



PLANET WIMBORNE

Planet Wimborne Newsletter

July 2026

Hopefully you're enjoying the summer so far. It's already been a remarkable one, in terms of the weather. As detailed by the Met Office, a new UK June daily maximum temperature of 37.7°C was recorded at Lingwood in Norfolk. This exceeds any June temperature recorded during the 20th century, including 1976. In the entire 20th century, there were only three days when temperatures were greater than 36°C. In contrast, three such days occurred in a single spell during the recent heatwave. This reflects a trend towards more frequent extreme heat. It was also noticeably more humid at night than previous heatwaves, making it difficult to sleep - perhaps an unexpected outcome of global heating!

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

Since the FIFA World Cup 2026 is currently in progress, here's a few football-related quiz questions, with an environmental slant:

1. FIFA President Gianni Infantino has been attending matches using a private jet. In the first two weeks of the World Cup, he travelled more than 50,000 km. This is equivalent to the average annual carbon emissions of how many people?
2. FIFA has a sponsorship agreement with a Saudi-owned oil company, which has led to tens of millions of tonnes of additional carbon emissions. Which company is it?
3. The 2026 World Cup is set to be the most polluting sporting event in history - true or false?
4. This is the first World Cup where actions have been taken to mitigate extreme heat stress experienced by the players. What actions have been taken?

5. How many fans were treated for heat-related illness on the first day of the World Cup?

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

The Town of Culture 2026 has announced that HOME - a major new community arts programme for Wimborne - has been awarded funding through Arts Council England's National Lottery Project Grants programme. Developed as part of Wimborne's year as Dorset Town of Culture 2026, HOME will bring together artists, residents and communities to explore ideas of home, belonging, heritage and place through a series of ambitious creative projects.

The programme will unfold through four interconnected creative strands, each led by specialist partners and offering different ways for people to take part – from performance and making to music and digital storytelling. The four strands are being delivered in partnership with Wildworks and Wimborne Community Theatre, Emerald Ant, The Paper Cinema and Wimborne Folk Festival, creating opportunities for local people to share stories, develop skills and contribute to new creative work inspired by the people and places of Wimborne. HOME has been made possible through funding from Arts Council England's National Lottery Project Grants programme, alongside support from project partners and supporters.

More information on the Town of Culture website - <https://www.wimborne2026.com/>

Sustainability and Behaviour Change - update

It feels like a lifetime ago that I wrote the first article for this newsletter about my MSc course in Sustainability and Behaviour Change back in 2023 ([link to Jude's article](#)). Since then I've studied sustainability issues around several diverse subjects such as politics and economics, food production and consumption, and cities and communities, as well as diving into the psychology of sustainability

and change at all levels. Some of the best things about the course have been the opportunities to network with like-minded people around the UK and the world, have inspiring discussions and hear different perspectives. There were times when I wondered if I'd bitten off more than I could chew but despite some setbacks and challenges, I completed my dissertation and officially graduated at the end of June.

Back in 2023 we were focusing very much on systems thinking, which is, very broadly speaking, a holistic awareness of the systems operating around any given situation or environment, helping to understand their interconnectedness, impacts, feedbacks, unintended consequences and potential leverage points for change. Given the complex interconnected, interrelated and interdependent nature of the current polycrises, systems thinking is essential to achieving the deeper systemic changes that are necessary.

I kept with the subject of systems thinking for my dissertation, enlisting the help of some of my colleagues to test the effectiveness of a workshop on a particular tool for developing systems thinking. It was received well and seen as being a valuable use of time. The findings of the study showed that the workshop was effective in helping the group get to grips with some aspects of systems thinking in a structured way but needed some further work and evaluation.

Overall, the takeaways of the MSc in Sustainability and Behaviour Change for me have been gaining a deeper appreciation about the sheer complexity and interconnection of all of the issues feeding into the wicked problems of today; the imperative of addressing issues of justice and equity; the value of being able to accept and tolerate uncertainty; and the vital and urgent need to change our relationships with nature and with each other.

Now that it's over I'm letting it all sink in and thinking about what I might do with the knowledge and skills I've developed.

Jude Maguire

Planet Wimborne help launch DonateIT hub

Wimborne's DonateIT hub is up and running at Allendale House. You can now drop off unwanted domestic IT kit, such as PCs, laptops, mobile phones and cables at Allendale House, home to East Dorset Heritage Trust (EDHT). You can drop off the kit Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm at Allendale House (<https://www.edht.org.uk/>).

DonateIT is a charity dedicated to refurbishing or recycling electrical items. Refurbished items are either sold or donated to charities. Wimborne's Food Bank, for example, has benefited from a refurbished laptop. Any data on the IT kit are wiped clean. You can see what you can and cannot bring to Allendale House on the DonateIT website: <https://donateit.co.uk/>.

Previously DonateIT ran two collections a year in association with the Minster Environment Group, one of the Planet Wimborne affiliated community groups. These proved to be extremely popular. At the Spring Green Tech amnesty held recently, 136 devices weighing 266kg were donated.

BBC Gardeners World Award Wimborne Community Garden Platinum

Many congratulations to Wimborne Community Garden!

The Beautiful Borders design created by the team at Wimborne Community Garden has been awarded Platinum at the prestigious BBC Gardeners' World Spring Fair, held at Beaulieu.

The Wimborne Community Garden team have sourced, grown, built and exhibited this garden themselves, as an inclusive team and with so many members contributing in varied ways to its creation; it's a glorious community project for a glorious community team! Their design celebrates the power of community, accessibility, and connection with nature.

Special thanks to the designers behind the project – husband-and-wife team Christopher and Victoria Lawrence, whose work focuses on sensory and sustainable outdoor spaces. Their designs incorporate colour, scent, texture, and sound to create environments that encourage wellbeing and engagement with nature for people of all abilities.

The miniature community garden contains plants that are chosen for their sensory, wildlife-friendly, educational or food production contribution, and many provide more than one of these. Also included are pebbles for sensory play and texture, decorated by groups who use the garden such as Beaucroft Foundation Special School and College, Brownies, and Cubs, representing that the garden is owned by those who use it.

Following its success at the show, the garden will now be relocated to Beacroft Foundation School, where students and staff will benefit from their own miniature community garden designed to inspire learning, inclusion, and wellbeing.

The Platinum award marks a major achievement for the Wimborne team and highlights the growing importance of accessible, community-focused green spaces.

You can find out more about the garden here:

<https://faith-works.org.uk/wimborne-community-garden-beautiful-borders-show-garden/>

Collaboration helping to remove Himalayan Balsam along the River Stour

Will and Brynn the rangers from the Dorset Green Spaces Team, teamed up with rangers from the BCP Stour Valley Barn and volunteers from Rivers for Wimborne to help start the process of removing the invasive Himalayan Balsam plant from the river bank of the Stour along from Dreamboats and past the Brook Road SANG and beyond into the next field, which is all land managed by the Dorset Green Spaces team.

Himalayan Balsam is a non-native, invasive species which is registered under Schedule 9 of the Countryside and Wildlife act 1981 as a species that can cause harm to native British habitats. Removing Himalayan Balsam before it seeds is an ongoing task that, over several years, will help reduce the seed bank of balsam, which will stop the source of seeds entering the river and being carried downstream to establish in another area.

Rivers for Wimborne hope to expand the area for this work next year to include patches of the plant growing along the River Allen through Wimborne and other areas upstream on the Stour.

If anyone would like more information about Rivers for Wimborne and what we trying to do to help protect the Rivers Allen, Stour and Tarrant please get in touch on riversforwimborne@gmail.com or visit www.wildingwimborne.org.uk

Planet Wimborne and U3A

U3A in conjunction with Planet Wimborne have put on a five session series about environmental issues entitled *Greener Wimborne, Better Planet*. The sessions were held at The Reef, Colehill Lane, Wimborne BH21 7AB. Attendance has been encouraging, and therefore it has been decided to run a full course (15 sessions)

starting in autumn 26. We plan to run it for a full year and then review whether to continue after that. The course provides a great opportunity to share information about the activities of the different PW groups, and to discuss the practical actions we can each take to help create a greener Wimborne.

You can find out about Wimborne U3a on their website (<https://wimborne.u3asite.uk/>) and see how to join one of many groups running the autumn programme.

Public drinking fountain installed in Wimborne

A new, free accessible water fountain has been installed at the Cook Row toilets in Wimborne. You can now refill your water bottles from the tap with fresh drinking water.

Councillor Jeff Hart, Mayor of Wimborne Minster said, "It's great to see the installation of this free water point and we hope, particularly during hot weather, it will be used by both locals and visitors to the town to help them keep hydrated. We know climate change is bringing much hotter weather and how dangerous this can be, particularly for young and elderly people. So, having access to drinking water can really make a difference for people's health and wellbeing."

Linda Bunting, Wimborne War on Waste Trustee said, "We are delighted to see the public drinking fountain has been installed. We have long wanted to see a water point in the town centre so that people can refill their water bottles. This will really help to reduce single use plastic waste."

Wimborne Minster Town Council is working with Planet Wimborne, Wimborne BID and the Town of Culture, to commission an artist to paint a mural on the wall to highlight the water fountain.

Wimborne Town Trails

The Wimborne Tree Trail was launched in June. The original trail was created by Cllr Bill Richmond, and Planet Wimborne combined with Wimborne Minster Town Council for its relaunch. This is the sixth trail launched by PW during 2026, linked to the Town of Culture. Planet Wimborne, the BID and Wimborne Minster Town Council have worked together to provide: a Music Trail (January), a Pre-Loved Trail (February), a Historic Green Plaque Trail (March), a relaunched Bee Trail (April) and a trail linked to the Literary Festival (May). All except the event-specific last one will live on after the

Town of Culture as a legacy, and there are more in the pipeline to enjoy as the year unfolds.

You can follow all the trails, including the Tree Trail, using postcards available from the Museum of East Dorset shop or online at <https://tinyurl.com/Pwtrails>. Judy Windwood, one of the volunteers in the Museum shop, says, 'These trails are just hitting the spot for a lot of visitors who want a short, interesting walk around our town.'

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.

Dorset Bird Club



The Dorset Bird Club aims to:

- promote the interest of birds and birdwatching in Dorset.
- collate bird records and produce an annual Dorset Bird Report
- maintain a database of current and historic bird records which is accessible on request to all national and local research and conservation bodies
- provide comment on and support local conservation issues.
- promote and support local regeneration and conservation projects.
- support and encourage participation in local and national surveys.

Membership of the Dorset Bird Club is open to anyone with an interest in birds and birdwatching in the county and runs for one calendar year from the date of joining. The annual membership subscription is £20 per address and includes a copy of the latest Dorset Bird Report and regular e-Bulletins.

Dr George Green leads bird watching walks during the year - so keep an eye out for the next one.

More details and contact information: <https://dorsetbirds.co.uk/>

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Approximately 78
 2. Aramco
 3. True. The carbon emissions are at least double previous World Cups. More on this at:
<https://www.sgr.org.uk/resources/2026-fifa-men-s-world-cup-b-e-most-polluting-ever>
 4. Three minute hydration breaks in each half of every match.
 5. 22
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Things happening around Wimborne

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

Sat 4th July 2026	
Net Zero Week 4 - 10 July	
Colehill Sew and Sews Garden Party 11:00–16:00	
Sun 5th July 2026	
Wimborne War on Waste's Community Litter Pick 11:30–13:00	
Sat 11th July 2026	
Wimborne Win on Waste 10:30–12:00	
Sun 12th July 2026	
Wimborne Community Garden Fun Day 12:00–16:00	
Mon 13th July 2026	

Bees' Needs Week 2026: 13 - 19 July	
Tue 14th July 2026	
Stourview SANG 18:30–20:30	
Fri 17th July 2026	
Big Butterfly Count 2026: 17 July - 9 August	
Sat 18th July 2026	
National Moth Week 2026	
Wimborne Repair Cafe 12:00–14:00	
Sat 25th July 2026	
National Marine Week: 25 July - 9th August	
Sun 26th July 2026	
Love Parks Week	
Mon 27th July 2026	
Whale and Dolphin Watch at Durlston 10:00–13:00	
Thu 30th July 2026	
Butterfly Walk at Kingston Lacy 11am	
Wed 5th August 2026	
Tree Guard Removal 19:00–21:00	

Thu 6th August 2026	
Hedgehog Friendly Town meeting 19:30–21:00	
Fri 7th August 2026	
Cycle to Work Day	
Mon 10th August 2026	
National Allotments Week 10 - 16 August	
Mon 17th August 2026	
Come and Meet Your Local Water and Sewerage Providers 10:00–14:00	
Sun 23rd August 2026	
World Water Week 2026	

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
