

IWERNE MINSTER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023 – JANUARY 2024

A BENCH ON PRESTON HILL

Responding to a suggestion from various villagers, the Parish Council has been investigating the possibility of placing a bench up on Preston Hill where the footpath meets the track to Hill Farm. This affords a fine view north towards the village and Sutton Waldron and beyond to Duncliffe. The picture below shows the approximate placing of the bench. As it is just off the public right of way, the agreement of the respective landowners had to be sought. This has been done by Cllr Anne Thomas who has also organised the plans and costings. The plan is to purchase a bench made of a recycled plastic composite, like those already installed in the playground. This will have at least a 25 year life and pretty much zero maintenance costs.



Now comes the funding part! The cost will be around £1000. Your donations are requested. At least two people have already offered, and we need others to contribute. Even a modest amount will be welcome. If you feel you could contribute, please contact the Parish Clerk, Nicky Phillips on 01747 850515 or clerk@iwerneminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk

PANTO TIME APPROACHES... OH YES IT DOES!

Aladdin Dorset is currently in rehearsal under the beady eye of its writer/director, Adrian Delso. Performances will take place on three nights: February 29th, March 1st and 2nd, 2024. Tickets on sale at Bernie's sometime in January.

IWERNE MINSTER EMERGENCY PLAN

A team of volunteers in Iwerne Minster are working on an Emergency Plan for the village and are now looking to identify Key Volunteers who would be happy to be called out in the event of an emergency. Volunteers should have access to mobile phones and preferably would be happy to be part of a WhatsApp Group. We are looking for medical, non-medical and people who could assist with admin. The role of the Emergency Management Team and the purpose of the Emergency Plan is to support the police, the local authority and other professional agencies as required, and to provide facilities and help for people as and when needed.

If you are willing and able to help and would like to find out more, please register your interest by contacting: iwerneminsteremergencyplan@outlook.com or telephone either Paul Le Prevost on 07879 377565 or Susan Trim on 07811 314694.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES IN THE VILLAGE

Following a recommendation by Dorset Council a group of volunteers are working on an Emergency Plan for Iwerne Minster.

At a recent meeting it was suggested that there should be a Grit Bin and Parish Noticeboard either in or at the entrance to Oakwood Drive. The Parish Council believes that, like the rest of the village, Oakwood Drive needs to be properly resourced and kept in touch which what is happening elsewhere. This will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting at The Abingdon Hall on Monday 11th December at 7pm. If you have a view you would like heard, you are welcome to attend the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting and have a view please contact one of the Parish Councillors. Contact details are available on the Parish Council website:

http://www.iwerneminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk/Councillors_41390.aspx.aspx Your thoughts matter!

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE CLUB

September arrived, still very warm, and the club programme began with a quiz, put together by Rod and Monique. Everyone enjoyed it and having different members setting the questions is fun. In October Steve & Marion gave everyone an illustrated talk about their travels in Ecuador. Thank you to all who carried on in my absence. Our AGM took place in November. This, as always, was well attended - was it the business or the excellent Dutch Supper that was the attraction? The Chairman and Treasurer gave very favourable reports on the state of the club and the Chairman thanked everyone for the help and support they gave the club.

A new venture is now taking place on the first Thursday of the month in the afternoon when you can join in or play games and enjoy a cup of tea [contact Barry Hoare – 811363]. An event next year for everyone to start thinking about [and training up for] is Iwerne Minster Fun Olympics and we do mean FUN. More details in the New Year. The Chairman would like to thank everyone who sent good will messages on her fall and to say that she is making very good progress.

Penny Marsh

VILLAGE CLUB



This photograph shows what the club looked like six years ago. The whole of the front has been replaced and the ramp added. Improvements such as these are what the club spends its money on. Improvements have taken place inside as well with modernised toilet facilities and a kitchen extension. Most recently a portable stage has been built [thanks to Richard Andrews]. Our next plan is to decorate and put shelving in the snooker room for extra storage.

Penny Marsh

IWERNE MINSTER ART GROUP

We are a local group of people who meet every Thursday morning in the Abingdon Hall between 9.30am to midday.

Everybody has a different way of expressing their artistic feelings using watercolour paints, acrylics, oils or just drawing or doodling. We invite anybody who is interested and would like to join us to drop in to the Hall before 12.00 midday any Thursday morning, or alternatively you can phone either

Judith Dutch - telephone 812139 or
Lesley Evans - telephone 811287.

CLAYESMORE

Christmas Carols and Festive Music

Performed by Clayesmore School Musicians

Friday 8 December 2023
6.00pm at The Chalk

IWERNE MINSTER 100 CLUB RESULTS

September Draw

£15 Midge & Sarah (38)
£12 Steve Harrison (40)
£10 Reggie Tatchell (82)
£5 Sasha Tatchell (88)

October Draw

£15 Rita Lishman (84)
£12 Marian Harrison (56)
£10 Terry Hack (32)
£5 Jenny Burden (65)

THE VIEW FROM ST MARY'S

As forecast last time, autumn was indeed a busy time at St Mary's. There were a number of highlights.

The Harvest Festival service was well attended and villagers were, as always, generous with their gifts of produce for Alabare, the charity for the homeless based in Salisbury that St Mary's has supported for many years. The Harvest Lunch was held at the beautiful Tithe Barn at Home Farm House. I cannot imagine a better venue, and we are most grateful to Christine and Tim Ingram for allowing us to use the Barn. Fran Deeming, who organised the lunch but sadly could not be there, would like to thank all those who contributed to its success. As well as delicious home cooked food (many thanks who all who cooked, prepared, served and washed up!), we were entertained by musicians from Clayesmore, and there was an excellent raffle. Thanks to all who donated prizes. We paid the collection from the service and the surplus from the lunch to Alabare – a total of £1100 which is the most that's ever been raised by the lunch. The charity is most grateful for our support.

Thanks to the vagaries of the English weather and some health issues, Iwerne's Ride and Stride did not take place this year – the due date was the hottest of the year! However we were able to give a warm (very warm) welcome to the many visitors who came to the church and appreciated a smile and a cold drink from the volunteers who kindly manned the church, to whom we are very grateful. Our loyal supporters and regular Riders and Striders sponsored us to the tune of £440, all of which we donated to the Dorset Historic Churches Trust, instead of half being repaid to St Mary's. DHCT does a great job in helping to preserve our many beautiful Dorset churches and has been generous in its support of St Mary's, both the re-ordering project and the repairs to the parapet which are needed.

At the beginning of November, Rev David John celebrated the Festival of All Souls. A good number of people from the Benefice attended to remember loved ones who have died, by lighting a candle and placing it on the altar.

The Remembrance Sunday service was, as always, a moving occasion, especially in these

times of conflict. Following a service at St Mary's led by Niels Kraunsoe, wreaths were laid at the War Memorial on behalf of the villages of Iwerne Minster and Sutton Waldron, Clayesmore School and the Royal British Legion. Clayesmore provided a Guard of Honour and a bugler who played the Last Post and the Reveille. The church was decorated most beautifully with cascading poppies. Just before this, the Benefice prayer meeting took place at St Mary's. Those who attended found it helpful to pray with others or on their own for matters of local, national and international concern, for family and friends and for those who are suffering or bereaved. The next meeting is at Shroton church on 3rd December followed by St Andrew's Fontmell Magna on 7th January, both at 4.30pm. All are welcome.



And, of course, it is nearly Christmas – a fact that none of us has been allowed to forget. We hope to see many of you at one of our services which are on:

17th December – 6pm - Carol Service led by Bishop Tim Thornton

24th December – 10 am - Benefice Service at Sutton Waldron

24th December – 11.30pm – Midnight communion (David John and Toby Carson)

25th December – 11 am – Christmas Communion (David John)

And, as this is the last newsletter before the end of year, a Happy Christmas and New Year from all at St Mary's.

David Parkhouse

REPORT ON RUNNING 185 MILES IN THE OUTER HEBRIDES

This was taken from my Facebook page the day after I completed the Outer Hebrides Challenge.

Today my body is broken, my soul is nourished, and my spirit is soaring. I did it, and what a journey! None of it could have been done without all the lovely messages of support and love, which really helped when I needed to dig deep. (I had a lovely message from my choir and from my nursing colleagues as well as numerous texts, Facebook, Whatsapp and Instagram messages).

It's been a real physical and emotional roller coaster. Day 1 started with a huge adrenaline rush, shocking weather, driving rain and gusts of 40 plus mph. The event photographer said it was the worst weather he had known. I was soaked to my skin every day, several times a day. Day 2 was tough but good and went well. Day 3 was the day of ferries due to weather and a trip to Skye and back to get across to the next island (a very convoluted trip but the only way we could cross!). So far so good and then...

Day 4 broke me. Just before pit stop 1 my left leg landed in the bog (and stayed put), my right leg going off somewhere else. All seemed OK until I tried running; I couldn't lift my right leg up and down enough to run. My only option was to walk. So walk I did. I was last in, kindly accompanied by a team mate. The last miles were excruciating. I got into the accommodation to a full turn out from the team. The team support throughout the event was awesome. I was in bits, bawling into my buff, (whilst our team photographer Leo caught it all on camera 📷) overwhelmed, tired and definitely emotional! Saw our lovely medic Robyn, groin strain - she advised me to think about pulling out. 'What would you say if it was your patient, Siobhan?' 'I would tell them to walk, Robyn!' Not quite the answer she was after. So walk I did, days 5 and 6, 30 miles each day with a groin strain and 2 swollen feet. Yesterday my roommate Marie and I were the last completers of the challenge. The whole team was there, including photographer Leo and BBC Scotland who were filming for the series Island Crossing. They followed us for the whole week. I was crying into my buff again, but tears of joy and wonder. I am very proud of what I achieved, I switched to plan B, didn't give up and reached my fundraising target for [The Brave and Determined Company](#).

Massive thank you [Rat Race Adventures](#), to James, medic Robyn, Jaqs and Jools (the event crew), photographer extraordinaire Leo, and Fraser and crew from the BBC.

I could do a whole essay on bog running - it's running at a whole new level.

Thank you to everyone who has donated.

Siobhan

OCTOBER 2023 WALK



Following the aftermath of Storm Babet it was touch and go whether the Iwerne Valley Walking group undertook their October walk around Abbotsbury. Postponed from July due to bad weather, we were hopeful that lightning wouldn't strike twice, literally as well as figuratively!

However, seven intrepid walkers, plus three dogs, decided to take the plunge and it definitely was a risk worth taking. Leaving the pretty village of Abbotsbury, the walk initially led up to the top of a steep hill where the views of Chesil beach and the Fleet were well worth all the effort. In the distance we could see rain clouds gathering over Portland Bill so put our best feet forward along a very muddy South West coastal path towards Abbotsbury tropical gardens. Looking out for each other, with one eye on the stunning scenery, we slipped and slid our way down the hill - and only one of us came away with a muddy backside.

Skirting the gardens and Abbotsbury Swannery, relieved to be back on firmer ground, we made our way around St Catherine's Chapel and back to the Old Schoolhouse Tearooms for lunch. All agreed it had been a fabulous walk, with the rain kept at bay and we travelled home feeling a sense of achievement.

Kathryn Reed

THE MAGNIFICENCE OF THE HUMMINGBIRD

In October, SWIM WI was treated to an excellent presentation by ornithologist, Willy Perez, who lives in Shroton but whose passion for birds began in South America where he was brought up. He now leads birding trips in the UK. South America and France. On this occasion he concentrated on the wonder that is the hummingbird of which there are more than 360 species. They are found in many countries but mostly in Central America where they live on the nectar of the Cloud Forest. Willy's slideshow and video presentation demonstrated the incredible versatility and beauty of these tiny creatures, the smallest of which, the Beehive hummingbird of Cuba, weighs in at only 2.5 grams. Not only are they colourful but they have exotic names like Jewelfront, Topaz and Rainbow. Their wings can move at the rate of 80-200 times per second, the equivalent of 150 mph! They are, of course, the only bird which can fly backwards. Willy also showed us breathtaking video footage of their acrobatics; especially amusing was the waggle dance associated with courtship in some humming birds. All in all, we felt we had been transported to a magical place far away.

A WALK IN MAY'S WOOD

In November the SWIM WI was given a talk by Linda Lamon, a photographer and songwriter. Linda has made it her mission to document the creation and evolution of May's Wood in Bere Regis right from its inception in September 2013. The wood covers an area of 157 acres to the south of, and between, the villages of Bere Regis and Shitterton. When the area was refused planning permission for 500 houses, Brian May, lead guitarist of Queen, stepped in and purchased the land. He contracted a forestry management company, Tilhill Forestry, to plant and subsequently manage the many species of native trees and shrubs so creating not only a beautiful area with woodland paths for the public but also a haven for wildlife. Linda showed us not only how the wood has developed over the ten years but also how beautiful it is in the changing seasons especially with its wild flower meadows in summer. It is due to the foresight and generosity of Sir Dr Brian May, PhD (astrophysics), CBE, that this

significant contribution to Britain's woodland has been made possible, an especially important fact when one considers that only 13% of the UK is wooded, compared to 37% as a whole in Europe.



The Main Ride – © Linda Lamon

BEACON GROUP OF W.I.S LAST EVER AUTUMN MEETING

WI ladies from SWIM, Child Okeford and East Orchard and Margaret Marsh gathered with Tarrant Gunville WI at their Village Hall to enjoy a free fun and social afternoon to mark the occasion of the closing of the Beacon Group. We were also joined by former members of Sixpenny Handley WI, which used to belong to the Beacon Group until recently when their WI was sadly closed.

Liz Smith, the BG Treasurer from Child Okeford WI, gave us a quickfire quiz on the history of the Beacon Group which was started in the 1950s. There was also an exhibition of Beacon Group memorabilia, including original minute books and photographs, which will now go into the archive at DFWI in Poundbury. We took part in a round of Handbag Bingo and raffle.

Tarrant Gunville WI, our hosts, provided a marvellous feast and Anne Horbury, the Chair from this WI commented on how sad it was that the Group was closing but hoped that each individual WI would stay in touch and offer occasional invitations to their own WI meetings to the others. She mentioned the possibility of arranging a Skittles match social event and also reminded us that the final Beacon Group of WIs event would be the Carol Service to be held in St Mary's Church at Iwerne Minster and hosted by SWIM WI on Friday 15th December 2023 at 2.30pm, with parking in the Parish field. Minnie McCann from SWIM WI thanked our hosts on behalf of everyone there.

Minnie McCann and Monique Goodliffe

THE WATER SUPPLY TO THE VILLAGE

Tower Hill is closed and will be for several weeks. The reason for this is that Wessex Water are replacing the main that feeds the village from the Hill Farm reservoir. The old main was leaking and approaching the end of its life.

Clean water is *the* essential resource, and we reproduce here section 6 of Iwerne Minster's Resilience Guide which describes the village's water supply and waste water treatment. The whole of the Resilience Guide is available on the Parish Council's website: [Council Documents - Iwerne Minster Parish Council](#)

6 WATER SUPPLY AND WASTE WATER REMOVAL

6.1 Water Input

Potable water is delivered to Iwerne Minster village by gravity from the Hill Farm reservoir at the top of Tower Hill. This reservoir is supplied from the water treatment works (WTW) in Stubhampton from where it is pumped up to Hill Farm. Although this relies on SSE mains electricity (LX) supply, there is a backup generator on site. If that were to fail, Wessex Water (WW) have portable LX generators and could also use tankers, or in extremis, bottled water and Arlington tanks. Be aware that in this later situation, water would be provided for drinking and cooking water only, and **not** for WCs, showers, clothes washing etc. However, WW state that they "*would tanker [sic] the reservoir to keep it full, so there would be no outages.*"

Farringdon and Peggs Farm are also supplied from Hill Farm but are on a different line, and, again, are gravity fed.

If the WTW at Stubhampton were to fail, WW can also fall back onto the Grid trunk main. WW describes the Grid main as "*a strategic main that travels throughout the whole Wessex system.*" IW is adjacent to the main running between Shaftesbury and Blandford. See: [Water supply grid \(wessexwater.co.uk\)](#)

The Stubhampton abstraction plant is in a "Groundwater Source Protection Zone". This is an Environment Agency designation relating to the time pathogens can travel in groundwater. WW does not spread sewage sludge in a zone, known as an SPZ1, which demarks a 'water in aquifer travel time' of greater than 50 days.

6.2 Water Output

Waste water goes to the two waste water treatment (WWT) plants situated to the south-west of the village, beyond Marsh Lane [now known as Trout Farm Lane]. The plants also take waste water from Sutton Waldron. They are mains powered but have backup generators. Without power, and depending on weather and flow, they possibly could run for about an hour. The lower the flow the longer they can operate.

Treated water is discharged into the River Iwerne.

WW remove sludge once a week by tanker and take it to a sludge treatment facility, of which WW have nine such facilities in our region. Here sludge is either anaerobically digested or mixed with lime. Both methods kill any harmful bacteria. Treated sludge is then returned to farmland as fertilizer and soil conditioner.

6.3 Additional information

WW have installed phosphate removal facilities at the Trout Farm site to reduce the phosphate pollution burden on the Iwerne and Stour rivers. WW maintain the seals on foul water drains to limit flooding from ground water into the WWT system (WWT systems work better with predictable flow) and the seals also prevent foul water leakage. WW have recently (January 2023), re-lined many of the sewers in the village. The projected life of this work is seventy years.

As a note of historical interest, up until the early 1970's the Village and Clayesmore School depended on water arising from springs in the village. However, because of the amount of agricultural run-off entering this ground water, principally nitrates and phosphates, it is thought **not to be fit for human consumption**. WW are not responsible for monitoring the quality of the spring water entering the River Iwerne.

6.4 The Future

Nationally, it is recognised that the UK climate is getting drier, see National Infrastructure Commission's 'Preparing for a drier future' (April 2018). The West Country Water Resources Group recognises that "The potential impact of drought on water users is high", and that "forecasting decades into the future is fraught with uncertainty".

6.5 What can we do to help?

Use less water! What is clear is that in the event of water shortage, due to climate change, damage to the supply route, long term power outage or whatever, we should consume less water. This would not only protect the potable water supply, but also ease the burden on the WWT plants. (It would also reduce our own water bills!)

In the longer term, changing one's lifestyle, even by a little, to use less water, will benefit everyone. This might be taking a shower rather than a bath, taking a shorter shower, washing clothes less often, installing water butts to cache rainwater for the garden ... the list is endless.

Many people are already taking these measures.

Compiled by Cllr John Goodliffe

A REFURBISHED PLAYGROUND FOR IWERNE MINSTER?

On November 25th, Cllr Kerry O'Connor mounted a very impressive exhibition in the Village Club showing several designs for a newly refurbished playground. This follows months of research into other playgrounds in the area, meetings with playground equipment providers and discussions in the community. There was a real buzz around the event; 36 adults and 17 children came to look at the plans and everyone was invited to fill in a questionnaire to express their ideas about their ideal playground.

Kerry would like to thank everyone who came to this first event, focusing on the regeneration of the play park. It was, she said, fantastic to hear so many views and opinions, all of which are constructive. She is still happy to send out questionnaires to anyone who missed the event, and these can be requested by email:

cllrkoconnor@iwerneminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk



AN ODE TO IWERNE MINSTER

In yonder realm of Dorset's gentle lands,
Lies Iwerne Minister, where beauty stands.
A hamlet quaint, with charm that doth enchant,
In Shakespeare's verse, its tale I now shall plant.

Amidst the fields, with verdant hues so bright,
Where rolling hills adorn the landscape's sight,
A village nestled, time's treasure, pure,
With history rich, and stories to endure.

Its thatched-roof cottages, so fair and quaint,
With gardens blooming, as if a saint
Hath blessed each bud and bloom with tender
care,
A haven of serenity, beyond compare.

The ancient church, with spire that points to sky,
Stands proud, a beacon, reaching oh, so high,
Its walls, with tales of faith and grace imbued
A testament to time, in stone renewed.

The gentle flow of river Stour nearby,
A soothing balm, to soul and weary eye,
Reflects the charm of Iwerne Minister's grace,
A jewel, set in nature's sweet embrace.

Its people, kind and warm, with hearts aglow,
In fellowship, like Shakespeare's tales do show,
A tapestry of lives, in vibrant hue,
With bonds that strengthen, tried and true.

So, here's to Iwerne Minister fair,
A gem of Dorset's lands, beyond compare,
A village timeless, in Shakespeare's style,
With beauty, grace, and stories to compile.

Someone mischievously asked Chat GPT to write a poem about Iwerne Minister in the style of Shakespeare and this was the result. I am not convinced that Chat GPT, for all its cleverness, is going to be producing the world's greatest sonnets or plays like King Lear but, as we are told almost daily, give it time!

Editor

And now for a poem by a human (chosen by Lavender Buckland) to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy and productive new year.

Reindeer Report

Chimneys: colder.
Flightpaths: busier.
Driver: Christmas (F)
Still baffled by postcodes.

Children: more
And stay up later.
Presents: heavier.
Pay: frozen.

Mission in spite
Of all this
Accomplished –

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

U A Fanthorpe

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