

IWERNE MINSTER NEWSLETTER

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2023



TARTING UP THE TALBOT!

If you live in Iwerne Minster, you will no doubt have noticed the transformation of the pub in all sorts of ways. We have been very lucky to have publicans Kim and Steve; they have made a great effort to improve all aspects of The Talbot. Kim, with the help of Philip, has made a great change to the outside of the pub with tubs of flowers both in the front of The Talbot and in the yard at the back where villagers like to gather in the warmer months.

This yard has been further transformed in the last couple of months by the glorious murals which have been painted on the fence panels. These vibrant, playful images of jungle flora and fauna are the work of two villagers, artist Saskia Darell and her assistant, Caroline O'Brien. They have spent over 100 hours with their paint brushes, firstly covering the fence panels with green paint and then with pictures of colourful birds, animals and flowers. Every time you look, there's a new detail to admire: a snake in a tree and below it a wormy apple; a beer-quaffing monkey; a tortoise lumbering along the forest floor. At night the little flowers with their luminescent centres light up like stars.

Both Saskia and Caroline have described it as great fun. For Saskia it was a big adventure to design and paint something on such a big scale and she would like to take on more projects of this kind in the future. Kim and Steve are delighted with the result and the brewery rep was very impressed!



IWERNE MINSTER SUMMER SHOW SUNDAY 20 AUGUST

You will have received your schedule by now and we hope to see lots of entries on the Show Bench!

We would welcome donations please for the Tombola – to Marion Harrison (Patch Cottage) and Grand Raffle –to Sue Le Prevost (The Hollow). Bottles, preserves and lovely foodie things for the hampers, as well as unwanted gifts, bottles etc. for the Tombola.

Treasurer Paul Le Prevost (The Hollow), would be delighted to receive any sponsorship to help offset the costs of the show. We make substantial donations to our chosen charities – Air Ambulance and Julia's House, after all bills are paid!

We are looking for volunteers to help before, during and after the Show

Make a note in your diary and on the calendar to come and enjoy a lovely 'family' afternoon.

ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES

If you live on Shute Lane you may have been woken during the night of the May 25th by the apocalyptic blasting of a horn, and the banshee screeching of a siren as an ambulance tried to get along it. A vehicle parked there was blocking the highway: the ambulance could not get by.

Ambulances, fire engines and other emergency vehicle must have **24 hour access** along our narrow roads and lanes. Life, limb and property may depend on it. Nor is it just emergency vehicles; dustbin lorries also need free passage.

Please park thoughtfully: make sure you leave sufficient space for public service vehicles to pass.

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE CLUB

As the weather warmed up, we had a very happy Coffee Morning at end of May. Villagers enjoyed chatting, browsing books and eating delicious cake as well as drinking coffee. In June we experimented with a new event: "Midsummer Soirée". This was an afternoon event to celebrate midsummer with a glass of Prosecco served with strawberries and cream which seemed to go down well. It was a very warm afternoon so we stayed inside to do a summer quiz and discuss the weather. We should have had our annual "Boules" Tournament in July but, after a blazing June, the weather broke and reluctantly the event was cancelled as the field was very wet and we were in danger of being blown away. It was difficult to re-arrange this event so you have another year to practise for 2024. There is a Coffee Morning on Saturday, 5th August at 10.00 a.m. – more delicious cake! We shall then move into our autumn programme in September with a Quiz.

Lastly! After a recent event, a long plain sleeved coloured cardigan left in the club has disappeared. If you have seen it or taken away by mistake please contact Penny [01747 811339].

WRITER'S BLOCK OPENING HOURS IN THE SUMMER

The Writer's Block Cafe is open 9:30 - 3:30, Monday to Friday, throughout July & August (except for the 21st-28th August when it will be closed). It will also be open on Sunday 13th August for Clayesmore Classic & Supercar Sunday.

We have a different range of cake, pastries, sandwiches, toasties/paninis and also ice cream on offer. A huge variety of drinks are available including frappés, iced coffees, smoothies. Over these summer months we also have a few alcoholic beverages on offer.

Dogs are always welcome - treat them to a special doggy ice cream! We look forward to seeing you there very soon.



GAMES AT THE VILLAGE CLUB

There is a proposal to arrange a Games and Coffee morning at sometime in September at the Village Club. A selection of games would be available such as: chess, draughts, dominoes, Scrabble, Uno, Monopoly, Cluedo, Sequence and cards. People would also be welcome to bring their own games to share and introduce to others. If successful, it could become a winter activity to bring the community together for fun and games. Please contact Barry on 07980 210902 or hoare.barrysue@gmail.com if you have any questions or are interested in participating either as a helper or just someone interested in coming along.

ABINGDON HALL REQUIRES NEW BOOKINGS MANAGER

Due to the retirement of its long-serving Bookings Manager, Abingdon Memorial Parish Hall is seeking a volunteer to undertake the role which consists of: -

- Replying to booking enquiries;
- Making bookings and keeping a monthly calendar;
- Providing the Chairman or other nominated Committee Member with a copy of the calendar on a weekly basis;
- Ensuring regular hirers have made the necessary bookings;
- Issuing invoices for bookings, usually on a monthly basis or prior to the event for ad hoc bookings;
- Checking that payment has been received either by cash or directly to the bank by BACS (by liaising with the Treasurer);
- Reconciling invoices and submitting them to the Treasurer on a monthly basis.

At this time there are five regular hirers plus ad hoc users. Microsoft Excel and Word are currently in use but any similar programmes could be used.

If you are interested in taking on this role or in receiving further information, please contact the Chairman, Dianne Benefield either by telephone on 01747 811507 or by email at diannebenfield@aol.com.

WELL DONE, LILY!



On Friday May 19th, Iwerne Minster resident Lily Marshall attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace to receive her gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. Having previously completed her bronze and silver, this was the culmination of years of volunteering,

developing new skills and going on gruelling expeditions, which included wild camping in Dartmoor. One of the other requirements for the gold award is to complete a week long residential course with people you have never met before; Lily went off to study the coastal environment of Pembrokeshire, the perfect preparation for her Marine Biology degree which she is currently studying at Southampton University.

The visit to the Palace was a well-earned reward. It was a beautiful sunny day, with inspirational speeches from figures in the public eye who had previously completed their DofE, including Sophie Raworth who gave an entertaining account of her own gruelling expedition. What all the speakers agreed on was the level of perseverance and resilience needed to complete the full award, for which the newly appointed Prince of Edinburgh congratulated the participants. A lovely day was topped off with delicious tea and cupcakes in the Palace gardens. Congratulations Lily!

CLAYESMORE CORONATION TEA

Clayesmore School's contribution to the village Coronation festivities should not be missed. A draw was held in the PO, when customers could select envelopes, a few of which contained invitations to a Coronation Tea at Clayesmore on the afternoon of the Coronation. And what a magnificent spread it was! A wide spectrum of lucky villagers was present

(including Ulf and me). We were greeted by the headmistress and bursar and served by polite and friendly student volunteers. There was also a wonderfully decorated Coronation cake.

Alwin Greder

IWERNE MINSTER NEEDLEWORK PROJECT UPDATE



After nearly 18 months of preparation and a lot of stitching practice, we are now working on the actual tapestries. If you would like to come and see what we are up to on a Wednesday morning in the Abingdon Hall and have a coffee, we will be meeting every Wednesday from September 6th to October 18th from 10am to 12.30. further dates will be in the village diary.

If any new ladies would like to join us, you will be most welcome.

Maggie Hale

IWERNE MINSTER 100 CLUB

MAY RESULTS :-

£15 Lionel Stickley (71)
£12 Anne Thomas (49)
£10 Jenny Burden (65)
£5 Sasha Tatchell (88)

JUNE RESULTS :-

£15 Steve Harrision (40)
£12 Roger Naylor (5)
£10 Debbie Cranton (73)
£5 Jean & Peter Robinson (25)

REMEMBERING SALLY GREEN 1945 -2023



Sally was born in Esher in 1945 and attended St Helen's School, Northwood, as a day pupil. Responding to her call to be a teacher, she went to Homerton Teacher Training College in Cambridge to study Maths and Science. She had already met her husband-to-be, Malcolm, and they got engaged after watching a Varsity Rugby match at Twickenham together. Malcolm soon left for South Africa to take up a teaching post at Michaelhouse School. Sally joined him there for a year before they both returned for Malcolm to take up a post in Glenalmond School in Scotland. Sally taught in a primary school there and, although she enjoyed it, was happy to return to the south of England. They moved to Dorset, and for a number of years Malcolm taught at Bryanston while Sally combined teaching at Knighton House with bringing up their three children: Katie, Rosie and Robert. Latterly at Bryanston, they became joint house parents in a girls' boarding house. Soon Malcolm went on to take up headships in Warminster School and then in Eltham College, London, Sally fitted competently and cheerfully into the role of Headmaster's Wife, an important if not always recognised position. She also taught Maths and Science in Blackheath Girls' School and was a natural in the classroom partly because of the rapport she had with the people around her and her sensitivity towards young people. While at Eltham, the Greens

bought the house in Iwerne Minster, which they used for holidays and eventually retired to, and which they have now owned for around 25 years.

Sally was a well-known and much loved figure in the village, involved in all sorts of ways with the church and village life. As well as being a faithful member of the church congregation, Sally sang regularly in the Benefice choir, was Secretary of the PCC for some time, and on the rotas for cleaning and flower arranging. Until recently she had also been a Sacristan. She played a significant part in organising the annual Harvest Lunch. Sally was a loyal supporter at Clayesmore events and for some years acted as an Independent Listener in the Prep School. She loved the company of children, understanding their feelings and sharing their sense of fun and adventure. More recently she was part of the small group who initiated the Village Tapestry project. She was a member of both the village Speedwatch team and the S.W.I.M. W.I. On a personal level many people found her to be someone who was always prepared to listen, who had enormous empathy and who was ready to help out in whatever way she could – be it giving one of her wonderful hugs or making a cake., and she was always happy to advise on knitting projects.

It is little wonder then that there was standing room only for her memorial service in St Mary's Church.

Donations in Sally's memory can be made to Blood Cancer Research U.K.



A NEW WHATSAPP GROUP FOR IWERNE MINSTER

A Iwerne Minster Whatsapp Community has been set up for village news and events to be circulated in the village. Only the administrators (Susan Trim, Paul le Prevost and Kerry O'Connell) can send information and see who the members are. Contact Susan Trim on cllrtrim@iwerneminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk or Whatsapp her on 07811 314694 to be added to this mailing list or to share important village news

THE VIEW FROM ST MARY'S

Another busy few weeks at St Mary's, with the mixture of good news and sad that life brings.

In May, we held our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) at St Mary's. The congregation heard reports about the previous year's events, which unsurprisingly focused on the refurbishment of the church. The reaction from both regular churchgoers and others has been, generally, positive, though not exclusively so of course.

At the APCM we lost two longstanding members of the PCC. Mike Deeming has served for over 10 years, including a number of years as Treasurer, and we are most grateful for his service to St Mary's and for his wise counsel. I have stepped down as Churchwarden (though I will continue to write these regular articles for the time being). No replacement has yet come forward but the PCC have stepped into the breach and taken on the various tasks that have to be done with enthusiasm and efficiency. We are very pleased to welcome Andrew Osborne onto the PCC. Thank you, Andrew, for volunteering.

At the beginning of July our curate Toby Carson was admitted to the priesthood at a service at Salisbury Cathedral. The following day, at a well-attended Benefice service at St Mary's, he led his first communion service, which was a very special occasion. We are delighted to have Toby as our curate.

Sadly, we lost another stalwart of St Mary's when Sally Green died suddenly and unexpectedly in Dorchester Hospital. She had served the church faithfully for so many years as Church Secretary, sacristan and reader, and she will be terribly missed for the great support she gave to everyone at St Mary's, as well as her generosity of spirit and the friendship she offered to all. The service of thanksgiving that was held at St Mary's on 10th July was packed with people from the village and further afield, and the music and readings chosen by Sally and the family made for a very moving occasion. Our thoughts and prayers are with Malcolm and the family.

David Parkhouse



BLANDFORD ART SOCIETY ANNUAL EXHIBITION

Blandford Art Society is pleased to announce its annual Open Exhibition, running between August 14th to 19th inclusive, open between 10am and 5pm daily.

Our venue has changed to The Blandford School, Milldown Road, Blandford DT11 7SQ this year; free parking for is available there. You can look forward to a warm welcome and we hope you will enjoy our eclectic range of art produced not only by our members, but also from artists around the county.

We also exhibit work from the young artists from the school, and each year award a bursary to the most promising pupil with the opportunity to hang and sell their work before going on to study at an art college somewhere in the country.

We invite you to come and browse, admire, discuss and debate, talk to the artists, buy if you wish and above all enjoy.

Nicci Brown

Many thanks to Jeff Overton for the work he has put into restoring the Iwerne Minster village sign which stands proudly on The Chalk. It had been left sadly in need of repairs and it is good to see it back in place looking as good as new.



IWERNE VALLEY WALKERS: MAY WALK



The walk in May started at the Fiddleford Inn and went to Sturminster Newton and back. We were lucky with such a beautiful day. The May and cow parsley were striking. We continued along the railway with many cyclists and dog walkers out enjoying the weather. Our dogs were Molly and a guest dog Willow. Of course Molly found a cowpat and proceeded to roll in it. Luckily when we reached the Fiddleford Mill both dogs jumped in for a swim in the mill pond. We visited the Manor House to see the oak rafters and the mural which sadly is very damaged. Arriving back at the pub we all had lunch in the garden for the first time this year.

Neil Davies



MIDSUMMER'S EVE WALK 2023

On June 21st nine humans and one dog left Child Okeford to do a walk that would end, we hoped, at sunset. The first mile was a bit tricky as the fields were dry, cracked and very overgrown so it was a relief to arrive at the railway. We passed the old railway station and continued for a while then turned left over much better fields which led us to

the road connecting Child Okeford to Hanford, then to a track taking us up Hambledon Hill. We decided it was a bit too warm to walk to the top so a little way up we sat down and had our picnics. Around us was an impressive number of wild orchids. The sun was basking behind thin clouds so took its time but, finally, it obliged and streaked the lower part of the sky with gold. Our return to our base was mainly on a footpath running alongside the road then up to the church, so little time was spent on the road as night was coming. We all felt lucky as not all Iwerne Valley 'sunset' walks can be described as such!

Louise and Pauline



SWIM WI OUTING TO THE BIG YELLOW BUS PROJECT ON 21 JUNE 2023



Fourteen members from SWIM WI met at the Big Yellow Bus Project located alongside the Dorset Trailway at Shillingstone and we were greeted by Paul Williams, our inspiring and enthusiastic guide for the afternoon. Paul started this wonderful project 6 years ago after working as a Child Behaviourist and observing the transformational effects of working outside on the young people he was supporting. He explained it is run as a community, health and wellbeing space as a resource for everyone.

Dorset County Council provided him with a 4-acre field, which Paul and his volunteers have now divided into three distinct areas. There is an orchard with damson, apple, pear and plum trees which are all colour coded, a formal garden, a wildlife pond, bird hide, fire pit and sunken memorial garden. Recent additions include a large classroom, a viewing platform, a folly and willow tunnel. There is also a free to borrow cycle scheme. Paul is keen to encourage the local community to come in, have a look around and pick a few flowers.

We were impressed to learn that most of the vegetables and fruit, grown in polytunnels by children with additional needs, were donated to four local food banks. We also loved the beautiful raised flower beds that allowed the children in wheelchairs to be fully involved.

We finished our tour with a look at the Mountain Ash Rowan Tree SWIM WI donated and planted in 2022 for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Year and all agreed we would love to come back in the autumn and plant flowers around the tree.

Marilyn Saurin

S.W.I.M. W.I. SUMMER TEA PARTY IN THE VILLAGE CLUB - JULY 19TH

This event is always popular and this time was no exception. Over thirty members and guests gathered in the village club to enjoy delicious cream teas and cake as only the W.I. can do it! We were entertained by the ukelele group with a medley of old favourites and everyone seemed to enjoy singing along. It was very nice to see our former chairperson, Barbara Ball, making it back to the village to share in the occasion.

Thank you to the S.W.I.M. W.I. committee, so ably and cheerfully led by Minnie McCann, for all the hard work they put into organising this event and especially to the ladies who washed up at the end in a very hot kitchen.

SPRING BOXES INSTALLED IN WATERY LANE

We're not talking about a rugby team here! Dorset Council has been doing work in Watery Lane installing spring boxes which are a sort of sump to collect ground water from springs.



This picture, looking west towards The Chalk, shows the work in progress. The spring box is the blue drum to the left of the picture. The channel going into the stream takes the pipe to discharge the water into the nascent River Iwerne. The second box is ten metres further west.

Two have been put in prior to resurfacing Watery Lane beside the stream. Hopefully this will help to solve long-standing problems on this road.

John Goodliffe

AN ARCHAEOLOGY PUZZLE IN THE VILLAGE

How many remember a rather grisly discovery in the garden of number 1 Church Hill in 1994? When Peter Kunze was digging there to create an ornamental pond, at about two feet deep he discovered human bones. To begin with he thought they were just dog bones but, when he found a human skull, he called the police. After something of a muddle between the police and Dorset County Museum over what to do, the museum's chief archaeologist, Peter Woodward, came to the village and did a small-scale salvage dig. Woodward's subsequent report in the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society, Volume 116 (1994), p130 describes the results as follows:

"At a depth of 0.3m below the present garden level a cutting into a friable broken chalk or Combe rock was recorded. This cutting was infilled with chalky clay silts and its northern edge ran approximately east-west. This contained the disarticulated remains of at least three adults. These occurred in three groups with the long bones laid along the cutting.

Post medieval pottery and glass were recorded above the cutting and a single iron nail from the infill. No medieval pottery was recovered from the site which was at a level of several metres above the present road level of Churchill [i.e., Church Hill, Ed]."

In the village, speculation ran rife. One of the more outlandish theories, suggested by Iwerne resident Hugh Capstick, was that this was a woman cast out and buried in a pit outside the churchyard for some terrible misdemeanour! This is surely nonsense. The remains were of at least three people, not one, whose genders were not established. The bodies appear to have been buried along an east-west axis, which might suggest a Christian burial. However, they were well outside the present churchyard and the other side of the road of Church Hill (itself a possible ancient holloway) from the churchyard. The bones were disarticulated and, as Woodward is reported as saying in a news report of the time, "folded to fit" (into a foetal position maybe?) into the short graves. They seem to be buried together as a group, and were below any infill containing dateable artifacts, i.e. below the post-medieval fragments. Does this suggest a pre-Christian burial, perhaps even pre-historic? Sadly, the remains were not carbon dated,

and what subsequently happened to them is unknown.

In compiling this, I would like to thank Jenny Card of Iwerne Minster, and Claire Pinder of Dorset Council. Any unsupportable conjectures are mine alone!

John Goodliffe

IWERNE MINSTER NEWS

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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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Parish Magazine Printing

