



DORCHESTER NEWS

October 2015

**FREE TO EVERY HOME IN
THE PARISH**

Talking Point

October is harvest festival time in many of our parishes and despite some wet weather of late it is good to see the harvest being gathered in, fields ploughed and hedgerows rich with berries. At the moment, though, we have to balance our thanksgiving for a good harvest alongside prayerful awareness of and concern for those for whom daily survival is a constant struggle.

At the moment and largely as a result of the crisis in Syria the whole of Europe is faced with a huge humanitarian crisis as tens of thousands of refugees flee a once prosperous homeland. Through media and over social networks we have seen many heart breaking images of those people forced to flee Syria and the Middle East. Just how desperate must you feel when an overcrowded boat on a stormy sea seems to offer more hope than your homeland?

What can we do to help? It is easy to feel powerless in the face of such desperation. This present crisis is complex and there are no easy answers or solutions. Christian faith is relevant to how we live our lives and we should allow it to inform and shape our society and its structures, lest those whose beliefs lead them towards less tolerant positions end up having the final word. There is a clear bias throughout the whole of scripture towards the weak and vulnerable, from the Book of Leviticus in chapter 19.34: *Treat them as you would a fellow-Israelite, and love them as you love yourselves. Remember that you were once foreigners in the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God, through the prophets and in the life of Jesus.*

Time and time again in the Gospels Jesus is moved by human need and reacts with love and compassion to heal and restore the broken.

We cannot be indifferent in the face of need; in following Jesus our calling is to be preparers of the way for God's reign, God's kingdom here on earth. Preparation is about making room and clearing space in anticipation of something new. So what can we do to help? As always the public has reacted magnificently to the crisis, there are many Christian charities such as Christian Aid and Tear Fund who are already doing fantastic work. Do support them if you can.

There are also charities collecting practical gifts of food, clothing and toys, and taking them to refugees. Above everything else we can commit the current crisis into our prayers. The below prayer comes from the Church of England web site, I commend it to you for both private and public prayer.

*Heavenly Father,
you are the source of all goodness,
generosity and love.
We thank you for opening the hearts
of many
to those who are fleeing for their
lives.
Help us now to open our arms in welcome,
and reach out our hands in support.
That the desperate may find new
hope,
and lives torn apart be restored.
We ask this in the name of Jesus
Christ Your Son, Our Lord,
who fled persecution at His birth
and at His last triumphed over
death. Amen*

Rev. Caroline King

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Dorchester News

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Gillian Johnson

Copy Deadlines for Dorchester News Advert Deadlines for Dorchester News

One week before copy deadline

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December/January 13 November

February edition 8 January

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

After a fairly miserable summer gardens were not looking quite as vibrant and colourful as usual at the end of August. But there was enough in our gardens and pantries to stage a pretty good Flower Show at the beginning of September. In terms of the number of entries I understand it was at least as good as last year, which is great. The main winners are on page 9.

What I want know is how to get beautifully regular vegetables like we saw in the onions and beetroot category? The answer is that you don't always, and we saw some hilarious entries in the disaster vegetables category. Maybe for the next show we'll be able to bring you some pictures of the winners (and losers).

That is because, as we announced last month, we are hoping to introduce more colour and more pictures soon. I hope that the artists of the village are working on their designs for a new picture to go on the front page. Please get your entries to me by the end of October, either by email to the Dorchester News address above, or to me at 21 Watling Lane. Let's see if we can get a new design that lasts as long as the current one has, and is as much loved.

I've just heard on the radio that, despite global warming, we are going to have to get used to cooler, wetter summers for the next 20 years, because of changes in the Atlantic. Does this mean that we are going to get used to even more misshapen vegetables in the Flower Show? At least that might mean that I'll be in with a chance next year.

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 903476**.

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 27) 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:

Harvest Festival

4 October

Everyone is most welcome at the Harvest Festival at 10.30am on **Sunday 4 October**.

Our theme this year will be *All Things Bright and Beautiful* and we are very much hoping that people will come and celebrate their gardens and allotments as well as the good things that are grown and produced across the world. Gifts of food for the Food Bank - particularly tinned, packets, dried goods and 'treats' - well within their 'sell-by' dates please. There will also be an opportunity to give - through a collection and donations for the Harvest lunch which will be held in the Abbey at 12.15pm after the service. Please let us know you are coming by signing the sheets at the back of the Abbey!

Memorial Service Sunday 1 November

The Sunday closest to All Saints' Day is a time to remember not only the famous saints like St Peter, St Paul and St Birinus, but also what I like to call the "saints in ordinary". The church calls this All Souls Tide. There are many people who have had an enormous impact on our lives and shaped and moulded the people we are. Very often these are relatives or close friends; in a village like Dorchester they are also the significant personalities who have contributed to the life of the community. In recent years we have lost from our community a large number of very special people. I hope that the Morning Service on **1 November** will be a good time to remember them with thanksgiving and reflect on what we have learned from them. In particular anyone for whom a funeral of a family member has been held in the Abbey is warmly invited to attend this service. It will be possible to ask for the names of people that have been important to you personally to be added to a list that will be read during the prayers. There will be lists at the back of the Abbey but you may also telephone the Rectory (**340007**) to ask for a name to be added.

Thank You All

May we thank all who have expressed concern or sympathy to my family following the death of my wife, Rosemary. Not only the very many who sent a card or letter to my address but also those who attended the Funeral Service in the Abbey on 2 September 2015. She will be greatly missed.

Maurice Day

on behalf of the Day family.

A tribute to Rosemary Day appears on p21



Culham & District Horticultural Club

Meetings at the Abbey Guest House
Dorchester-on-Thames at 7.30pm
Wednesday **21 October**

Martin Deasey will give a talk entitled German Perennial Planting

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

Advent Weekend

Captain Graham Nunn started his working life as a Postman. He is now an experienced Church Army Evangelist of some years standing working mainly around Kent.

The bulk of his work is with schools, but he is much more than a Children's Evangelist. He is equally at home with adults as well.

He is a fantastic conjuror and links the tricks with his faith with a great line in fun and patter.

And he is coming here for a weekend!

Make sure you are around for the weekend of **Friday 27 - Sunday 29 November**.

There are plans for meals together, fun with children and families.

It should be great.



The Big Clean

A big **Thank You** to all the people that came to help clean the Abbey on the 22 August 2015. As it was in the middle of the summer holidays we didn't have a huge number but they were very effective and we managed to sweep away quite a few cobwebs!

However, the Cleaning team rota has been severely depleted over the past few months, with people retiring and moving away - so I would love to know if you could spare an hour a week to clean a small section of the Abbey (the more we have the smaller the section). We are going to continue with a **Team Clean** every other month and if you cannot help weekly perhaps you would be happy to come bi monthly, please email.

Looking after the Abbey is no small task and it depends on lots of volunteers, so please let me or the Churchwardens know if you think you could help in some small way ie in the garden, arranging the flowers, stewarding, in the Tea Room, helping with the services as Sidesperson and so it goes on.

Don't be shy, just email one of us below.

Worship Co-ordinator Sandie Griffith -

sandie@jemini.co.uk

Church Wardens -

Rebecca Slingsby - post@rebeccahind.com

Tim Cook - tim.cook12@btinternet.com

Chiropodist

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

15 October

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



QUIZ NIGHT

**FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER
VILLAGE HALL**

**Doors open at 7.00pm
Only £8 per head, including
home-cooked supper – chili
and baked potato**

**Contact Jill Corran for tickets for
teams of 6-8. jillcorran@hotmail.com
or 01865 341696**



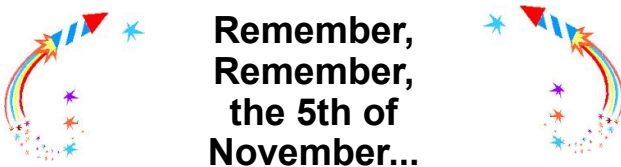
Hempcroft Allotment News

October is the month when the preparations for the 2016 growing season begin in earnest. As the ground is cleared of crops collect up all weeds and leaves. Next year's runner bean trench can be opened up and the vegetable trimmings from the crops can be thrown in to start breaking down over the winter. Add annual weeds etc to form a spongy water holding reservoir to help the beans survive hot days (hopefully) next summer.

Finally a complaint. Someone is putting out carcasses on the northwest side of the allotment presumably for the kites to enjoy. For example, recently there were parts of a raw salmon, covered in bluebottles, which it is assumed the kites do not like. If the offender reads this could they please take note and desist.

Edward Metcalfe
01865 340160

Your Parish Council



**Remember,
Remember,
the 5th of
November...**

I hope you have spotted the poster in this month's Dorchester News, for our first village firework display in over twenty years. We are planning hard to make it a wonderful evening for everyone in the village, so please make sure the date is in your diary!

Come along at **5.30pm** to start the evening with some wonderful food. Locally sourced burgers and sausages with all the trimmings, home-made soup, warm Winter Pimms, beer, tea, coffee, soft drinks and home made cakes, will all be on sale. Take a seat in one of the marquees, or warm up at the bonfire, whilst waiting for a spectacular display given by a professional firework company.

One lucky person will have the opportunity to actually start the firework display! We will be selling lucky tickets for £1, on the night, and if yours is chosen you will be asked to press the button to start the display!

There will be no parking on the recreation ground (except for Disabled Badge holders) nor in Drayton Road but there is plenty of parking in the Dorchester Bridge car park. We also ask that you do not bring any fireworks or sparklers to the display. Don't worry, there will be glow sticks galore.

ALL THIS for just a voluntary donation at the entrance. Any profits made will be given to Footsteps, our chosen village charity.

Fishmonger

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

10.20 - 10.30am in High Street near War Memorial

Please note change of time. The fishmonger now comes earlier than he used to.

Dorchester on Thames Historical Society Wednesday 28 October

7.30pm in Dorchester Village Hall (back room)

There will be a talk on 'Railway Poster Art: a special genre' by Robert Kidner.

Robert Kidner has been an enthusiastic amateur artist for over 25 years and has completed a course with the Open College of Arts on 'the history of western art'.

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

Gail Thomas
Chairman



DOT WI welcomes all ladies young, middle aged and old.

Forthcoming Events:

Thursday, 8 October 7.30 Village Hall
John Ingram talking about Peru.
This should be very interesting.

Thursday 12 November 7.30 at
13 Watlington Lane DOT
Quiz Night at the kind invitation of Susan Jupp

Thursday 29 October 7.15 for 7.30
Shillingford Group Meeting open to WI members.
Transport shared
For tickets contact Gill Haworth on
01865 340775 cost £5.00

Recent Events:

Thursday 9 July Summer garden Party
Guests of Pauline and Chris Kenway-Jackson
A lovely evening attended by 17 member and a potential new member. many thanks to Pauline and Chris.

20 August 2.30pm Oxford Playhouse '*The Mousetrap*'
Many thanks to Susan Jupp for arranging this successful event. Enjoyed by all.

Members are still needed for the Committee with a willingness to take Office in 2016, otherwise DOT WI will easily cease to exist from 2016.

Thank you to everyone for your continued friendship, enthusiasm and support for the Institute again this month.

Ladies interested in joining please contact :-

Pauline Kenway-Jackson

President

(01865 340746)

Jill Love

Vice President and Publicity Officer

(01865 716557)

mobile LIBRARY

Alternate Thursdays, 2.55-3.15pm
Lay-by opposite the War Memorial

1 October, 15 October, 29 October

CHARITY RACE NIGHT



DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 24th OCTOBER

BAR OPENS 7.00pm First Race 7.30pm

ENTRY £8 (to include race card and FISH & CHIPS)

Please book tickets by Wednesday 21st (for catering)

HAVE FUN – AND IT'S ALL FOR GOOD CAUSES

**Make up a table or simply come along and join in with the rest of us –
everyone will be warmly welcomed**

Tickets from

The Co op or edwards.dorchester2@virginmedia.com

or Jane Brooks 01865 340729: Keith Russell 01865 340838

Raffle on behalf of the Nasio Trust®

Dorchester Village Hall is a registered charity with no external funding.

It relies totally on hall bookings and fund raising events.

Dorchester pilates teacher rides the Tour de France for Parkinsons UK

On the 19 July, Claire Umbers and Miles Willett of Benson donned their Lycra to ride a stage of the Tour de France.

The two keen cyclists, along with several friends from South Oxfordshire, rode 140km and climbed over 4,000 metres in the Etape du Tour, an organized event that allows thousands of amateur cyclists to experience the beauty and toughness of a Tour de France mountain stage just days before the professionals pass through. Claire, one of only 500 women out of 12,000 entrants, rode on behalf of **Parkinsons U.K.**



She explained: 'It's a condition that's close to my heart as my Granddad suffered with it at a time when very little could be done. Thankfully, science is advancing, as is the acceptance of alternative approaches in managing the symptoms.'

'I'm a Body Control Pilates teacher, teaching in Dorchester On Thames, Benson, Radley and Kennington and I further qualified to work with Parkinsons clients. My clients inspire me with their determination to challenge this progressive condition on a daily basis and although my challenge lasted only one day I'd like to raise awareness and as much money as possible for Parkinsons UK.'

Claire and Miles completed the challenging course along with 9,000 other finishers in just over 8 hours. Miles said: this years ride took in 3 substantial climbs amongst spectacular scenery, including the iconic Col du Glandon. It was one of the hottest days of the year in the Alps at over 35 degrees and this certainly added to the challenge. When we crossed the finish line it was with a mixture of pride, happiness and sheer relief!

Claire has raised £1,100 for Parkinson's U.K. to date. To sponsor Claire visit her online giving page at: <https://www.justgiving.com/Claire-Umbers>

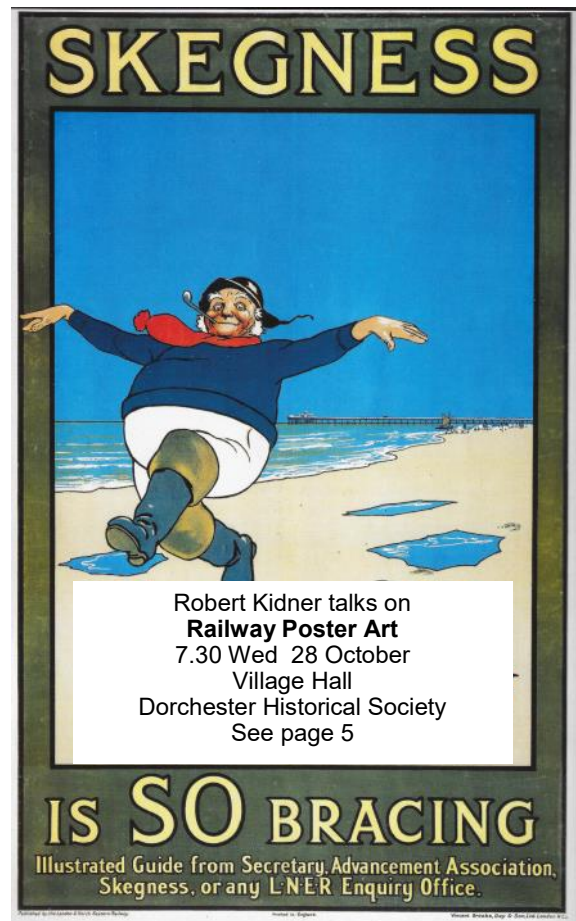
Be a Friend of Dorchester Abbey

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.

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

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

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



Camelot

THE

PANTOMIME

Boo

18th - 21st

November
Dorchester
Village Hall

By

Ben Crocker

Behind you

Oh no it isn't

Show begins Wed, Thurs, Fri 7.30, Sat 6.30

Hiss

Be bold and brave

Oh yes it is

DADS

Dorchester Amateur Dramatic Society

Tickets:

Adults £10, juniors (12 & under) £6

Family ticket (2 adults + 2 juniors) £25

Available from

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

Aisha Stores, Warborough,

Post Office, Clifton Hampden

Web www.dads.ticketsource.co.uk (booking fee applies) Email tickets@dads.org.uk Phone 01865 340792

The Autumn Flower Show

There were a good number of entries for the show, considering that the summer had hardly been kind to gardeners and allotmenters. Many thanks to those who entered and continued to support the show, and thanks also to Chris Hill for presenting the prizes. We were really pleased to see the big entry from the pre-school group and we would love to see more entries and interest from children of all ages. And a special thankyou to Annie and Matilda Fisher, for all their entries over the years.

I would also particularly like to thank the members of the committee for all their efforts before the show, on the day and afterwards – it's a huge amount of work and they do it brilliantly. See you all at the spring show.

The prizewinners were:

Children's classes

Decorated paper plate or cup
under 5s: 1st Mikey Ashley;
2nd Ella Green
3rd Poppy Line

Potato print
5 – 8 years: 1st Carys Sadler
Face mask
9 – 15 years: 1st Megan Sadler

Adults

Runner Bean Plate:	Sue and Mike Kitson
Pat Cheese Potato Cup:	Donna Watkin
Vegetable Collection Plate:	Charles Dickerson
R Belcher Onion Cup:	John Myres
Best Vegetable Award:	Charles Dickerson
Fruit Plate:	Donna Watkin
Best Kept Allotment Tray:	Hayley and Stuart Poole
Blackwell Photography Cup:	David Wilkinson
Jerry Nudds Fruit Cake Plate:	Stuart Poole
Victoria Sandwich Award:	Nick Forman
Rose Plate:	Denise Line
H C Smith Dahlia Cup:	Charles Dickerson
Floral Art Cup:	Janet DeLaine
Britain in Bloom Cup:	Alison Myres
Amey Tankard:	Nick Forman
Amey Rose Bowl:	Donna Watkin

David Wilkinson,
david@drpwilkinson.co.uk
07970 203534

Hurst Water Meadow Trust News

Our £1,900 p.a. farming grant ends soon

We are into the last year of a 10-year government grant to manage the Hurst hay meadow. The money has primarily been used to cover the cost of the hay cut and allow us to establish a flower-rich meadow. The new grants are competitive, there is less money available to be shared around, and for many reasons we will not meet their criteria.

Our £100 per free school visit education grant ends soon

Early indications are that the loss of the farming grant will lead to us losing our education grant which was worth £1,600 in 2015. If this happens then we will not be able to offer free-of-charge professionally led school visits and will need to rely more on our volunteers.

Addressing this fall in income

In times of austerity obtaining significant grants to contribute towards our annual running costs is unlikely. Our running costs cover such things as tree surgery, managing the grassland, keeping the paths in good shape, etc.

As we are trying to provide a community meadow with all the complexities of balancing different needs, rather than running it for profit, our first port of call is to ask our local community for support.

If you appreciate the meadows and the work of the Trustees then please consider making a regular donation (however small) to our funds and remembering us in your will. Please contact the treasurer, Andrew Clements, for a Direct Debit form and Gift Aid form, or make contact with a Trustee. Any help you can offer will make a difference and we will be very grateful. Our accounts are available on our website: www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk

Volunteers make a huge contribution

Trustees and helpers have been tackling jobs on the meadows (mainly cutting back vegetation). This has been weather-dependent and to suit the energy and time constraints of the individuals. Often we will spend a couple of hours on a weekday enjoying being outdoors and getting the exercise. If you are interested in joining us and would like to know more about what is involved please contact Graham Beland, Andrew Clements or Gillian Johnson.

Andrew Clements – 340753

email: admin@hurst-water-meadow.org.uk

River Thame Road Bridge maintenance works

You may have noticed the work carried out last month at Dorchester Bridge.

Oxfordshire County council contractors were working to strengthen the base of the bridge because over a number of years erosion or "scouring" caused by fast water flow exposed a hole in the riverbed below the bridge to a depth of between 1 and 1.7 m. According to the OCC engineers, if this was allowed to continue it could weaken the bridge structure so this work was necessary maintenance to avoid a greater problem in the future. They filled the "hole" in the riverbed with large stones/rocks.

The details given by Oxfordshire County council engineers were as follow: they expected to place roughly 40 tonnes of rocks into the hole (not 400 tonnes as we were told initially), these rocks would be loose and not held in place but over a short period of time silt washed down the river would fill the holes between the rocks. The work is ecologically 'friendly' and has been agreed with the Environment Agency; only sufficient rocks to restore the river bed to its original level and no rocks dropped upstream or downstream of the bridge. The programme of work extends to other river bridges across the county including one at Radcot with similar problems.

Chris Hill

Abingdon Michaelmas Fair, 5 October, 6 October. Watch out for road closures.

Here to help you find and book the perfect holiday....



Arranging a holiday can be very frustrating and challenging. But with Full Circle Travel, it doesn't need to be.

- We are a local, independent travel agent with mature, professional and well-travelled consultants.
- You do not pay more for our service but get a lot more than booking direct.
- You can book with your favourite tour operator but book locally.
- We are ABTA and AITO members and ensure your money is safe in an uncertain world.
- We listen, we care and are passionate about finding you the perfect holiday.
- Search 'Full Circle Travel' at www.trustpilot.co.uk to read what our clients say about us.

A selection of operators you can book with us at no extra cost to booking directly:

Club Med - Cox and Kings - Abercrombie and Kent - Mark Warner - Audley Travel - Explore - The Adventure Travel Company
 Royal Caribbean - Carrier - Western & Oriental - If Only - Beachcomber - Exodus - Kuoni - Viking River Cruises - Seabourn
 Riviera Travel - Silversea - Regent Seven Seas - Classic Collection - Prestige Holidays plus many more - please just ask.

Full Circle Travel, 59 St Marys Street, Wallingford, OX10 0EL

www.fullcircletravel.co.uk

T: 01491 833227

E: holiday@fullcircletravel.com

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.



Tapestry created by pupils for The Thames Heritage Tapestry Project.

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.

www.st-birinus-primary.org.uk



St Birinus School News

There was another painting surprise for the children as they came through the door on the first day of term this year as the classrooms and our resources area had been painted with a totally different colour scheme. It was great to see everyone's faces and the general buzz around the school.

This year we welcome the following children to our school – in Yellow Class: Fern, Mickey, Marcie, Charlotte, Mylo, Rose, Isabella, Kai, Olga, Joshua, Isabella, Harry, Jerome, Nola, Jessica, Aiden, Reilly, Jezreel and Megan; in Blue Class: Leo and Sian and in Red Class: Tom Smith. It is great to have them with us.

During our first two weeks of term, the whole school looked at the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' – Mr Leigh had found three piles in the school playground – straw, sticks and bricks and he was annoyed that someone had thrown it there and wanted to know who could have left those objects. The children deduced that it must have been the three pigs trying to get away from the wolf (some thought it had been Mr Leigh all the time!). Each class then continued the theme during their topic and English work considering different aspects and stories around this traditional tale.

On **Friday 16 October**, we are holding an Open Morning for prospective parents to come and look around, see the school in action alongside the changes we have made inside the building. Invitations will be sent out with further details, however if you require any additional information, please phone the school (**01865 340081**).

Russell Leigh
Headteacher
Dorchester St Birinus CE Primary School



Pre-School

As I write this, I have cakes baking in the oven in preparation for Pre-School taking over the Abbey Tea Rooms for the day tomorrow. It's always a fun (albeit) hectic day! By the time you read this, the event will have passed, so thank you to those who helped and those who came to support. I shan't reveal which cake was mine in case it turns out to be a disaster!!

The term has only just begun really, so there is not much to report other than to say we are so proud when we see how well last year's leavers are doing in Big School - it's a joy to watch the strong friendship group migrate, but continue, 'over the wall'!

And as for the little ones that are left, well they really have already come in to their own! And have been fantastic at helping settle in the brand new faces. It's such a happy and welcoming environment, it truly does not take long before they're all a little team!

Although numbers are strong we do still have spaces available for children from age 2, so if you're interested in finding out more or would like to visit, do call us on **01865 341805** or look at our website - www.dorchesterpreschool.co.uk.

Finally, I would like to say a **huge** thank you to Sarah King who is stepping down from the committee as she no longer has a child at the setting. She has made a huge contribution to the committee and Pre-School and will be sorely missed. So, Village - she is now up for grabs....get set, go!!

Matthew Kestner
Chair



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Forthcoming October events

Autumn Water Festival Sunday 4 October, 11am-4pm

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Woodland Adventure Wednesday 28 October, 10am-12pm

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

Discover and Play Friday 30 October, 10am-12pm

Forest School for pre-school children. Join the Earth Trust for a morning of play and discovery in our woodlands. Forest School offers hands on learning experiences in a natural environment. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

Spooky Dusk Discovery Walk Friday 30 October, 5.30pm-7.30pm

Do you dare come out to the woods tonight? Join us for a moonlit Halloween walk to experience the Earth Trust's woodland at night. Torch and courage essential. £5 adult, £2 child; booking essential: **01865 407792** or admin@earthtrust.org.uk

As always, 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.

Future bus services

As part of our exploration of Volunteer Driven services, an approach was made to Chilterns Dial-a-Ride who operate a successful 10-vehicle service in the Wycombe, Chilterns and South Bucks Districts. This service is for those with mobility issues and cannot extend into South Oxfordshire. We will continue to investigate alternatives.

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Focus on ... Footsteps

In the heart of Dorchester there is a group of people whose work makes a real difference to the lives of children from around the world. These are the people who work at Footsteps, whose facilities Dorchester News have been privileged to be shown round to find out about their work.



You may be aware of the Footsteps building in Queen Street and of the fund-raising that goes on at various events in the village and around the area. But how many of us really know what marvellous work they do?

Each year about 180 children, who have reduced mobility because of neurological conditions, receive physiotherapy treatment to help them strengthen their muscles and lead them to having some mobility. Most of these children suffer from cerebral palsy, but the problem can be caused by other conditions.

The child is suspended in a sprung frame, the Spider, which has two harnesses attached to elastic ropes which allows the child to sit or stand, which most can never do, with movement in their arms and legs assisted by the tension in the supports. Think baby bouncer but in three dimensions and individual supports for each limb. I watched a young boy standing to play a large game of Connect 4, something he could never normally do. Whilst he was playing the game he was learning how to use the muscles in his arms and legs. There are other suspension systems of this type available, but this is unique in this country because it works in all three dimensions, not just in two.

The treatment improves the children's mobility, which gives them greater confidence and improves their overall life skills, so it is life enhancing for them.

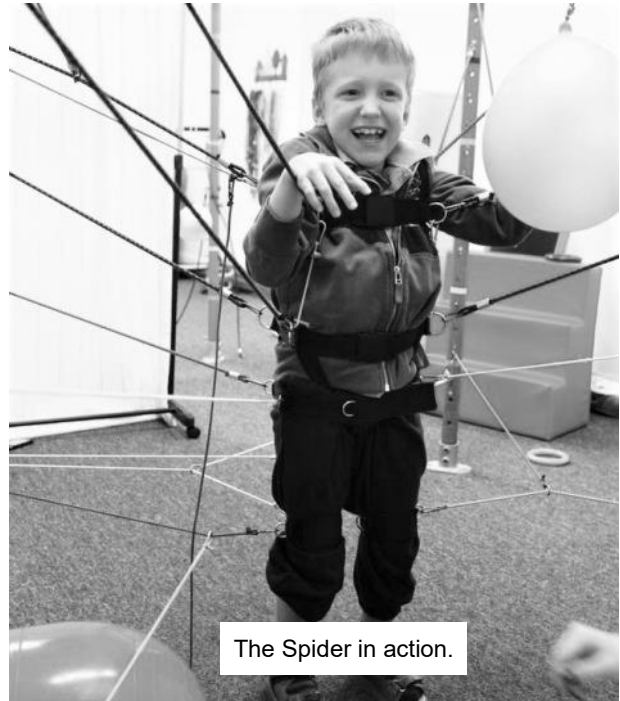
So how does a world class centre like this come to be located in Dorchester?

The founder, Pip Hoyer Millar, was told that her daughter, Minty, would not progress beyond the abilities of a four year old and would never walk independently because of her cerebral palsy. But Pip investigated and found out about the Spider therapy available at that time in Poland. But regular trips to Poland were difficult with three other children to bring up, and in 2004 Pip persuaded two of the therapists to come to the UK with the Spider, which was set up in her barn at Warborough and offered as a treatment to others. Thus Footsteps was founded, and has since grown to have five Spiders and about a dozen therapists now located in Queen Street. Minty, now a young woman, can walk and lead an independent social life; testament to the treatment.

Therapy sessions are for three weeks at a time, during

which the child has one hour to three hours every day in the Spider, plus an hour on an exercise mat. The normal cost is about £1500 for each three week treatment, and many return several times a year. Many children and their carers therefore have to stay in the area, adding to the cost.

And that is where the Footsteps Foundation comes in. This is an independent charity that



The Spider in action.

raises money to help the families that cannot afford the cost of treatment on their own. Currently around 60% are funded through the Foundation. Others receive help through other charities, such as Cerebra and Tree of Hope.

And to help the children, Footsteps Foundation has to find the money through fund-raising. Last year they raised nearly £200,000, which is a big task for the two employees of the charity. About a third of this came from other charities, a third from corporate supporters and a third from fund-raising events.

There are some regular events such as the annual choral concert at St Mary's, Henley each year, but much is raised through one-off events and bucket shaking. This year's best event has been the Wallingford Car Rally, where £8,000 was raised by street collections. Other events have included Dragon Boat Racing at Abingdon, Wittfest in Long Wittenham, half marathons, ultra marathons, and one young girl raising £40 from her friends. Footsteps is now charity of the year for Sainsbury's at Heyford Hill, where donations can be made as you shop, as they can be at our own Co-op in Dorchester.

The village fireworks display is raising money for Footsteps, so give generously when you go there.

Raising money requires persistence, a never-say-die attitude, and a host of volunteers. My visit to Queen Street was really eye-opening, and Footsteps are happy to show round any villager who is interested in what they do. So do drop in on them. You might end up becoming a volunteer.

To find out more go to the Footsteps website, www.footstepscentre.com or take just three minutes to see the piece filmed by *That's Oxford TV* at www.youtube.com/watch?v=mV12liSgbMo



Pip Hoyer Millar and Minty

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Our next films, Autumn 2015:



The Searchers (1956)
Wednesday 30 September 2015

An American Western film, Ethan Edwards (John Wayne) returns home to Texas after the Civil War. When members of his brother's family are killed or abducted by Comanches, he vows to track down his surviving relatives and bring them home.
Director: John Ford
Starring: John Wayne and Natalie Wood



Life is Beautiful (1997)
Wednesday 28 October 2015

When an open-minded Jewish librarian and his son become victims of the Holocaust, he uses a perfect mixture of will, humour and imagination to protect his son from the dangers around their camp.
Director: Roberto Benigni
Starring: Roberto Benigni and Nicoletta Braschi



On the Waterfront (1954)
Wednesday 25 November 2015

Is a classic, award-winning, controversial film, a part drama and part gangster film. Terry Malloy (Marlon Brando) once dreamt of being a great prize fighter, but now works at the docks of Johnny Friendly, the corrupt boss of the dockers union.
Director: Elia Kazan
Starring: Marlon Brando, Lee J. Cobb and Karl Malden

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Fred Holliday 1929-2015

Fred was a real Dorchester man born and bred and he loved every part of Dorchester. With the exception of his National Service, Fred lived all of his life in Rotten Row. Fred loved growing up in Dorchester and had a happy childhood with brothers, John, Roy, Bill, Eric and Neville. He learnt to swim in Buck Pool and used to enjoy Boxing Day when he would go beating all day.

Roy, one of Fred's brothers, remembers Fred starting work while he was still at school in the bakery at Warborough. Fred was allowed to drive when he delivered the bread in Mr Bullock's bread van and so this meant he learnt to drive from a very young age. This was to become the beginning of Fred falling in love with driving. He managed to do his apprenticeship for motorcar mechanics in Mr Lar Brown's garage before he left to do his National Service in Egypt where he drove lorries. Roy recalls him saying that he found the heat there very stressful. For the rest of his working life, Fred continued to earn his living transporting car bodies and parts to Coventry and Birmingham.

Fred's time training for his apprenticeship was not wasted because he continued helping friends and family repair their cars and never took his own car to a garage.

Both Fred and Roy were keen motorcyclists and together they went to lots of race meetings, scrambles and road races. Fred's love for motorbikes lasted all his life.

Fred's other love was for his garden and whenever he had time you would find him there growing the most delicious vegetables and beautiful flowers. His carrots and broad beans were the best you could eat.

Fred cared for his mother and father until they passed away at the age of 84 years. The year Fred's mother passed away, Fred and Sheila married and they had the most wonderful 30 years of happiness. Fred had the most superb sense of humour and Sheila says there was hardly a day that went that Fred did not make her laugh. They both enjoyed all of their camping holidays. There was a time when they camped on a farm that led down to Chesil Beach. Sheila remembers fondly that they could hear the sea lapping on the beach.

When Fred married Sheila, he provided an important father figure to her children; Peter, Caroline and Colin. The boys were forever bringing over old bangers and bikes and he helped to fix them. He also taught the boys how to fix them - a skill which has stayed with them and they now help us with our cars too. Caroline recalls that Fred's would often say: "It'll come and go", and these words have helped her whenever she has faced difficult situations. For example if there was a dental appointment or something that she didn't want to do, he would say "It'll come and go" and he was right. These words seem more poignant now.

Also in marrying my gran Sheila, Fred became grandfather to seven of us children; for me he was the only grandfather I ever knew. My brothers, cousins and I remember fondly his energy, strength and sense of fun. As young children,

we would bundle in to see him, jumping on him. My cousin Cameron remembers having rolled-up newspapers fights with Fred. We would make him play Lego for hours on end and beg him to let us help him dig up vegetables from his magnificent garden. He was always so patient with us all and would make us all laugh with a practical joke or two, like the time he tried to convince us all that his name was in fact Jack and not Fred, or with a funny song to teach us like "my boomerang won't come back"! One of my favourite photos of Fred is of me and my two younger brothers jumping all over Fred and he has a huge smile on his face.

We'd sit fascinated as we listened to Fred's stories of his National service in

Egypt, of his time on the ship "Empress of Australia" to Cyprus and Malta, of coming across Roman finds in his garden whilst digging up the vegetables. My brother, Richard, merits his interest in archaeology from looking for coins or bones in Fred's garden as a child!

We also enjoyed going for long walks around Fred's favourite places in Dorchester: to Days Lock to throw Pooh Sticks off the bridge and then he'd give us 2p to choose a book or comic to buy from a second hand stand near the bridge, or we'd climb Whittenam Clumps and then roll down the hill, or go up a little hidden path to see the horses in the paddock at the end.

In recent years, Fred also became great grandfather to nine children. I took my youngest daughter, just 8 months old, to visit Fred in the week before he passed away and even she must have been able to sense his playful spirit as she smiled and giggled at him and he smiled right back.

He was content and happy during his last months because of the wonderful love and care that the nurses and carers gave to him at Bridge house.

Sheila thinks she can honestly say that Fred was happy all of his life and he cared about making others happy. Fred will be missed so much. Sheila's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren adored him and everyone that knew him loved him. If you asked Fred how he was, he would always answer "Overworked and underpaid", but did so with a smile on his face and a twinkle in his eye. You could tell he was really very happy with his lot.

When it was time say goodbye to Fred, he had taught us children a thumb gesture that he used to use to warn other lorry drivers that police were up the road ahead. It now seems appropriate to use it to warn them "up there" that they have a cheeky chappy on his way, a caring and gentle soul.

Stephanie Gittins





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Rosemary Day 1931-2015

Rosemary was born on 12 March 1931 in Lenthall Cottage, Sheep Street Burford to Edith Rose Brown and Richard Halloran Brown. When she was very young they built a bungalow, which they named Hua Hin, near the recreation ground in Burford where Rosemary lived until she left. She attended the Council School where she proved a bright pupil, annoying her father in that time honored way by returning from school saying "Miss Ragless says" as a prelude to relating some significant fact with which he did not agree. Sadly her father died in 1939 when Rosemary was 8.

Rosemary passed the scholarship, went to Burford Grammar School and obtained her matriculation. At this time it was already possible to see the woman of the future:

Rosemary was active in all kinds of activities outside school, enrolling as a member of the Women's Institute at 17, became a Girl Guide, ran a Cub Scout group and in her spare time took part in various locally produced plays.

Rosemary decided not to pursue a University career but enrolled in Sprules Secretarial College in Oxford. On qualifying, she was offered employment as his secretary, by John Cripps, the editor of *'The Countryman'* magazine working close to home in Burford. Here she stayed until she married.

At the Grammar School, Rosemary had met one of the boys in the boys boarding section – one Maurice Day. Their association continued after leaving school and they were married in Burford Church on 5 October 1952.

By that time Maurice was a serving Police Officer and their first home together was a two roomed flat in Henley. Before the end of the year a daughter, Elizabeth, was born and Rosemary and Elizabeth spent ten days in hospital followed by a week with each of the grandparents. During this time Maurice was offered the opportunity to occupy one of the two police houses at Nettlebed and ride the police motorcycle, Rosemary agreed and in due course the new family moved to Nettlebed where they remained for ten years. The Police houses were isolated but all tradesmen called, even through the hard winters which occurred at that time. Often, milk was delivered from the farm across the road on the back of a forklift tractor

As well as running her household, Rosemary continued to take a great interest in local matters; joining the WI and taking part in events in the village. When Rosemary's mother became ill and was unable to look after herself at Burford she moved into the Police house with the family and Rosemary was able to care for them all, including a new baby son Richard.

At this stage Rosemary learned to drive the family car which enabled her to go to events outside the house, particularly those in the evening and to take the children to school.

In 1965 Maurice was posted to Weston on the Green. Here Rosemary continued her interest in Scouting and other social activities, although briefly, as the family was on the move again when Maurice was promoted to Sergeant and in 1966 the family moved to Dorchester on Thames to live in one of the Police houses in Oxford Road. When the family expanded with Alison's arrival the small house was getting crowded. A change in the Police regulations allowed Maurice and Rosemary to buy their own house ... and so the journey to 11 Monks Close was complete.



Whilst the first part of this story will have been familiar, it is at this point that Rosemary's story becomes personal for so many of us. As she had in every part of her life,

Rosemary took an interest in local affairs in

Dorchester on Thames and what follows is a mere digest of all the ways in which she served the community here:

- She helped to run the Brownie Pack in Dorchester for some 17 years,
- She was an active member of the Abbey Ladies as a Committee member and Chair on several occasions.
- She baked cakes and scones for the Abbey tea room where her speciality was chocolate sponge cake.
- She was a member of the PCC, at times secretary, Churchwarden and secretary to one of the Appeals.
- She helped to produce the Parish Magazine when it was printed on an ink machine and assembled in the Abbey before being distributed in the village. She continued to be an important part of the distribution team until only a few years ago.
- She was the Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee, worked at Hallidays, played Badminton in the village hall and tennis until she was 55, more recently helping to start 'short mat' Bowls in the Village Hall. She helped to run the Horticultural Show for many years.

When Lettice Godfrey started the 'Pill run' Rosemary was one of the drivers; she continued to organize it until recently. She was also a member of the Patient Participation Group.

As her own children grew up and followed their own lives and as the Day family grew Rosemary continued her love and concern for them all. She enjoyed watching the progress of her grandchildren as they made their way in and around the world and her three great grandchildren Paiton, Elijah and Amelie provided an extra special joy in these last few years. Making the journey to Bourton on the Water only weeks ago to attend Emily and Dylan's wedding was very special.

In recent years Rosemary was forced through ill health to be much less active – but she didn't stop being as active as she could – nor being concerned for her family, friends and neighbours. Rosemary loved knitting, having learned at an early age, and most recently it was through knitting that Rosemary continued to demonstrate her concern for others – knitting for various charities. Small hats and coats for newborn children in hospital; red Jumpers for Nasio Trust children in Kenya. Even when forced to be still she was always as busy and attentive to others in thought and action as she was able to be.

Maurice wrote that the Tuesday Coffee morning was always a joy for her – but, if truth be told, Rosemary was the joy not only for Tuesday coffee but in so many other things. She knew people – or would quickly get to know them, she was straight talking and a real encourager, unfailingly interesting and interested.

Bringing Rosemary here today is like bringing her home – she attended church in the Abbey as well as supporting its many activities, both personally and with Maurice... nothing that I or anyone could say today can fully express our admiration and appreciation for all that Rosemary did and was and gave to the community of Dorchester on Thames.

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CLEARVIEW
STOVES



WOODBURNING STOVES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Sharon Rogers 1961 - 2015

Sharon was born in Dunstable and at an early age moved with her family back to Dorchester, where her mother was born, and for the majority of her life lived in Dorchester, a village that she loved.



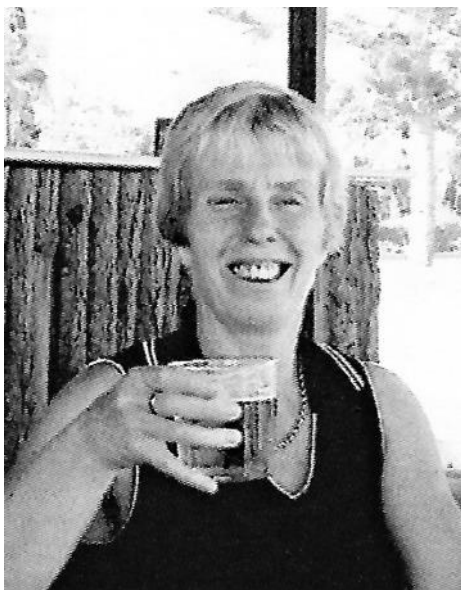
She was not an ambitious person, never seeking fame or glory but was content with her life, her home, her family and friends.

Never one to seek new friends but treated everyone exactly the same and as a result was respected, gaining many new friends along the way, which was borne by the number of people who attended her funeral at the Abbey.

Sharon was kind, generous and above all sympathetic and caring - fetching fish and chips on a Saturday lunch time for several elderly, housebound people, buying little treats for their dogs, visiting friends in hospital on a regular basis, offering solace and comfort to someone recently bereaved and the list goes on.

We have lost a wonderful human being, a treasure, who will be sorely missed but never forgotten.

Her family send heartfelt thanks to all who offered sincere condolences.



Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum Forthcoming events

4 November 2015

Gilly Halcrow 'Churchill's Secret Army'

Tickets £15

Gilly Halcrow's lecture will be a tribute to those brave men and women who participated in these critical and perilous operations. Gilly will talk about the training and preparation the agents underwent as well as telling tales of SOE betrayal. The talk gives a fascinating insight into some of the missions that achieved amazing success and helped shorten the war.

2 December 2015

Peter Dye 'Above the Dreaming Spires - Oxfordshire's Great War Aviation Story'

Tickets £10

The First World War was the first conflict in which air combat became a major focus. Men from all nations and walks of life were drawn to the skies and the romance of flying. Peter Dye, former Director General of RAF Museum Hendon, who curated the exhibition, presents an evening of high adventure with stories of the men and fascinating facts about the technological advancements that came with the emergence of the Royal Flying Corps.

3 February 2016

Colonel John Bridgeman 'From the Black Prince to Winston Churchill, from Poitiers to Present Day - 600 years of Oxfordshire Yeomanry'

Tickets £5

Join us for a fascinating talk led by Colonel John Bridgeman as he takes us through the history of Winston Churchill's own regiment whose unique archive is housed at SOFO.

2 March 2016

An evening with Hugo Brunner 'My father and I'

Tickets £15

All Lieutenant Felix Brunner's letters from the Western Front to his parents and sister have survived. They are a vivid record of the experiences of a junior officer in the Royal Field Artillery, from April 1917 to January 1919. Aged 19, he fought in the battle of Messines and participated in the Hundred Days campaign which brought the war to a bloody but successful conclusion.

6 April 2016

Brigadier David Innes 'Redcoats to Riflemen'

Tickets £5

Our second talk this season from our own archive focuses on the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Raised in 1741, the regiment played important roles in many theatres of war from the American War of Independence, Waterloo, both World Wars and within the Rifle Regiment, notably Northern Ireland and Afghanistan

Full details of these events can be found at

www.sofo.org.uk

All events are held on Wednesdays at the Museum, Woodstock, from 7.00-8.30pm unless otherwise stated.

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Cross Lanes Fruit Farm

Following a change in ownership, Cross Lanes Fruit Farm have closed their Farm Shop, they will no longer be at farmers markets, and there will not be an Apple Day this year. They have asked us to thank all their lovely customers for their support and friendship over the years.

Coffee Morning at Berinsfield Library

Tuesday 20 October
Tuesday 17 November
10.30-12.00pm



Join us for a cup of coffee and meet
Matthew from the British Legion
Offering advice and support

Junior Book Club for 8 -10 year olds

Berinsfield Library
24 October, 21 November
19 December

Come and tell us about a book you have enjoyed, play
quizzes, design book covers and lots more
Come and join in the fun

Local Markets in South Oxfordshire

Street Markets

Didcot: Fridays and Saturdays in the Market Place.

Sunday mornings outside Orchard Centre

Wallingford: Fridays in the town centre

Thame: Tuesdays in the town centre

Henley: Thursdays in the town centre

Farmers' Markets

There are several Farmers' Markets in South Oxfordshire:

Didcot's Farmers' Market is held every second Saturday of the month, 8.30am to 1.30pm.

Wallingford's Farmers' Market is held every third Tuesday and fifth Saturday of the month, 8.30am to 1.30pm.

Thame's Farmers' Market is held every second Tuesday of the month, 8.30am to 1.30pm.

Henley's Farmers' Market is held every fourth Thursday and fifth Sunday of the month, 8.30am to 1.30pm.

Local Producers' Markets

Local Producers' Markets give local farmers, growers and producers a regular venue to sell their wares.

Wallingford Local Producers' Market is held every Saturday in The Regal Centre, Goldsmith's Lane (car park), except when there is a Farmers' Market, 10.00am to 1.00pm.

WI Country Market

Wallingford - Friday mornings in The Regal Centre, use Goldsmith's Lane park.



Calling all knitters! Get knitting for the Big Knit 2015



Age UK Oxfordshire is calling on nimble-fingered knitters in Oxfordshire to whip out their wool and needles and create little woolly hats for Age UK and innocent's Big Knit and help local older people keep warm, safe and well in winter.

Now in its 12th year, The Big Knit returns and budding knitters across the UK are being called upon to knit miniature woolly hats to adorn innocent smoothie bottles, which will be sold in stores nationwide from February 2016. For each be-hatted smoothie sold, innocent will donate 25p to help Age UK fund national and local winter projects. Age UK Oxfordshire is calling on local knitters to get as many hats as possible to them by Friday 4th December 2015 and needs knitters of all ages to help make this a reality.

Each winter, one older person dies needlessly every eight minutes because of the cold. With over a decade of support from knitters up and down the country, The Big Knit has raised vital funds to support local and national winter projects to help older people keep warm and well in winter.

Last year alone, more than 16,000 hats were lovingly created in Oxfordshire, raising over £3,000 for Age UK Oxfordshire's Information and Advice helpline during the winter months.

To get involved in the Big Knit, knitters can contact Age UK Oxfordshire on **0345 450 1276** to get a free hat pattern or visit the website www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/bigknit to download one. Please send completed hats to Age UK Oxfordshire, 39 West St Helen Street, Abingdon OX14 5BT by **Friday 4 December 2015**.

Spooky Halloween Trains, Cholsey & Wallingford Railway

31 October, 1 November



Dress up if you care, be there if you dare! Watch out for ghosts, rattling bones and spiders of different sizes to meet all tastes. Look out for the spooky characters along both sides of the line to Cholsey and back. Beware of the witch distributing Special Halloween Spooky Bags on the train to all children under 8 years.

No need to book - just turn up on the day!

Ticket prices apply.



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Castles of the Thames Valley: new research

Conference - Sat 24 October

The most recent research on Wallingford's history will be made public at this sixth conference organised by The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) in conjunction with Wallingford Museum.

The last eight years have seen major advances in understanding the importance of Wallingford's role as a royal Saxon and Medieval stronghold. TWHAS has undertaken new documentary research, as well as being actively involved in the Burh to Borough Project, led by the Universities of Leicester, Exeter and Oxford, including taking over completion of the project's Urban Test Pitting programme. A new publication with the latest research will be available at the conference: *Wallingford: the Castle and Town in Context*.

The latest documentary work has finally revealed Wallingford Castle in its rightful place among the great royal castles of the Thames Valley, so TWHAS are delighted to have brought together a group of eminent speakers, each of whom has been involved in new research concerning these significant royal strongholds.

The conference will be held at the Methodist Church Centre, St Leonard's Square, Wallingford on **Sat 24 October**, from 9.45am to 5pm. For anyone wishing to visit the site of Wallingford Castle there will be a brief guided tour led by Judy Dewey.

The event's cost is £30 per person - this includes a buffet lunch, and refreshments during the day. Advance booking will be essential! - booking forms are available from Wallingford Museum.

www.twhas.org.uk



What my DNA test told me!

Writer and historian Tony Hadland, based in Oxfordshire, returns to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) with a further talk... **"What my DNA test told me!"**

After years of wondering whether it was worthwhile, Tony took a comprehensive DNA test. His aim was to prove (or disprove) a family tradition that his great-grandmother, Mildred Gill, was of Spanish descent. The test confirmed a cover-up going back several generations, but also threw up fascinating information about his Oxfordshire agricultural labourer ancestors, possibly linking them to the spread of agriculture from the Fertile Crescent.

Tony is a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors; a historian specialising in local, family, recusant and cycle history; honorary president of the Moulton Bicycle Club; and chairman of the Oxfordshire Local History Association.

He has made numerous appearances on radio, particularly in recent years on BBC Radio Oxford, and has also appeared in documentary films and on regional TV.

This talk will be held on **Friday 9 Oct**, 7.45 for 8pm, at Wallingford Town Hall.

Visitors (£3) are most welcome.

www.twhas.org.uk



Wallingford Gardening Club

Pruning - a practical talk

After a summer of wonderful garden visits, Wallingford Gardening Club is returning to Ridgeway Community Church for our winter programme of talks.

At the October meeting, Geoff Hawkins will give a practical talk on pruning.

Geoff worked as Head Gardener at the Mill Court private estate in Hampshire, and retired from there after 35 years. As a head gardener he ran the small estate of 30 acres working in greenhouses, vegetable and fruit gardens, herbaceous and shrub borders as well as looking after the trees, ponds and natural features on the estate.

The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm on Thursday 8th October.

Visitors very welcome £2.

Wallingford and District Art Club

Following the Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday 20 October** at Centre 70, there will be an illustrated talk by Robert Kidner on 'Railway Poster Art - A Special Genre'.

Also this month, on **Saturday 24 October**, there will be an all-day tutored workshop with artist David Newry using Derwent water-soluble Inktense pencils, all materials being supplied. This is open to non-members as well as members, but there are only a few places left. If you are interested, please phone for full details.

Stephanie Toole

Wallingford Bridge Club

Every Summer I sit down to write something about Wallingford Bridge Club over the previous 12 months. I am always conscious that many readers are more interested in what WBC offers to the community than its various competitive successes. So that is my focus this year.

Wallingford Bridge Club has just about finished the improvements to the Roke and Berrick Salome Village Hall. In addition to loaning the Village Hall Committee money to replace the roof, we have provided carpets and curtains throughout the Hall, refurbished the kitchen and made internal alterations so as to provide a second substantial room for events.

We have been able to do all this because of the growing membership brought about from two sources. The first is providing daytime opportunities to play Bridge, from the purely social on Tuesday afternoons to reasonably competitive on Friday afternoons. That is in addition to our long standing evening events.

The second is the ever increasing number of members that come from the Bridge courses organised at the Village Hall on Tuesday mornings and evenings. People who set out to learn the rudiments have found that it is an enjoyable activity that is not limited by age or skill. They discover that alongside the minority of fiercely competitive players the majority play for enjoyment. Over half those playing at Wallingford Bridge Club first started by attending a course for novices or by refreshing an earlier interest at a course for improvers.

Visit www.bridgewebs.com/wallingford/ to find out more about opportunities to play or to learn Bridge.

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What's On October

Cinema: Performances start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. NB All cinema shows are now advertisement-free!

Thurs 1	Me and Earl and the Dying Girl (12A)
Fri 2	A Dozen Summers (PG)
Sun 18	Ricki and the Flash (12A)
Mon 19	Ricki and the Flash (12A)
Tues 20	Legend (18)
Wed 21	Legend (18)
Thurs 22	NT Live Hamlet at 7pm
Fri 23	NT Live Hamlet at 7pm
Sat 24	A Walk in the Woods (15)
Sun 25	A Walk in the Woods (15)
Sun 25	NT Live Hamlet at 2.30pm
Mon 26	Spectre (12A)
Tues 27	Spectre (12A)
Wed 28	Spectre (12A)
Thurs 29	Spectre (12A)
Fri 30	Spectre (12A)
Sat 31	Spectre (12A)

Spectre (12A) continues to Nov 12

007 comes to Wallingford on **October 26** for the world premiere of **Spectre**. To celebrate, the Corn Exchange is holding a special gala night, Bond-style, with cocktails (shaken not stirred) and an Aston Martin on hand to set the scene.

The audience will be encouraged to get out their glad rags and dress up to the nines – a prize being awarded to the best dressed couple. Doors will open at 7pm and the performance starts at 8pm. Tickets are £10 which includes the welcoming cocktail.

COMING UP

Friday November 6: **NT Live Hamlet** at 7pm

Thursday November 19: **NT Live Of Mice and Men** at 7pm

LIVE

October 14 to 17 at 7.45pm. Sinodun Players present **The Cherry Orchard** by Anton Chekhov. Director Ric Harley has chosen Tom Stoppard's 2009 translation which reveals a delightful set of characters and their eccentricities in this comedy drama. The story, set in early 20th century Russia, revolves around a cash-strapped aristocratic family on the brink of losing their ancestral estate and its famous cherry orchard. It's a new dawn and they must learn to accept the diminishing power of the landed gentry and the rise of the working classes. £10.

There will be a Talkback Q&A with the cast and director on the Thursday

Tickets and further information available online www.cornexchange.org.uk or from box office (01491 825000).



Refuse Collections

Fridays from 7.00 am.

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

Fortnightly: garden waste, recycling; non-recyclable waste

Fri 2 Oct	Green
Fri 9 Oct	Black
Fri 16 Oct	Green (see green page 1)
Fri 23 Oct	Black
Fri 30 Oct	Green

Green = recycling (loose in large green bin) and **garden waste** (brown bin, +£35 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 8.00am – 5.00pm seven days a week.



Village Bus Services



From Dorchester (War Memorial)

No.	To	Dep	Arrive	
114	Abingdon	07.40	08.11	NS
97	Wallingford	09.07	09.19	
97	Didcot	09.36	10.16	
97	Wallingford	10.57	11.09	
97	Didcot	11.26	12.06	
97	Wallingford	12.47	12.59	
97	Didcot	13.26	14.06	
97	Shillingford	14.47	14.51	NS
97	Wallingford	14.47	14.59	SO
114	Abingdon	14.56	15.16	
114	Wallingford	16.11	16.32	NS

To Dorchester (War Memorial)

No.	From	Dep	Arrive	
114	Wallingford	07.20	07.40	NS
114	Abingdon	08.34	09.07	
97	Wallingford	09.25	09.36	
97	Didcot	10.20	10.57	
97	Wallingford	11.15	11.26	
97	Didcot	12.10	12.47	
97	Wallingford	13.15	13.26	
97	Didcot	14.10	14.47	
114	Shillingford	14.52	14.56	NS
114	Abingdon	15.38	16.11	NS

NS= Not Saturday. SO=Saturday only.

No services on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

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**.

Times checked with Thames Travel 14 September.

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

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Abbey Calendar October Sundays

Oct 4	Trinity 18
8.00 am	Holy Communion (1662) (Revd. Michael Lakey)
10.30am	Harvest Family Communion
Oct 11	Trinity 19
8.00 am	Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booy)
10.30 am	Sung Eucharist and Baptism
Oct 18	Trinity 20
8.00 am	Holy Communion (1662) (Revd. Michael Lakey)
10.30am	Family Service
6.00pm	Evensong
Oct 25	Trinity 21
8.00 am	Holy Communion (1662) (Revd. Caroline King)
10.30am	Sung Eucharist
12 noon	Baptism
7.00pm	Taize@7

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 10.20-10.30am by War Memorial Fishmonger (p.5)
Thursday	9.30 am – 11.00am Village Hall: Baby & Toddler Group (term time only)
Friday	7.00 pm Abbey: Choir Practice
Alt Thurs	2.55 to 3.15pm War Memorial: Mobile Library (p.5)

Monthly:

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

See Village Notice Boards for details.
 Please send all entries and updates for the 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

Weekdays

Every Tuesday	10.30am – 12 noon Coffee in the Abbey
Every Wednesday	9.30am Holy Communion at Berinsfield Church
Tue 13	10.15am Short Communion
Thu 22	2.30pm Service at the Cheshire Home

Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

16 August	Raffaella Constance Alice Goodwin Grace Elizabeth Kestner
19 July	Benjamin Michael James Scott Samuel Edward Gordon Scott

Holy Matrimony

29 August	Danny Richard Geddes and Michaela Burns
5 September	Christian John Brooks and Jennifer Rachel Pickett

Funeral

20 August	Sharon Rogers
2 September	Rosemary Anne Day
10 September	Frederick Holliday

Deadline for November Dorchester News

All items must be sent by
Friday 9 October

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

Parish Council Notices

Monthly Meeting - October

The October meeting will take place in the back room of the Village Hall on **Wednesday 14 October** commencing at 7.30 p.m. All are welcome to attend for any part of the meeting.

The Agenda will be posted on Village notice boards and on the Parish Council section of the Village website – www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk - three clear days in advance of the meeting. All Parish Council Meetings are open to the public; a resident who wishes to raise any matter of concern is welcome to do so at the start of the meeting.

Traffic Speed Survey Autumn 2015

Oxfordshire County Council has invited the Parish Council to nominate four locations where traffic speed data can be collected using special measuring equipment which is mounted on the roadside and operates 24/7. These locations have to be where cars do not normally park and so the locations will be at spots in Abingdon and Henley Roads. In the 'gaps' - mainly in High Street but also near the School in Queen Street - where it is difficult to find suitable positions for mechanical measuring equipment, the data will be collected by our Dorchester Volunteers, using hand-held devices for which training will have been received. In addition to the assistance of the County Council, we acknowledge the co-operation of Thames Valley Police in this project.

This Survey is being carried out in response to concerns about excessive traffic speed that have been expressed by many residents in several parts of the Village.

Recycling centres under threat

The County Council's consultation on this topic continues until 5th October. There is a proposal to reduce the number of waste recycling centres and sites which are popular with Dorchester's residents are under threat of closure. For more information and to register your views on this matter please use this link: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/aug/council-consulting-future-household-waste-recycling-centres

Contacting the Parish Council

The Parish Clerk is Geoffrey Russell of The Pigeons (next to The Fleur de Lys), 5-7 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 Chris Hill, 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

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.

From SODC...

Get your electric blanket tested

If you have an electric blanket, you should check that it's still safe to use before the winter arrives.

Free electric blanket safety checks provided by Oxfordshire County Council are available on the following days this October:

- Monday 5 Oct – Oxford
- Tuesday 6 Oct – Wallingford
- Thursday 8 Oct – Abingdon
- Monday 19 Oct – Oxford
- Wednesday 21 Oct – Thame
- Thursday 22 Oct – Wantage

For more details, and to book a safety check please call 01865 815 000 or email communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Compost giveaway

To get your garden in tip-top shape before the winter really hits, then make the most of compost giveaway days being provided by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils. Bring your box, wheelbarrow or bags to the following locations to pick up top quality compost – for free!

- **Saturday 3 October**, 9am – 11am – **White Horse Leisure centre overflow car park, Audlett Drive, Abingdon, OX14 3PJ**
- **Sunday 4 October**, 9am – 11am – old South Oxfordshire District Council car park, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8ED

Extra garden waste collection

If you're a South Oxfordshire District Council's garden waste customer then you can leave double the amount out for collection on the week beginning **12 October**. Just one bin's worth of extra garden waste in an open box or bag next to your brown bin on your normal collection day.

Now you can recycle more from the kerbside

From **7 September** you are able to put even more items out for recycling.

From that date South Oxfordshire District Council and Biffa will have started collecting small electrical items and clothes or textiles from the kerbside. Textiles like torn or worn out clothes, curtains and bedsheets that aren't good enough for charity - put any in a tied carrier bag next to your green bin on recycling days from 7 September.

Small electrical items like toasters, kettles, irons, hairdryers, small electronic toys, and radios need to be placed in a carrier bag and put out next to your Grey waste bin from 14 September.

For more on what can be recycled visit morerecycling.co.uk

From your county councillor...

Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

September 2015

Budget

The hard work of preparing a budget for 2016/17 will soon begin in earnest. The exact financial position will not be known until the end of November when the Comprehensive Spending Review is announced; this may mean that the final details of the Budget may not be decided until the January 2016 Cabinet meeting. It is currently expected that around another £60m of savings will have to be made; these will mean some difficult decisions will have to be taken in order to achieve a balanced budget on 16th February 2016. The County Council has already made savings of £204 million since 2010. Further savings of £88 million by 2018 have been planned, so the additional £60m takes the total savings to £352 million. The biggest single budget challenge is the ever-rising cost of Social Care (see below).

The challenge of social care costs

Nearly half of the Council's budget goes on Social Care. By and large, the Council's responsibilities here are statutory, meaning that for the most part, budget cuts fall in other areas. An extraordinary statistic is that at any one time, just 2% of the population account for all these Social Care costs.

Household Waste Recycling Centre Strategy

A HWRC strategy will aim to create a sustainable network of sites across the county that are well located for areas of population. The network, together with district council kerbside collections, will aim to maximise the amount of waste reused and recycled in the county and minimise the amount of material sent for disposal. An agreed strategy will enable OCC to seek contributions from new development to maintain and improve the HWRC network. In order to achieve a financially sustainable network of sites, it is proposed that the strategy to be consulted on is based on the following key objectives:

- reduce number of sites;
- locate sites to limit as much as possible the drive times for residents;
- locate the sites as close as possible to the more populated centres.

A public consultation started on 10 August and will run until 5 October 2015. It can be found here:

<https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/HWRCstrategy/consultationHome>

Recycling road sweepings

Road sweepings from across Oxfordshire are to be processed at a state-of-the-art new treatment and recovery facility in Ewelme – a move which is designed to boost recycling rates and help cut costs for Oxfordshire County Council. The specially-designed facility, built by Grundon Waste Management at a cost of £1.3m, is one of the most technically advanced in the UK and helps councils meet their recycling targets through the recovery of all road sweeping waste, including leaves, sand and grit, and metals. Around 5,000 tonnes of sweepings a year are collected from Oxfordshire's roads by operators working for each of the five district councils; all of this material will now be processed and recycled at the new plant.

Reducing the cost of the back office

Cabinet agreed to join the Hampshire partnership as an operational partner for the provision of back office support services through their Integrated Business Centre, with an expected saving of £805,000 pa. The existing Hampshire partnership is legally underpinned by an unincorporated public-to-public partnership. This enables each public body to jointly deliver and share the benefits of shared services between themselves. As a partnership rather than a commercial outsourcing, the expectation is that all partners (including OCC) will collaborate and work together for the

good of the partnership. OCC will join the partnership through a joint working agreement, retaining influence on the partnership through an operational forum, which provides a basis for consultation and the exercise of influence in the management of the overall joint working arrangements.

A-level results

The wait is over for thousands of students receiving their A-Level results at schools and colleges across Oxfordshire. Based on the information provided by schools and academies so far, early indications appear to show around 96 per cent of students have gained two or more A-Levels at the A* - E pass rate. This would represent an increase on the 2014 figure (95.1 per cent) – but confirmed results will be published later in the year. Information received also suggests around 50% of students have achieved two or more A levels at grade A*-B. This would also represent an improvement on the corresponding figure for 2014 (46.7%); however, these are estimates only and should be viewed with caution at this stage.

GCSE results

Around 6,200 young people across Oxfordshire have now received their GCSE results. It is the second year since the introduction of a number of national changes to the examination and assessment process, including the requirement for schools to submit their 'first results' only for Government assessment, with the results of any retaken exams not taken into account. As was the case last year, the council has received a mix of results from schools and academies, with some reporting their 'best results', and others reporting results based only on 'first exams' taken. As such, the council cannot yet provide an estimate for the percentage of Oxfordshire students achieving the national benchmark of five A*-C grades, including English and Maths. Verified results will be published nationally in the autumn. Last year Oxfordshire moved ahead of the national average for the proportion of students achieving 5A*-Cs including English and Maths. A total of 59.4% of pupils gained five A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths compared with 56.8 per cent for state-funded schools across the country.

A40 strategy

When the A40 strategy was debated at the July Cabinet meeting, it was decided to take a long-term view for the A40 corridor looking at all possible options. During September/October there will be exhibitions and open meetings when residents will be able to discuss and understand all the different options.

Cutteslowe and Wolvercote roundabouts

The works at these roundabouts are a necessary part of the A40 strategy and need to be done in one go as the junctions are so close together that any works to one impact on the other. Doing them together also significantly reduces the length of time that drivers will be impacted upon. The work will take more than a year; it could have been done more quickly, but that would have involved the unacceptable closure of key roads