



CONNECT



September 2025

Irchester Knuston Little Irchester



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Irchester Parish Council report



It's a pleasure to have been elected as your new Chairperson for this civic year. My reason for joining the Parish Council is simple: to support and improve our community. I am committed to ensuring that our parish remains a great place to live - not just for us today, but for generations to come.

As a fellow resident of the village, I completely understand and share many of the frustrations people have expressed to me. What I would kindly suggest is that if you come across an issue, please be sure to report it through the proper channels. Often, concerns are raised on social media but never formally reported—so they unfortunately go unaddressed. I know it can take time for these issues to be resolved, but in most cases, they are completed within the quoted timeframe. Your help in following the right process makes a real difference.

Please find some useful links below to report issues and get updates-

- Report road, drainage, tree problems etc.
<https://highways.northnorthants.gov.uk>
- Report water leak.
<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/your-local-area/report-an-issue/>
- Report issues with recreation grounds and equipment, bus shelters, cemetery, bins and some street lighting.
Email clerk@irchesterparishcouncil.gov.uk / Telephone 07308 251 402
- Details of existing and planned road closures (including durations).
<https://one.network/>

Some notable changes by IPC over last couple of months-

- New Web Site (www.irchesterparishcouncil.gov.uk) - Visit the site to find information about upcoming meetings, council policies, plans and more. Over the next few months, we'll be adding new content to keep you informed and up to date. Stay connected and check back regularly!
- Recreation Grounds- During July an area of wetpour (safety surface) was fully replaced and other areas repaired. We also held a recreation working party meeting for the first time in several years. Council will now discuss how we can move forward to ensure the areas are fit for purpose, maintained and improved within the budget we have.
- Community Notice Boards –Two of the community notice boards were replaced earlier this year. If you have any notices to display, please refer to the contact information listed on each board for submission details. The boards are located at Wollaston Road/Bradshaw Way junction, Wollaston Road/School Road junction and Arkwright Road/Roman Way junction.

Reminder: Each Parish Council meeting begins with a 15-minute Public Participation session. This is your opportunity to ask questions, raise concerns, or share ideas directly with the Council. Everyone deserves to have their views respected and heard. Come along and hold your Parish Council to account — your voice matters! However, we can only address issues that come under the Parish Councils jurisdiction.

Irchester Parish Council currently has several vacancies for co-option, and we're looking for dedicated, community-minded individuals to join us. If you're interested in making a positive impact and getting involved in local decision-making, we'd love to hear from you.

For more information, please contact: clerk@irchesterparishcouncil.gov.uk
Make your voice count—get involved today!

Ben Leeson, Irchester Parish Council

Irchester Parish Historical Society

MEMBERSHIP

We are a group of people who love different aspects of Irchester, Northamptonshire, and world history. New Members are always welcome. Subscription is £20.00 for a year (May to May) for Adults and £7.50 for Children. There is a small charge at each meeting of £2.00 for members and 5.00 for non-members.

Our talks usually take place at Irchester Library at 7.30pm usually on the second Thursday of the month unless otherwise stated. Working Party Meetings, where no charge is applied, are held at different locations. These meetings concentrate on researching the parish history, preparing exhibitions and publications.

Further details of the Society can be obtained from the Chairman, Jon-Paul Carr at 23 High Street, Irchester, NN29 7AA. Tel: 01933 382476 or email jpcarr01@hotmail.com

You may also like to become a member of our Facebook Page: Irchester Past.

As this year is our 30th Anniversary we have already held a joint event with Irchester Community Library when a guided tour was taken around the village with 33 people. This tour explored aspects of village life during the Second World War as this year of course is the 80th anniversary of the end of the War. We were privileged to be joined by Betty Arthur who was 8 years old when the War was declared in 1939 and shared her vivid memories of life during 1939-1945.

EVENTS DIARY 2025-2026

11th September 2025 **Roman Northamptonshire** with Dr Mike Curtis. This illustrated talk will explore how following the Roman conquest of Britain the impact of the changes on Northamptonshire, how it affected the communities that had settled in here and how that landscape suddenly became a lot busier.

9th October 2025 **Working Party**

- 13th November 2025** **'Away with the Fairies'** with Kevin Varty. This is the story of two little girls in Cottingley who took photographs of fairies in 1917. When the images were seen a few years later, they caused a sensation and attracted the interest of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. An intriguing story set in the time that interest in Spiritualism was at its peak.
- 11th December 2025** **Christmas Party** at The Carpenters Arms
- 8th January 2026** **Working Party**
- 12th February 2026** **Suffragettes and Suffragists in Northampton, Wellingborough and Northamptonshire** with local historian John Buckell. Most people have heard of the suffragettes, but comparatively few are aware of the suffrage campaign in our own county. This talk is about the Northamptonshire women and men who campaigned for women to have the right to vote.
- 12th March 2026** **Working Party**
- 9th April 2026** **The Life and Book of Mrs Beeton.** Historian, Sharn Matthews will explore the life of writer Mrs Isabella Beaton who was an English journalist, editor and writer. Her name is particularly associated with her first book, the 1861 work *Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management*.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

LEST WE FORGET

SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2025





Again, in April, we were delighted to welcome back our friends from Coulon, for the Irchester Coulon Link visit. Many had been before but there were also some new faces.

The week started with a short welcome drink and nibbles on Saturday and a day with hosts on the Sunday.



Our visitors then enjoyed trips out to Stoke Bruerne, The Black Country Museum and Shuttleworth (where they were fortunate enough to see a training flying display). The week ended with a walk round Irchester followed by a picnic, shopping adventure at Rushden Lakes and an evening soiree. We were lucky in that the weather that week was just glorious.

As ever, the week was filled with fun and laughter and lots of memory making.

We are already planning for our return visit to Coulon next year when it will be forty years since the signing in France, of the Irchester Coulon Twinning Link.

If you would like to find out more then please get in touch.

As ever we have a number of events planned for the coming months and would be delighted to see you if you would like to join us. All events start at 7.30 and are held in Irchester Village Hall unless otherwise stated.



Please bring your own drinks (wine appreciation evenings excluding) and nibbles. Sometimes food accompanies the event depending on the entertainment for the evening.

Saturday 6th September – A murder mystery evening. There will be details to follow soon which can be found on our Facebook page. It will be held in the Village Hall.

Saturday 4th October - Irchester Coulon Link AGM followed by a quiz and raffle.- Free to all members.

Saturday 18th October - Pete's wine appreciation evening. - Irchester Village Hall. Doors open 7.15 for a 7.30 start. Ticket price TBC.

Saturday 15th November - Barn Dance with Kelly's Eye. - Irchester Village Hall. Ticket price TBC.

Saturday 13th December – Irchester Coulon Link Christmas Party with a visit from F.C.- Irchester Village Hall. Ticket price TBC.

If you would like to get in touch with anyone on the committee to find out more about events or our trips to France please see the phone numbers below.

Charlie
386296
Chairperson

Sue
385352
Secretary

Pete
07989134158
Vice Chairperson
Tickets

Sandra
386296
Members Secretary



Do something amazing
Give blood

Blood can be donated at Irchester Village Hall on

Sunday 7th December 2025

Sunday 15th March 2026

Sunday 12th April 2026

For further details or to book an appointment call the
Blood Donor Line on 0300123 23 23 or visit www.blood.co.uk



Hello Everyone,

As I write this we are busy preparing to host our Holiday Club week, and this year we'll be travelling through the Old West to learn more about the wonderful nature of Jesus, who he is, and what he has done. Preparations are in full swing, with sets being painted and activities being planned. It's truly an exciting week for us, both kids and adults alike!

We took the opportunity recently to make the most of the wonderful sunshine this year and met together for a bring and share barbeque, which was a lovely opportunity to fellowship together, and we look forward to doing more events like this in the future.

As always it's wonderful to meet those of you that pop in for the Cuppa and a Chat sessions, our team love to spend time getting to know and chat with you all when you join us. These sessions will be running for the remainder of the year, on the last Friday of every month, from 10:00 till 12:00, and we'd love for you to come along.

Just a reminder that the most up-to-date information about all of our events can be found in the church windows, or you can pop in and speak to a member of the team for more information.

Blessings,

Shelli & James Hodgson



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

VILLAGE YARD SALE

Sunday 28th September (times TBC)

Following on from last year's success, we will be organising another Village Yard Sale on Sunday 28th September 2025.

Please register your interest by dropping us a line, leaving your contact details, at scoutgroupirchester@gmail.com and we will contact you as soon as arrangements are finalised. Alternatively, you can message Joyce on **07979 858851**, or simply call in at the village hall on a Monday during term time - preferably between 6.30pm and 8pm.

***Bookings MUST be made by
21st September for inclusion.***





Irchester Methodist Church



Dear Irchester Folk.

Whilst on holiday on the Isle of Wight earlier this year, I came across the following in a little Church on the Osborne House estate. If you have the time, please pause a while and read the words, which were written in 1692 and found in the Old Saint Paul's Church in Baltimore USA. As you read, you will see that nothing changes. What was relevant in 1692 still is the same today in 2025. Following up will prove difficult so I will leave it with you.

GO PLACIDLY AMID THE NOISE AND HASTE, AND REMEMBER WHAT PEACE THERE MAY BE IN SILENCE.

AS FAR AS WITHOUT SURRENDER, BE ON GOOD TERMS WITH ALL PERSONS.

SPEAK YOUR TRUTH QUIETLY AND CLEARLY; AND LISTEN TO OTHERS, EVEN THE DULL AND IGNORANT; THEY TOO HAVE THEIR STORY.

AVOID LOUD AND AGGRESSIVE PERSONS, THEY ARE VEXATIONS TO THE SPIRIT.

IF YOU COMPARE YOURSELF WITH OTHERS, YOU MAY BECOME VAIN AND BITTER, FOR ALWAYS THERE WILL BE GREATER AND LESSER PERSONS THAN YOURSELF.

ENJOY YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS AS WELL AS YOUR PLANS.

KEEP INTERESTED IN YOUR OWN CAREER HOWEVER HUMBLE EXERCISE CAUTION IN YOUR BUSINESS AFFAIRS, FOR THE WORLD IS FULL OF TRICKERY.

BUT LET THIS NOT BLIND YOU TO WHAT VIRTUE THERE IS; MANY PERSONS STRIVE FOR HIGH IDEALS AND EVERYWHERE LIFE IS FULL OF HEROISM.

BE YOURSELF, ESPECIALLY, DO NOT FEIGN AFFECTION. NEITHER BE CYNICAL ABOUT LOVE, FOR LOVE IS PERENNIAL AS THE GRASS.

TAKE KINDLY THE COUNSEL OF THE YEARS, GRACE SURRENDERING THE THINGS OF YOUTH.

NURTURE STRENGTH OF SPIRIT TO SHIELD YOU IN SUDDEN MISFORTUNE, BUT DO NOT DISTRESS YOURSELF WITH IMAGININGS. MANY FEARS ARE BORN OF FATIGUE AND LONELINESS.

BE GENTLE WITH YOURSELF. YOU ARE A CHILD OF THE UNIVERSE, NO LESS THAN THE TREES AND THE STARS. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO BE HERE, AND NO DOUBT THE UNIVERSE IS UNFOLDING AS IT SHOULD.

THEREFORE, BE AT PEACE WITH GOD, WHATEVER YOU CONCEIVE HIM TO BE, AND WHATEVER YOUR LABOURS AND ASPIRATIONS.

IN THE NOISY CONFUSION OF LIFE KEEP PEACE WITH YOUR SOUL.

WITH ALL ITS SHAM, DRUDGERY AND BROKEN DREAMS, IT IS STILL A BEAUTIFUL WORLD.

BE CAREFUL, STRIVE TO BE HAPPY.



We would like to remember Mrs Nikki Daft and send our deepest condolences to her family. Losing Nikki was a tremendous shock to those who knew her through her tireless work for the Parish. Nikki was such a hard worker for the village and she is going to be greatly missed. Rest in Peace Nikki.



Have a look at our weekly activities (which will be shown separately on a different page) and know that will receive a warm welcome to each and every one of them. ☺

SWEETIES QUIZ - A JOLLY GOOD POUNDS' WORTH

LONG LASTING GOBSTOPPERS

Fictional Characters
(which book do I appear in)

1. Angel Clare.
2. Estella.
3. Bob Crachit.
4. Phileas Fogg.
5. Captain Ahab.
6. Boxer the Horse.
7. James Steerforth.
8. Captain Nemo.
9. Mr. Rochester.
10. Henry Higgins.
11. Mr. Wackford Squeers.

HUMBUGS (HOT STUFF)

Name the artist/s who made the
Following L.P.s

1. Band on the Run.
2. Blonde on Blonde.
3. Emotional Rescue.
4. An Innocent Man.
5. Still Crazy after all these years.
6. Private Collection.
7. Private Dancer.
8. Revolver.
9. Falling into you.
10. Blondes have more Fun.
11. Bridge over Troubled Water.

ALSORTS

1. What was Elvis's middle name.
2. Cry of Long John Silver's Parrot.
3. Who was the youngest Beatle.
4. What author named his main character after Oliver Wendell Holmes.
5. Who is Loretta Lynns' singing sister.
6. Who was the oldest Beatle.
7. What author had a zoo in his luggage.
8. What colour was Judas Iscariot's hair.
9. What colour was queen Elizabeth 2nd blotting paper.
10. What is the name of the Australian Rugby Union team.

DOLLY MIXTURES

Name the Original
Recording Artist/s

1. My Sweet Lord.
2. MyBoy Lollypop.
3. Sweets for my Sweet.
4. Sweet Caroline.
5. Sugar Sugar.
6. On the Good Ship Lollypop.
7. Sad Sweet Dreamer.



EMERGENCY BLEED BOX CONTROL KIT

Located at:

**Premier Shop, Wollaston Road
Outside The Methodist Chapel**

VJ DAY

VICTORY OVER JAPAN

1945 15 AUGUST 2025

VJ Day on August 15th 2025 marked the 80th anniversary of Japan's surrender to the Allied forces following the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 and commemorating the end of World War II.

By 1945 across Asia and the Pacific there were 365,000 British and 1.5 million Commonwealth troops deployed, including the largest volunteer army in history, the pre-partition Indian army of 2.5 million soldiers. The men and women who fought came from all corners of the world, from Ghana to Bangladesh and from Fiji to Zambia. The British and the Commonwealth's principal fighting force in the region - the Fourteenth Army – was one of the most diverse army's in history, where it is estimated at least 40 languages were spoken.



Here In Irchester, the chairman of Irchester Parish Council, Mr. Ben Leeson, marked the occasion by laying a wreath at the memorial to all that paid the ultimate sacrifice during the long hard fought years of world War II and to those that are still fighting in conflict around the world today.

We remembered not only uniformed personnel, the civilians and families that lost loved ones, friends homes and businesses.

We are still in conflict today world wide. Let's just take a moment to reflect on what is still happening regardless of Race, Colour or Creed.

They gave their lives so we could be free!

“LEST WE FORGET”

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CONGRATULATIONS!

Oli and Matt Hicks of New Street Irchester, who both play bowls for Wellingborough Bowls Club, have won the Northants County Mens Pairs, which was played at Wellingborough Club.

A really great achievement.

They go on to play at Leamington in August.



POLICE SURGERY

**Police Surgery at Irchester Library
with PCSO 7163 Fenner**



Saturday	6 th September 2025	10.00 am to Midday
Friday	10 th October 2025	2.00 pm to 4.00pm
Saturday	1 st November 2025	10.00 am to Midday
Wednesday	3 rd December 2025	10.00 am to Midday

I will be on hand to listen to any concerns you have in your local community and to offer crime prevention advice.

Please come along to speak to your local officers about any issues of concern in your local community.

Everyone is welcome and it would be great to see you there.

Please be aware this surgery is subject to operational needs and may be cancelled at the last minute due to demand.



Irchester Bowls Club



The Irchester Bowls Club recently celebrated a highly successful Open Day, drawing in guests eager to experience the welcoming atmosphere and vibrant community spirit of the club. The event was marked by laughter, friendly competition, and a genuine enthusiasm for the sport.

Around 40 enthusiastic attendees took part in the festivities, many of whom were inspired to embrace the sport more fully. This surge of interest translated into several new 'Full members and even some 'Social' members joining the club who can now enjoy the clubs convivial atmosphere, this reflects the lasting impact of the event and the club's appeal to newcomers.

Following this initial excitement, the club organised six consecutive weeks of coaching, expertly led by our two highly experienced coaches. Their patient guidance and infectious passion for the game helped participants develop their skills and confidence, fostering a sense of camaraderie among both newcomers and seasoned members alike.

Of course, the Open Day was just the beginning—you're always welcome to come down to the club and discover the joys of bowling for yourself. Whether you're taking your very first shot or looking to hone your technique, the doors remain open and the community ready to greet you with encouragement and good humour.

If you're curious to try your hand at bowling, why not join us for our open competition, held every Friday evening? These friendly sessions are designed to welcome all, whether you're a complete beginner or a seasoned player seeking a fresh challenge. It's a wonderful chance to meet new people, enjoy some light-hearted rivalry, and immerse yourself in the club's convivial spirit. No need to book in advance—just arrive with a smile and a willingness to have fun, and you'll be warmly received by our community.

Building on this spirit of togetherness, the club hosted a delightful afternoon tea on 21st June, inviting both past and current members to reconnect and reminisce. The gathering was warmly attended, with familiar faces sharing stories and laughter over cups of tea and delicious treats. This reunion not only celebrated the club's enduring legacy but also strengthened the bonds between generations of members, reinforcing the sense of community that lies at the heart of the IBC.





Irchester Methodist Church



We welcome you to our weekly activities
all held in our School Room at the Church.

LINE DANCING

MONDAY MORNINGS 10-12 noon. £3.50 per session.
No need to book. Just come along and have fun.

WOMENS FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Every other Tuesday 2pm - 3.30 pm.
Variety of speakers. Tea and biscuits served.

TEA/COFFEE AND CHAT MEETINGS

2pm - 3.30 pm every other Tuesday.
Come along, Meet new friends and enjoy a piece of cake.

FILM NIGHTS

7pm on the first Friday of every month, doors open at 6.30pm.
Donations for Church Funds. Popcorn on sale



If you are new to the village or feeling lonely please come along.
You will receive a very warm welcome. 



LARGE SCHOOLROOM FOR HIRE ON A ONE OFF, OR A REGULAR BASIS.

FOR BOOKINGS:
PLEASE CONTACT TINA on  07969928356.



Our Church  is always open for you on Sunday mornings 10.30 am.
Come along and join with us in worship. You will be made very welcome. †

What's on in the Village Hall

Monday to Friday

Popup Pre-School playgroup 9am - 3.00pm. Except Wednesday afternoon

Monday

Beavers	6.15pm - 7.30pm
Cubs	6.00pm - 7.30pm
Scouts	7.30pm - 9.00pm

Tuesday

Photographic Club 7.45pm - 10.00pm
WI 7.30pm - 10.00pm Every 2nd Tuesday in the month

Wednesday

Irchester 50 + short mat bowls club

12 noon - 5.00pm

Parish Council 7.00pm - 10.00pm the last Wednesday in the month
Irchester Players Evening

Thursday

Brownies 6.00pm - 7.30pm
Rainbows 6.15pm - 7.15pm
Guides 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Friday **Time available**

Saturday

Miss Emma Dance Classes 8.30am - 6.15pm Ballet, Tap etc.
Available for hire 6.15pm - 11.45pm

Sundays **Available for hire all day**



The Elephant Hawk Moth

A few years ago, I was asked to identify an unusual pretty olive green and bright pink moth. Researching this striking creature, I discovered that it was the Elephant Hawk Moth. What a strange name for such a beautiful thing I thought. Reading up on it I discovered why.

The elephant hawk-moth is a medium-sized hawk-moth, on the wing from May to early August and active at dusk. It is commonly found in parks and gardens, as well as woodland edges, rough grassland and sand dunes.



In late summer a few years later, I was looking out of my window when I noticed something strange had happened to my beautiful, rare, pink fuchsia which had been given to me by a green fingered friend who had developed it himself. Every single leaf had gone. On further inspection I found the largest, strangest looking caterpillars I had ever seen.

They were a very odd looking grey - greenish, brownie colour with two enormous eyespots on their heads as I got nearer to them, they swelled up and the spots became more prominent. This, I discovered is to scare off predators. They certainly made me shudder. They really did look like elephant's trunks. You've guessed it they were the Elephant Hawk Moth caterpillars. After seeing the beautiful moth that they developed into I resisted the urge to get rid of them and left them to enjoy the few leaves that were left on my Fuchsias.

Pam Armstrong

SWEETIES QUIZ - A JOLLY GOOD POUNDS' WORTH - ANSWERS

LONG LASTING GOBSTOPPERS

Fictional Characters
(which book do I appear in)

1. Tess of the D'Urbervilles.
2. Great Expectations.
3. A Christmas Carol.
4. Around the World in 80 Days.
5. Moby Dick.
6. Animal Farm.
7. David Copperfield.
8. 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea.
9. Jane Eyre.
10. Pygmalion.
11. Nicholas Nickleby.

ALSORTS

1. Aaron.
2. Pieces of Eight.
3. George Harrison.
4. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
5. Crystal Gale.
6. Ringo Starr.
7. Gerald Durrell.
8. Red.
9. Black.
10. The Wallabies.

DOLLY MIXTURES

Name the Original
Recording Artists

1. George Harrison.
2. Millly.
3. The Searchers.
4. Neil Diamond.
5. The Archies.
6. Shirley Temple.
7. Sweet Sensation.

Name the artist/s who made the
Following L.P.s

1. Wings.
2. Bob Dylan.
3. The Rolling Stones.
4. Billy Joel.
5. Paul Simon.
6. Cliff Richard.
7. Tina Turner.
8. The Beatles.
9. Celine Dion.
10. Rod Stewart.
11. Simon and Garfunkel.



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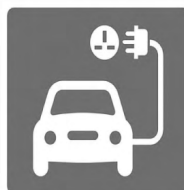
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Why English is such an Obtuse language?

Let's face it- English is a crazy language.

There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple.

English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France.

Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? One index 2 indices?

Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend, that you comb through annals of history but not a single annal? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? If you wrote a letter, perhaps you bote your tongue?

Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do peoplerecite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell? Park on driveways and drive on parkways?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? How can overlook and oversee be opposites, while quite a lot and quite a few are alike?

How can the weather be hot as hell one day and cold as hell another?

Have you noticed that we talk about certain things only when they are absent? Have you ever seen a horseful carriage or a strapful gown?

Met a sung hero or experienced requited love? Have you ever run into someone who was combobulated, gruntled, ruly or peccable?.

And where are all those people who ARE spring chickens or who would ACTUALLY hurt a fly?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race (which, of course, isn't a race at all).

That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible. And why, when I wind up my watch, I start it, but when I wind up this essay, I end it.

ANON



Join us Mondays (term time)
 Irchester Village Hall:
 Beavers: 6.15 - 7.30pm (6 - 8 yrs)
 Cubs: 6.00 - 7.30pm (8 - 10 yrs)
 Scouts: 7.30 - 9.00 pm (10 - 14yrs)

Our young people have been very busy since our last update, all 3 sections get up to so much on Monday nights and here are some of our highlights;

The Village litter pick which saw most of our young people getting their Earth Tribe Badge.

We hope you noticed the village looking a little more neat and tidy, especially our alleyways.



We had a visit from the RNLI who kindly hosted a session to talk about water safety and their roll in saving lives.

They got to look at and try out some of their equipment which young people and leaders alike enjoyed.

Scouts got creative and up-cycled their rubbish to create racers to take part in the Pinewood Derby and came away with a medal.



As I write this we have finished our summer term. We ended our last weeks of term with a tent check and practice at our hut in Austin Close before their weekend camp in September and a climbing activity at Rockup Rushden Lakes.

In other news, some of you with a keen eye may have seen us on ITV News as we teamed up with Irchester Players to provide a VE day indoor street party.

A big thank you to those who supported us to raise money for a group of our scouts to attend a district camp during the summer to the beautiful island of Jersey.

On the topic of fundraising, in order to give our young people great opportunities, we also have to work hard each year to raise funds for the group.

Dates for your diary for our next fundraisers are:

Sunday 31st August - come and see us for tea and cake at the village show.

Friday 19th September - refreshments will be provided by scouts at the FICPS colour run after school 3.15- 5.30pm

Sunday 28th September - we will host the village yard sale again, as usual its £5 a table to take part as a seller, its always a great day seeing the village bustling.

November (Date TBC) - Christmas Fayre — homemade crafts, see Santa without breaking the bank, raffle and refreshments, supporting local business.

Our future

To future proof our group, we are always looking to expand our team and invite adults (18 years+) to join us as volunteer members.

By increasing our volunteer team we can offer more engaging programmes, adventurous activity and attract more young people enhancing their #SkillsForLife for the future.

We are particularly looking for those who may be interested in the roles of Lead Volunteer, assistant and additional volunteers to introduce a Squirrel Drey (4-6 yrs) to our group.

For any enquiries about our events, joining our group as a young person or adult volunteer, do get in touch with Joyce (Group Lead Volunteer) via email at scoutgroupirchester@gmail.com or by message on 07979 858851.

On behalf of Irchester Parish Council
and the local community

We would like to thank

David Williams of DW ELECTRICS

For his service of many years to the wider community
WE hope you enjoy your well earned retirement



Irchester Youth Club

Wednesday 6:15pm to 7:30pm

Term Time Only

Parsons Hall, Irchester

£2 Entry (incl Drinks)

Open to School Years 1-6
(FS Stage with older sibling)

Tuck shop available (extra cost)

Follow us on Facebook
for more details

HEAD'S UPDATE



It's been another fantastic term at Irchester Community Primary School, and what a way to end the year! Our summer fair was a highlight, it was wonderful to see so many families and community members enjoying the stalls, games and sunshine together. Thank you to our PTA, FICPS, for organising and to everyone who supported the event; we raised over £1000 to support the school's ongoing development.

Year 6 have recently returned from their Longtown residential, where they were a real credit to the school. They showed resilience, teamwork, and respect, impressing instructors with their manners, listening, and enthusiasm. It was fantastic to see them challenge themselves, support each other and make memories that will last a lifetime. We're also incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils for achieving excellent SATs results, which were above national average in all areas. Their hard work, determination and resilience have paid off, setting a wonderful example for younger children.

Looking ahead, we're excited to welcome prospective families to our Open Morning for 2026 starters on Saturday 27th September, 9am–12pm. If you or someone you know is considering school options, please come along, we'd love to show you what makes our school so special. We're also offering tours on these dates: Tues 7th Oct, 9:30am; Weds 12th Nov, 1:30pm; Thurs 4th Dec, 9:30am.

As we reach the end of the school year, thank you all for your continued support. I wish all our families a happy and safe summer break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Wednesday 3rd September for another exciting year of learning and discovery!

Simon Anderson - Head of School



Scan the QR code for further details of events and follow our Facebook page for all the latest from ICPS
www.facebook.com/Irchester.ICPS



**OPEN
MORNING
27TH SEPT**
**FOR 2026 NEW
STARTERS**

Irchester Community Managed Library

By the time you read this we will have completed a couple of busy months as the Summer Reading Challenge has been underway, and events have been taking place. This is a great way, how we, as your local library can support young people with their reading over the school holidays.

The Summer Reading Challenge is something that all libraries get involved with across Northamptonshire and we are always proud of the part that we play.

The last few months have again been busy at the library with the volunteers welcoming people through the doors. We have also welcomed a few new volunteers at the library as part of our team.

Our sessions at the library on Wednesday for people to just pop into are still happening:

Wellbeing Sessions, 2nd Wednesday (1pm-2.30pm)

Knit and Stitch, 3rd Wednesday (1.00pm-2.30pm)

Crafty Chat, last Wednesday (1.30pm-3pm)

Each session we ask, if you are able, for a donation of £2.00 which pays for the tea or coffee and goes towards the upkeep of the library.

The adult Reading Group continues to meet on the **4th Thursday at 7.30pm at the library**. A different book is chosen each month to read. Keep your eyes out for details on which book they are reading each month on the library Facebook page: Irchester Community Library.

Rhyme Time of course takes place during **Term-Time on a Thursday morning at 9.30am** and is run by our Rhyme Time volunteers. Please do come along with your under-school age children to have fun and make friends. On average we have around 30 people attending. It is a great way to meet other parents and their young children in the village.

We continue to have on a Thursday morning, after Rhyme Time, a different class each week from Irchester Community Primary School for a Storytime Session and a chance to borrow a book. This is great as we often welcome back children and their parents or guardians when they return the book

Our Fund-Raising Team have been busy planning events over the next coming months. Funds raised at these events support the work the library does as we have to pay for things like our utility's bills. Some of the events planned are:

- **Back to School Fun Quiz, Friday 19th September** at Irchester Village Hall, 7.30pm start. £6.00 a ticket available from the Library or from Pam on the Fund-Raising Team on 07557 308923. Teams of up to 8 welcome.
- **Winter Event and Fair at the library on the afternoon of Saturday 15th November.**

We will also be holding our monthly **Bingo sessions again on a Sunday afternoon from 3pm-5pm** in partnership with the Village Hall. The fun afternoon is for all ages and for families to attend with tea and cake, a raffle, as well as an excellent Bingo Caller will welcome attendees.

Dates for your diary are as follows:

- **26th October 2025**
- **23rd November 2025**
- **14th December 2025**
- **25th January 2026**
- **22nd February 2026**
- **22nd March 2026**

As the library is run by volunteers, we are always looking for new people to join the team. Training and support is given. If you think you can help in anyway, please pop into the library and leave your contact details or email Irchestercml@gmail.com

Do also look out on our Facebook Page (Irchester Community Library), on the library noticeboard and the village noticeboards for details of all upcoming events.

Don't forget our opening hours are:

- **Wednesday 10am-4pm**
- **Friday 2pm-6pm**
- **Saturday 10am-12noon**

If you need to renew your books whilst the library is closed (and don't have access to an online account) please contact:

North Northamptonshire Council via there website: www.northnorthants.gov.uk or Tel: 0300 126 3000.

Irchester Community Library Fundraiser

Back to School Fun Quiz

Friday 19th September
At Irchester Village Hall
7.30 pm start

*Come join us for
a quiz evening
with nibbles and
refreshments.
You can bring
your own drink,
if you like.*

*Tickets £6.00
and available
from the
Library or from
Pam on
07557308923*

Irchester Community Library Fund raising event

BINGO

**Come join us at the
Irchester Village Hall
for Bingo on**

Sunday October 26th	3-5pm
Sunday November 23rd	3-5pm
Sunday December 14th	3-5pm
Sunday January 25th	3-5pm
Sunday February 22nd	3-5pm
Sunday March 22nd	3-5pm

£5.00 including Tea/Coffee and cake

Apple Chutney

Ingredients

- 1 lb onions
- ½ pint vinegar
- 2 lbs apples (after peeling and coring)
- 2-4 oz dried fruit (optional)
- 1 teaspoon pickling spice
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 12 oz sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger

Method:

1. Grate or finely chop the onions and put them into a saucepan with 1/8-pint vinegar and simmer until nearly soft.
2. Securely tie the spices in a small muslin bag.
3. Chop the apples and add to the onions with the dried fruit, the spices, salt, ground ginger and just enough vinegar to stop the mixture from burning.
4. Cook gently until the fruit is soft, stirring from time to time.
5. Add the remainder of the sugar and stir thoroughly.
6. Boil steadily until the chutney is thick.
7. Remove the spices and pour the chutney into hot jars.
This will make 4-5lbs of chutney

The Apple Picker



Irchester Then and Now



High Street, 1947. On the left, beyond the corrugated garden fence of District Nurse Winefride 'Una' Berine's house was an alleyway to Parsons' Farmyard (now the site of the Village Hall). The building beyond, No.49 High Street was Charlie Abercrombie's outdoor beerhouse. He was the licensee from 1940-1950. The house, right foreground, No.34 High Street, has a façade with a datestone of 1794, but hides a Tudor farmhouse of the 16th century. Next door is Herbert Deebank's non-dispensing chemist shop.

The taller end gable wall on the right was Alf Dunkley coal fired bakery and in the centre of the picture is the Red Lion Public House where Charlie Dobson was the Landlord from 1923-1956.

Image from 1947 taken from: Irchester Picture Past 2 (2002) produced by Jon-Paul Carr and still available from: Jon-Paul Carr, 23 High Street, Irchester, NN29 7AA. Tel.01933 382476 or email: jpcarr01@hotmail.com



**Discover Friendship,
Fascinating Talks & Fresh Perspectives
at Irchester WI**



**Come Rain or Shine (or Scorching Heat!)
Irchester WI is Ready to Welcome You!**

After a summer that felt more Sahara than Northamptonshire, the ladies of Irchester WI have been keeping their cool and packing in plenty of brilliant events – fans in one hand, cake in the other!

We have had a sizzling season of guest speakers that really got us talking – and thinking. A huge thank you to Northamptonshire Police who joined us to share eye-opening insights on how to spot fraud and stay safe in today's ever-changing world. We all walked away feeling more confident (and possibly a little more suspicious of that 'prince' emailing us for bank details).

Our delicious cake sale was, unsurprisingly, a total hit – because let's face it, nothing beats a WI cake. Whether you are a lemon drizzle loyalist or a chocoholic, there was something for every sweet tooth.

And in this special year, marking 80 years since VE Day, we stepped back in time to learn about Northamptonshire's very own Home Guard. It was a truly fascinating look at local history – and a reminder of the bravery shown so close to home.

But wait – there is so much more to come!

This autumn, we are turning the page with more exciting events: A retired judge will be joining us to explain how sentencing decisions are made – ever wondered what really goes on behind the bench?

We will also be delving into Wellingborough's incredible history with the VAD Hospital (1914–1919) – a powerful story of care and courage.

And with the festive season just around the corner, prepare yourself for the usual WI cheer – think crafts, mince pies, and plenty of sparkle.

So if you have been thinking of trying something new, reconnecting with the community or just want an excuse to enjoy a cuppa and a laugh – now's the perfect time to join us.

We meet at 7.15 on the second Tuesday of the month at the Village Hall, always with a warm welcome, good company, and something interesting to discover. Whether you are a long-time resident or brand new to the village, come along and see what Irchester WI is all about.

Irchester WI: Much more than Jam & Jerusalem!

**To find out more follow us on Facebook
or call Emma on 07933 790954**

The WI's Famous Jam!



Makes about 10 jars (1lb. each)

Ingredients:

- 2.4 kg damsons
- 750 ml – 1.25 litres water
- 3 kg sugar

You Will Need:

- A large pan (preserving pan if possible)
- Jam jars (sterilised)
- A ladle
- Optional: sugar thermometer

Method:

1. **Sterilise the jars:** Wash and place in a warm oven until ready to use.
2. **Cook the fruit:** Wash damsons, put in pan with water, and simmer until soft and skins are tender. The mixture should reduce by about one-third.
3. **Remove stones:** Scoop out stones as they float to the top.
4. **Check for pectin** (optional): Simmer a little fruit juice, cool it, then add 3 tbsp methylated spirits. If it forms a jelly-like blob, it is good to go. If it stays runny, the pectin is low.
5. **Add sugar:** Take pan off the heat, stir in the sugar until dissolved.
6. **Boil jam:** Return pan to heat. Boil quickly until it reaches setting point (see below).
7. **Jar the jam:** Pour into warm jars, seal immediately. Wipe clean and label with date and contents.
8. **Store:** Keep in a cool, dark, dry place.
9. **How to Tell if the Jam Is Set:** Put a spoon of jam on a cold plate. Chill for 1 minute. Push with finger—if it wrinkles, it is ready.

It's been a fantastic term at 3rd Irchester Rainbows, packed with fun, learning, and exciting new experiences.

Our Rainbows unit, which is open to girls aged 4 to 7, has had a brilliant time this term working towards their badges and awards. We've had lots to celebrate recently, with many of our girls proudly earning multiple badges including a gold award along with some silver and bronze awards too.



This term, we've been particularly busy working on our **'Have Adventures' theme**, with a special focus on *space activities and exploring the outdoors and nature*. From designing our own rockets and learning about the planets to creating space-themed crafts and playing astronaut games, the girls had a blast exploring the wonders of the universe. Their enthusiasm was out of this world, and they showed amazing curiosity and creativity along the way.



We're also proud to announce that our girls have completed their Skills for my future skills builder . This is a key part of the Girlguiding programme and involves trying new things, working together, and learning about the world around them with key skills which they will need in the future. A highlight of this badge was learning how to safely cut different fruit and fruit kebabs and drizzling them with chocolate.

Seafields

2 Bedroom Holiday Chalet
For Hire in Walcott, Norfolk



www.seafieldswalcott.co.uk



Come and join us

Thursdays
6 - 7pm

Irchester Village Hall

Rainbows

Girls play, learn and have tons of fun
for ages 4 to 7

At Rainbows, we welcome all girls to play, learn and have fun in a creative, safe space for all abilities.


Registered charity number: 306080

Call 01933 315977 for more details or email 3rdirchester@gmail.com


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Email: emmashefchick@sky.com

Website: www.emmajayneschoolofdance.co.uk



**25TH OCTOBER
7:30PM**

**ROLES
REVERSED**

**PARSONS HALL
IRCHESTER**

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for money change

BOOK ONLINE: WWW.IRCHESTERPLAYERS.CO.UK

Discover Taekwon-Do at your local club



Join Master King VII for family-friendly Taekwon-Do classes every Tuesday from 6:30-8pm at Wollaston Secondary School. We welcome students from age 4, offering comprehensive training from beginner right up to black belt level and beyond.



SCAN ME

Our classes focus on more than just martial arts – we develop sportsmanship, self-defence skills, coordination, and respect and many other skills in a supportive family environment whilst improving your fitness and making new friends. Whether you're starting your martial arts journey or advancing your skills or returning after a break, our experienced instruction caters to all levels.

We are part of a wider network with additional classes in Wellingborough and Northampton throughout the week on different days and we run year round. Our members also compete in both local and national competitions where they particularly enjoy the chance to show off their skills.

Begin your Taekwon-Do adventure today and discover the physical and mental benefits of this ancient martial art in our welcoming community.



**For more information give us a call/text on
07715 988160, email tina-king1@outlook.com**

**Or pop down on a Tuesday to
Wollaston Secondary School**

**Come & try it out
1st session is FREE**

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DEFIBRILLATORS**

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IRCHESTER VILLAGE HALL
OUTSIDE THE FLATS
MILTON ROAD
LITTLE IRCHESTER**

AED

**AUTOMATED EXTERNAL
DEFIBRILLATOR**



Irchester Players



Irchester Players continues to be the best and only Performing Arts Charity in operation within the parish, striving from strength to strength!

On Sunday 22nd June, Irchester Players were invited to attend the NODA awards for the East Midlands Region. We were nominated for our 2024 pantomime 'Aladdin' and our Youth Production of 'Matilda JR'. We are pleased to say that 'Matilda JR' won the award for the Best Youth Production in District 7 of the East Midlands Region! A huge congratulations to all our Youth members, allowing us to continue being an award-winning Youth Group!

There was no rest however for this fantastic part of our Charity, as on Saturday 5th July our Youth Division took to the stage and performed 'Aladdin Jr', an hour-long condensed version of the full musical. This was a huge success and was loved by all audience members and our NODA representative. To read our official review for this production please visit our website (www.irchesterplayers.co.uk) and find this under our NODA reviews tab.

We are now in the process of staging our next production 'Roles Reversed'. A one night only musical theatre fundraiser that flips the script... literally. In this showcase, performers will take on songs traditionally written for another gender or age, offering fresh interpretations of loved musical theatre numbers. It's a celebration of range, reinvention, and the freedom to step into roles not usually offered simply because of gender/age. From golden-age show tunes to modern West End hits, this is your chance to see iconic songs performed with surprising new voices.

This show is going to be performed at **Parsons Hall on Saturday 25th October starting at 7:30pm**. Tickets can now be booked through our online box office at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/irchesterplayers

For any group bookings of 10+, please email groups@irchesterplayers.co.uk

Can you help us? With technology forever changing and the cost of things always going up, Irchester Players are in desperate need to upgrade our lighting infrastructure so we can still be seen on stage! We would be grateful for any donations at <https://gofund.me/9224362a> for this cause.

As always, the best way to keep up to date with all things Irchester Players is to follow our Facebook page, Instagram or TikTok accounts or sign-up to our mailing list. To do this, search 'Irchester Players CIO' on Facebook, 'irchester.players' on TikTok, 'irchesterplayers1977' on Instagram or email marketing@irchesterplayers.co.uk to be added to our mailing list.

Fancy having a go on stage yourself or being involved in our backstage? Get in touch with us at Irchester Players to come along to have a go yourself. For more information about getting involved email info@irchesterplayers.co.uk

Tickets for our shows are on sale from our online box office, www.irchesterplayers.co.uk/boxoffice.

We look forward to welcoming you soon!

Alex McKenzie - Irchester Players CEO.



Activities and Facilities



Activities

VILLAGE HALL Pop-up Preschool, Beavers, Cubs & Scouts, Irchester Players, Photographic Society, Happy You Yoga, WI, Coulon Link, Brownies, Rainbows, Guides Miss Emma Dancing.

PARSONS HALL Youth Club, Barn Dancing, Birthday Parties, Wedding Receptions, Keep Fit.

SPORTS ASSOCIATION Football, Junior Football, Cricket, Darts Skittles, Netball.

BOWLS CLUB Outdoor/Indoor Bowls, Events.

Facilities

SHOPPING Co-op, High Street
Village Shop, near Recreation Ground.
Village Shop, Arkwright Road.

TAKE AWAY Fish & Chip Shop, Wollaston Road.
Indian, Wollaston Road.
Chinese, High Street.
Pizza, Burger, Kebabs, High Street.

CAFE PearTree Cafe, High Street.

PUBS/CLUBS Sports Association - Members Only.
Working Mens Club - Members Only.
Bowls Club

BEAUTY Hairdresser, High Street & School Road.
Beauty Shop, Wollaston Road.

OTHER Garage, Wollaston Road.
Garage, Lower Farm, off High Street.
Chemist, High Street. (Weekdays only)
Library, High Street.

CHURCHES Irchester Methodist Church,
Tel: 01933 312778
Reachout Community Church,
www.reachoutcommunitychurch.org.uk
St. Katharine's Church
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16617/

IRCHESTER PLAYERS www.irchesterplayers.co.uk



Contact Details



Parish Council Chair: Ben Leeson	01933 543425
Parish Council Vice Chair: Pete Smith	01933 312224
Parish Clerk /RFO: Sarah Geyton	07308 251402
Cemetery Officer: Janice Rigby cemetery@irchesterparishcouncil.gov.uk	07462 006290
Doctors Surgery	01933 413888
Irchester Chemist	01933 355378
Irchester Community Primary School	01933 353848
Popup Pre School	07906 086995

North Northants Council 0300 126 3000
<https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/contactus>

Fix My Street <https://www.fixmystreet.com/>

Village Hall	01933 311222
Parsons Hall	01933 543118
Kettering General Hospital	01536 492000
GP Out of Hours	111
Police Non Emergency	101
Police Emergency	999
Irchester Allotments	07842 786078
Little Irchester Allotments	01933 673310

www.irchesterparishcouncil.gov.uk

Articles for the next Magazine

We are looking for interesting articles for the next issue
 which is due out in December 2025.

They should be no more than 1 x A5 page long and sent to:
ipcmag23@gmail.com

By 31st October 2025

We are looking for photographs, stories (fact or fiction), poems,
 quizzes, savoury recipes, craft instructions and puzzles.

It's your magazine so please help us to make it interesting



Your Local Councillor Contact Details



Irchester Parish Council

Parish Council Chair: Ben Leeson	01933 543425
Parish Council Vice Chair: Pete Smith	01933 312224
Parish Clerk /RFO: Sarah Geyton	07308 251402
Cemetery Officer: Janice Rigby cemetery@irchesterparishcouncil.gov.uk	07462 006290
Gillian Brotherston	07929 021055
Jon-Paul Carr	01933 382476
Angelina Howden	
Ann Hurley	07736 467013
Matthew May	07500 019300
Ian McDonald	07454 394819



Little Irchester Councillors

John Dunkley	01933 274245
Davina Shroll	01933 278185



North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) - Councillors

Cllr. Jon- Paul Carr	01933 382476
jon-paul.carr@northnorthants.gov.uk	
Cllr. Gordon Dunsmuir	
gordon.dunsmuir@northnorthants.gov.uk	
Cllr. Tom Partridge Underwood	01933 665167
tom.partridge-underwood@northnorthants.gov.uk	

