



# PLANET WIMBORNE

## Planet Wimborne Newsletter

### March 2026

It's been a busy year so far! The Wimborne Town of Culture has now been officially launched, and Planet Wimborne continues to be closely involved in its progress. We have created three walking trails around the town, to help you explore our musical heritage, notable buildings and the people that lived in them, and second-hand shops. On top of that, Spring on the Green is just around the corner. We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events.

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

### Quiz

March is associated with the phrase 'mad as a March hare'. So here are some quiz questions about hares:

1. How many hare species are there in the world?
2. What is the collective noun for a group of hares?
3. 'Mad' March hares are known for boxing each other - but what is the basis for this unusual behaviour?
4. Hares are the fastest land mammals in Europe. How fast can they run?
5. Brown hare isn't native to the UK - it was introduced by people. But when was it introduced?

See below for answers.

### Join the Steering Group of Planet Wimborne!

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.

## New website

Planet Wimborne has a shiny new website, which has just gone live - and it looks wonderful. (If you spot any problems with it, do let us know!). A big thank you to everyone who has worked hard on the redesign, especially Harry Andrews of Wimborne Business Systems Ltd (WD4D) (<https://websitedesign4dorset.co.uk/>). The URL is still the same: <https://planetwimborne.org/>

## Wimborne Town of Culture Launch Event

The Town of Culture was launched in Allendale House on the 18th February, at an evening event featuring the work of artists, musicians, performers, film-makers, community groups, schools and colleges associated with Wimborne. Planet Wimborne was very much involved in the event, as all attendees went home with a hand-stitched bag created by the Bunting and Bag group, made out of recycled materials and filled with information about our activities and associated community groups, including postcards for two of the walking trails we have developed.

Thanks to the initiative of our local MP Vikki Slade, the Town of Culture was also celebrated at an event in the House of Commons. A 'Dorset Day' Reception was held on February 23, attended by the Town of Culture team, and showcasing contributions from local makers, including Beaucroft College, Wimborne Contemporary Arts, the Wimborne Militia, and the Wimborne Community Theatre. Planet Wimborne was again in evidence - see if you can spot the Wimborne cup and the bags made by the Bunting and Bags group in the photo below!



The Bunting and Bags group is on the look out for bright cotton fabric for bunting - please get in touch ([wimbornewaronwaste@gmail.com](mailto:wimbornewaronwaste@gmail.com)) if you have any.

## Planet Wimborne Stakeholders

In March last year we held a very successful Community Group networking event and spent the time aligning the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with each community group and identifying stakeholders and their relationship with Planet Wimborne. The key UN SDGs for each community group will be on the new website.

The stakeholder mapping exercise was put on the back burner and, following discussion about how Planet Wimborne engages with its stakeholders at the recent AGM, it is now being reviewed by the Trustees. The Trustees will use this tool to prioritise engagement with stakeholders. Thanks go to Jenny Thatcher for leading the stakeholder mapping exercise.

## Planet Wimborne and U3A

U3A in conjunction with Planet Wimborne are putting on a five session series about environmental issues entitled *Greener Wimborne, Better Planet*. The programme starts in the Summer Term, beginning April 20th. Each session will be self-standing and will last 2 - 3 hours, depending on whether there is a visit included. The sessions are being held at The Reef, Colehill Lane, Wimborne BH21 7AB. The five session programme is free to U3A members and just £10 to non-members. The dates are:

**April 20th** What is Planet Wimborne? Introduction to Planet Wimborne, the environmental awards achieved, the green community groups and the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

**May 11th** Let's talk Rubbish. Wimborne War on Waste and Win on Waste jointly share knowledge on the waste hierarchy and where we can best put our efforts to reduce what we throw away.

**May 18th** Wildlife-friendly gardening. Wilding Wimborne charts the drastic wildlife decline in the UK, and what we can do in our own gardens to encourage and restore it. May include a visit to Wimborne Community Garden to see practical examples.

**June 1st** Arts and the Environment. In the year when Wimborne is Town of Culture, what role can the arts play in raising environmental awareness? And how can we enjoy arts and culture without damaging the environment? We'll explore these issues by exploring arts events and opportunities in the local area, including music, theatre and sound art, through collaboration with Wimborne Contemporary Arts and Wimborne Community Theatre.

**June 15th** Walk on the wild side. A walk around Badbury Rings and nearby woodlands looking for birds and other wildlife associated with chalk downland habitats.

## News from the Community Garden

Something very exciting has happened at the garden, something very exciting is happening at the garden and something very exciting will happen at Wimborne Community Garden very soon! Let me explain... In January we submitted a "Beautiful Borders" show garden design for a place in the BBC Gardeners World Spring Fair at Beaulieu in May this year....and we were chosen! The theme for the borders for 2026 is "Once upon a time..." This is how we introduced our design:

"Once upon a time there was a blank patch of grass and a group of ordinary people with an extraordinary dream. Using the potion of teamwork and the spirit of community they made their dream come true. They created an abundant community garden where the gates were open to all and the burden of work was shared. A magical land where loneliness dissolved, friendship blossomed, where 'old dogs' realised that they could be taught new tricks and 'young shoots' learnt from their elders. It was a discovery they wanted to share, so they decided to show the world that magic could happen in the smallest of spaces. They suggest to you that the 'happy ever after' for their fairytale would be a garden in every community, small or large, where people come together despite their differences and find 'common ground'. Would that be so very hard to believe?"

So having been accepted, we're busy working to create the show garden now and then after the Gardeners' World event, the garden is going to be finally settled at Beaucroft Foundation School so that the students and staff there will have all the wellbeing benefits of their own miniature community garden. To create this garden of quality is going to take some serious funding; the show garden is all about the power of community. So we would be so grateful if you could give any donation large or small, so that we can make this exciting fairytale a reality. There is a Just Giving page at

[www.justgiving.com/page/wimborne-community-garden-1](http://www.justgiving.com/page/wimborne-community-garden-1) or a donation left at Beacroft College office any school day would be so very much appreciated. Let's see what we can achieve together!



## Wimborne Town Trails

Planet Wimborne is involved in a Town of Culture project to deliver monthly town trails to engage as wide an audience as possible in cultural events and activities. Three trails have already been created, and others are in the pipeline, so this is a great time to explore your local area!

The Wimborne Music Trail profiles the musicians and venues that make Wimborne such a musically exciting place. The trail was launched at the end of January, in an event kindly hosted by Square Records. The Town Mayor and Town Crier were in attendance as the trail project was officially launched, to the accompaniment of the wonderful Dorset Phil celebrating Wimborne in song. You can access the trail here:

<https://www.evergreenmusic.uk/wimborne-music-trail/>



In February we launched the Preloved Rainbow Trail, which features Wimborne's second hand and charity shops. You can download the trail map from here: <https://tinyurl.com/PWtrails>



The Historic Town Trail, based on Green and Blue Plaques, will be launched by the Mayor at Gullivers Bookshop on Saturday 14th March at 4pm. It would be great to see folk there.

## Mayor's Auction of Promises

This is a charitable fund-raising event aiming to raise money for the Mayor's selected charities. It's an Auction of Promises, which will be

held on March 18 at Allenbourne Middle School at 7pm. You receive a free drink on arrival and entrance is free. There are 45 lots to be bid for, ranging from a pair of silver earrings, a vineyard tour for two, a golf experience at Broadstone, and a trip on a luxury yacht - truly an amazing set of things on offer! You can send a bid in via email if you are unable to attend (email [gary.mason@wimborne.gov.uk](mailto:gary.mason@wimborne.gov.uk)). For information, the selected charities are:

- **Dorset Community Action:** Specifically supporting a youth project to provide opportunities and support within the community.
- **Millstream Theatre:** A local theatre group providing creative opportunities for actors with learning disabilities from East Dorset and beyond.

## 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 Makers + Shakers.



### Makers + Shakers

Makers + Shakers is a Wimborne based group that carries out environmental campaigns using its hand-crafted items. These crafted items are intended to influence people towards supporting a more environmentally sustainable society. They provoke individuals and organisations to think and act in new ways to counter the environmental crisis. Working together to create items we hope we can foster mindfulness and give the makers an outlet for their feelings of anxiety and despair about the state of the environment.

The 'Sampling the State of Nature' wall hanging embroidered by members of the Makers and Shakers group is currently on tour! It is being displayed in Methodist chapels in the North of England, starting in Hawkshead Methodist chapel. From there, it will be visiting chapels at Kendal, Ulverston and Millom, with a few other locations in the pipeline. It's exciting to think of our local action going on to spread its message to communities in other parts of the country. Thanks to Rosemary for making this happen.

Further information -

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094473745628>

## Ambient music concerts

A second 'Ambient afternoon' event is planned for Sunday the 26th April, in the afternoon, in the garden of the Museum of East Dorset in Wimborne. The event will comprise a series of ambient music concerts, celebrating the legacy of local musician Robert Fripp. Attendance is free - all welcome!. The event will form part of the Spring on the Green celebration, and is a contribution to the Wimborne Town of Culture.

**ambient afternoon**  
an afternoon of ambient music concerts

Andrew Heath  
Obelisks  
Soundhenge  
Mosaicist + Geoff Hearn

POND  
James Osland  
Tim Cowie

experimental electronica - electro-acoustic music - modular synths -  
tape loops - Frippertronics - ambient DJ set from Harry Towell

Sunday 26th April, 1.30 - 5.30 pm. Free entry. Garden + afternoon tea.

Museum of East Dorset, Wimborne Minster, Dorset.  
Access is behind the Museum, next to the public library  
<https://w3w.co/defers.extremely.tabloid>

WIMBORNE TOWN OF CULTURE  
evergreen  
Wimborne Contemporary Arts

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### QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. The genus *Lepus* includes around 30 species, of which three occur in the UK - Brown hare, Mountain hare and Irish hare.
  2. Most commonly a group of hares is referred to as a husk or a down, but there are many other terms in use, such as a drove, a flick, a kindle, a leash, a mute or a trip.
  3. Boxing is initiated by the female, in an attempt to prevent the male from mating with her.
  4. They can run at speeds of up to 45 mph (70 kmh).
  5. For many years it was believed that Brown hare was introduced by the Romans, but recent evidence suggests they were introduced in the Iron Age.
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## Things happening around Wimborne

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

**4th March** Wednesday, 19:30 - 21:30. Fund-raising quiz and supper. Colehill Sports and Social Club.

**9th March** Monday, 10:30 - 12:00. Wimborne Bunting and Bag group. Wimborne Town Hall Committee Room, 37 West Borough.

**14th March** Saturday 10:30 - 12:00. Wimborne Win on Waste. Wimborne Methodist Church.

**14th March** Saturday 16:00 - 17:00. Launch of Historic Wimborne trail. Gullivers Bookshop, High Street.

**21st March** Saturday, 12:00-14:00. Wimborne Repair Cafe, Methodist Church Hall, Kings Street

**11th April** Saturday 10:30 - 12:00. Wimborne Win on Waste. Wimborne Methodist Church.

**13th April** Monday, 10:30 - 12:00. Wimborne Bunting and Bag group. Wimborne Town Hall Committee Room, 37 West Borough.

**18th April** Saturday, 12:00-14:00. Wimborne Repair Cafe, Methodist Church Hall, Kings Street

**25th April** Saturday, 10:30 - 15:00. Spring on the Green. Minster Green.

**25th April** Saturday, 12:00 - 14:00. Donate IT. St George's Chapel, Minster, High Street

**26th April** Sunday, 9:30 - 12:00. Dorset Bird Club Holt Heath walk. Meet at WhiteSheet plantation car park.

**26th April** Sunday, 11:30 - 13:00. Community litter-pick. Fairground Shop, Cornmarket

**26th April** Sunday, 13:30 - 17:30. Ambient afternoon, programme of ambient music concerts, Museum of East Dorset cafe and garden (entrance behind the museum, next to the public library).

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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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