



First Imber wedding in 60 years

THE first bride to walk down the aisle of Imber Church for almost 60 years is preparing for her wedding in the ghost village on December 21.

Sylke Woods and John Syme will have their wedding blessed in a ceremony at the 800-year old church following their register office marriage.

They follow in the footsteps of Bernard Wright and Phyllis Daniels, the last couple to be married at St Giles Church in Imber - in November 1943.

John Symes (54) and his fiance are founder members of the Friends of Imber Church.

The isolated Salisbury Plain village was evacuated in the World War II - three weeks after the last wedding took place - for army training. Villagers expected to return when the war ended but were never allowed back.

Imber is opened several times a year, including St Giles day in early September, to allow people to visit the church and churchyard.

It will be open from December 20 until early January.

The couple, who were both born at Tidworth to army families, live at Warminster.

(This is Wiltshire – Thursday 12 December 2002)