

IWERNE MINSTER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2023

IWERNE MINSTER'S SUMMER SHOW AUGUST 2023



Dianne Benfield's Best in Show begonia

The Summer Show was a great success – it was a thoroughly enjoyable day and a profit of £1632.90 was made. I would like to thank everyone who helped to set it up, the many sponsors and those who donated to the raffle, tombola and cake stalls, anyone who helped on the day in so many ways and finally everyone who took everything down and put it away ready for next year! I look forward to being able to report on our donations to our supported charities in a month or two.

There was an increase in show entries which created a wonderful display in the main marquees and it was good to see more children's work this year too. The W.I. did a splendid job providing refreshments and many compliments were paid.

As in previous years, the Steam Car was a resounding success with people queueing for their ride – many thanks to its owner for providing this attraction. Vintage cars and a selection of motor scooters offered more interest and, alongside the musical entertainment provided by the Sara Jones band, there was so much to enjoy.

Thanks to everyone and see you next year!

Sue Le Prevost – Chairman of IMPHA

VILLAGE EMERGENCY PLAN

An Emergency Plan Steering Group has been formed in Iwerne Minster.

What is an Emergency Plan?

- Initial 'first aid' response before outside assistance arrives
- Audit of hazards, resources, and skills in the local community
- Plan of who is going to do what in an emergency

Benefits to the Community

- Better preparedness in the face of an emergency
- Local knowledge collated and secured
- Strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities considered
- Sense of community and neighbourliness
- Peer support and learning

Thank you to all those who have completed their Iwerne Minster Emergency Plan questionnaires. It is reassuring to see that there are many skills in the village and that people would be so willing to donate their time, equipment and homes in the event of an emergency. If you have not yet completed your questionnaire, we would be grateful if you could do so as soon as possible and at the latest by October 2nd to enable us to move forward with the next stage of planning.

If you do not have a questionnaire please contact: Paul Le Prevost Telephone Number: 01747 812173

Email: paul.leprevost@btinternet.com

Susan Trim Telephone Number: 07811 314694

Email:

iwerneminsteremergencyplan@outlook.com

They will arrange for you to have a copy. Alternatively, you can download from the Iwerne Minster Parish Council Website:

http://www.iwerneminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk/Emergency_Planning_45584.aspx

Once the draft Emergency Plan is sent out, we will hold an open meeting to update the village and allow everyone the opportunity to ask questions.

Susan Trim

**THE 2024 IWERNE MINSTER
VILLAGE CLUB PANTO IS**

Aladdin Dorset

We are looking for actors, singers,
scenery designers and painters,
scene-shifters,
make-up and wardrobe slaves and
people to help out with front of house
(selling drinks and raffle tickets and
manning the door).

If you are interested in helping with
any of the above,
please email:

ADRIAN DELSO

adrian.delso@icloud.com

adrian.delso@sky.com

or message him on 07393 292855

We look forward to hearing from you!

COFFEE MORNING THIS WAY

There will be a Macmillan Coffee Morning to be held in Abingdon Hall on Saturday 7th October 10.30 – 12.00 noon. Please do come and support this wonderful nursing charity and enjoy coffee and cakes with friends. Raffle contributions would be very welcome during the week beginning 2nd October (please leave any donations at The Hollow). Thank you in anticipation.

Sue Le Prevost

IWERNE MINSTER FREE POP UP BIKE TAGGING EVENT ON OCTOBER 21ST



Did you know that an astonishing 77,148 bicycles were stolen in the UK last year according to the Office for National Statistics? Do you have a bike that you wish to make secure?

Come and find out how you can register your bike on a secure, national database. This is a highly effective, visible deterrent to bike thieves as a bike carrying a database label or stamp can be identified by the police and the rightful owner traced.

This pop up event will take place on Saturday, October 21st from 10am to 12 noon on The Chalk or in the Abingdon Hall if it's wet. You do not need to bring your bike with you; you will be given a pack with instructions to take away and complete at home.

Dorset Councillor Jane Somper will also be on hand to advise on a range of services provided by Dorset Council or to discuss any concerns or questions you may have.

Susan Trim and Kerry O'Connor

(Opposite are two of the children's entries in the Summer Show: dinosaurs made from vegetables. Truly roarsome!)



IWERNE MINSTER CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Dare I write this in September? As the present newsletter is for October and November, I would like to give early notice of the Christmas Bazaar in aid of Alabare (a charity for the homeless in Salisbury). It will be held in Abingdon Hall on Saturday 2nd December 10.00 -12.00noon. Please do make a note of this date and I would love to hear from anyone who would like a stall for the morning.

Sue Le Prevost

01747 812173 or email:

sue.leprevost@btinternet.com

IWERNE MINSTER 100 CLUB

July draw

£15 Jim Westwood (69)

£12 Paul le Prevost (52)

£10 Dennis Webb (11)

£5 Val Baker (13)

August draw

£15 Mark Benfield (99)

£12 Helen Peat (14)

£10 Andrew Jenkins (18)

£5 Julia Cox (51)

WELCOME PACK

Whenever anyone new moves into Iwerne Minster, we try to ensure that they are made welcome and Jenny Parkhouse delivers a "Welcome Pack" which contains a village directory, some village history and other useful information about clubs and events. Sometimes, especially with so many dwellings changing hands in recent years, it is difficult to keep track of who has moved in. So, if you have new neighbours or know of someone moving in to the village, please let Jenny Parkhouse know so she can deliver her "Welcome Pack". Jenny has been delivering packs for many years but often has to rely on people advising her of new arrivals. Jenny.parkhouse@gmail.com / 01747812603. PS Also if anyone has moved in recently and would like a pack, please let Jenny know.

FUN AND GAMES AT THE VILLAGE CLUB FOR EVERYONE!



The first board games afternoon, held in September, was very successful with everyone saying how much they enjoyed themselves. We had a large selection of games that could be used complete with simple instructions if necessary. It soon became apparent that the better approach was to include a person who had experience of the game to guide other players in order to let the game flow.

This came home to me when I heard about the very kind donation of an expensive game of Mahjong to the group. The kind person bought it back from America as they loved to play Mahjong, but found they could not find anyone in Iwerne Minster to play with, so donated it for the village show. May I ask this person to consider joining the group an order to show others, especially myself, how to play the game? They will thus rediscover the fun of playing Mahjong!

The most popular game was UNO which is played with special cards and three or more players. It is simple, strategic, and a certain amount of luck is required.

It was very evident that a lot of fun was had by all even though unfortunately I had several people inform me that they were not able to come due to the excessive heat that day, which was a shame as who expects that amount of heat in September.

The games afternoon is aimed as a winter event to be held once a month on the 2nd Thursday of each month in the Village Club from 2.00 to 4.30pm. The October event is on Thursday 12th with the November being held on Thursday 9th.

Please feel free to come along and support the Village Club, and bring your own games if you wish to show others how to play. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available.

Barry Hoare

VILLAGE CLUB UPDATE

There was a very rare occurrence at the Village Club on September 13th – the committee met without Penny Marsh in the chair. Penny suffered a broken hip following a fall at home. We are pleased to report that she is now on the mend and all club members send her their very best wishes for a speedy and full recovery.

In August we held a coffee and cake morning which was very well attended. At the event, Barry Hoare announced his initiative to hold games sessions where members can enjoy a wide variety of tabletop games along with a chat and a cuppa. Following a successful launch, despite it being the hottest day of the year, going forward the games afternoons will be hosted on the second Thursday of each month at 2.00pm until about 4.30pm.

In September, about 30 members were put to the test by a quiz, devised by Rod Major and Monique Goodliffe. Many brains hurt the following day.....

Coming up, on October 5th at 7.30pm there will be a talk entitled 'Travels in Ecuador' when Steve and Marion Harrison will describe their experiences in the Amazon rainforest and the Galapagos Islands. Just for a change, there will be a raffle....

On November 2nd, it is the Annual General Meeting where the programme for 2024 will be announced, and members are invited to enjoy a glass of wine and contribute to a 'Dutch supper'. This evening will be a golden opportunity for members, old and new, to pay their £5 annual membership fee. Anyone who can't make the AGM can join at any time through Rod Major, Mervyn Marsh, Barry Hoare or Steve Harrison.

Steve Harrison



W.I. SERVING TEAS IN THE VILLAGE CLUB AT THE SUMMER SHOW

HARRY BRAZIER

March 22nd, 1941 – August 12th, 2023



Lieutenant Commander Harry Brazier was a submariner, naval attaché in Moscow, and later a magistrate in Hong Kong. He had a sharp intellect, which included learning Russian and studying law.

He and his wife, Maggie, moved to Iwerne in the autumn of 2007. They immediately began participating in village life; a jeroboam of champagne was donated to the Christmas bazaar that year, and was won by more recent newcomers/neighbours, resulting in a firm friendship. He and Maggie later moved to Home Farm, where more friendships were made.

The couple were highly generous with their hospitality, and their sense of fun and ready laughter ensured a wider circle of new friends. Harry loved cooking, particularly Italian food, at which he excelled. He contributed to the Summer Show (for example with his homemade limoncello and cake), was a member of IMPHA, and attended harvest lunches.

He was particularly jovial at the annual pantomime, where one year his uproarious laughter on the first night led to his being invited to subsequent performances to encourage audience participation. His bonhomie encompassed many visits to local hostelrys, and his skills included playing for the local croquet team.

A very special person who will be much missed in the village.

Alwin Greder

THE VIEW FROM ST MARY'S

You can always tell when autumn is approaching simply by looking at the village noticeboards. Suddenly they are full of upcoming events and activities.

St Mary's is no exception. We have enjoyed worshipping in that lovely space with the sun streaming through the stained glass windows, and work on the refurbishment has continued. Our video projector is now installed and operative, thanks largely to the efforts of Peter Wintle.

No event is complete without cake and the IMPHA summer show is no exception. Sally Bryant ran a very successful cake stall which raised around £170 for the church. Thanks to Sally and all those who baked!

By the time this is published, we will have celebrated Harvest Festival. Donations of produce and money are passed to Alabare, the charity that supports the homeless.

The annual Harvest Lunch takes place on 15th October in the beautiful Tithe Barn, courtesy of Christine and Tim Ingram. Last year was a sell out. Watch the notice boards for details. Any surplus from the event goes to Alabare.

Ride and Stride was postponed until 1st October due to the extreme heat. Donations and sponsorship from this event are split between Dorset Historic Churches Trust and St Mary's.

Looking a little further ahead, Rev. David John will be celebrating the Festival of All Souls at St Mary's on Thursday November 2nd at 6pm. This service, always well attended, is an opportunity to remember loved ones. Contact David John for details.

Another of the popular courses run by Carolyn and Chris Jervis and Jenny Parkhouse starts on Tuesday 26th September at 4 pm at St Mary's Shroton. The subject will be St Paul's letter to the Romans and will feature video presentations by Andrew Ollerton from the Bible Society who is an excellent communicator. A number of people from Iwerne attend the course so a lift can be arranged if necessary. And don't worry if you missed the first one – there are ten sessions in all. Contact Carolyn (carolynmj@yahoo.co.uk) or Jenny (jenny.parkhouse@gmail.com) for details.

A brand new innovation aims to unite the churches and villages in the Benefice in prayer – the foundation of the Christian faith. On the first Sunday of each month at 4.30 pm informal gatherings will be held at each of the five churches in turn. There will be opportunities to offer prayers of thanks, to enjoy a time of quiet, and to share thoughts and concerns with others. Folk from all five villages are welcome, regardless of which church is hosting the meeting. It will be totally unthreatening – people can feel free simply to sit and listen should they so wish.

One of the features of these meetings will be to pray for every street in each village in the Benefice and for those who live in them. The meetings are scheduled for Ashmore (1st October), Iwerne (5th November), Shroton (3rd December) and Fontmell (7th January). The first meeting at Sutton has already taken place and was well attended. All are welcome – please contact Jenny Parkhouse or Linda Jones for more details.

David Parkhouse

NEWS ABOUT OASIS PLANT CENTRE

As some of you will already know, John Harbour at the Oasis Plant Centre in Child Okeford is taking a well-earned break from the day to day running of the plant centre. This is now in the care of Andrew Davies of Hambledon Plants (from Shroton) who has taken over the perennials and sales of compost and the like. We wish him every success. Opening times will remain the same as previously i.e. closed on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday and the whole of January. You will be relieved that prices will also remain the same!

John will return in December for the sale of Christmas trees and again in the spring for bedding plants and hanging baskets from April to the end of June as usual.

We would like to thank all of our customers for their continuing and future support.

Val and John Harbour

ON "BEING CONNECTED": IWERNE MINSTER and THE GREAT RIDGEWAY

So much talk about "being connected"! Well, it's nothing new. Back in the late Palaeolithic age it seems possible that Iwerne Minster, if a settlement was even here, was connected with the rest of what we now call England and this, in turn, was linked to Europe by Doggerland. By Neolithic times IM definitely was connected to the rest of England.

IM is close to an ancient track known as the Great Ridgeway. The Great Ridgeway extended some 360 miles from Lyme Regis to Hunstanton in Norfolk, and there is evidence of its use for over 8,000 years. It ran, it runs(!), about one mile east of IM along the route of the C13, the Higher Shaftesbury Road. If we pick up the Ridgeway as it comes south through the Donheads, Ludwell and up to Win Green, we can trace its probable route. On the sketch map this is shown as an orange dash.

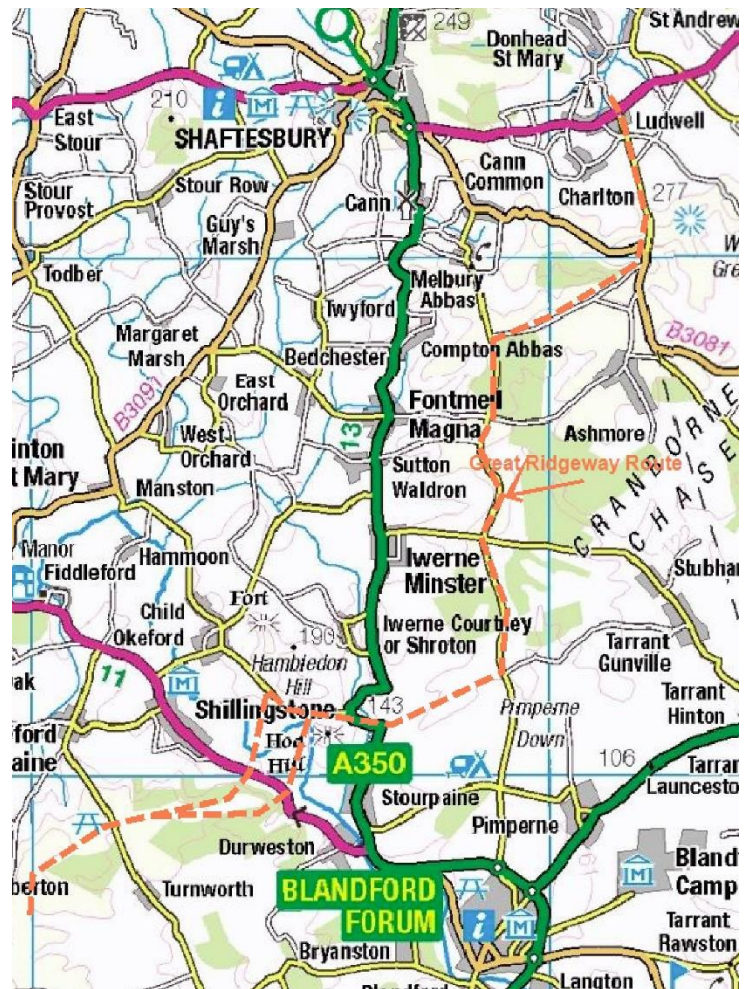
Skirting Win Green, it ran southwest beside what became the Compton Abbas airstrip. At the C13 it turns south for about 4 miles to what is now called Smugglers Lane. Down Smugglers Lane, it drops into the Iwerne valley to Iwerne Stepleton, then west towards Hanford through the steep sided valley between Hod Hill and the southern end of Hambledon Hill. Where it went next is debateable.

The route may have stayed close to Hod Hill, crossing the Stour at the sharp bend in the river near the road. Then along Hod Lane to Gain's Cross and over what is now the A357, before starting up Shillingstone Hill. This is the route favoured by Prof R Good and HW Timperley as described by Geoffrey Wright in "Roads and Trackways of Wessex". Alternatively, and this seems more likely to me based on place names, a traveller may have forded the River Stour a little to the west of Hanford (now by footbridge), then gone along the road known as Holloway Lane and then over the A357. However, rivers meander and crossing places move. It may well be that, at different times, both routes were used. Once up Shillingstone Hill things are clearer. The Way goes southwest past the Iron Age settlement at Ringmoor and onwards to Bulbarrow Hill, the Dorset Gap and Lyme.

What clues to the Way's existence are there? Place names are one. 'Hanford' is what it says it is: the ford by the stone. In historical times a large stone is recorded as being here, almost certainly marking the fording place. 'Holloway' Lane, just across the river, is another clue. The world derives from the Saxon for 'sunken road'. There are many ancient 'Holloways' and 'Greenways' along the Way.

Another clue is the existence of many significant sites along, *though not actually on*, the route. The Way does not go to Win Green or to Hod Hill or to Hambledon Hill. Nor to Ringmore. It passes close by them. Along its whole length from Lyme to Hunstanton it brushes by Neolithic camps, hillforts, circles, tumuli and so forth but *it does not actually enter them*. A traveller would need to depart from the Way to visit them. Why this is one can only speculate.

And what of Iwerne Minster? It is connected to the Great Ridgeway by the Green Lane or Drove Road that runs up Iwerne Hill from Tower Hill opposite Dunn's Lane. This Green Lane is acknowledged to have existed from at least Saxon times (Dorset Heritage HER Number: MDO4080).



And before the Saxons? Well, now I'll indulge in a bit of speculation! For the Celts, water was sacred. A place where water issued from the ground, therefore from the underworld, would have great significance. And in IM we have many, many springs, the sources of the Iwerne River. Towards the end of the Bronze Age, about 4500 years before present (BP), what we know as the Celtic culture spread rapidly across Britain with the arrival of the Beaker People. It is possible that IM started as a sacred site at about this time, visited by travellers journeying on the Great Ridgeway. In Saxon times, 1500 years BP, IM became an important Christian enclave, ministering to a large area that stretched from (Sixpenny) Handley in the east to Hinton St Mary in the West. The Christians, like the Romans before them, tended to use (or 'repurpose' in the modern cant) existing religious sites. But IM's early life is difficult to determine. Apart from a Roman coin found in 1976 along Watery Lane, no artifacts have been recorded from within the village (but then no proper archaeological survey has been done here). However, there is evidence of activity all around the parish. The site of the modest Romano-British barn-style villa, excavated by Pitt Rivers in 1897, yielded plentiful evidence of Iron Age usage, including possible earlier use, Late Neolithic, in the form of worked flints and flint waste (RCHM Dorset Vol IV North). Settlement and funerary remains on Hambledon Hill date back to the Mesolithic (RCHM Dorset Vol III pt. I, Central). Folly Barrow, up on Bareden Down, is a late Neolithic or Bronze age bowl barrow.

John Goodliffe

WALKERS RESCUE SHEEP

The September walk of the Iwerne Valley Walking Group started from the Trailway car park just north of Shillingstone and covered about five miles of level walking with beautiful views of the countryside



including the imposing Hambledon Hill. En route we saw some deer in the fields and came across a distressed lone sheep which had its head stuck in a wire fence. Three of the walkers extricated its head by folding back its ears and pulling it out! They then went on to alert the farmer to recover his missing stock. The route took us through Hammoon where we called in to admire the Grade 1 listed St Paul's Church.

Having returned to the railway carpark, the group moved on to The Plough at Manston for lunch. The pub has been recently been refitted and the group were very impressed with the friendly staff and the menu on offer.

Anne Andrews

IWERNE MINSTER'S COMMUNITY GARDEN & CHILDREN'S PLAY PARK UPDATE

Please come to a drop in session at the Village Club on Saturday 25th November 10.30am -12 noon where you can see preliminary ideas on both projects and be able to discuss your ideas and thoughts on each project.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Any questions please email Kerry: cllrkoconnor@iwerneminsterparishcouncil.gov.uk

RUNNING 185 MILES FOR CHARITY IN THE OUTER HEBRIDES



I'm Siobhan and this year I am running 185 miles across the Hebrides in six days starting in late September. The charity I am running for and hoping to raise funds for is Badco

(Brave and Determined). I first met the charity organisers at another charity event and was very impressed by what they are aiming to achieve (more about them below). I love to run and I love a challenge. I'm 64 years young, still working part time as a nurse and when I'm not working I'm running. I have paid for all costs for the run so every penny donated will go to the charity.

The challenge comprises 185 miles of the entire Hebridean Way. The Hebridean Way is in the Outer Hebrides, off the north-west coast of Scotland. It covers ten islands (Vatersay, Barra, Eriskay, South Uist, Benbecula, Grimsay, North Uist, Berneray, Harris and Lewis) and runs from Vatersay in the south to Stornoway on Lewis in the north. First I'll run 150 miles in five days, then on the sixth day, 35 miles to reach the Butt of Lewis – and to the lighthouse at the northern tip of the isles. Some of the

terrain is very challenging, and the weather in the Outer Hebrides is famously changeable – very often all four seasons occur in one day with wind speeds up to 50 miles an hour! The total elevation is about 4497m (about 14,750 feet)!

The Brave and Determined Charity (BadCo) funds access to early intervention life-saving counselling for any one in England who is experiencing mental health challenges. £300 will pay for six sessions of counselling. Their mission is to provide free support to anyone who needs it; to reduce the burden and waiting lists for NHS mental health services and to raise awareness of mental health and where people can access support and advice. Badco was started by Adam Harvey and Adam Collins (known as Adam and Adam or, Adam and the other Adam!), both of whom have experienced their own mental health challenges. They have both had the benefits of therapy, exercise and community and believe these should be accessible to all. For more information on The Brave and Determined you'll find them on Instagram @thebraveanddetermined or their website:

<https://www.badco.uk/>

Link to my Just Giving Page

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/siobhan-mcfeely...>

IWERNE MINSTER NEWSLETTER

Published every two months on the first of the month.

Next issue: December 1st, 2023

Contribution deadline: November 20th, 2023

Editor: Monique Goodliffe

monique@hairy-barbarian.com