



DORCHESTER NEWS

April 2015

**FREE TO EVERY HOME IN
THE PARISH**

Talking Point

The resurrection message of new life links in quite naturally with the new life we see all around us. The secular images of bunnies, chickens and daffodils are all around us in shops, on Easter Eggs and cards. They speak to us of the new life of spring; perhaps they awake in us an instinctive sense of excitement and hope. But by themselves they will not get us fully to the heart of the Easter message, which is that Christ is risen.

Jesus's resurrection is something wholly different from anything experienced before or since. On Easter morning Jesus rose to a wholly new life never to die again. This was not a biblical event like the raising of Lazarus (John 11), where you may recall Jesus calls Lazarus from his tomb into his old life. Jesus is raised to a wholly new life; it is resurrection not resuscitation. When Jesus rose from the dead a part of God's recreation was present upon earth. Something God promised at the end of time belongs through God's grace in the present. Jesus is fully alive, fully present.

The gospels struggle to describe what has happened. None more so than John: read chapter 20 verses 1-18. John's gospel is a work of spiritual genius; it is very carefully written and has many resonances with the Old Testament. This passage is very different. It is almost breathless as it tries to describe the experiences of the women as they went to visit the garden where they placed Jesus in the tomb.

Mary had gone to the place of Jesus's burial on that first Easter morning to grieve and anoint his body. Mary did not recognise Jesus at first, she

thought him to be the gardener, and only once she had heard his voice did she know him to be the Lord. There is something energetic, breathless and bursting with joy about the resurrection.

Easter Day is not just history. That irresistible energy, that promise of new life, a promise of transformed life is there waiting for us. What may seem ordinary is not in the least ordinary; Christian faith promises us that the risen Christ still bursts through barriers of time and space and makes himself present.

At Eastertide we join with the church throughout the world and say 'Alleluia Christ is risen'. In so doing we are in a sense rebelling and refusing to see the world as it is because we have glimpsed the world as it is meant to be, created, redeemed and transformed by the risen Christ. By joining in the Easter chorus we are transforming the world because we are transformed. Jesus appeared to a teary-eyed Mary at the tomb. He still appears to us and transforms us. Christ is risen, he is risen indeed. Alleluia.

I hope you have a very happy Easter.

Revd. Caroline King

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Dorchester News

Editorial Team

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Copy Deadlines for Dorchester News

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| May edition | 10 April |
| June edition | 15 May |
| July/August edition | 12 June |

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. Anything people 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.

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. 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. 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

As I write this I can see daffodils and crocuses about to come into flower; there is a lovely blue sky and, if it weren't for the stubborn chilly wind from the east, it could almost be spring. By the time you read this, the clocks will have gone forward, we'll be past the equinox and we can hope that there will be real signs of spring all around us.

And that can only mean that the Spring Flower Show is upon us. What a great tradition the village flower show is all around the country. Fans of The Archers will know what passions it can arouse—at least in the minds of radio scriptwriters. I like to think that in Dorchester we don't get quite as het-up about it as do some of the characters on Radio 4. In a way that is a shame, though. As a community we should take pride in our traditions, and this is a long-lasting one that should not be allowed to disappear.

I've never managed more than a second prize, but I am proud of that and shall keep trying to do better. And I just might do if there is not more competition! Have a look at the entry form on page 12, see where you have something appropriate in your garden or your shed, keep Saturday the 11 April free, splash out 5p and put in an entry. And then simply enjoy the show.

I just hope that those daffodils I can see nearly in flower will still be presentable by then.

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.dorchester2@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.

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 31) should contact the contractor direct. The number to call is **03000 610610** and the website 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

Information about village bus services is now given on inside back page.

Information about bus services, both local and national, is available from 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. More information about the village is available at: www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Palm Sunday

29 March

We remember Jesus coming to Jerusalem for the final time on Palm Sunday with a procession through the village beginning with the Blessing of Palms at the War memorial. Some years we are lucky enough to have a real donkey to lead the procession but at the time of going to press this cannot be confirmed. We gather at the memorial at 10.15am to process to the Abbey. The Litany of the Palms will be conducted without procession in the Abbey prior to the 10.30 service. Palm crosses will also be blessed at the 8am service in the Abbey.

Holy Week

Holy Week is a particular time of prayer and preparation for Easter. Morning Prayer will be said in the Birinus Chapel each morning at 8.15am and Compline with silence and a short address on some of the characters in the Easter story will be said at 8pm. Compline is one of the offices that the brothers who once lived and worked here said evening by evening. It is a short end of day office and a good opportunity to take time for a moment of peace and reflection. I do hope that you will join us.

Maundy Thursday

For the past few years, members of the Dorchester Team have joined together for an 'Agape' meal in which we remember and celebrate the meal that Jesus shared with his friends the disciples. This is a good opportunity to learn the story and share good company (and excellent food). No age limits – but children must be accompanied by an adult. We begin at 6.30pm and end (weather permitting) with a procession into the Garden. Solemn Holy Communion with stripping of the High altar follows.

We need to know numbers attending this event not later than Palm Sunday – please sign the lists in churches or contact the Rectory office by email or phone. Places filled up quickly last year!

Please note that you will be asked to bring your own plate and cutlery.

The Abbey Tearoom opens Easter Saturday

Why not spoil yourself with a visit to your very own Abbey Tearoom?

Our small army of cooks produce a truly beautiful selection of home made cakes, scones and jam – and our tea gets cheaper the more you drink!

We would love to see more village faces, so if you have friends or family visiting, bring them along and show off this enduring bit of old Dorchester. Sit inside at our communal tables or outside in the pretty Guest House garden. Remember, we are staffed entirely by volunteers and all profits go to charities.

Come and do your bit by drinking tea and eating cake!

Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays, 2.30-5pm (Also Wednesday and Thursday from mid May.)

Good Friday

The Cosmic Christ

Good Friday Devotions

Dorchester Abbey

3 April, 1.00pm - 3.00 pm

This year's Good Friday devotions will include music, prayer and meditation designed to prepare us for the joys of Easter.

The service will conclude with the making of a contemplative painting by Rebecca Hind, in which darkness falls but ultimately gives way to light.

If you would like an insight as to the nature of contemplative painting please visit rebeccahind.com and find Eclipsis under the Films button.

Easter Sunday

5 April

At 10.30am there will be a service for all the family that will include Holy Communion. As is always the case at major festivals, families with children are welcome to stay for communion or to leave the service at the Peace.

There will also be a service of Holy Communion at 8am.

In the evening, everyone is welcome to our Songs of Praise at 5pm. There will be special Easter Readings and an opportunity to sing Easter Hymns – please note the time which we have made to coincide with the time that the Tea Room closes in the hope that people might like to make an 'Easter afternoon' of it!

Annual Parochial Church Meeting...

...will be in church over coffee immediately after the service on 26 April.

Everyone is most welcome to attend.

Lighting Work in the Abbey

There will be some disruption to the life of the Abbey for the next few weeks, as the lighting is replaced and renewed. If it is likely to affect something you are doing, a member of the Abbey community will talk to you. If you have any questions, do ask.

Fishmonger

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

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 May Morning Monday 4 May

Two A Part will again welcome May by singing from the top of the Abbey tower and then give a free concert in the Abbey. Funds raised from breakfasts and donations will be shared between the Festival Charities and taking teenagers to help build a new Medical Centre for the Nasio Trust for their work with AIDS orphans and destitute children in Kenya.



Continental Breakfast
From 8.30am in the Abbey
Two A Part

Sing from the Tower at 9, then in the Abbey

Breakfast tickets £5

Must be bought in advance.

Available from Dorchester Co-op or
www.dorchesterfestival.com

£5 keeps a child in food for a month, £10 provides a teacher for a month.



Dorchester Fun Run and Walk



The second running of the Dorchester 5K Fun Run and Walk is taking place on **Monday, 4 May** at 11am as part of Dorchester Festival.

Last time over 200 people took part aged from 1 to 81 so come and be part of it and bring your friends and family. Even your dog can join in!

Look out in the Dorchester Festival brochure and online www.dorchesterfestival.com to register or contact Jill Corran on **01865 341696** or e-mail jillcorran@hotmail.com

Get your application in early, dig out the lycra and get training NOW.....

We also need volunteers to help with time keeping, marshals and First Aid – if you would like to help please phone Jill on **01865 341696**.

Festival Scarecrow Trail



Enter your very own film-themed scarecrow! Windowsill entries just as welcome as garden architecture – they just need to be visible from the street! Win a prize based on the popular vote! Scarecrow entry £3.

Entry forms must be received by Friday 17 April. See Festival website: www.dorchesterfestival.com

Dorchester on Thames Historical Society Wednesday 22 April

7.30pm Dorchester Village Hall (back room)

A talk by Nick Dudley on 'The History of Surgery'. Working for over 30 years initially as a Registrar in the old Radcliffe Infirmary and then as a consultant specialising in paediatric and endocrine surgery at the John Radcliffe Hospital gave Nick Dudley great opportunities to teach and lecture abroad.

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

Gail Thomas
Chairman

Food Festival Bakeoff Saturday 9 May

Those greedy Dorchester Festival organisers have arranged for not just one, but two Great British Bakeoff quarter finalists to come along to the Food Festival on the 9 and 10 of May. Christine Wallace from the 2012 series will be demonstrating Showstopper desserts in the Manor House kitchen on Saturday 9 May and Martha Collison from the 2013 series will be giving a talk on how her faith has inspired her at the Sunday morning service in the Abbey. See Festival website www.dorchesterfestival.com for details and tickets.

We couldn't let these talented bakers leave Dorchester without showing off our own collective baking talents and so we are delighted to announce **The Food Festival Bakeoff Competition**.

The Festival Charity PACT (Parents and Children Together) represents the coming together of families so bring a creative cake made by a parent and child together, of any combination of ages. The cake should use two flavour ingredients beginning with the letters P and C, for example *Peanut butter* and *Chocolate*, *Pear* and *Cherry*. Cakes will be judged on flavour, creativity and presentation.

Cakes to be brought to the Food Festival tent by 11am for judging at 12.30pm by Christine Wallace followed by presentation of prizes. Fabulous baking prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Entry £2.

Musical Soiree Dorchester Abbey 30 April 2015.

Musical Soiree organised by Rotary District 1090 featuring young musicians and the Rotary International Great Britain and Ireland Young Musician Winner Robert Cheung.

Thursday 30 April 2015 at 7pm

Tickets £16.00 available from Moya Harvey, 2, Forest Close, Ascot, Berkshire SL5 8DW.

Cheques made payable to Rotary District 1090. Please enclose a SAE.

All proceeds to SeeSaw and Polio Plus.

1st–10th May

FESTIVAL NEWS

HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR TICKETS?

Just one month to go until an amazing set of events lands on your doorstep so buy now!

CAN YOU SPARE TIME TO HELP?

If you can find just a little time to pour tea, bake a cake or take ticket money please contact us. There is a job for everyone regardless of age or ability.

Email festival@dorchester-abbey.org.uk or call Steph on 340434.

People often ask what events we are looking forward to most, so here's our advice — if you miss these you may just regret it!

Hidden Festival Gems

Theatre Comedy with Hot Coals Ensemble

Sun 3rd May

Hysterically funny theatre with no dialogue, using physical comedy and beautifully choreographed set pieces to music to tell the story. This show has had amazing reviews and sell out audiences from the start of the tour. A brilliantly entertaining evening for all ages!



Ben Morris – CGI, OSCAR, Star Wars and me Thursday 7th May

We are incredibly fortunate to have OSCAR and BAFTA award winning Visual Effects expert Ben Morris to explain how CGI effects are created with clips from his work incl Harry Potter, The Golden Compass, War Horse and Gravity. Ben is a legend in his industry and has a powerful personal story – inspired aged 7 by the original Stars Wars film at his local cinema to Creative Director on Star Wars Episode: VII.

Festival Folk Night - Harry Bird and The Rubber Wellies BH Monday 4th May

A fun evening full of happy music! Travelling folksters Harry Bird and the Rubber Wellies present their intimate cabaret of joyful sing-a-long choruses and general participatory fun.

Workshops Don't just sit there—do something!

Learn how to clown or stage fight, improve your cooking skills or sing with **Out Of The Blue** or **John Rutter**.



Festival Silent Auction

Great prizes, including holidays, dancing lessons, private tours and cake this is a great opportunity to support our Festival charities and buy a special gift for your friends or family at the same time. See the website for the key auction lots confirmed so far—there's some really exciting stuff!

Book on line from the website
www.dorchesterfestival.com
through the ticket hotline 0333 666 3366 or
(limited events) from Hair of Dorchester





To launch the 2015 Festival an evening packed with a fantastic Indian feast, entertainment, live music and dancing

Featuring 2014 'Battle of the Bands' winner

the UNDERCOVERS

The Festival BASH

Friday 1st May 2015, 7pm-1am

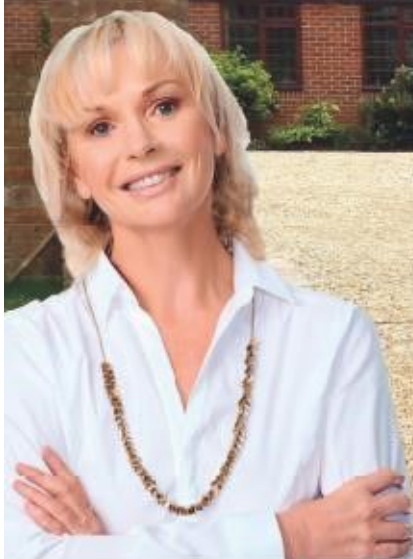
Tickets available via the Festival Box Office, cost £40

Early Bird Discount of 10% for bookings made before 22 March

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Dorchester Abbey Museum

The Museum and small gift shop will open on Easter Saturday until the end of September every afternoon between 2pm and 5pm.

There are displays tracing Dorchester's fascinating history of 6,000 years of continuous settlement, as well as displays on The Hurst, stories about Dorchester women in WW1, and Midsomer Murders. Something for everyone, making the museum a very interesting place to visit, and bring visitors.

We are always looking for volunteers – a commitment of just 7 afternoons (maximum) during the opening season. You do not have to be "good at History", just willing to welcome the visitors from all over the world. If you would like to help, or would like to know more of what is involved, with no obligation, please phone Yvonne Lawden, on **01865 340465**.

Two quotes from our visitors' book:

"A delightful museum run by volunteers" and *"The best small museum I have ever visited"*.

Dorchester on Thames Historical Society

Visit to John Bunyan's Meeting Church and Museum, Bedford and Wrest Park Saturday 27 June 2015

Our morning visit to John Bunyan's Meeting Church and Museum looks at his life as tinker, soldier, dissenter, preacher, prisoner and writer of 'The Pilgrim's Progress'.

In the afternoon we will visit Wrest Park where you can explore the evolution of the English Garden through three centuries of landscape design. It will also be possible to see the opulent Countess's Sitting Room and conservatory on the ground floor of the mansion house. An interactive exhibition traces the history of the de Grey family and their estate.



Wrest Park

9.00 Departure from Bridge End Car Park

10.30 Coffee can be obtained in the John Bunyan Meeting Church café before visiting the church and museum.

12.30 Wrest Park. Lunch can be obtained in the excellent café or bring your own picnic.

I will organise the tickets for entrance to the House and Gardens and you will be free to explore on your own.

4.00 Departure

The cost is £28 (coach and entrance to Wrest Park). Cheques payable to Dorchester Historical Society. Please send to Gail Thomas, 14 Herringcote, Martins Lane, Dorchester on Thames, Oxon OX10 7RD. Tel. **01865 341977**

mobile LIBRARY

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

2 April, 16 April, 30 April

Friends of Dorchester Abbey Visit to Malmesbury Monday 11 May 2015

Cost: £23.50 per person for Friends of the Abbey, £25.50 for non-Friends..

Includes coach travel and guided tour of Malmesbury Abbey.

Optional: £6.50 for entrance to the Abbey House Gardens

£3.50 for a guided town tour, payable on the day

Depart Bridge End car park in Dorchester at 9.00am to arrive Malmesbury about 10.30am.

Malmesbury is said to be the oldest continuously inhabited town in England. Its medieval streets, which have over 400 listed buildings, are overlooked by the beautiful 7th C Abbey. All the main attractions are within easy, level walking distance of the Abbey.

Optional Guided Walking tour of the town at 10.45am.

Described as informative but informal, taking visitors off the usual tourist track. They take between 1½ and 2 hours and cost £3.50pp. There must be a minimum of 10 people.

Abbey House Gardens, cover 5 acres and offer a wide range of planting, without asking visitors to walk too far to enjoy it. The gardens have featured on BBC's Gardeners World.

Abbey cafe is closed on Mondays but there are many places to eat within 5 minutes' walk. Light lunches and drinks may be bought from two sites in the gardens, both under cover but open to the fresh air

Guided tour of Malmesbury Abbey at 2.30pm.

Followed by a cup of tea with their Friends to end the visit.

The coach will leave Malmesbury at 4.45pm to arrive back by 6.30pm.

Friends of Dorchester Abbey will receive this information in the Spring Newsletter.

Non Friends, please send a cheque for £25.50 (or £32.00 inc. Gardens entry) per person, payable to 'The Friends of Dorchester Abbey', with your name, address and phone number to:

Mrs Yvonne Lawden, 9 Queens Close, Dorchester on Thames, Wallingford, OX10 7LR by Sunday 12 April. [Please note: you will not be sent tickets or a receipt. If you have any queries please phone Yvonne Lawden on **01865 340465**]

Further information will be sent to participants the week before the visit.

Chiropodist

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

16 April

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



**Want to play tennis this summer ?
Then join Dorchester Tennis Club !**

We play friendly club tennis twice weekly, offer coaching for juniors and adults and organise several tournaments and social events. The newly refurbished courts are located at the recreation ground and are left open at all times for members to make use of.

Annual membership fees 2015/2016

Family (one household) £45, Adult £30, Junior £5

For membership enquires contact Chris Smith chriscsmith@btinternet.com and coaching enquiries contact Claire Andersson claire@claireandersson.co.uk

Join us at the Spring Tournament on April 26th from 2.00pm for friendly doubles and excellent afternoon tea!



April Supper Club – Abbey Guest House

Join us for dinner in the beautiful Abbey Guest House on Saturday 18th April at 7.30pm.

Cocktail and canapes followed by three delicious courses using the best of the new season's ingredients and coffee – all for £30 per head.

Wine available to purchase on the night or bring your own.

See website for tickets and menus www.claireandersson.co.uk or email info@claireandersson.co.uk

This will be my last Supper Club for a little while as we move into Dorchester's busy Festival season. Look out for a special Swedish Crayfish Party in August.

Thursday 9 April 7.30 Village Hall
"Churchill's Workshop". Gordon Rogers, a very good and interesting speaker. Please come and bring your friends
Donation of £4.00 including a glass of wine per person.

Monday 20 April Dorchester Abbey
Celebrating 100 Years of the WI
(a year younger than our Honorary President Mary Tame)
South Oxfordshire WI Centenary Celebrations open to all Shillingford WI Group members
12.00 Berinsfield float with Centenary Baton arrives at Abbey
12.00-12.30 The wonderful Abbey bells ring out
Shared lunch, contact Linda Hender for details
Tel: **01865 340032**
2.30 Service members and dignitaries followed by refreshments for all

Ideas for our August outing would be appreciated, our ideas so far are fully booked.
Please contact Jill Love on 01865 716557.

We have had another full and exciting year and many thanks especially to Linda Hender and Audrey Houlston for making this possible.

We have now had to say goodbye to our President for three years, Linda Hender, and Vice President Sue Ingham for their marvellous contribution to the club. We now have 2 vacancies on the Committee, these places need filling by enthusiastic members; age and experience of the WI not a problem. Also our thanks go to Gill Haworth Secretary and Susan Jupp Treasurer and of course to the rest of the Committee for their hard work but especially to Pauline Kenway Jackson who has agreed to be 2015/16 Dorchester on Thames Club President.

President
Pauline Kenway Jackson
01865 340746
Vice President and Publicity
Jill Love
01865 716557

Parish Council Elections 7 May 2015

On 7 May 2015 there will be elections held for Parish Councillors. Several of the existing councillors are standing down. Councillors who wish to continue in office have to be re-elected. The number of places available is eight. Anyone with an interest in standing should contact the Clerk to find out what is involved. (See page 2 for contact details.)

The timetable for these elections are:

| Activity | Date |
|--|----------------------------|
| Publication of notice of election | Monday 30 March |
| Delivery of nomination papers | Thursday 9 April |
| Delivery of notice of withdrawal of candidates | Thursday 9 April |
| Publication of statement of persons nominated | Friday 10 April |
| Deadline for receiving applications to be included in the register of electors for the election | Monday 20 April |
| Deadline for receipt of applications to vote by post, or from existing postal or proxy voters wishing to change their arrangements | Tuesday 21 April |
| Deadline for receipt of applications to vote by proxy | Tuesday 28 April |
| Notice of poll | Tuesday 28 April |
| Polling | 7 May 7.00am to 10.00pm |

The special elections website address is
www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/local-democracy/elections/elections-2015

Your Parish Council

Lots of footpath clearance has been on the agenda this month with the old path in Watling Lane now cleared and accessible for a considerable distance. The area at the end of Drayton Road, by the village noticeboard, has also been cleared and tidied. This has much improved the view of the village as approached from the bus stop and makes for a 'safer' feeling when walking in that area.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, the first village defibrillator will have been installed at the front entrance to the White Hart. We are also planning to install one at the Sports Pavilion. Both defibrillators will be in a secure and alarmed cabinet, and training will be offered for anyone interested. More details next month.

Sue Graney



Little Bo Peep – Bank Holiday Monday 4 May 1pm

Magnificent puppets, fantastic scenery and of course lots of music and singing in a show especially created for children ages 2 – 7 years.

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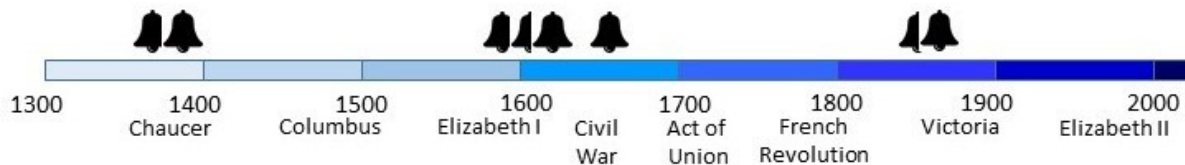
Dorchester Abbey Bellringers

"The tintinnabulation that so musically wells
From the bells, bells, bells, bells."
The bells Edgar Allan Poe 1849

In common with many churches the eight bells of Dorchester Abbey were not cast as a single complete ring, but were acquired over a period of 500 years. The first two were cast by different foundries, Exeter and Wokingham in 1375 and 1380; the next three in Reading in 1591, 1603, 1606. These five bells are subject to a protection order which means they cannot be recast and must be kept together as a complete ring and not rehung separately in different towers.

The period of change that happened during the early life of the oldest bells gives some pause for thought. Edward III died two years after the first bell was cast in 1375; a year after the second bell was cast saw the Peasants' Revolt. Chaucer published *The Canterbury Tales* in the 1390's; and in 1399 Henry IV was the first king since the Norman Conquest to use the English language at his coronation, finally restoring English to its place as the official language of the country. The Wars of the Roses

Timeline of the Abbey bells



The oldest two, and probably the third would have been first hung on simple spindles to be chimed. This system gave little control to ringers. Experiments with different ways of mounting bells to give greater control began during the sixteenth century in England.

Following the dissolution of the monasteries which saw the removal of their bells and the subsequent establishment of the Reformation, church bells began to be rehung using the latest technology. With this technology bells were mounted in connection with a full wheel with the bell rope running around the rim of the wheel with a stay and slider mechanism, to prevent the bell turning a complete circle. This gave the control of the bell which we use today to enable method or change ringing.

It is likely the rebuilding of the tower of Dorchester Abbey in 1602 provided the opportunity for the bells to be rehung using the new technology. If not then, then surely in 1651 when a sixth bell also cast in Reading was added.

The two most recent and lightest bells were cast in 1867 in Whitechapel, London. An elegant hand written note of the bell weights with a record of the casting of the new bells and the rehanging of the bells in new frames in 1868 appears to be an original note from the foundry. It still hangs on the wall of the ringing chamber along with other memorabilia.

came and went. Columbus sailed to the West Indies in 1492. The anti-papacy movement began and reached its culmination with the Reformation. And at the time of the casting of the third bell in 1591 Elizabeth I the last of the Tudors was beginning the final decade of her reign.

Although a well cast bell has a long life nevertheless bells require professional attention at intervals apart from the regular routine maintenance undertaken by the ringers themselves. Our bells were refitted in the 1950s with fresh bearings which made ringing easier and smoother. In 1987 the bells were lowered and sent to the Whitechapel foundry for retuning. The whole process took six months, but the wait was worth it for as well as the bells being safe the ring is now more melodic and pleasing to hear.

In addition to the normal Sunday service ringing, the bells will ring to celebrate the Dorchester Festival on May 3, so listen out for them then.

If you are interested in joining the bellringing team or just finding out more about us then the person to call is David Parker **01865 340402** (dlparker10@gmail.com)

**Diana Vass
Bellringer**

St George's Day Parade Dorchester on Thames

On Sunday 26 April the Thames Chiltern District Scouts will be holding their St George's Day Service in Dorchester Abbey. The Parade will set off from the Recreation Ground at about 2.15pm accompanied by the Wantage Silver Band and will travel the length of the High Street to the Abbey. After the service the parade will return along the High Street.

We do hope that you will enjoy seeing the parade and apologise for any inconvenience caused as the High Street will be closed to traffic during these periods.

Scouting is very popular with young people in this area and we are expecting a good turnout. Thames Chiltern District covers most of South Oxfordshire.

**Richard Booy
Scouts District Commissioner**



Culham & District Horticultural Club

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

Wednesday 15 April 2015

Joseph Atkin, Head Gardener at Aberglasney Gardens, will give an illustrated lecture on plants from Yunnan. There will be some plants for sale.

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**

RULES

1. The Show is open to any person residing in Dorchester-on-Thames, Burcot, Drayton St Leonard and Berinsfield.
2. No exhibitor may exhibit more than one exhibit in each class, excepting Classes 14 & 21, where three entries may be made.
3. All entry forms, together with fees, to be submitted **not later than 7.00 pm on Thursday evening** before the show.
4. Entries in Classes 16 & 17 must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least the previous 4 months. Other plant classes with the exception of Classes 23 & 24 must have been grown by the exhibitor. Classes 25 - 39 must be made by the exhibitor.
5. Exhibitors must provide their own dishes, stands etc. Every care will be taken of the exhibits but the committee will not be held responsible for loss or damage.
6. On the relative merits of the exhibits, the opinion of the judges shall be final, but the committee reserves to itself the decision on any other points in dispute.
7. The Committee reserves the right to inspect any competitor's garden or allotment before or after the day of the show.
8. **All exhibits for competition must be staged between 9.00 am and 10.30 am on the day of the show.**
9. All competitors must leave their exhibits on show until after the Prize giving and raffle and clear immediately afterwards.
10. Any protests must be made in writing before 3.00 pm on the day of the Show, accompanied by 50p. deposit which shall be forfeited to the Committee if the protest is not upheld and found to be groundless.
11. Any exhibitor infringing any of these rules shall forfeit all claims to any prize.

Definitions

Class 1: Long trumpet: one flower on a stem; trumpet as long or longer than petals.
 Class 2: Short trumpet or cup: one flower on a stem; trumpet shorter than petals.
 Classes 23 & 24: Any natural material may be used.

Please label varieties whenever possible
Please note Rule 4

DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES SPRING FLOWER SHOW

and
Plant Sale/Raffle
 in
DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL
 on
Saturday 11th April 2015

Viewing 2.30 pm- 4.00 pm

Prizes will be presented at 3.40 pm
 followed by Raffle Draw

Exhibitors will be competing for:

The Robert Soffe Cup (Long Trumpet Daffodils)
 Short Trumpet Daffodil Cup
 The Helen Belcher Cup (Pot Plant)
 Vegetable Cup, Spring Flowers Cup
 Domestic Classes Cup
 Britain in Bloom Cup
 The Blackwell Photography Cup
 Certificates for Floral Art and Vegetables
 Mary Tame Handicraft Plate

Class

- 1) Daffodils, long trumpet 1 variety - 5 stems
- 2) Daffodils/Narcissi, short trumpet or cup, 1 variety - 5 stems
- 3) Daffodils/Narcissi, miniature, 1 variety - 5 stems
- 4) Daffodils, double - 5 stems
- 5) Narcissi, multiple heads - 5 stems
- 6) Narcissi/short trumpet daffodils - 5 stems, 1 of each variety
- 7) Tulips, 1 variety - 3 stems
- 8) Blossom from a tree or shrub, 1 variety - 3 sprays
- 9) Blossom from a tree or shrub, 3 varieties - 1 stem each
- 10) Polyanthus - 5 stems, mixed colours allowed
- 11) Pansies/Violas - 5 stems, mixed colours allowed
- 12) Hellebores, 1 variety - 3 stems.
- 13) Hyacinths, 1 variety - 3 stems
- 14) Any other spring flower, 1 variety - 3 stems (up to 3 entries)
- 15) Mixed Spring Flowers, 5 stems

- 16) Plant not in flower, in pot not more than 10" - not exhibited in last 3 years.
- 17) A flowering plant, bulb or bowl of bulbs of same variety, not more than 10" pot.
- 18) Leeks - 3
- 19) Stored Onions - 5
- 20) Stored Shallots - 7
- 21) Any other vegetable or fruit (up to 3 entries)
- 22) Rhubarb - 3 sticks

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

- 23) Centrepiece for a dinner table (space 18" x 12" x 9")
- 24) Spring posy in a container of your choice (space 6" x 6" x 6")

COOKERY

- 25) Decorated coffee cake with butter icing
- 26) Lemon drizzle cake
- 27) Chelsea buns - 3
- 28) Savoury pastry
- 29) Flap Jacks - 5
- 30) Pot of marmalade

PHOTOGRAPHS - all unmounted and not exhibited previously.

- Conventional or digital camera
 (Must not be manipulated or enhanced in any way). Max 8" x 6"
 31) Winter scene
 32) Subject beginning with 'S'

Image manipulation - up to A4
 33) Any subject

HANDICRAFTS

- 34) Any item of needlecraft, incl knitting
- 35) Any other handcrafted item

CHILDREN (Please state age on exhibit)

- Aged 9 and over:
 36) Decorated biscuits - 4
 37) Hand made sock puppet
- Aged 8 and under:
 38) Peppermint creams - 5
 39) Draw a monster!

ENTRY FORM

Please return no later than **7.00 p.m. Thursday, 9th April** to: Christina Stores, 55 High Street

Class Nos

Full name of Exhibitor

Address

Telephone No Entry Fee 5p. per Class

Email address (for Flower Show reminders and schedule only)

Dorchester in the media

February 11 saw the broadcast on ITV of the first Midsomer Murders featuring Neil Dudgeon as Inspector Barnaby and shot in Dorchester. The episode is called 'The Ballad of Midsomer County'. It included many shots of the High Street, exterior shots of the Fleur de Lys, and exterior and interior shots of The George Hotel were also prominent.

The storyline was based around a folk music festival held in the village of Lower Crosby. If that has prompted anyone to think that a folk festival is just what we need, too, then I urge you to think of the body count that seems to go with it.

The Crown at Sydenham provided the inside shots of The Captain Farrell and Nettlebed Village Hall the festival interiors..



The High Street looks unusually empty, both of traffic and parked cars. Where are all the festival-goers?



The Fleur de Lys dressed up as 'The Captain Farrell', whilst The George Hotel masqueraded as...The George Hotel.



Saturday 11 July 2015 Save The Date!

The team that transformed the Village Hall to bring you Trafalgar Night, Bond Night and The St George's Day Dinner now invite you to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the publication of 'Alice in Wonderland'.

A Themed Dinner, Fancy-Dress, Games and Entertainment with catering by The White Hart will make this yet another Dorchester evening to remember.

Full information will be available in May but make a note of date now!

A singer introduces himself

My name is Ben and my wife, son and I recently moved to Dorchester on Thames.

I have worked in the charity sector for the last 8 years but singing is my real passion. I run a choir in Maidenhead and am a member of the acclaimed vocal group; Quire Voices. I am a classically trained singer and have worked with various professional organisations such as the Welsh National Opera and the BBC. I have worked with some of the vocal world's leading singing practitioners and have experience in teaching 1-2-1 vocal tuition as well as group/ choral works.

As a new resident in Dorchester on Thames I would like to offer my services to anyone looking to develop or enhance their singing technique.

Please contact me on **01865 341248** or **07450232193** for further details.



D.A.D.S.

A note for your diaries:
'DADS'

(Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society)
presents the 'best comedy award' winning
play by Alan Ayckbourn, 'Man of the Moment'
24, 25, 26 and 27 June 2015

Weekend Walkies
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ask for James

Help required walking your dog?
My sons and I live in the village
and would like to volunteer!

james.dollar@sharp.eu

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Our next films, Spring 2015:



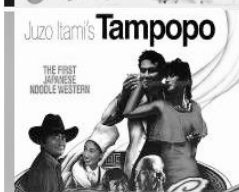
'71 (2014)
Wednesday 25 March 2015

British historical action film set in Northern Ireland. A young British soldier (Jack O'Connell) must find his way back to safety after his unit accidentally abandons him during a riot in the streets of Belfast.
Director: Felix Herengren
Starring: Jack O'Connell



Casablanca (1943)
Wednesday 29 April 2015

One of the most beloved American films, it is the story of Rick Blaine who owns a nightclub in Casablanca, discovers his old flame Ilsa is in town with her husband, Victor Laszlo. Laszlo is a famed rebel, and with Germans on his tail, Ilsa knows Rick can help them get out of the country.
Director: Michael Curtiz
Starring: Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman and Paul Henreid.



Tampopo (1985)
Wednesday 27 May 2015

A Japanese comedy film. It is the story of a pair of milk-truck drivers (Tsutomu Yamazaki, Ken Watanabe) help a restaurant owner (Nobuko Miyamoto) learn how to cook great noodles.

Director: Juzo Itami

www.didcotfilmclub.org.uk / www.cornerstone-arts.org
Tel: 01235 515144

A swan dropped in

On Monday 2 March at about 8am we heard a tremendous bang. I started to look around the house and then, through the study window, I was surprised to see a beautiful swan sitting just there, under one of the apple trees. It was very windy that morning and he (it was a he) must have misjudged the height of our roof, or been buffeted, and ended up in our garden, which is fenced or hedged all round, and there are a few trees.



There was no way he could leave without help!

The RSPCA phone line didn't work and the RSPB didn't answer - but a call to Geoff Russell's home gave a lot of help and, using modern technology, we were soon on the track of "Swan Life-Line". After a few conversations we knew that Albert Honey was on his way (from Faringdon).

We tried to reassure the cat that all would be well and that this huge bird would soon have left his domain. The cat decided to observe from a strategically chosen window sill. Albert arrived about 10.30 and within a few minutes the swan, which had been showing signs of distress earlier, was in Albert's gentle clutches and being trussed (wings

and legs). Then the stroking began and the quiet whispers and the swan soon became very calm - so we were able to take photographs. Into the hatchback boot he



went and driven away to the fishing lake off Drayton Road - no doubt his home because Albert phoned us later to say that, when the swan was released, he had soon swum over to the island. He had watched the swan for a while, afterwards, and was sure that all would be well.

If you ever find one of these wonderful birds in trouble, the telephone number for **Swan LifeLine** is **01753 859397**.

Alan Isherwood



Reducing our food foot-print

Did you know that by the time it gets to your plate, your Sunday lunch could have clocked up over 6500 miles across several continents? Food is something we all have in common but many of us just don't have the time to think about where our meals come from and how far the ingredients have travelled. With this in mind, environmental learning charity Earth Trust is encouraging everyone to eat locally in 2015 - one day a week starting this Friday.

Earth Trust is launching a series of videos on its blog - Our Footprint - containing advice and information on shopping locally, eating seasonally, and even growing your own. Making a switch to local food has numerous benefits for you, your community and the environment: it can be fresher, tastier and cheaper, plus you'll be directly supporting the local economy; there is also less processing and transportation required.

"We're asking people to take part in our Friday Footprint Challenge! Once a week, try sourcing your entire evening meal from local producers. There are an array of farmers' markets, farm shops and 'pick your own' places out there so it may not be as difficult as you might think. Visit our website and see what our Farm Step businesses are growing - there's fruit, veg, salad and meat being produced right here on the Earth Trust Farm," added Jayne.

Members of South Oxfordshire Sustainability (SOS) are keen to take up the challenge.

"Local food is a really important issue for us; we're looking forward to taking part and helping to spread the word about local producers," said John Gordon, Chair of SOS.



Hempcroft Allotment News

We allotment people have an interest in excrement, which over the centuries has been used to improve soil structure so that the soil holds more nutrients and water, and therefore becomes more fertile. When obtained from cows it is generally called cow dung, when obtained from horses it is generally called horse muck, and when obtained from chickens it is generally called chicken manure. What we do not like is that which is derived from dogs, for which I shall use its more offensive name, dogshit.

My own allotment is alongside the public right of way path that runs north-south on the eastern side of the Hempcroft. I have found dogshit on the allotment which is clearly from a dog running free and not on a lead. I have had an open topped compost bin alongside the path for some years and over the past week I have been emptying it and digging the contents into the soil. At different levels in the bin I have come across a number of small black plastic bags containing dogshit which have been placed there by passing dog walkers rather than being disposed of responsibly.

At the last Allotment Society AGM the issue of dogs on the allotments was raised and discussed. We grow food for human consumption on the allotments and so can I ask that dog owners bear this in mind when taking their dogs onto the Hempcroft Allotments.

Edward Metcalfe

Would you like to know more about your local school?

Pupils at Dorchester St Birinus Primary School:

- are part of a friendly and welcoming school at the heart of a historical and fascinating community
- have the opportunity to learn a wide range of musical instruments, including piano, violin, cello and double bass
- have weekly swimming lessons at Abbey Sports Centre
- have extra maths lessons when appropriate
- enjoy French lessons from class one onwards
- take part in a variety of after-school clubs, such as drama, football, athletics, maths and tag rugby
- 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

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St Birinus School News

We started Term 4 with a special visitor – Tracy the donkey from Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary, Brightwell. The children were able to learn about Tracy's life and how to look after a donkey. It was a great start and has helped us to start our writing theme throughout the term,



such as writing instructions of how to look after a donkey and an eyewitness recount of Palm Sunday events.

Congratulations to Sam Phillips, Leon Absolom and Zachary Fowler who are our Writers of the Month for February – these are the children who have shown either good progress in their writing or a piece of writing has really caught the imagination of their teacher during the month. Well done to them!



World Book Day in March gave us the excuse to dress up as our favourite book character for the day; it was fantastic to see the variety of different characters walking around the school. There was also a photo competition of extreme reading, where the children had their photograph taken whilst reading in unusual places at home or during their holidays, this was won by Olivia Amott, who was reading whilst bouncing on her trampoline. I was surprised at the variety of places the children found to read – they were certainly inventive! During the day, each class had the opportunity to have DEAR (Drop everything and read) time during the day, also the Year 6 children visited the Pre-school to read with the children

Two of our Year 6 girls, Molly Ferris and Zoe Diggle spent the weekend of 7/8 March with their families baking cakes to hold a cake sale at school on the week of Comic Relief. Their fantastic efforts with some additional cakes from welcome sources raised £74 for Comic Relief, which was brilliant and I am really proud of their hard work and their dedication to raise the money for this worthy cause. The Comic Relief theme was carried on at the end of the week, with a non-uniform day.



Russell Leigh
Headteacher

Dorchester St Birinus CE Primary School



Pre School

The term has flown by! And it has been a busy one; what with creating Mother's Day cards and gifts, making chocolate truffles, the Easter bonnet parade and even going to the moon and back, our busy toddlers are ready for the holidays (never mind the staff)!

We look forward to a fresh and bright new term and hope to reflect this in a clean and newly painted hut! The setting exterior is looking rather tired and grubby so with all the fantastic outdoor toys and activities the children have such fun with, the tired walls should no longer let us down.

We have started preparations for our Open Day on May 7 which, given our 'outstanding' Ofsted rating, will no doubt be a busy one!

Matthew Kestner
Chair



Tennis Club News

We are all very excited to see the start of the 2015 Tennis Season and we hope to see many villagers come and share the excellent tennis, netball and five-a-side facilities at the recreation ground.

Tennis Coaching

The wonderful Josh Crossley from Growing The Game will be back this year commencing 21 April.

Tuesday 3.30-4.00pm Preschool drop-in tennis, £3 per session

Tuesday 4.00-5.00pm Junior session 1, £72 for 12 week course

Tuesday 5.00-6.00pm Junior session 2, £72 for 12 week course

Tuesday 6.00-7.00pm Junior session 3, £72 for 12 week course

Tuesday 7.00-8.00pm Teenagers/adults drop-in, £7.50 per session

On Friday mornings at 10.00am, Jay Henley from Warborough will continue to give excellent tennis coaching and cheeky banter, £10.00 per session, drop-in.

Please contact Claire Andersson

Claire@claireandersson.co.uk to sign up.

Club Sessions

All players of all standards are welcome at our sessions. Dust off your racquet and come and have a knock about.

Sunday from 10.30am, mixed adults

Tues. from 8.00pm after tennis coaching, mixed adults

Wed. from 10.30am, ladies session

Fri. from 11.00am after the tennis coaching, mixed adults

Friday evening from 7.00pm followed by beers in The White Hart

Spring Tournament April 26 from 2.00pm

Join us for friendly mixed doubles on Sunday 26 April. Don't worry if you don't have a partner, we will fix you up. Open to members and non-members.

£6 entry pp including afternoon tea, cakes and Pimms.

Claire Andersson
Tennis Club Chair
Tel: 341455



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Focus on...the Dorchester Festival

Only once every two years do we get the opportunity to talk about the Dorchester Festival, so this month that is what we are focussing on. Dorchester News has been talking to Steph Forman, Festival Director, to find out a bit about the history and aims and organisational challenges of the festival as well what treats are in store for us.

The 2015 Festival will be the sixth, the first having been in 2005. At that time the refurbishment of the Abbey had been fairly recently completed, when heating had been installed, along with the vestibule, the cloister gallery and other improvements. The main purpose of that first festival was to showcase the Abbey and advertise it as South Oxfordshire's biggest indoor space for concerts and events. This would, it was hoped, generate additional income for the Abbey. More than 3,000 people attended, and the stream of events that have taken place in the Abbey since then are a testament to its success.

However, the team realised that here was an event that not only brought the village together but had potential to raise money for local charities. And so began a pattern of working with a different local charity each time. The first to benefit, in 2007, was Helen & Douglas House. Most recently in 2013 Footsteps was the beneficiary and this year it will be PACT (Parents and Children Together) who support families where children are fostered or adopted. To date, over £60,000 has been raised.

Choosing the right charity each time can be difficult. Clearly the Festival team want it to be local, and it needs to be one which will really enter into a partnership with the Festival so that there is a mutual benefit. This means that it must be small enough for the Festival to be important to it – a large charity would probably just accept the money as just another donation. But they also need to be careful that it is not so small that money raised distorts their income flow, which can cause problems for the charity. You'd think that it might be difficult to find one, but not so. There is a queue of charities hoping for support and the team's skill is in choosing the right one.

Nearly forty events over the ten day festival period take a lot of organising. In addition to deciding what to have, a timetable has to be organised and venues determined. The cookery demonstrations require people's kitchens to be appropriated. Some events have their own committees to look after them such as the Big Bash, the Food Fair and the Fun Run.

Then there is the marketing. This involves the design, printing and distribution of 12,000 programmes, 10,000 leaflets, as well as creating a website, and setting up and maintaining twitter and facebook accounts. A crucial ambition is to get the Festival onto local radio. That should be helped this year because BakeOff Demonstrator, Christine Wallace, is a Radio Oxford presenter.



Steph and team unfurl the banner.



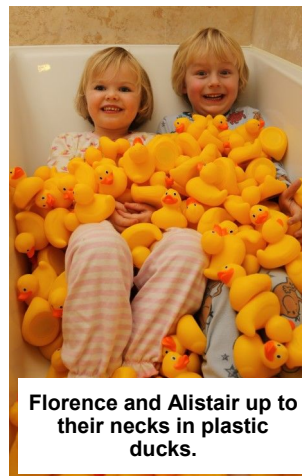
The logistics of the refreshments are equally daunting. Steph expects over 1300 pieces of cake to be eaten, each of those with at least one cup of tea. Bakers of the cakes have to be found as do the people to pour the tea.

Around 150 people are involved in setting up and running the Festival, in one way or another.

To co-ordinate all of this takes a lot of Steph's time and energy, although the latter is something she is rarely short of. She compares the Festival to giving birth: having just done it, you swear never again; but after a while you think it was well worth it and you'll give it another go. As a mere man, I couldn't possibly comment.

The events that stand out for Steph from previous Festivals include Phil Selways' drumming workshop, when 46 sets of drums almost blew out the Abbey's windows; Michael Morpurgo holding a large audience of children entranced for an hour, and then answering their questions for a further hour; and the Tallis Scholars.

And they, The Tallis Scholars, are back this year. Currently they top the classical music charts with their new album Tintinnabuli which they will be performing in the Abbey on Sunday 3 May. Not to be missed.



Florence and Alistair up to their necks in plastic ducks.

All organisers of events are nervous, even anxious, about bringing in sufficiently large audiences to cover their costs and I am sure the Festival team is no exception. Discounts for early booking are a tool frequently used to ease this nervousness and this year this type of discount has been offered on all events. And ticket sales have been very strong. With six weeks to go Steph and her team know that costs are going to be covered which means that money will definitely be raised for the charities. That takes a lot of pressure off them as

they head for opening night.

But what is new this year? The Festival can't survive just on old favourites, as much as they are loved. Each festival needs something new.

The Big Bash party is new, replacing the more formal Ball of previous years. Other new events include the duck race on the Thame, for which entrants can paint their own duck; and a Scarecrow Trail, in which everybody in the village can join. Both of these sound great fun.

The highlights are likely to be numerous, but must include The Tallis Scholars; singing with John Rutter; the Comedy Night; Britain's Got Talent semi finalists, Out of the Blue; Harry Bird and the Rubber Wellies; the cookery demonstrations; the Food Festival; Ben Morris; the BBC Elstree Band and Military Wives Concert, and more.

Once again Steph and the team have lined up a great ten days when we can all enjoy ourselves and raise much needed money for a very good cause.



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Earth Trust April Events

Easter Outdoor Fun!

Sunday 5 April, 10am-2pm

Drop in for our Easter bunny hunt; bring an egg to boil on the fire, paint it and roll it down the Wittenham Clumps! £4 donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

Come Out & Play... at Mowbray Fields

Monday 6 April, 2pm-4.30pm

Drop in for a free afternoon of fun, where we'll be exploring, playing and discovering. Meet at the Mowbray Road entrance to the reserve (Mowbray Fields Nature Reserve, Mowbray Road, Didcot, OX11 8SS). Free, thanks to funding from TOE2.

Woodland Adventure

Wednesday 8 April, 10am-12pm

An expedition for 5-8 year olds. Use your detective skills to discover our site, where we'll explore, build and play. £4 donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

Discover and Play

Friday 10 April, 10am-12pm

Forest School for pre-school children. Join us for a morning of play and discovery in our woodlands. Forest School offers hands on learning experiences in a natural environment.

£4 donation per child, free for accompanying adults(s). No need to book.

Heritage Skills Taster Session: Green Woodworking

Saturday 11 April, 10am-3pm

Find out more about working with wood and try making your own dibber or spatula. Free; booking advisable: volunteering@earthtrust.org.uk or **01865 409413**.

Heritage Skills Taster Session: Blacksmithing & Other Firecraft

Saturday 18 April, 11am-3pm

Ironwork sessions with the blacksmith are already fully booked (reserve list available) but you are welcome to come and watch and try out other fire related crafts such as pewterwork and charcoal making. Free; more information: volunteering@earthtrust.org.uk or **01865 409413**.

Introduction to Bike Mechanics

Tuesday 21 & Wednesday 22 April, 6.30pm-9.30pm

Get to grips with all the basics of how your bike works, how to give it a thorough check up, fix a flat, index your gears and sharpen up those brakes. No experience necessary; suitable for adults and teenagers. £60 (for the two sessions); booking essential: admin@earthtrust.org.uk or **01865 407792**.

Newts, Frogs and Toads

Friday 24 April, 7.45pm-9.30pm

Use nets and torches to search for newts, frogs and toads, with experts Ben Carpenter and Geoff Moxon. Find out more about the amphibians living in Little Wittenham Wood – don't forget your wellies and a torch! £5 adult, £2 child, FREE for Earth Trust Friends; booking essential: admin@earthtrust.org.uk or **01865 407792**.

More information can be found on our website www.earthtrust.org.uk.

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

Hurst Water Meadow Trust News

What's been happening on the Hurst

There has been much activity on the meadow over the winter months. Trees and scrub have been cut back, part of a hedge restored, the river opened up and the beach area around the oak tree cleared. Work on trees and scrub, unless for health and safety reasons, has now stopped until the autumn to allow birds to nest.

Overy Mead Piece

At the time of writing we believe we are days away from completing the purchase of this strip of land which will connect Old Bridge Meadow with the Thames Path.

Grazing the Hurst Water Meadow

We have been awarded a grant of £5,000 from TOE2 to help us erect fencing and gates around part of the meadow. In the past we have struggled to find a home for the hay. Andrew Townsend, a local farmer, has agreed to manage the hay cut for us, take the hay and then graze the meadow with his Hereford cattle. This traditional method of managing a water meadow should see an improvement in the variety of wildflowers, ensure that the hay is used locally and significantly reduce the Trust's costs and management time.

What next?

Apart from implementing plans for Overy Mead Piece and grazing the Hurst, our major project for the spring and summer will be to take a look at all of our footpaths (over two kilometres to manage) and see how we can improve them.

- Thanks to a generous gift three new rural seats should soon appear on the Hurst, and a new set of logs be placed under the oak tree for family and school visits.
- We will continue to invest in training, and scything and hedge laying courses are planned. This will help us to develop traditional land management skills which we can then share with others.

And there are plenty more ideas in the pipeline to help make the community meadows more enjoyable, while at the same time increasing biodiversity.

How you can help

To make all this happen we face the challenge of raising money and encouraging volunteers to join us. But little things like removing litter and dog mess, coming forward with constructive suggestions and spreading the word, all contribute.



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Gillian Johnson

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JERALD

Keith Owen 1926-2015

Keith was born in Guildford on 25 October 1926. He was one of four children with an older brother Bob, a sister, Sheila, and a younger brother, Phil.

He struggled to get the grades at school – but not for lack of brain power. He suffered from two things: he was shortsighted and... stubborn. Not wanting to wear glasses he cheated the school eye test by memorizing the letters on the chart before his turn. It was only after his National Service medical some eight years later that he was shown what corrected vision really looked like – he got his first pair of glasses soon after!

His first job was at RHS Wisley when he was 15; a research project on frost damage to fruit trees. He loved the work, using every minute to try and better his education. One book there particularly captured his imagination: *Calculus Made Easy*. He worked through all the exercises in his lunchtime. Realizing his potential, his boss Mr Cornford managed to get Wisley to pay for him to go to evening classes.

Keith started at the Technical College in Guildford when his time at Wisley came to an end, and went on to complete pre-university studies there. He was offered a place at the Sir John Cass College in London and graduated in 1948 with an upper 2nd degree in Chemistry.

He became an Analytical Chemist and learned that testing substances for quality doesn't always provide stimulation and job satisfaction. He continually looked at his prospects and adjusted his career accordingly.

His third job was a Works Chemist at Hanovia – a company that made gold for ceramics. Here he oversaw their move to a new factory in London. This went very well, except they were mysteriously losing gold in the process. Keith decided to sweep the chimney and analyse the soot. Fiction became fact when he discovered that London's streets were paved with gold – the missing gold was disappearing up the chimney and dispersing on the streets of Kennington!

In 1958 he joined Esso at Fawley Refinery and soon became an expert in bitumen, asphalt and petroleum products. His move to Esso Research, Abingdon in 1965 was the start of his role in coordinating gasoline research for the company. This involved a lot of international travel and two year-long assignments in Hamburg in 1972 and America in 1974.

Keith took early retirement in 1986 after nearly 30 years with Esso. He became an Automotive Fuel Consultant, lecturing at Oxford's College of Petroleum Studies and running courses all over the world. He also wrote the best selling *Automotive Fuels Handbook* for which he is still receiving royalties.

In early 1952 Keith and his friend Mark Prudence went Scottish Dancing in Guildford. This was not for any Caledonian thrill but more because they both knew there were always girls there! Keith fell for Patricia Johnson, a very accomplished Scottish dancer and they married in 1956 in Compton, near Guildford. Their marriage has been incredible - a fantastic creative team.

Brightwell and Dorchester played huge parts in their lives. They moved to Brightwell in 1965; a vibrant place to live with clubs, societies and some legendary parties! They lived there for nearly 30 years before thinking practically (as ever) that they should downsize a little. In 1994 they moved to Dorchester and have had a wonderful life here, getting involved in the history group, the museum and particularly enjoying the concerts and of course their walks around the village.

Although Keith's death was unexpected, it was also a tremendous release for him. Fighting his dementia was no fun. Yet he maintained his dignity to the end. He remained "the quiet man", a true gentleman with a dry sense of humour which thankfully never left him.



Footsteps Cerebral Palsy Awareness Week May 2015

Local charity Footsteps Foundation runs an annual awareness campaign to highlight the challenges and achievements of young people suffering from cerebral palsy and other neurological disorders. There will be something for everyone to get involved in and the charity is appealing to local schools, businesses and individuals to help make it a success.



Footsteps Cerebral Palsy (CP) Awareness Week will run from 9 to 16 May this year. The 15 May is **Footsteps Friday** and we are appealing to local schools and businesses to get involved. A simple cake-sale, raffle or non-uniform day could help to raise money and awareness of the Footsteps Centre's valuable work.

Do you think that your local school or place of work could get involved? Or, if you would like to make a personal contribution, you can fund a footstep by donating an hour of your salary at www.make-a-donation.org/campaign/donate-an-hour-2015 Every pound raised helps a child with cerebral palsy or other neurological conditions to access intensive physiotherapy.

Footsteps Foundation financially supports disabled children who would otherwise struggle to pay for the Footsteps therapy programme. The charity is committed to helping children with neurological disorders by providing access to intensive physiotherapy provided by the Footsteps Centre in Dorchester-on-Thames.

Please feel free to pop into the Footsteps Centre, call **01865 343851** or e-mail info@footstepsfoundation.com for more information about the awareness week. Flyers, posters and materials can be provided to help you get involved.

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Bachport Community Campaign Spring update

Bachport is a campaign group opposing the development of a massive gravel pit and concrete processing plant between Clifton Hampden and Culham in the greenbelt alongside the River Thames. The site contains a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) of national importance, vital and extensive floodplain protection for the surrounding villages and a beautiful open stretch of the Thames Pathway.

Planning Application Delayed

The planning application for the gravel pit from Hills Quarry Products was expected before the New Year but has been significantly delayed and is now not anticipated until the summer of 2015. A SAM cannot be dug up and has to be properly protected from any gravel extraction activities. The planning application needs to be completely re-worked to take account of the SAM, hence the delay.

This victory for Bachport shows what can be achieved by co-ordinated community action and drawing upon extensive local knowledge. We have won a battle but not the war – Hills still intend to submit a planning application. .

Committed Opposition

Bachport has recruited 600+ supporters, has the backing of residents in Dorchester, Clifton Hampden, Burcot, Long Wittenham, Appleford and Culham, and has raised a fighting fund of approximately £30,000 with a further £10,000 pledged as a contingency fund. These achievements reflect the high degree of concern felt across the community. Thank you to everyone who has registered their support and donated.

More at <http://bachport.uk/>

Bachport Committee

Vehicle crime prevention advice

If possible, park your car in a garage at night, or park to prevent access to either the front or rear number plate.

- Park in a safe public car park.
- If parking on a public road, park in a well-lit spot.
- Use theft resistant number plates (www.secureplate.com) which are designed to break apart if they are forcibly removed from a vehicle.
- Fit security screws. Simple anti-theft devices can be easily fitted with a screwdriver in place of existing screws but cannot be removed using standard tools (use correct security screws appropriate for the pre-existing number plate screw size and application). These are available from high street automotive accessories outlets.
- If you notice a car with different number plates on the front and the back or number plate missing, please let police know using the non-emergency number 101.

Source: Thames Valley Police Alert
www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Buses in Dorchester

It was good to see buses back in Dorchester News, with Ian Brace's editorial and the new format timetable to be printed each month. I agree that the X39/40 is usually the best way to get to Oxford or Reading, and both in terms of time and cost compares favourably with driving and parking. The by-pass is less attractive if you have heavy bags or are returning after dark and can't face the walk.

The new timetable layout for the village bus is easy to read. However I do think printing line by line gives the impression, at first, that there are lots of buses in and out of Dorchester. There aren't - apart from school buses, we have four buses to Wallingford and four buses from Wallingford on weekdays, with the northbound bus continuing to Abingdon or Didcot. That's eight buses a day through Dorchester (only five on Saturdays and none on Sundays). The fact is we have suffered severe cuts to the village bus service, as well as a change to less useful routes northbound. As recently as 2013 we had thirteen buses a day, and a few years ago we had a regular bus service to Oxford or Wallingford and return. Ian hopes that by using buses more we might get more buses, but Thames Travel have resisted all our pleas to divert some X39/40s through Dorchester, despite the efforts of the Bus Users Group.

Susan Symonds
Page Furlong, Dorchester

I hoped that showing how many buses there are will point out there are still some there to be used. And if we don't use those we have, what hope is there of persuading Thames Travel to improve the service? Ed

John Masefield House Call for drivers

John Masefield House runs a day centre in Burcot, supporting disabled adults from the local community. They are in desperate need of a volunteer driver to help drive the minibus to collect clients from their homes once a week and take them to and from the day centre. Full MIDAS training will be given. Just a clean driving licence is required. Apply to:

Liz Evans
Volunteer Co-ordinator, The Elms
Leonard Cheshire Disability
Telephone: **07961860410**
Email: liz.evans@leonardcheshire.org

John Masefield House Swimathon

On Saturday 21 February, Leonard Cheshire Disability's John Masefield House held a Swimathon fundraiser at Radley College Sports Centre. The Swimathon was well supported by RAF Benson and members of the Oxford University Air Squadron, who together with volunteers and supporters of the care home swam a total of 31 miles in two hours. All sponsorship money and donations will be used to purchase a wheelchair cycle for the use of John Masefield House residents.



Some of the swimmers who raised money for John Masefield House.

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CLEARVIEW
STOVES



WOODBURNING STOVES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Wallingford U3A

Our March speaker was Jill Carey, who was one of "Three Birders in the Bush". She began by assuring us that she was not a "Twitcher". Twitchers count birds, whereas Birders, she said, observe and study wild birds in their natural habitat. (The birds' habitat, that is) This dauntless trio took their camper van, binoculars and cameras for six months on a great six month sweep round Northern Australia, from Perth to Broome to Darwin, with a diversion to Alice Springs, and on to Brisbane.

The result, for us, was a reminder of how beautiful Australia is even away from the coast and into the vast Interior. The photographs of mountains, rivers, and huge skies and spaces were remarkable. Brilliantly coloured birds came extra, as did close-ups of plants, fruits, flowers and termites. A wonderful and exotic display of Australia for those of her audience who had been, and an incentive to those who had not been to get up and go if at all possible.

For your diary:

April 1 Mrs Judy Dewey: Wallingford: Medieval Town.

May 6 Dr.Gillian White: Chatsworth and the Cavendish Family 1550-1850

Our Programme of talks for 2015-2016 is now available on our website, as is the programme of outings for the next 8 months. Details of what we do can also be found on the website. www.u3asites.org.uk/wallingford or search: U3A Wallingford. Tel: Hermione on **01865 858024**

Our Meetings are held in Crowmarsh Village Hall at 2pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Visitors are made welcome. Tea and conversation after the talk. Come and join us.

Ewelme School

Ewelme School will be hosting teas and home made cakes on Sunday 26 April from 2.30pm to 5pm.

All proceeds go directly to the upkeep of this historic school.

Laura Gilroy

Friends of Ewelme School (FOES)



Sinodun Players

Life of Riley: 15 to 18 April 2015

Sinodun Players' spring production is *Life of Riley*, a dark comedy by Alan Ayckbourn,

When friends of fun-loving schoolteacher George Riley learn he has only months to live, they vow to make his final days as happy and carefree as possible. But their efforts result in questions regarding their own personal and marital relationships - while George is too busy enjoying himself, living the life of Riley. Despite being the title character, Riley is never actually seen, but is very much in evidence, his 'hippie Peter Pan' persona causing chaos and far reaching consequences. And, typical Ayckbourn, there is a final surprise.

When the play was first produced in 2010, Ayckbourn said that he had always wanted to write a comedy that finished with a funeral but got laughs along the way. And laughter is ever present as Ayckbourn, as always, cleverly observes the complacency, worries and angst of the middle classes.

Performances take place 15 to 18 April at the Corn Exchange, Wallingford at 7.45pm. Tickets are £10 www.cornexchange.org.uk.

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. 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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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Thurs 2 April The Furrow Collective—music 8:00pm. Prices: £15, (£13.50concs)</p> <p>Wed 8 April: Duck in the truck Ages 3-7 11:00 amd & 2:00pm Prices: £8 (£6 concs), £24 family</p> <p>Thurs 9 April: Comedy Club 18+ 8:00pm. Prices: £12, (£10.50 concs)</p> <p>Fri 10 April: Timandra Harkness: Brainsex Comedy 8:00pm Prices: £15 (£13.50 concs)</p> | <p>Tues 14 April: Open Mic Night 7.30pm. Free</p> <p>Thur 16 April: Robert Habermann: Sinatra—The Movie Years 2:00pm. Prices: £11.50, (£10.00 concs)</p> <p>Fri 17 April: 300-1 Monkey Poet Age 16+ 8:00pm. Prices: £11.00</p> <p>Sat 18 April: A Strange Wild Song Ages 8+ 7.30pm. Prices: £15, (£13.50 concs), £10 under 16s.</p> <p>Tue 21 April: Fusion Power: Within our grasp? Ages 16+ 7.30pm. .Prices: £2.50</p> | <p>Fri 24 April: Kathryn Roberts & Sean Lakeman 8:00pm. Prices: £15, £13.50 (concs)</p> <p>Sat 25 April: Andrew Lawrence: Reasons to kill yourself 8:00pm. £15, (£13.50 concs)</p> <p>Sun 26 April: Annabelle's Skirting Board Adventure Ages 3-6 2:00pm. Prices: £8, (£6.00 concs) £24 family ticket.</p> <p>For details of all events visit www.cornerstone-arts.org</p> |
|---|---|---|



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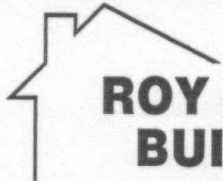
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Wallingford Archaeology Roman Oxfordshire

April's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be by John Smith. He will present **'Roman Oxfordshire'**.

Historian and archaeologist John Smith returns with a further talk, which examines the role and effect of the Roman Army in Oxfordshire.

Beyond the first century arrival of the Roman Army and administration, there is a continuing role for the Army in construction, peacekeeping, and recruitment. The soldier's equipment changes from 1st to 4th centuries. The important Roman military site at Alchester will feature throughout the talk.

This talk will be held on **Friday 10 April, 7.45 for 8pm, at Wallingford Town Hall**. Visitors (£3) are most welcome.

www.twhas.org.uk

Wallingford & District Art Club

Wallingford and District Art Club meets on Tuesdays, 7.30-9.30 pm at Centre 70, Goldsmiths Lane.

On 21 April, artist Robert Newcombe will demonstrate painting in an Impressionist style using gouache and you are most welcome to join us for what is always an entertaining and interesting evening (visitors £5, members free).

And why not come along to a FREE taster session at one of the untutored painting evenings we have on all other Tuesdays? Just bring your own materials and ideas. Or simply come to have a look round and a friendly chat. Do ring or e-mail me if you would like more information on this or on the other exciting demonstrations we shall be having each month.

tel **01491 825042**

toole.stephanie@yahoo.co.uk

Stephanie Toole

Wallingford Gardening Club Shrubs of Distinction

At the April meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, John Negus will talk about "Shrubs of Distinction". This will cover varieties prized for flowers, leaves, berries and bark.

Photo-journalist John Negus (Dip. Hort. Wisley) enjoys sharing his passion for gardening and other outdoor pursuits. He specialises in trees, shrubs and climbers, and lectures regularly. John broadcasts on Radio Surrey and Sussex, and on-board cruise liners.

The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm on Thursday 9 April.

Visitors very welcome £2.

01491 836867

Isabelle Darby



Wallingford Museum

'Living History' - the Roman Army

Wallingford Museum is pleased to present an extra event this year to coincide with schools' Easter holiday.

This special event will be a 'Living History' display of the range of equipment Roman legions used for body armour, weapons, pottery, clothing, boots and even the skin cleaning Strigil tool.

This event will be run by expert John Smith, and will include short talks, displays, and opportunity for lots of questions. All children will receive a Latin diploma!

Come along and learn why the Roman Army came to Oxfordshire and Wallingford, at the Museum on **Friday 10 April from 2pm to 5pm**.

Entry is by Museum ticket at the door - £4 per adult (which gives unlimited entry until November 28) but accompanied children are FREE.

Historic guided walks

By popular demand on **Saturday 11 April**, two historic guided walks have been arranged, which will be led by Judy Dewey (local historian and Museum curator).

At 11am there will be a **Castle history walk**, followed by a **Town history walk** at 2.30pm. Each walk lasts about 2 hours, and starts at the Museum. There is a charge of £5 for each walk. (*Unsuitable for dogs.*)

So, why not immerse yourself in the town's fascinating local history for the whole day and also visit the new **'Wallingford's Royal Castle Revealed'**, and **'Magna Carta and All That'** exhibitions at the Museum.

Just come along or contact Judy Dewey for details
tel. **01491 651127**

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Wallingford Museum Forthcoming events

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Fri 10 April, 1400 to 1700 | 'Living history' display about Roman Army |
| Sat 11 April, 1100 | Castle history walk |
| Sat 11 April, 1430 | Town history walk |
| Fri 15 May | 'A Night at the Museum' |
| Fri 26 to Sun 28 June | Civil War Re-enactment |
| Sat 18 July | 'Family Archaeology Day' |
| Sat 15 August | 'Medieval Day' |
| Fri 4 to Sun 6 Sept | 2-for-1 at Museum |
| Sun 6 Sept, 1100 | Wallingford historical walk |
| Fri 18 to Sun 20 Sept | - 'Celebrating Agatha Christie Weekend' |
| Sat 24 Oct | Conference (Castles of the Thames Valley) |



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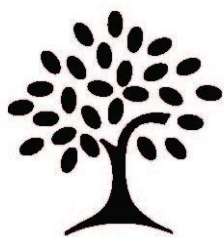
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Dorchester News online

To remind you that Dorchester News is available to be downloaded from the Abbey website each month (go to the homepage at: www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk and click on Dorchester News) and from the village website (go to www.dorchester-on-thames.co.uk and click on the Dorchester News tab).

Remind your friends and family who have moved away from the village that they can catch up with what's going on in Dorchester.

Corn Exchange Wallingford What's On April

CINEMA (performances start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. Tickets are £6 adults, £4 under-15s, NT Live screenings will differ, so check website or box office)

Wednesday 1 to Friday 3: **Unfinished Business** (15)
Tuesday 21: NT Live. **The Hard Problem**, Tom Stoppard's new play direct from the National Theatre at 7pm
Saturday 19, Monday 20: **Still Alice** (12A)
Friday 24: **Life of Riley** (12A)

Cinema Advance Notice

Saturday May 2 at 7.30pm. Classic black-and-white 1925 silent film **Phantom of the Opera** (PG) starring Lon Chaney accompanied by the Minima Quartet. The group, whose music is a contemporary interpretation of the on-screen images, has been described as one of Europe's leading bands accompanying silent films.
Duration is 77 minutes and all tickets are £10.

May 5. Direct from the Royal Opera House at 7.15pm, satellite recording of the Royal Ballet's **La Fille Mal Gardée**.

May 14. Live from the National Theatre, George Bernard Shaw's exhilarating **Man and Superman** starring Ralph Fiennes.

LIVE

Wednesday 15 to Saturday 18: Sinodun Players' production of **Life of Riley**, a comedy by Alan Ayckbourn at 7.45pm. Despite his impending doom, carefree school-teacher George Riley still manages to cause mayhem among his married friends.
Tickets £10 (see below for details).

Saturday 25. **An Evening of Magic and Music with Mr Alexander** at 7.45pm. The live show includes a film of Mr A's travels around Britain. Music, composed by Wallingford's own Maff Potts, is played by Mr Alexander's Ragtime Band.
Tickets £8 adults, £6 children

COMING UP

Tickets are on sale for two Friday Comedy Nights. On 8 May at 8pm **Jim Smallman** will present his knockout Edinburgh Fringe shows **Tattooigan** and **Let's Be Friends**. A double bill on 5th June features comedy circuit stars **Tom Allen** and **Carly Smallman**. Tickets £10, with £8 concessions for seniors.

Bookings can be made in person or by telephoning the box office, 01491 825000 (10am-2pm Fridays and Saturdays and evenings between 7 and 8pm) or online at www.cornexchange.org.uk. Please check website for any programme changes and ticket prices.



Refuse Collections

Fridays from 7.00 am.

Saturdays from 6.00am

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

Fortnightly: garden waste, recycling; non-recyclable waste

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Sat 4 April | Green |
| Sat 11 April | Black |
| Fri 17 April | Green |
| Fri 24 April | Black |

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 recycling centre at Oakley Wood (signposted off the A4130 Nettlebed/Henley road 1½ miles east) is open 8.00 am – 5.00 pm seven days a week.



Village Bus Services



From Dorchester (War Memorial)

| No. | To | Dep | Arrive | |
|-----|-------------|-------|--------|----|
| 97* | Didcot | 7.25 | 8.12 | NS |
| 114 | Abingdon | 7.49 | 8.18 | NS |
| 114 | Wallingford | 9.12 | 9.22 | |
| 97 | Didcot | 10.10 | 10.49 | |
| 97 | Wallingford | 11.22 | 11.32 | |
| 97 | Didcot | 13.10 | 13.49 | |
| 97 | Wallingford | 14.22 | 14.32 | |
| 114 | Abingdon | 15.48 | 16.13 | |
| 114 | Wallingford | 17.40 | 17.56 | NS |

To Dorchester (War Memorial)

| No. | From | Dep | Arrive | |
|-----|-------------|-------|--------|----|
| 114 | Wallingford | 7.30 | 7.49 | NS |
| 114 | Abingdon | 8.25 | 9.12 | |
| 97 | Wallingford | 10.00 | 10.10 | |
| 97 | Didcot | 10.50 | 11.22 | |
| 97 | Wallingford | 13.00 | 13.10 | |
| 97 | Didcot | 13.50 | 14.22 | |
| 97* | Didcot | 15.25 | 16.10 | NS |
| 114 | Wallingford | 15.38 | 15.48 | NS |
| 114 | Abingdon | 17.00 | 17.40 | NS |

NS= Not Saturday. No services on Sundays or Bank Holidays.
97* operates school days only.

Destinations at Didcot and Abingdon vary. Please check.

X39 and **X40** provide half-hourly service to Oxford, Wallingford and Reading from the bypass.

All buses operated by Thames Travel: www.thames-travel.co.uk or **01491 837988** except 97* operated by Whites: www.whitescoaches.com or **01865 340516**

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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

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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.3)
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.7)

Monthly:

2nd Thursday 7.30 pm Village Hall: **WI** (p.9)
3rd Wednesday 7.30 pm Village Hall: **Parish Council** (green p.1)
3rd Wednesday **Culham Horticultural** (p.11)
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

Deadline for May Dorchester News

All items must be sent by
Friday 10 April

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

Abbey Calendar April

Sundays

April 5 Easter
8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)
(Canon Sue Booy)
10.30am Easter Communion for the whole family
12.30pm Baptism
5pm Songs of Praise

April 12 Easter 2
8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)
(Canon Sue Booy)
10.30 am Sung Eucharist

April 19 Easter 3
8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)
(Canon Sue Booy)
10.30am Family Service
6.00pm Evensong

April 26 Easter 4
8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)
(Canon Sue Booy)
10.30am Sung Eucharist followed by APCM
Scouts' Service afternoon
7.00pm Taize@7

HOLY WEEK

Monday – Wednesday, 30 March – 1 April
8.15am Morning Prayer and 8pm Compline

Thursday, 2 April

8.15am Morning Prayer
6.30pm Shared meal, followed by Communion

Good Friday, 3 April

1pm – 3pm Devotion
6pm OSJ Good Friday concert

Weekdays

Every Tuesday

10.30am – 12 noon Coffee in the Abbey

Every Wednesday

9.30 am Holy Communion at Berinsfield Church

| | | |
|--------|---------|--|
| Tue 14 | 10.15am | Short Communion |
| Sat 18 | 3.30pm | Wedding of James Turner and Samantha Evans |
| Mon 20 | | WI Centenary Event |
| Thu 23 | | School Visit to Abbey |
| Thu 23 | 2.30pm | Service at the Cheshire Home |
| Sat 25 | 2.30pm | Group visit to Abbey |
| Thu 30 | 7.00pm | Rotary District 1090 concert |

Parish Registers

Funeral

13 February Keith Owen

Funeral at the Crematorium

10 March Kenneth Wetherell

Memorial Service

7 March Cedric Annesley Scroggs
12 March Linda Carol Levi

Holy Baptism

8 February Christopher David Frederick Treherne
15 February Nadia Silvestria Weisz
8 March Leona Faith Chloe Lamb

Your village Your Neighbourhood Plan

Many thanks from the Neighbourhood Plan team to all those residents who attended the open meetings in the Village Hall on 31 January. Feedback received both at the meetings themselves and then by subsequently completed response forms has been extremely useful. The team is now in the process of reflecting on that feedback and pressing on with the completion of the draft Plan, including appropriate amendments, ready for further review and consideration by residents, hopefully later in the year.

Richard Winslet

Parish Council Notices

Monthly Meetings

In April the Parish Council will hold its meeting on the second Wednesday which is 8 April. The venue will be the Village Hall and the meeting will start at 7.30 p.m. The agenda for the meeting will be displayed on village notice boards at least three clear days in advance. All are welcome to attend and, at the beginning of the meeting, may raise any matter of concern.

This is the last Parish Council Meeting before the Elections on Thursday 7 May. Elsewhere in this edition of Dorchester News is information about standing for election and registering to vote. Four of the current members of the Parish Council have announced that they will retire in May. Residents who might be interested in becoming Parish Councillors should contact the Clerk to discover what is involved. (See below for contact details.)

The newly-elected Parish Council will meet on Wednesday 13 May for its Annual Meeting which includes the election of the Parish Council Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2015/16.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place in the Village Hall on Tuesday 19 May commencing at 7.30. The agenda for this meeting, which will include the presentation of the Parish Council's draft accounts, will be posted on Village notice boards at least seven clear days in advance.

Please see the May edition of Dorchester News for more information.

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

Cllr Margot Metcalfe, the Chairman of the Council, can be contacted via
chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

More information about the Village is available at-
www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk



From your MP...

As I travel around and meet with members of Town and Parish Councils one of the topics that arises again and again is that of Neighbourhood Planning. A Neighbourhood Plan represents the first time communities have had a formal share in the planning system. Once adopted a Neighbourhood Plan carries weight in planning decisions and so it of enormous support to a community in ensuring that its vision for the future is met. Woodcote Parish Council has recent experience of how their Plan has been taken into consideration in reaching a planning decision in line with the community's wishes.

Some have criticised Neighbourhood Plans as being both beyond the technical competence and the budget of smaller communities. Neither of these is true. Plans do not have to be expensive and there is funding available to support plan making. I am delighted that the Minister for Housing and Planning has just announced that the current support funding will continue in the next financial year and also that a new £22.5 million support programme for 3 years from April 2015 has been set up. This will enable more communities to take up Neighbourhood Planning in their area.

I am very keen for infrastructure to be provided on a timely basis. A Neighbourhood Plan represents the first stage in allocating housing not the building of all the houses listed. Neighbourhood Plans can also set out exactly what is required in terms of infrastructure needed and the phasing of both. This will then steer the Infrastructure Delivery Plan which in turn will be used to seek financial contributions. Thus setting out the housing in a Neighbourhood Plan is an important starting point for this. In recent meetings with doctors and managers in GP Practices I have been surprised to learn that they are rarely involved in the Neighbourhood Planning process. I have encouraged them to change this. It is important that the implications on key services such as GP Practices are clearly understood and the need in relation to growth logged at this early stage.

I know too that Broadband provision is a hot topic and am thus delighted that thanks to government investment 20,311 properties across the Henley constituency now have access to superfast broadband and by 2017 a total of 23,098 homes and businesses here will have access. This puts the Henley constituency in the top 6% of constituencies in England receiving superfast broadband investment from the government. This is in addition to those who receive the provision through commercial providers.

Finally, as I write this month I have received news of the new Marriage Allowance that will enable married couples and civil partners to apply for an annual tax reduction of up to £212.

Email: howelljm@parliament.uk
Website: www.johnhowellmp.com

From your County Councillor... Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

The annual budget

On the 17 February, Oxfordshire County Council met to discuss and agree its annual budget. From 2010 to the end of 2015, the council will have achieved savings of £204 million, and savings are set to reach £292 million. The Council relies on grants from Central Government and with the Chancellor of the Exchequer indicating a further £49 billion reduction for Whitehall departments; Councillors expect a need for further savings.

With this in mind, the Authority has decided that the council tax will rise but that it will be kept low at 1.99%, equivalent to 46p a week for a Band D property. We have also begun investigating the potential for savings from a Unitary Authority and agreed to remove the position of Chief Executive as soon as this is legally possible.

The County Council has reduced the number of directors by 50% and senior management by 40% alongside an overall staff reduction of 30% but we remain committed to delivering the Living Wage for our lowest paid staff.

We are fortunate to have a real boost to the transport network and economic growth from the investment of millions of pounds in the City Deal and work with our partners at the Local Enterprise Partnership.

All Councillors have listened to comments from stakeholders and the Leader and Cabinet have been as transparent as possible with opposition leaders and taken on board comments from the Performance Scrutiny Committee. Following consultation, Councillors have decided to reinstate the £70,000 required for Community Action Groups.

Serious case review into child exploitation

Oxfordshire County Council fully accepts the findings of the serious case review into child sexual exploitation and apologises that the child protection system failed to prevent horrific abuse of six girls. The Independent Serious Case Review into Child Sexual Exploitation in Oxfordshire was published today (Tuesday 3 March 2015) by the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board. The serious case review followed a trial in 2013 in which seven men were imprisoned for a total of 95 years for their crimes which took place from 2005-2011. The conclusions of the report follow on from an inspection by children's services inspectorate Ofsted in 2014, which rated Oxfordshire's child protection system as 'good' and described its approach to tackling child sexual exploitation as 'high quality'.

Jim Leivers, Oxfordshire County Council's Director for Children, Education and Families, said: "If we knew then what we know now about the grooming process, this would have been stopped much sooner. Before Operation Bullfinch people didn't believe something this horrible could happen. We are under no illusions about child sexual exploitation now. This was organised crime on a massive scale that we had not seen before. Girls were systematically groomed to think their abusers were their boyfriends. Social workers tried to protect individuals, as the Serious Case Review acknowledges. However, in some cases children were treated as wayward teenagers consenting to sex. That was wholly wrong. Our whole approach has now changed – children are believed, we can spot the signs of grooming

and sexual exploitation and the Kingfisher team embodies that huge change." In addition to setting up Kingfisher, other action taken to tackle child sexual exploitation in Oxfordshire includes:

- 7500 staff now trained to spot warning signs of CSE and take action – including police, teachers, care workers
- Around 18,000 school children seen drama about child sexual exploitation and discussed the risks of grooming in class
- School nurses in every secondary school with role in identifying children at risk
- Building four new children's homes to keep most vulnerable children in Oxfordshire.

Oxfordshire chosen for new foster carers support scheme

Oxfordshire County Council is one of just eight authorities to benefit from a £1.6m Government grant to develop support 'hubs' for foster families, with dedicated workers offering respite care, peer support and social activities. The innovative 'Mockingbird Family Model' was first developed in the United States where it was shown to be successful in improving outcomes for looked-after children. The scheme is now being piloted in the UK, and will be delivered by leading fostering charity Fostering Network. The council's Cabinet Member for Children Education and Families Melinda Tilley said: "This is great news for our foster carers and looked-after children in Oxfordshire. Foster carers who look after teenagers often need extra help, and while we already have a range of support services available to them, the opportunity to recruit specialist staff and strengthen the support network for these families is hugely welcome." More information at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/

Berinsfield

More good news! The 40mph speed limit signs have been put in. The campaign for this has been a very long one. But it just goes to show that perseverance can pay! I hope everyone who uses the roundabout either by car, bike or on foot will now feel far safer than before.

A 40mph speed limit is a fundamental requirement before the Highways Department will consider putting in a pedestrian crossing. Now we have it, we can re-start the campaign for a pedestrian crossing. I know how much the village wants one, and as a result I was prepared to fund a crossing out of my Councillor's Budget. Sadly, that budget was cut back, and has now been completely withdrawn. So the challenge is on for all of us to find the money, which could be in the region of £35,000. I will do all I can to help.

New partnership with London Welsh to encourage healthy living among children

Schoolchildren across Oxfordshire have the chance to work with the county's Aviva Premiership Rugby Club London Welsh, thanks to a new partnership with Oxfordshire County Council. The 'Live Smart Tackle Heart' programme is a school-based intervention, delivered by the London Welsh Community team. It aims to encourage children toward a healthier lifestyle by building their knowledge of nutrition, exercise and hygiene, and engaging them in physical activity sessions. More information at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/