



# IWERNE MINSTER NEWS

May 2010

Issue No. 9

## Up and Coming Events

- Monday 24 May - IMPHA Container Gardening @ Abingdon Hall
- Sunday 30 May - Open Gardens @ Iwerne Minster.
- Monday 31 May - Sherborne Castle Country Fair
- Wednesday 9 June - 'Friendly' Coffee Morning at Abingdon Hall
- Thursday 17 June - Cheese & Wine Tasting Quiz @ Village Club
- Friday 18 June - Thank You Evening @ Child Okeford Village Hall
- Thursday 20 June - Charity Walk for Salisbury District Hospital Stars Appeal @ Wilton House
- Wednesday 23 June - Summer Afternoon Strawberry Tea @ the Dower House, Fontmell Parva
- Monday 28 June - IMPHA Hurdle Making @ the Village Club
- Saturday 29 July to Friday 4 August - The Life of Christ near Guildford

See village notice boards for further details.

## Parish Council Web Site

The Parish Council Web Site can be found on - [www.iwerneminster.info](http://www.iwerneminster.info)

## Village Club

On 22nd April the Village Club held an enthralling meeting about the Mary Rose where we were kept riveted by the guest speaker, Bill Moore. Bill was even dressed in Tudor clothing as he talked about the ship and the tons of finds that were brought to the surface by his team of divers. A wonderful experience of archaeology without actually being there.

Unfortunately, I could not be at the Summer Garden Party on 20 May but by all accounts it was another success. The weather was kind for a change and a good time was had by one and all.

Get your diaries out for the next event, which is a Cheese and Wine Tasting/Quiz and is being held at the Village Club on Thursday 17th June. We have a few surprises for you, so come and participate.

The Village Fete is on Saturday 17th July - Wanted - Stall holders. Anyone who would like to have a stall is very welcome. Selling for Charity - free. Selling for yourself - £5 a pitch.

## Editorial

I hear that my name is mud for being late for another issue but I can only say that the garden is calling, as well as a wife to whom you just don't say no. I hope that this issue meets with your approval and, for those many teachers amongst us, that my spell check is a little better than my March/April affair. I know that my English teacher would have shuddered if I had dared to produce such work in her day.

Paul Le Prevost  
Editor (812713)

## IMPHA

It seems so long ago now but on 26th April IMPHA hosted a meeting about Foxgloves and Euphorbias. The speaker, Lyn Miles, was very proud to describe her garden as being "a wilderness paradise much loved by wildlife but not excluding weeds". Everyone that attended was struck by her enthusiasm and energy.

This year's Plant Sale was held on Saturday 15th May, again with thanks to Bob and Edna Slade, who lent us their garden. Proceeds will go towards the Annual Summer Show on Saturday 21st August. I hope you are already planning what exhibits you will show - anything to keep Ron Benfield in his poly-tunnel!

The next two evening meetings will be full of the usual fun and banter. On 24th May there is the Sherborne Gardens Gold Club talk on Container Gardening and on 28th June, John Heard is giving a display of hurdle making at the Village Club. Come and enjoy.

## Open Gardens

Sunday 30th May  
between 9am and 4pm

As we enter another Chelsea Week, which bodes to be a beautiful period, lets hope that the weather holds for our own Open gardens. All profits are going to St Mary's Church for long awaited repairs. If our own garden preparation is anything to go by those who are showing their gardens are already feeling the pain and expense that such an event creates. Come and see what is being created in our idyllic little village, you will be pleasantly surprised. For just £5 you get a map of the gardens involved and the chance to partake of a wonderful plate of scones with your afternoon tea.

## Villagers' Corner

### Chef with class

A resounding, rather late welcome to Taher, the new Chef at the Talbot. Several villagers have tasted his food and find him very talented, reporting that his food is fantastic. Taher is returning to his Dorset roots by coming to Iwerne, having worked in London for quite a few years, some of those for Marco Pierre-White. If you like good food, I suggest a trip to the Talbot to sample something from the menu of this talented young man.

### Welcome

Even though it is for just a short stay, we welcome the Sturridge family to the Old Co-op whilst their home is being refurbished. We hope you enjoy a summer with the villagers of Iwerne Minster.

## Iwerne Minster Village Club

The Village Club has been in existence for nearly 90 years!

It began life in what is now The Oak House. This building was purpose built by the Lord of the Manor (who lived at present day Clayesmore School) for the use of his estate workers. It housed a Billiard room, Card rooms, Shooting Gallery and a Hall with stage, as well as an outdoor Bowling green.

When the estate was sold in 1930 the club moved and for many years was housed in a long room which now forms the upper floor of The Coach House apartments. It was reached by a metal staircase which is still part of the building. There Snooker, Billiards, Table Tennis, Darts and Cards were available and also activities for the younger

members of the Village.

When the Brewery decided that they wished to sell off the property, a new home had to be found for the Club and the present building, a redundant classroom from a local school, was purchased and erected on the Parish Field - not the Football field as some people think - the field is the property of the Parish Council and therefore of the Village.

The building still houses the same Snooker table which is in regular use, and also a Table Tennis table. From time to time efforts have been made to run a Youth Club here but, sadly have been short-lived.

Towards the end of the 1990's the decision was taken to "up-grade" our facilities. A nice little kitchen and two toilets, one with disabled facilities were installed. Recently (2010) we have redecorated both inside and out and therefore funds are needed to pay for this. To this end, the committee organise a number of fundraising events during the year. Anyone who would like to become a member of the club will be most welcome (£5 a year subscription) as will any suggestions as to future events/use of club. The Clubroom is available for hire thus providing further income.

**Mervyn Marsh ( Club Secretary )**

## News from St Mary's

### Open Gardens - Sunday 30th May 2010

I hope that by now everyone knows about the Open Garden Day. There are 17 beautiful gardens to view between 11am and 5pm. A Garden Entrance Map costs £5 (children under 15 yrs are free). Maps can be bought at the entrance to the Parish Field; also the open gardens will have a few. Refreshments for the whole day in the Village Club and Cream Teas in River Cottage garden in the Chalke; if the weather is dubious the teas will be in the Abingdon Hall. There will also be plants for sale at the Village Club and in some gardens.

There have been offers for help in parking, selling entrance maps, and catering. I had a splendid list of helpers which has somehow gone astray and although I have tried to recreate it the memory retrieval system has crashed!! If you have already offered help will you please phone me to confirm; if you have not yet offered maybe you could give it some thought?

All proceeds will go to Church Funds to help pay for repairs that will be starting soon. The Rector and all the PCC members thank everyone for their support.



### Church Repairs

A contract for various general repairs is being processed, and work should be starting some time in June. As well as resetting of tiles and some woodwork there will be a stone mason working on some of the window surrounds and some serious bird-proofing work in the belfry. There may be some scaffolding for a while. Use of the Church will not be affected (except for bell ringing).

**Sheelagh Duly**  
Church Warden (811463)

## Williamsons Fresh Fish

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Mark Benfield  
**Tel: 01747 828689**  
**Mobile: 07974249287**

## Green Fingers

After a glorious April we went back nearly to winter. The bulbs although late, gave us a spectacular show and now it is the turn of the herbaceous plants to struggle. The sun over the last few days has completely confused the poor plants, they do not know what time of year it is. However there is still such a lot to do.

1. Keep mowing the grass and lower the height of the blades as summer approaches. This should be a good month to kill the weeds, remember you need dry grass, moist soil and no wind when spreading weed-killer on the grass. If there is no rain within a few days you will need to water in.
2. Prune forsythia as it finishes flowering and cut down other early flowering herbaceous plants. As a rule of thumb, prune after flowering if before June, leave pruning to early spring if flowering after June. When danger of frosts has passed start to harden off bedding plants i.e. place outside near a protective wall or place in a cold frame but keep an eye on the weather forecast! Make up hanging baskets but keep them protected from any frost, stake herbaceous perennials and keep an eye for pests on roses and spray with appropriate

preventative. Watch out for slugs on those tasty new shoots.

3. Thin gooseberries when big enough, leaving the larger ones for main crop. De-blossom first year strawberry runners, place some straw or mats around the plants to protect the fruit and dig out unwanted raspberry runners. Re-spray apples and pears against scab, aphids etc.
4. You can continue to sow peas, beet, carrots, onions, spinach, brassicas, lettuce, sweet corn, turnips and leeks. Later in May sew French and runner beans, tomatoes, courgettes and cucumber in the green house. Continue to sew herbs either in pots or rows in the vegetable or flower bed. Continue to hoe regularly to keep the weeds down.
5. May is a great time to restock your pond with marginal plants that will provide a summer and autumn display. It is also a good time to lift and divide lilies, usually every three to four years. If the water is greening do partial water change. And spray with extract of Barley Straw every two weeks to keep the algae and blanket weed at bay.

### Tip of the month

When planting out brassica plants place a clean, clear lemonade bottle (cut in half and top off) around them like a collar. They will really thrive.

Do not forget the plant sales on May 30<sup>th</sup> at Village Club and some gardens to supplement your bedding, shrub and vegetable needs.

**Jill Ball**

### For Sale

TP climbing frame and slide needs a good home. Donation to G5 or a village charity. If you would like to know more please tel: Amanda Ford **812509** or email [jaf.ford@virgin.net](mailto:jaf.ford@virgin.net)



### Is your garden too much for you to handle?

There have been some enquires for allotments and or places to grow vegetables and flowers. I am asking villagers if there are any who would be prepared to let under private arrangement between the landowner and the grower, a piece of their land for the purpose to grow the above. If you are interested in either please telephone me on 01747 -811632 or email [jrball@talktalk.net](mailto:jrball@talktalk.net) for further information. **Jill Ball**

### A Countryman's Poem

I know it is a strange and twisted thought about the weather we are having but this poem, found by Mervyn Marsh, seems to say it all. As this issue is being written in barmy sunshine, we recall the rains that never came and think 'what of our April Showers' are they still to come now that May is here.

#### Wet Spring

Dear Lord, forgive my sin this day  
I swore about your rain.  
We've struggled on for three whole weeks ...  
Then down it comes again  
You let us mow on Tuesday  
Though the grass was very wet.  
But ... it's Saturday, and  
The lawns aren't finished yet.

We keep 'falling back' on edging  
Round the shrubs about the lake.  
They need weeding, that I grant you  
But ... how long's it going to take?  
The jobs they keep a'mounting up ...  
There's Planting to be done.  
The borders all need hosing ...  
Could we have a bit of sun?

## Clerk's Corner (Notes from the Parish Council)

At the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council, Cllr John Hooper was re-elected as Chairman and Cllr Dianne Benfield as Vice Chairman.

All councillor responsibilities remain as last year; these are published on the notice board in the War Office.

The Annual Statement of Account for last year for the parish has shown a slight underspend of £665. The Village Design Statement is now with North Dorset District Council where the structure is being revised to conform to their new template. Some more historical maps of the village are being added. The completed document will be published on the village website.

Planning applications being considered by the parish council are now available for viewing on the parish website [www.iwerneminster.info](http://www.iwerneminster.info).

The matting which was laid in the grass outside the village club will be re-laid very shortly with stronger pins. It is designed to help car parking and is not to be lifted. The grass cutting will continue around it.

Terry Payne has handed over the responsibility for the Village Directory to the Clerk. If there are any changes to be made please inform me.

**Tony Gibb** Clerk to  
IM Parish Council

07818 047617 or 01725 552704

### Forthcoming Event

Every year in June an open-air play called The Life of Christ is performed near Guildford. The dates this year are 29 June - 4th July, starting at 10 am and finishing at 4 pm. Tickets are £15 / child or student £7.50 and there would of course be the additional cost of coach or mini-bus. It is quite a long way for an individual to drive but is of course an option. Two words of caution. Obviously the weather cannot be guaranteed and it is essential to be sufficiently mobile as the action moves from place to place, carrying your picnic. I have been twice and on both occasions the weather was perfect. If this appeals to anyone perhaps you could contact me for further details.

**Jebber Whitaker 811823**

## North Dorset Conservatives Hill Forts Branch

### Events coming up in June

Bob Walter and the Hill Forts Branch Committee are hosting their own 'Thank You' evening for all who gave so freely of their time and energy to assist in the tasks associated with the General Election. I hope that everyone 'involved' in leaflet deliveries, telling duties, etc. will be able to join us to socialise and enjoy wine and refreshments on us, at:-

**The Village Hall, Child Okeford  
7.00pm on Friday 18 June, 2010**

I am able to arrange transport, if you let me know.

What about a Summer Afternoon Strawberry Tea? Mr and Mrs Richard Groves of the Dower House, Fontmell Parva are to be host to our season's first open air event this year. Fontmell Parva lies on the road from Child Okeford towards Manston. The Dower House is set in lovely countryside, accessed through an existing farm. The Tea will be all ticket affair, priced at £5 each, for strawberries, cream and full English tea. Tickets will go on sale from late May. Please give your support to the Hill Forts Conservatives.

**David Hicks** (Branch Chairman)



### Summer Afternoon Strawberry Tea At the Dower House, Fontmell Parva

Wednesday 23 June 3 to 4.30pm

Everyone Welcome

Tickets £5, in advance

If you require transport or further information,  
please call David Hicks on 01747 812422.

### Sponsorship Required

Les Staples has signed up for a 6 mile Charity Walk on Sunday 20th June. He is looking for sponsors - if you would care to support this appeal please telephone 811147 and he will bring his sponsor sheet to you. Thank you in advance.



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or

## Iwerne Valley Climate Change Forum

### Community Carbon Footprint Competition: Public Vote

**\*\*\*We need your votes by 15<sup>th</sup> June\*\*\***

Thank you to all those who have submitted applications to the competition. Our panel of judges is preparing their votes and will be reporting back shortly. The judges are Councillor Deborah Croney (Chair of the Planning Committee at North Dorset District Council), Paul McIntosh (Climate Change Officer at NDDC) and Jonathan Ford (Chair of Iwerne Valley Climate Change Forum)

Now **we need your votes**. Listed below are the seven proposed projects. Please contact a member of the committee with your votes. Please let us have your first, second and third choices. Closing date: 15th June 2010. Please give your votes to Jonathan Ford 01747 812509, Andrew Kennard 01747 811742, Chris Nadin 01747 812377, Chris Bellers 01747 811734 or Ian Watson 01747 811867. Alternatively email them to [jaf.ford@virgin.net](mailto:jaf.ford@virgin.net). Thank you.

#### Applications:

##### Senior:

1. **Streetcar:** Most of us in the villages need a car to get about. But do we need 2 cars per household? In many cases the second car is only occasionally needed. We could set up a car sharing venture like [www.streetcar.co.uk](http://www.streetcar.co.uk) (or indeed a franchise with Streetcar) keeping a community car or cars in the main villages. (Mike Deeming, Iwerne Minster)
2. **Wind turbine:** Feasibility study for a community wind turbine in the Iwerne Valley including monitoring of wind conditions. Preliminary research suggests that a 500 kW community wind turbine would provide sufficient electricity for 250 households with a payback on the turbine of four years. (Amanda Ford, Iwerne Minster)
3. **Bulk purchase of green electricity:** Promote the idea that all households should purchase their electricity from a single carbon neutral provider with the intension being that negotiations with the provider would give a discount. This could have a very significant impact on our community carbon footprint as potentially no electricity would be generated from fossil fuels. (Ian Watson, Iwerne Minster)
4. **Restoration of in-cycle hedges around rural Dorset (RICHARD):** Encourage and expand hedge-laying in the Valley. Publicising its value not only for wildlife but also for carbon sequestration. Building on existing initiatives. Developing local markets for the by-products of hedge laying. (George Darwell, Fontmell Magna)

##### Under 18s:

5. **Walk to school day:** Arrange a walk to school day once a year during the summer term (Edward Hart, Iwerne Minster)
6. **Bus use reward scheme:** Reward children for using the school buses. This would have the additional benefit of less cars outside the schools and less cars on our roads (Edward Hart, Iwerne Minster)
7. **Hidden water:** Put a small turbine under the Chalk in Iwerne Minster to take energy from the stream as it passes under the road (Toby Ford, Iwerne Minster)

##### Notes:

The competition seeks to stimulate a community wide initiative – or group of initiatives – **which when implemented would reduce our community carbon footprint by 10%**. This competition gives the opportunity to pool our ideas.

Criteria: The applications will be assessed against their likely success in reducing our community carbon footprint; feasibility is essential.

Judging: Like Strictly Come Dancing 50% of the marks will come from a panel of judges and 50% from a public vote.

Prizes: There will be separate £50 prizes for the winning entries: a senior prize and an under 18's prize. These will be increased if we can find further sponsorship.

Further information: if you have any queries contact Jonathan Ford 01747 812509

***'raising awareness/involving everyone/moving towards a carbon neutral community'***

MAY 2010

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**Sponsors:**

Jo Brown (nee Slade)



**This is your  
space - please  
let me have  
your views  
and  
contributions.**

## **Make Sense of Your Eating Problem Nutritional Advice, Counselling and Support for Obesity, Binge Eating and Weight Loss**

**Annie Newbury Dip.Couns.**

*Affiliate Member National Centre for Eating Disorders*

**annienewbury@yahoo.co.uk**

**Mob. 078 160 66059**



## **Iwerne Minster Home Watch**

As I reported at the recent village meeting the last year in Iwerne Minster has been relatively quite on the crime front and long may it last.

Recently I posted a reminder on the notice boards in the village trying to ensure that folk leave their cars empty when parked at beauty spots and quiet villages.

At a recent event at Compton Abbas, a police "q car" was positioned with nine items strewn about the car representing how folk leave their unattended cars.

I did not believe how stupid people could be, until I was told of an actual occurrence where a PCSO found a car with the roof open, cameras and handbags etc. on the seats, the owners had left the car to go for a walk.

**Do Not leave your car with belongings in it, carry them with you or leave at home.**

**Do Not make a show of putting anything in the boot, unless you want it jemmied.**

There was a recent burglary in Fontmell Magna, apparently whilst the owners were in the back garden, an opportunist burglar entered through an unlocked front door and stole several items.

Ensure you lock your doors including side gates, better still, get an alarm for the side gate, even when you are at home. Do keep an eye on your garden

furniture and bar-b-q's, if you are to be away for sometime, lock them away. **Make it awkward for the thief.**

**With the Open Gardens** coming up at the end of the month, those taking part should make sure that they lock all doors and close curtains to stop prying eyes from doing a reconnaissance and making a list of your valuable for stealing at a later date, or even when you are showing folk around. Those visiting the gardens should also be on the look out for any suspicious persons.



Finally, your local contacts receive "ringmaster" notices from the police listing any local criminal activity together with an electronic copy of Blandford Rural North SNT's Newsletter. If any of you would like this information sent to you, let me have your email address and I will ensure that it is passed to your local contact.

**Geoff Peters**  
Home Watch Co-ordinator  
Tel. No. 811546