



PLANET WIMBORNE

Planet Wimborne Newsletter

May 2026

Congratulations to everyone who helped make Spring on the Green such a success, with several hundred people attending our events. The screening of the film 'Ocean', to celebrate David Attenborough's 100th birthday, was also well attended - thanks to everyone who helped make that happen. Planet Wimborne is continuing its development of walking trails as a contribution to the 2026 Town of Culture; there are now four of them for you to explore - just pick up a leaflet or postcard from the Wimborne Tourist Information Centre, or check out the Planet Wimborne website.

<https://planetwimborne.org/>

In March you may have spotted the reference to Planet Wimborne in the section on Wimborne Minster in the Sunday Times Best Places to live supplement!

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.

Quiz

Following our screening of the film 'Ocean', with its wonderful footage of sea creatures, here's a few quiz questions about marine life:

1. The film mentioned the world's biggest marine protected area (MPA), in Hawaii. But an even larger MPA has now been designated - where is it?
2. The world's nations have committed to protecting the oceans primarily through the UN High Seas Treaty, which entered into force on January 17, 2026. What is the goal of the Treaty?

3. Researchers recently discovered the world's largest seagrass ecosystem, like the one we have at Studland, but extending over 92,000 km² in the Bahamas. How did they find it?
4. How many marine species that are new to science are discovered each year?
5. This amazing creature has recently been spotted in Devon for the first time, and could soon be found in Dorset - what is it, and why is it spreading?



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. Please email planetwimborne@gmail.com if you are interested in helping with this, or any other roles within PW.

Wimborne Town of Culture Update

A report from our Mayor Jeff Hart: "In Wimborne this year we are the **2026 Dorset Town of Culture**. It took some effort to get here – the original application was submitted well over a year ago; Wimborne was shortlisted with Swanage, Ferndown, and Sherborne; we were visited by a panel of experts for a day; we were told our bid 'blew the panels' heads away'.

Our application opened with the words '*we want the opportunity to invest in our area, put a spotlight on our rich history and heritage and celebrate our community and creatives on a local stage*'. Our focus was clear – to bring culture to people who had not experienced this before – the youth of the town; the new estates surrounding the town; those who are socially isolated.

We are making new partners all the time – recent additions include Canford school, the Wimborne BID, Savills, and we are approaching more businesses to invest in this year of Culture. Our theme is

‘Bridging the Past and the Future’ – celebrating a 1,000 year old story from Roman roads to digital creativity. Our goal is to be a **Cultural Catalyst** - designed to spark new ideas, support existing creative talent, and celebrate heritage whilst tackling social isolation, supporting youth wellbeing and connecting residents across the town.

We are lucky to have a great cultural infrastructure locally: Museum of East Dorset, National Trust, East Dorset Heritage Trust, Walford Mill, Allendale and Wimborne community Centres, Wimborne Community Theatre, Millstream Theatre, The Model Town and Gardens, Radio Wimborne and not forgetting the Minster itself - how many towns could boast such a list? We have big, ambitious plans which include: four landmark events; a brand-new Youth Festival; an eco-heritage sculpture trail; micro-commissions where you can bid for a small grant to create something new.

Our legacy will be after 2026 to leave many more cultural strands, events and traditions that means culture really matters forever in Wimborne or as Robert Fripp called us, ‘the centre of the Universe’. There is a great buzz and huge interest about the town in the Town of Culture with everyone keen for Wimborne to thrive even more in 2026 – it’s been a real privilege to be Mayor in this particular year.

On **6–19 April**, UPLIFT took place, which was a youth-led programme of performances, workshops, exhibitions and creative activity happening across Wimborne during the Easter holidays. Pop-up creativity occurred across Wimborne this Easter - with opportunities to perform, create, showcase work and help shape the programme. Saturday 11 April was a particularly lively day, with performances in the Square, workshops and creative activity across the town. The Sports and Active Leisure Festival on 19th April was on Willow Walk, comprising loads of games, information and fun.

Dorset Town of Culture is designed to bring communities together – so we want your ideas! While we’ve got events and projects in mind, there's always room for more creativity, laughter and connection. Go onto the website (www.2026wimborne.org) to find out more”.

Global Fair - 27th June, Walford Mill

The Global Fair is on Saturday 27 June 2026 at Walford Mill, Wimborne BH211NL 11am - 4pm. This free event is brought to you by DEED, FairGround, Planet Wimborne and friends, and is part of Wimborne Town of Culture 2026.

Discover cultures, share traditions, learn about the environment and enjoy a day of global celebration with stories, music, activities and performances for the whole family. Come and get involved in activities and visit stalls by DEED, FairGround, Planet Wimborne, Dorset Ukrainian Community, BPC Indian Community, local schools, and others ...

Contact DEED at training@deed.org.uk to find out more. If you'd like to be involved we need some volunteer help on the day so please get in touch if you are available.

Wimborne Community Theatre news

Join Wimborne Community Theatre (<https://wimbornecommunitytheatre.co.uk>) for a landmark outdoor theatre event as part of Wimborne Town of Culture.

Wimborne Community Theatre is offering creative people living in the area an exciting opportunity to be part of a new inclusive, site-specific community theatre production. Staged in a rarely visited part of the **Kingston Lacy** estate from 21-27 September, the Home Show will be a Landmark project within Wimborne's programme as the chosen Dorset Town of Culture 2026.

The show is being devised by WCT members working with professional theatre practitioners and writers to create something imaginative, exciting and shared by the community. It will combine research into people's own stories of home life and what they like about Wimborne as a hometown (or not) with local history, real and imagined.

Directed by Merley-based Dorset born's Rohan Gotobed, the production is suitable for emerging professional theatre artists (performers or backstagers), amateur actors seeking something new or different, local makers and stitchers – in short, anyone wanting to feel part of a friendly but challenging community ensemble.

Act now!

Come to the WCT practical workshop on **Wednesday May 20th, 7 - 9pm**. If you join the group then, you will get the chance to participate for FREE in an exciting residential weekend course (29 & 30 May 29), with the nationally and internationally acclaimed **Wildworks** (Port Talbot Passion Play), to find out how to make exciting theatre in the landscape.

Wildworks (<https://wildworks.org.uk>), described as “the UK’s leading landscape theatre company”, is collaborating with WCT on this new show. Wildworks is an offshoot from the equally legendary Kneehigh Theatre of Cornwall.

Annual subscription to WCT is £40 for adults, £25 for concessions per year. Other concessions available for people on low incomes. Contact Tony Horitz, Artistic Director, WCT, for further information (info@wimbornecommunitytheatre.co.uk).

Dorset Wildlife Update

Let's start with the great news that Dorset Wildlife Trust has, after a phenomenal public response, secured 110 acres of heathland. Upton Heath is one of the largest remaining areas of lowland heathland in the UK, an internationally important habitat, rich in wildlife and deeply valued by local communities. More details are here:

<https://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/news/upton-heath-saved-successful-fundraising-campaign>

There was also the excellent news that the planning application for the land at Birchdale Road between Wimborne and Colehill was rejected at a recent planning meeting. Details are here:

<https://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/26044140.plans-build-49-homes-dorset-refused/>

It remains to be seen if the developer will appeal against this decision.

Citizen Science opportunities

We all have the opportunity to contribute to citizen science projects to record how our wildlife is fairing.

- Birds - You can find the results from this year's Big Garden Birdwatch survey here:
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>. A big thank you to all of you who took part.
- The RSPB has also issued new guidance on feeding garden birds. We can help stop the spread of disease among garden birds by making two simple shifts to how we feed birds. Put simply: **Feed seasonally. Feed safely.** The details are here:
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/news/how-to-help-garden-birds>

- Butterflies - You can take part in this year's Big Butterfly Count, which takes place between Friday 17 July and Sunday 9 August. Details on how to take part are here: <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>

Community Group events for the diary

Planet Wimborne will have a stand at the Allendale Centre on Sunday 17th May to celebrate the Centre's 50th year. Please come along and say hello.

Planet Wimborne is hosting a community group networking event on the evening of Wednesday 1st July at the MED Hilda Coles meeting room; we hope to see some of you there.

Radio Wimborne 'Green News'

The good news is that Radio Wimborne will stay on air. At a packed Wimborne Minster Town Council meeting Dorset Council apologised for giving the station only two weeks to vacate the studio. Talks between the two sides have helped clear the air and Radio Wimborne now has at least 6 months to find a new home. Please contact them if you can help (info@radiowimborne.co.uk).

Planet Wimborne now has a regular 'Green News' slot on Radio Wimborne's Monday Brunch show (<https://www.radiowimborne.co.uk/shows/monday-brunch-with-kelly-webb-malcolm-angel/>), hosted by Glen Fowler and Malcolm Angel, between 10 and 11am. Please let us know if you wish to appear on the show to share what you do and if you have any events/projects you wish to promote. The next opportunity is on Monday 18th May and every 2 weeks thereafter.

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 sessions are being held at 1 pm at The Reef, Colehill Lane, Wimborne BH21 7AB. The five session programme is free to U3A members and just £10 to non-members - all welcome! The dates are:

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.

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. Four 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. You can access the trail here: <https://www.evergreenmusic.uk/wimborne-music-trail/>
- **The Preloved Rainbow Trail** 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, provides an introduction to Wimborne's notable historic buildings and the people who lived in them. [Download the trail map at https://tinyurl.com/PWtrails](https://tinyurl.com/PWtrails)
- **Make a beeline** Bee Home Trail postcards and leaflets are available in Allendale House and the Museum of East Dorset. To download the bee trail map, go to <https://tinyurl.com/PWtrails>



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. This time we'd like to welcome Colehill Sew and Sews.

Colehill Sew and Sews

We are a local group making dresses and shorts for charity, meeting on the first Wednesday of every month in the home of the founder member. Our aim is to encourage and enable volunteers to join together to have a fun time, to chat, make new friends and share sewing skills whilst making clothes for children in areas of poverty where we have links, ie. orphanages in India, Africa and Cambodia. Many of these children have never received new clothes. Inspired by and loosely based on "Dress a Girl Around the World"

We also make up bags from recycled clothes for The Wardrobe Foundation, who supply good quality second hand clothes to women's refuges and other good causes. We have also made children's eye patches for a project in The Gambia started by a local family, Cataract are Curable. We are presently making clothes and sanitary products to go out to Zambia and South Sudan.

More details and contact information:

<https://planetwimborne.org/group/colehill-sew-and-sews/>



Fairtrade support

We are very fortunate to live in a community with such excellent Fairtrade support. Buying Fairtrade guarantees stable prices, decent working conditions and high environmental standards for small scale producers worldwide. It empowers such producers, demonstrating that there is an alternative to large scale trade, and gives consumers more sustainable choices with their purchases.

Wimborne Minster and Colehill Fairtrade Community have recently distributed window stickers to all our Fairtrade outlets, so that customers and visitors are aware of their commitment to Fairtrade. This can be done by stocking Fairtrade products, by serving Fairtrade teas, coffees and coffees, as well as committing to promoting Fairtrade in our churches and civic buildings. We would like to welcome our new outlets - Woodsies, Nurrish, Brothers Farm and Kingston Lacy - thank you for stocking Fairtrade products. Check our website (<https://www.fairtradewimborne.uk/public/index.php>) for the full list of outlets, and see how many of our stickers you can spot!





Ambient music concerts

A second 'Ambient afternoon' event took place on Sunday the 26th April, in the garden of the Museum of East Dorset in Wimborne, as part of the PW 'Spring on the Green' festival, and a contribution to the 2026 Town of Culture. The event featured a series of ambient music concerts, celebrating the legacy of local musician Robert Fripp. Attendance surpassed all expectations, with over 200 people attending. Many thanks to everyone who helped make the event such a success, including those who helped with the washing up! We hope to do it again next year.



QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Tainui Atea in French Polynesia, with an area of over 4.8 million square kilometres
2. This landmark agreement acts as the legal framework for achieving the "30x30" goal: protecting 30% of the world's oceans by 2030.
3. Marine scientists from [Beneath the Waves](#) and other organizations attached cameras and sensors to tiger sharks,

which swam over the ocean floor and mapped the vast, previously un-surveyed ecosystem.

4. About 2,300.
5. They can run at speeds of up to 45 mph (70 kmh).
6. It is the Rainbow Sea Slug, *Babakina anadoni*, which has recently spread to the UK from warmer waters because of rising sea temperatures, caused by climate change. Keep an eye out for it when rockpooling!

Things happening around Wimborne

You can see what is coming up [here](#). Some key dates for the upcoming couple of months:

Wed 6th May 2026	
Every Drop Counts. Water-Wise Eco Hacks 19:15–21:00	
Hedgehog Friendly Town meeting 19:30–21:00	
Sat 9th May 2026	
Dorset Bird Club Holt Heath Walk 09:30–12:00	
Wimborne Win on Waste 10:30–12:00	
Mon 11th May 2026	
Wimborne Bunting and Bag Group 10:30–12:00	
u3a Programme: Let's Talk Rubbish 13:00–15:00	
Wed 13th May 2026	
Ainsley Road SANG 18:30–20:30	

Sat 16th May 2026	
Wimborne Repair Cafe 12:00–14:00	
Sun 17th May	
Allendale Centre 50th anniversary celebrations.	
Mon 18th May 2026	
u3a Programme: Wildlife-Friendly Gardening 13:00–15:00	
Sat 23rd May 2026	
Dorset Bird Club: Evening Nightjar Walk, Holt Heath 19:15–22:30	
Thu 28th May 2026	
Tree Guard Removal 19:00–21:00	
Sun 31st May 2026	
Wimborne War on Waste's Community Litter Pick 11:30–13:00	
Mon 1st June 2026	
u3a Programme: Arts and the Environment 13:00–15:00	
Tue 2nd June 2026	
Wimborne Food Bank Coffee Morning 10:00–11:30	
Sat 6th June 2026	
Dorset Bird Club Holt Heath Walk 09:30–12:00	
Wed 10th June 2026	

Dogdean SANG 18:30–20:30	
Mon 15th June 2026	
u3a Programme: Walk on the Wild Side 13:00–15:00	
Sat 20th June 2026	
Wimborne Repair Cafe 12:00–14:00	
Sat 27th June 2026	
DEED Global Fair 11:00 - 16:00	
Mon 29th June 2026	
Come and Meet Your Local Water and Sewerage Providers 10:00–14:00	

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
