



# DORCHESTER NEWS

## November 2014

FREE TO EVERY HOME IN  
THE PARISH

### Talking Point

At the time of writing this article (early October) we have just heard the news of yet another murder of a hostage by the so-called "Islamic State". This news has provoked inevitable, and justified, outrage from all right-thinking people, including the leaders of the Islamic community in the victim's home city of Manchester. In our own country we hear news of senseless murders, one recently very local to our area, another currently in the news in west London. These again provoke feelings of outrage and anger. Earlier this year the 24 hour news channels were showing live broadcasts of the trial in South Africa of Oscar Pistorius accused of murdering his girlfriend. As I write, the trial of Shrien Dewani, accused of organising the murder of his wife on their honeymoon, also in South Africa, is beginning and I expect this too will occupy hours of news broadcasting.

We are bombarded by this news. We feel anger and outrage, yet at the same time, in contrast to this comparatively small number of deaths, thousands of people are dying from malnutrition and disease as crops fail due to drought or heavy rains. The high incidence of HIV in Africa has been ongoing for years but only the current ebola epidemic in West Africa has commanded widespread attention in the news.

Are we becoming insensitive to these human tragedies? Do we tell ourselves there is nothing we can do about them?

### Christingle Service 3.30pm 16 November

Our Family Service moves to the afternoon on 16 November to celebrate the light of the world with a Christingle Service. Please arrive from 3pm to make your Christingle.

I know that many people, including people who will read this, (probably especially people who will read this) do what they can by supporting charities with finance and prayer and physical help. It may feel as if we are trying to fill a bottomless pit, and I am not claiming to have the answers.

In the wake of the murders by the Islamic extremists we hear views expressed that "more should have been done". We are told that the rapid spread of ebola is, in part, due to a lack of treatment facilities so that sick people are being turned away to take the virus back home where it inevitably spreads, and that "more needs to be done". I cannot recall anyone offering a realistic suggestion as to what should be done in concrete terms.

All this feels like a situation where I feel powerless and struggling to find a way in which I can do something positive. I can (and do) pray about the situation but God acts through the actions of others so I guess my (and our) prayer should be that He will find a way to inspire his followers to find, and take, an appropriate action.

"Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks in compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world."  
(Prayer attributed to St Theresa of Avila)

**Reverend David Haylett**  
Associate Team Vicar

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## Dorchester News

### Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Gillian Johnson  
**Distribution Co-ordinator**  
Rosemary Day

### Copy Deadlines for Dorchester News

Combined December/January edition 14 Nov  
February edition 9 January  
March edition 6 February

### Advert Deadlines for Dorchester News

One week before copy deadline

Those items in electronic form may be sent via e-mail attachment to [dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk](mailto:dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk). **Please name your attached file and subject line of e-mail with the title of your article or organisation name, not 'Dorchester News'!** Anything people would like sent to newsletter editors for other churches in the Team should be sent to [admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk) by the 9th of the preceding month.

### Magazine Advertising Costs

Why not use this parish magazine to advertise your business, service, function, etc? There are ten issues per year with double issues in July/August and in Dec/Jan. The cost of advertising increased from February 2014 and the new rate is now shown. For an eighth of a page the cost is £11.75, for a quarter page £23.50, for half page £35.25 and just £47.00 for a full page.

All charges are put towards the cost of the paper, printing and postage of copies being sent outside the village. You may supply your own advert or we can produce the advert and artwork **for a fee**.

Should you wish to incorporate a logo or artwork, please supply a copy, preferably via e-mail: [dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk](mailto:dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk). One-time adverts, please send a cheque, payable to 'Dorchester Abbey PCC', to Nick Forman, Willoughby House, 73 High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames, OX10 7HN.

## Editorial

The clocks have gone back all over Europe. We shall not see light evenings again until next year. But as we enter these grey days we should not feel low or despondent. For me, this a magical time of year: car headlights sparkling on wet roads, and winter coats coming out to make us feel snug and warm as we kick through the leaves. (I am an old-fashioned romantic.) If we need further warmth then in this issue we look back to Sara Hender's fund-raising in Uganda and pictures from the wonderful Traditional Skills Weekend in August, both of which are guaranteed to cheer us, and one hundred years of our village shop, which was celebrated in October.

There are also new things happening in the village. There is excellent news from Hurst Water Meadows Trust regarding the purchase of Overly Mead Piece that has been an ambition for a while. The new village website has been launched. This should be a major means of communication both within the village and outside. A work in progress, there is a request from Webmaster, Sue Graney, for us all to look at it and suggest how we, as a village, would like it to develop. I urge everybody to do so.

As ever, there is a lot going on in the village during November, from comedy to concerts, from craft fair to quiz night. Who says November is a dreary month?

Ian Brace

## Useful Information

### CONTACTING THE POLICE

To report a non-emergency crime, or to give information to Thames Valley Police, please call **101**. Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555111**. **In the event of an emergency dial 999**

### DIRECT LINE TO URGENT LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

Dial **111** to access urgent local NHS health care services. The NHS111 team will, where possible, book you an appointment or transfer you directly to the people you need to speak to or send an ambulance if they think you need one. (For non urgent health needs you should contact your GP in the usual way)

### MINOR INJURIES

The Minor Injuries Unit at Abingdon Hospital, Marcham Road, is available every day from 10.00 am to 10.30 pm: **01865 425161**.

### A&E

The nearest A & E units are at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford (**01865 741166**) and the Royal Berkshire in Reading (**01183 225111**)

**HEALTH CENTRE—BERINSFIELD**  
Telephone number **01865 340558**

**CLIFTON HAMPDEN SURGERY**  
Telephone Number **01865 407888**

### ABBAY GUEST HOUSE BOOKINGS

Anyone wishing to hire the Abbey Guest House for private functions, meetings, exhibitions, etc, should contact Hilarie Rogers on **01865 340007**.

### HIRE OF DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL

To hire our Village Hall, please contact Brenda Edwards; [edwards.dorchester@virgin.net](mailto:edwards.dorchester@virgin.net), or telephone **01865 343062**. Please telephone at least 24 hours in advance to arrange collection of the key.

### THE COMMUNAL LOUNGE AT BELCHER COURT

The communal lounge at Belcher Court is now available for rent. Contact the Scheme Manager, Caroline Major, on **01865 343128**.

### STREET LIGHTING - FAULT REPORTING

Report any problems with a street light to **0800 317802**, which is available 24 hours a day. Callers will be asked for the address of the site and the nature of the fault.

### COMPLAINTS ABOUT HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

Ring Oxfordshire Highways on **0845 3101111**, available five days a week, with a 24-hour answering facility. Complaints can also be sent via e-mail to [southernarea@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:southernarea@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

### BLOCKED DRAINS?

Ring Thames Water for blocked drains on 0800 316 9800. Callers will be asked for the postcode of the address where the drains are blocked.

### REFUSE COLLECTION

Any residents whose household rubbish is not collected on the due date (see page 27) should contact the contractor direct. The number to call is **03000 610610** and the website [www.more recycling.co.uk](http://www.more recycling.co.uk)

### BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

Green Furlong, Berinsfield **01865 340771**  
Free Internet access. DVDs can be ordered.

### OPENING HOURS

Mon - closed	Tues, Wed, Fri 10.00 am – 12.30 pm
Tues 2.00–7.00 pm	Weds, Thurs 2.00–5.30 pm
Fri 2.00–5.00 pm	Sat 10.00 am – 12.30 pm

### VILLAGE BUS SERVICES

Bus services are provided by Thames Travel: two 97 services to Didcot and Wallingford (M-S) and two 114 services to Abingdon and Wallingford (M-F) and Whites: (1 service to Didcot M-F). Timings are shown at the bus stops and also on line at [www.thames-travel.co.uk](http://www.thames-travel.co.uk) and **01491 837988** and [www.whitescoaches.com](http://www.whitescoaches.com) and **01865 340516**. Information about bus services, both local and national, is available from [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info), and **0871 200 2233**, which also provides information about trains, London Underground and Overground and ferries throughout the UK.

### OXFORDSHIRE DIAL-A-RIDE

Door to door minibus service for shopping trips. For information please contact **0845 310 1111**.

### SHOPMOBILITY

Free loan of wheelchairs and electric scooters to people who need them for shopping in Oxford. For information please ring **01865 248737**.

### CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Clerk is Geoffrey Russell of The Pigeons (next to The Fleur de Lys), High Street, Dorchester on Thames OX10 7HH; **01865 340759** (during normal office hours, please, unless an emergency); [parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk). More information about the village is available at: [www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk](http://www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

## Remembrance

On 9 November we play our part as a village community in the National Act of Remembrance. We look forward to welcoming members of the British Legion and the wider village community in the Abbey at 10am (please note the earlier time) and sharing the ceremony at the War Memorial at 10.55am (in time for the 11am silence).

## Memorial Service

The Sunday closest to All Saints' Day is a time to remember not only the famous saints like St Peter, St Paul and St Birinus, but also what I like to call the "saints in ordinary". The church calls this All Souls Tide.

There are many people who have had an enormous impact on our lives and shaped and moulded the people we are. Very often these are relatives or close friends; in a village like Dorchester they are also the significant personalities who have contributed to the life of the community. In recent years we have lost from our community a large number of very special people.

I hope that the Morning Service on 2 November will be a good time to remember them with thanksgiving and reflect on what we have learned from them. In particular anyone for whom a relative's funeral has been held in the Abbey is warmly invited to attend this service. It will be possible to ask for the names of people that have been important to you personally to be added to a list that will be read during the prayers. There will be lists at the back of the Abbey but you may also telephone the Rectory (340007) to ask for a name to be added.

## Charity Comedy Night Update

Thank you so much to everyone who supported The Ellie and Mae Charity Comedy Show on 10 October.

An amazing £480 was raised. This money will provide several months of special nutrition and medical care to the children at the Musanda Medical centre in Kenya.

For more information on the work of the Nasio Trust visit [www.thenasiotrust.org.uk](http://www.thenasiotrust.org.uk)

### mobile LIBRARY

Alternate Thursdays, 10.40–11.15 am  
Lay-by by the War Memorial

**13 November and 27 November**

### Fishmonger

The travelling fishmonger comes to Dorchester every Tuesday and will stop at the following:

**10.30 - 10.50am in High Street near War Memorial**

Editor's note: If you like eating fish, please buy from this travelling fishmonger, as the quality is excellent. There is a danger, though, that he will stop coming to Dorchester if there is insufficient demand.

## Advent

Sunday 30 November is Advent Sunday and we plan to have a special celebration of Advent with communion for all the family. I do hope you can join us to light the first candle on the Advent Wreath and set the Posada on its journey around the village.

## Confirmation

The Bishop of Dorchester will conduct a service of Confirmation at 6pm on Sunday 7 December. Confirmation is an opportunity to make a commitment to serve God and be a part of God's church in the world. If you would like to talk more about what is involved in confirmation and preparation for it please talk to one of the clergy.

## Christmas Services

The Abbey Carol Service will be on Sunday 21 December at 6pm. All other services follow the pattern of previous years, and there will be an invitation for each household in next month's magazine.



### Christmas Tree Event

Advance notice of **Christmas Tree event** for all ages :  
**Dorchester Abbey**  
**Saturday 6 December 2014**

From 9.30am setting up the tree – many hands make light work.

From 9.30 – 11.30am an all-age workshop to make simple decorations for the tree.

And, please, do you have any tree decorations in gold, white or red that you would care to donate for the tree? (We have lights, thank you.)

Further details or to donate Christmas Tree decorations:  
Denise Line **01865 340905**

### Wanted ! Abbey Gardeners

Dorchester Abbey gardeners need more volunteers to help in keeping our beautiful Abbey surrounds neat, tidy and attractive. No pay but immense job satisfaction. Applicants should be enthusiastic rather than expert.

Apply to Kathy Glass on **01865 340462**

### Abbey Tearoom AGM

All Tearoom helpers please note that the AGM will take place on **Saturday 15 November** at 3pm in the Guest House

Please come and meet your fellow volunteers and enjoy some refreshments

**Christina Stores**

# Love begins at fifty

A  
hilarious  
farce  
by

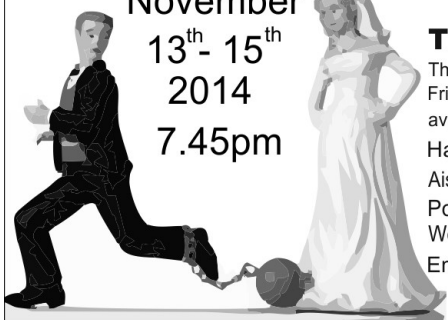
Raymond Hopkins

**Dorchester Village Hall**

November

13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>  
2014

7.45pm



## Tickets

Thursday £ 6.00

Friday-Saturday £ 8.00

available from

Hair, Lilly's & Co-op in Dorchester

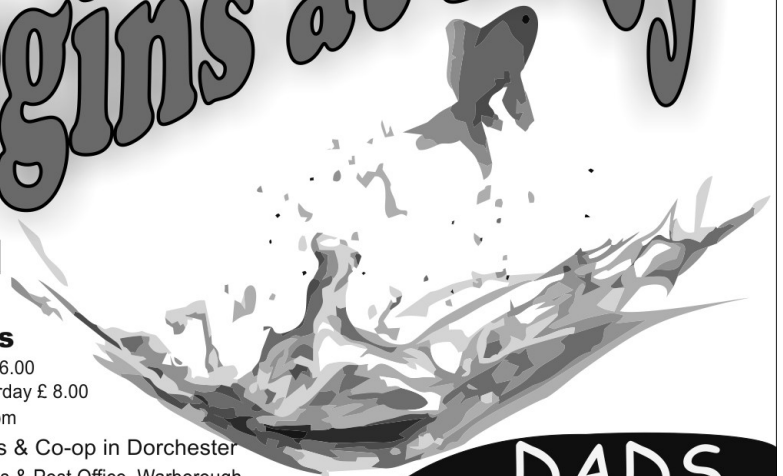
Aisha Stores & Post Office, Warborough

Post Office, Clifton Hampden

Web [www.dads.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.dads.ticketsource.co.uk) (booking fee applies)

Email [tickets@dads.org.uk](mailto:tickets@dads.org.uk)

or Phone 01865 340792



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## Dorchester on Thames Historical Society

Wednesday 26 November at 7.30pm  
Dorchester Village Hall (back room)

A talk by Paul Booth on  
'The Roman Archaeology of High Speed 1 Railway in  
Kent'.

Visitors and new members are always very welcome to  
our talks and outings.

**Gail Thomas**  
Chairman

## W.I. News

Ladies of any age are very welcome to join our small but  
friendly club. Usually our meetings are held at 7.30pm on  
the second Thursday in the month in the Village Hall un-  
less stated otherwise.

**Thursday 13 November in the White Hart Dr Tony Mai-  
sey "Talking to Children".** This is expected to be a  
lively and funny talk. Non-members are very welcome to  
join us. Please remember to buy your drinks at the bar  
before coming in to the meeting.

**Thursday 11 December Members Christmas Party in  
the Village Hall.** A social evening with the Panto  
Dame Richard Westcott.

President Linda Hender **01865 340032**  
Publicity Jill Love **01865 716557**

## Culham & District Horticultural Club

### November Meeting

Meeting at the Abbey Guest House Dorchester-on-  
Thames at 7.30pm this autumn.

**Wednesday 19 November** Mistletoe: Fact, Myth &  
Legend by Michael Jones

There will be more talks in the new year. Membership is  
open to all those who have a keen interest in horticulture  
(annual subscription £15) and visitors are welcome at the  
meeting (donation £2). For more details contact  
Judy White **01235 850381**; [judy@tiggercat.me.uk](mailto:judy@tiggercat.me.uk)

## Dorchester Cricket Club Quiz night

Dorchester Cricket club will be holding a General  
Knowledge Quiz in the Village Hall on **Saturday 29 No-  
vember** starting at 7.30pm.

The cost will be £5.00 per person and will include hot  
food. Teams of up to 8 people.

A bar will be available to purchase refreshments.

To enter a team please contact **Adrian Redhead**  
**07798 887499** or [adrianredhead@hotmail.com](mailto:adrianredhead@hotmail.com)

## Allotment News

The Dorchester on Thames Allotment Society AGM was  
held in the Village Hall on Thursday 18 September 2014.  
Approximately 30 members attended and there was the  
opportunity to pay rents for 2014/2015 and Society sub-  
scriptions and have a glass of wine. Apologies were  
received from Conrad and Cathy Pepper, Roger Sea-  
brook and Karen Hadley, and Alison and Jon Rosby.

The Treasurer, Mark Townson, presented the accounts  
of the Society. The overall position as of 18 September  
2014 was £725.62 indicating that the ongoing financial  
position is sound. The Society subscription of £5 does  
not quite cover the insurance payment and the fee to the  
National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners but  
it is the intention to continue to hold the Society subscrip-  
tion at £5 for as long as possible.

The current members of the Committee are Edward  
Metcalf (Chairman), Mark Townson (Treasurer), Bill  
Downey, and Gill Symmonds. Colin Slaymaker who has  
been a mainstay of the Committee for many years has  
stepped down because of ill health. The Chairman made  
his usual plea for new blood to join the Committee.  
*[Following the AGM Karen Hadley volunteered to join the  
Committee and is a very welcome addition].*

The rent increase for 2014/15 was explained in that the  
rent is collected on behalf of the Parish Council who then  
pay the bill for the water used on the allotments and also  
cover the cost of major refurbishment works. For exam-  
ple the fence along Watling Lane was replaced during  
the early part of 2014. The Parish Council has also  
agreed to re-surface the entrance to the south of the  
allotments from Watling Lane.

Seed catalogues were collected by people who attend-  
ed the meeting and others are available for collection  
from Mark Townson. People were encouraged to order  
seeds via this route as the Society made a small profit  
on each order; people ordering this way should add £1  
to their order, which goes to the Society. The last date  
for seed orders is 31 October.

There were three areas of lively discussion during the  
meeting. First there were complaints that some dogs  
were not kept on the lead on the allotments, and some  
dog walkers were not collecting and disposing of dog  
mess in the appropriate manner. Dog walkers should  
be reminded that food for human consumption is grown  
on the allotments; it is its prime purpose. Second, at  
this time of year there tends to be a glut of some pro-  
duce and this is usually left by the footpath for passers-  
by to collect. It was suggested that this was not very  
efficient and if a proper collection method could be de-  
veloped the food could be donated to food banks or a  
soup kitchen in Oxford.

The third item was the general untidiness of the allot-  
ments. There were a number of vacant plots and plots  
which were rented but were overgrown with weeds.  
There was a strong feeling, indeed a vote was unani-  
mously passed, that the Committee should use some of  
its funds to clear up some of the plots, and also put  
pressure on certain tenants to tidy their plots up. It is  
much easier to attract new tenants if the whole place  
looks tidy and productive.

On this final note it should be recorded that Claire and  
Richard Ireson won the Plate for the Best Kept Allot-  
ment in the Autumn Village Show for the second year  
running.

**Edward Metcalfe (Chairman)**



# The White Hart

DORCHESTER ON THAMES

01865 340074

The White Hart welcomes over 7000 hotel guests each year.  
See what they say on [www.tripadvisor.co.uk](http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk)

Our guests enjoy exploring the village and surrounding countryside of Dorchester on Thames. They really appreciate the welcome they receive from the people of Dorchester.

Thank you to all our customers for making our guests so welcome and a big thanks also for your custom in the real-ale bar and restaurant.

Don't forget to join our Restaurant Club on [www.oxfordshire-hotels-restaurantclub.co.uk](http://www.oxfordshire-hotels-restaurantclub.co.uk) for latest news and great savings on meals.

Sean Harris  
Manager – The White Hart



## DORCHESTER PROPERTY EXPERTS!

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## Co-op store's 100th anniversary in Dorchester

Mob caps and long skirts are not the usual uniform for Helen Jones and her staff at Dorchester's Co-op village store.



Customers entering the shop were invited to share in the 100th birthday celebration for the store, opened on 9 October 1914, in the self-same premises.

In spite of the early difficulties faced by the Co-op and other retailers that month, such as their horses being commandeered for the war effort, seriously affecting distribution schedules, the decision to open the store as Oxford Co-op's Branch no. 11 (one of its first in the countryside) went ahead.

Monogrammed cupcakes and samples of other cakes were on offer (these were emphatically not 100 years old). A hamper was

raffled in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust, the Society's charity of the year, chosen by staff.

A display featured landmarks in the life of Oxford Co-op (now the Midcounties Co-operative). Already by 11 a.m. Dorchester people had contributed vintage photos, ground plans, historical buildings information, and a weekly shopping list from long ago. Others brought their own reminiscences. Doreen Barker, daughter of Walter Galsworthy,

was present, exchanging anecdotes from her time 'living above the shop' during her parents' 33-year tenancy, her father having been the manager for some 20 years. In 1963-4 the warehouse space at the rear of the store and the upper storeys of the building were comprehensively rebuilt to modern safety standards, floorboards and joists having deteriorated beyond repair.



The shop has one of the 'discrete' fascias, specially designed for conservation areas. Apart from the addition of a door the frontage of the premises has hardly changed over the 100 years of the life of this store. The building itself is probably 200 years old, and part of old Dorchester. (The land was once owned by the Earls of Abingdon.) A section to the side of the store was made available for a village hall in early years. (There were also small independent co-op societies in the neighbouring villages of Clifton Hampden and Long Wittenham). This store hopes to continue to serve local residents into its second century.

With thanks to all those who contributed their local knowledge.

**Anne Ransome**

Midcounties Co-operative Heritage Project  
heritage@midcounties.coop

### Peter Lancaster In Peter's Memory

We would like to thank everyone, including the British Legion and the Dorchester Golf Society, who sent flowers and condolences in Peter's memory. They were very much appreciated. Thank you also to Sandy for the arrangements you made for the family flowers.

Everyone has been very kind and we would like to offer thanks in particular to the community of the Abbey; Sue and the Choir, for making a sad occasion very special and moving.

Thank you also to the team at The George for arranging the reception following the service and to Clare and Phil for welcoming our guests whilst we were at the Crematorium.

Finally, we thank everyone in the village for their kindness at this time.

**Eileen and family**

### Chiropodist

Third Thursday of each month, 1.00-4.00 pm  
Belcher Court Sitting Room

**20 November**

For an appointment, Jo Bennett, **079031 33469**  
Cost £15

### A Dorchester Childhood

My memories of my child hood are sure to make me smile,  
For all who were around me could help me run a mile,  
For energy is how I am not just to cook and mow,  
But thinking of my mother, father, never makes me low  
For without my loving family what would I be now true,  
My love for all is total I'm rarely if never blue.

**Val Thompson**



### Host an international student

HOST is looking for kind, friendly, hospitable people of all ages whose imaginations are caught by the idea of welcoming an international student at university here, far from his or her own family, to their home, for a day, a weekend or at Christmas.

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Please see **www.hostuk.org** or call local organise Jing Wang **01865 862559**.

# JEMINI

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## Pre-School News

All new additions to Pre-School are settling in well and we are now thrilled to welcome the new addition of our optional school uniform! The children look extremely smart (and cute!) in the logo'd polo and sweatshirts. There was a lot of excitement around the Harvest Festival and the children were very happy to be a part of 'giving hunger the boot' by decorating the wellies.

As the seasons have most definitely turned, we are getting ready for autumn and looking at lots of autumn colours.

We've had a visit from the Berinsfield librarian and no matter what their age, the children are enjoying the classic 'Hungry caterpillar'.

We are looking forward to welcoming our wonderful manager's father to the setting to talk to the children about safety now that the dark nights are drawing in, particularly with bonfire night around the corner.

Our newest member of staff, Mou, will be guiding us all through the festival of Diwali so although it's getting darker, there'll be plenty of colour and light at Pre-School!

**James Chadney**

# Is your child 3 or 4 years old?

**Primary school place – you must apply now**

If your child was born on or between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011, you need to apply for a primary school place now.

You must still apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school. Closing date is 15 January 2015.

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16/05/2011 10:58



## School News

Bonjour! On the 29 September, Red Class, Mrs Clarke, Olivia Field and I headed off to France for our residential trip. We were heading to the town of Hardelot Plage, which is about one hour south of Calais, to the PGL site of 'Le Pre Catalan'. To give you a flavour of the visit, I have included some of my daily blog sent to parents.

### Day 1

After a good trip down to Dover, we boarded the DFDS ferry just before noon for our crossing. This was very smooth; so much so that one child was heard to comment that I had helped her get over the fear of ferries. Arriving at Le Pre Catalan at 4pm, we had time to unpack with some free time to explore before a good dinner. We then headed off to the beach for games and fun.

### Day 2

The day started with a good breakfast of cereal and a pain au chocolat before we set off to the boulangerie in the town, where we were able to see how croissants, baguettes etc. are made. We even had the chance to turn our hand at making a croissant; I think we have some budding bakers amongst us. We then headed back to the centre to develop our survival skills by building shelters in the wood. They were extremely impressive and extremely well thought out with good team work. Our evening activity was crepe making.



### Day 3

Today we went to the Chocolate Factory, where Alan explained the process of chocolate making from tree to mouth, which was a fascinating process. This was followed by showing us the amazing skill of chocolate preparation with the help of Jacques, who was really funny especially when he said goodbye to the chocolate rabbit before pushing it back into the chocolate mix - brilliant! Back at the centre, we headed to the beach for activities before the tide came in. Our final activity was a night walk through the woods with some interesting songs and games.



### Day 4

We headed off early for our visit to the Le Touquet market. Here we were able to explore the market and spend some of our money that had been burning holes in our pockets. Looking forward to the interesting purchases - always a joy. We then did a town trail to explore the rest of the town. Back at the centre for lunch, before heading out on a coastal walk through the sand dunes for walking, fun, games and songs.

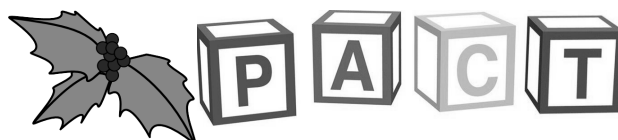
I totally loved the week and was very proud of all the children in their attitudes and behaviour; it was a pleasure. With a big thank you to Mrs Clarke and Olivia Field, who worked hard especially at evening/night!

**Russell Leigh**

Headteacher

Dorchester St Birinus CE Primary School

# PACT Carol Concert



PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER

Back by popular demand, PACT's annual carol concert is being held once again at Dorchester Abbey on **Sunday 14 December**.

There will be a children's tea party from 5pm-6pm with fun activities for the children and refreshments for all. This will be followed by the carol concert from 6pm to 7.30pm with performances from the Abbey Choir, Cranford House Junior Choir, and professional soprano Erin Hughes as well as lots of opportunities for the congregation to join in with classic Christmas carols.

The carol concert is free to attend but there will be a retiring collection to raise funds for therapeutic services for adopted and fostered children.

We look forward to seeing you there and encourage you to bring friends and the whole family to join in the festivities.

**Tickets are free** but must be booked in advance via PACT's website: [www.pactcharity.org/carols](http://www.pactcharity.org/carols)

Tickets are limited so please don't delay and register for tickets today.



## *The Dorchester Abbey Christmas Card* *Sold in aid of Dorchester Abbey*



These beautiful 12cm x12cm cards show Mary and Jesus from the Nativity scene in the Shrine Chapel window. They are colour printed on glossy quality card with 'Happy Christmas' inside and cost just £3.50 for 10.

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Orders received by the end of October will be delivered by mid Nov. Cards can be pre-printed with personal or company information if ordered by 25th Oct. Cards can also be bought from the back of the Abbey from November onwards.

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\*Delivery in Dorchester-on-Thames free of charge.

Postage for: 1-3 packs £2; 4-6 packs £3; 7-16 packs £8

## Ronald Rust

Ronald was Born in Fleetwood on 26 Feb 1924, the son of a baker and shop keeper. He left Fleetwood when he was 21 and went to Worcester to work where he met Nancy and they got married; they were together for nearly 70 years. Ronald became articled to an architect in Blackpool; he trained as a surveyor and also became a Special Constable. Ronald and Nancy moved with work several times but settled in Dorchester in 1971. Ronald worked for Oxfordshire Regional Health Authority surveying all the local hospitals until he retired in 1989.

Ron was a creative man, retirement enabled him to enjoy his hobbies. He had a keen interest in sailing, he built his

own dinghy which spent a lot of time sailing on Dorchester Lake. He also liked to paint and the family have a number of his paintings in their homes.

Ronald was a true family man and much loved as a husband, dad and granddad. He was a patient man, rarely if ever angry. Together the whole family enjoyed some wonderful holidays especially in Brittany. Mark and Tim his grandsons particularly enjoyed these special times. He died following some months of poor health and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

## Jim McCulloch

Jim's family was amongst the many adversely affected by the aftermath of the First World War. His farmer grandfather died in the 'flu epidemic of 1919; two of his four daughters married men whose war service damaged their health and were widowed early. Jim's mother, Lillas, was one of the earliest women graduates from Glasgow in 1905 and was able to earn a living as a school teacher. His father, George, yearned for more education than his family could afford. He worked in the administration of Post Office Telephones before serving in the First World War during which he was captured and imprisoned. Lillas and George were in their early forties by the time they had saved enough to marry and Jim was their only child, born in Edinburgh in 1928.

On marriage, women teachers had to resign. When Jim's father died, Lillas was unable to get reinstated and she left Edinburgh and joined her sisters and elderly mother on the farm. When the Second World War began widows were allowed to return to teaching but the only job she could get was as the sole teacher in a remote village school - she had to live-in and could only return to see her son at weekends.

As the beloved apple of the eye of three sisters, Jim had much love and affection and much was expected of him but the austerity of the war years prevented much social life. The farm was too small to be economic once mechanisation had been introduced and the land was sold at a depressed price.

The only way out was through education. In Nairn, Jim developed his enormous capacity for hard work, independence of thought, love of knowledge, thrift and helpfulness. Jim was awarded a place at Edinburgh University to read physics. From Edinburgh, he followed his interest in agriculture by researching movements of water in the soil at Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, whilst studying for a Master's degree in Meteorology.

At 27, Jim was called up for national service as an RAF officer attached to the Ministry of Supply on top secret weapons research.

Later, Jim joined the East African Agriculture and Forestry Research Organisation. He joined at a time when a team was developing and applying pioneering methods of studying the effects of land-use changes on river flows. When

preliminary results were published in 1962 they received widespread acclaim. Jim Blackie recalls that he "first met this remarkable man in November 1961 when he appeared on a recruiting drive (*at Edinburgh*) and persuaded me to join his team" giving him "memories of 10 very happy years in Africa to thank Jim for".

Despite his busy work life Jim pursued many other interests in East Africa. Scottish country dancing featured, but the dominant ones were cars and haggling with the myriad shopkeepers of Nairobi. He was very good at the latter ..... to the great benefit of his many friends! His involvement with cars led to his competing in the East African Safari Rally in 1962 ..... in a Mini ..... a car considered to be totally unsuited to the rough dirt roads.

Always seeking new challenges, Jim left Kenya in 1964 to take over a small hydrological research unit. From the "acorn" of ten original staff at Wallingford, Jim nurtured and grew a scientific "oak" of world renown – the Institute of Hydrology, with some 150 staff and multiple research branches.

Working under Jim inspired his staff to give of their best which made for a productive and fulfilling career environment that attracted able and talented young scientists and engineers to the Institute. Jim personally recruited many of them, and some have gone on to take up leading positions across the world in universities, research institutes and UN agencies. The key ingredient in achieving success was trust; Jim gave you the support you needed, left you unfettered to concentrate on your research, and trusted you to deliver. He took a personal interest in everybody working at his Institute.

Jim never really retired; he transitioned seamlessly from one career to another. After his period as IH Director, he was appointed an International Commissioner by NERC, and travelled the world as a scientific ambassador. He became the Managing Editor of the Journal of Hydrology, then founding editor of Hydrology and Earth System Sciences, a journal of the European Geosciences Union, which is a leading international journal today. In 2006, a major EGU symposium was held in Vienna in his honour. Jim was truly a giant of his generation; he can rightly be regarded as the founding father of modern scientific hydrology in the UK. He was a larger than life character, an inspirational leader and a good man.

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### Guest House Supper Clubs

Thank you to all who came to the October Supper Club – the Guest House was transformed into a cosy autumn dining room and 40 guests enjoyed seasonal dishes using Dorchester's abundance of fruit and vegetables.

The November supper club following a Scandinavian Christmas theme is now fully booked. If you have missed the opportunity of booking in, you may look forward to the first two supper clubs in 2015:

**Saturday 24 January 2015**  
Burns Night  
£30 per head  
Bring your own wine, whisky and laughter to a very special Burns night with fine Scottish fare.

**Saturday 14 February 2015**  
Valentines Dinner  
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## Hurst Water Meadow Trust News

### Good news!

The Trust has been granted funding through Biffa Award which, together with a donation from a generous 'third party' and members of our community, will enable us to purchase the riverside land from Old Bridge Meadow to the Thames and begin to work towards enhancing its potential as a wildlife habitat. We are delighted that our application to Biffa Award has been successful and that our plan for the new land, as well as the management of our current meadows, has been recognised as a valuable contribution to wildlife conservation.

Trustees are now entering legal negotiations for the purchase of the land, which we have chosen to name Overy Mead Piece. We will report progress in future editions of the Dorchester News, and further information can be found on our website: [www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk](http://www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk)

### New Trustee

A new Trustee, Shammy Puri, was appointed in September 2014. Shammy is a professional hydrogeologist with extensive experience in hydro-environmental management. We are very pleased that he agreed to join us and bring his expertise to the Trust.

### Land management

This year's hay has gone to a local farmer for his livestock. Seasonal work continues on our meadows, and we are making further management plans which will be reported here and on our website blog. The blog also reports the findings of the bird group and the bat group.

## Autumn Wildlife Gardening

Autumn seems to be upon us suddenly this year and it's easy to view any small garden differently. An impending sense of decay followed by regeneration is in the air.

Much of what we do for wildlife at this time of year is about providing hibernation or shelter spaces to overwinter, it's a matter of life and death.

An amount of tidying up is inevitable, but try to resist it and not do too much. Let perennials remain, so their hollow stems can shelter invertebrates - and even provide fixed points for spiders' webs. Prune them down when we are moving into spring when all the creatures have emerged again. Many of what will inhabit those hollow stems are what we consider the predators on what we consider pests. So allowing them to re-emerge next year is beneficial to many gardeners.

It's great to see a group of neighbours gardening with wildlife in mind and thinking about hibernation zones at this time of year. This neighbourhood network of gardens is the name of the game. It's not just about what you do in your garden - it's about what we all do together. Many of us can't begin to hope to fit all the wildlife features into our own gardens - but between us all, we could achieve so much.

Happy Gardening

**Stuart Mabbutt**  
Wildlife Gardening Specialist

### Contacting the Trustees

We are always on the look-out for volunteers interested in helping us manage our community meadows. With our latest project there will be plenty of opportunities to get involved with carrying out wildlife surveys, citizen science and helping us restore the new land.

If you would like to make a donation to the Trust this would be greatly appreciated.

Our key contacts are:

Gillian Johnson - honorary secretary, 24 Manor Farm Road, **01865 340925**  
email [johnson.gs@btinternet.com](mailto:johnson.gs@btinternet.com)

Andrew Clements - honorary treasurer, 19 Page Furlong, **01865 340753**  
email [aclem19dot@aol.com](mailto:aclem19dot@aol.com)

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## Earth Trust November Events

### Introduction to Coppicing

**Saturday 1 November, 9.30am-4pm**

An introductory session for anyone with an interest in traditional woodland skills. £50; booking essential.

### Winter Wetland Bird Walk

**Sunday 2 November, 9.30am-11.30am**

A walk around Thrupp Lake, Radley to see some of the wetland birds on site. £5 adults, £2 children, FREE for Earth Trust Friends; booking essential.

### Insect Home Making

**Sunday 2 November, 10am-2pm**

Turn up throughout the day and make a hibernacula for the insects in your garden to keep warm in this winter. £3 per child, accompanying adult(s) free; drop in.

### 'River of Life' Tree Planting

**Sunday 9 November, 10am-4pm**

This month's Sunday Volunteer Group will be planting trees in the new wet woodland on our River of Life site. The activity starts at 10am and runs until 4pm though you're not obliged to stay all day. Meeting place to be confirmed - for more information email [volunteering@earthtrust.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@earthtrust.org.uk) or call **01865 409413**.

More information can be found on our website [www.earthtrust.org.uk](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk).

All events take place at the Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, OX14 4QZ, unless otherwise stated.

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## Traditional Skills Weekend at Dorchester Abbey

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A report of the Traditional Skills Weekend by Malcolm Airs appeared in the October issue.



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## Footsteps Foundation Charity Challenges for 2015

Whether you are training for a Marathon or looking for a personal best in a 10k run, Dorchester charity Footsteps Foundation needs you!

Footsteps Foundation has secured places in some of the UK's most popular road races for 2015 and we can also tailor-make fundraising challenges large or small so we are always keen to hear from local running clubs and sporty individuals who may want to support our wonderful charity.

The adidas Silverstone Half-Marathon on **Sunday 15 March 2014** is an amazing race around the iconic motorsport track. Local children's charity Footsteps Foundation has one place remaining for this fantastic challenge. [www.adidashalfmarathon.co.uk/](http://www.adidashalfmarathon.co.uk/)

Also, on **Sunday 12 July** Footsteps Foundation have charity places for the British 10k, a spectacular road race through the historic heart of London which is attended by thousands of runners and boasts an amazing atmosphere with crowds of supporters lining the scenic route.

Footsteps Foundation is also involved with the Thames Run, (date in May TBC), The Abingdon Dragon Boat Race (date in September TBC) and have teamed up with Action Challenge, who offer incredible 25/50/100km walk/jog/runs along some of the most inspiring routes out there. [www.actionchallenge.com/challenges](http://www.actionchallenge.com/challenges)

Challenging yourself by training for events like these can help you to stick to your fitness goals, and extra motivation comes from knowing that you are supporting disabled children, who have problems with basic mobility, to access much-needed physiotherapy. In entering a running event for Footsteps Foundation you can help a disabled child learn to take their first steps.

For more information about these events, those interested should telephone **01865 343851** or e-mail [admin@footstepsfoundation.com](mailto:admin@footstepsfoundation.com).

For more information about the work of Footsteps you can visit [www.footstepsfoundation.com](http://www.footstepsfoundation.com)

## Sara's Mountain Gorilla Trek

My name is Sara Hender. You may have read some of my pieces earlier in the year about my intention to trek the Rwenzori Mountains in Uganda over the summer for the charity East African Playgrounds (EAP). Well, on 7 July 2014 I finally got to go with the rest of my team after raising £1,764 for EAP.



We started off the trip by trekking the mountain which was the toughest thing I have ever had to do, even harder than the Great Wall of China trek I did the previous year (which you may have read about in earlier editions of the Dorchester News).

I unfortunately did not make it right to the peak as I struggled too much with the altitude (admittedly my low fitness level did not help either). However, half my team did not make it either including someone who had climbed Kilimanjaro and Everest base camp before so I did not feel too bad about not making the peak.

Another part of the trip involved my group building a whole playground for Good Samaritans School - a local school in Jinja, Uganda with the charity

EAP. We had four days to complete the playground which involved a lot of hard-work, but it was all worth it when we saw the smiles on the children's faces.

I am back in England now and I am missing Uganda very much, especially the inspirational people I had the pleasure of meeting there. I want to thank everyone who has supported me throughout my fundraising for this challenge through donating, helping me with collections and baking or buying cakes from the cake sale.

Next year at university I will be the Big Challengers officer as part of the University's RAG committee – I will be in charge of everyone fundraising for their challenges. I don't have my eye on any more challenges for the moment, but you never know.

**Sara Hender**







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## Benson Choral Society New Season

Following a highly successful 2013-2014 season, in which the choir expanded its membership to the highest ever, rehearsals for the new 2014-2015 season have already begun.

The season's opening concert takes place at **Dorchester Abbey** on **29 November** and features Mendelssohn's Hymn of Praise and Dvorak's Te Deum.

The work more commonly known as Hymn of Praise is actually from Mendelssohn's Symphony No.2 in B-flat minor which was written in 1840 along with the 'Gutenberg Cantata' to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invention of printing. The composer described the work as 'A Symphony-Cantata on words of the Holy Bible for Soloists, Chorus and Orchestra'.

The idea of a 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary work connects with the Dvorak Te Deum in that Dvorak was commissioned to write a work to be called 'The American Flag' for an event celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> arrival of Christopher Columbus in

America, but the libretto failed to arrive in time, and so Dvorak started work on the Te Deum, which he felt was suitably festive and appealed to his deep religious convictions. It is a beautiful work which took only three weeks for Dvorak to sketch. It was first performed on 21 October 1892 at the New York Hall, with a choir of 250 singers conducted by Dvorak himself.

Despite our growth in numbers, there will be substantially fewer than 250 singers involved in Benson's concert on 29 November, but a high quality performance is assured under the baton of Chris Walker! As usual the choir will be partnered by the excellent Elgar orchestra. The soloists are Sophie Pullen (Soprano), Ben Alden (Tenor), and Stephen Kennedy (Bass)

To book tickets, either phone **01865 407395** (Evenings) or use **[tickets@bensonchoralsociety.org.uk](mailto:tickets@bensonchoralsociety.org.uk)**.

(The historical information on the Dvorak Te Deum above was sourced from a programme note by John Bawden at 'British Choirs on the Net')



## Proposed Gravel Pit and Concrete Processing Plant

The BACHPORT (Burcot and Clifton Hampden for the protection of the River Thames) campaign against the development of the gravel pit and concrete processing plant at Clifton Hampden is well under way and gathering momentum.

### Who is BACHPORT?

BACHPORT is a group of local volunteers who are working very hard to fight the proposed planning application. We are undertaking extensive research, seeking expert advice, meeting with influencers, fundraising and communicating our message as widely as possible.

### What's the story?

Aggregate and waste disposal firm Hills wants to develop a 160-hectare site into a quarry and concrete plant on the River Thames between Clifton Hampden, Culham, Long Wittenham and Appleford.

### What should you be concerned about?

- Increased traffic of 80-100 lorries a day - on already congested roads
- Potential increased flooding. Our businesses and lives are already affected by road closures each year – 80% of the proposed site is on floodplain
- Pollution from noise, dust and CO<sub>2</sub>
- Detrimental effect on the ecology, nature and beauty of the countryside in a designated Conservation Area and Green Belt

### Who would it affect?

- Local residents and home owners
- Thames path users: walkers, cyclists, runners
- River users: anglers, canoeists, boaters, swimmers, holiday-makers
- Users of local facilities: shop, Post Office, campsite, school, pubs
- Anyone who visits or travels through the area

### If you want to support the campaign, what can you do?

- Show your support: join the campaign on our website <http://bachport.uk>, or by emailing [bachport@btinternet.com](mailto:bachport@btinternet.com), or picking up a leaflet from Clifton Hampden village shop and completing the tear-off slip.
- Keep informed by reading leaflets, notices and web articles.
- Respond quickly when BACHPORT asks for help: writing letters, joining rallies etc. We may not have much time and voices in numbers counts!
- Help with fundraising . (Visit Clifton Hampden village shop or website for more information.)
- Print off a 'No Quarry / No Concrete Plant' poster from our website and display it anywhere prominent .
- Visit our website, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter.
- Spread the word – this would affect everyone in the area!

### HOW TO CONTACT BACHPORT

**[bachport@btinternet.com](mailto:bachport@btinternet.com)**

<http://bachport.com/>

[@bachport/247](https://twitter.com/bachport/247)

[facebook.com/bachport](https://www.facebook.com/bachport)

*If, like me, you have wondered what those signs along the A415 were about, now you know. We have included this to let Dorchester residents know what is going on in our neighbouring villages. This is the view of one group. We would of course welcome views on this subject from any party. See also our County Councillor's report on Green p.2— Ed*

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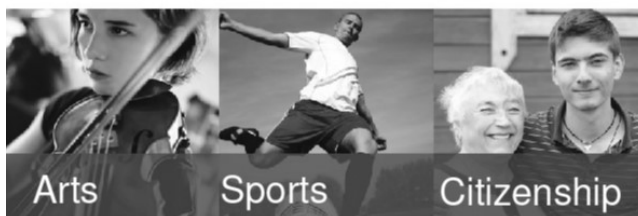


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**Benson Choral Society  
Autumn Concert  
Dorchester Abbey  
Saturday 29 November  
at 7:30pm**

Conductor: Christopher Walker  
Elgar Orchestra

Programme:  
Mendelssohn - Hymn of Praise  
Dvorak - Te Deum

Tickets at £15, £12 and £10  
To book tickets, either phone 01865-407395 (evenings)  
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*"I use heating oil to power my home, but I'm struggling to cover the cost. It's hard for me to cut my energy use to save money, as my daughter's asthma gets worse if I turn the heating down too low. Is there anything I can do to cut my bills?"*

Households who use heating oil often struggle to cut their costs as they don't have the same ability to shop around as those who are on grid. But there is action that you can take to cut costs and save money, without having to turn down the heating.

Stocking up on oil now, before temperatures start to drop, can help you to avoid the high costs of buying during the winter. The cost of oil is usually at its highest in December, January and February, as extra demand can push up the cost. Make sure you shop around for the best price and ask suppliers about flexible payment options if you struggle to pay the whole cost up front.

Joining an oil club is also a great way of saving money as you can often get a better price by clubbing together with others and buying in bulk. This will also cut down the number of trips the oil supplier needs to make, which could reduce delivery costs and is better for the environment.

To see if there's an oil club in your local area, put your postcode into the oil club map at  
**[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/oilclubs](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/oilclubs)**.

If you would like to set up your own club, CAB can help. Come into the bureau or visit the website to find out everything you need to know.

It's also worth checking whether there are any grants or discounts you are entitled to. A quick call to the Energy Savings Advice Service on **0300 1231234** will help you get to the bottom of that. Alternatively call into Didcot Citizens Advice Bureau.

Copyright Citizens Advice. For the most up-to-date version of this information, please visit the Adviceguide website at [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk). Further information is also available from Didcot CAB at Dales, 9-15 High Street, Didcot OX11 8EQ or **08444 111444**.

**Cornerstone  
Didcot  
November 2014**



**Top Fun Sundays**

**Sunday 2 November:** Juggling, live music, puppetry and mischievous storytelling, in **Three Wise Monkeys**, bring Seeno, Hearn and Speakno to Cornerstone. They come to entertain and enlighten all little monkeys aged between 3 and 7 years and their families.

**Sunday 9 November:** Folk duo **Megson** provide a lovely gentle afternoon for ages from 4 years in a fun concert of children's folk songs.

**Sunday 16 November:** Pop-up sets, original music and beautiful puppets help to tell three traditional tales in **The Magic Porridge Pot**, which is brought to us by Theatre of Widdershins, a Cornerstone favourite.

**Sunday 23 November:** Children's theatre from Compagnie Animation with **Silver Moon**, for ages from 4 to 11 years. Helda, a poor girl, is cold on Christmas Eve but her imagination is filled with her grandmother's tales. Jurgen, a rich diplomat's son, invites her to warm herself by the fire. Helda takes him on a fantastical journey where friendship cannot be bought and imagination is the cleverest thing. Live music and shadow puppetry.

**Sunday 30 November:** Lots of jokes to make children from 6 years - and their parents - laugh with the return of children's comedy show **Comedy 4 Kids**, and a pre-show workshop for ages 7 to 13 years. Professional stand-ups perform a whole show devised for children. No swearing and no naughty bits.

Top Fun Sunday MULTI-BUY. Buy tickets for two Top Fun Sunday shows and get the third set of tickets for free.

Offer excludes The Queen's Knickers and Comedy Club 4 Kids. All three shows must be booked at the same time. Only one discount per booking. The same value of tickets must be booked for each show.

**Saturday 8 November: St Giles Orchestra** with A Night in Vienna, a great introduction to the classics, full of polkas, marches and waltzes including Blue Danube.

**Wednesday 12 November: Not About Heroes** tells the unforgettable story of two of the finest 'Great War' poets, Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon. Stephen MacDonal's acclaimed play paints a vivid and moving picture of their friendship, interdependency, poetry and the conflict that brought them together.

**Saturday 15 November: Christmas Crafts for Cornerstone** is a free workshop offering the opportunity to work with a facilitator to learn new techniques. Use a variety of materials to make festive decorations for us to use in the building over the Christmas period.

This year's family Christmas show is **The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus**. It's full of fun, laughs, audience interaction and music to really get you in the Christmas mood. Tickets and details available from the Box Office or our website.

Details of our full programme and online booking are available on our website **[www.cornerstone-arts.org](http://www.cornerstone-arts.org)**, or call the Box Office on **01235 515144** (closed Monday).

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**The Battle of the Somme.**  
**Love, death and recollections**  
**Reception and Talk**

**6.15pm for 7.00 pm on Saturday 22 November**  
**Church of St Mary's, Long Wittenham.**

Ruaraidh Adams-Cairns is a surveyor and ex soldier who has been visiting the Somme for over 10 years, collecting stories about soldiers and connecting them with specific locations on the battlefield.

Ruaraidh has put together an engaging talk which he gives in conjunction with an actor, which tells the story of this important battle through the eyes of some of the people who experienced it.

General Sir Mike Jackson, former Chief of the General Staff, has described the talk as *"A truly moving insight into the horrors and losses of the day the British Army suffered its biggest ever casualties"*.

The Reception, generously sponsored by Knight Frank, will commence at 6.15 pm; the talk is expected to start around 7.00 and finish about 8.00 pm.

Tickets: £10 for adults and £4 for children 16 and under.

They can be obtained from: -

Jeremy Croxson Street House **01865 407806**

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**Benson to Henley: Latest Local  
History Findings**

A talk by Dr Simon Townley, Victoria County History,  
Oxfordshire

**Thursday 6 November**, Wallingford Methodist Church -  
**incl. light refreshment.**

**Doors open 7.30 pm. Talk starts 8.00 pm**

Find out more about your area, why it looks the way it does, who lived here before you, what has changed over centuries - and what hasn't!

Founded in 1899 and originally dedicated to Queen Victoria, the Victoria County History is an encyclopaedic record of England's places and people from earliest times to the present day. The VCH is written by historians working in counties across England and is seen as the greatest publishing project in English local history.

VCH Oxfordshire published a volume on Henley and the immediately surrounding area in 2011, and is currently completing a volume on the area from Warborough and Benson across to Nettlebed.

**Tickets - £5 (proceeds to CPRE Oxfordshire).**

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Or send a cheque (preferably with S.A.E.) made payable to CPRE Oxfordshire to:

CPRE - VCH Talk, Unit 1, London Road, Wheatley, Oxon OX33 1JH



**Countryside  
Champion  
for Wallingford Area**

The Campaign to Protect Rural England is looking for a new Chairperson to help co-ordinate activities in its Wallingford district, which also covers Didcot, Benson, Dorchester, Ewelme, the Baldons and other surrounding areas.

CPRE works to protect and promote the countryside. We have a very friendly and supportive Wallingford area committee, but would love to find someone to come on board as Chairman. It's a great way of getting to know your local area and helping to influence local decision-making on issues as varied as planning policy, affordable housing, litter, minerals and water. With so much development scheduled to come through in the area in the next 20 years, it is vital that someone is in place to speak up for the countryside and make sure that we can keep thriving village communities.

The role is voluntary and needs a commitment of just a few hours a week. No particular knowledge or qualifications are required, but it would suit someone with leadership or organisational experience and good people skills.

Full details are available on the CPRE Oxfordshire website – [www.cpreoxon.org.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk)

Or call CPRE Branch Office **01865 874780**

Helen Marshall, Director, CPRE Oxfordshire

To find out more see our website [www.cpreoxon.org.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk)

**Langtree Sinfonia  
Autumn Concert 2014**

St Helen's Church, Abingdon  
Saturday, November 8, at 7.00pm.

The evening starts with the sections of the orchestra performing separately, to display their talents. The wind section will start with the evergreen *Petite Symphonie* by Charles Gounod. Written in 1885 for members of a chamber group formed by Paul Taffanel, it is written for an octet. All four movements of this little "symphony" sparkle with innocence as well as insouciance.

Then the St Paul's Suite from Gustav Holst. This is well established and popular in the string repertoire, and a joy to play, and gives each principal player a solo spot.

Sibelius's suite 'Rakastava' was originally conceived as a suite of four songs for male voice choir. Sibelius wrote them in 1894, drawing on folksongs. In 1911 he returned to them and rewrote them for string orchestra.

The evening will conclude with Saint-Saens' thrilling 2nd Symphony, which shows his mastery of the orchestra.

The orchestra began as a music class in adult education in 1971 and went on to establish itself as an independent orchestra to further its development. For its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary the orchestra combined with local choirs to perform Beethoven's Choral Fantasy, a work which combined vocal and instrumental soloists with the orchestra.

Paul Cox conducts.

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Adults £10.00; Students £5.00; Under 16s free.



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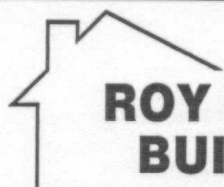


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## Wallingford Gardening Club

### Butterflies and Orchids of the upper Thames region

At the November meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, Malcolm Broadword will share his past experience, and present, from his image library of many orchids and butterflies.

Malcolm is a retired chemist, and a keen amateur gardener and photographer. He was awarded a RHS Banksian Medal at the Hardy Orchid Society Show in 2007. His interests include Japanese gardens, hardy orchids and plant propagation.

The talk will be held at **Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford** at 7.30pm on **Thursday 13 November**.

Visitors very welcome £2.

**Isabelle Darby**

## Wallingford Flower Club

Invites you to their Open Meeting

A Floral Demonstration

**"Christmas at Home"**

by Mig Kimpton

Wednesday 12 November 2014

Corn Exchange Theatre

Market Place, Wallingford OX10 0EG.

Doors open 7pm for 7.45 pm. All welcome – Tickets

Price £10 each

For further details and tickets contact Fay **01491 834303**



## Your last chance to see PoW Sketchbook

There is a last chance to see all this year's special exhibitions at Wallingford Museum until 29 November.

A well as 'Wallingford & War', 'Agatha Christie at Home', a 'Midsomer Murders' display, and the 'Wallingford Story', there is now also an additional exhibition of local significance - **"PoW Sketchbook - Will Wilder's original 1942-45 drawings of life in a Japanese prison camp"**.

Will Wilder of Crowmarsh, Wallingford, made the drawings in this exhibition in Singapore and Thailand between 1942 and 1945 while he was a prisoner of the Japanese. He also kept a diary.

Keeping the drawings dry and safe whilst working on the Thai-Burma railway along the River Kwai was not easy. Towards the end of the war the Japanese gave orders that anything that might be used as evidence of the atrocities committed by them must be destroyed. Will rolled up the drawings and concealed them in hollow bamboo. They were not discovered, nor was his diary.

Will Wilder returned safely from the war. He died in 1998, aged 83.

If you already have a season ticket for this year, it is valid to use for this additional exhibition. Alternatively an adult ticket for £4 will enable you to see all this year's exhibitions at the Museum until 29 November. Accompanied children are always free.

**www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk**

## Wallingford

### Emergency Food Bank

As we approach the end of the third year of operation I am both happy and sad. I am sad that the need for emergency support continues to increase but happy that the donations have also increased in the same proportion.

You would probably be shocked at some of the situations we come across. We never ask for their story but some choose to tell us and it makes us weep. One woman recently not only had no food, she had no money for electricity or gas that would enable her to cook it. We give her food but we try to point such people in the right direction rather than tackle it ourselves.

As I write our home is filling up with donations from churches and schools arising from their harvest celebrations. In fact we have had invitations to speak at several school assemblies and it is always a pleasure to see the way the children respond. Hunger seems to be something they easily identify with. When it was mentioned that some children might not get anything special at Christmas one little boy shouted out that he loved chocolate.

Last year we were giving food to about 50 people a month. This year it has risen to about 60, with the busiest period in the run up to Christmas. The harvest donations will probably last us till then but it would be nice to have a supply of chocolates etc. to put in the food bags as Christmas extras.

If you are unfortunate enough to desperately need food yourself please contact one of the 20 or so local organisations who are authorised to issue vouchers and they will tell you how to access the Food Bank. If you have more than enough you might like to consider a donation (food or money), which you can bring to the Food Bank (Mondays and Thursdays 11am – 1pm) or the Fountain Christian Bookshop in St Mary's Street during shop opening hours.

For more information contact the Manager, Jean Burt, on **07957 898912** or email **nevburt@btinternet.com**



## Recent Cotswold Archaeology Projects in Oxfordshire

This month's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be by **Rosey Meara**. She will present **'Recent Cotswold Archaeology Projects in Oxfordshire'**. Rosey Meara is a Heritage Consultant with Cotswold Archaeology.

Cotswold Archaeology has worked in Oxfordshire since the early 1990s and has been involved in more than 200 projects from small watching-briefs to major excavations. Current projects include major housing developments in the northern part of the county. Rosey's talk will discuss a selection of recent sites and finds.

This talk will be held on **Friday 14 Nov**, 8 pm at Wallingford Town Hall.

Visitors (£3) are most welcome.

**www.twahas.org.uk**



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To reserve your table please call  
01865 340404

[www.thegeorgedorchester.co.uk](http://www.thegeorgedorchester.co.uk)

## Beauty Essentials is now open

within The George Hotel, Dorchester on Thames,  
offering a wide range of treatments such as:

Waxing Susan Monu Facials Massages Tinting  
Ear Piercing Jessica Manicures Jessica Pedicures  
Jessica Geleration Manicures and Pedicures

Opening hours: By appoinmtent only  
Tuesday to Sunday, late night appointments available

Watch out for our special offers Gift vouchers available



Please phone for appointments  
either The George Hotel on 01865 340404  
or Emma on her Mobile 07583 371198



## Corn Exchange Wallingford What's On in November

**Cinema** 7.30pm start. Ticket prices: adult £6, under-15s £4 (unless otherwise stated)

Sunday 2, Monday 3: **Magic in the Moonlight** (12A)

Tuesday 4, Wed 5: **The Hundred-Foot Journey** (PG)

Thursday 6, Fri 7: **What We Did on Our Holidays** (12A)

Saturday 8: **Dirty Dancing** (12A), fundraiser for Tree-house School, Cholsey £10 including cocktails

Sunday 9, Monday 10: **The Riot Club** (15)

Tuesday 11: **Night Will Fall** (15)

Thurs, 13: **Violette** (15), In French with English subtitles

Friday 14: **Northern Soul** (15)

Sunday 16, Monday 17, Tuesday 18: **Gone Girl** (15)

Wednesday 19, Thursday 20: **Effie Gray** (12A)

Information regarding films after Nov 23 was unavailable when going to press. Please check website for up-to-date information

Please note that the Encore showing of **Billy Elliott The Musical** scheduled for November 13 has been cancelled. Anyone with tickets should contact the Box Office for a refund.

### Live

Saturday, 1 at 8pm: **Honky Tonk Again**. Variety gig featuring local talent including Stones-inspired Crossfire Hurricanes, plus comedy and more. £6 with proceeds to Corn Exchange funds.

Wednesday, 12 at 7pm: **Wallingford Flower Club** Open Demonstration, Christmas at Home. Info and tickets 01491 834303.

Saturday 15 at 2.30pm and 7pm and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm: **Kinecroft Dance Academy Annual Show**

Saturday 22 at 2.30pm and 7pm and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2.30pm: **Kinecroft Dance Academy Annual Show**

All evening performances start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. Bookings can be made in person at the box office (open 10am-2pm Fridays and Saturdays and 7-8pm every evening), by telephone **01491 825000** or online at [www.cornexchange.org.uk](http://www.cornexchange.org.uk). Listings may be subject to change.



## Refuse Collections

Fridays from 7.00 am.

**Weekly:** food waste (in bio-degradable starch-based bag or wrapped in newspaper, in green caddy)

**Fortnightly:** garden waste, recycling; non-recyclable waste

Fri 7 Nov	<b>Black</b>
Fri 14 Nov	Green
Fri 21 Nov	<b>Black</b>
Fri 28 Nov	Green

**Green = recycling** (loose in large green bin) and **garden waste** (brown bin, +£34 pa)

**Black = non-recyclable waste** (in a bin liner if you wish, in black bin)

The always helpful recycling centre at Oakley Wood (signposted off the A4130 Nettlebed/Henley road 1½ miles east of Wallingford) is open 8.00 am – 5.00 pm seven days a week, Bank Holidays included, but beware of Christmas and New Year closures of which more details next month.

## Wallingford U3A

Our **October speaker** was Alastair Lack. His subject was 'Inspector Morse'. This was well within our comfort zone and offered lots of new information. 'Inspector Morse' was shown in 220 countries, and, in the 1980s, 19 million people, one third of the UK population, watched one episode.

Alastair offered lots of iconic shots: the red Jaguar, the Randolph Hotel, The Ashmolean, Brazenose and Exeter. A good afternoon, greatly enjoyed.

Our **November speaker** will be Tony Hadland on '125 Years of the Raleigh Bicycle'

**Wednesday 5 November.**

We hold our meetings at Crowmarsh Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 2pm. Why not come and join us. For more information about the variety of things we offer visit: [www.u3asites.org.uk/wallingford](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/wallingford).

Phone: Hermione on **01865 858024**, or Margaret on **01865 340850**

## Be a Friend of Dorchester Abbey

The Friends of Dorchester Abbey is an association with a legal identity separate from the PCC and raises funds to be used exclusively for the restoration, maintenance, embellishment and improvement of the structure of the Abbey Church.

Since our formation in 1959 we have contributed much to the life of the Abbey. Over the years we have promoted and supported social events such as concerts, lectures, flower festivals as well as visits to cathedrals and other abbeys.

The subscription is not fixed, and members choose their own amount, but we hope for a minimum annual subscription of £20. Life membership is also available for a single payment of £300 per person (£500 for a couple). For further details contact the membership secretary, Mrs Honor Juniper (**01865 343228**).

The application form to join the Friends is available at the Friends' notice board in the Abbey.

**ANGLICAN PRIEST** Dorchester Rectory  
**Rev'd Canon Sue Booy's** 01865 340007

**EDUCATION OFFICER**  
**Margaret Craig** 01865 343164  
 education@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

**ABBEY E-MAIL:** admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

Contact details for Church Wardens and other Abbey information are on the notice board in the Abbey.

**MAGAZINE COPY:**  
 dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

**ABBEY WEB** www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk  
**VILLAGE WEB** www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

**ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST** The Presbytery  
**Fr John Osman** Bridge End  
 01865 340417  
 www.stbirinus.co.uk

## Abbey Calendar November

### Sundays

- 2 Nov **All Saints**  
 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)  
 (Canon Sue Booy's)  
 10.30am Memorial Service
- 9 Nov **Remembrance**  
 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)  
 (Canon Sue Booy's)  
 10.00 am Remembrance
- 16 Nov **2 before Advent**  
 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)  
 (Canon Sue Booy's)  
 3.00pm Christingle  
 6pm Evensong
- 23 Nov **Christ the King**  
 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)  
 (Canon Sue Booy's)  
 10.30am Sung Eucharist  
 7pm Taize @ 7
- 30 Nov **Advent**  
 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)  
 (Canon Sue Booy's)  
 10.30am Advent Eucharist

### Weekdays

- Every Tuesday**  
 10.30am – 12 noon Coffee in the Abbey
- Every Wednesday**  
 9.30 am Holy Communion at Berinsfield Church

- Sat 1 7.30pm Acoustic Triangle concert  
 Thu 6 11am Memorial Service  
 Sun 9 3.00pm Encantados Concert  
 Mon 10 7.45pm PCC in Guest House  
 Tue 11 10.15am Short Communion  
 Thu 27 2.30pm Service at the Cheshire Home  
 Sat 29 7.30pm Benson Choral Society Concert

## Regular events

### Weekly:

- Monday 10.00 am – 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm  
 Abbey Guest House: **Watercolour Painting** [Full details from rebeccahind.com]
- Tuesday 10.30 - 12 noon **Abbey Coffee Morning**  
 7.30 pm Abbey: **Bellringing Practice**  
 10.30-10.50am by War Memorial **Fishmonger** (p.3)
- Weds 9.30 Holy Communion at **Berinsfield Church**
- Thursday 9.30 am – 11.00am Village Hall: **Baby & Toddler Group** (term time only)
- Friday 7.00 pm Abbey: **Choir Practice**
- Alt Thurs 10.40 – 11.15 am War Memorial: **Mobile Library** (p.3)

### Monthly:

- 2nd Thursday 7.30 pm Village Hall: **WI** (p.5)
- 3rd Wednesday 7.30 pm Abbey Guest House: **Parish Council** (green p.1)
- 3rd Wednesday **Culham Horticultural** (p.5)
- 3rd Thursday **Classic Car Show** George Hotel
- 3rd Thursday Belcher Court: **Chiropodist** (p.7)
- 4th Wednesday 7.30 pm Village Hall: **Historical Society** (p.5)
- 4th Thursday 2.30: Service at the **Cheshire Home**

See Village Notice Boards for details.

Please send all entries and updates for this Dorchester Diary to Geoff Russell by email to:

**parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk.**

The Diary will also appear in the Parish Council's website

**www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk**

## Parish Registers

### Funeral

29 September James McCulloch

### Funeral at Crematorium

29 September Ronald Rust

### Holy Matrimony

20 September Richard James Robert Crook and Lisa Sarah Hawkins

### Holy Baptism

21 September Joshua Nigel Minett  
 28 September Aimee Rose Adams  
 12 October Alvie Simon Kenny

## Deadline for December/January Dorchester News

All items must be sent by  
**Friday 14 November**

to  
**dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk**

Anything you would like sent to newsletter editors for other churches in the Team should be sent to **admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk** by the 9th of the preceding month



## Planning for Dorchester's Future November 2014 Update

### Neighbourhood Development Plan

The 6<sup>th</sup> draft of the Dorchester-on-Thames Neighbourhood Plan has now been brought together into a single document and we are making real progress. At the last meeting, two SODC officials (Hannah Guest and Beth Teal) gave us good advice on writing policies – a crucially important aspect of the whole project. Policies have to conform with, among other things, EU legislation, national legislation, and the SODC core strategy, not an easy task. In view of the amount of information provided by the SODC officials, they agreed to provide all their comments in writing after the meeting. These have now been received, and we are working through them. They also agreed to indicate where our text needed further supporting evidence.

The SODC will not resolve the issue of whether or not Dorchester is a 'small' or 'large' village until, at best, early next year. The group therefore decided to progress the plan on the assumption that there will be no change to our current status of 'small' village. The plan can be modified later if our status is changed.

**John Metcalfe for NDP Steering Group**

## Contacting the Parish Council

The Parish Clerk is Geoffrey Russell of The Pigeons (next to The Fleur de Lys), High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames OX10 7HH

Telephone (during normal office hours, please, unless an emergency) **01865 340759**  
e-mail: [parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

Cllr Margot Metcalfe, the Chairman of the Council, can be contacted via  
[chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk](mailto:chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

More information about the Village is available at  
[www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk](http://www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

## Parish Council Notices

### Change of Monthly Meeting Venue

In November the Parish Council will hold its meeting on the second Wednesday which is 12 November. However, in that week the Village Hall will have been taken over by DADS (Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society) and so the Parish Council meeting will be in the Abbey Guest House. All are welcome to attend and, at the beginning of the meeting may raise any matter of concern.

### Village Notice Boards

The Parish Council is replacing the Notice Boards outside the Co-op and the Village Hall. The new boards will have a much smaller space for 'unofficial' notices so no commercial advertising of any kind will be allowed. Please note that the appropriate place for such advertising is within the pages of 'Dorchester News'.

*(Rates for advertising in Dorchester News are given on p.2 of this issue. Please email with enquiries to: [dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk](mailto:dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk) There is also space for personal ads inside the Co-op. Ed.)*

## Dorchester Village Website

Did you know...we now have a new village website?

Please take a moment to look at it and send me your thoughts.

**[www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk](http://www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk)**

So far I have transferred all data across from the old site and am currently updating everything.

The costs of the new website, with hosting, are met by the Parish Council, but this is a village website for all villagers. Please let me know what you would like to see on the website, using the contact page.

Sue Graney  
Webmaster

## Urgent Village Notices

The Parish Clerk sends urgent village notices via e-mail as the occasion warrants. If you would like to be added to his e-mail list, please send a message to [parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk). When you receive the message, you will view only your own e-mail address: as a security precaution, all other residents' addresses are hidden. This is standard practice to protect your e-mail address.

## IT sessions

We hope to start 'help' sessions before Christmas or early in the New Year – an announcement will be posted on Village Hall and Coop noticeboards. We'd also like to hear from those willing to act as 'buddies' and share their knowledge.

email [parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

## From Your County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale October 2014

### Mobile Library Service Consultation

The County Council has recently reviewed our mobile library service and found that whilst the service is clearly valued, many of the stops we currently offer are not very well used, and some are not used at all. We believe we can better serve the needs of people who find it difficult to get to library buildings by joining up our mobile services and delivering them in a different way.

The consultation document sets out our proposal, including the proposed stopping places, frequency and suggested times, for the mobile library service vehicles. We are not proposing financial cuts to the mobile library service budget and everybody who currently uses our mobile library service will continue to receive a level of provision. It may however be offered in a different way.

More information at:

<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/mobilelibraryserviceconsultation/consultationHome>  
Consultation closes: 31 December 2014

### Hundreds of volunteers now working in Oxfordshire libraries

More than 300 volunteers are now working in Oxfordshire's libraries with firm plans now in place for all 21 of the county's community supported libraries to have volunteers by April 2015. As part of budget savings the County Council has had to make across all of its services since 2010, the council decided in 2011 to save £270,000 by introducing volunteers to 21 of its 43 libraries by April 2015. Some of the 21 libraries, known as community supported libraries, have or will see an equal number of hours delivered by volunteers and county council library service staff, while others will have or already have two thirds library service staff and one third volunteers.

### Fire and Rescue meet Challenging Target Two Years Early

Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service set a challenging ten-year vision in 2006 to help reduce the amount of deaths from fire and road traffic collisions, cut the cost of fire and highway accidents to society and educate 840,000 people to make them safer. It did this via educational programmes which were designed to create safer communities and the task has been achieved two years ahead of schedule.

More info: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/sep/365alive-safety-targets-met-two-years-ahead-schedule>

### Budget

Work is continuing on the budget for 2015/16. After two years of difficult budgets where County Councillors have had to find demanding savings totalling £265 million, we had hoped it would be easier this year. Unfortunately that is not the case with increased pressures coming from both Adult and Children's services. Yet again there will be some very tough decisions to be taken to deliver a balanced budget in February. There will be further updates as we progress.

### Child Exploitation

On Friday 5 September, Oxfordshire County Council and Thames Valley Police co-hosted a briefing event for councillors and other local stakeholders on the issue of child sexual exploitation. The event was attended by over 150 people, including representatives from District Councils, health professionals, the voluntary sector, faith groups, neighbourhood action groups and schools.

The briefing provided an overview of Operation Bullfinch to date, with presentations from Oxfordshire County Council, Thames Valley Police, Crown Prosecution Service and Oxford City Council on what changes have been made over the past number of years to ensure that Oxfordshire's children are safer from sexual exploitation than ever before.

The Leader of the County Council, Ian Hudspeth, has had a meeting with the Home Secretary, Theresa May to talk about how Oxfordshire are tackling the issue.

### PARISHES

#### Clifton Hampden – Traffic Congestion, Gravel Extraction

After a meeting with John Howell MP and Nigel Tipple CEO of the Local Enterprise Partnership I arranged a meeting at County Hall for District Councillor John Cotton and I to talk to Ian Hudspeth, Leader of the Council, Sue Scane, Director of Environment & Economy in control of infrastructure planning and David Nimmo Smith the Cabinet Member for the Environment to discuss the rising pressures on the road network at Clifton Hampden and the possibility of conducting a feasibility study into possible solutions. They confirmed that the County Council is conducting a county wide assessment of infrastructure needs and that Clifton Hampden's problems would be featured in this review. It is likely to begin before Christmas and take 18 months. There is a hook in the Strategic Economic Plan to justify the possibility of a bypass for the village, plus a new road linking the A415 to Dicot over a new river crossing. The possibility of gravel extraction to the south of the A415 makes the provision of better infrastructure more urgent since if permission were granted for a quarry lorries would have to be routed via Burcot, Berinsfield and Wallingford to get down to Didcot.

The County Council continues to strive to complete its Minerals & Waste Strategic Plan. New consultants have been employed to produce a Local Aggregates Assessment. This new type of document required under the new planning regulations, will provide the evidence and formula for calculating how much gravel the county has to produce each year. Currently the Minerals & Waste Cabinet Advisory Group, upon which I sit, has not accepted the recommendations put forward.

#### Berinsfield – 40 mph Speed Limit on its way

The consultation on the introduction of a 40mph speed limit on all the roads approaching the roundabout at Berinsfield has closed. There were no objections, so the County Council will move to implement the traffic order. This may take a few weeks, but I'm confident the signs will be up before Christmas.