



# PLANET WIMBORNE

## Planet Wimborne Newsletter

### November 2025

One of the highlights of this time of year is the return of the migrating geese, which you might have heard honking overhead. These are mostly Brent, Barnacle and Pink-footed Geese, which have come all the way from Iceland, Greenland and the Russian arctic. So it's hardly surprising if they get a bit excited as they come into land in Dorset, after their journey of up to 3000 miles.

Congratulations to everyone who made the Green Festival such a success - see report below. Plans are already being developed for next year's event, so do share your ideas.

This is our last newsletter of what has been an amazing year for Planet Wimborne and its affiliated community groups. Planet Wimborne wishes everyone a peaceful and more sustainable festive season. You can find top tips on a more sustainable Christmas here: <https://www.wwf.org.uk/top-tips-sustainable-christmas>.

Stop Press - Wimborne BID (Business Improvement District) will be supporting and promoting businesses in the town for another 5 years (<https://dorsetview.co.uk/another-five-year-term-for-wimborne-bid>). This is great news and Planet Wimborne looks forward to continuing to work in partnership with the BID to encourage businesses to become more sustainable.

This edition provides an update on what's been happening in the area. We would welcome any stories for our next Newsletter. Please email [planetwimborne@gmail.com](mailto:planetwimborne@gmail.com).

### Air Travel Quiz

Many of us lie on the flightpath from Bournemouth airport, which prompted the following questions:

1. How can I find out where all these planes are going?
2. How much does aviation contribute to global heating?
3. How many planes are in the air at any one time?
4. What proportion of flights are for tourism?
5. The main hope for making aviation more environmentally sustainable is Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). What is it made from?

Quiz answers below.

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## Planet Wimborne News

### Join the Steering Group!

At present, not all of the Community Groups are represented on the Steering Group, so if you would like to join the latter, please get in touch. We still need volunteers to join our Campaigns sub-group. Please email [planetwimborne@gmail.com](mailto:planetwimborne@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping with this, or any other roles within PW.

## Planet Wimborne Green Festival 2025

### **A week to remember and celebrate**

Another successful Planet Wimborne Green Festival has come and gone. From the sun-blessed Minster Green Fair on the opening Saturday to the sell-out finale with *The Great British Sewing Bee's* Patrick Grant at Queen Elizabeth School, this annual green-themed week has delivered again. And once again, Festival organisers were grateful for the support of local businesses (Dacombes and Teachers Building Society), Wimborne Minster Town Council, Corfe Mullen Town Council, Colehill Parish Council and Wimborne BID.

At the Festival's official opening, silver-medal-winning Paralympian, Jack Evers, spoke about the importance of clean rivers and seas to his sport of canoeing, Deputy Mayor Cllr Wheeler encouraged us all to take small steps to reduce our impact on the environment, Revd Andrew Rowland blessed the Festival and Town Crier Chris Brown's focussed on the impact of climate change. The Quarterjacks then led a procession from the Minster Green to the Square, with Chris riding in a cycle-powered trishaw. As in previous years, the apple pressing and juice sampling were very popular, and there was a constant buzz around the stalls on the Green; inside the Minster were refreshments and well supported donations of medical kit to Ukraine Relief and unwanted tech to DonateIT.

Events during the week drawing a full house were a talk on care for our local rivers, and a bird-ringing demonstration at Deans Court. With its strapline of *'Buy Better, Be More'*, the 2025 Green Festival couldn't have ended on a more appropriate note than Patrick Grant's impassioned plea for us all to buy less, buy better and buy local for the benefit of both people and planet.

Overall there were 31 'events' in the programme, organised by 23 different organisations. Of the events, the majority were for the general public (26), with four for young people and 1 for businesses. 14 of the events involved some form of business engagement, such as the Salamander food walkabout and the pre-loved challenge. 626 people attended the Planet Wimborne ticketed and other events (where we have the data). This is a significant increase compared to the 296 who attended the 2024 events. It is likely that given the footfall for the Green Fair and Transport Hub, the festival may have attracted somewhere between 1000 and 1500 people (although exact numbers are hard to know as we don't have the numbers attending the Fair or some of the other events organised by others).



Note that recordings of some of the talks given during the Festival are now available via the PW website:

<https://planetwimborne.org/articles/planet-wimborne-green-festival-2025-recordings-talks-now-available>

**Save the date:** Planet Wimborne Green Festival 2026, October 10th–17th.

## Wimborne Minster Neighbourhood Plan

Wimborne Minster Town Council

(<https://www.wimborne.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>) has set up a steering group to deliver a neighbourhood plan for the area. Neil Smith, one of Planet Wimborne's Trustees, has joined the Steering Group to provide input on sustainability issues.

*What is a Neighbourhood Plan, why does Wimborne need one and how does it fit with the Local Plan?*

Wimborne Minster Neighbourhood Plan will put in place planning policy for the area for the next 10 to 20 years to guide future development of the use and development of land. The Plan will contain a vision, aims, planning policies, proposals for improving the area, providing new facilities, and allocation of key sites for specific kinds of development.

The neighbourhood plan is about giving local communities the power to shape the local area. This means local people can have a say in where new homes, shops and offices should be built, set design preferences or even determine necessary infrastructure. In this way the neighbourhood plan aims to develop the area in a way that meets the needs and aspirations of the local community. The neighbourhood plan forms an important part of the statutory development plans for the area, providing Wimborne Minster Town Council the power to guide local planning decisions in the future.

Having a Neighbourhood Plan will allow Wimborne Minster Town Council to have more of a say in the location and type of development in the area and the management of green space. By focusing on a smaller area the plan can help prioritise decisions on the strategic development of the town and surrounding area.

The neighbourhood plan will form part of the development plan for the area alongside Dorset's Local Plan. While Dorset's local plan will focus more on delivering overall growth and sustainable development for the county, it's also designed to complement neighbourhood plans that cover more small-scale community planning decisions. The policies of both the neighbourhood plan and Dorset's local plan must be taken into account in future planning and development decisions.

*What happens next?*

The Steering Group will consult residents, community groups, charities, educational establishments and businesses to help shape the vision and aims of the plan. Please look out for the consultation and take a few minutes to complete the survey and encourage others to do so.

## Call for energy and water community group(s)

In completing the mapping of the UN Sustainable Goals (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>) against the work of all our community groups it quickly became apparent there is a sizable gap! Whilst between the groups we cover most of the 17 goals, clean energy (SDG 7) and water efficiency (SDG 6) are conspicuous by their absence.

You can find out about energy efficiency projects across the county (<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/low-carbon-dorset>) and Bridport's inspirational community owned clean energy project here: <https://www.dorsetcommunityenergy.org.uk/projects/energy-local-bridport/>. Both of our local water companies, Bournemouth (<https://www.bournemouthwater.co.uk/our-community/out-and-about/better-futures-fund>) and Wessex Water (<https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/in-your-community/wessex-water-foundation>), provide community grants for water saving initiatives.

Planet Wimborne is keen to hear from anyone who would like to start up community groups exploring these two topic areas. Please email [planetwimborne@gmail.com](mailto:planetwimborne@gmail.com).

At this year's Dorset COP, People Owned Power (POP) (<https://www.pop.energy/>) delivered an inspiring workshop on turning streets into power stations by helping people put solar panels on their roofs. A film 'Power Station' (<https://power.film/>) has been made featuring POP that asks the question "what could we do from where we live, with the people around us, to build power - of energy and imagination?". Definitely food for thought.

## Planet Wimborne becomes a Charity

On 20th October Planet Wimborne transitioned from a business (CIC) to a charity (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). This will

provide greater access to funding streams and put the organisation on a sounder financial footing.

Our charitable purpose is:

*To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by educating about and raising awareness, through events, projects and campaigns, of climate and nature crises and how to minimise the impact of these crises on the environment, people and wildlife.*

This change does not affect the way we run the organisation or how we work in partnership with all our affiliated community groups and strategic partners.

Watch out for an invitation to Planet Wimborne's AGM in January (date and venue to be confirmed). It would be great to see you there.

## **Dorset Council launches citizens' panel to guide local action on climate change**

A new citizens' panel

(<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/news/dorset-launches-citizens-panel-to-guide-local-climate-action>) has been launched to give local people a say in how the county responds to climate change.

A citizens' panel brings together a group of local people - chosen to reflect the wider community - to learn about an issue, discuss it, and share their views. They hear from experts, explore different perspectives, and work together to make recommendations.

Panels like this have been used across the UK and beyond to help shape decisions on issues like climate, transport and public health. Dorset's citizens' climate panel will focus on how the county can respond to the growing impacts of climate change - such as flooding, coastal erosion and extreme weather.

The panel will meet for a series of four meetings running through October and November. Over the course of these sessions, panel members will hear from a range of experts, explore key climate challenges facing the county, and work together to develop recommendations that will help shape how Dorset prepares for a changing climate.

Planet Wimborne supports this initiative and will watch with interest to see what the panel recommends.

## Spotlight on Community Groups in PW

We are aiming to profile each of the Community Groups belonging to Planet Wimborne here in this Newsletter. So if your group hasn't been featured yet, please send us a brief description and details of current activities. For this issue, we'd like to welcome Wimborne's Fair Ground Shop.

### Fair Ground Shop



Fair Ground - Wimborne's fair trade shop - not for profit, run by volunteers and found in the Cornmarket.

By buying gifts, food, crafts, cards, accessories & jewellery you are supporting us and our global fair trade partners. Don't forget to visit us when you're doing your Christmas shopping!

The shop also acts as a sustainability hub for the town where you can pick up information about upcoming events and it's also the place where regular town litter picks kick off from.

Open Monday to Saturday 10-4pm

Tel 01202 849898

Email [fairground21@gmail.com](mailto:fairground21@gmail.com)

[Fair Ground Shop on Facebook](#)

## Wimborne Town of Culture 2026:

### Exciting Developments Underway

Wimborne Minster is gearing up for its Town of Culture 2026 celebrations, and the preparations are already well underway! The Town Council is delighted to have appointed a Project Manager to lead the programme and bring the vision to life.

Since joining, our Project Manager has been busy developing a dynamic programme of events, working closely with the steering group, local artists, cultural organisations, and community groups to ensure that the celebrations reflect the creativity and spirit of Wimborne Minster. The list of projects prepared at Planet

Wimborne's community group networking event in July have been shared with the Project Manager. Alongside this, a comprehensive funding plan is being developed to support the wide range of activities planned for 2026.

This is an exciting opportunity for the town to showcase its rich heritage, vibrant arts scene, and community spirit. Residents and visitors can look forward to a calendar of events that will engage, inspire, and celebrate all that makes Wimborne Minster unique.

Stay tuned for more updates as the programme continues to take shape – there's plenty to look forward to!

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QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. This amazing website, developed by two plane spotters from Sweden, now provides up-to-the minute location data for most of the world's aircraft: you can track individual planes and see where they're going - <https://www.flightradar24.com/> 2. About 4%, taking into account the climate-warming effects of emissions at high altitude. Direct emissions from jet fuel account for about 2% of global CO2. 3. Up to 20,000, although the exact number varies with the time of day, day of the week and season. 4. More than half. 5. SAF is made from a variety of sources, such as used cooking oil, agricultural residue, animal fats, household waste, and non-biological resources like captured carbon dioxide and water. It can reduce emissions by up to 90%. SAF currently accounts for 0.7% of airline's total fuel consumption, but use is growing rapidly, and this form of fuel is considered to be one of the main methods by which the global airline industry will meet their goal of net zero by 2050.

If you want to complain about noise pollution from Bournemouth Airport, here is the link! <https://www.bournemouthairport.com/environment/>

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## Things happening around Wimborne

You can see what is coming up [here](#). Some key dates for September and October:

**8 November** Saturday, 10:30 - 12:00. Wimborne Win on Waste.

**11 November** Tuesday, 17:30 - 19:00. "The Air We Breathe" learning programme and DEED AGM on Zoom.

**15 November** Saturday, 12:00-14:00. Wimborne Repair Cafe

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We hope you've found some things of interest in this newsletter. If you have comments or suggestions for future topics, drop us an email at [planetwimborne@gmail.com](mailto:planetwimborne@gmail.com)

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