

# Newsletter

Ilchester, Northover, Yeovilton, Podimore, The Mead,  
Bridgehampton, Draycott, Limington, Speckington



Aug/ Sept 2025



# Who are IDCA?

Ilchester & District Community Association (IDCA) is a registered charity which serves Ilchester, The Mead, Northover, Limington, Yeovilton, Podimore, Draycott, Bridgehampton & Speckington. We are a group of volunteers who organise annual events such as The Christmas Lantern Parade and the Easter Bunny Hunt. We also organise special occasions like Jubilee and Coronation celebrations. All the money raised goes back into the community in the form of funding the next celebration, this newsletter and donations to local community groups. Recently we supported an outdoors play area for Ilchester Primary school, large print books for Ilchester library and travel cost for Brownies and Rainbows. Please contact **idca234@gmail.com** for any support requests.

Do you belong to a group you want to tell us about? Perhaps you want to raise the profile of a local charity or event. Maybe you want to thank someone. If you want to tell us about it email **idcanewsletter@gmail.com**. No word minimum. Keep it friendly and no politics. Cheers! **Next issues deadline is 12th September 2025.** Caroline

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## Events for your calendar

VJ 80th anniversary **Friday 15th August**

Women's Rugby World Cup starts **Friday 22nd August**

Pass Wide & Slow **Saturday 6th September**

1st matches of the season, Ilch. Youth FC **Sunday 7th Sept**

IDCA Award Evening **Friday 12th September**

Cider & Sizzle **Saturday 13th September**

Ilchester Harvest Festival **Sunday 28th September**

Limington fete & dog show meeting **Thursday 2nd October**

## Useful dates

Big Black bins (landfill)	Fri 8th, <b>Sat 30th</b> Aug	Fri 19th Sept	
Ilchester Mead, & Almshouse Lane, Big Black bins	Tues 12th Aug	Tues 2nd & 23rd Sept	
Big Green bins (garden waste)	Thurs 14th, <b>Fri</b> <b>29th</b> Aug	Thurs 11th & 25th Sept	
Ilchester Mead, Big Green bins	Tues 5th & 19th Aug	Tues 2nd, 16th & 30th Sept	
Mobile library	Wed 13th Aug	Wed 10th Sept	14.25-14.55 West st/Pill Bridge 15.05- 15.45 Taranto Hill
Friends of St Mary coffee morning	Thurs 21st Aug	Thurs 18th Sept	St Mary, Lim- ington 10.30
Diners club	Tues 5th Aug	Tues 2nd Sept, Tues 7th Oct	J. Stapleton 01935 841 247
Ilchester Parish Council meeting	Thurs 14th Aug	Thurs 11th Sept	19.30 Town Hall
Yeovilton and dis- trict Parish Council		Tues 9th Sept	19.30 St Barthlo- mew, Yeovilton

# Town Hall Timetable

Activity	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Library (not b.hols)	10.00-12.00		10.00-12.00		
Zumba!	9.30				
Yoga		9.15 10.30 19.00-20.30	18.30-19.30	(beginners) 10.00	
Chair Yoga				11.30-12.30	
Pilates	18.00-19.00		18.30		
Boxercise	19.15-20.00				
Art Group				14.00	
History Group			14.00 (last of month)		
Knit & Knatter					10.00 (1 <sup>st</sup> of the month)
Anglers				20.00 (once a month)	
Ilch. Parish Council				19.30 (2 <sup>nd</sup> of the month)	
Ivelteenies			19.00 (1 <sup>st</sup> of the month)		

You are very welcome to hire rooms in the Town Hall for events including private celebrations. Please contact **Julie Stapleton: 01935 841 247, ittcaretaker@gmail.com**

## WED 10-11.30 Coffee morning + the care & share table

August	6th Cadets	13th Pure Gym	20th Brownies	27th St Giles Trust	
September	3rd Royal Naval Association	10th History Group	17th Man Shed	24th Shoe-box Appeal	
October	1st Air Ambulance	8th St Mary Major	15th St Peter's, Podimore	22nd Young Lives Against Cancer	29th Lindinae Explorers

**The Heritage Centre (Museum) open every Wednesday (10-15.00) & last Saturday (11-15.00) of the month. Level access via Town Hall**

## Tall Trees Timetable

Activity	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Boogie Bunnies – Music & Movement (booking required, term time only)	0915-1015 1030-1130	0915-1015 1030-1130		0915-1015 1030-1130	
Rainbows		1730-1830			
Aggies Coffee Drop in			0930— 1100		
Military Wives Choir			1900- 2100		
War Games Group				1900-2200	
Lullaby's Baby Massage		1300— 1430 (book in advance)			
Play Town Parties					1015-1130
Children's Disco or Entertainment					1900-2200 (Once a month)

Please contact **Gill Duke 01935 840 562**, [navypeople-psrnfpscent@mod.gov.uk](mailto:navypeople-psrnfpscent@mod.gov.uk) for details.

**Bar open to all:** Thurs 19.00-23.00, Fri 19.00-00.00, Sat 13.00-00.00, Sun 13.00-22.30

Tall Trees is managed by the HMS Heron Central Amenities Fund and supported by the RN FPS Community Outreach Group and Community Development Worker. **All are welcome**, however there will be times when activities are not appropriate for civilians.

## Ilchester Sports Field Pavilion

Activity	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri-Sat-Sun
Brownies (term time)	18.00-19.15				
Spinning w/ John		18.30-18.50		18.30-19.20	
Ilchester FC					Through-out the day
Car Boot					SUNDAY 7.30 sellers 8.30 Buyers

The Pavilion and Sports Field is available for hire. This includes outdoors space and plenty of parking. Please contact Maxine: **07562 988 837** or [ittclerk@gmail.com](mailto:ittclerk@gmail.com). Please check Ilchester Town Trust website for details

## Ilchester Charity Car Boot

The car boot is every Sunday, April to October, weather permitting. Please check Facebook for updated info in real time. Seller from 7.30, buyers 8.30. BA22 8NL

## Ilchester Youth FC



**First matches of the season start Sun 7th Sept at Ilchester Sports field. Kick off 14.00.**

For further fixtures & results visit The FA website, Yeovil & District Youth League 2025-26. Check out Ilchester FC on Facebook.

# **Cider & Sizzle**

**Sat 13th Sept**

**5 - 8pm**

**St Mary's, Limington**

**A ticket only event**

**Adult £10, under 10's £5**

**Ticket includes 2 hotdogs + a drink**

**For tickets call 07963 011 369**

**or email: [wurzels@btinternet.com](mailto:wurzels@btinternet.com)**

**All money raised will go towards the upkeep of St Mary's**

# IVELMEADS PARISHES

Ilchester w Northover; Tintinhull; Limington; Chilthorne Domer;  
Yeovilton w Podimore; Yeovil Marsh

## Worship Matters

### Summer Holy Communion Service

All at 9.30am

August 3rd Podimore	August 10th Yeovil Marsh	August 17th Limington	August 24th Chilthorne Domer	August 31st Ilchester
Sept 7th	MP 9.30am Podimore	HC 9.30am Tintinhull	HC 11.15am Limington	
Sept 14th	HC 9.30am Yeovil Marsh	HC 11.15am Ilchester	St Andrew's Family @ 4pm Ilchester school (Infant Dept)	<b>Limington Festival Service 6pm</b>
Sept 21st	HC 9.30am Ilchester	MP 9.30am Limington	HC 11.15am Podimore	<b>Tintinhull Harvest Festival 6pm</b>
Sept 28th	HC 9.30am Tintinhull	<b>Harvest Festival 11.15am Ilchester</b>	EP 6pm Limington	

**SUNDAY REFLECTIONS**— For anyone unable to gather with us for worship on any given Sunday we have a reflective service of Morning prayer available on the Benefice Website [www.ilchester-district-churches.com](http://www.ilchester-district-churches.com)  
Click on the link for SUNDAY REFLECTIONS.



## From the Rectory

August, the month with warmth and time to be still –

Well this is the hope so often. August is the holiday month, schools are out, the sea is warm enough, just to dip your toes into and you can usually guarantee your ice cream will melt if you don't hurry up and eat it.

In August we get to have time, the days are still long enough even after work to sit and take time. For me growing up, August gave the best of memories, hours out walking the dog, hours out riding my bike with friends thinking we were in a motocross event on the army ranges we lived next to. Time spent sitting watching cricket with family, a bag of crisps and a bottle of fizzy each. More time spent down the local river fishing with other friends or making dens and spears—who could throw the farthest? Whilst we did lots of things, we allowed time for doing these things, time to really make and fall out with friends, time to discover who we were and what the real world was all about—after catching the grasshopper, just how long can you hold in in your hand before it jumps?

A recent body of work is raising alarm bells about the under 25s of today, who it seems can't sit for long, can't spend all day on one thing. The post Tic Toc generation seem to be living a life made up of short burst experiences, conversations, expectations—it is as if each day is a series of dots and dashes and the fear is these folks will 'burn out' or break down because everything is so full on, and when it isn't they are left worried and fearful they are missing out or worse they spiral into depression and anxiety. They stumble from experience to experience, which has become quite addictive for some. These are the 'doing' generation!

But we are not 'human doings', we are human beings! Being takes time, takes spending time with yourself in contemplation and reflections, with others in conversation and relationship, and with the world about us in awe and wonder. August is the month that gifts us the time for all of these, for September brings change—shorter day light hours, chilly temperatures and the overtures of autumn around the corner.

Take time this month—for time to reflect, to be with friends and family, to breath in the air and to simply be, there will be enough time in the autumn and winter to run around! And remind yourself each day, 'I am a human being'!

Blessings **B**ruce

# Rainbows, Brownies & Guides



**Girlguiding**

Ilchester and Queen Camel

This term both Ilchester Rainbows and Brownies have been working on various parts of the programme, to help some of the girls that are moving up complete some theme awards to achieve their Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards! We started the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the term by working on 6<sup>th</sup> Yeovil Challenge badge that they created to raise funds for their unit. It was based on the Past, Present and Future. For the Past part of the badge, we had a games evening, where we asked girls to bring in a board game, made a pet rock and did some tie dying t-shirts. For the Present part, we learnt about recycling and what rubbish we have at home and where it goes. For this part we also did a random act of kindness where the girls re-potted a flower and then had to place it on the doorstep of someone they didn't know, we had some lovely messages back from the people who were lucky to get one! For the final part of the badge it was the Future, for this we talked about money, looked at the coins we use today and designed our own bank note. The girls really enjoyed doing this challenge badge!

Both Rainbows and Brownies had a visit from RKS Unity where they all had a go at soft archery and soft axe throwing to gain their Sports Adventure badge.

During the rest of the term our rainbows have been working on their Explore badge, we have done various activities, from visiting different countries with our teddies and created their own passport and learnt about the sun and our shadow, these are just a few of the activities we will be continuing this in September where we will explore locally. We had to pretend we were birds and make a nest, we used pegs to collect what we would need for it and we have played some team games too which they girls enjoy.

At brownies we have been doing various activities, again to finish some theme awards but it has been a bit of a shorter term due to the bank holiday. We have done various activities both in and outside, we learnt our promise and about the different sections within Girlguiding that the girls may not realise are there after brownies. We had a nature evening where we played a game and made some nature bugs from fruit! We had a badge evening where we did our Speaking Out badge for this the girls had to pick an issue that they would like to support and spread the word about, they then had to make a petition and tell the rest of the unit about what they had chosen and

why – well done to all the girls that completed this badge.

To finish off the term we had a little party at both Rainbows and Brownies with a bouncy castle, which I am sure they will love! We will have given out 12 Rainbow Theme Awards, 2 Rainbow Bronze Awards and 1 Gold Award, Rainbows receive this when they have completed all of the 6 theme awards and completed the Gold challenges. At Brownies we will have given out 5 Theme Awards and 3 Bronze Awards. Well don't to all of you!

At rainbows we have said bye to Flo and Alice who have moved on to Brownies to continue with their Girlguiding journey and then at Brownies Bella and Ava are off to Guides and with Desy moving back to Italy. We hope you all enjoy your next adventures!

For more information about how you can get involved in Girlguiding please visit **[www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)** or email Laura Williams on **[laurawilliams@girlguidingsomerset.org.uk](mailto:laurawilliams@girlguidingsomerset.org.uk)** for more information. We have spaces across our district (Yeovil, Somerton and Queen Camel areas) for both girls and volunteers!

## Ilchester History Group

Well, we've had a couple of very interesting talks this year already: Victorian workhouses, and nursing in World War One. Our next talk promises to be a real cracker. **“Magnificent Women and Flying Machines” will be in the Town Hall Court Room on September 24th at 2pm.** This covers the lives of the British women who achieved real firsts in aviation, a history of daring women aviators from 1785 (yes, really!) to the space age. The speaker is Sally Smith from Kingsdon, journalist and author, and she has also spent a lifetime involved in women's aviation including being British women's freefall champion, a member of the British Parachute Team and founder and team leader of the world's only all-girl parachute display team. So, put the date in your diary: **Wednesday 24th September at 2pm.** Entry is £2 on the door, and you can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee after the talk. Eddie

## THANK YOU!!!

I just wanted to say a BIG THANK YOU to all the staff at Northover garage and Post Office. It's clearly a challenging time for you all, but you've kept us informed. If I could give you a pay rise I would! Thank you for being patient with us when we forget it's not in your control. –Ed.

# Wessex Scout Group



## Ramblings from the Group Lead Volunteer

Scouting has changed over the last forty years, and the memories I have of all the Boys/Girls that have been members are the best.

Gang shows seem to be very rare now, and I'm hoping to catch up with the Taunton gang show next year. We used to have them yearly in Yeovil at the Octagon. It was a hard couple of weeks preparing and practising, but well worth it, and I always had a lump in my throat when we sang 'Crest of the Wave'! On one occasion, we were watching as a Group, and the last song before the first half was an Audience Participation. One of the Cubs folded his arms and didn't join in when we had to wave a flag, and when asked why, he said it 'was totally illogical behaviour Akela.' The following year, he had about four parts on stage, and 'Totally illogical behaviour' became a 'phrase' used when asked how he is doing now!

Camping, too, has changed. We have posh tents now and Portaloos. These initial camps were in Patrol tents, and we had to use toilet tents with 'Buckets' that had to be emptied in a big hole dug by the farmer at the end of the field. On packing up a camp, one parent came to help when we were nearly done, and the only thing left to do was to empty the bucket. She very kindly insisted she would do the honours, but she came back a little messy as she had forgotten to let go of just the contents into the hole and...

We have had a transformation of scouting recently, new titles, new learning, new way of recording our records, but one thing that hasn't changed is the excitement our Boy/Girl Members get from learning scouting ways, which now include canoeing and archery! Our Past and Present Leaders are the best.

Thank you for letting us be part of your children's lives. It is an honour that we appreciate.

*June Eaton, Group Lead Volunteer, [GSLWessex@Gmail.com](mailto:GSLWessex@Gmail.com)*

## Beavers

In Early July, the Beavers had a fabulous outing when they took to the canoes on the River Parrett. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening for all involved, and we'd like to say a massive thank you to the parents who joined us on the water to give the Beavers this experience. They loved it and no one finished

the evening dry (Not even Shere Khan! Well done, Caden!) Earlier in the term, one of our footy-mad Young Leaders ran a football skills evening with the Beavers. This helped introduce them to the sport and work on their Health and Fitness badge. On the badge work theme (because who doesn't love earning badges!), the Beavers have been raiding their grown-ups' recycling bins to find resources to make inventions to help make their lives easier. They all agreed that the most useful invention would be one to avoid bed-times, but it's undetermined if any of the inventions have succeeded in this yet. The summer term is going to conclude with a party before we rest and recuperate, before jumping straight back into scouting in September.

## **Cubs**

Cubs currently have a pack of 20, but 4 will be moving up to scouts after the summer. They'll be missed, but we're excited for the new adventures that await them. In the last newsletter, we discussed how excited we were for our camp in early June. All had a brilliant time, but particularly the seven cubs who received the silver award, the top award in Cub Scouts, at the closing ceremony. Cub Camp was action-packed from the get-go with everything from Paddleboarding to STEM skills, Archery to Tractor pulls and Paddleboarding to pizza making. Despite the initial setbacks that made attending the camp seem impossible, it was an enormous success, and we couldn't have pulled it off without the help of our exceptional parents. Thank you for pulling together and supporting us, but particularly to Mr and Mrs Hill, Mrs Williams, Mr Burton, Mr Craig and Mrs Knaggs for your help with catering and to Mr Porter for loading up your van to transport all the kit back to the Scout hut. Another huge thank you to all the parents and siblings who helped set up and pack down the site. You're all incredible, and we couldn't have done it without you.

Like the Beavers, the Cubs have been out on the water this term on the River Parrett with plenty of fun (and splashing) to be had by all involved. The Cubs have been out hiking in the local area, Ham Hill and Nine Springs. We've had two sessions hosted by Leonardo's to learn how helicopters fly and have a go at flying our paper helicopters with the wind table. Overall, it has been a brilliant term, we're looking forward to a summer holiday before jumping straight back in in September for a fresh year of Scouting.

## **Scouts**

Scouts have been busy with a myriad of different activities throughout the

term. One session involved cracking out some ration packs to have a go at cooking them up on the burners and taste testing them. This was done with the mind of expeditions as Scouts are beginning to reach an age when things like the Duke of Edinburgh's award and Ten Tors come onto their radar, and we're eager to support them in any way we can. Further to this, we've been practising our tent skills and helping the scouts to build confidence in their abilities.

Another way we've been working on this is with our lovely Explorer Leader Kirstie, who's come in to help the Scouts with their YouShape Award. This award is all about empowering the Scouts with ideas and instilling them with the confidence to take the lead. It is a brilliant award for all sections, but it's especially rewarding for the older sections as it begins to equip them with skills they'll continuously shape and develop throughout their life.

Finally, we'd like to congratulate our scout who took part in a creative writing competition and had his work selected to be featured in a book of short stories. We're very proud of you and can't wait to see your work on the best seller list in future!

### **Fancy joining us?**

If you or a young person you know would be interested in joining our group, please contact the Group Lead Volunteer, June Eaton, at **GSLWessex@Gmail.com**.

Scouting is for everyone, and there is always a role to suit you, whether you have prior experience or not. If you would like to know more about how you could get involved, please reach out.

## **Wessex Beavers need an assistant leader!**

**Mon 18.00—19.30**

**All training, uniform & DBS supplied**

**Contact: Wessexbeavers@hotmail.com**

# The last Victoria Cross of WWII

Britain celebrated VE-Day amidst the relief of no more bombing raids and the prospect of thousands of soldiers coming home from Europe shortly. The feeling that the war ended in May 1945 still carries over to this day and overlooks the hundreds of thousands of British and Commonwealth men and women who were still engaged in a bitter struggle against a cruel and implacable enemy in the Far East. Phrases such as “Forgotten Army” and “Forgotten Fleet” were not used lightly when these forces returned home, often well into 1946. Some never made it through to go home.



In an attempt to bring Japan to the negotiating table without huge numbers of casualties on both sides, President Harry Truman authorised the use of the atomic bomb. The first was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6th. Not knowing that a second bomb was about to be dropped on that day, on the morning of 9 August 1945 two flights of Fleet Air Arm Corsairs from 1841 Naval Air Squadron on HMS Formidable, were programmed to attack targets on the mainland. The second flight (of 8 aircraft) took off about 0830 and about an hour later turned into attack Japanese shipping in a bay called Onagawa Wan on the east coast of the island of Honshu. The vessels put up a desperate barrage of anti-aircraft fire and set the lead fighter on fire, but its pilot continued his attack run, hitting a destroyer with his bomb before the Corsair smashed into the sea and disappeared.

That action led to the last award of the Victoria Cross in the Second World War. The man who lost his life that day learned his trade at RNAS Yeovilton ; he was Lt. Robert Hamilton Gray of the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve.

“Hammy” Gray was born in British Columbia in 1917 and was at university when he enlisted in the RCNVR in Alberta in July 1940. His younger brother John had beaten him into the colours and was a WOP/AG in the Royal Canadian Air Force, flying in Hampden bombers over Germany. During training in England Hammy decided to join the Fleet Air Arm and completed his basic flying training back in Kingston, Ontario. He was awarded his wings in September 1941, commissioned as a Sub Lieutenant and despatched to HMS Heron to become a fighter pilot. After learning to fly Sea Hurricanes he was posted to Nairobi, spending most of the next two years ashore in Africa but with a short detachment aboard the carrier HMS Illustrious.

Having been very lucky to build his flying experience with very little risk from the enemy, Gray was posted back to Yeovilton in February 1944 to learn to fly the powerful but difficult American fighter, the Chance Vought Corsair. The US Navy had rejected the aeroplane and was happy to let the US Marines

have it, but then the Brits gladly accepted it under Lend-Lease and showed the Yanks how to deck land it safely. Gray was posted to 1841 in August just in time for a batch of strikes against the German battleship *Tirpitz* anchored in Norway. Gray was very lucky to escape from one attack with a huge hole in his rudder but with an aircraft which was still flyable. He received two Mentions in Despatches for his part in these Tirpitz raids.

After a protracted journey to the Far East *Formidable* joined the British Pacific Fleet in Sydney, Australia in March and then embarked on a series of operations in support of the US Navy's island hopping campaign. As Senior Pilot Hammy Gray was heavily involved in the flying operations and was fortunate to be airborne when *Formidable* suffered a Kamikaze strike which caused substantial casualties on the ship. She withdrew to Australia for repairs and was back in the operational area by mid-July. Gray led several strikes over Japan and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. He was on another one of these missions when he met his death, a mere six days before the Japanese agreed to a ceasefire.

The citation for his Victoria Cross was published in the London Gazette in November 1945, "for great valour in leading an attack on a Japanese destroyer in Onagawa Wan, on 9 August 1945. In the face of fire from shore batteries and a heavy concentration of fire from some five warships Lieutenant Gray pressed home his attack, flying very low in order to ensure success, and, although he was hit and his aircraft was in flames, he obtained at least one direct hit, sinking the destroyer. Lieutenant Gray has consistently shown a brilliant fighting spirit and most inspiring leadership."

The RAF consistently publishes that only one fighter pilot was awarded the VC in WW2, conveniently ignoring that a naval fighter pilot also received one, which is the last VC awarded to an airman. It is also the last one (of four) to naval airmen and also to a Canadian since then. Gray's courage so impressed his enemies that the Japanese erected a memorial to him on the shores of Onagawa Wan.

G. Mottram The photo on the previous page is of Robert Hampton Grey

## Remembering VJ day



On Friday 15th August the Royal British Legion in partnership with the Government will hold a mid-day National Commemorative Event to mark the 80th anniversary of VJ Day and the end of the Second World War.

The National Memorial Arboretum will be open to the public on 15th August, but some areas may be restricted. Whilst access to the National Commemorative Event is by ticket only, the general public will be able to see the event on screens.



## VJ day - The last man to die

One of only 12 men recorded as having died on VJ Day, the last Allied serviceman to lose his life in WW2 was a Fleet Air Arm Seafire pilot, Freddie Hockley, who had completed his fighter training at RNAS Yeovilton in the summer of 1943.

Hockley was born at Littleport in Cambridgeshire in 1923, and joined the Royal Navy in 1942. He learned to fly at RAF Elmdon near Birmingham and then at Kingston, Ontario, before final Fighter Training on Hawker Hurricanes at Yeovilton in the summer of 1943.



After a period flying Sea Hurricanes with 824 Squadron on convoy escort duties in HMS Striker, he converted to Supermarine Seafires and joined 887 Squadron, embarked in HMS Indefatigable, one of the aircraft carriers which formed the core of the British Pacific Fleet.

By the end of 1944 Indefatigable was in the Far East and flying operations against Japanese held targets. Hockley flew many sorties and in May 1945 shared in shooting down a Japanese Zero fighter. He was regarded as "brave, tough and uncompromising" and a competent pilot who was trusted with leading his unit's sorties.

In the early morning of August 15th, Indefatigable launched a strike of Fireflies and Avengers escorted by Seafires against an airfield on Tokyo Bay. Hockley was leading the escort even though his radio was not working. The formation was intercepted by Japanese Zeros and Hockley could not hear the warning call. His aircraft was damaged, and he bailed out.

Only one other Allied aircraft was lost during the operation (one of whose crew was killed) and when the rest landed back on their carrier around 0600 the signal "Cease hostilities with Japan" was being hoisted. Freddie Hockley was captured, interrogated and executed on the day that Japan surrendered. His murderers were later tried and convicted of war crimes.

Freddie Hockley's remains were recovered by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and reburied in the Yokohama War Cemetery.

G. Mottram

The above photo is of Freddie Hockley in a Hawker Hurricane at RNAS Yeovilton, 1943.



**Become a Poppy Appeal Volunteer**

Interested in volunteering and supporting  
our Armed Forces community?

**Search [rbl.org.uk/poppyappealvolunteer](https://www.rbl.org.uk/poppyappealvolunteer)**

A tremendous effort by the Poppy Collectors, Churches, Schools, Shops and other Businesses in the Ilchester area, which includes Podimore, Yeovilton Village and Limington helped to raise the grand total for the 2024 Poppy Appeal of £1,825.52. Thank you for all that you do to support the Armed Forces Community.

Paul Bunce the Poppy Appeal Manager for Somerset contacted me last month with the good news that the Somerset Poppy Appeal for last year's collection stood at **£1,010,353.17**. That is a record collection for the county, and the highest total for any county in the Southwest.

Every year, tens of thousands of veterans, serving personnel, and their families, turn to the RBL for help. It could be with money or housing problems, physical and mental health challenges, difficulty finding a job, loneliness, or a family breakdown.

I will again be contacting the regular collectors to ask for their help again with this year's collection. **However, new collectors are always welcome.** If you would like to help with this year's appeal, then please contact me.

**Alan Stephens Poppy Appeal Honorary Organiser on 01935 840813.**

## **Ilchester Relief In Need & Education Charity**

Are you worried about your finances this new academic year? Are you wanting to enrol in a course but can't due to money? Perhaps you're starting an apprenticeship and need tools, but the cost is too much? Ilchester Relief on Need & Education Charity (IRINEC) may be able to help. In the past IRINEC have supported Ilchester Parishioners with transport costs, books, enrolment fees, and field trips.

Could a new wheelchair improve your life? Can't access your back garden for want of a step? IRINEC may be able to support with costs for 'the improvement of life'.

If you don't ask you won't know!

Please contact the clerk with a request to IRINEC – Mrs Elston, 07782251464, [kayeelston@aol.co.uk](mailto:kayeelston@aol.co.uk)

**Walk the Walk Camino 100 28<sup>th</sup> September to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2025** - The greatest challenge of my life, I am embarking on an incredible 100 mile walk along the Camino Way in Northern Spain over 5 days. This is an officially organised walk by the charity mentioned above. Some of you may have heard of the Moonwalk, a walk overnight around the London Marathon route, again organised by the same charity. I have completed the Moonwalk 3 times now and have accepted this further personal challenge/test of endurance to raise further funds in memory of my niece. My journey will be :-

Day 1 - O'Cebriero Mountain to Samos, 18.5 miles

Day 2 - Samos to Portomarin, 24 miles

Day 3 - Portomarin to Palas De Rai, 15.5 miles

Day 4 - Palas De Rai to Salceda, 26 miles

Day 5 – Salceda to Santiago De Compestella

It would be amazing if you could read the full story as to why I am doing this, not just in memory of my niece but for all those in the future. Any contribution however small would be incredible, even to share my story with friends, family (I don't do social Media) and raise awareness would be great.

If you see me and my dog pounding the pavements around and about the villages, give me a toot, it would be great encouragement and much appreciated. I have a long journey ahead.

Thank you in anticipation.—Stella Pickford

A link is available via **[www.lilchester.org](http://www.lilchester.org)** (Ilchester Town Trust website)



# Ilchester Community Primary School



## ***‘Child-centred learning in the heart of the community’***

As we approach the final weeks of the school year, I am delighted to share just a few of the many things that make our school such a vibrant, caring, and exciting place to learn. At Ilchester Community Primary School, our commitment to child-centred learning in the heart of the community continues to shine through every classroom, corridor, and playground.

### **A Season of Growth and Change**

It has been wonderful to see the hard work and efforts of our children recognised as staff complete the final assessments of the year. Pupils have spoken proudly about their learning throughout the year reflecting on new knowledge, friendships, and personal accomplishments. The pride they take in their progress is a testament to the nurturing and inclusive environment fostered across our school.

We are also pleased to share that as of 1st June, Ilchester Community Primary officially joined the Preston Primary Academy Trust (PPAT). This is an exciting milestone for us as we align with a trust that shares our child-centred, holistic approach to education.

### **Celebrating School Life and Learning**

From Reception to Year 6, our pupils have experienced a wide range of exciting, creative and purposeful learning this term. Here are just a few highlights:

Ilchester’s Got Talent was a fantastic celebration of bravery and joy. Children took to the stage with singing, comedy, dancing and magic showcasing not just talent, but also confidence, friendship and support for one another. Congratulations to our winners Teddy, Amiyah and Paige. Teddy also took a winning trophy at PPATs got talent!

Kindness in Action: Parliament Day was a proud moment for the school, with four of our pupils presenting on the theme of kindness and how they are promoting it in school. They spoke with maturity and heart, reflecting our com-

mitment to inclusion and equity.

Year 6 enjoyed a memorable residential trip to Great Wood, full of adventure, laughter and new friendships.

Our recycled Art Day and subsequent community exhibition demonstrated the value we place on the creative arts here at Ilchester. You can see some of the pieces on show at the Town Hall.

### **A School at the Heart of Its Community**

We are especially proud of the continued work within the community, with recent coffee mornings raising valuable funds and created joyful experiences for both children and the wider community. Year 4 and Year 6 pupils even served coffee and chatted with residents showing confidence, kindness and respect for all generations.



The completion of our Reception outdoor area has been a joyful moment for staff and children. This new space encourages imaginative play and supports early development, with special areas

dedicated to two much-loved staff members. Miss Waterfield's Learning Lodge and Mrs Tanswell's Garden both a touching tribute to their legacy in our school.



Community in action was in full flow at our recent Summer Fayre which brought children, parents and residents together. The children showcased their performing talents with a rich programme of signing and dancing.



### **Looking Ahead**

As we look to the future, we remain deeply committed to our mission and values. Joining PPAT opens the door to even greater collaboration and opportunities, while keeping our focus firmly on what matters most, our very special children.

Thank you to IDCA and all our community partners for your ongoing support. Together, we are helping our children grow, thrive, and develop into the curious, kind, and brave individuals we know they are.

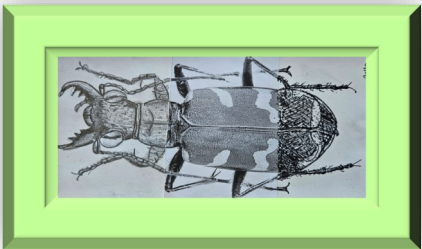
Mrs Michelle Mordue

Proud Headteacher-Ilchester Community Primary School



# THE GALLERY





## Lendiniaie ESU



As always, the unit has had a busy few months. We've welcomed a new member to our leadership team. Jacob is a former Lendiniaie Explorer who has come back into scouting as an adult. He was invested at the beginning of July and gave his scout promise whilst canoeing on the River Parrett in Langport before promptly being thrown in to celebrate.

We've done a lot of canoeing over the summer term, managing to squeeze in three sessions across June and July. Canoeing is a brilliant activity, but it always ends up with at least one boat capsizing (whether on accident or through sabotage is up for debate!) Being on the water is thoroughly enjoyed by both Explorers and Leaders alike, and we're very lucky to live in an area where this activity is so accessible.

Every summer, we set a goal to get outside as much as we possibly can because it's criminal to waste such beautiful weather. Out of 13 sessions, 9 have been spent away from the hut doing a myriad of different activities such as Canoeing, Hiking, Orienteering and Challenges. One popular challenge is our What3Words challenge, where explorers receive a question sheet with cryptic What3Words locations, sometimes they're scrambled, sometimes they're reversed, sometimes they're normal, but we pretend they're muddled. It's up to them to solve the puzzle and answer as many questions as they can in 90 minutes (with pictures to prove they've been to the location!) What3Words is a fantastic creation in which the world is divided into 3 metres by 3 metres squares. It's used by everyone from friends meeting up to the emergency services, and by doing activities like this challenge, it helps the Explorers to familiarise themselves with the app. In turn, this gives them confidence in their navigation ability and also the ability to stay safe when out and about.

Every edition of this newsletter, we're telling you about the awards achieved at Lendiniaie, but truly, we couldn't be prouder of the hard work our Explorers put in. Back in early June, several of our Explorers took part in Cub Camp as members of the leadership team to help deliver activities to over 300 cubs. Alongside this, two Explorers also received some of the top awards in Explorers: The Platinum Award and The Diamond Award. The way we describe these is to imagine the Duke of Edinburgh's award plus a little bit extra. These two lads worked their socks off and were rewarded with one Platinum award and one Diamond award, respectively.



DofE expeditions are gearing up to go over the summer, and we're hoping by the next newsletter to be able to tell you all about it.

We're always looking for help and support with our unit, whether that be in a behind-the-scenes role or as a Leader; there is always something for everyone, and it is a fantastic way to get involved in the local community, not to mention an incredibly rewarding endeavor. You don't need any previous scouting experience to get involved. If this feels like something you may be interested in or you have any questions, please get in touch.

**Lendiniaie.ESU@EastSomersetScouts.org.uk**

## **Kids eat free or £1**

The summer holidays can feel very long and expensive. Whilst picnics can be cheap and fun, it's good to have a back up. The website **moneysavingcentral.co.uk** has an extensive list of cheap eats for children. The list includes supermarkets such as Tesco and Morrisons, fast food joints Subway and Burger King, hotels Travel Lodge and Premier Inn, as well as Beef-eater, Pizza Hut, Brewer's Fayre, Bella Italia and Dobbies Garden Centre.

They also have ideas for cheap/ free activities such as The Great Butterfly Hunt, Geocaching (treasure hunting), and visiting a local museum or library. Our library has jigsaws as well as lots of children's books, and the museum has a skeleton!

## **PASS WIDE & SLOW**

Horses and ponies, and their owners will be heading to The Podymore Inn and Steakhouse on September 6th to take part in a ride to raise awareness among motorists of the correct way to pass the animals.

Sharon Carter, who runs the pub with her husband, Kevin, organised a similar event in the centre of Wells last year as part of the "Pass Wide and Slow campaign". Brewery Red Oak Taverns has agreed to allow horse and pony hitching posts outside the pub and all owners and their animals are welcome. The ride starts at 12 noon.

The Carters own four horses and a Shetland pony, two of which are rescue animals whose lives have been transformed in their care. Sharon has rescued around 100 since she was a teenager.

Sharon stresses that riders also need to be aware of the correct way to behave. Cyclists, and mums and dads with pushchairs on country roads can also be vulnerable.—TR

## Breast cancer fundraising thanks

We held our annual charity event on Tuesday 3 June 2025 and through various events we raised **£691.38**, we are very fortunate to have this amount doubled by Day Lewis.

All monies raised are to go to the Breast Cancer Unit as we continue to support such a worthy cause. We would like to thank everyone for cakes on the day and to all that donated money.

Many Thanks from all the team at Day Lewis Pharmacy, Ilchester



## ILCHESTER MUSEUM

**Every Wednesday 10am - 3pm**

**Last Saturday of the month 11am –3pm**

Tours of the Roman cemetery, weather permitting, last Wednesday of the month. Meet at the museum. To book call into the museum or email:  
[Ilchester.heritage@gmail.com](mailto:Ilchester.heritage@gmail.com)

The site is currently overgrown. You will need suitable shoes and clothes. There is no Roman archaeology visible above ground, but is still an evocative site. Walks run under the old goal boundary wall.



### 2025 Cumulative figures for Podimore Community Speedwatch to the end of **May**

In 22 one-hour watches on the Podimore Road at 3 points;

2833 vehicles passed through Podimore  
Equivalent to 128 vehicles per hour passing through  
301 vehicles were driving in excess of 35 mph  
11 % speeding ratio over 35 mph  
Highest recorded speed = 53 mph



## **Ilchester Parish Council**

**Are you someone who likes to do good for your community? Do you care about the decisions that get made that affect the local people and area?**

## **Could you give up a few hours a month to volunteer as a Parish Councillor?**

**We meet on the second Thursday of every month - 7:30pm in Ilchester Town Hall**

**To be eligible you must be:**

- A British, Commonwealth or EU Citizen
- Aged 18 or over
- Have lived, owned property or worked in, or within 3 miles of, the parish for at least one year

**If interested please come along to a meeting or contact our clerk, Ruby Coombes, at [clerk@ilchesterparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ilchesterparishcouncil.gov.uk) or send us a message on our FB page**



Ilchester Parish Council met on 12<sup>th</sup> June and 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025. The Council meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm in the Town Hall.

Another councillor has resigned and there are vacancies for residents to apply.

### **Traffic & Highways**

The council would love to recruit volunteers to capture the number plates of heavy goods vehicles that should not be coming through the village. Can you spare an hour here and there? Contact [clerk@ilchesterparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ilchesterparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Somerset Council will provide free training to any volunteers for the Highway Maintenance Volunteer Scheme to clean signs, gullies, etc. Please give your name to the clerk.

Market Square car park is owned by Ilchester Parish Council. We request vehicle owners to be respectful of the hatched markings which are private land and not to be parked on or used as the exit. The exit marked "OUT" needs to be left clear.

### **Crime**

Ilchester crime statistics are relatively low and can be viewed under Wincanton Rural West at [www.police.uk/](http://www.police.uk/)

If you see or experience a crime, do report it on the same website.

### **Planning matters**

Planning applications were reviewed for New Spittles Farm and Nuova Italia restaurant: Council had no comments to make. Applications for porches and internal works at Trinity Barn, an extension at 7 West Street, replacement of windows and doors at The Elms and construction of a garage at 5 Roman Court have been approved. Application for vehicle access, parking and turning at The Elms was refused.

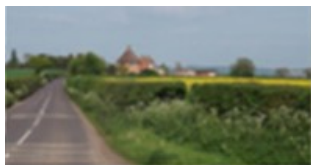
### **Allotments**

There are vacancies for two plots at the time of writing.

### **Play Areas**

The play areas at The Mead and Pillbridge Lane continue to be inspected by Somerset Council. However, we are no longer provided with written reports and will only be informed if there are deficiencies. Reports will be entered into an online system instead and bi-annual reports provided to IPC.

**FULL MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE & PARISH NOTICE BOARDS**



Full minutes available online and Parish noticeboards for 8th July meeting.

**Next meeting: Tues 9th September, 19.30, St Bartholomew's, Yeovilton**

Planning:

24/02923/LBC. Lower Farm (lot 3), Mill Lane, Limington BA22 8EJ. Conversion of 2 agricultural barns into a self-build residential dwelling with integrated annex. Awaiting decision.

24/02922/FUL. Lower Farm (lot 3), Mill Lane, Limington BA22 8EL. Conversion of 2 agricultural barns into a self-build residential dwelling with integrated annex. Awaiting decision.

25/00678/FUL. Erection of a 4-bedroom dwelling (Use Class C3) on land adjacent to The Podymore Inn, utilising access off Podimore Road, with associated parking and landscaping, including reconfiguration of the beer garden, children's play area and car park of the public house. Podimore, BA22 8JF. Awaiting decision.

Also discussed: flooding plan, Yeovilton village phone box, hunting in the village and HGV's driving through Limington.

## **Limington fete & dog show meeting**

**Volunteers desperately needed for this important fundraiser to continue. There will be a meeting 19.30, 2nd October at the Lamb & Lark. Even the smallest role is of great importance. Look forward to seeing you.**

## **Footpaths**

If anyone would like to volunteer on the 'Adopt a Path' or 'Somerset Strimmer' schemes, information is available from [volunteering.somerset.gov.uk](http://volunteering.somerset.gov.uk) or phone 01823 358 250.

Any problems with a footpath please report it using the interactive map at [somerset.gov.uk/rightsofway](http://somerset.gov.uk/rightsofway). You can also phone the council on 0300 123 22 24

For those of you with concerns about Limington footpaths feel free to contact [limingtonfootpaths@gmail.com](mailto:limingtonfootpaths@gmail.com)

**ILCHESTER CHARITY CAR BOOT SALE**  
**RAISING FUNDS FOR OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY**



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**FROM 6 APR-12 OCT 2025**  
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£16 Merchant/Commercial Vans  
£5 Additional Trailer  
£5 per additional Trailer

**BUYERS' FEES (No access to stalls prior to 0830)**

£1 per Vehicle (Single Occupancy)  
£2 per Vehicle (Multiple Occupancy)  
£1 Pedestrian/2 wheeled vehicles  
Children free

**SELLERS WEEKLY RAFFLE**

TOP PRIZE OF: £30 CASH or ONE of 4 Free Pitch Vouchers

## **Pharmacy: Use it or lose it!**

### **WEIGHT LOSS SERVICE**

In the UK, approximately 1 in 4 adults live with obesity—a serious health issue that increases the risk of conditions like cancer, heart disease, and type 2 diabetes, potentially reducing life expectancy by 3 to 10 years, depending on severity. Achieving and maintaining a healthy weight can sometimes be a complex and difficult journey, that also requires commitment. Fortunately, we are here to help with our weight loss service, offering you personalised support, including dietary and physical activity guidance and prescription weight loss aids where appropriate\*.

Visit your local Day Lewis pharmacy for more details or book a consultation. Our service provides a range of weight loss options to support you on your journey:

- **Free Consultation:** Our trained professionals conduct private consultations to assess your needs and provide healthy living advice
- **Medicinal Support:** For those who may benefit, and where clinically suitable\*, we offer **private prescription treatments** to complement your lifestyle changes.

\*The choice of available treatments will be dependent on clinical assessment by one of our healthcare professionals.

**Our local pharmacy– High Street, Ilchester, BA22 8NH,  
01935 840 273**

### **Covid-19 & Flu Vaccines**

If you are eligible for a Covid-19 vaccine, please book via the NHS website or 119. Vaccines will be available from September.

Flu vaccines will be available from October - bookings may be



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## **Stitch Knit and Natter**



**Join our group of amateurs in the  
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**For more info contact Jackie Stephens  
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## **At a loose end on Thursday?**

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Email: [andrew.dunningham@yeovil4family.org.uk](mailto:andrew.dunningham@yeovil4family.org.uk)

Tel: 07970 952653

Website: [www.yeovilcommunitychurch.co.uk/yeovil-4-family/](http://www.yeovilcommunitychurch.co.uk/yeovil-4-family/)



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## Useful numbers

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Ilchester Town Trust & Sports field	Clerk: Maxine Read	07562 988 837 ittclerk@gmail.com
Town Hall caretaker	Julie Stapleton	01935 841 247 ittcaretaker@gmail.com
Sports field caretaker	Kat Lawson	07518 053638
Tall Trees Community Centre	Gill Duke	01935 840 562
Buttercross Health Centre		01458 272 473
Queen Camel Medical Centre		01935 850 225
Ilchester Pharmacy		01935 840 273
Ilchester Parish Council	Clerk: Ruby Coombs	clerk@ilchesterparishcouncil.gov.uk
Yeovilton & District Parish Council	Clerk: Nicky Moore	clerk@yeoviltonparishcouncil.gov.uk
RNAS Yeovilton Community Engagement Officer	Mr P. Jones	Phillip.jones229@mod.gov.uk
RNAS Yeovilton		01935 840 551
IDCA Churches	Rev Bruce Faulkner Rector	01935 849 441 Ilchestervicar@aol.com
St Mary Major, Ilchester	Clerk: Sally Mottram	sallyspin@btinternet.com
St Mary, Limington	Church warden: John Langden	01935 851 099
St Peter, Podimore	Church warden: Ellen LeBrun	01935 841 618
Police Community Support Officers (Wincanton Rural West)	Beata Marcelino & Jacob Tailby	101 (non emergency) 999 (emergency) Or report online at www.police.uk
Samaritans		116 123
National Domestic Abuse Helpline		0808 2000 247