PLANET WIMBORNE

Planet Wimborne Newsletter

September 2026

This summer was the UK's warmest ever recorded, surpassing the previous record, which was set only last year, by 0.4°C. Although it wasn't the driest ever summer, many areas received less than half of their average seasonal rainfall. It's hard to remember a time when the fire risk was so high. Notable local fires included one in the New Forest, which resulted in the closure of the A31 for a couple of weeks, as well as in Studland, Bourne Valley and Pimperne. On the plus side, this has been another great summer for the ospreys recently introduced into Poole harbour, who have once again successfully fledged an impressive four chicks.

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 we're approaching the season of mellow fruitfulness, here are a few questions about apples.

1. Where are wild populations found of the domesticated apple?
2. Which of the following is an apple variety, and NOT a type of cheese? a) Stinking Bishop b) Brunost c) Belle Fille de la Manche d) Pule e) Petit Nuage
3. Which year is believed to be the worst for apple production in the UK, because of changing climate?
4. National Apple Day is on 21st October, but when is Purbeck Cider Apple Day?
5. What is the difference between cider and cyder?

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

Town of Culture of activities have continued throughout the summer, including:

- **The Saucepan Pony parade** developed by Emerald Ant, which was one of the creative strands of the HOME multi-arts project exploring stories of home and belonging in Wimborne
- **Share your Wimborne Story** As part of the HOME project, local people are being invited to share the people, places, memories and moments that make Wimborne special, helping to inspire new creative commissions, including a Folk Music Commission. Stories can be submitted online: https://bit.ly/share-your-wimborne-story
- **BELONGING: Our Search for Home** by Wimborne Community Theatre. One of HOME's four creative strands, BELONGING: Our Search for Home is a major landscape theatre production taking place across six evening performances at Kingston Lacy from Tuesday 22 to Sunday 27 September 2026. Created by Wimborne Community Theatre with support from acclaimed landscape theatre company Wildworks, the production will transform the landscape into an immersive theatrical experience celebrating place, people and community. Tickets available here: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/belonging-our-search-for-home-tickets-1994770156235?aff=oddtdtcreator
- **17 Culture Catalyst micro-commissions** have been awarded to artists, community groups and organisations to deliver creative projects across Wimborne during its year as Dorset Town of Culture. The programme supports a wide range of ideas celebrating creativity, community and place, with projects spanning music, theatre, visual arts, heritage, creative health, literature and family activities. The first events by some of the Culture Catalysts have already taken place, including **Wimborne's inaugural Pride celebrations** as part of the Folk Festival parade and **Caroline Parrott's** collaborative printmaking workshop at the **DEED's Global Fair**.

- **Wimborne Unlocked** – a free day of creativity, live entertainment, hands-on activities and community fun for all ages, delivered on August 19th in partnership with **Dorset Council's Wimborne Family Hub** in Leigh Park

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

Buzzing with excitement

Wilding Wimborne was one of this year's delighted recipients of a prestigious Bees' Needs Champions Award. The awards are organised annually by the government's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) to recognise and celebrate examples of exceptional initiatives undertaken to support pollinators by local authorities, community groups, farmers, businesses and individuals.

This recognition comes in light of the work Wilding Wimborne has done following on from receiving a Bee Friendly Town Award in 2022. The group continues to raise awareness at events of the plight of our bees, and has expanded and relaunched the town's Bee Home Trail as a contribution to Wimborne's year as Dorset's Town of Culture. https://planetwimborne.org/whats-the-buzz/
The Bees' Needs Champions Award was presented at a ceremony at RHS Wisley's Bees' Needs Science Festival on 14 July by Mary Creagh, Defra's Minister for Nature. Congratulating the winners, she spoke about how vital their work was, and how impressed and moved she had been by their achievements, the range of projects and the number of people of all ages who were involved.
Wilding Wimborne also received heartfelt congratulations from Vikki Slade MP, who said, 'This recognition reflects the passion, dedication and community spirit you have shown in supporting our vital pollinators. The work of champions like you is invaluable – not only in helping pollinating species to survive and thrive, but also in inspiring others to take action. Your work could not be more timely or more important. I am firmly committed to championing environmental issues at a national level and I'm proud to support initiatives like yours that make such a meaningful impact locally.'
Linda Bunting, founder and Chair of Wilding Wimborne, says, 'We're absolutely thrilled to receive a Bees' Needs Champion Award from Defra, but we're not content to rest on our laurels! We are currently in partnership with Wimborne Men's Shed who are making us a bee wall. This will contain over 30 bee homes, and local children will be invited over the summer to help to fill the hexagons with bamboo tubes. Our bees need all the help we can give them.'



Minister for Nature, Mary Creagh MP (second from left), presenting the Defra award to Wilding Wimborne, represented by (l-r): Linda Bunting, Dave Grattan and Cllr Chris Brown.

Green Festival update

The Green Festival, the highlight of our Planet Wimborne year, is coming up soon! With its theme of '*Be in nature, Be creative, Be well*', the week-long Festival runs from 10th–17th October and links with Wimborne's vision as Dorset Town of Culture 2026 to encourage collaborations, connections and creative community in and around the town. As in previous years, the Festival features a whole host of green-themed events and activities for all ages, including craft and vocal workshops, walks and talks, and visits to local sustainable businesses. The official opening is at 10.30am on Saturday 10th October on the Minster Green, with local green groups exhibiting and the ever-popular apple pressing in full swing. For details of all events, see the Planet Wimborne website www.planetwimborne.org or Facebook page.

Charlie Dimmock is one of the nation's best-known and best-loved celebrity gardeners, presenting a variety of gardening-themed television programmes including *Ground Force*, *The Joy of Gardening*, *Charlie's Garden Army* and, most recently, *Garden Rescue*. She will be the keynote speaker at the finale event of this year's Planet Wimborne Green Festival: 'Gardening for Wildlife & Wellbeing' at Queen Elizabeth's School on Saturday 17th October. Don't miss this opportunity to hear Charlie share her gardening

passion and expertise as she enthuses about ponds, creative garden design, and peeks behind the scenes of those TV gardening shows. Doors open at 4.15pm, with Charlie's talk at 5pm. There will be refreshments available (hot and cold drinks and cakes), and gardening and green stalls to browse. Tickets are £15 for adults and £3 for 18s and under (12s and under must be accompanied by an adult), and are available online via Planet Wimborne's website www.planetwimborne.org or by cash payment at Wimborne's Fair Ground shop in the Corn Market.

Green News on Radio Wimborne

Planet Wimborne now has a regular 'Green News' slot on Radio Wimborne's Monday Brunch show, hosted by Glen Fowler and Malcolm Angel, between 10 and 11am. This is an opportunity for our Community Groups to appear on the show and share what you do and any events/projects you wish to promote. Please contact Planet Wimborne on planetwimborne@gmail.com if you'd like to promote your group or event.

DonateIT

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/.

Greenspace is the Place

During the summer, Wimborne Contemporary Arts has been implementing its '*Greenspace is the Place*' project in collaboration with Planet Wimborne. The project was supported by one of the Microcommissions awarded by Wimborne Town of Culture 2026.

As a first step, a new walking trail was developed, focusing on areas of greenspace. The idea of the trail is to celebrate areas of publicly accessible greenspace around the town, which provide wonderful areas for recreation and a valuable home for wildlife. The trail includes more than 30 sites, including parks, gardens, playing fields,

riversides, woods and other natural areas, all of which members of the public can visit free of charge. The trail can be accessed here: https://www.evergreenmusic.uk/wimborne-greenspace-trail/

The trail is one of a series that Planet Wimborne has developed as a contribution to the Wimborne Town of Culture 2026 (see below). “One of the aims of the Town of Culture was to help people in new housing developments feel part of the town of Wimborne, by involving them in cultural activities” said Mayor Jeff Hart. “This series of trails has really helped with that, by encouraging people to visit new areas and connecting different parts of the town together”. The trail was launched at the new Rivers Edge housing development, with a specially composed cry delivered by Chris Brown, the Town Crier. “Many people will be familiar with the wonderful riverside walks that we have in Wimborne” said Adrian Newton, who created the trail on behalf of Planet Wimborne. “But there are many other sites that are much less well known, including some extensive new greenspaces that have been created as a result of the new housing developments. How many of us realise that you can now walk along a Roman Road through part of the town, for example?”.



Photo: Launch of the Wimborne Greenspace Trail with Town Crier Chris Brown and Mayor Jeff Hart, with Neil Smith and Lynn Davy

The project has also organised a series of ‘pop up’ interactive art activities in different Wimborne greenspaces. This included creating nature printing, ecomusic and ecopoetry as part of the ‘Wimborne Unlocked’ event held in August in Leigh Park.



Photo: Lynn Davy of Wimborne Contemporary Arts at Wimborne Unlocked

In addition, two pop-up river singing workshops were held with local composer Karen Wimhurst. The idea was to sing river chants from around the world, while walking beside our local rivers, the Allen and the Stour. Both events were well attended and great fun; we even composed new chants dedicated to each of our local rivers as a collaborative group activity.



Photo: Singing by the river with Karen Wimhurst

The next stage of the project includes further singing workshops and a concert as part of the Green Festival. The concert will premiere a new choral composition called *RiverMind* that Karen has written in

celebration of our local rivers, which will take place in the Allendale Centre on Sunday 11th October. There is an opportunity to join in with the performance, by attending a singing workshop that will be held on the same day at 3 pm in the Garden Room of the Museum of East Dorset. The workshop will focus on singing some simple river chants that will be incorporated in the performance - all welcome, beginners and experienced singers alike!

Tickets for *RiverMind* are available here: https://www.ticketsource.com/allendale-centre/rivermind-concert/2026-10-11/d-rlonwlferynlb

And tickets for the singing workshop are available here: https://www.tickettailor.com/events/planetwimborne



Online Environmental Retreat

Colin Tracy has brought our attention to an online retreat that he has developed, which gives environmental activists space to recover, relax and replenish and learn. If you are an activist and feel the need for new energy, new ideas, new resources and more resilience, please check out this link. https://deeper-resources.net/

Planet Wimborne and U3A

U3A in conjunction with Planet Wimborne are putting on a series of discussion sessions about environmental issues entitled *Greener Wimborne, Better Planet*. The sessions will be held at The Reef, Colehill Lane, Wimborne BH21 7AB. The sessions provide 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.

Wimborne Town Trails

A series of town trails have been 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), a trail linked to the Literary Festival (May), a Tree Trail (June) and a Greenspace Trail (July) (see above). Most 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 using postcards or leaflets 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 Hedgehog Friendly Wimborne.

Hedgehog Friendly Wimborne



We are a small group of people who want to make Wimborne and the surrounding area a great place for hedgehogs to thrive. Small actions can make a big difference!

If you would like to find out more, we have organised a talk on Friday 25th September at 10.30 am, The Grow Hub, Stewarts Nursery, God's Blessing Lane, Broomhill, BH21 7DF. A booking link is provided below. We are also meeting on 1st October at 7.30 pm in the Lion Hotel, Wimborne - all welcome!

For further information email:
hedgehogfriendlywimborne@btinternet.com

https://planetwimborne.org/group/hedgehog-friendly-wimborne-2/

https://www.stewarts.co.uk/events#hedgehog

Planet Wimborne Vision for Wimborne and the Surrounding Area

Over the past year or so, a group of us have been meeting regularly to develop a Vision for Wimborne, to which all of the community groups have been invited to contribute. The process is now complete! The final wording of the Vision is given below. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the process.

Overview
Wimborne Minster is a market town situated at the confluence of the River Stour and the River Allen providing an economic and social centre for the area. Wimborne and the surrounding area has expanded over recent years with new housing built on the periphery of the town centre. More new development for the area is included in the draft Local Plan.
Planet Wimborne and its affiliated community groups aim to empower citizens in the town and surrounding area to take steps to help tackle the climate and ecological emergency.

Vision
To create an inclusive and sustainable Wimborne, where caring, welcoming and friendly communities can thrive.

We aim to achieve this by welcoming residents to the friendly events and projects organised by Planet Wimborne and its community groups, and to contribute ideas and skills.
We want Wimborne and the surrounding area to be a place where:

- everyone can feel safe, secure and treated with kindness and to be equipped to be resilient in the face of a changing climate;
- people can access the town safely and by a choice of transport options;
- beautiful connected green spaces support thriving people and wildlife populations;
- people are encouraged to see the bigger picture and their connections to those throughout the world;
- the environment is valued, protected and enhanced;
- local government, businesses, educational establishments and community groups work together in partnership to support all communities in the town and the wider area to protect and enhance our precious environment;
- families settle into new housing in the area to create flourishing communities and feel like they belong.

We will achieve this by addressing the following themes:

Environmental
Planet Wimborne's vision is for Wimborne and the surrounding area to be a place where:

- everybody is empowered to take action, no matter how small, for the environment so that collective action makes a big difference;
- everybody acts to support wildlife, such as by becoming wildlife-friendly gardeners;
- everybody takes action to reduce waste and then reuses and recycles to keep materials in a circular economy;
- air, land and water pollution is minimised from all sources to provide a healthy place for people and wildlife to live;
- people are supported to reduce their energy and water use and where all energy comes from renewable sources;
- local habitats, including our rivers, are in excellent condition for wildlife and provide opportunities for nature connection for all;
- more people access the town on foot, by bike or by bus to reduce congestion, improve air quality and health and wellbeing;
- trees and native woodland are protected and more trees, hedges and wildflowers are established to increase both biodiversity and climate adaptation;

- natural processes are installed to promote resilience and reduce flood risk;

Society
Planet Wimborne's vision is for Wimborne and the surrounding area to be:

- an inclusive and welcoming community, that celebrates diversity, and that provides opportunities for people to come together;
- a place known for its sharing, caring and kindness culture that supports all in the area;
- a place providing safe spaces for youth and vulnerable adults and opportunities for young people to feel welcome as part of the community, on their own terms;
- where diverse cultures are valued and new families in the area feel like they belong;
- a place providing opportunities for lifelong learning for all, and where citizens are empowered to take action to improve their lives, those of others and of the town itself;
- an area with a vibrant diverse and inclusive culture, fostering self-expression, that is accessible to all and that is supported by thriving cultural facilities, centres and groups, including libraries, museums, sports facilities, concert venues, theatres, community groups and clubs.

Economic
Planet Wimborne's vision is for Wimborne and the surrounding area to have:

- a thriving and diverse business sector, leading in corporate social responsibility (CSR), offering good quality employment and training opportunities, and providing ethical and environmentally friendly products and services that attract people to come to the area;
- an enterprising farming community that adopts more sustainable practices to produce food and protect the environment;
- the necessary social support for citizens so they are able to contribute to the community, should they wish to;
- cycling and walking routes, and frequent, cheap public transport, which make moving around the town and area easy and environmentally friendly;
- affordable quality housing available to local people which is designed to save them money on their energy bills, as well as delivering better health and wellbeing outcomes in a changing climate.

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. The mountains of Central Asia, including Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. It is believed that the apple spread along the Silk Road in antiquity.
2. c) Belle Fille de la Manche
3. 2026
4. Saturday, September 12
5. Cider is traditionally spelt with a "y" ("cyder") to indicate a higher-quality, stronger, or double-fermented drink

Things happening around Wimborne

You can see what is coming up here. Some key dates for the upcoming couple of months:

Sat 5th September 2026
Wimborne Community Garden Fun Day 12:00–16:00
Sat 12th September 2026
Wimborne Win on Waste 10:30–12:00
Mon 14th September 2026
Recycle Week All Day
Wimborne Bunting and Bag Group 10:30–12:00
Tue 15th September 2026
People's Emergency Briefing 19:30
Fri 18th September 2026
Great British Beach Clean All Day Great British Beach Clean. Every September thousands of people across the UK head to the coast to take part in the Great British Beach Clean. https://www.mcsuk.org/what-you-can-do/beach-clean/gbbc/

South Coast Marine Recovery: Films, Talks + Q&A 19:00	
Sat 19th September 2026	
Wimborne Repair Cafe 12:00–14:00	
Sun 20th September 2026	
World Clean-Up Day All Day	
Mon 21st September 2026	
Fairtrade Fortnight All Day	
Seed Gathering Season All Day	
HOME 19:00–21:30	
Tue 22nd September 2026	
Belonging - Our Search for Home 19:00	
Wed 23rd September 2026	
Belonging - Our Search for Home 19:00	
Thu 24th September 2026	
Belonging - Our Search for Home 19:00	
Fri 25th September 2026	
Belonging - Our Search for Home 19:00	
Hedgehog Friendly Wimborne Talk at Broomhill 10:30–12:00	
Sat 26th September 2026	
Belonging - Our Search for Home 19:00	
Sun 27th September 2026	

Belonging - Our Search for Home 19:00	
Sustainable Fashion Show 00:00	
Thu 1st October 2026	
Unblocktober 00:00	
Hedgehog Friendly Town meeting 19:30–21:00	
Wed 7th October 2026	
Quiz Night for a Greener Wimborne 19:00–22:00	
Sat 10th October 2026	
Dacombes' Green Day 09:00–17:30	
Wildlife Homes & Bird Feeder Workshops 10:00–14:45	
Bee Craft Day 10:00–13:00	
Apple Pressing 10:00–15:00	
Junk Kouture 10:00–16:00	
Planet Wimborne Green Fair 10:00–15:00	
Wimborne Win on Waste 10:30–12:00	
Songs in Nature 11:00–14:30	
Recycled Art Workshop 12:00–15:00	
Sun 11th October 2026	
Junk Kouture 10:00–16:00	
Bird Ringing at Deans Court 09:30–11:00	
Soup Making 14:30–16:00	

RiverMind Vocal Workshops 15:00–17:00	
RiverMind Concert 19:30–21:00	
Mon 12th October 2026	
Junk Kouture 10:00–16:00	
Children's Poster Competition Exhibition 00:00	
Wimborne Bunting and Bag Group 10:30–12:00	
Rivers for Wimborne 19:30–21:30	
Tue 13th October 2026	
Junk Kouture 10:00–16:00	
Children's Poster Competition Exhibition 00:00	
Wimborne BID and Wimborne War on Waste - Steps to a greener business 12:30–14:00	
Sustainability for Business Success 19:30	
Wed 14th October 2026	
Junk Kouture 10:00–16:00	
Children's Poster Competition Exhibition 00:00	
Salamander's Tasting Walk 09:15–12:00	
Lush Green Hub Visit 13:30	
A Positive Future for Wimborne 19:45	
Thu 15th October 2026	

Junk Kouture 10:00–16:00	
Children's Poster Competition Exhibition 00:00	
Eco Sustainable Solutions Visit 14:00–15:00	
The Wellbeing Connection 19:30	
Fri 16th October 2026	
Junk Kouture 10:00–16:00	
Children's Poster Competition Exhibition 00:00	
Sat 17th October 2026	
Dacombes' Green Day 09:00–17:30	
A Wild Heart Workshop 10:30–12:00	
Wimborne Repair Cafe 12:00–14:00	
'Gardening for Wildlife and Wellbeing' with Charlie Dimmock 17:00–18:15	
Fundraising Ceilidh 19:30	
Sun 18th October 2026	
Mushrooms and Mindfulness 10:30–12:00	
Mon 19th October 2026	
Come and Meet Your Local Water and Sewerage Providers 10:00–14:00	
Wed 21st October 2026	

National Apple Day All Day	
Thu 22nd October 2026	
National Apple Day All Day	

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