

IWERNE MINSTER NEWSLETTER

October – November 2022

IWERNE MINSTER PAYS ITS RESPECTS TO HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN



IMPHA SUMMER SHOW: AUGUST 2022

The Summer Show was a resounding success this year! I am delighted to say that we made a profit of around £1100 and we will be able to support our chosen charities again.

It has been a challenging year for growers but the entries were very good and thank you to everyone who put produce, flowers and plants on the show bench. Entries for cookery, photography, art and handicrafts were of a high standard and admired by the many visitors.

As a village show we are so lucky to be able to have the Bell Street Jazz Band entertain us as well as the popular Steam Car Ride. The collector/club cars provided a popular talking

point and we had several new stalls selling a range of interesting goods. Particular thanks also go to the ladies who ran a very successful Children's Corner.

Sue Le Prevost



100! and still going



Yes the Village Club is 100 years old. In fact we are 101 in November. We should have celebrated this event last year but COVID prevented it. So we plan to celebrate in November this year. On 3rd November we will have a shortened AGM followed by supper and drinks provided by the Club. This will be a ticket event for members [free]. If you are not a member, now might be the time to join if you would like to come and take part in the celebrations. There will be an exhibition of memorabilia about the Club. If you have any memories of the Club from the past we would love to hear them. Steve Harrison [812259] is doing a bit of research on this.

So far this season we have had a very enjoyable quiz night [with a twist], set by Steve. This proved great fun and at times testing. Thank you to Steve and Marion. On October the 6th we have an illustrated talk about New Zealand from club member Trish Neale. The year will end with a coffee morning to celebrate Christmas, with an opportunity to chat over a mince pie and coffee or mulled wine. **Penny Marsh (Chairman)**

DORSET FEDERATION SHOW

Ron, Dianne, Sue and Dave put together the entries for Iwerne Minster in the Dorset Federation Show, which is an inter-society show held this year at Durweston Village Hall. Iwerne was very successful, winning 17 first prizes and 33 prizes in total.



IWERNE MINSTER 100 CLUB RESULTS

May

£15 Ron Benfield (55)
£12 Robin Tatchell (87)
£10 Fran Deeming (79)
£5 Reggie Tatchell (82)

June

£15 Debs & Simon Kidd (45)
£12 Mike Deeming (80)
£10 Philip Lishman (85)
£5 Sally Green (22)

July

£15 Derek Pike (100)
£12 Susan Trim (98)
£10 Chris Neale (2)
£5 Terry Payne (43)

August

£15 Anne Thomas (49)
£12 Jim Westwood (69)
£10 Ann Naylor (70)
£5 Jane & Neil Davies (68)

IWERNE MINSTER ART GROUP

We are looking to expand our Art Group and we welcome anybody who would like to join us.

We are a friendly group of local people who paint or draw for pleasure.

We meet each Thursday at 9.30am in the Abingdon Hall until 12.00 and encourage each other with light-hearted critique and advice.

Even if you haven't used a pencil, pen or brush for some time, we will guide you towards finding your inner talent, which we have all done over the years.

Please contact either Judith Dutch - Tel: 812139 or Lesley Evans - Tel: 811287.

We look forward to welcoming you in the future.

NORTH DORSET ROADS REPRIEVED FROM MAJOR EXPANSION

The concerted efforts of the A350 Community Group, county councillors Jane Somper and Sherry Jesperson, and our MP Simon Hoare have resulted in the welcome decision by the Ministry of Transport in conjunction with Dorset Council and the Western Gateway Sub National Transport Body to rule out that the A350/C13 be included in any future plans for a major strategic road development running from Poole to the M4. This is a good outcome for residents of north Dorset. The argument has always been that this was not a suitable route for a new, strategic highway. The technical challenges would have added £200m to the project cost and the damage to the valued landscape and village communities would have been unacceptable.

Other routes for the strategic north/south link, including rail freight, will continue to be explored by DfT who are funding the studies. The A350 remains an important route for local traffic and will continue to be a priority for Dorset Council.

RIDE AND STRIDE

One of the joys of each of our lovely Dorset villages is the parish church, often a beacon of history and faith for nearly a thousand years. The Dorset Historic Churches Trust (DHCT) is one charity that focuses on maintaining this legacy for future generations, and indeed has given a large grant towards the current refurbishment of St Mary's Church in our village. In many ways our church is typical – it dates back to the eleventh century and has some outstanding features including the C18 carillon that plays one verse of a hymn twice a day, the superb carved screen behind the altar and Christopher Whall's Arts-and-Crafts masterpiece stained glass window.

The annual Ride and Stride event took place on 10th



September to raise funds for DHCT and virtually all churches in the county were open. Our five intrepid walkers set off from Ashmore to stride to all five churches in the 'benefice', the grouping that comprises Ashmore, Fontmell, Sutton Waldron, Iwerne Minster and Shroton. We paused for a super lunch in Iwerne and were brought back from Shroton in triumph in the steam car! And we had one 'rider' cycling around other churches in the area too.

Volunteers here at St Mary's greeted riders and striders from other parishes with a warm welcome and refreshments.

We were blessed with glorious weather, just after ten days of heavy showery rain! I'm glad to report no mishaps en route and the rather surreal experience of passing a group of ten Gurkha trainees on a 30km cross-country run near Washers Pit. Ripe blackberries lined our route!

I'll report next month how much was raised for the charity, but it's not too late to make a donation for this excellent cause – if you'd like to, please contact me, Mike Deeming on (01747) 812264.

The Writer's Block

CLAYESMORE
IWERNE MINSTER, DT11 8LL
(A350 BETWEEN LANDFORD AND SHAFTESBURY)

OPENING TO THE PUBLIC 3 OCTOBER

We are very excited to welcome you to our new cafe, opening on the Clayesmore campus. From 3 October, you are welcome to visit us.

We will be serving the finest coffee sourced from local grinders in Sherborne, delicious pastries, paninis and cakes.

A hub for the community

Finding us - Take the main drive on the A350, and use the 1st car park on the left. Follow the path around to 'The Writer's Block'!

follow us
FOR MENU SPECIALS AND OPENING TIMES
@THE_WRITERS_BLOCK_CAFE

IWERNE MINSTER BIDS A FOND FAREWELL TO SEVERAL RESIDENTS

HENRY CARD

Henry was born in Sturminster Newton. He moved to Iwerne Minster 46 years ago when he married Jenny.

In this village he will be remembered by most people for the amazing Christmas light displays he erected each year in his garden. These displays raised several thousand pounds for the Air Ambulance Service.

In his younger days Henry was a member of the very successful Manston tug of war team. They won numerous local contests and even took on the British Strongman Team and won in a best of three contest.

He helped to run a scout group and for many years used his carpentry skills to build their carnival floats which were taken around the district to compete in the carnival season.

He worked for Dorset County Council for over 40 years. He began as a road foreman and worked his way up to contracts manager - Iwerne's roads were gritted early in those days.

When he retired he was never going to be someone who could sit and do nothing so he found himself a job with Simon Harvell, the butcher, and became the 'Saturday Boy', doing deliveries, making burgers, cooking spit roasts and various other jobs.

Henry was a great family man who loved to get all the family together so that he could light up the barbeque.

Dianne Benfield

ALISTAIR GRAHAM – A PERSONAL APPRECIATION

We first met Alistair shortly after Monique took over the editorship of this newsletter. He came round to our house, very enthusiastic, with an article about the Ismays and the Titanic, which she published. A couple more pieces followed, all to do with the village.

Alistair was educated at Clayesmore School, then went into the army. Subsequently, he ran a business selling, among other things, small electric motors, the sort that one puts into model boats or cars. A couple of years ago he told me,

very excitedly, that he'd just sold several of these small motors, ten I think, over the internet. That surprised me because he eschewed much modern technology like credit cards, bank cards and mobile phones!

He was in every way a larger than life character and a fund of stories. Anyone passing him as he sat on the bench in the sun outside his house would be regaled with a tale or two. One of our favourites was when, during the pandemic, his sister had sent him soup through the post and unfortunately it didn't make the trip. The postman, according to Alistair, was not well amused at the soggy mess he was left with...

He was quite isolated, and with COVID this became more so. His health noticeably declined. Personally, I shall rather miss him: I value the eccentric, even the curmudgeon, those whom you must take as you find them, not as you might like them to be!

John Goodliffe

MICHAEL JONES



Michael first became acquainted with Iwerne Minster in 1973 when he accepted the post of Design and Technology teacher at Clayesmore School, having previously taught in Maldon and Wilton. He later had the opportunity to become a Housemaster at Clayesmore and moved into Manor House with his wife, Linda, and his two sons, Nathan and Matthew. After six years, Michael gave up that part of his post and moved (*continued p5*)

in 1987 to The Paddocks in Iwerne, where he and Linda have lived for last 35 years.

After retiring from teaching, almost 30 years of which was at Clayesmore, Michael became very interested in parish affairs and served on the Parish Council for over 15 years. He devoted much time to this, finding Dorset Association of Parish and Town Council and local AONB meetings particularly interesting and informative. He also enjoyed being a member of the Speedwatch Team for several years.

Michael greatly cherished family life, particularly the joy of grandchildren. He had a wide range of interests including history, politics, music and reading. Michael and Linda had nine years in retirement together and were able to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary with family and friends in August, a very special memory.

Linda Jones

S.W.I.M. W.I. AUGUST OUTING TO BERE MARSH FARM



Nineteen members and two guests met at Bere Marsh Farm. The farm is located next to The North Dorset Trailway with a view of Hambledon Hill. We were greeted by Andy Fale, a representative of The Countryside Regeneration Trust which added Bere Marsh Farm to their family of properties in 2020. It is described in their pamphlet as “an iconic farm with a history of hope and conservation, where you’ll find the rare combination of river meadow, grassland, woodland, and an orchard - all within the boundaries of the farm”.

We started by visiting the barn and examining a selection of moths that Andy had

caught in a moth trap the night before. He had found 26 species out of a possible 2,500 which inhabit the UK. There was also a very wide selection of nesting and wildlife boxes made on site and available to purchase. We started our walk alongside a mixed orchard which had been recently planted and also saw some top bar beehives, very different from the traditional beehives we are all used to. We continued along the old railway line which is being regenerated to create a haven for wildlife. A variety of bird boxes and unusual bat boxes were pointed out to us. Andy explained how Angela Hughes, whose farm it had originally been, had been an inspirational ornithologist and naturalist who pioneered the mutual inclusiveness of farming and wildlife. Volunteers are breathing new life into the area through the Angela Hughes Nature Reserve.

On the way back we passed the Ham Down Woodland Burial Ground where a tree is planted in memory of those laid to rest within its bounds, a recently renovated Victorian barn housing a breeding pair of barn owls, and the Drove Pond which was dry due to unusual drought conditions.

All in all, a very pleasant way to pass a sunny afternoon. To members perhaps unaware of such a lovely place to visit right on our doorstep, it introduced the possibility of further walks and cycle rides.

Briony Long

S.W.I.M. W.I. SEPTEMBER

The meeting was held in Sutton Waldron Village Hall. Twenty three ladies signed in and two new members signed up to join S.W.I.M. WI.

Our entertaining speaker was Field Guide, Willy Perez. He gave us a wonderful talk about Ecuador and its bio diversity. We learned a lot about the country, the people and the beautiful plants, amazing creatures and birds that live there. We will not forget the Pinocchio Lizard or the incredible little bird called the Red Cap Manakin which can moonwalk!

Our next meeting will be held at 2.30pm on Wednesday 19th October in Iwerne Minster at the Abingdon Hall. We will be visited by the Molly Dancers. As always, members and their guests are most welcome.

Minnie McCann

THE VIEW FROM ST MARY'S

The last newsletter was full of the celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and I suggested that we were looking forward to a relatively quiet time over the summer. We could not have foreseen the sudden death of Her Majesty, which took the whole nation by surprise.



A Book of Condolence was opened in the Abingdon Hall. At St Mary's we quickly set up a tribute on the altar in the Wolverton Chapel with portraits of Her Majesty, an appropriate prayer and a copy of the Queen's remarkable promise when she committed herself to a life of service to the nation and asking for prayer. Thanks to Linda Jones for arranging this so quickly.

Our vicar, Rev David John, also led a Service of Remembrance in Clayesmore Chapel (due to the works taking place at St Mary's). Andrew West, Clayesmore's chaplain, also participated in the service and we thank him and James Grimwood, who played the organ beautifully for us. We are most grateful to Mrs Jo Thomson, Head of Clayesmore, for allowing us to use the school's beautiful chapel for a service which was both moving and joyful.

And now the life of the church goes on. Home Groups have re-started and, following on from the successful "Life Explored" course, we are running "Discipleship Explored", an eight week journey through St Paul's letter to the Philippians. This course is ideal for those at any stage in their Christian life. The course starts on September 27th, 4pm - 5.30 at Shroton Church. All are welcome. Please speak to Jenny Parkhouse (812603) for more information.

David Parkhouse

As I write this, Sunday 25th September is in the future, but no doubt as you read it, it is a few weeks ago. It is an important day, as it will be the first service to be held in the newly refurbished nave since the refurbishment started in May 2021.

What a long way we have come since then! Whilst there is still a small area of floor which is not completed, because of a shortfall of stone, the main seating area, the font, pulpit and lectern and, vitally, the organ, are complete and available for our use. We are all looking forward to more fully using the church again

Our first service will be a Holy Communion, combined with a Baptism service which will be a very pleasant family occasion. Now we can set up the seating to emphasise the family nature of the service, with plenty of space for everyone. When the font was tucked behind the door, there was not enough space for the family, and the congregation were unable to see the ceremony. Now, with the font re-positioned against the north wall, we can organise the service around the ceremony. Similarly we have reduced the height of the pulpit, so that the congregation are more on a level with the preacher. We have adjusted the height and the reading angle of the lectern, and hope that the readers can see the congregation to whom they are reading. These changes all sound rather trivial but are combined with the most important change, the installation of new and reliable heating.

Sunday's Service will be a chance to try it all out. After Sunday, our contractor will take the nave over again for a few weeks to finish off the floor and rectify snags, before we fully take the nave over, and work moves to the chancel.

The funds which we started with, as a result of the two generous legacies from Michael Bryant and Sheelagh Duly, have paid for the work so far. Five or six elements not yet funded, the most important is seating. We have about 50 chairs, but plan to purchase about 50 more. We hope that villagers will wish to sponsor chairs in memory of their loved ones. Please contact me if you would like details. Thank you.

Richard Hood (Churchwarden)
randjhood@btinternet.com 01747 812772

INTERVIEW WITH JANE SOMPER

Jane Somper is our Dorset Unitary Councillor. She was first interviewed for the newsletter in 2019 but agreed to talk again about her new roles and the developments seen since the formation of the new Dorset Council, bringing all the previous districts and County Council in to one council.

Jane has been a councillor since 2011 when she was elected District Councillor of the Abbey Ward. When all the boundaries changed in 2019, she became Councillor for the Beacon Ward, a large rural area which covers the Iwerne Valley and beyond. There are 82 councillors in the Dorset Council and ten cabinet members. Jane is now what is called a Lead Member and in that role supports a cabinet member. She was Lead member for Children's Services, focusing on the ways in which the county supports children in need. Now she has switched to being Lead Member for Adult Services which encompasses an even broader remit including social services, social care and mental health provision. In Dorset everything is made more complex by the geographical spread. Being a rural area, everything is further apart which makes it more costly to deliver services especially in terms of care and support in people's homes.

Jane says that she is first and foremost a councillor whose priority is her ward work. Just answering emails from her constituents can take her many hours each week. She finds satisfaction in finding solutions for people's issues and concerns even though things cannot always be resolved. She is keen to meet people in her ward especially those who need support. She tries to attend all Parish Council meetings which take place in her ward and the reports she delivers are informative and make for thoughtful reading – they can be accessed at <http://www.iwerneminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk/>. These meetings keep her in touch with what's happening locally – there are no surgeries at this level.

Jane was full of praise for the work done by Iwerne Minster Parish Council especially with regards to planning issues. She feels that the IMPC is run by dedicated councillors who put the interests of the villagers at the centre of their work. The relationship between Jane and the IMPC also helps to make for a good partnership. **MG**

IWERNE VALLEY WALKING GROUP



Our walk on Saturday 17th September began at the Talbot in Iwerne Minster. It was a beautiful morning and, having ordered our lunches, 12 of us set off. From the car park we skirted the cricket pitch and climbed up Preston Hill. At the top of the grass track we were afforded stunning views of the village and Saint Mary's Church.

We continued our upward climb and, as it levelled out, we took a left-hand gate through a small stretch of woods to the main gravelled track which we followed past the small air strip until we reached the gate; this allowed us to make the descent down the steep grassy field.

Crossing the A350 we entered Shroton where Clare led us along a path crossing a small bridge through a beautiful newly built arbour adjacent to the children's playground. We took a short cut past the village hall to find ourselves at the base of Hambledon Hill. At this point four walkers went back along the river to Iwerne. The rest of us went up Hambledon Hill. Apart from a small group of children running down the hill with a teacher, we had the whole of the hill to ourselves. As we reached the top the tranquillity was breathtaking, and we could see for miles. Who could have believed that only a few short weeks before hundreds of us had stood on the same spot and watched all the surrounding beacons being lit for the Queen's 70th Jubilee? Our descent was considerably quicker but very pleasant enjoying the vista as we passed through fields and Oyles Mill.

We arrived back at the Talbot to enjoy a very pleasant lunch outside in the sunshine. Dennis, Helen, Pauline and the two Janes who joined us at this point for lunch were delighted with the opportunity to catch up with everyone

Pam Payne

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



We are very fortunate that in Iwerne Minster there is currently very little crime. However, Susan Trim and Kerry O'Connor have set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Iwerne Minster to deter crime from happening. A Neighbourhood Watch Survey has shown that areas with Neighbourhood Watch Schemes have 11% less crime. Recent crimes in nearby villages have been reported through our local online community forum. We would like to have a system in place to circulate quick, relevant and important Neighbourhood Watch news.

If you would like to join our community scheme please sign up to Dorset Alerts through the website <https://www.dorsetalert.co.uk/> and opt in to Neighbourhood Watch along with any other official bodies you wish to receive alerts from. You will then be taken to a

page to 'Update your Profile' where you should select 'join/set up a scheme' where you can apply to join our Iwerne Minster scheme, we will then contact you to welcome you to the Scheme and provide you with a Neighbourhood Watch Door Sticker.

If you have any issues joining the village scheme please contact Susan Trim on telephone number: 01747 810334 or email address: iwerneminsterneighbourhoodwatch@outlook.com.

IWERNE MINSTER NEWS

Published every two months on the first of the month.

Next issue: December 1st, 2022

Contribution deadline: November 20th, 2022

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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