



# DORCHESTER NEWS

**May 2015**

**FREE TO EVERY HOME IN  
THE PARISH**

## Talking Point

The Great Festival of Easter is passed and as you receive this edition of the Dorchester News the Dorchester Festival is about to begin. It's appropriate that a Festival should take place in and around an ancient Church building in a community whose antecedents go to Roman times and beyond because the word Festival comes from the Roman era meaning a 'holy day'. Festivals were an important part of the Roman Calendar – as they are an important part of ours.

All festivals, public or private, religious or secular, are times of community celebration and thanksgiving and the Dorchester Festival sprang from the idea that we should celebrate the great building that our ancestors have left us by using it to its full and encouraging as many people as possible to 'step across the threshold...' Many people come to the Abbey to use and celebrate their God-given talents in many different ways – artists, craftsmen and women, musicians.

In May and June we have three festivals: the Dorchester Festival during the first week; then the English Music Festival, in its ninth year with us and now an established part of our annual routine; and the Festival of Voices, an even longer standing event. The Festival of Voices is very special to the children who perform in it and gives them a unique opportunity to work with professional conductors and sing a 'proper' concert in an inspiring venue. When couples enquire about marriage in Dorchester I have to ask them if they have a particular connection with the parish and many times I receive the reply 'I sang in Festival of Voices'.

Research about Festivals suggests that they have four aims and outcomes – Enlightenment, Empowerment, Economic Impact and Entertainment. The young people who have taken part have certainly experienced

the empowerment aspect. The Entertainment value of the Festivals here during the summer is undoubtedly and varies from the specialism of EMF to the broad spectrum that makes up the Dorchester Festival. I know that all these events have a positive economic impact on village businesses – and although the impact of visitors and their cars on the village is not insignificant we do our very best with promoters to ensure that they get the message out about using proper parking facilities – we are all sorry when the 'punters' don't listen! Another important economic impact of the Festival is the money that is raised for a different charity on each occasion – this year PACT – a 100 year old charity now devoted to Fostering and Adoption which grew out of a social work initiative by the Oxford Diocese in Reading.

I hope that you will find in the activity of these different Festivals something to interest, inspire and encourage you. Across the board people who believe in the importance of celebrating together spend enormous amounts of time organising these and other events and they want us to enjoy ourselves.

As for the appropriateness of all this fun in and around the Church – well, not only do Festivals have their ancient origin in religious events, I have it on good authority that Jesus loved parties, that God delights in seeing us use all our gifts and talents to the full, and that generous enjoyment of community is one of the greatest gifts we can offer one another – so enjoy the summer, enjoy the Festivals and enjoy one another's company.

I look forward to seeing you

**Rev. Canon Sue Booy**

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## Dorchester News

### Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Gail Thomas  
Distribution Co-ordinator  
Rosemary Day

### Copy Deadlines for Dorchester News

June edition 15 May  
July/August edition 12 June  
September edition 14 August

### Advert Deadlines for Dorchester News

One week before copy deadline

Those items in electronic form may be sent via e-mail attachment to [dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk](mailto:dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk). Anything people would like sent to newsletter editors for other churches in the Team should be sent to [admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk) by the 9th of the preceding month.

### Magazine Advertising Costs

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

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

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

## Editorial

There are a couple of items in this month's Dorchester News that are about opportunities to people who want to contribute to society. The first has passed. That was the chance to stand for the Parish Council. You will know from previous reports that all eight of the positions on our parish council are subject to election this year. Nominations closed on 9 April. The report on page 9 shows that only seven nominations were received. Isn't it sad that, despite the Parish Clerk's exhortations and encouragement, this village could not even rustle up enough people to fill the council? So there will be no election, and if someone ends up on the parish council who you think is not the right person, then that's your own fault.

The second community-based opportunity arises in Wallingford. As our local town, I am sure many of us have noticed the rise in the number of empty shops and have worried for the future of the town. SODC has taken the initiative of offering local businesses to have a pop-up shop. This is not only an opportunity to bring back some vibrancy to Wallingford centre but an opportunity to test out ideas you might have for making money. So if you run a business from home, you might be just the sort of person that SODC is looking for and this could be just the right opportunity for you. See the story on page 17. But hurry, by the time you read this, that offer will be at least six weeks old.

Finally, I can't sign off without mentioning the Festival which is about to start. Now here really is a chance to come together as a community, and for us all to enjoy ourselves. Bring it on!

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](mailto: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](mailto:southernarea@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

### BLOCKED DRAINS?

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

### REFUSE COLLECTION

Any residents whose household rubbish is not collected on the due date (see page 29) should contact the contractor direct. The number to call is **03000 610610** and the website [www.more recycling.co.uk](http://www.more recycling.co.uk)

### BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

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

### OPENING HOURS

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

### VILLAGE BUS SERVICES

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](http://www.traveline.info), and **0871 200 2233**, which also provides information about trains, London Underground and Overground and ferries throughout the UK.

### OXFORDSHIRE DIAL-A-RIDE

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

### SHOPMOBILITY

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

### CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

## Ascension Day 14 May

There will be a service for the Team starting at 7.30pm at Toot Baldon church. There will be the opportunity to stand outside and pray for the Team, and remember in a tangible way the Ascension.

## Team Service 10.30am 31 May

Everyone is invited to Drayton St Leonard for the Team Service on 31 May.

## Sue's Back

Reverend Sue would like to thank everyone for their kindness, concern and patience whilst she has been suffering recently. I can assure you that I am well on the road to recovery and (at the time of writing) confidently expect to be Abseiling on Saturday morning! I'd especially like to thank the staff at Berinsfield Health Centre.

**Rev. Sue Booyes**

## Lent Lunches

Many thanks to all those who supported the Friday lunches. £665.45 was generously donated. The money is to be sent to the Save The Children charity this year with a request that it used in the strife torn areas of the Middle East.

Thanks once again.

**Meg Fisher  
Dawn Dudley**



## Dorchester Village Hall 200 Club Prize Draw

Congratulations to the winners of the March draw.

1st Prize	£75	No. 47	Mrs B Edwards
2nd Prize	£45	No. 41	Mrs B Robinson
3rd Prize	£25	No. 49	Mrs R Taylor

The next draw will be in June, so join now for a chance to win!

The 200 Club is a quarterly prize draw to raise funds for the village hall. There are only 200 tickets and some are still available at £12 for the year (4 draws from when you join). To join, contact Elaine Moore on 340441 or email [admin@dorchesteronthamesvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorchesteronthamesvillagehall.org.uk) for a form.

## 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.



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
**wedding**  
faith • hope • love

**Please join us for a celebration of  
marriage at Dorchester Abbey**

**on  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2015  
10.30am**

**There will be an opportunity to  
remember your wedding day and  
renew your marriage vows.**

**Please bring photographs!**

## Calling all Brides and Bridegrooms

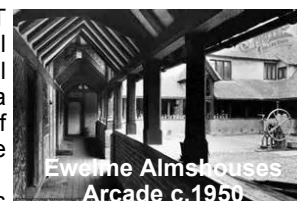
Once again as part of the Dorchester Festival we are holding a service celebrating marriage and would like to invite anyone who would like to celebrate their marriage and renew their vows. It doesn't matter where you were married but of course it will be very special to see our "own" brides and grooms on Sunday 3 May at 10.30am, so do join us if you can.

## Dorchester on Thames Historical Society Wednesday 27 May

7.30pm in Dorchester Village Hall (back room)

A talk on 'The Ewelme Almshouses' by Keith Johnson.

When he retired from the IT industry Keith accidentally fell in love with English Local History after attending a course on the Gentry of Late Medieval Oxfordshire held in the Dorchester Abbey Guest House. He is now researching into Early Modern Almshouses and is seeking to answer the question "were almshouses really for the aged poor?" in his DPhil thesis.



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

**Gail Thomas  
Chairman**

**1st—10th May**

# FESTIVAL NEWS

## YOUR FESTIVAL IS STARTING

As you read this the Festival will just be starting—50 brilliant events right on your doorstep in Dorchester. Please do come along and enjoy the fun—there really is something for everyone and some events are completely free!

## The Online auction is open for business



30 great prizes, including holidays, a dancing lesson with Strictly's Ian Waite, 2 WWII flying experiences, VIP tickets to Chelsea and cake!

This is a great opportunity to support our Festival charities and buy a special gift or get a bargain at the same time. See the website for details on auction lots—there's some really exciting stuff!



## Essential Village Events

### Dorchester Duck Race Sat 2nd May

Buy your duck from the Coop or from the tent on Tentertainment afternoon (where you can decorate it too!). Bring it to the tent by 4.30pm to enter, and then watch the finish line after 5pm to see the nail biting conclusion!

### Scarecrow trail Fri 1st—Sun 10th May

Please do enter your very own film-themed scarecrow (straw not essential)! 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! Entry forms available online or from Lily's.

Buy a trail map from Lily's or the tent and see how many you can guess and vote on the best scarecrow



### 5k Fun Run (/walk) BH Mon 4th May

Take part in the hugely popular 5k Fun Run (or walk). Enjoy the amazing scenery of a run through the historic water meadow and alongside the river and raise money for PACT by getting sponsorship. Bring the whole family – you can even bring the dog! A range of prizes for different categories

### Comedy Night Friday 9th May

The runaway success of the 2013 festival! Bring along some friends and a supper to share, buy your drink from the bar and settle down for a very funny evening. We are hugely lucky to have Angela Barnes who writes for the Now Show and News Quiz.



**Book on line from the website [www.dorchesterfestival.com](http://www.dorchesterfestival.com)  
through the ticket hotline 0333 666 3366  
or some events from Hair of Dorchester**

## 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](http://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.

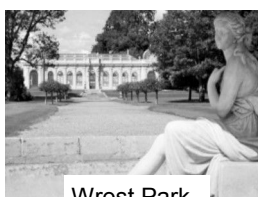
Cakes to be brought to the Food Festival tent by 11am for judging at 12.30pm by Christine Wallace followed by presentation of prizes. Fabulous baking prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Entry £2.

## 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**



## Come and enter the Dorchester 5K Fun Run on Bank Holiday Monday, 4th May at 11a.m.

**You don't have to run, come  
and walk, bring the whole  
family and even the dog!! You  
might even win a prize...**

**Application form on  
[www.dorchesterfestival.com](http://www.dorchesterfestival.com) or  
phone Jill on 01865 341696**

## 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](http://www.dorchesterfestival.com)

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

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*Chelsea Bidwell*

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Non-members are very welcome to attend our meetings although £4 donation is appreciated towards refreshments etc.

All meetings are held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the second Thursday in the month unless stated otherwise.

**14 May** at 7.30pm

A Varied life with Revd. Celia Carter.

**11 June** 7.30pm

Women in Disguise with Marguerite Osborn.

Other diary dates

**Sunday 12 July** 2.30-5.00 WI at the Abbey Tearooms  
Helpers are needed in the afternoon and please make plenty of cakes and scones.  
The monies are for our WI funds.

**Thursday 9 July** Summer Party by kind invitation of Pauline Kenway-Jackson.

**Thursday 20 August** The Mouse Trap at the Oxford Playhouse.

The recent talk by Gordon Rogers 'Churchill's Workshop' had us spellbound. He had researched in great depth giving us a greater understanding of the brilliance of our bomb makers in WWII. Without their inventions and Churchill's support and encouragement the outcome could easily have been very different.

### Very Urgent

More Committee members needed.

At the end of this club year four members of the Committee will be standing down:

President  
Treasurer  
Programme and Events Organiser  
Secretary

These members have over the years dedicated themselves to the club. Without these officers the club will cease to exist, we need your help.

We look forward to welcoming you all to our next meeting. Members please try to bring a friend/friends

Please feel free to contact any of the following:-

Pauline Kenway-Jackson President **01865 340746**  
Jill Love Publicity Vice President **01865 716557**  
Susan Jupp Treasurer Vice Chair **01865 341066**

### Chiropodist

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

**21 May**

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

## The 2015 Spring Flower Show

Many thanks to all who entered the show and to all those who turned out to support the event – we hope you enjoyed yourselves. Entries were of the usual high quality, but were a little down in numbers on previous shows, so do please enter the Autumn show which will be on **Saturday 5 September**.

John Metcalfe presented the prizes and spoke movingly about his life in the natural sciences and how it all began by growing vegetables with his father. John exhorted us all to get more children to enter the show, and he's right. After all, you can't eat an iPad...

### Prize winners in the children's classes were:

Decorated Biscuits – 4	Age 9 and over	1st Megan Sadler
Peppermint creams – 5	8 and under	1st Theo Beaman 2nd Carys Sadler
Draw a monster	8 and under	1st Theo Beaman 2nd Florence Townson

### Trophy winners were:

Robert Soffe Cup (Long Trumpet Daffodils)	Sue Graney
Short Trumpet Daffodil Cup	Stephanie Forman
Spring Flowers Cup (best flower exhibit other than daffodils)	Alison Myres
Vegetable Cup (best veg in the show)	John Myres
Britain in Bloom Cup (most points in all flower classes)	Alison Myres
Mary Tame Handicraft Plate (best piece of handicraft)	Sue Graney
Domestic Classes Cup (most points in domestic classes)	Stephanie Forman
Blackwell Photography Cup (best photo in the show)	Gaynor Roberts

**David Wilkinson**



## Hempcroft Allotment News

In last month's article on the benefits of certain types of manure I omitted to mention pig manure. Brian Timms has recommended pig manure supplied by a local farmer, Mr Young. I have spoken to Mr Young and he is happy to have his details placed in this article. He will deliver to the Hempcroft Allotment a Transit tipper truck load for £20. His telephone number is **07786 931481**. I am going to order a load myself and use it to enrich the soil in a couple areas which are going to be lying fallow this year. Obviously the best time to order and use is in the autumn. However it could be ordered now and mixed into the compost heap for use later in the year.

Five new members have recently joined the Society and have enthusiastically tackled the plots which they have taken on. We still have some plots vacant, in particular some quarter sized plots, and so if you feel that now is the time to engage in this rewarding activity then please contact me.

**Edward Metcalfe**  
**01865 340160**

# DADS

Dorchester Amateur Dramatic Society

# MAN OF THE MOMENT by Alan Ayckbourn

**Dorchester Village Hall**

24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015

## **Tickets**

available from

Hair, Lily's & Co-op in Dorchester,

Aisha Stores, Warborough,

Post Office, Clifton Hampden

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

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

or

Phone 01865 340792

Wednesday £ 8.00

Thursday-Saturday £ 10.00

This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.



## Your Parish Council

April will have been a busy month for Parish Councils all over the country, getting ready for the **local elections** taking place on the same day as the general elections, **Thursday 7 May**. One of the essential functions of a Parish Council is to pass the views of the community to the administrative tiers above them, and we exist to serve the village and improve facilities. *(There will now be no Parish Council election on 7 May—see below.)*

Hopefully, some residents may already have upgraded to the new **faster Broadband connections** now available in many parts of the village. If you are unsure if this is available to you, just log on to the BT website with your telephone number - the website will tell you if faster speeds are available in your postcode area and what packages are available.

More village improvements this month with the addition of two new AEDs - **Automated External Defibrillator**. An AED is used in cases of life threatening cardiac arrhythmias, and is designed to be used by a layperson. The first AED has been sited at the front of the White Hart, just outside the sliding doors on the right hand side. The second AED has been sited on the front of the Pavilion in the recreation ground. Training is being arranged for anyone who would like to attend so please look out for posters around the village, and on the website for dates and times. The AEDs will need to be checked on a regular basis so if any villager would like to take on this quick, but essential, task please make contact through the village website.

The date has also been set for the **Village Firework Display - Thursday 5 November** - easy to remember! More details in the coming months, but if you are willing to help shake a collection bucket, make some soup, cook some sausages, etc. please make contact through the village website.

Lastly, please don't forget about this year's **Annual Parish Meeting - Tuesday 19 May**, 7.30pm in the main Village Hall.

### Parish Council Election 2015

There have been seven nominations to fill the eight places on Dorchester Parish Council and the following candidates will therefore be declared elected unopposed:

**Andersson**, Claire, 14 Watling Lane;  
**Graney**, Susan Jane, Whitegate House, The Limes;  
**Hill**, Christopher John, 7 Bridge End;  
**Howells**, Val, 89 Abingdon Road;  
**Rimmer**, Michael Douglas, Dandridge House,  
32 Watling Lane;  
**Russell**, Keith James, Lychgate Cottage,  
8 High Street;  
**Williams**, Mark David, 20 Abingdon Road,

Congratulations to all new members of the Council. The first meeting of the new Council will be held on Wednesday 13 May.

The Parish Council would like to thank the current Council members who will be stepping down early in May, especially past Parish Council Chairman, Ken Bryan, Maurice Day and Margot Metcalfe.

### LB PLUMBING

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leaks and more,  
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### Parish Council Notices

#### Monthly Meeting

The newly-elected Parish Council will meet on **Wednesday 13 May** for its Annual Meeting commencing at 7.30p.m. This meeting includes the election of the Parish Council Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2015/16. The full agenda will be posted on Village notice boards three clear days in advance. The June meeting of the Council will take place on Wednesday 10 June

#### 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. There will be presentations by the Neighbourhood Development Planning Group, the Hurst Water Meadow Trust, PAGE (Parishes Against Gravel Extraction) and Neighbourhood Watch. All welcome.

#### Contacting the Parish Council

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

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

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

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## Dorchester Abbey Bellringers

“Ding dong the bells are gonna chime”  
*My Fair Lady Lerner 1956*

Apart from calling the faithful to prayer, bells have long been used to communicate to the inhabitants of the locality. Bells have sent messages warning of impending disaster such as a flood or invasion, advising of curfew, or by the tolling of a bell on the death of a local inhabitant. In the 1700s the bells of St Sepulchre at the Old Bailey were rung on the days of execution. From 1940 to 1943, during World War II when the danger of invasion was high, it was forbidden to ring church bells unless it was specifically to warn of invasion. Even after the order was rescinded many towers could not resume ringing as ringers were often lacking, being involved in either the armed services or war work.

But nowadays we mostly think of bells ringing in celebration, to celebrate a wedding or a triumph or to mark an important anniversary. One occasion marked in this way by the ringers at High Wycombe in 1832 was the passing of the Parliamentary Reform Act. More pointedly, some days after this celebratory ring, the ringers refused to ring for the bishop's visit as he had voted against the Bill in the House of Lords!

Some of us can recall hearing the bells ringing out on VE day just 70 years ago this month. Many more of us can recall the amazement we felt to hear the bells ringing from a floating belfry leading the Thames Pageant to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

This year will see the anniversaries of several historic events: the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle of Waterloo, the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle of Agincourt. So you may well hear bells ringing to celebrate one of these events.

Bells rung in celebration are often rung in the form of a peal or quarter peal. In a peal, there is a series of 5,040 sequences where the order of the bells changes each time without repeating an order once. It is a mental and physical feat which takes just over three hours to complete. Even a quarter peal (1,260 changes), taking around three-quarters of an hour to complete, is a big enough challenge for most ringers! Ringers who achieve peals and 'quarters' are rightly proud of their success, and commonly hang peal boards on the walls of their ringing chambers recording the date of the peal, the method rung, the names of the ringers and their conductor.

The first peal to be rung on the present set of eight bells in Dorchester was rung in May 1868 by the White family, of Appleton, Oxon, with the Rev F E Robinson. Their peal was celebrating the addition and casting of the treble and second bells by Mears and Stainbank at the Whitechapel foundry in 1867. Adding two new bells meant rehanging all the others – a big job for Whites, and certainly something worth celebrating with a peal. In line with tradition, a painted board giving details of the peal and the ringers involved still hangs on the walls of our ringing chamber. Whites are one of only a few remaining bell hanging businesses in the country. They continue to have a close relationship with our bells by carrying out the annual maintenance required to keep them in good order.



Bells being prepared to be hung by Whites  
© Whites of Appleton

We shall be ringing in celebration of our own Dorchester Festival on May 3 but we shall not be ringing a peal because we simply do not have enough experienced ringers for that at present. Nevertheless we shall ring a series of changes, some of which you may find familiar, to give voice to the joy of the occasion.

**Diana Vass**

If you enjoy the sound of the bells and would like to find more about becoming a ringer yourself please call David Parker the tower captain on **01865 340402** or email on **diparker10@gmail.com**.

### Become a Friend of Dorchester Abbey

The Friends of Dorchester Abbey is an association with a legal identity separate from the Parochial Church Council and raises funds to be used exclusively for the restoration, maintenance, embellishment and improvement of the structure of the Abbey Church and the Abbey Guesthouse. These have included major repairs to the roof and stonework of the abbey, new sound and lighting systems, restoration of the historic wall paintings and a new high altar frontal.

The Friends were formed in 1959 and over the years have promoted and supported social events such as concerts, lectures, flower and craft festivals as well as visits to cathedrals and other abbeys.

The subscription is not fixed, but we do ask for a minimum annual subscription of £20. Life membership is also available for a single payment of £300 person or £500 for a couple.

Details of the work of the Friends together with application forms can be found on the Friends' notice board in the Abbey and on the Dorchester Abbey website **www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk**

For further information contact the membership secretary, Mrs Honor Juniper. **01865 343228** or email **friends@dorchester-abbey.org.uk**



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Sean Harris  
Manager – The White Hart



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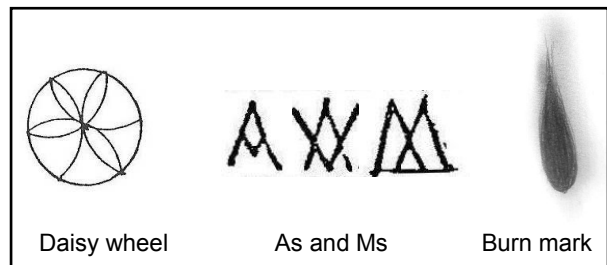
## Witchcraft

### Is your old house protected against harmful influences?!

Witchcraft has been referred to since ancient times. In Europe there was an obsession with witches from at least the 14<sup>th</sup> century, peaking in the 17<sup>th</sup> century with Witch Hunts and Witch Trials. Large numbers of innocent people (overwhelmingly women) were put to death after being accused of consorting with the devil. The accusers were usually people with some real or imaginary misfortune for which the accused became scapegoats.

These Witch Crazes diminished from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards but in folklore the idea that harm to yourself or your possessions could be caused by witchcraft persisted in less extreme form. Various attempts to combat harmful influences included making marks inside your house to ward off such influences. Often these marks were made near the fireplace in the belief that witches might enter your house down the chimney.

An artist friend, Timothy Easton, has become the country's expert on such 'apotropaic' marks after finding some in his 16<sup>th</sup> century house in Suffolk. They are now known to exist in many parts of the country and also abroad. They can take various forms (as in these drawings) such as 'daisy wheels', combinations of As and Ms (sometimes inverted) possibly short for Ave Maria, and also candle flame burn marks once mistakenly thought to be accidental rather than placed deliberately. Straight line marks are to be distinguished from random scratches and from carpenters' marks used in the construction of timber frame buildings.



Daisy wheel

As and Ms

Burn mark

Because of its age, Timothy encouraged us to look for such marks in our own house (North Gate House). We found two daisy wheels on the side of the chimney stack. Later, a combination of a daisy wheel and many burn marks were identified on the beam above the open fireplace in Henrietta Cottage (Anne and Pete's cottage across the High Street from us). Incidentally, non-accidental burn marks, possibly for supposedly protective purposes, can also be found on items of old furniture. We have found examples of this on some of our own furniture such as early cupboards and also beds

It is possible that there are further examples of such marks in other old Dorchester houses, especially around open fireplaces. We would be interested to hear about such possibilities. We can also recommend further sources of information about this fascinating subject.

**Greg and Christina Stores**  
341150

## Wildlife Gardening

### See, Smell, Hear, Touch and Taste Your Wildlife Garden

I hope with the new found warmth you're not rushing out into the garden and overdoing it, leading to the inevitable Battered Muscles Syndrome?

Benefits come in many forms from spending quality time with nature. Often, wildlife gardening is made up of endless little tasks but the pleasure of having wildlife all around really focuses the mind.

Be it bird song, the new smells and textures that are reappearing on what seems a daily basis now. If you are a forager you may be enjoying the varied tastes of the new green shoots from various ground flora, often just discarded as 'weeds'. Or maybe you are giving your garden a good dose of 'looking at', which I often talk about but is an activity that's very often overlooked.

At this time of year many of us are planning how to make our garden work even harder for wildlife, as well as look good and a place to retreat and relax in. Making a garden suitable for wildlife is variation in habitats.

Even if we do all this, the simple act of busying ourselves with those not so essential tasks often means we are all walking like zombies and missing much of the pleasure.

Just take a walk around your garden, and just focus on a single sense. Doesn't matter which one you choose, sight, touch, smell, sound, taste, it really doesn't matter. Just choose one, and see how much more you will notice. Just walking around your garden with a camera will get you 'seeing' much of what we all are in the habit of strolling past on a daily basis. Even in our own gardens.

**Stuart Mabbutt**  
Wildlife Gardening Specialist  
01865 747243

## Dorchester Safari Supper Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July

7pm drink & canapés  
(as a large group)

Main course  
(at a house in Dorchester)

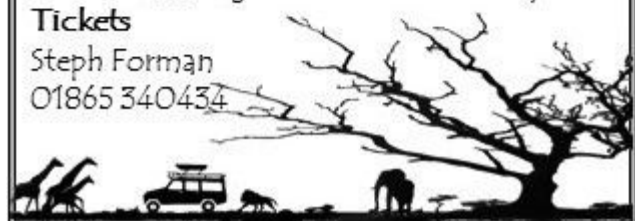
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### Tickets

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**Children £1.50  
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*For more information  
contact 07595 255150*

## Linda Levi

15 September 1944 – 18 February 2015

Linda Levi died peacefully at home in Rose Cottage, Martins Lane on 18 February after a four year battle against cancer. She was a very familiar figure in Dorchester village who came to live here with her first husband Brian Oliver and her two sons Nick and Miles nearly 35 years ago. Brian died in 2006 from a brain tumour. They had been married for 43 years. In 2010 she married James Levi who had lived in Burcot for many years and whom she met through the Dorchester Golf Society. They came to live in Martins Lane in 2011.

The memorial service to celebrate her life in Dorchester Abbey on 12 March was a particularly poignant occasion as many of the people who attended that service had also been there for Linda and James's wedding four and a half years earlier.

When Linda and Brian first came to the village they soon became involved with the community. Linda became a teaching assistant for many years under the headship of both Martin Peters and Jenny Pond. She joined the fund raising committee of the village hall and was a valued member of the team who ran the Lunch Club. She was a member of the Allotment Society, the Dorchester Arts society, the local book group and a veteran cake maker for the Abbey Tearoom. She even had a spell working in the kitchens at the Fleur de Lys in the days of Frank and Angela.



Linda was born in Kings Lynn in Norfolk where her mother and her sister Renee had been evacuated to get away from Hitler's flying bombs. They nicknamed her Lynne after the town where she was born. She grew up in North London after the war where her father was a cabinet maker with his own furniture shop in Brick Lane in the East End.

Her early life was dogged by serious illness. At the age of three she was diagnosed with polio and had to spend a year in an isolation hospital. She was in and out of hospital for operations until she was thirteen. Those early experiences made her something of a fitness fanatic as an adult. She regularly worked out in the Berinsfield gym and was a keen walker. Her second husband James introduced her to the delights of an early morning swim on a Saturday.

Linda kept active until the very end of her life. She could frequently be seen walking with difficulty down Queen Street for a cup of coffee at Lily's. A week before she died she and James went to Oxford for lunch and a trip to the theatre and three days later were out to dinner with friends. She was an elegant, brave and feisty lady who is sorely missed by family and friends.

At the memorial service more than £1000 was raised for the Nasio Trust.

## Iris Taylor

8 April 1928 – 17 December 2014

Iris was born in North London in Hornsey and was evacuated during World War II to her father's sister's house in Cumberton, Cambridge. She attended Hornsey College of Art after the war ended. She was the youngest daughter of Bill and Ethel White and had four siblings, one sister and three brothers, who are now all deceased. Reg, the eldest, was lost on a bombing mission during the war. Mum met Peter, her life long partner in 1947 in London working at Samson Clark. They hit it off from the very beginning and were married in 1949 on September 18 and flew from Northolt Aerodrome to Montreux, Switzerland for their honeymoon despite the devaluation of the pound at that time. The marriage endured for over 65 years. Iris and Peter had three children Russell, Malcolm and Judy, all born in the 1950s. They have four grandchildren and three great grandchildren. They moved from London to Oxfordshire in the late 1950s, temporarily renting Crown House in Dorchester on Thames whilst the house which they were to call their home was being built.

Iris worked for some time at the Nuffield Hospital in Oxford making artificial limbs, a skilled task which involved a lot of different processes. She was also very active in the local community doing voluntary work for the NSPCC and Dorchester Abbey. She loved her home and garden in particular and entertained family and friends regularly with lots of home cooked meals. Iris loved all animals and hated to see cruelty to any living creature anywhere in the world. She gave financial support to so many charities and almost single handedly kept Sealeys in Abingdon solvent by buying so much bird food every month.

Ris, a name by which she was known to lots of close friends, never lost the flair for the arts. She retained the love of colour and form she had learned at Art College

and was a skilled interior designer. Naturally and instinctively creative, it was one of her great delights to think of new ideas for improving and enhancing how the garden or house looked. She also wrote numerous poems, which were discovered by Russell only recently. One of her poems was read by Russell and Lulu, his wife, at the funeral service. She was also fond of music. At the funeral, Malcolm fondly recalled a childhood shaped by the drip feed of Eydie Gorme's LP 'I'll Take Romance', Nancy Wilson's 'How Glad I AM' and Al Martino's LP 'Spanish Eyes'.

Iris loved hospitality, and was never happier than when she was welcoming family or friends to Willow-Mour, her and Peter's home. She had the knack of making people feel good when they came to visit, and was a prodigious cook. Knowing that her family were busy, she would even bring food with her when she visited them. But whenever she entertained, one dish was certainly not enough if she could put at least six in front of you. This was all done lovingly and seemingly effortlessly, though the preparation alone must have been hard work!

In the past two years because of advancing age and following a fall and stroke Iris and Peter moved to Lashbrook House in Lower Shiplake, Henley on Thames where Peter is still residing. She will be missed sorely by all who love her. Her granddaughter JJ sums up the family's immense gratitude for Iris's life:

*Thank you Ma! . . . Thank you for showing us how to be good kind people, Thank you for loving us unconditionally and thank you for leaving us with a wealth of happy memories to comfort us when we miss you.*

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

Pupils at Dorchester St Birinus Primary School:

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- have the opportunity to learn a wide range of musical instruments, including piano, violin, cello and double bass
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- 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](http://www.st-birinus-primary.org.uk)

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## St Birinus School News

Last time, I finished by mentioning the fantastic efforts of Molly and Zoe who had started our Comic Relief fundraising efforts with an impressive cake sale. Following this we had a non-uniform day with the children able to make their faces funny for money – this brought our school total to £138.35 – which is a great effort.

Urban Strides, an energetic street dance group, are well known to the children who have attended the O2 Young Voices concerts over the last few years. This year we were lucky to be able to have one of their workshops come to our school. Blue and Red classes each had a session to develop their street dance moves with the help of their instructor – there was certainly a good buzz coming out of the hall during the morning.

Term 4 ended with our Easter celebrations, starting with our Easter Competition. This year, the competition was to produce a 3D Easter Card. Each time, I am amazed at the brilliant work and the variety of different ideas the children create, which makes it extremely difficult to judge. Our winning entries for each year group are as follow:

Foundation: 1st – Jake Sullivan-Webb

Year 1: 1st – Zachary Fowler

Year 2: 1st – Jacob Clewley,  
2nd – Theo Beaman  
3rd – Chiana Cleak

Year 3: 1st – Amelie White,  
2nd – Thomas Lester,  
3rd – Lilli Talbot

Year 4: 1st – Amber Townsend  
2nd – Megan Sadler,  
3rd – Charlie Talbot / Abbie Sullivan-Webb

Year 5: 1st – Sophia White  
2nd – Jemima Fowler  
3rd – Elisabeth Gardiner

Year 6: 1st – Leela Kitson,  
2nd – Evie Talbot  
3rd – Georgie Bristow

Later that day was our Easter Fair, organised by a small band of extremely hardworking PTA members, who had been tirelessly working throughout the day to organise all the fantastic donations, prizes, cakes etc which were so greatly received. I would like to thank them all for all their hard work, it is very much appreciated. Thank you also goes to the children and their teachers for the games and activities that were organised within the classrooms. An early indication of the grand total for the fair is over £800, which is a fantastic amount.

The term finished with our Easter Service with readings and songs and is a great way to finish the term and prepare us for our Easter Break in the beauty of the Abbey.

**Russell Leigh**  
Headteacher

Dorchester St Birinus CE Primary School



## Pre School News

After a sunny Easter break we welcome the children back to Pre-School with plenty of fun, and springtime activities. We are thrilled about the new classroom area at the Hurst, and will be making the most of this exciting learning space with insect and wildlife expeditions! This of course will work up an appetite so, weather permitting, we'll be picnicking there too!

It is also May Dancing season! The children always relish the links with Big School so to watch their annual May-pole dancing is a real treat. We'll even attempt some routines of our own, which often ends in a tangled cob-web, but brings laughter all the same!

Our topic this term is Transport, so be prepared to hear the engines, propellers, horns and whistles from the playground! From trains to tractors, sail boats to submarines, bikes to balloons; if it can take you somewhere, we'll be learning about it and if this weather continues, hopefully scooters and bikes will be the preferred school-run transport rather than the car!



This month we are continuing our support for Footsteps; we are joining in with their special fundraising event - Footsteps Friday for Cerebral Palsy Awareness week. Help us help them by coming to Pre-School and buying a cake on 15 May.

You should also pop by and check out our creative skills-see if you can recognise what film our Scarecrow is from. We're entering the Dorchester Festival Scarecrow Trail and just in case: it's not the elephant man.

Preparations have begun for our Open Morning on **Thursday 7 May**, 10.00 to 11.30 so if you know anybody that might be interested, do spread the word—it really is a thriving and inspiring little Pre-School, right here in our village.

**Matthew Kestner**  
Chair

## Call for pop-up shop pioneers to come to Wallingford

Local people and small businesses are to get the chance to run their own shop in Wallingford.

South Oxfordshire District Council is working with Flashop UK to bring a pop-up shop initiative to the centre of Wallingford between April and October 2015.

The pop-up shop will provide people with an opportunity to take a short term commercial lease which will give them a taste of running a town centre shop. It will be a great chance to trial ideas and products to a new audience while helping to attract more people to visit their local high street.

It is hoped that this project will help start-up retail businesses, people who are presently retailing from home and would like to try running a shop, and existing shop keepers who would like to try Wallingford out as a possible location for their business.

Anyone interested in taking a pop-up shop in Wallingford should contact Iain Nicholson on [Iain@prbi.co.uk](mailto:Iain@prbi.co.uk) or **07930 453883**.

The project will be supported by Kate Rayner, Wallingford market town co-ordinator, who provides promotional and marketing support for the town to support it as a place to live, work, visit and invest.

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## Focus on...Dorchester Tennis Club

Many of us think that tennis is a game that was invented in Britain, along with other sports such as football in the mid nineteenth century, following the introduction and patenting of the first mechanical lawnmowers, which made them possible. But the origins of it go back way before then. Henry VIII was known to play 'real tennis', and it probably came from France some time before that.

The word 'tennis' itself appears to originate from the French 'tenez', meaning 'receive' or 'take' which the server would shout to his opponent as he served, in a forerunner of the modern game. Some sources suggest that the term for zero or nil, 'love', derives from the French for egg, 'l'ouef', whose shape denoted the lack of score, and the term 'deuce' comes from "a deux le jeu" meaning "to both is the game" at the point at which either player could win.

But the modern game as we know it is British, being first played in Birmingham in the 1860s, and the world's first tennis club was founded in 1872 at Leamington Spa.

It is doubtful that the Dorchester Tennis Club goes back quite that far, but like tennis itself in Victorian times, it has seen a real renaissance in recent years.

According to Sport England the number of people who play tennis in a week doubles between April and July, when nearly three-quarters of a million of us take to the courts each week. The combination of good weather and Wimbledon really does bring us out in our whites and tennis shoes, or more likely track suits and trainers.

If you are one of those who comes out in the summer, in a tennis sense, then be thankful that we have a couple of excellent courts on the recreation ground managed by the Dorchester Tennis Club, but open for all to use.

First put up nearly 30 years ago the courts were in a fairly sorry state a few years ago, with weeds and nettles growing through the surface and fencing damaged. But the Tennis Club, under the chairmanship of Claire Andersson, decided in 2012 to take this in hand and see what they could do to improve them.

The cost of making them what they are now was to be around £45,000, so clearly the first thing was to raise the money. A fund this size wasn't going to come from jumble sales and quiz evenings and, with the help of Community Tennis Association, a variety of sources was identified. The two with most potential were South Oxfordshire District Council and WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Limited). SODC has an appropriate fund and WREN is a not-for-profit organisation that helps communities close to

landfill sites with funding for heritage, conservation and community projects. The courts are actually owned, of course, by the Parish Council, so it was they who applied for the grants, which were approved in 2013. The newly refurbished courts were, as we all know, opened by Tim Henman in June 2014, an event which was turned into the village fete, organised jointly by the Tennis Club and the Parish Council.



The courts are open to anyone to use, and you can just turn up or book them through the Tennis Club. And they are not just for tennis. As part of the refurbishment they were strengthened and marked out for netball and five-a-side football, both of which sports are now regular users.

Membership of the Dorchester Tennis Club is mainly family membership, and there are around 30 families signed up at the moment, but individual membership is also available. Twenty-one people are currently signed up for coaching.

The membership fees contribute to the cost of upkeep for the courts, which is also funded by usage fees from the five-a-side and netball users and events such as the Tennis Club Quiz Night and an afternoon in the Abbey tea-room once a year. Without this income the courts cannot be properly maintained and will, in time, begin to deteriorate again, so having money coming in is important to the future of the courts and their availability for all to use.

Claire describes the club as being good for social tennis, and that may be why family membership is so high. She admits that despite the introduction of an LTA-supported junior coaching programme, 'Growing the Game', last year, and coaching sessions for adults and children several times a week, the future Andy Murrays in the village are likely to head to the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre in Abingdon for intensive coaching. But that, surely, is how it should be. The village club is there to get youngsters started in the game, and to provide those of us without the ambition to play at Wimbledon an opportunity for tennis at our own level, to keep fit and to enjoy the company. As we saw from the 2014 fete, members of the Tennis Club certainly know how to enjoy themselves.

What comes next? Next on Claire's list is a hitting wall, which will allow tennis payers and footballers to practise their ball skills on their own. But that's going to cost something in the region of £3,000 or more, so Claire is on the fund-raising trail again, and, knowing her, I am sure that she will achieve it.

So if you are one of those who, inspired by seeing the champions on the television at Wimbledon, comes out in the summer for a knock about, think about joining the Tennis Club. You may fancy some coaching. And the new surface does not get mossy and slippy in winter as did the old one, so you can join the hardy bunch who play, and keep fit, all year.



Tim Henman opening the courts



Sunday morning players keep fit.



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*Quotations by appointment      References available  
Wallingford and surrounding villages covered*



## Earth Trust May Events

### SUMMER FESTIVAL

#### 'Grow Your Own' Workshops

**Saturday 2 May, 11am-4pm**

A series of talks and workshops all about producing your own food. Topics include creating a kitchen garden, chicken keeping and permaculture. Please get in touch for prices and booking: [admin@earthtrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@earthtrust.org.uk) or **01865 407792**.

#### 'Grow Your Own' Family Fun Day

**Sunday 3 May, 10am-2pm**

Drop in for a fun-filled – and dirt-filled! – day. You're never too young to start finding out where food comes from so join us for a range of planting and growing themed activities, such as cress-heads, scarecrow making and a vegetable hunt. £4 donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

#### Dawn Chorus Walk

**Sunday 10 May, 4.30am-6.30am**

Set your alarm clocks and join us to listen to the birds celebrating spring at the Clumps. Expert Ben Carpenter will be on hand to help you learn more about birdsong and identification. £5 adult, £2 child; booking essential: [admin@earthtrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@earthtrust.org.uk) or **01865 407792**.

#### Bats at Wallingford Castle Meadows

**Sunday 10 May, 9pm-11pm**

Join local bat expert Dominic Lamb on a walk at dusk to find out more about these winged mammals. Learn how to use a detector and recognise different species. Meet at the Cemetery Lane entrance (OX10 8DL). £5 adult, £2 child; booking essential: [admin@earthtrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@earthtrust.org.uk) or **01865 407792**.

#### Little Explorers

**Tuesday 26 May, 10am-11.30am**

Sensory buggy walk for babies and toddlers. We will use our senses to learn about the natural world around us – stopping to smell, touch, taste, listen and look! £4 donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

#### Heritage Skills Taster Session: Woodland Plants

**Tuesday 26 May, 7pm-9pm**

A guided walk to discover the traditional uses of the trees and wild plants growing in our arboretum. This is a free taster session as part of our **Stepping into our Natural Heritage** project. More information: [volunteering@earthtrust.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@earthtrust.org.uk) or **01865 409413**.

#### Woodland Adventure

**Wednesday 27 May, 10am-12pm**

An expedition for 5 to 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 29 May, 10am-12pm**

Forest School for pre-school children. Come and 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.

As always, more information can be found on our website [www.earthtrust.org.uk](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk). All events take place at the Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, OX14 4QZ unless otherwise stated.

## Hurst Water Meadow Trust News

**More land has been purchased by the Trust on behalf of the community – that's you!**

The Hurst Water Meadow Trust now owns a continuous stretch of land bordering the river Thame from Dorchester Bridge right down to the Thames Path.

This latest purchase has been made possible by a large grant from Biffa Award, supplemented by a very generous third party contribution from another charity and donations from our community. Biffa Award is a multi-million pound environment fund, managed by the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, which utilises landfill tax credits donated by Biffa Waste Services. The grants are awarded to environmental and community projects which are considered to be worthwhile and which meet the exacting criteria. We are fortunate to have gained this award.

The land which we already owned, immediately below Dorchester Bridge, will continue to be named Old Bridge Meadow. The newly acquired land will be called Overy Mead Piece after a field title on an 1840 tithe map. The boundary of Overy Mead Piece will be delineated by a simple post and wire fence and the current fence and pedestrian gate marking the end of Old Bridge Meadow will be removed.

With professional guidance we shall be undertaking studies of hydrogeology, soils, vegetation and wildlife and using the information we gain to inform our decisions on how the land should best be managed. We want to achieve desirable habitats for plants and wildlife as well as providing a place of interest and enjoyment for all who walk there.

There will be opportunities for you to get involved with some of the surveys and to make interesting discoveries. How about it? Those who get involved will be able to contribute their ideas on how they would like to see the land managed. If you wish to participate in this new venture or seek further information please contact us and also look at our website which is updated regularly.

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## Buses in Dorchester

I agree with Sue Symonds that we have suffered severe cuts but I also agree with the editor that we need to use the buses that we do have.

I am not minded, personally, to travel to Wallingford, Abingdon or Didcot by one of our current buses due to timing limitations.

But I would definitely use the diverted X39/X40s for Oxford and Reading, particularly when John Lewis arrives in Oxford in 2017.

Why can't Thames Travel arrange a **three month** trial for some X39/X40s through the village? It would only add four minutes to the schedule.

With proper notification and advertising and full coverage in the Dorchester News, surely we would all (young and old) be delighted to use X39/X40s through the village to Oxford and Reading. We could make it a campaign for the village and the environment.

Should we repeat the 2013 effort that the Bus Users Group put into trying to persuade Thames Travel to divert some X39/X40s through the village? This effort involved over 100 letters and a meeting with Thames Travel (TT) and ORCC. TT argued that it would impact their profitability as they do not receive a subsidy from the County Council for their Flagship services.

The Bus Users Group gave up after it received ORCC comments on 4 March 2014 that Services X39/40 are operated on a commercial basis and therefore Oxfordshire County Council has no control over the route or timetable of the services.

The changes to services between Wallingford/Didcot and Dorchester were the result of changes made by Thames Travel across their commercial network (on 8 December 2013) and the subsequent changes made by the County Council to their contracted services. The new timetables for services 97/114 were drawn up by the County Council and it is a coincidence that Thames Travel were awarded the new contract (following an open tender process). ORCC would concede that the new 97/114 timetables are not ideal but they were faced with the conundrum of providing conflicting travel needs with only one bus. There may be some shortcomings, such as the long three hour "shopping time" in Didcot, but at least the links to Didcot were not lost.

The bus routes through Dorchester Village have been changed more often than for any other village in the county. There are many reasons for this, one of which is low demand from the residents. Another is the desire to provide a quicker and more attractive bus service for a greater number of passengers from Reading and Wallingford to/from Oxford by operating along the Dorchester by-pass.

**Malcolm Corry**

*I can't wholly agree with Malcolm about not using the bus to go to Wallingford. Recently I went in on the 114 at 09.12 with five others from Dorchester. Four of us returned on the 97 at 10.00, having done all we needed to in Wallingford. It works.*

*More importantly, Malcolm identifies low demand, i.e. usage by residents, as a key factor in why our services have been reduced. We are unlikely to persuade any operator to bring more buses through the village unless we can demonstrate that there is demand. Editor*



## Footsteps Events May

### Upcoming events benefitting local charity Footsteps Foundation

This month will be a busy and exciting one for local charity Footsteps Foundation and the charity would love to see local residents get involved. Everyone is invited to join the Footsteps team at the following events taking place in and around Dorchester this May.

### The Wallingford Car Rally & Parade - Sunday 10 May

Join us on the Kinecroft in Wallingford for a fun-filled day for all the family. Come along between 11am and 4pm to see an exhibition of unique and exciting vehicles, listen to some live music and see some exciting displays in the arena.



Wallingford  
Vehicle  
Rally &  
Parade

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

### Footsteps Cerebral Palsy Awareness Week – 9 to 16 May

Footsteps' annual awareness campaign aims to highlight the challenges and achievements of young people suffering from cerebral palsy and other neurological disorders. The charity is urging local businesses and schools to organise a fundraising activity and encourages individuals to donate an hour of their salary to help raise awareness and vital funds for disabled children. [www.make-a-donation.org/campaign/donate-an-hour-2014](http://www.make-a-donation.org/campaign/donate-an-hour-2014)

### Concert at St. Mary's Church in Henley – Sunday 24 May 7.30pm

Building on the success of last year's partnership with Music & Travel Tour Consultants, Footsteps Foundation will benefit from a superb concert hosted by St Mary's Church in Henley-on-Thames on Sunday 24th May at 7.30pm. The Rutgers University Glee Club from New Jersey, one of the top male choral ensembles from the United States, will be performing a varied programme of choral music for male voices and traditional glee club music. Tickets are available from Footsteps – please email [info@footstepsfoundation.com](mailto:info@footstepsfoundation.com) for further information.

For further information about any of the above events, please contact [info@footstepsfoundation.com](mailto:info@footstepsfoundation.com) or call **01865 343851**.

## A new home for SODC

South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils have agreed a deal to move into 135 Milton Park.

Since the fire in January that all but destroyed their shared headquarters in Crowmarsh Gifford, the two councils have had around half their staff working from a temporary base at Abbey House in Abingdon.

The councils are due to start moving at the end of May and into June.

Once the councils have moved into the new building, they will turn their attention to the future of the site at Crowmarsh Gifford. They're waiting on a report into how badly the building's structure has been damaged, which will help them work out if it will be cost-effective to rebuild and move back in, or whether it would be better to look for a permanent home elsewhere.

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### Take control of impending debt problems"

Citizens Advice is urging people who are worried that they are running into debt to seek help as soon as possible.

The consequences of falling behind on basic bills like rent, council tax or energy bills can be serious. In extreme cases, non-payment of rent can lead to eviction, energy debts can result in your power being cut off, and not paying council tax can lead to a prison sentence.

Citizens Advice is seeing an increasing number of people seeking help because they can't make their incomes stretch to cover essential bills. Low pay and slow wage growth have left many people struggling to pay for rent, energy supplies and council tax.

It can be very difficult to cut back on these costs, but there is action you can take to get your finances back on track. If you are worried about debt, come to Citizens Advice for help as soon as you become aware that there is a problem. Problems only get worse if they aren't tackled early.

#### Top tips on dealing with debt

1. Dealing with debt problems is easier when the debt is small, so take action before the figures start to spiral out of control.
2. Don't take out more credit or a loan to cover your debts.
3. Look carefully at your spending. Is there anything you can cut down on? Draw up a realistic budget.
4. Do talk to your creditors and let them know you are having problems.
5. Don't pay off the creditor who is shouting the loudest but first pay the most important bills, like mortgage or rent, council tax, and gas and electricity. Otherwise you will be in danger of losing your home, having your gas and electricity cut off, or ending up in court.
6. Don't ignore court papers.
7. Citizens Advice gives free, independent and confidential advice. They will help you work out repayments and negotiate with your creditors, and also help you keep out of debt in the future. A CAB adviser can check and see if you are missing out on benefits, tax credits and other help to which you might be entitled, and can help you make a claim.

Copyright Citizens Advice. For the most up to date version of this information, visit the website at [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk).

For further help, call Adviceline on **03444 111 444** or drop in to the Citizens Advice Bureau at Dales, 9-15 High Street, Didcot OX11 8EQ. For opening hours, see [www.caiox.org.uk](http://www.caiox.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](mailto:parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk). When you receive the message, you will view only your own e-mail address: as a security precaution, all other residents' addresses are hidden. This is standard practice to protect your e-mail address.

## Thames Valley Police Report

### Three Men Arrested On Suspicion Of Burglary, Possession Of Drugs And Vehicle Interference

Thames Valley Police has arrested three men on suspicion of burglary, possession of drugs and vehicle interference in Wallingford.

The arrests are in connection with burglaries that occurred overnight between Tuesday (7/4) and Wednesday (8/4), at the George Hotel, High Street, The Coachmakers Arms and the Partridge Restaurant, St Mary's Street, and another burglary which occurred at 3.20am this morning (9/4), at The Fleur De Lys in the High Street, Dorchester on Thames.

A till draw and charity box were stolen from the George Hotel, champagne, wine and steaks were stolen from the Partridge Restaurant and spirits, food items and cash were stolen from the Coachmakers Arms.

Nothing appears to have been stolen from the Fleur De Lys.

The vehicle interferences occurred over the same evening. A vehicle parked in High Street was broken into and a vehicle in Mill Lane, Wallingford, was entered.

A 22 year-old man from Wallingford, a 34 year-old man from Crowmarsh Gifford and a 32 year-old man from Dorchester on Thames, were all arrested at 5.10am this morning [9 April] on suspicion of burglary, vehicle interference and possession of drugs.

The men are currently in police custody.

If you have any information relating to this message please contact the Thames Valley Police Enquiry Centre on 101.

If you don't want to speak directly to the police you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111** or online at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org). No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

**Thames Valley Police**  
**9 April 2015**

### 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](http://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk) and click on Dorchester News) and from the village website (go to [www.dorchester-on-thames.co.uk](http://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.



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## Wallingford Archaeology Eccentric Oxford A History of Mischief & Mayhem Friday 8 May



May's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be by Richard O. Smith. He will present 'Eccentric Oxford: a History of Mischief & Mayhem'.

This entertaining talk will present an amusing, yet historically accurate, trawl through Oxford's alternative and lesser known eccentric history (covering the writer expelled from Oxford on his second day for fighting a duel in a college quad, the University's official advice on 'How to tell if an Oxford women is a prostitute' and how Oliver Cromwell discovered you should never mess with an Oxfordshire Librarian!).

Richard O Smith lives in Oxford and is a tour guide, running the Eccentric Oxford Tour. He is also a comedy writer and contributes material to Radio 4's The Now Show and The News Quiz.

**Friday 8 May, 7.45 for 8pm at Wallingford Town Hall.**  
Visitors (£3) are most welcome.

## Wallingford Gardening Club Thursday 14 May New Zealand and Singapore



At the May meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, Gwen Barton will talk about plants from New Zealand and Singapore.

Gwen is the vice chair of East Reading Horticulture Society and has lived in many third world countries. She has a passion for her subject with talks that always illustrate a variety of plant life. Gwen has been a speaker for more than 15 years, and all her talks include 'plants & humour'.

This is the final talk of our Spring season, but talks will recommence on **8 October** in the Ridgeway Community Church.

The talk will be held at **Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford** at 7.30pm on Thursday 14 May.

Visitors very welcome £2.

**Isabelle Darby**

Advance notice of future events in 2015:-  
9 May (Sat) - Plant sale in Wallingford Market Place  
13 August - Visit to 'Hearn's House', Gallowtree Common  
3 Sept - Visit to 'Home Close', Garsington

Further details from **01491 836867**

## Wallingford Museum Experience a 'Night at the Museum' Friday 16 May



Experience a special 'Night at the Museum' at Wallingford Museum anytime from 6pm – curfew (9pm) on **Friday 16 May!** Following the great success of last year's World War II event, this year the clock is turning back to **The Middle Ages!**

Be sure to **bring your torch** so you can explore the museum's medieval secrets at night and seek answers to our **special quiz**. If you are brave enough, you can find the man in the dungeon, the hooded monk, the wicked robber on the pillory... and much more. You can even dig for 'treasure'!

And even if this isn't your thing... it's a great opportunity to see the Museum in an evening, instead of our normal opening daytime opening hours! There's plenty to see – not only can you read original letters from Agatha Christie, you can find out more about her life in Wallingford during the 42 years she lived at Winterbrook House. You can also discover the fascinating story of Wallingford's Royal Castle and learn about the town's place in Magna Carta.

All this for the price of the entry ticket – just £4 for an adult, and free for children – but if you've already visited this season, of course you can use your ticket again, and again and again....

## Wallingford & District Art Club Tuesday 19 May

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

On Tuesday 19 May, Sharon Hurst will demonstrate fantasy painting using Shin Han watercolour glazes 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 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 the other exciting demonstrations we shall be having each month.

**Stephanie Toole**

**01491 825042**

**toole.stephanie@yahoo.co.uk**

## Wallingford Flower Club Wednesday 13 May 2015 7.15pm for 7.45pm

A Floral Demonstration "An Artist's Palette"  
By Alison Mount (BB&O Area of NAFAS Demonstrator and Tutor)  
Crowmarsh Village Hall, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8ED  
Visitors Welcome £4  
For more information phone Fay **01491 834303** or Anne **01491 200728**



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**Live Music & Beer Festival**  
**WALLINGFORD**  
**Friday 12 & Saturday 13 June 2015**  
The Regal Centre  
Wallingford, Oxon OX10 0AL

**2015 25 Years BLUES & BEER FESTIVAL**

**Friday Night £15**  
Doors Open 6.30 - 7pm - Midnight  
**Dr Feelgood**  
Plus:  
★ Laurence Jones  
★ Matt Woosey

**Saturday Afternoon £5**  
Family Session 2.00 - 6.00pm  
(Accompanied under 14's FREE)  
Featuring:  
★ Vincent White Band  
★ Winners of 'Mainstage Wallingford'  
★ Stomp & Holler  
★ Howlin' Matt

**Saturday Night £15**  
Doors Open 6.30 - 7pm - Midnight  
**Chantel McGregor**  
Plus:  
★ Ben Poole  
★ Armadillo Blues

**Full Weekend Ticket £25**

[bluesandbeer.co.uk](http://bluesandbeer.co.uk)

## Corn Exchange Wallingford What's On May

**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)

- Fri 1 **Suite Française**(15)  
 Sat 2 **Home** (PG) at 10.30am  
 Sat 2 **Phantom of the Opera** (classic black and white 1925 version with quartet accompaniment)  
 Tues 5 Royal Ballet's production of **La Fille Mal Gardée**, satellite recording from Royal Opera House at 7.15pm  
 Wed 6, Thurs 7 **A Little Chaos** (12A)  
 Sat 9 **Cinderella** (U) at 10.30am  
 Sat 9 **The Rocky Horror Picture Show** (12A). Fundraiser for Wallingford School pupils' charity visit to Kenya to work with HIV orphans  
 Sun 10 **While We're Young** (15)  
 Mon 11 **While We're Young** (15)  
 Tues 12 **A Pigeon Sat on a Branch Reflecting on Existence** (12A)  
 Wed 13 **Existence** (12A)  
 Thurs 14 **Man and Superman** (12A). NT Live direct from National Theatre, with Ralph Fiennes  
 Fri 29 San Francisco Opera's stunning, highly-acclaimed production of Jerome Kern's **Showboat**. Huge cast with tremendous operatic ensemble singing and rollicking dance numbers. Tickets £10, £8 seniors and under-15s. 7.30pm  
 Sat 30 **Royal Night Out** (12A)  
 Sun 31, June **Royal Night Out** (12A)  
 Mon 1 **Royal Night Out** (12A)  
 Tues 2, Wed 3 **Far From the Madding Crowd** (12A)  
 Live  
 Fri 8 **Comedy Night**. 8pm Jim Smallman presents his knockout Edinburgh Fringe shows, 'Tattooligan' and 'Let's Be Friends'. Tickets £10, seniors £8  
 Wed 20 Sinodun Players present **The Birthday Party** by to Harold Pinter. Stanley Webber's birthday turns into a nightmare when two strangers turn up at the boarding house where he lodges. Sparked by the men's unusual interest in Stanley, events take a disturbing turn for the worse. Funny, awkward, tense and thought-provoking. Who are these people and why are they there? 7.45pm. Tickets £10.  
 Thurs 28 **Scaramouche Jones** by Justin Butcher in The Studio at the Corn Exchange at 8pm. Mike Long of Blown Sand Productions plays Jones, an aged circus clown, preparing to meet his destiny by recounting his extraordinary life story  
 Sat 30

### Coming soon

June 5: More comedy with a double bill from rising stars **Tom Allen** and **Carly Smallman**. £10, seniors £8

For tickets, call into the box office or phone **01491 825000** during opening hours 7-8pm daily and 10am-2pm Fridays and Saturdays. Also available online at **www.cornexchange.org.uk**. Please check website pending any programme changes.



## 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

Fri 1 May	Green
Sat 9 May	<b>Black</b>
Fri 15 May	Green
Fri 22 May	<b>Black</b>
Sat 30 May	Green

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

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

The 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**

**ANGLICAN PRIEST** Dorchester Rectory  
**Revd. Canon Sue Booy** 01865 340007

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 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.21)

### Monthly:

2nd Thursday 7.30 pm Village Hall: **WI** (p.7)  
3rd Wednesday 7.30 pm Village Hall: **Parish Council** (green p.9)  
3rd Wednesday **Culham Horticultural**  
3rd Thursday **Classic Car Show** George Hotel  
3rd Thursday Belcher Court: **Chiropodist** (p.7)  
4th Wednesday 7.30 pm Village Hall: **Historical Society** (p.3)  
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 June

**Dorchester News**  
All items must be sent by  
**Friday 15 May**  
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 May

### Sundays

**May 3** Easter 5  
8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)  
(Canon Sue Booy)  
10.30am Festival Service

**May 10** Easter 6  
8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)  
(Revd Dr Marcus Braybrooke)  
10.30 am Festival Service

**May 17** Easter 7  
8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)  
(Revd David Haylett)  
10.30am Family Service  
6.00pm Evensong

**May 24** Pentecost  
8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)  
(Canon Sue Booy)  
10.30am Sung Eucharist

**May 31** Trinity  
8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)  
(Canon Sue Booy)  
10.30am Team Service at Drayton St Leonard

### Weekdays

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

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

**1–10 May** **Dorchester Festival**

**Tue 12** 10.15am Short Communion  
School visit to Abbey

**Thu 14** Ascension Day – 7.30pm Service at Toot Baldon

**Fri 15** 4pm Wedding in the Abbey

**Tue 19** School visit to Abbey

**Fri 22–Mon 25** English Music Festival in Abbey

**Thu 28** 2.30pm Service at the Cheshire Home

## Parish Registers

**Holy Baptism**  
**5 April** Xavier Talyessin Charlemagne Gibbs