

The **I**lchester **D**istrict **C**ommunity **A**ssociation

NEWSLETTER



February 2024 to March 2024

Editor / Compiler needed to continue producing this newsletter - See page 5 for details.



LATEST date for submission of material for next newsletter

Saturday January 20th 2024

Please feel free to submit earlier, it would make compiling easier

Changes to look for in this issue.

FRONT PAGE.

Front page photo of a semi-submerged football club house supplied by Tina Rowe:

WHATS INSIDE:

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An Ilchester Rendezvous Pages 17 to 19

Chapter 3 continued.

Who Are IDCA?

Ilchester and District Community Association (IDCA) was founded in 1982, at the instigation of the Ilchester Town Trust, to gather together a group of people who had an interest in renovating and running the Town Hall as a Community Centre. Today we are registered

charity which serves Ilchester, Limington, Northover, Podimore, Yeovilton, Speckington, Bridgehampton and Draycott.

We are a group of volunteers who organise events for the enjoyment of the community, and the money that we raise at these events goes straight back into the community in the form of future events, donations to local groups and the running of the local newsletter.

The following annual events are organised by IDCA:

- Ilchester Street Fair
- Flower, Craft and Produce Show
- Halloween Disco
- Step into Christmas Event (Lantern Parade + Tree Lighting)
- Christmas Fair (Ran by IDCA for the first time this year)

Who Does IDCA Donate To?

Any local group can write to IDCA to request a donation.

We consider these requests at our monthly meetings. Sometimes we make a direct donation, othertimes we support groups in other ways such as paying room hire or providing man power for fundraising events etc.

Some recent beneficiaries include:

Ilchester Primary School.

Donation towards new outdoor area.

Ilchester Rockets U12 Football Team.

Room Hire for Coffee Morning Paid.

Ilchester Town Hall Library.

Donation towards large print books.

IDCA News.

Happy new year to all our readers.

New Chairperson.

IDCA would like to welcome their new Chairperson Chris Jessop.

This years events (subject to change):

16th to 30th March	Bunny Hunt.
Saturday, 27th July	Street Fair / Flower Festival.
Sat, 14th September	Craft and Produce Show.
Thur, 31st October	Halloween Party.
Sun, 17th & 24th Nov	Lantern Workshops.
Friday, 29th November	Step into Christmas.
Saturday, 30th November	Christmas Fair.

Newsletter Editor/Compiler:

The post of editor/compiler for the IDCA newsletter is now available. If anyone feels they fill this post please apply to IDCA234@gmail.com.

The outgoing editor/compiler is still available to assist in it's creation, however, this is the perfect opportunity for someone to put their stamp on it.



The Ilchester Arms Hotel Events For the Year



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Parish Council Business



**ILCHESTER
PARISH COUNCIL**



Updates from IPC

Ilchester Parish Council met on December 14th 2023 and January 11th, 2024. The Council meets each month on the second Thursday at 7:30pm in the Town Hall.

Council Members

The Clerk to IPC, Mr. Philip Horsington has retired, and the role has been filled by Mrs. Ruby Coombes of Knole, from January 1st, 2024.

There is still a vacancy for an IPC councillor. Anyone who may be interested should contact clerk@ilchesterparishcouncil.gov.uk.

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Museum Activities Day

Children enjoyed trying their hands at Roman skills at a half-term activity day organised by the volunteers at Ilchester Heritage Centre (new name of the museum). Making mosaics was one choice on offer at the Town Hall. Another was making a "bulla" the little pouch that held a lucky charm that Roman children would wear round their necks throughout their childhood. We were lucky to be given some beautiful soft suede leather for this project by Owen Barry, which makes sheep-skin, leather and cowhide products at Street. Gerry Masters used one piece for an apron when he demonstrated the skill of a medieval monyer, the man who literally "struck" the coins at a mint. There were dozens of mints in towns across the country in medieval times, including Ilchester. Two "dies" are



needed to make a coin, one for each face of the coin. Each is a metal cylinder with an inverted image of one of the faces on it. One of the dies was fixed upright in a block of wood, then a circular blank of metal was placed on top of it and the monyer struck the remaining die down onto the blank with a hammer. The force rammed the images from the dies into either side of the blank. The museum's dies for medieval coin-making were created some years ago by the late Roy Scutchings.

Heritage Centre volunteers plan a family day at the sports field on August 17. Save the day!



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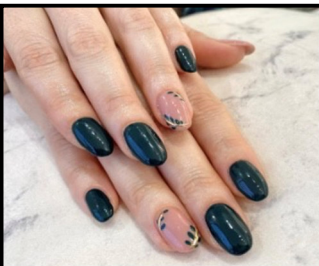
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ILCHESTER RELIEF IN NEED AND EDUCATION CHARITY (IRINEC)

The object of the charity is twofold, firstly to provide Relief in Need, either generally or individually to persons resident in the Parish of Ilchester and secondly in the Promotion of Education of persons resident in the Parish of Ilchester.

During the year numerous individuals have received grants under Relief in Need and Education. Where a financial need has been established many groups in the village have also received grants. Some university and college students have received grants for travel, books, field trips etc.

If you are a student starting college or university in the academic year and live in Ilchester parish then IRINEC may be able to support you financially.

College Students – this is funding support for students to purchase bus passes. You will need to contact the clerk to discuss your request.

University Students – please contact the clerk for further details regarding financial support that is available.

Apprenticeship Students – please contact the clerk for further details regarding financial support that is available.

Relief in Need – the charity can also make donations to individuals or organisations who require support.

The Trustees meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month to discuss applications that are each considered on their merits.

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Families@4 is a monthly family friendly, relaxed service on the 4th Sunday of the month and as the name suggests, it is held at 4pm.

Designed for families with younger children, but also open to older children and adults.

We have singing, activities, a short talk and cake.

Ilchester School Junior department

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After school club 3.00 -5.15pm

Holiday club This is very much dependant on demand. Run from 8 -3pm.

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



4Family delivers a family support programme offering help to struggling families so that they can regain control over their own lives and feel empowered and equipped to move forward.

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For more information about becoming a Y4F mentor contact Andrew:

Email: andrew.dunningham@yeovil4family.org.uk

Tel: 07970 952653

Website: www.yeovilcommunitychurch.co.uk/yeovil-4-family/

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An Ilchester Rendezvous by Juliet Calthrop

Chapter 3 continued.

Her dress that night was also supported to perfection by a multitude of net underskirts of various, vibrant colours at the height of fashion in the county's ballrooms at that time. The vibrancy of each underskirt became apparent as each delicate step that Georgiana took lifted the trim of her gown. This drew gasps and tuts of disapprobation from the modest, matronly elders in attendance at the ball. Though long past the height of their blossoming bloom, still they attended the village's harvest ball in defiance of their age making their attention-seeking presence ridiculous. These decrepit relics still fostered a fancy for the society and fashions prevalent in the region's ballrooms many decades since. They defiantly dressed in their long-outdated gowns, being now supported by their withered frames, making themselves objects of ridicule to their younger counterparts (excepting Georgiana who respected their bravery and defiance). Others cruelly mocked, gasped and tutted in disapprobation. Upon observing this, Georgiana, (with consideration for

An Ilchester Rendezvous by Juliet Calthrop

their feelings), made a point of joining these ancient relics of fashion briefly in conversation, lending to them by association a degree of mitigation for their erring ways. These daring, age-worn matrons were drawn together in a multitudinous gaggle to squawk and gobble and insult those exhibiting before them with whom youth and comeliness were still in counterpart. These rotten relics of long-past seasons exchanged their much-treasured recollections of their own maidenly hopes, when the gay vibrancy of youth was still as yet in counterpart with them.

On examining Georgiana's grecian-like proportions, their faces became disfigured by the contortions of barbed, feminine jealousy. They marked with venomous quips the attention Georgiana received. Being repulsively decrepit, sagging, wrinkled and liver-spotted, it was assumed by most that they were surely of an age at which their quest for a spouse must surely be extinguished, (else making themselves ridiculous). Nonetheless, they defiantly attended Ilchester's Harvest ball and felt the radiance of Georgiana's beauty as a barb to the sores they had long since suffered on the dissolution of their own romantic aspirations a score of seasons since. Not as yet ready to accept defeat, even these infirm relics as yet sought to inspire admiration from the few respectively aged and infirm, withered gentlemen packed away in corners together to deter them from licentiously eyeing the youthful, full-bodied maidens dancing gracefully before them. The correlative matrons sat close by their male counterparts, attempting to attract the attention of these eligible, antiquated gentlemen were packed away together, ogling the much-admired Georgiana and her maidenly associates with ill-concealed licentiousness. The infirm matrons noted the attention Georgiana received, a torrent of barbed criticism cascading from their bitterly-virginal lips as a result. These cancerous quips were whispered into the social vacuum that surrounded them, or were secreted in the ears of similarly social pariahs to whom they had been drawn by the mutual jealousy they bore for all dancing merrily before them with whom youth and beauty were still as yet in counterpart.

Finding solace from the social cyclone of music, dancing and joviality around them in the company of equally, socially-awkward confederates meant they could unleash their spiteful, venomous insults of the youthful radiance exhibited before them to a sympathetic ear. At this Harvest Ball, as at any other fashionable gather-

An Ilchester Rendezvous by Juliet Calthrop

ing in the county, such were to be found muttering cancerous quips and cutting barbs to each other as they watched fair Georgiana and noted the admiration she received with twitching irritation that further deformed their countenances beyond what Time had already disfigured. However, not even the visible disapprobation of these miserly cancers of merry-making could disturb fair Georgiana's merriment on this glorious evening of village conviviality. Nay, for her spirits were animated by the buoyancy of excited passion, when (on entering the main, ground floor chamber of the Town Hall in which the ball was to be held) she espied young Tom (her heroic saviour of the preceding evening) amongst the company gathered there. After Georgiana's Escapade, Tom's affections had inevitably been excited. Urged on by an honourably-intentioned longing to see his heroine again, young Tom had been emboldened to weasel his way from the stables, into the lower kitchens of the main Town Hall household, disguised as one of the common, kitchen hands.

On the evening of the Harvest Ball, Tom had then, (from the kitchens), been curtly summoned with the rest of the staff into the main, lower rooms of the Town Hall to assist as a serving hand to the assembly gathered there for the Harvest Ball.

On gaining admission to the principal chamber in which the ball was to be held, Tom awaited Georgiana's entrance, which ensued shortly after. He immediately marked the radiant beauty of her face and form amid the company gathered there, like light reflecting off a pool of oil in comparison to other maidens resembling but muddy puddles by comparison. The marked attention Georgiana received from the whole company looking on was as salt to the wounds of the many disregarded, decrepit maidens in attendance. Having long borne the many barbs of love's disappointed hopes, these aged echoes of youthful comeliness reminisced affectionately to one another of the many balls attended, fashions they had exhibited and greater admiration they had received in comparison to Georgiana with an ill-natured spitefulness that had long embittered their latter years, when their matronly singularity (and often impoverished state) committed them to the solitary confinement of the cloister or the squalor of ramshackle hovels barely fit to house farm stock.

To be continued

Useful Contacts.

Ilchester & District Community Association (IDCA)	Chairperson: Chris Jessop	idca234@gmail.com
IDCA Newsletter		idcanewsletter@gmail.com
Ilchester Events Locally		Facebook
Ilchester Town Trust	Chairperson: Graham Mottram VCP: Sue Small	WWW.ilchester.org.uk
Ilchester Town Trust	Clerk: Maxine Read	07562 988837 or ittclerk@gmail.com
Town Hall	Caretaker: Julie Stapleton	01935 841247 or ittcaretaker@gmail.com
Sports Field Committee	Chairperson: Sue Small Bookings/Enquiries : Maxine Read Caretaker: Kat Lowson	07562 988837 07518 053638
Ilchester Relief in Need and Educational Charity IRINEC	Chairperson: Rachael Frampton Clerk: Kay Elston	01935 840212 01935 421208 or kayeelston@aol.co.uk
Friends of Ilchester School (FIS) PTA	Chairperson: Lindsay Murray	
Tall Trees Community Centre	Contact: Gill Duke	01935 840562
RNAS Yeovilton Community Liaison Officer	TBN	
Ilchester Community Museum	Contact: Sally Mottram Contact: Gerry Masters	01935 841202 or sallyspin@btinternet.com
Ilchester Youth Parish Council	Contact: Julie Stapleton	01935 841247 or ittcaretaker@gmail.com
Ilchester Parish Council	Chairperson: Hilary Panter Clerk: Philip Horsington	clerk@ilchesterparishcouncil.gov.uk
Yeovilton & District Council	Chairperson: Adam Elliott Clerk: Philip Horsington	clerk@yeoviltonparishcouncil.gov.uk
St. Mary Church, Limington	Rev Bruce Faulkner Church Warden: John Langden	01935 849441 01935 840127
St. Mary Major Church, Ilchester	Rev Bruce Faulkner Clerk: Sally Mottram	01935 849441 sallyspin@btinternet.com
St. Peter Church, Podimore	Rev Bruce Faulkner Church Warden: Pauline Roswell	01935 849441 01935 840552
RNAS Chaplaincy/Fleet Air Arm Memorial Church		01935 455257 navyyeochaplaincyshared@mod.gov.uk www.fleetairarmmc.org www.facebook.com/TheFleetAirArmMemorialChurch
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Areas covered:

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Bridgehampton, Draycott***