. No pole vaults, sprints or hurdles, just old fashioned games – Hoopla, Wellie Wanging, Aunt Sally and so on. **Your** input is essential. What are your ideas? What would you like to do? All suggestions will be considered. We propose a BBQ and ice creams. Anyone can enter on their own or as a family or group. There will be games for all ages and a medal at the end. Come on Iwerne – we can do it! Any ideas, information etc. to the club committee:

Penny or Mervyn Marsh, Steve Harrison, Paul Le Prevost, Rod Major, Trish Neale, Dot Hinchliffe, Kerry O'Connor, Monique Goodliffe, Jeff Overton or Richard Andrews.

Penny Marsh

IWERNE MINSTER 100 CLUB RESULTS

November 2023

£15 Debs & Simon Kidd (47)

£12 Helen Peat (14)

£10 Malcolm Green (89)

£5 Sasha Tatchell (88)

December 2023

£30 Alwin Greder (62)

£20 Jim Westwood (69)

£20 Jean & Peter Robinson (78)

£20 Mark Benfield (96)

FIREWORKS

£252 was raised from the fireworks held on the village field on Boxing Day. Thanks to all who attended and who donated money. £84 each goes to St Mary's Church, Abingdon Hall and the Village Club.

In addition we collected: 1 euro, 1 deutschmark, a 5 franc coin, a 50c French coin, a 20c French coin, 50 pfennig, 1 dime, 5 pesetas and 1 centime!

Debs Purdue

UKELELE BAND RAISES £2000 FOR CHARITY in 2023



The Shroton Ukelele Band had a very busy year in 2023. The band has twelve members, the majority of whom live in Iwerne Minster including their leader, Saskia Darell. They practise once a week in Shroton Village Hall and mainly play gigs in local care homes in the area including Gillingham, Shaftesbury, Sturminster Newton and Blandford. Last year this included two one hundredth year birthday parties.

They charge £60 for an hour's session and all the money raised goes to charities which are chosen by members of the band and have included Julia's House, the Blandford Food Bank, Dorset Air Ambulance and the Forever Hounds Trust. They have a large and varied repertoire of songs from early twentieth century until the 2010s with special playlists for Remembrance Day and Christmas. They are available for hire for special events and are already booked up for seven gigs this year including a free summer concert for Julia's House.

New members are welcome, and Saskia also gives ukelele lessons. If you'd like to book the band or join, please contact Saskia: sdarell@hotmail.com

**A BIG THANK YOU TO
CLAYESMORE FOR THEIR
CHRISTMAS CAROLS ON THE
CHALK
WHICH WERE ENJOYED BY MANY
VILLAGERS**



**REPORT ON ABINGDON HALL
FESTIVITIES IN DECEMBER**

Sitting here at the back end of January, Christmas and its preparations seem so long ago!

We started to prepare the Abingdon Hall decorations in early November - cutting multi-coloured stems of cornus (dogwood) and weaving them into hoops ready to be decorated with ivy, glass icicles and snowflakes. Then the contorted beech was cut, ready to be similarly decorated, greenery was pruned from gardens and by the end of the month we were ready to start.

A team of helpers - Maggie, Judith, Jules, Paul, Graham and me, fixed conifer, ivy and exceedingly prickly holly to thick ropes to create garlands; red and silver baubles were added to give a bit of colour and these were then suspended from the beams. The hoops were used to reflect over the mirrors and the beech branches created centrepieces for the garlands. Thanks to the Parish Council, the lights went on in the Chalk, enhanced by residents' lights, to provide a festive air outside.

The hall was then ready for its first event - St.Mary's Christmas Bazaar, held to support Alabare, a charity in Salisbury which provides a variety of assistance to homeless people. An amazing raffle, cake and book stall, small gifts stall and a variety of other stands, a sociable area with coffee and mince-pies all raised a goodly sum of £704.

Meanwhile the usual Abingdon Hall activities continued, including the IMPHA Christmas Social, a lovely evening for members consisting of a delicious buffet, with wine and entertainment (all free!). Raffle proceeds have been given to our local, rather appropriately named charity The Big Yellow Bus Garden Project, Shillingstone.

The next challenge was The Village Christmas Dinner. Again, lots of early preparations were needed, and many thanks go to everyone who helped set up, cook, serve and clear up afterwards. We managed to serve a three course Christmas meal with a choice of two soups, turkey with all the trimmings, Christmas pudding with cream, satsumas, coffee and mints and still make space for entertainment, all for the princely sum of £15! Not surprisingly, tickets sold out within a few days. There was the inevitable Iwerne Minster raffle and the Abingdon Hall treasurer was delighted to receive a profit of £706.03 which has gone straight into the roof repair fund.

As Twelfth Night loomed in January, the same team took all the decorations down, packed them away ready for next year and village life goes on.

Happy new Year!

Sue Le Prevost

REST IN PEACE

Barry O'Reiley who lived at 12, Oakwood Drive

Bob Lester from No 3, Hill Top Barns

Janet Wall, a previous villager





IWERNE MINSTER COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Community Speed Watch is still operating in Iwerne Minster with our enthusiastic team who turn out on a regular basis to monitor for speeding traffic through our village on the A350. We are often supported by a member of the police staff who engages an enforcement camera called Trucam.

Our aim is to educate drivers that speed kills and that limits are placed for a purpose. The A350 through our village is particularly dangerous to those who live on the western side of the road and need to cross it to enter the village. This includes the school children when they have lessons in the art department, want to visit the village shop or have to go to their accommodation in the village.

We stand outside Clayesmore School on the A350 where, in hour long shifts, we collect the registration details of speeding vehicles, their speed, make, colour and time of passing us. This information is passed to the police who consult their National Computer to check for vehicle ownership and offences. We use a Radar device to check the speed of the vehicle and register anyone over 35mph. Letters are sent to offenders, when the Trucam is used, pin-pointing and recording a vehicle registration number by laser, and a summons is sent.

Recently we had a visit from David Sidwick our Police and Crime Commissioner; he commented: *"In December, I was delighted to visit Iwerne Minster and see one of Dorset's many Community Speed Watch teams in action as they conducted checks in known speeding hot spots. Community Speed Watch is a national initiative where proactive members of local communities join, with the support and supervision of their local police, to record details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices.*

Community Speed Watch teams do vital work to help combat dangerous driving on our road and to keep us all safe. I would urge anyone with a bit of spare time and an interest in contributing to road safety in Dorset to find out more about how they can get involved in their local community Speed Watch. By working together we can make Dorset the safest county."

On the occasion of David's visit, we had Trucam in operation and caught 12 offenders going over the 30mph limit who received a summons, which could be a fine in excess of £100 plus points on their licence.

Below are results of CSW sessions for 2023

Totals for 2023	CSW	Tru ca m
Number of sessions	48	16
	1332	
Number of vehicles	3	3047
Number speeding	562	168
% speeding	4.2	5.5
Average speed	38.3	N/A
Fastest	60	N/A

You can see that around 5% of vehicles are breaking the speed limit, some at speeds up to 60mph, and it only takes one to hit a child or villager. If you are interested in joining our team, please contact Geoff Peters: Geoff.peters13@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01747811546.





2024 - IWERNE MINSTER CRICKET CLUB – update

Following on from the initial approach at the end of last summer, the weather will begin to improve and so enable further progress to be made with the relaunch of the IMCC.

As we look at the options available, with the support of the Iwerne Estate, it is time to see how we can achieve the next steps in our being able to prepare the ground and facilities for the summer of 2024 followed it is hoped by a move back into a local Dorset league in 2025.

We have an excellent cricket pitch in the village, in a lovely setting with pavilion facilities, nets to be restored and our local pub to discuss the games to be played by a squad of players interested in playing with others who will also be prepared to support the club as non-players but lovers of the game.

As I wait to see how we can achieve these initial objectives, we need once again to realistically look at numbers and how we can set up the ground and pavilion for the games we would like to see being played in the village.

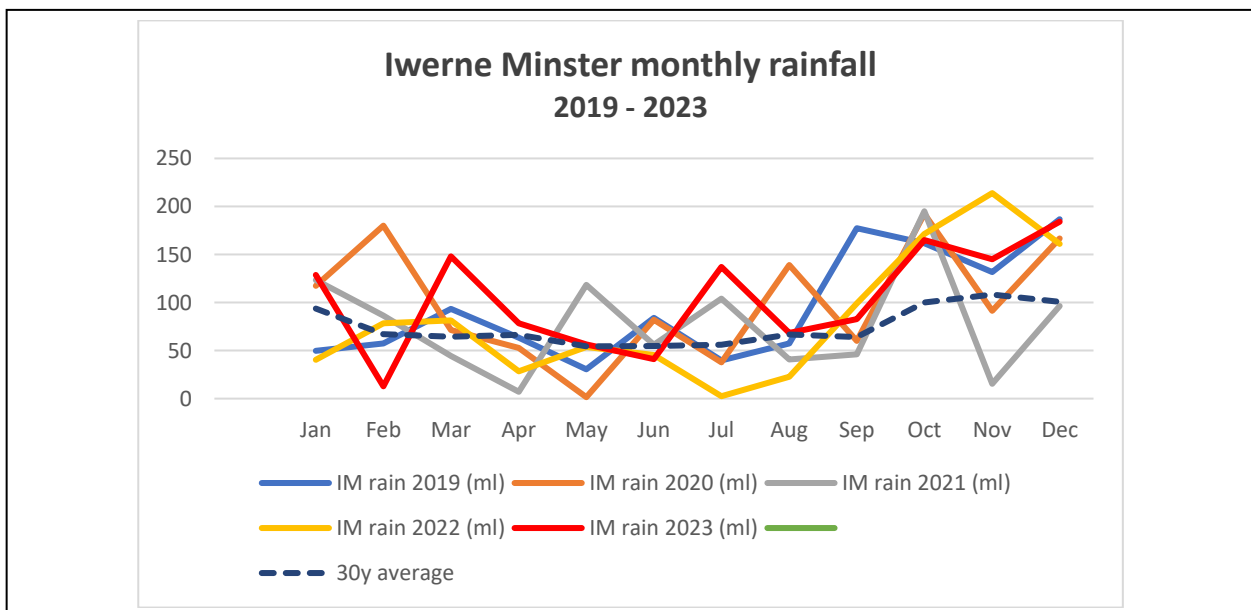
For those who expressed interest last year, are you still interested and are there any others who would also be interested in joining the club to support the relaunch of the IMCC?

In the coming weeks we will need to establish a working party with a view to getting the ground prepared and ideally the nets up and running and so will be setting some dates for the first meeting to which all those interested in playing a part will be welcome, the date, time and venue to be advised.

At this stage the numbers remain the driving force so once again if you are interested in playing village cricket for IMCC, initially please let me know by email to Andrew Osborne aojo1980@gmail.com

If you have any questions or concerns at this stage please email or call me on 01747 811433.

Andrew Osborne



Thank you to Ron Benfield for this rainfall data. 2023 was the third wettest year in the last thirty years with 1247 ml recorded. 2012 was the wettest year at 1335 ml. The driest year, in the last 30 years, was 1996 with 674 ml. Pretty parched!

THE VIEW FROM ST MARY'S

Christmas was, as ever, a wonderful time of celebration at St Mary's. The church was traditionally decorated with a magnificent Christmas tree and the St Mary's crib the highlight. It was lovely, and very welcoming.

Bishop Tim Thornton led a traditional and well attended carol service at St Mary's while David John and Toby Carson led us in worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning as we celebrated the birth of Jesus.

We have much to be thankful for as we look back over the last year, not least the completion of the refurbishment of St Mary's. Now, at the beginning of a new year we are looking forward to what 2024 will bring.

The Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Rev Stephen Lake, who visited Iwerne to bless the refurbished church last year, has set out a new vision – "Making Jesus known". In line with this, a series of Sunday sermons has started with a focus on Jesus with specially selected readings. A series of talks, poetry readings, musical events and films is planned, to take place both at St Mary's and the other churches in the Benefice. These will cover all aspects of the Christian faith, including some of the topics that people find hard to accept.

Home Groups will continue on Mondays, currently looking at the life and writings of St Peter who is such an important figure in the church. The group which meets on Tuesday afternoons will be meeting in St Mary's and will be looking at the Book of Ruth; an amazing story of faithfulness and love. This is particularly relevant to St Mary's which has a mosaic of Boaz, Ruth's protector, on the wall of the South Aisle.

And there will of course be cake!

The Benefice prayer meetings which started last year will continue on the first Sunday of the month at each of the five churches in the Benefice in turn. These have proved a real inspiration to those attending.

We hope that everyone will find something of interest in our programme and we look forward to welcoming you.

David Parkhouse

W.I. BEACON GROUP CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT



On December 15th the Sutton Waldron-Iwerne Minster W.I. had the honour of hosting the last event to be held by the Beacon Group of W.I. members from the area. This was an affiliation of W.I. groups from SWIM WI, East Orchard and Margaret Marsh WI, Child Okeford WI and Tarrant Gunville WI – sadly Sixpenny Handley WI who were also members disbanded last year.



The carol concert was a delightful selection of poems read by each of the Beacon Group's representatives and carols sung by the WI members who attended. The thoughtful readings, which looked at Christmas from a different angle, were chosen by members of the SWIM W.I. The organ was played by Sam.



IVWG WALK CHILD OKEFORD DECEMBER 2023



For our Christmas walk, we set off from Gold Hill Organic Farm with eleven humans and four dogs, including a guide dog in training, past the many polytunnels, through a copse with a stream, up towards Hambledon Hill, to a stone circle (created last century) with alpacas.



Our walk leader, Claire, communing with the alpacas...

The walk was only 2.5 miles long, a deliberate choice for this colder time of year.

We were lucky to have a dry day amongst a week of much rain and there were some muddy bits including a slurry pit on the way back, but fortunately it wasn't the kind of mud that cakes up your boots and this was only a small part of the walk.

We had a delicious lunch in the Gold Hill Organic Kitchen, joined by two other walking group members. It's not possible to book a table so we took a chance and ate quite early to avoid the crowds. It was a good way to end the walking year among our walking mates.

Claire Watson

I.M.P.H.A. HOLDS ITS AGM

Iwerne Minster Produce and Horticultural Association held their 81st AGM on Monday 22nd January. Christine O'Luanaigh, who had been the Show Secretary for several years, had already tendered her resignation due to family commitments but everyone else was re-elected and the Chairman thanked Christine for all of her patience and hard work. She was then presented with flowers. Heather Overton has kindly agreed to become the new Show Secretary.

Afterwards Jeanette Hampstead gave a talk on hedgehogs and delighted everyone with her enthusiasm and knowledge. She now runs a local hedgehog rescue in Hazelbury Bryan, which she founded in 2017, after discovering a very sick hedgehog in her garden. As she was unable to contact a local rescue group, she took it to a vet - it needed antibiotics and a wormer. She then had to learn how to give the hedgehog these medicines by mouth and still did not hear from a local rescue group. As a result, she completed a Hedgehog Care course and subsequently has learned to assess and treat them - by 2022 she had already rescued over 880 hedgehogs.



If anyone does find a sick or injured hedgehog she is the person to contact for help:

<https://facebook.com/Hedgehog-Rescue-of-Hazelbury-Bryan-115104589926370/>
nhampstead@hotmail.com

Sue Le Prevost

PLANNING SERVICES IN DORSET

We are lucky in Iwerne Minster to have a Parish Council which takes great care over planning applications although the final say is always with Dorset Council or, in the case of appeals, with Bristol. The following extract from The Bournemouth Echo lays out the new challenges facing Dorset Council in the years ahead.

Planning services at Dorset Council have improved to become one of the best and biggest in the country, according to an article in the Bournemouth Echo.

It should mean local residents and developers getting a better and faster service when they submit applications. The department, believed to be the 7th busiest in the UK, is now exceeding national thresholds for dealing with planning requests, bringing in an income of around £4.5million a year in fees, although the amount does not cover the full cost of providing the service.

Dorset Council portfolio holder for planning, Cllr David Walsh, says the council team is also one of the busiest for dealing with Neighbourhood Plans, where communities set out what sort of developments they would like to see in their area, with thirteen completed and seven in preparation, a process which usually takes around two years to complete.

Cllr Walsh says despite the successes the planning team continues to struggle to recruit, faced with a national shortage of qualified planning officers. He is warning that new rules which reduce the time applications are expected to be dealt with, from 26 to 16 weeks, could be 'challenging' and may result in the department losing out on fees in the long run. The senior council officer overseeing the planning department, Matthew Piles, has told councillors that whether or not his team can meet the new, tighter target will largely depend on the quality of applications coming in, coupled with the volume.



Sunset over Hambleton Hill from Iwerne Hill

IWERNE MINSTER NEWSLETTER

Published every two months on the first of the month.

Next issue: April 1st, 2024

Contribution deadline: March 20th, 2024

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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

Printer

Parish Magazine Printing