



# DORCHESTER NEWS



**December 2014/  
January 2015**

**FREE TO EVERY HOME IN  
THE PARISH**

## Talking Point

From the earliest times one of the titles of the Child Jesus we remember at Christmas has been Prince of Peace. Think of 'Hark the Herald Angels sing' with its line "Hail, the heaven born Prince of Peace..." and, in the rather less famous 'It came upon the midnight clear', "Peace on the earth, good will to men..." Later in that same carol and perhaps more realistically we find the words "And man and war with man hears not the tidings that they bring, Oh hush your noise ye men of strife...."

The message of peace is hard to hear in our world at present. There is so much conflict...so much misunderstanding and so much determination to apportion blame. Earlier in the year I met at the Abbey the uncle of the young man, John Cantlie, who is being held captive by Islamic State and has, according to their broadcasts, been converted and speaks for them. What impressed me greatly in this meeting was the determination of John's uncle to pray not only for his nephew and other western hostages but also for the many, many Muslims who are also held captive by IS and other militant Islamic groups.

Christianity and Islam are both religions whose scriptures teach peace but whose extreme followers can be so obsessive about preserving what they see as "truth" that they come to believe those who oppose them must be wiped out. Time and again throughout history this kind of attitude towards religion has been at the root of conflict and violence. I don't think that this invalidates either belief or scripture in either religion but it gives those of us who believe and proclaim those religions a very particular responsibility to speak out against injustice and to work so that the members of our own faiths – particularly those who are young and impressionable – understand enough not to be persuaded by extremists and fanatics.

Recently many Imams in Britain have signed an open letter to their people which includes the following passage:

*"The scale of the humanitarian disaster in Syria and the escalating violence in Iraq calls for an unprecedented response. As we near the end of the first week of Ramadan our message is simple, we have come together to urge British Muslim communities not to fall prey to any form of sectarian divisions or social discord"*

I was fortunate to hear one of the signatories to this Open Letter, Imam Monawar Hussain, speak about his religion just recently. He spoke about the importance of understanding the way the sacred writings of Islam came to be written before one began to interpret them and the responsibility that teachers of the faith have to give clear explanations so that extreme interpretations can be seen for what they are. I have been fortunate to work alongside Monawar in the past and, as ever, I was struck by the similarities between us and the possibilities for dialogue with respect between us as people of faith.

If there is to be any kind of Peace in our world then it must begin with dialogue and that must begin with you and I talking to people we find difficult or whose point of view is hard to understand because it is outside our experience. In this year, when we have marked the beginning of one of the greatest conflicts in our history, the dialogue that is required to achieve Peace, is surely worth the effort.

May you be blessed with a peaceful Christmas amongst your family, friends and neighbours and may we all work and pray for the future peace of our country and our world.

**Rev. Canon Sue Booy**

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## Dorchester News

### Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Gail Thomas  
Distribution Co-ordinator  
Rosemary Day

### Copy Deadlines for Dorchester News

February edition 9 January  
March edition 6 February  
April edition 13 March

### 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 a 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

With some delight I am able to announce that Dorchester News is now available on the village website. So if you mislay your printed copy, need to look something up whilst away from home, or just need something to read on the train, go to the village website, [www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk](http://www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk), and click on the Dorchester News page. And there is a bonus in that photographs accompanying articles in the online version are in colour, wherever possible. My thanks go to the Parish Council and in particular to Sue Graney for getting this up and running. It does not mean that the printed version is any less important and 'Free to every home in the parish' as it says on the cover, means that the printed version will continue to be distributed.

December is always a busy month as we head towards Christmas. There are a number of concerts in the Abbey: charity concerts, carol concerts, orchestral concerts. A number of them are highlighted in this issue, but go to p.26 for a full listing, including the Abbey's own Carol Service on the 21st.

Once past the New Year, January is not always so convivial. If the weather turns worse, then, and get icy or snowy, don't forget to look out for your neighbours and make sure that everyone in the village is okay.

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 25) should contact the contractor direct. The number to call is **03000 610610** and the website [www.morerecycling.co.uk](http://www.morerecycling.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)

## From the Rectory...

### 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.

In the evening at 6pm there will be a service of Advent Carols with prayers for those persecuted for their faith. I do hope you will join us.

### Confirmation

The Bishop of Dorchester will conduct a service of Confirmation at 6pm on Sunday 7 December. Do come and support those from the Team and further afield who are being confirmed.

### PACT Carol Concert

Back by popular demand, PACT's annual carol concert is being held 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 at 6pm-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 for 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.

### Abbey Carol Service

The Abbey Carol Service of nine lessons and carols will take place on Sunday 21 December at 6.00pm.

### Christmas Morning A Service for the whole family

Families are particularly welcome on Christmas morning at 10.30am, and there will be the opportunity for those who wish to leave after the Peace. Children are invited to bring a present to show Reverend Sue.

### Team Service

**Sunday 28 December**

will be held at Berinsfield, starting at the slightly later time of 11am.

### Epiphany

**Sunday 4 January**

The Festival of Epiphany will be celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> January, and a Sung Eucharist will replace our usual Morning Service. The preacher will be the Revd. Rupert Bursell, the former Chancellor of the Diocese.

### Family Service for Candlemass

**18 January at 3.30pm**

Candlemass is a time of year when we have an opportunity to remember the promises we make at Christenings. Everyone is invited to the Abbey for a special service. We will be inviting children who were baptised here for whom we have a current address. If a member of your family was baptised here you are warmly invited to attend.

### Save these dates!

"Understanding St Paul and his Epistles" on Sunday evenings during Lent. Further details at the beginning of the year, in magazines and leaflets.

### Posada in the village

Look out for Posada through December, when Dorchester's Mary and Joseph, travel to school and pre-school then from window to window towards the Abbey where they will finally arrive at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

Posada is an old Mexican tradition where young people dressed as Mary and Joseph travelled from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling people about the imminent arrival of Jesus in the weeks leading up to Christmas.



create their own celebration reaching out to others with the real message of Christmas, making room for Jesus in their lives.

**Steph Forman**

### Dorchester Abbey Tearoom

The results for 2014 are in ...  
and they are tremendous.

A whopping £14,546.12 was our total this year plus a further £1,255.36 was raised by four village associations which makes the final sum a back-slapping

**£15,801.48!!!!**

Many, many thanks to all our customers.

### Dorchester News Online

You can now view Dorchester News online at the village website.

Go to [www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk](http://www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk) and look on the Dorchester News page where you can download a pdf. The online version includes photographs in colour.



## Christmas events in Dorchester



# PACT Carol Concert



PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER

### Have you registered for your free tickets yet?

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

There will be a children's tea party from 5pm-6pm with fun activities for the children, refreshments for all and a performance by the jazz group, Queen Street Band. This will be followed by the carol concert at 6pm-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 for 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.

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



## Christmas Cards

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.

To buy your cards complete the attached form and send it with payment to:

Steph Forman,  
73 High St,  
Dorchester-on-Thames, OX10 7HN  
**01865 340434**

[steph@forman.org.uk](mailto:steph@forman.org.uk)

Orders are still being taken.

Cards can also be bought from the back of the Abbey.

I would like to order ..... packs of 10 Dorchester Abbey Christmas cards and envelopes  
@ £3.50 + p&p\*. Please deliver to the address below:

Name ..... Contact telephone no:.....

Address .....

.....

I enclose a cheque/cash for £..... Cheques should be made payable to 'Dorchester Abbey PCC'

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

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





## Christmas events in Dorchester



Reducing the Risk  
of Domestic Abuse



### Singing to celebrate success Reducing the Risk of Domestic Abuse

We are delighted that Dorchester Abbey will be welcoming us on Monday evening, 8 December for a concert to celebrate the achievements of domestic abuse services in Oxfordshire, including the work of 1,000 trained front line Domestic Abuse Champions in the community and schools.

The concert is being arranged by **Reducing the Risk of Domestic Abuse**, a small local charity which works with partners including local councils, health, probation, fire and rescue and the police, to support and make safe those affected by domestic abuse.

The concert begins at 7.15pm, and the programme includes carols, audience participation, soloists, Champions' and Children's choirs and musicians.

Tickets, at £5 for adults and £1 for children 12 and under, are available via the home page of the website [www.reducingtherisk.org.uk](http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk), or alternatively ring **01865 815397** to book seats.

### Village Carol Singing Tuesday 16 December 6pm



Come and have great fun singing carols around the village with the Abbey choir to raise money for ABCD - Action Around Bethlehem Children with Disability.

We will meet outside The Fleur at 6pm and finish with mulled wine and mince pies.

All ages and talents welcome. Even if you can't sing you can help by collecting money! Bring a torch and dress up warmly. Please email/phone if you intend to come—occasionally we call it off if the weather is dreadful.

**Steph Forman**  
[steph@forman.org.uk](mailto:steph@forman.org.uk)  
**01865 340434**

### Christmas Concert at Dorchester Abbey In support of the Oxford Children's Hospital Thursday 4 December 2014 at 7.30pm

Tickets for the biennial Dorchester Abbey Christmas Concert in support of the Children's Hospital are now selling fast. The concert will be the perfect start to the Christmas season.

You will be able to enjoy the glorious sounds of Winchester Cathedral Choir.

We are delighted to announce that the event will be attended by HRH The Earl of Wessex, KG GCMG who will be doing two readings during the concert. Other readers will be Laurence Fox, Joanna Trollope and Sam Waley Cohen.

Tickets are priced at £25, £50 and £70 to include drinks and canapés after the concert.

To book tickets, please call **01865 743444** or e-mail [charity@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:charity@ouh.nhs.uk).

This will be the fifth concert for the Children's Hospital. £200,000 has already been raised which has provided specialised equipment and facilities for children which the NHS is not able to finance.



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2015**

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Bitter  
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## **DORCHESTER PROPERTY EXPERTS!**

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## Dorchester on Thames Historical Society

**Wednesday 28 January** at 7.30pm in Dorchester Village Hall (back room) when there will be a talk by Margot Metcalfe on 'Poverty in Dorchester-on-Thames'. This will be followed by a short AGM.

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

**Gail Thomas**  
Chairman

## Allotment News

Following the AGM in September virtually all the rents and subscriptions for the forthcoming year have been collected, so thank you to all those who have made prompt payments. Also following the AGM and the request for "new blood" on the Committee, Karen Hadley has joined the Committee. The Allotment Society Committee is now:

Mark Townson	Chairman
Edward Metcalfe	Secretary
Karen Hadley	Treasurer
William Downey	Site Manager
Gil Symmonds	

Colin Slaymaker has retired from the Committee after many years service as a key member of the Committee; his work over the years is greatly appreciated.

I recently gave a talk to the Dorchester Historical Society on "The History of the Dorchester-on-Thames Allotments and their changing role in the village over the centuries". There used to be quite a number of allotments in various locations around the village, the number peaking during the First and Second World Wars. The site of the present allotments was known as the Hempcroft because many years ago (16<sup>th</sup> century onwards) hemp was grown there for making into hemp rope. In 1764 John Wallis of the Parish Workhouse paid for hemp seed and the digging up of ground which the parish rented. When the site was purchased by the Parish Council in 1950 the name was still the Hempcroft Allotments and this is in fact the name on the deeds of transfer. In the 1960s it was still known as the Hempcroft and it is unclear when this name fell into disuse. The Committee feels that it would be appropriate to resurrect this long established name to link the future of the allotments to their long history.

If you wish to contact the Allotment Committee to enquire about vacant plots etc please use the new e-mail address [dotallotment@gmail.com](mailto:dotallotment@gmail.com)

**Edward Metcalfe**



## Children's Society boxes

It has not been possible to collect the Children's Society boxes. If you have one, could you please bring it in to the Co-op in the first two weeks of January.

Many thanks  
**Carol**



## Royal British Legion Dorchester and District Branch Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who helped and bought Poppies this year, the centenary of the start of the First World War.

I will announce how much we raised in the next issue of the Dorchester News.

Our committee would also like to say a big thank you to Phil and Sally Greenaway who have volunteered to look after the garden around the War Memorial.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Simon Madden**  
Chairman

## Royal British Legion Dorchester and District Branch Annual Christmas Draw

The draw will take place in the George Hotel, Dorchester at 7pm on Wednesday 17 December, 2014.

Prizes include;

- Huge Christmas hamper
- Dinner for two at the George Hotel
- Dinner for two at the White Hart Hotel
- Voucher for Hair.
- Wines, spirits, chocolates and many other prizes.

Tickets 25p each or £1 per book from British Legion Members, The Co-op, Hair, The White Hart or The George.

## Culham & District Horticultural Club

Meetings at the Abbey Guest House  
Dorchester-on-Thames at 7.30pm

**Wednesday 21 January 2015** *Trees - A Camera's Perspective*. The talk will take us on a journey of the aesthetic beauty of trees and an appreciation of their qualities by Richard Roslyn (Head Gardener, Blewbury Manor)

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 **01235 850381** or [judy@tiggercat.me.uk](mailto:judy@tiggercat.me.uk).

# JEMINI

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**JENKS**  
OXFORD  
Queenford Farm, Dorchester



## Your Parish Council

Do you know *what* your Parish Council does and *who* the members are? As it is there to *serve and represent the interests of the whole community* it is important you know the answers.

Each month I will be writing a column giving more details about the Parish Council, its day to day duties, recent projects, local issues, responsibilities within the village, provision of facilities etc.

The current Parish Council is:

Margot Metcalfe	Chair
Chris Hill	Vice-Chair
Maurice Day	
Ken Bryan	
Mark Stevenson	
Mike Hill	
Sue Graney	
Geoff Russell	Clerk

We are all local residents, who meet on a monthly basis, and are fully committed to ensuring that Dorchester remains a safe and delightful place to live and work.

Any councillor may be contacted by email, via the Clerk, and regular updates are also on the new village website.

**Sue Graney**



## South Oxfordshire Probud Club

Would you be interested in joining a thriving retired business professionals club?

The **South Oxfordshire Probud Club** was formed in May 2012 and now has 43 active members who are retired or semi retired having held senior positions in commerce, industry, public sector and academia. Meetings are held monthly on the first Wednesday of each month at the White Hart Hotel in Dorchester on Thames. Each meeting consists of an interesting talk and the subjects have included Crime on the Oxford Road, Canals of Oxfordshire, Bermuda Triangle, Met Man in the Antarctic, Oxford University, Charles Dickens as a Social Reformer, Wildlife Gardening, Pendon Museum, Mount Everest, the Railways of Oxfordshire and many others. Following the talk a quality two course lunch is served.

There are also social activities for members that have included trips to the BMW Cowley Mini Plant, Jaguar Cars, Culham Laboratory - Jet Taurus Project, Silverstone Vintage Racing Day, Golf Day, Morgan Cars, etc. There are also social events with partners that have included trips to the BBC, the Palace of Westminster, theatre trips, cruise on the Thames, country walks, etc. Next year trips to Bletchley Park, Warner Bros Studios, Honda Cars and the Diamond Light Project at Harwell are planned.

Probud is a great way to make new friends and acquaintances. If you are interested in joining then send an email to our Chairman [[soxprobudclub@gmail.com](mailto:soxprobudclub@gmail.com)] telling him about your professional background and interests.

## 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.



DORCHESTER-  
ON-THAMES WI

## Dorchester on Thames WI December 2014 and January 2015

Merry Christmas to you all and health and happiness in 2015.

Forthcoming meetings:

**Thursday 11 December** 7.30pm in the Village Hall  
Christmas Party - a social evening with Panto Dame Richard Westcott.  
Finger refreshments and drinks will be provided.

**Thursday 8 January** at 2.30pm (afternoon meeting) in the Village Hall  
Magical Tricks with Carl Pettman a fun way to end our festive celebrations.

**Thursday 29 January** New Year Lunch at the Fleur  
Time 12.30pm  
Cost £15 cheques payable to Dorchester-On-Thames WI  
Menu details etc will be given at the meeting on 11 December.  
Remember to bring cash or your cheque book to the meeting.

Ladies if you are not a member yet, why not join? We'd love to welcome you.

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

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## Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society

### Love begins at fifty by Raymond Hopkins

The Debanks have been married for 28 years and Clive (Mark Williams) is approaching 50 and looking for some excitement. He has fond memories of his youth in the 1960s and wants to try and recapture it. His wife Anita (Rosemary Mills) is always busy with worthy committee meetings – or so we are led to believe – which take her out of the house on a regular basis. The plot hinges on a competition advertised in the local paper with the prize of a Caribbean cruise for the most happily married couple. Anita, unbeknown to Clive, enters this encouraged by her best friend Clair (Ann Winslet). Meanwhile Clive discovers the lonely hearts column in the same paper and decides to contact three ladies with a view to an affair. His best friend, Jack, (Mark Johnson) encourages him with a bet of £100. However, Jack does not rate Clive's chances given his age and encourages him to don a Roy Orbison wig and dark glasses to meet his potential lovers.



Three women respond. Annabel (Rachel Winslet-Morris) is the first to arrive and, realising he is closer to her mother's age, who is, a huge fan of Roy Orbison, leaves pretty promptly.

Mavis (Sue Kitson) then shows up under what turns out to be false pretences. She is selling *Supervit* tablets (left) guaranteed to bring vim and vigour back to the most jaded individual whatever the problem.

Finally Emily (Lucie Hall) turns up, blonde, glamorous and attractively shy and nervous. It is, for Clive at least, love at first sight.

Clive and Emily are together when Henry Clark (Geoff Russell) arrives; a photographer from the local newspaper wanting photographs of the happy couple for the Caribbean cruise competition. He asks them to kiss for one of the photographs and has to leave them to it, astounded at how obviously in love they still are after 28 years of married life.

Not surprisingly perhaps, Anita's committee meetings turn out to be an affair with Annabel's father who left five years ago.

The Debanks win the competition but it is Clive and Emily who take up the cruise. Anita has gone off with her lover.



*The photographer with the happy couple—twice!*

Tracy (Christine Jones) the Debanks's daughter portrayed a suitably self-centred young woman with a crumbling marriage convincingly, as did Ann Winslet as Anita's best friend Claire who was out to entrap poor Jack into marriage if she possibly could.



Three cast members stood out. Sue Kitson is a really good character actress and is always good to see in a cast list. So too is Rachel Winslet-Morris. In a relatively small part this time, she always manages to be totally watchable. Lucie Hall looked and acted the part extremely well. It was a shame that the prompter, Liz Frederick, had to step in quite so many times. The production could have done with a more disciplined directorial hand to guard against a lot of unnecessary mannerisms and fidgeting by some of the cast which was distracting at times.

Raymond Hopkins donates his royalties from this and other farces, to Multiple Sclerosis Research and has done so since 1998. He was in the audience on the night I saw it and I hope he thought it was all in a good cause. Certainly he gave a packed house plenty to think about.

**Megan Parry**

Raymond Hopkins first wrote this comedy as a way of raising money for Multiple Sclerosis Research, his daughter having been struck down with this awful condition, and every penny due to him through royalties has been donated to this charity. DADS joined this cause by running a raffle, with funds going to a local MS charity based in Didcot.

The author was indeed in the audience on Friday, as Megan reported. The following day DADS received the following from him:

*Dear Mark,*

*Thank you so much for the warm hospitality shown to us all last night*

*Over the past years I have been to watch quite a few productions of my plays. The norm is that you get a couple of good actors, a couple of mediocre actors, and a couple of not so good actors. That's amateur dramatics! However, I can honestly state that every actor in your cast was absolutely brilliant. The direction was inspired and the sound and lighting were spot on cue. Well done to everyone. All your hard work has paid off!*

*Best of luck with tonight's production,*

*Ray.*



## Would you like to know more about your local school?

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- use the on-site breakfast club
- regularly visit the adjacent Abbey for school events and services
- go on to a wide range of secondary schools, including Wallingford, Didcot Boys and Didcot Girls, and the three Abingdon schools.

Come along to the events advertised around the village and in *The Dorchester News* to find out more, or contact Russell Leigh, headteacher, on 340 081 to arrange an appointment.



Tapestry created by pupils for The Thames Heritage Tapestry Project.

[www.st-birinus-primary.org.uk](http://www.st-birinus-primary.org.uk)

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## St Birinus School News

Near the end of Term 1 we held our open morning to enable children, due to start school next September, a chance to see the school in action and spend some time with the current Foundation Stage children. I would like to thank everyone who was able to come and join us. However, if anyone was unable to attend the open morning and would like the opportunity to look around, please contact the office to arrange a tour (**01865 340081**).

Over the October mid term break, we carried on with our painting project inside the school – this time it was the turn of the school hall. The paint has certainly changed the feel of the space – I wonder what is next!

Our school theme for the first two weeks of Term 2 focussed on World War I linking it closely with Remembrance Day on the 11 November. Red and Blue classes were able to immerse themselves in the topic on the first day back with each class enjoying a drama workshop based on experiences and poetry from the war. Some of the activities included letters written to the front and looking at poems from the war poets. The children had a great workshop and certainly made them think about the experiences of the men and their families during the war.

Following these two weeks, we turned our attention to a whole school topic of France, starting the experience with a French breakfast at the start of school – as well as thinking about France, it was a great time of sharing before school started.

We are now approaching the festive time of Christmas and our minds turn to the Christmas Nativity, which this year will be performed by Yellow and Blue Class. If you would like to join us to watch the children perform 'Born in a Barn' on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm, please come along. An open invitation is also extended to join us for our end of term/Christmas Service on 19<sup>th</sup> December at 1:15pm – we look forward to seeing you there!

**Russell Leigh**  
Headteacher

Dorchester St Birinus CE Primary School



## Pre-school news

We have lots of news to share this month! The biggest news is our new committee! Following the fantastic turnout at our AGM, we are thrilled to welcome six new members, with several other offers of support and help when needed. Matthew Kestner is our new Chair and, although he has a hard act to follow, we are really happy to have him on board. James Chadney has worked incredibly hard and his persistence and determination have been vital in the success of the Pre-School. We will miss him but are glad that we'll still see him at the occasional drop-off! Thank you James for everything you have achieved!

Last term ended with a fun Halloween-themed day - all staff and children dressed up and we had activities such as pumpkin carving, cauldron making, apple bobbing and hunting for spiders in the garden.

This term starts the countdown to Christmas (the setting is already buzzing with excitement and we're already hearing the Christmas songs in preparation for our show!) We will be heading over to big school to watch their productions and have plenty of other festive fun in store.

Given we are still only in the early part of the school year, it's impressive to know we are almost at full-capacity. Helen and team - keep up the good work!



## Guest House Supper Clubs

A delicious home-cooked dinner in the beautiful candle-lit setting of the Dorchester Abbey Guest House. Please feel welcome to book on your own, as a couple or a group of friends.

Now taking bookings for the first two Supper Clubs of 2015:

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January**

**Burns Night**

£30.00 per head for a three course Celtic feast

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

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## From the Dorchester Village Archive.....

### World War I and the Belgian refugees The Dorchester story

In the autumn of 1914, Britain faced the largest single influx of refugees in its history, when almost 250,000 Belgians crossed the channel following the German invasion of their country (see *BBC News Magazine* 15 September 2014). Newspapers of the time were full of stories and cartoons of atrocities committed against Belgian civilians, but their sojourn in Britain, particularly at village level, remains a largely untold story. Most of the refugees returned to Belgium after the war, leaving little trace of their presence.



Belgian refugees arrive at Folkestone, 1914  
Source: Folkestone Historical Society

However, in this WWI centenary year, and among family historians, interest in this group is growing. Information is still scarce, although the Online Centre for Research on Belgian Refugees aims to rectify this.

Some refugees found their way to Oxfordshire, and many were accommodated in Oxford itself, but little information survives, particularly for rural areas [the Bodleian Library and County Record Office have a little].

So what do we know about refugees in Dorchester? *Parish Magazine* No 316 of October 1914 describes how Dorchester was doing its bit for the refugee 'problem':

*'The Principal of the Missionary College has very generously placed a cottage at the disposal of the Belgian refugees, of who eleven, two families, arrived on Monday and Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The people of the village have been most kind in rendering assistance, providing beds, linen, furniture, coal, food and clothing, so that they are comfortably housed. Some of the members of the families are already getting employment, so that we must hope that they will be, at any rate, partially self-supporting. These poor people are quite destitute, having lost all in the German invasion, so that it is a real act of charity to befriend them.'*

We next hear of the refugees in December 1914 (*Parish Magazine* No. 318). The local community in Dorchester and neighbouring villages and towns rallied to their support, at the same time as anxiously awaiting news of family members who had gone to war, and getting the home front effort under way. 41 people had supplied items to furnish the house, making it habitable in two days. Others had donated clothes, vegetables and jam, and 104 had given money through weekly subscription. Donors came from all levels of village society, Manor and church and cottages, and the lists of contributors, not surprisingly dominated by women, contain many of the familiar 'old village' family names [the full lists appear in the *Parish Magazine*].



Belgian refugees in London

Source: Hulton Archive

This tantalising snapshot is based on a single local source. There is so much we do not know: Who were they? Where from? How long did they stay? Did any Dorchester families keep in touch with them? Our Archive's *Parish Magazine* collection ends with No 318; later issues may provide some answers. Most importantly, some of you may have family stories or information (photographs, letters, newspaper cuttings, the missing parish magazines...) which can help fill the gaps – we'd love to hear from you.

**Margot Metcalfe and Denise Line**  
Dorchester Historical Society

*[This contribution from two members of the Dorchester Historical Society is the first in what we hope will become a regular series of local history snapshots on topical themes from Dorchester's past, published as a tribute to our Honorary President, Mary Tame, who has done so much to bring Dorchester's history alive in these pages].*

### Chiropodist

Third Thursday of each month, 1.00–4.00 pm  
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**18 December, 15 January**

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### 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.

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## Cornerstone Didcot December 2014

### Saturday 6 December, 8.00pm: Bella Hardy.

BBC Radio 2's Folk Singer of the Year 2014 brings us a delightful festive treat. Six years ago Bella was nominated in the Best Original Song category at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards for Three Black Feathers. In 2012 she won that same award again for her powerful account of life as a 19th century Stornoway Herring. Beautifully crafted songs from this highly original, gifted artist – one of the country's top folk singers.

### Sunday 7 December, 2.00pm: Hansel and Gretel.

A playful production of the classic tale that crackles with warmth, wit and wonder from Red Earth. 'What to do, which path to take? Run back to the forest, or stay for cake?!' The perfect tale for little ones who will grow up to be fearless, it's the delicious story of a tango dancing witch and her irresistible recipe for an edible house. Like a roaring fire on a wintry night, Red Earth's playful production crackles with warmth, wit and wonder. Red Earth is one of our leading touring companies – combine their superb skills with one of the great fairy stories and watch the sparks fly!

### Friday 12 December, 8.00pm: Coope, Simpson, Fraser and Freya: Hark Hark.

A feel good feast of carols to send you into Christmas with a smile. With a firm foundation of traditional polyphonic Yorkshire and Derbyshire songs, this show is enhanced by spicy instrumentals accentuating the link between carols and dance. A lot of the classic songs that made them Natalie Wheen's 'favourite, favourite' carol singers and some new gems too. All mixed up with humour and banter. A Christmas cracker of a show from an acclaimed choral and instrumental group to get you and the family in the Yuletide mood.



## BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

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### Saturday 13 December, 8.00pm: What a Wonderful Christmas

Christmas show by the UK's new stars of British Jazz, **The Bateman Brothers Jazz Band**. Christmas sing-along gorgeousness, Ella & Louis style! Ella Fitzgerald's Sleigh Ride and Have Yourself a Merry Christmas, Louis Armstrong's Jingle Bells, plus a host of other festive favourites. All - and more - brought to you in this great show by the UK's new stars of British Jazz, The Bateman Brothers Jazz Band, whose first CD 'Now You Has Jazz' won best album in the 2011 British Jazz Awards.



### Monday 15 to Wednesday 24 December: The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus

Big Wooden Horse return with a fun-filled Christmas show about Santa Claus's early life. From the company that brought us the show loved by all Cornerstone customers in 2013, The Night Before Christmas, we've got another fun-packed, audience interactive, music and laughter filled festive show for 2014 to get everyone in the Christmas mood.

Based on the book by L Frank Baum, author of The Wizard of Oz, this exciting story follows the early life of Santa Claus from being adopted by the wood-nymphs, to making and delivering the very first toys.



How did he find his original reindeer Glossie and Flossie? Why do we hang stockings? When was the first Christmas tree? And why on earth does Santa climb down the chimney (instead of just going in the front door!)?

Come and sing, go ooh, go aah, and squeal!

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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## Earth Trust December/January Events

### Introduction to Hedgelaying

**Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 December, 9.30am-4pm**

A hands-on two day course learning to lay a Midlands-style hedge. £75; booking essential (if the course becomes fully booked please ask about our January and February hedgelaying weekends).

### Natural Christmas at the Earth Trust

**Sunday 7 December, 10am-2pm**

Re-use, recycle, bake and make this Christmas! Come along and learn how to make traditional, natural Christmas decorations. There will be a range of activities to suit all ages, from popcorn garlands to festive wreaths. You can also meet Father Christmas and purchase some Earth Trust Christmas cards. Activities cost between £1 and £12; free entry and parking. Poem Tree cafe will be open for light refreshments.

### Heritage Skills Taster Session: Hedgelaying

**Sunday 14 December, 10am-4pm**

Have a go at hedgelaying in this free taster session. Please book on to the morning (10am-1pm) or afternoon (1.30pm-4pm) session, or both:

**volunteering@earthtrust.org.uk** or 01865 407792.

### Discover and Play: Forest School for All

**Sunday 4 January, 10am-12pm**

A free Forest School session for all to enjoy – come along for a morning of play and discovery in our woodland.

### Winter Fruit Tree Pruning

**Sunday 11 January, 10am-4pm**

Learn how to give your fruit trees some TLC with some hands-on experience of pruning dormant trees, with expert Andy Howard. £25; booking essential.

### Introduction to Hedgelaying

**Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 January, 9.30am-4pm**

A practical two day course learning to lay a Midland-style hedge with Clive Leeke. All specialist tools and equipment provided. £75; booking essential.

### Star Walk

**Friday 30 January, 6pm-8pm**

Join us for a starlit countryside walk with Dr Russell Layberry from ECI Oxford University. Don't forget your flask of hot chocolate! £5 adults, £3 children, free for Earth Trust Friends; booking essential.

As always, 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.

## Charity art auction raises over £20,000

Over £20,000 was raised for Earth Trust from an Art Exhibition and Auction on Friday 7 November, 2014.

Professional and amateur artists donated over 100 paintings, prints, ceramics and sculptures, which were displayed in the Trust's beautifully restored 19th century barn in Little Wittenham. Guests were invited to bid on the majority of pieces via a silent auction which ran throughout the night, whilst certain items, including paintings by Christopher Miers RBA, Kurt Jackson, and Ken Howard OBE RA, were sold during an exciting live auction in the middle of the evening.



"We're extremely grateful to all the artists who generously donated their work, and a huge thank you goes to our auctioneer John Blackwell for encouraging all the bidders. We'd also like to thank our hardworking and dedicated volunteer Fundraising Group, who spent many months planning and organising the event" said Jayne Manley, CEO of the Earth Trust.



Money raised through the auction will go towards supporting the Earth Trust's work. The Trust manages Little Wittenham Nature Reserve, which includes the iconic Wittenham

Clumps and Little Wittenham Wood. It also provides opportunities for people to engage and learn about the environment and what it takes to look after our beautiful but fragile planet through events, activities, free access to the nature reserve, and its innovative Earth School education programme for primary and secondary school children.

The Earth Trust is also a key player in national forestry research and food and farming initiatives, and is currently creating a new wetland along the banks of the Thames called River of Life.

Guests who attended the auction enjoyed drinks, kindly sponsored by Knight Frank, and a hot bowl supper cooked and served by students from the Oxford Brookes School of Hospitality. The meal was prepared using local ingredients, including pork from Coopers Oxford Pork and vegetables from Cultivate - both businesses based at the Earth Trust Farm.

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## Wallingford Museum Museum bookshop

As usual, Wallingford Museum will close for its winter break (Dec - Feb) to carry out refurbishment and prepare an exciting new exhibition for next year - 'Wallingford's Royal Castle Revealed', together with a display highlighting Wallingford's mention in the Magna Carta. The Museum will re-open on 3 March 2015.

But don't forget that the highly successful Museum bookshop, with its constantly changing stock of good second-hand books will remain open during December, January and February. The shop will be open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10.30am to 1.00pm. Also, do please continue to donate your second-hand books.

[www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk)



## Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society

**Friday 12 December 8.00pm**

### Hildebrand Gurlitt, Nazi Art looter

Susan Ronald will describe her new research on Hildebrand Gurlitt, the Nazi art dealer to Hitler who extorted or looted a billion-dollar collection from Jewish collectors, whose reclusive son Cornelius was recently discovered to still be hoarding the collection in his house in Munich. This will be an up-to-the-minute treat to round off the TWHAS programme of talks for 2014.

**Friday 9 January 8.00pm**

### Wallingford and the Civil War (part 2)

Judy's previous talk (Part 1) looked at the impact of the Civil War on Wallingford, up to the surrender of the castle in 1646. This talk takes up the story of Wallingford's inhabitants during the time of Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth, the Restoration of Charles II in 1660 and the years to 1688, when James II finally abdicated and fled from England. The surviving town records have much fascinating detail to reveal about the townspeople who lived through this difficult period of social, religious and political change and regeneration.

Judy is the curator of Wallingford Museum and is well known for her many illuminating talks, putting Wallingford in the context of national history, but always with a particular interest in the everyday lives of its inhabitants.

Both talks will be held at Wallingford Town Hall.

Visitors (£3) are most welcome.

[www.twhas.org.uk](http://www.twhas.org.uk)

## Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

As part of its work to mark the Centenary of the First World War, the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum unveiled a re-created WW1 Trench exhibit on Saturday 25 October. Researched and constructed by Cadets and Officers of the Oxfordshire Army Cadet force, the new walk-in exhibit is designed to give visitors a fascinating insight into trench life.

Complete with a fire-step, dug out, working trench periscope and gas bell, the trench has all the features of a typical front-line trench, together with soldiers' personal effects and even a sneaky rat to add a touch of horrible history! Visitors are able to walk through and interact with the trench exhibit.

Commenting on the trench, SOFO's Director Ursula Corcoran said "We are delighted with the result and very impressed by the dedication of our local Cadets for their hard work. The trench is a great addition to the Museum and the launch day showcased our family learning programme, perfectly."

The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum is in the grounds of the Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock. It was officially opened by the Princess Royal on 25 September 2014.



## Wallingford U3A

Some of us had a few misgivings about our November talk which was on 'Raleigh Bicycles', but in the event it was fascinating.

A straw poll revealed that a majority of the audience had had a Raleigh at some time, and there was a tide of affection. Our Speaker, Tony Hadland, held us spell bound. He has a book on '125 Years of the Raleigh Bicycle' which might be the perfect present for that cyclist in the family.

We meet in Crowmarsh Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 2.00 pm. Visitors are always welcome.

Upcoming events:

**Dec 3** Christmas Party: Mulled wine, mince pies, entertainment Martin Sirot-Smith  
'Christmas Customs in Tudor Times' and buffet.

**Jan. 7** Mrs Valerie Calderbank:  
A tour of the universe - from solar system to Milky Way

**Jan. 28** New Year Lunch

**Feb 4** Professor Gregory Stores:  
Charles Dickens as Social Reformer and Medical Observer.

We now have a dozen different interest groups. To find out more about us visit

[www.u3asites.org.uk/wallingford](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/wallingford)

or phone Jill on **01491 835994**, or Hermione on **01865 858 024**.



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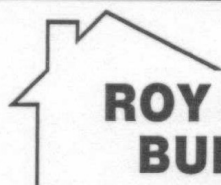


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## Corn Exchange Wallingford What's On

### December

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

Monday 1, Tuesday 2, Wednesday 3, Thursday 4: **Third Person** (15)

Friday 5: Private booking

Sunday 7, Monday 8: **Love Rosie** (15)

Tuesday, 9: **John**. NT Live showing at 8pm. Internationally renowned DV8 Physical Theatre's powerful new production direct from the National Theatre depicts real-life stories combining movement and spoken word to create a moving theatrical experience. Contains adult themes, strong language and nudity. Suitable for 18 yrs+.

Wednesday, 10, Thursday 11: **Say When** (15)

Friday 12, Saturday 13, Sunday 14, Monday 15, Tuesday 16, Wednesday 17: **The Imitation Game** (12A)

Thursday 18, Friday 19: **Mr Turner** (12A)

Saturday 20: **Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible...** (PG) at 10.30am

Saturday 20, Sunday 21, Monday, 22: **Mr Turner** (12A)

### Live

Saturday 6: **Performing Angels and Stars Stage School Show**. A showcase of talent on theme of a night at the movies. 2pm and 7pm. Tickets: £10; senior citizens and under 15s: £6.

### January

**Friday 16 to Saturday 31 January 2015.**

**Beauty and the Beast**. Side-splitting comedy and action-packed adventure is guaranteed in Sinodun Players' version of this truly traditional panto. For full details see panel to right.

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

Listings may occasionally be subject to change. Please check website for up-to-date information.

## Sinodun Players Beauty and the Beast

January – and it's panto time in Wallingford. Once again, Sinodun Players will transform the Corn Exchange into the magical world of fairytale, this time with the enchanting story of Beauty and the Beast.

Audiences can expect to see a truly traditional panto with a script by Alan Frayn that offers more comedy and originality than any other version of this famous folktale.

With many twists and turns along the way, action-packed adventure and side-splitting humour is guaranteed. Imaginative new characters provide added laughter in addition to an unusual visual comedy scene that promises to, bring the house down.

But the challenge for the director will be to transform a handsome prince into an ugly monster "before your very eyes".

Performances take place Friday 16 to Saturday 31 January at 7.30pm with Saturday matinees at 2.30pm. No performances on Sunday or Monday. Tickets are £10 Tuesdays to Thursdays, £12 Friday and Saturday. £6 for under-16s throughout.

Available from [www.cornexchange.org.uk](http://www.cornexchange.org.uk) or at the box office (01491 825000), between 10am-2pm Fridays and Saturdays and 7-8pm each evening.

## Wallingford Gardening Club

### 11 December: Wine, Mince Pies and Quiz

At the December meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, our members will test their gardening know-how with a short quiz. Following a very brief Annual General Meeting, they will all enjoy wine and mince pies!

This event will be held in the Ridgeway Community Centre, Wallingford at 7.30pm on Thursday 11 December.

Visitors very welcome £2.

**8 January:** University Gardens of Oxford (Dr Stephen Head)-which will be followed in the summer with a relevant visit

Isabelle Darby

## Inner Wheels say "Thanks"

A huge thank you to anyone reading this article who brought unwanted Bras to Wallingford Market Place on Saturday 11 October. 450 were handed in. More have arrived in the following week bringing the total to over 500. All of them have been delivered to the Oxfam Clothes Bank at Tilehurst Railway Station.

One of Inner Wheel's slogans is "Make a difference", and you have all helped us to do that in Senegal – thank you.

Eira E Hoare  
Pauline Collins

Sinodun Inner Wheel  
Wallingford Inner Wheel



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## 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 7.30 pm Abbey: **Bellringing Practice**  
**10.30-10.50am** by War Memorial **Fishmonger** (p.9)  
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.9)

### Monthly:

2nd Thursday 7.30 pm Village Hall: **WI** (p.9)  
3rd Wednesday 7.30 pm Abbey Guest House: **Parish Council** (green p.1)  
3rd Wednesday **Culham Horticultural** (p.7)  
3rd Thursday **Classic Car Show** George Hotel  
3rd Thursday Belcher Court: **Chiropodist** (p.15)  
4th Wednesday 7.30 pm Village Hall: **Historical Society** (p.7) (Not December)  
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](mailto:parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk).

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

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## Refuse Collections

**Fridays from 7.00 am.**  
**(Saturdays from 6.00 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 5 Dec	<b>Black</b>
Fri 12 Dec	Green
Fri 19 Dec	<b>Black</b>
Mon 29 Dec	Green
Mon 5 Jan	<b>Black</b>
Sat 10 Jan	Green
Fri 16 Jan	<b>Black</b>
Fri 23 Jan	Green
Fri 30 Jan	<b>Black</b>

**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, but close at 3.00 pm on 24 and 31 December, and closed all day 25, 25 Dec and 1 Jan.

A useful notice by courtesy of your *Dorchester News* editors.

## South Oxon top recyclers

South Oxfordshire District Council has the highest rate of waste recycling in the country, with 65.7% of our waste recycled according to league tables published in November.

Cllr. Dodds of SODC said of the residents (that's us):  
"They are the ones who are setting the standard for others to follow and deserve our congratulations."

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/news>

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

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**VILLAGE WEB** www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

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## Abbey Calendar January Sundays

<b>Jan 4</b>	8.00 am 10.30am	<b>Epiphany</b> Holy Communion (1662) Sung Eucharist
<b>Jan 11</b>	8.00 am 10.30 am	<b>Baptism of Christ</b> Holy Communion (1662) Sung Eucharist
<b>Jan 18</b>	<b>Epiphany 2</b> 8.00 am 3.30pm 6.00pm	Holy Communion (1662) Family Service for Candle mas Evensong
<b>Jan 25</b>	<b>Conversion of St Paul</b> 8.00 am 10.30am 7.00pm	Holy Communion (1662) Sung Eucharist Taize@7

## Abbey Calendar December Sundays

<b>Dec 7</b>	<b>Advent 2</b> 8.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (1662) Morning Service Team Confirmation Service
<b>Dec 14</b>	<b>Advent 3</b> 8am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (1662) Sung Eucharist PACT Carol Service
<b>Dec 21</b>	<b>Advent 4</b> 8.00am 10.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (1662) Family Service Abbey Carol Service
<b>Dec 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b> 4.30pm 11.30pm	Crib Service Midnight Communion
<b>Dec 25</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b> 8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion (1662) Christmas Communion
<b>Dec 28</b>	<b>Christmas 2</b> 8.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion (1662) Team Service at Berinsfield

## Weekdays

**Every Tuesday**  
 10.30am – 12 noon Coffee in the Abbey

**Every Wednesday**  
 9.30 am Holy Communion at Berinsfield Church

<b>December</b>		
Thu 4	7.30pm	Oxford Children's Hospital Concert
Sat 6	9.30am on	Christmas Tree decorating
Mon 8	7.15pm	"Reducing the risk" concert
Tue 9	10.15am	Short Communion
Thu 11	8.00pm	The Coming of Christmas with Hft
Fri 12	3.00pm	Queen Anne's School Carol Service
Sat 13	7.30pm	Orchestra of St Johns - Christmas motets
Mon 15	7.00pm	Cranford House School Carol Service
Fri 19	3.00pm	Wedding of Charlotte Fry and James Murray Wells
Sat 20	6.00pm	Orchestra of St John's – Messiah
Wed 31	8.30pm	Orchestra of St John's – Strauss Family New Year

<b>January</b>		
Tue 13	10.15am	Short Communion
Thu 22	2.30pm	Service at the Cheshire Home

## Parish Registers

**Memorial Service**  
 6 November

Elizabeth Ann Ducker

**Holy Baptism**  
 26 October

Isaac Thomas Rhodes

## Deadline for February Dorchester News

All items must be sent by  
**Friday 9 January**  
 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 Update

**Dorchester- on-Thames Neighbourhood Development Plan**  
Next Public Consultation, **Saturday 31 January 2015**, in the Village  
Hall (open from noon until 10.30 p.m.)

The purpose of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is to enable our community to decide the future of the place where we live and work.

The plans will enable the community to

- Choose where we want new houses
- Have our say on what new buildings will look like
- Encourage local businesses
- Protect our environment

What we decide has to be compatible with pre-existing EU, national, county and district legislation: not a simple task. We (the NDP group) are now ready to put our proposals before you in this, our second Public Consultation. This will be shown in a series of posters and explanatory talks.

This is your opportunity to comment in detail on what we are proposing. We want you to say what you really think about the proposals. Tell us what you like and what you don't like. Let us hear your ideas. We look forward to seeing you on January 31.

**Mark Stevenson, Chairman**

## Parish Council Notices

### Monthly Meetings

In December the Parish Council will hold its meeting on the second Wednesday which is **10 December**. In January the meeting will be held on Wednesday **14 January**. All are welcome to attend and, at the beginning of the meeting, may raise any matter of concern.

### Parish Council Vacancy

With great regret the Council has accepted the resignation of Mike Kitson for health reasons. The Parish Council elections will take place in May 2015 which means that the Council is looking for candidates who would like to put themselves forward for co-option to the Council to serve over the next few months. Anyone who would like further information about the role and the responsibilities of the Parish Council should contact the Clerk. The Council would like to fill the vacancy at its next meeting which is on Wednesday 10 December.

## 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)



## From John Howell MP

During the recent parliamentary recess I went on my 'Village Tour'. There were some things that were frequently raised and appear to be of concern in many different villages. Planning was one such issue. In the south of the constituency which comes under South Oxfordshire District Council there is a Local Plan in place which gives local control over housing development. This is good news for the communities covered by SODC. In the north of the constituency which comes under Cherwell District Council there is no such comfort and the risk of unplanned, speculative development is high.

There is clearly concern at the predicted level of housing growth needed. I fully understand this – as well as understanding the housing need as expressed so passionately in the emails I receive from desperate families trying to get a home of their own. The important thing to identify is the genuine constraint on housing growth. It is important to recognise that infrastructure is needed in order to properly integrate new dwellings. I am fully supportive of the district councils in their work on this.

Neighbourhood Planning came up at just about all of the meetings I had with parish councils. I would encourage all communities to develop their own Neighbourhood Plan. It need not be too costly an exercise, and there is government money to help. It does take some work over a 12-18 month period to produce a plan but the result is well worth it. The value of a Neighbourhood Plan is that it becomes a formal planning policy document which is used in determining planning applications. If any community would like to discuss this further I would be happy to meet and for detail on it the district councils are able to offer support.

*continued over page...*

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

### **GCSE results rise above national average**

58.6% of Oxfordshire students gained five A\* to C graded GCSEs including English and Maths in 2014. The national state-funded school average for the same measure was 56.1%. Oxfordshire is also now in the top 25 per cent of local authority areas for progress in Maths and more students made reached the expected progress in English than the national average. The new system measures the results from the first time the exams are sat, without including resits as before.

*More information at:*

**[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/oct/oxfordshire-surges-ahead-national-averages-gcse](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/oct/oxfordshire-surges-ahead-national-averages-gcse)**

### **Roadworks around Oxford**

Due to a sequence of successful applications by the Local Enterprise partnership, a business led organisation that works alongside all Oxfordshire's councils, the County Council has received significant funding from central government to allow us to carry out major projects around Oxford.

We already had planned extensive repairs to the London Road in Headington, and this will improve bus and cycle facilities at the same time. The work on the Kennington and Hinksey Roundabout's will increase capacity by 30% improving traffic flow in the long term. There are plans to improve Frideswide Square, the Cutteslowe and Wolvercote roundabouts, the Milton and Chilton interchanges on the A34 along with several other schemes across the county.

Full details can be found at:

**[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/major-current-roadworks](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/major-current-roadworks)**.

Whilst we acknowledge these road works cause disruption in the short term, to do nothing is not an option as it would result in far worse congestion in the future.

### **Oxford Transport Strategy**

**The Oxford Transport Strategy is being developed** to find ways to cope with rising demand for transport in and around the city and will form part of the County Council's Local Transport Plan. It follows a series of public meetings that discussed how we can create transport systems to sustain forecasts of 85,000 new jobs and 100,000 extra homes by 2031.

Buses would remain a central part of the city's future transport, along with proposals for a 'mass transit system' such as a tram route linking outer suburbs to the city centre. Increasing park and ride capacity outside the ring road to encourage more drivers to take public transport into the city is another major part of the draft strategy. The Oxford Transport Strategy is being developed using ideas and feedback provided as part of Connecting Oxfordshire. A final version will be published in spring 2015 following further consultation.

*More information at:* **<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/oct/better-oxford-despite-increased-future-transport-demands>**

### **Success of books on prescription via libraries leads to expansion**

A special national scheme via which library services provide books for people experiencing mild to moderate mental health problems such as anxiety and depression is proving successful in Oxfordshire.

The Books On Prescription Scheme was introduced into six Oxfordshire Libraries in June 2013 (Oxford Central, Abingdon, Witney, Banbury, Didcot and Thame). It proved to be so much in demand that the county council's library service expanded the service to a further six libraries in April 2014 (Bicester, Cowley, Wantage, Henley, Kidlington and Carterton).

*More information at:*

**[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/oct/books-prescription-project-succeeds-oxfordshire-libraries](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/oct/books-prescription-project-succeeds-oxfordshire-libraries)**

### **Opportunity to have ebooks published by the library service**

Budding authors in Oxfordshire are being offered the chance to have some of their work published electronically as part of a competition run by the county council's library service. The Short Story Ebook competition will run for just over two months starting on October 20 and the winners will see their work become available to be borrowed by Oxfordshire's library ebook customers.

In my role as Cabinet Member for Cultural Services I have been quoted as saying: "Our librarians are looking forward to reading some imaginative and creative writing. This is a great chance for local people to share their writing skills. We hope the competition will draw people to our ebook service and it represents a great opportunity for those with aspirations in the field of writing."

*More information at:*

**[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/oct/ebook-opportunity-prospective-oxfordshire-writers](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2014/oct/ebook-opportunity-prospective-oxfordshire-writers)**

### **From John Howell MP continued...**

Traffic was another concern. In rural areas where the car is a necessity rather than a luxury this is something that we have to face. I have been working with some communities to pool resources and ensure that the police and the county council are aware of precise issues and work with communities to seek to address them. The police were particularly receptive to the work as it helped to focus on critical points where speeding is a problem and thus enable them to focus their resources where most needed.

I am grateful to those across the constituency who shared their thoughts with me during the Village Tour. I am always interested in the concerns of the various communities and will help where I can. My contact details are below for you to raise any issues or concerns that you think I may be able to help with.

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