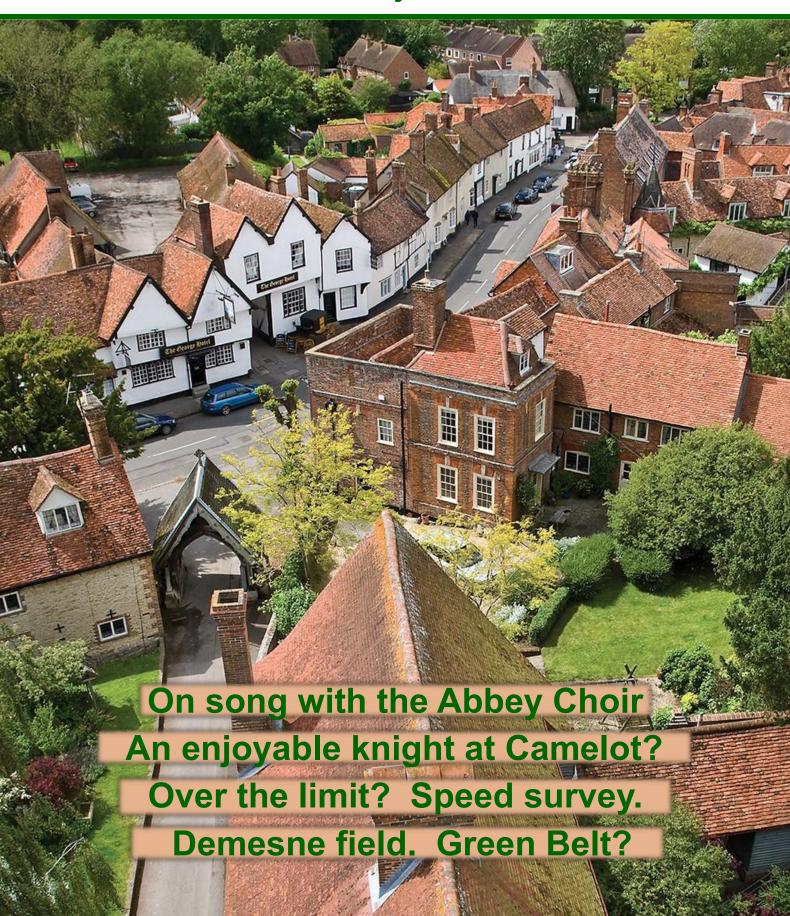
Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

February 2016





In this issue

11

21

3

9

6

5

32

7

3

24

13

7

18

11

30

11

8

20

11

16

15

7

25

24

5 5

R

31

3

3

15

14

24

23

30

24

24

31

13

3

27 31

28

28

28

28

30

Abbey Bellringers Alan Fisher: tribute Ash Wednesday Calling all Midsomer fans Canvas Carols at Village Tree Chiropodist Christmas at Dorchester Abbey Christmas Trees Coffee morning thanks Come and Sing Contacting Parish Council County education news Cricket Umpires Culham Horticultural DADS - Camelot review Didcot Garden Town Dorchester Diary Dorchester WI Earth Trust Ethel Higgins: tribute Fishmonger Focus on Abbey Choir Footsteps - Alice's story From Ethel Higgins's family From Meg Fisher From your county councillor From your MP Hempcroft Allotment News Historical Society Hurst Water Meadow Index of advertisers Lent Lent Lunches Letter to the editor Narnia in the Abbey Parish Council Meetings Parish Council vacancy Parish registers Precept 2016/17 Public meeting Demesne Field Refuse Collections St Birinus School Talking Point Traffic Survey results Useful information Village Bus services Village Carol Singing Village Hall Prize Draw Wallingford Corn Exchange Wallingford Historical Society Wallingford Museum Wallingford Photographic Club Wallingford U3A

Dorchester News February 2016

A DoT view

elcome to the new format of Dorchester News. Advances in technology have allowed us to be able to introduce colour on a regular basis to about half of the pages, with no increase in the cover price!

We have taken advantage of this to try to rework the format in order to use colour as best we can and hopefully make Dorchester News more interesting and agreeable to look at.

The front page will now be a photograph or photographs of the village and its surrounds, or that relate to a village event, either that has just passed or is about to occur. And on the back page we will carry photographs sent in by readers that are also relevant to Dorchester. If you have photographs that you would like to contribute, please send them to the me at the email address below. Photographs published will be credited.

At the top of this page is a wonderful new depiction of life in Dorchester through the seasons created by Patricia Drew especially for us. Follow it from Spring to Winter and see how many village activities you can find.

Towards the back is Dorchester Diary, which lists meetings, events and Abbey services for the month all on one page, to help you decide which you want to go to. Let me know about anything you would like included.

On the inside back page is an index to advertisers, so when you want to find the phone number or email address of a plumber, builder or whatever, you don't have to search through the News to find their ad. I hope that you will find that useful.

I hope you enjoy our new look.

Ian Brace



Deadline for March Dorchester **News**

email: dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Gillian Johnson

Distribution Co-ordinator Maurice Day

Copy Deadlines for **Dorchester News**

March edition 12 Feb April edition 11 March May edition 8 April

Advert Deadlines for **Dorchester News**

One week before copy deadline Items in electronic form may be sent via e-mail attachment to email address at foot of page.

For newsletter for other churches in the Team send to admin@dorchesterabbey.org.uk by the 9th of the preceding month.

Advertising in Dorchester News

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 mono, £12.75 colour; for a quarter page £23.50 mono, £25.50 colour, for a half page £35.25 mono, £38.50 colour and full page £47.00 mono, £51.00 colour.

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.

To incorporate a logo or artwork, please supply a copy, preferably via e-mail: to address at foot of page or contact the editor.

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.

Printed by Higgs of Henley.

Wallingford Vehicle Rally

Weekly events

Talking Point Revd. Canon Sue Booys

I'm writing at the beginning of a New Year and this edition of Dorchester News is not just the first one of 2016 (albeit not arriving until the beginning of February) but the VERY first edition of the new look Dorchester News - so a Happy and colourful New Year from me and from the Dorchester Team of Churches!! - And a big 'Thank you' to the editor for the research and dedication needed to steer through this change.

What are your aspirations for 2016? I love the 'clean sheet of paper' sensation of New Year - the opportunity to make a fresh start and to put behind us all the 'might have been' and 'wish I hadn't' feelings. It's a human blessing, I think, always to feel that we could have done things better - but there are times when human sadness overcomes us - like that year which the Queen called her 'annus horribilis'. We hope and pray that 2016 will be a good one for Her Majesty as we plan in our different communities to celebrate her 90th Birthday.

So what do we hope for our blank sheets of paper this year? All our village communities have their different issues more than one is facing the prospect of welcoming newcomers to inhabit significantly large numbers of new homes. Sometimes we worry that village activities and businesses are unsustainable but

we remain chary of new building and greater populations.

Within the church Team, the Bridge Group of parishes is looking forward to appointing and welcoming a new vicar. I always look forward to what a new colleague will bring - part of our richness is the variety of expertise and enthusiasm that a group of clergy serving a number of parishes can share.

Internationally, like all of you I shall be praying for peace and for our care of the environment and I shall be continuing to look for ways we can help men women and children across the world. Through the Dorchester Team we give particular support to a very small community on the edge of the Kalahari where, week by week local women feed children and impoverished families. Here AIDS and Alcohol related illness represent a real threat to life and many children are orphans. In world terms this is a mere grain of sand - but we have seen the real difference our support and interest has made through better nutrition and in the burgeoning confidence of the women in charge as they rejoice in achieving their hope to bring life to their community. Those of us who have met these women of the Burning Bush have learned much from them - I hope that in 2016 you will get to meet them as a visit here is planned later in the year!

This letter encompasses two kinds of new begin-

ning in one - Easter is so early this year that Lent begins in February – Ash Wednesday is the 10th! In Lent Christians take on a new discipline - it may be doing something new or giving something up but its intention is to be a little more rigorous in the way we live our lives so that we have the opportunity to grow in heart and soul, mind and strength and service to our neighbour. Little wonder that many people who would not call themselves active Christians still use the forty days of Lent to help them make a new start. (Forty days is approximately the time that research has shown it takes to establish a new habit!)

Choose Life - in the Old Testament this is a challenge that God makes to his people over and over - it is not about choosing to keep on existing but about choosing to live in a way that reaches into our deep rooted humanity, spirituality and mutuality. In our time we are fortunate to be able to live our lives in a way that takes account of women and men across the world. How will we Choose Life in 2016?

God Bless You

Ash Wednesday, 10 February

There will be services for the Team at 9.30am at Berinsfield and 7.30pm at Warborough.

..... Lent Lunches

Will be held on Friday lunchtimes during the Lenten season. A simple lunch available from 12.30 to 2pm, and good company, in exchange for a donation. Information about the Charity to which the donations will be sent will be available at the Lunches which will be:

12 February at the Rectory by invitation of Sue Booys

19 February at 1 Beechcroft

by invitation of Joan Blackwell

26 February at 4, Drayton Road by invitation of Meg Fisher

Village Carol Singing: Thank you!

Thank you to all those who came along to carol sing just before Christmas and to those who dug deep into their pockets to support us.



We raised a record £232 for Action around Bethlehem Children with Disability (ABCD), who are dedicated to improving the quality of life for those children in Palestine suffering from physical, mental and psychological disabilities.

Steph Forman

Lent

Lent is a time of preparation for Easter which we mark with special services at the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday and taking on some new thing that will help us to grow in strength and faith. In addition to anything else you might choose you are invited to explore what it means to be a Pilgrim on the Christian way through a series of studies about different aspects of faith. Details of these will be different in each village.

Ash Wednesday – the beginning of Lent falls on 10 February this year - probably as early as it can be! There will be services of Holy Communion for the Dorchester Team at Berinsfield at 9.30am and in Warborough at 7.30pm.

Looking ahead on Good Friday The Very Reverend Edmund Newey will give the address at the service at Dorchester Abbey. This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome Edmund - now Sub Dean of Christ Church back 'home' - he grew up in the Dorchester Team worshipping in Warborough church throughout his childhood.

Come and Sing

On Friday 12 February at 7pm Dorchester Abbey Choir is holding a Come and Sing taster evening for anyone who might be interested in joining the Abbey Choir adults, or is just curious about what we do on a Friday evening!

We will have a quick look at the music that the choir will be singing the following Sunday, learn something new together and sing through a couple of favourites. We finish at about 8.15pm. Do come and sing! Absolutely no obligation to join afterwards!! If you would like to know more, contact Choir Director Jeremy Boughton on 01491 836310 or

jjbwallingford@tiscali.co.uk

JENKS OXFORD

Arboricultural Contractors

Jenks Oxford are based here in Dorchester and so are even more convenient for all your tree needs.

Ask for a free site consultation and quotation on our full range of general and specialist services from our qualified professional tree surgeons.

Tree felling & removal - Pruning - Tree surveys - Diseased or unstable trees—Stump removal... and much more, just ask!



Proud to sponsor FOOTSTEPS

£10 million public liability Insurance. County Council approved. Arboricultural Association Approved. NPTC & Lantra Qualified.

Anderson Orr





Contact us for a free and informa discussion about your project.

01865873936

info@andersonorr.com

www.andersonorr.com

<u>FAB FEB FEASTS</u>

JOIN US FOR ANY SUNDAY IN FEBRUARY AND RECEIVE A RESTAURANT CLUB

"DOUBLE DISCOUNT"

OF 20% FROM YOUR FOOD BILL

Please present this voucher when paying

01865 340074



Valentines weekend
12th-14th February
Why not surprise your
partner and book a
table only
£50.00 per couple
Please call to reserve a
place ,payment taken
at time of booking



.



Dorchester Village Hall 200 Club Prize Draw

Congratulations to the winners of the December draw:

1st Prize £100 No.51 Mrs J Nudds 2nd Prize £45 No.27 Mrs S Puri 3rd Prize £25 No.124 Mrs J Douglas

The next draw will be in March, with the first prize reverting to £75 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 for a form.



Culham & District Horticultural Club

.....

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

Wednesday 17 Febrary 2016

'Leicester Botanic Garden, its Landscape Plants': an illustrated talk by Kevin Hughes, the Director.

Wednesday 16 March 2016

Tim Ingram will give an illustrated talk about the garden and nursery at Copton Ash, past and present. He will bring plants for sale at the meeting. We shall visit Copton Ash in Kent on our garden tour in June.

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

Hempcroft Allotment News

It may still be winter but after the middle of February it is safe to think about sowing the seeds of early vegetables. Prepare a seed bed and sow 'White Lisbon' Spring onion, early short horn carrots, early types of lettuce. Try a sowing of parsnip seed if you really want large roots but use a canker resistant cultivar. February is the best month to plant out garlic and shallots. Prepare the ground as you would a seed bed and plant using a trowel; don't push the bulbs into the soil. Plant the garlic cloves about 2ins deep and leave the tips of the shallot bulbs just at the soil surface. The birds may pull one or two out leaving them lying on the ground. Replant them as soon as possible and the birds will quickly lose interest.

Complete any outstanding winter pruning of soft fruit bushes cutting out down to soil level the older dark stemmed shoots of blackcurrants. Top dress soft fruit bushes with a general fertiliser at the recommended application rate. At the same time top dress the rest of the plot with a general fertiliser as land becomes available. Prune late/autumn fruiting raspberries down as low as possible and mulch around them. Cover the soil with cloches or sheets of plastic to warm it up in readiness for the next batch of sowing and planting. Don't overdo it as little and often should be the plan over the coming weeks.

Edward Metcalfe

Dorchester on Thames Historical Society

Wednesday 24 February 2016 7.30pm in Dorchester Village Hall (back room)

There will be a talk by Professor Greg Stores on 'Afflictions. Supposed Causes and Curious Remedies in Days Gone By'.



A historical talk with a medical twist is what we can enjoy, or will it be the other way round! Come and find out.

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

> **Gail Thomas** Chairman



Visit our unique showroom, opposite the beautiful Dorchester Abbey in one of Oxfordshire's most picturesque villages, Dorchester on Thames.

- We offer a complete in house service from design to installation
- Our team of professional fitters are all fully qualified and HETAS registered
- Complimentary home or site visit
- Showroom open 10am to 4pm Tuesday -Saturday

Tel: 01865 341452 or E-mail enquiries@dorchesterfireplaces.co.uk





Chiropodist

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

18 February

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

Carols round the Village Christmas Tree

Just after 2.00pm on Friday 4 December, around 20 children from St Birinus Primary School gathered, with their teacher Mrs Clarke and headteacher Mr Leigh, at the Village Christmas Tree outside the Co-op. A small crowd of parents and other onlookers were plied

with mince pies and Winter Pimms, supplied by the Parish Council and organised by Councillors Sue Graney and Val Howells. The children treated the audience to four carols. The first one was played very nicely on four violins. Then the rest joined in singing for the remainder of this and the three further

Word sheets were distributed so that

carols

all could join in and the High Street rang to some hearty singing, whilst Shaun dashed over from the White Hart where he had been warming yet more hot Winter Pimms. Councillor Chris Hill thanked the school on behalf of the Parish Council, causing the choir to make a dash to the snack table to get their well deserved reward – not the Winter Pimms, but gooey chocolate pieces.





DORCHESTER PROPERTY EXPERTS!

Did you know that In House Sales & Lettings is owned and run by a Dorchester resident?

We thrive on local connections and are happy to offer preferred rates to fellow villagers. We have sold or let nearly all of our Dorchester properties, very quickly and often for the full asking price. This leaves us with a growing data base of buyers itching to live here.

So, even if you just want an up to date valuation on yours, pick up the phone and invite us round.



We only charge a cup of coffee!

01491 839999

Keep it In House.



www.inhouseestateagents.co.uk

Cricket Umpires

Is anyone interested in doing some cricket umpiring on Saturday afternoons in the summer? You would be paid a fee of £50 a match and would get a free tea!

A good knowledge of the rules of cricket is needed, but no qualifications are required. The matches would be in the Oxfordshire Cricket Association league and would be in the county, but not at Dorchester, so your own transport would be required.

If you are interested, or would like further information, please contact **Michael Stimpson** on **01865 340385** or email **ljmw@btinternet.com**



Calling all Midsomer fans!

Can you help? We are keen to recruit tour guides for a 'Midsomer' tour of Village Locations used in the Midsomer Murders series.

Volunteers have already had some conversation with Sarah Osborne who runs the SODC tourism initiative 'Visit Midsomer' who has visitors interested in such tours. You would be provided with a basic script and the time commitment is up to two hours per tour. Please be in touch with one of us!!

Geoff Russell (parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk)
Sue Booys (admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

Coffee Morning Thanks

Thanks to all those who came to the charity Christmas coffee and shopping morning on 16 November at 14 Watling Lane. We raised a fantastic £228.50 for CHECT (Childhood Eye Cancer Trust).

Emma Ferry Claire Andersson

From Meg Fisher

Meg Fisher would like to thank everyone for their kindness, love and support following the death of her husband Alan. The many cards and letters, flowers and plants as well as cakes were much appreciated at this sad time.

(A tribute to Alan is on page 21.)

From Ethel Higgins's family

Alex and the family would like to thank everyone who left donations in the Co-op. This amounted to around £850, and with other donations, including from the Co-op itself, there is now £1000. They are looking to put something in the village in memory of Ethel.

(A tribute to Ethel is on page 20.)

Christmas Trees

The Abbey Church Council loved both the Christmas Tree outside the Co-Op and the one in the Abbey which made a wonderful contribution to our Village Christmas! In particular we would like to thank the volunteers who put up and took down the trees at times when we are all so busy! Thank you!



Beauty Essentials

Indulge yourself in a full range of Beauty Treatments & Therapies Manicures & Pedicures, Gel Overlays, Facials & Eyelash Tints, Waxing & Electrolysis, Massage & Spray Tanning, Pamper Parties, Bridal & Special Occasion Makeup, Children's Glitz & Glam Sparkle Parties,

GIFT VOUCHERS & MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERS - VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

Beauty Essentials has moved from The George Hotel, Dorchester to Beauty Essentials, Rear of 81 High Street, Wallingford, OX10 OBX

Mobile Beauty Treatments available on request.

www.beautyessentialsoxon.co.uk | 07583 371198

Hurst Water Meadow Trust News

New Trustee

We are delighted to announce that we have a new trustee: Richard Farrant. Richard and his wife moved to Dorchester last year and have longstanding connections with the village. Richard chaired Sustrans, the charity which promotes cycling and walking and has established national cycle routes. He has also been a Member of Council and the Trustee Board of the National Trust and President of the Piscatorial Society, so he has valuable expertise to bring to our Trust. Already he is contributing his energy and enthusiasm to our working parties in the meadows.

Two farewells

Two trustees are relinquishing their posts after several years and much dedicated work as trustees. Julia Sargent brought to the Trust her farming knowledge and professional experience in education. She led our educational initiatives and was responsible for the design and production of leaflets, booklets and interpretation boards for the Trust.

Brian Rogers contributed hours of physical work in the Hurst, especially on footpaths, gates and bridges. He helped to raise the height and improve the drainage of the main footpath across the Hurst in order to keep it open except in the most severe floods.

Both Julia and Brian have kindly expressed their willingness to continue to act in advisory roles where appropriate.

Work completed by the end of 2015

By the end of November we had fulfilled our undertaking to Biffa Award for the early work on Overy Mead Piece and the spending of their grant. We finished on time and under budget and published a final report which was submitted to Biffa Award along with a short video about the meadow (you can read the report on our website). One of the final stages of the work was the planting of a selection of berry-bearing native shrubs close to Blue Bridge at the Thames/Thame confluence. We were helped in this task by members of Sonning Common Green Gym who once again turned out in force and worked cheerfully with our own volunteers throughout a wet morning. Walkers will also see the new interpretation board on Overy Mead Piece, near the confluence, and the two smaller boards which display changing information about the meadows and our work.

On the Hurst there has been further clearing of scrub, and tree surgery to remove large willow branches which were overhanging the bridge at the entrance. Our Dorchester tree surgeons (Nick Keighley and his Face North Forestry team) did a great job removing a willow which had fallen across the river and was rooting into the river bed. The clearance has revealed a fine view of the Thame from the Long Bridge. The logs of the original classroom area have been removed and a small copse of hazel planted near to the main entrance to the Hurst. In late November Clive Leeke ran a hedge-laying course for 12 Hurst volunteers who between them laid another 50 metres of the hedge across the Hurst.

Public Meeting

The Trust will be holding a public meeting in the Village Hall on Thursday 17 March at 7.30pm.

This is to update you on our activities and to think about our future aims. It is where we invite your suggestions about the direction that you would like to see the Trust taking and we hope that all who enjoy the meadows and who care about Dorchester and its surroundings will attend the meeting.

Continued \rightarrow



December events

Bird Bonanza!

Sunday 7 February, 10am-2pm

Drop in and get to know our feathered friends! Make a bird feeder, try some 'twitching' and even build your own nest! £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

Mud Pie Monday!

Monday 15 February, 10am-11.30am

Join us for our first Mud Pie Monday - buckets of mud and buckets of fun! Wellies and waterproofs advisable. Free taster session: no need to book.

Build a Bird Box

Monday 15 February, 2pm-4pm

Take home your own handmade bird box and help encourage more wildlife into your garden. Tools and materials provided. £10 per box; booking essential (1hr slots): 01865 407792 or admin@earthtrust.org.uk.

Woodland Adventure

Wednesday 17 February, 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.

Wildlife Wednesday

Wednesday 17 February, 2pm-4pm

New for 2016: our roving Wildlife Wednesdays will visit a different Earth Trust community nature reserve during each school holiday. This half term, come and join us at Mowbray Fields in Didcot (OX11 8SS) to learn about local wildlife and have lots of outdoor fun! £2 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free; no need to book.

Discover and Play

Friday 19 February, 10am-12pm
Forest School for the under-5s. 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.

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. All events other than Bird Bonanza take place during half term.

Hurst Water Meadow Trust News continued

Official Opening of Overy Mead Piece

We also want to give advance notice of the official opening of Overy Mead Piece on Thursday 21 April. Grant givers and supporters from outside the village will be attending and we hope that many of our local supporters and users of the meadows will join in at that event. There will be further information in next month's Dorchester News.

Gillian Johnson **Honorary Secretary** 01865 340925

Andrew Clements Honorary Treasurer 01865 340753

Website: www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk

Canvas

king, Henry VII. England was an insignificant country with rope walks. quarrelling landed families and ineffectual sovereigns. Henry, whose mother was a Lancastrian, married Elizabeth of York, an heiress. He had very efficient tax collecting systems and arranged diplomatic marriages with European royalty for some of his family. But Henry, as did his son Henry VIII and granddaughter Elizabeth, realised that as Britain was an island it could never be a European power without a navy. There was a plentiful



needed sails. A law was passed that all who owned more than sixty acres must set aside a certain amount of land to Hemp or grow hemp. neckweed is Cannabis Salvia and its fibres make canvas.

People's clothes and domestic fabrics were natural fabrics, wool from their sheep and linen and canvas from their plants.

combed, straightened - tied into bundles to be taken to be spun News. and then woven into cloth. The women reserved some of the

The Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485 brought a new English softer fibres for making clothes. Some of the hemp went to the

Flax also was Spring sown, retted and harvested as hemp. Sacking and the back of linoleum were made from Jute, a fibre producing plant from hot countries with heavy rainfall - it came from the Ganges Delta in the nineteenth century. Many of these products were later replaced by manmade materials such as nylon.

supply of timber but they A few years ago there was a government subsidy for growing flax - not for linen but for linseed oil. It was not very successful for the yield per acre was less than that of rape, so the beautiful fields of misty blue flowers turned yellow again.

> We still have memories of previous times - we 'heckle' our politicians, asking them to straighten their views. We try not to 'wash our dirty linen in public'. Some villages such as Warborough and Dorchester still have an area called the hempcroft.

> > MT

Hemp seeds were planted in the Spring - growing to ten or It will be Mary Tame's 102nd birthday in a few days' time, twelve feet, the plants were cut down and allowed to lie on the and I am sure that many in Dorchester will want to join ground where the leaves and soft tissue rotted, a process me in wishing her a Happy Birthday and thank her for known as retting. The fibres were then heckled - that is continuing to write such interesting articles for Dorchester

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 Riveria 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

Wittenham Dog Grooming Studio



Catering for all your dog's grooming requirements by someone who loves dogs and is C&G qualified. Puppies very welcome as an introduction to grooming in a safe, secure environment.

Weekdays, Evening & Saturday appointments available.

Please Contact Gayle Ready on 07814 228868 for further information or visit our website:

www.wittenhamdoggrooming.studio

AKT|Planning+Architecture

Chartered Town Planners and Architects

AKT is a small established local practice based in Dorchester with a wealth of experience in all aspects of planning and architecture. We pride ourselves in providing a personal and bespoke service and have experience with listed buildings and conservation areas.

> Contact Sarah or Paul King for an informal chat to discuss your ideas or projects. Tel. 01865 340989



www.archkingtech.co.uk



A member of the Royal Town Planning Institute and Royal Institute of British Architects

BRYANS LOCK SERVICES

Phone: 01865 340138. 01491 520820. 01235 420742

Locks Supplied-Fitted-Serviced-Opened-Replaced for Timber- Aluminium- Steel, PVCu doors & windows. Keys cut to pattern.

Keys to number for office furniture. Supply Safes, Document & Media Cabinets & Files Locks to Insurance Company Specifications.

Master Locksmiths Association Approved Company. Reg. No. 002623





Skilled Painter, Decorator and Artist

Marcus Maunder 07814725918 maundermarcus@gmail.com

Immaculate painting and decorating carried out by an artist/perfectionist! Experienced in working on period properties.

Bespoke Murals and Artwork.

Please call or email for further information or to arrange a quote.



TEL: 01235 516614 / 07850 474803



PIPELINE DIRECT

PLUMBING & HEATING SPECIALIST SHOWERS & BATHROOMS POWER FLUSHING

JERALD

EMAIL: pipelinedirect@gmail.com

FOR A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN

Choose from our wide range of quality garden services: design and construction, plants and maintenance. We tailor-make our service for

For a free, no-obligation visit and written estimate from RHS qualified staff, call 01844 279430,

or email info@brannfordsgardens.co.uk Full details at www.brannfordsgardens.co.uk





Good Wishes for 2016

Also Chinese New Year on 8 February, the Year of the Monkey.

I'm pleased to announce that at least two new ladies are going to join. We should still like to have more new members, age no problem, new ideas are very welcome and enthusiasm. An opportunity to make new friends and to renew friendships.

Committee Members

Due to the generosity of our present committee members I am pleased to say that DOTWI will exist for another year. We still need new and eager committee members. Audrey Houlston has completed our programme for 2016-2017. Anne Parker will be taking over the role with Audrey's guidance to start the programme for 2017-2018. We especially need ladies willing to act as Deputy Treasurer and Deputy Secretary, learning the roles from Susan Jupp and Gill Haworth with the view of taking their places 2017-2018.

Christmas Party

Enjoyed by all, Marguerite Osborne introduced members to Christmas Customs from 5-6 different countries.

Meeting Time Changed

2.30pm, the 2nd Thursday in the month, in the Village Hall unless advertised differently. The rules of the NFWIs have changed so that this time change is possible.

Subscriptions are due

£37.50 payable to Dorchester -On-Thames WI.

The sub is divided as follows:

DOTWI £18.00

OXFWI £8.40

NFWI £11.10

Remember you may belong to two Institutes, to your second one you pay a further £18.

Payment to Susan Jupp 341066

Thursday 11 February

2.30pm in the Village Hall

Colin Oakes 'Covent Garden and Its Wicked History'

Thursday 10 March

2.30pm in Village Hall AGM and Bring and Buy Stall for ACWW projects. Please bring items to sell and money to buy. Did you receive a Christmas present that you really don't want? Please bring it along, someone else might like it. Also bring the coins that you are saving, they don't have to be only copper. Last year we raised £120 and £11.35 in coins. All went towards ACWW projects.

Thank you for your support from: President

Pauline Kenway- Jackson 01865 340746
Publicity

Jill Love 01865 716557

Fishmonger

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

10.15 - 10.25am in High Street near War Memorial

Dorchester Abbey Bell Ringers

A new year is the time for looking back as well as forward and the Abbey bell ringers' annual meeting on 5 January gave us the opportunity to review the past year and to plan our ringing in 2016.

We made substantial progress towards the aims we set for ourselves last year, developing the knowledge and skills of established ringers by attendance on courses in the Oxford Diocese and by joining practises at neighbouring towers. We have also joined a twinning scheme in which towers exchange visits to each other's practice nights. This gives us the chance to ring in a larger band of ringers with varied experience, and on different bells from our own.

One measure of our development as a band is that we are generally able to ring for weddings using our own ringers, without importing ringers from neighbouring towers.

Last year we recruited and taught a new ringer who is now able to ring safely in the team. However, sadly we have lost former regular ringers who have left the village or find health issues make ringing difficult. We will continue to look for more recruits throughout this year.

Another aim, in which we were less successful but we will be pursuing actively in the coming year, is to use the beautiful set of hand bells which belong to the tower. Hand bell ringing could give pleasure to different age groups in the village and we are looking at how we might form a core team of hand bell ringers to include people who would like to ring tunes and not necessarily ring the church bells.

If you are interested in knowing more about church bell ringing or hand bell ringing please get in touch with David Parker 01865 340402, e-mail dlparker10@gmail.com or Gillian Johnson 01865 340925, email

johnson.gs@btinternet.com

Diana Vass

Didcot Garden Town

.....

Didcot is to become a Garden Town, which will help with the delivery of 15,000 houses and 20,000 high-tech jobs.

The announcement from the Housing and Planning Minister in December paves the way for funding for major infrastructure improvements like a northern perimeter road for Didcot, the Science Bridge over the railway line into Milton Park, and improvements to existing areas of Didcot.

The Garden Town will bring forward new mixed neighbourhoods of between 200 and 3,000 homes, which will have a strong focus on sustainability and green space and be linked through a series of green connections.

Housing growth and employment growth in the garden town will be intimately linked with 20,000 new high-tech jobs created over the next 15 years on the Harwell, Milton Park and Didcot Growth Accelerator Enterprise Zones and other smaller sites.

Cllr John Cotton, leader of SODC said: "Didcot is our main growth area in South Oxfordshire and we want to ensure that we do everything possible to support the quality of life for the people who will live there.

SODC press release, December 2015



10% off

- MOT's
- Servicing
- Repairs
- Diagnostics
- Bodywork
- Welding

Free collection and delivery

T: 01865 890548

F: 01865 890198

E: fourwinds-garage@btconnect.com

Terms and conditions apply



The George Hotel

DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES

A beautiful 15th century coaching inn set in an idyllic location

We offer a variety of modern British dishes, exotic treats and a senior citizen menu Join us on Sundays for traditional roasts served with our signature Yorkshire puddings

> Ala carte menu available 12-3pm and 6pm-9pm daily Senior citizen menu available daily from 12pm-3pm at £5.95 per head

Enjoy four fine real ales in our olde worlde pub









Christmas bookings now being taken

To reserve your table please call 01865 340404

www.thegeorgedorchester.co.uk



St Birinus School News

Our new year started with fantastic news. Following our recent Ofsted Inspection at the beginning of

December, the inspector agreed with our self-evaluation of the school and confirmed that we are a GOOD school. The report reflects the positive atmosphere created within the school to promote learning ensuring that the children are making good progress throughout the curriculum.

The inspection outcome is the result of the hard work of a great team of staff and governors. I greatly appreciate the time, commitment and drive they have dedicated to the school to continually improve standards and opportunities for all children. This dedication I know will continue on the next stage of our journey.

A special mention should go to the children, who were absolutely brilliant during the inspection. They spoke to the inspector with confidence and a good understanding of how the school works and what they need to do to improve their work. The inspector was also impressed with the way in which the children care and look after each other within school. Well done to them, I am so proud of them.

If you would like to read the report, please head to our website www.st-birinus-pri.org.uk

In other news, the end of Term 2 finished with all the Christmas festivities

- Yellow and Blue Class performed their play – 'The Nativity'. The children sang and acted beautifully, which made it a magical performance.
- Some of our children were also part of the village's Christmas Tree Light

event with a performance by our violinists and the children leading the singing of carols. (See page 6)

- The School Choir sang outside the Co-op raising money for Footsteps.
- The pantomime of Cinderella came to school (oh no, it didn't!) and entertained us during the last week of term.
- Finally on the last day of term we all dressed in our Christmas Jumpers to raise money for the Text Santa appeal before heading to the Abbey for our Christmas Service.

A very busy schedule!

Each month, we have our Writers of the Month – this recognises children who have shown a great improvement in their writing during that month. Congratulations to Harry Ferry, Mylo Budd, Leo Wilson, Mckenzie Bell, Oliviya Edison and Emilia Forster, our writers of the month for December.

At the start of Term 3 we said goodbye, good luck and thank you to Mrs Chappell, who has worked with the children in Foundation and Year 1 for 15 years and is now heading on to a new role within Oxfordshire.

Also, all classes had the opportunity to explore the abbey to become inspired for our Big Write theme this term and how they could use the building and/or its contents as a basis for a story. I am looking forward to seeing the results.

Russell Leigh Headteacher Dorchester St Birinus CE Primary School

School News



County's youngsters improve in core subjects

Oxfordshire's eleven-year-olds have surged ahead in reading, writing and maths tests, according to the latest figures.

The proportion of the county's pupils reaching Level 4+ in all three core subjects at Key Stage Two increased to 81 per cent in 2015 – up from 79 per cent in 2014.

It means the county has moved above the national average of 80% on this measure. The proportion of children making expected progress between the ages of seven and eleven is also higher than the national average for reading and writing, and in line for maths.

The recent Oxfordshire Reading Campaign, backed by the Oxford Mail and delivered by the National Literacy Trust, helped targeted primary schools make significant improvements in literacy attainment at Key Stage One and Two in recent years – with many schools intending to carry on using the programme.

Melinda Tilley, OCC's Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families, said: "This campaign work has helped create and sustain a real culture of reading and writing in participating schools, and I think it's fair to say we are seeing this reflected in these improving results."

Provisional GCSE data

The Department for Education has published provisional GCSE results for 2015. Key Headlines for Oxfordshire schools:

- 59.1% of pupils achieved five or more A*-C grades, including English and Maths
- 73.1% made the expected level of progress in English
- 70.5% made the expected level of progress in Maths

Across the country performance was down slightly on 2014 levels but Oxfordshire remains above average. (NB the data will not be finalised until early 2016 and may change.)

Lorraine Lindsay-Gale Oxfordshire County Councillor



Narnia in the Abbey Autumn 2016



We are planning to stage a Narnia themed exhibition family/schools event in the Abbey during October-November 2016, do you think you might have any items you could donate post-Christmas?

We will be aiming to recreate scenes from the book and will need materials to be able to stage this. After Christmas you might find you want a change for next year and/or have some things surplus to requirements or some unwanted gifts, if that's the case we would welcome your donations!

We need donations of the following props:

- Artificial Christmas trees and greenery garlands, decorations, fake snow,
- Working fairy lights (preferably white).
- Old coats and furs.
- Crowns, swords, capes, bow and arrows etc.
- A large lion!

If you would like to find out more about this or would like to be involved in the planning and/or staging of the event or being involved during the event itself, please speak to the Education Officer, Margaret Craig on 01865 343164 or email her at education@dorchester-abbey.org.uk.

FOOTSTEPS

Happy new year to all Dorchester News readers. Thanks for all your support. This month we would like to share the story of nine year old Alice Willoughby from Abingdon.

Alice was given no diagnosis at birth but after having her eight-month check-up, it was revealed that she was not reaching the expected neuromotor milestones. She was diagnosed with a condition called Familiar Benign Chorea, a genetic disorder which also affects Alice's mother. Alice has low muscle tone and suffers from constant involuntary movements. She has difficulty keeping still, even when she is at rest and had severely impaired mobility. She is a bright and sunny child despite her disabilities.

Alice received just one hour of community physiotherapy every six weeks. However her mother felt that Alice needed intensive physiotherapy and this was not sufficient.

Alice's mum, Esther, first heard about Footsteps through ITV news. Another family also recommended the therapy so she made the initial enquiry and was soon booked in for a consultation.

Alice's Story



Alice started attending the Footsteps Centre in 2010 when she was four years old. She attended five three-week sessions in her first year of therapy and now regularly attends Footsteps three times a year.

Esther was told that Alice would never

walk without her walker so she was surprised and overwhelmed to see her daughter's progress even after her first session. When Alice first started at Footsteps she needed to use a box at school to help her get up but one month later, she was able to get up from the floor independently. She wasn't able to climb the stairs or walk independently but Alice has now developed these abilities and is walking unaided.

Footsteps therapy has also had a big impact on family life as Alice's increased independence means that there is less pressure on Esther to do things for her.

Alice has received numerous grants from Footsteps Foundation, without which her family would not have afforded the vital therapy that has been lifechanging for her.

Esther says that Footsteps has given her 'huge amounts of hope...I just think how far she can go with the help of Footsteps. Thank you for the help we have received and the encouragement for Alice to achieve her goals. Footsteps is a lifechanging experience for every child that comes!'

Larkmead VETS



Outstanding Care for Pets, Farm Animals & Horses throughout South Oxfordshire

- Open 7 days a week
- Ample parking and spacious reception rooms
- Extensive modern hospitalisation facilities, including orthopaedic surgery
- Sunday surgeries at Larkmead Didcot
- Regular Cat only Clinics at our Sutton Courtenay and Benson practices
- Personal emergency cover by Larkmead Vets, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year **x** Lvets

CHOLSEY & BENSON DIDCOT & SUTTON COURTENAY 01235 814991 **HORSES & FARM ANIMALS**

01491 651379 01491 651479

www.larkmead.co.uk



Letter to the Editor

Re December 2015/January 2016 "Focus on ... the WI"

.....

It was good to read this article on Dorchester WI and its contribution to the work of the National Federation of Women's Institutes. Please may I expand on a couple of points?

My mother was Eileen Atkins (not "Irene") and she attended the special party at Buckingham Palace in the 1960s (her name came out of the hat and I still remember her dancing around the little living room in Tenpenny with sheer delight at her good fortune).

Where the founding of Dorchester WI in 1952 is described, Pat and Eileen Atkins were among the founding members, not the only ones. That first institute had many young housewives as members. It was, apart from the Mothers' Union, the only opportunity for them to meet socially and for education in the village. They had quizzes, competitions and outings and put on shows in the little village hall on the High Street, as well as learning skills like glove-making, basketry and embroidery - definitely a case of "Women Inspiring Women".

They did sing "Jerusalem" at the beginning of meetings but I don't remember Mum ever making Jam!

Denise Line

Focus on... the Abbey Choir

f you were at Dorchester Abbey for the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday 20 December then, like me, I am sure you felt a little bit of magic as the choir processed by candlelight up the aisle whilst Once in Royal David's City was sung by a boy soprano from the organ loft. For many of us this is one of the few times in the year when we go to church, and it marks the beginning of Christmas with a bit of a tingle. We listen to this service on the radio, maybe watch it on television, but being there, being part of it, is so special that it is no wonder

that this year more than 300 people came.

That many people wouldn't come if there wasn't such wonderful singing by the choir. This year, of the 12 carols in the service, half were sung by the choir without the congregation. To the 16th century Gaudete they brought energy and life; and they mastered the complex timing issues of the slightly earlier carol Sir Christemas with ease (and a lot of practice, I'm told). Alongside the old, there is always the new. The Shepherd's Pipe Carol by John Rutter has already become a favourite, and the completely new was this year represented by The Angel's Dance, with music by Tim Cook, to Gillian Campbell's words.

The quality of the singing and its impact on the listener is so strong, that it is often easy to forget that this is not a professional choir. Indeed, it is perhaps surprising to learn that anyone can join the choir. You just need a love of singing. There is no audition at which you will be told that you are not good enough. Whatever your singing ability you will be invited to join.



Choirmaster Jeremy Boughton will take you on and integrate you into the choir to the best of your ability. And as with most activities, performing alongside people who do it excellently helps you improve and raises your standard.

The role of the choir is to support and enhance church services. You may love singing but not be a member of the Church of England or a committed Christian of any faith. That doesn't matter either. This is the case for several members of the choir who are happy to support the church and have found ways of coping with aspects of the services, because they love the singing so much.

Currently there are 27 adults in the choir, split fairly evenly between men and women, plus four children who constitute the junior choir. That is quite a lot of people to get up to standard, but our own ears tell us, at lasted a couple of years and left in 1979, Christmas and other times, how well Jeremy to be replaced by John Simpson. In has managed that. Indeed, in recent contrast, John continued as organist and years the choir has been invited to sing at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, and for the Christmas morning service on BBC choir which Jeremy inherited in 2005. Radio Oxford. They have also sung at Christchurch in Dorset and at fund-raising

concerts for the Nasio Trust, when the repertoire is broadened beyond church music. But the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols just before Christmas is a highlight for the choir, once they have found their way up the aisle by candlelight, and for Jeremy him-

Anvone who has been in Dorchester for less than 30 years may be surprised to learn that there hasn't always been a choir in the Abbev. The choir as we know it was formed in 1974, before which

there had been no adult choir for some years. During the previous couple of years a small group had begun to sing together and had taken part in the carol service in 1973. Then in 1974 the Revd. Ray Nichols was appointed rector, shortly after which he appointed Richard Goodall as organist. Richard worked with the choir group and moulded them into the church choir, even teaching them to sing unaccompanied. Six of that group are still singing with the choir today. [To find out who they are you'll have to visit the online version of Dorchester News-see box on right.]

Richard Goodall was succeeded by Richard Barnes in 1977, who had been a Westminster Abbey chorister and a choral scholar of King's College Cambridge. This young choir felt lucky to have someone of his knowledge and experience, but he only choirmaster for 24 years, building up the choir and its repertoire. And this is the

Jeremy himself is a musician of considerable experience. Before Dorchester he was





More detail of he history of the choir can be found in Dr David Parker's notes which are included in the online version of Dorchester News. To see this ao to

www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk or to www.dorchester-on-thames.co.uk

Benson, for 23 years, and has been Director of The Thames Consort for many years. He was accompanist to Benson Choral Society for 24 years, so we know he's a stayer! He also carries out recitals with violinist Sharon Warnes, with whom he has made two CDs.

What of the choir members? What do they get out of it? Most are committed Anglicans and their motivations are likely to be a mixture of the joy of singing and of celebrating their faith. And they all work to make the choir as good as it can be. Every Friday there is a rehearsal at 7.00pm. and then, of course, they are singing on Sundays for services, and on If you go to the Abbey for a service at other days for events such as weddings.

Many choir members particularly enjoy singing for weddings because it is like being one of the favoured guests, right in the middle of the action, up close to the happy couple as they actually tie the knot. They get a better view than most of the friends and relatives. [Unlike the Bellringers who, up in the bell tower, have no idea what is going on below -

Director of Music at St Helen's Church, But being in the choir is not all hard work. Most decamp to The George after practice on Fridays to refresh their vocal chords, and the social side is important with a group of people who have to work together so carefully, and trust in each other to get things right. Last year there was a choir dinner in the Abbey Guest House and the annual picnic at Tim and Steph Cook's. However, there are those who do not need refreshment for their sense of humour to come out. Look out for choristers 'corpsing' when one of the choir pranksters pulls a funny face or finds some other way of distracting

> any time, be that a regular service or next Christmas's Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. listen carefully to the choir and you'll be in for a real treat.

And if you enjoy signing, then why not go along to the 'Come and Sing' taster evening on 12 February and see about joining





Gardening Service by RHS qualified female gardener

Garden design / Plans / Landscaping / Planting Demonstrations / Consultations / Pruning / beds and borders ...

Call 07814 691040

email: sundaycarrigan@gmail.com www.gracefulgardens.vpweb.co.uk

Quotations by appointment References available Wallingford and surrounding villages covered

CP GROUNDWORKS

Colin Passev

Mini Digger/Skip Loader with Operator

Footings, Oversites, Drainage, Patios, Driveways, Site Clearance, etc.



Mob: 07853612505 Tel: 01491 598856 colin.passey@icloud.com

"No job to big or too small"

Did we enjoy ourselves?
Oh yes we did.
Did we laugh out loud? Most certainly.

A good panto has the audience going out

still smiling and in good spirits. And the audience was most certainly doing that after Camelot.

Although not one of the classic pantos, which made me slightly nervous at first, author Ben Crocker is an accomplished writer of both traditional pantos and the more unusual, and this was a winner.

But to set the scene with the scenery. How do you depict a castle, a haunted hotel, Merlin's chamber, and forests all in the Village Hall? The team, under director Keith Russell, came up with in ingenious set with flaps that folded in and out to make different locations, and a screen that swivelled down on which forests were displayed with



computer trickery. And so we were able to move quickly, well fairly quickly, from scene to scene without hold ups in the action.

The plot revolves around Arthur and Guinevere meeting for the first time for an arranged marriage, but baddy, Valerin the

Vicious, also wants to marry
Guinevere. To help him in his

DADS — Camelot the Panto

quest he has a forged magic document that isn't really there, that has been conjured up by Morgan le Fay. The baddies are clearly lined up on one side, with Morgan le Fay, Valerin's mum, and two knights, one big and bad knight and the other, well, invisible, supporting Valerin. The goodies on the other side are Arthur, his father King Uther, and Merlin. So there was plenty to boo and cheer when either heroes or villains took to the stage. Then there were the comic turns of a mute Teddy and her minder Connie, the panto dame, who, together with Laughalot the jester and Nell, were able to play everything for laughs. Just as a panto should be.

Laughalot's frail nerves meant that

he needed succour from the audience whenever he was faced with a challenge, giving lots of opportunity for the audience to shout: 'Be bold, be brave', at which point Mike Davies's Laughalot miraculously turned from a quivering wreck into a man of steel. You knew it was coming, but it was still funny every time it happened. But isn't that the point of panto? Something familiar that you can laugh along with no matter how many times it happens.

Of course a riddle was set:
how could Merlin go forward

whilst going backwards? This was resolved by old Merlin going back into young Merlin in a puff of smoke. Mike Selway, turned into a bold young Fraser Beland, who gave an assured performance in his first DADS production.

Another newcomer to DADS was Frae



the central plot characters there was less scope for playing this for laughs, but she gave a strong rendition of a princess who isn't sure she can really trust her husband-to-be after she catches him spying on her. Christine Jones, as Guinevere's maid, had scenes where she was able to give us laughs, as she played up to Laughalot, her beau. Christine has an ability to convey what she is thinking through her facial expressions and in this production that meant making good use of her comedy face.

Amongst the baddies, Rosemary Mills exuded evil, dressed in a marvellous black costume that you just knew had come straight from Hades. She was so evil you couldn't resist booing every time she came on. Johnny Cornelius's Valerin was ambition with a Black Country accent, so you knew he was never going to get the girl. He didn't came across quite as evil as Morgan le Fay, so his conversion at the end to the side of light was not as big a leap as it might have been. Ann Winslet's simpering mother, though, made me laugh from



the moment she first appeared.

Jim Levi was solid and dependable as King Uther, as the old king should be, and Rachel Winslet-Morris lit up the stage, playing a compelling and wonderfully likeable Arthur.

But as with any pantomime, the role that links it all is the dame, or in this case Connie Clatterbottom, played by Mark Williams, with Jane Brooks as sidekick Teddy. Jane did not have a lot of lines - well none, as Teddy was mute, but gave us plenty of action. Mark's Connie was a sight to behold, with a version of a nurse's uniform supported by big boots. He commanded the stage and the sheer absurdity of the costume helped him to do that. He played Connie as a cross between Lily Savage and Eric Morecombe, which made it hugely enjoyable, and you looked forward to every scene he was in.

The haunted hotel bedroom scene, which was the heart of the fun and games, was well paced and had the audience in stitches. Getting three people into a bed that keeps disappearing and returning with a change of personnel is in itself quite some undertaking for a village panto. Behind the scenes must

have been chaotic, but it usually looked to the audience to be the correct set of characters coming back on. But then in a panto it doesn't really matter.

The chorus worked hard, as they do in pantos, doubling up in several parts such as the talking clock, the dismembered head of Nilrem, a snake, and the bishop (inspired casting there), and seemed to be having great

fun themselves as they moved between roles.

With eighteen people in the cast it must have been a big job directing them all. Keith and assistant director Sue Kitson managed to corral them all and, at least on the night I was there, got everyone on and off stage on cue, and managed to keep the pace up.

If I have to be picky about one thing, it

is that not being one of the classic pantos I thought it a bit short of the traditional 'behind yous' and 'oh yes he did, oh no he didn'ts' to draw in the audience. But I can blame Ben Crocker for that, and it didn't stop us from leaving the Village Hall with big smiles on our faces.

Another successful and entertaining production from DADS.

Ian Brace

Photographs courtesy of Simon Ratliff

FindersKeepers[™]



finders.co.uk

We opened our Abingdon office in 1985 and have been helping landlords and tenants ever since.

Whether you are looking for your next home or your next tenant, contact Henry Brown now:

01235 467967 or abingdon@finderskeepers.co.uk



Henry Brown Office Manager



30 years serving Abingdon and the surrounding villages

Ethel Higgins 1936-2015

n loving memory of Ethel Higgins Well what can I say about Ethel? A loving sister to Brian, Kenny and Kathleen, a caring wife and partner to Leslie and Reg, a watchful mother and mother in law to Caroline, Alex and Phil a guiding grandmother to Natalie, Maddie, Sebastian and John and a doting great grandmother to Charlotte and Stephanie.

Ethel's reach extended beyond her family - to us all she was a good friend at the heart and soul of the Co-op and the village.

Ethel was a northern girl, born in Bacup and one of four children - the one that was always in trouble; though not fond of school she understood that the secret to a good life was hard work. Leaving school at 14 she worked in the cotton mill and the shoe factory becoming one of their best 'piece rate machinists'! An early example of Ethel's determination, resolve, pride and passion.

She met Leslie, her future husband, when he was lodging in her parents' house. They were married when Ethel was 17 and Leslie 13 years senior, and had their first child, Caroline some years later, followed by Alex. Ethel and Leslie were strict parents. Caroline and Alex both remember arriving home in the early hours and trying to sneak into the house only to be met by Ethel, clad in dressing gown and curlers, telling them to 'get into the house, NOW'. How many boyfriends were subsequently lost as a result of this is debatable, but I am sure it left a lasting memory on those involved - a Mother to be taken very seriously!

Having helped Caroline look after Natalie, her first grandchild, Ethel and Leslie moved to Oxfordshire in 1996, to support Alex with the birth of their second grandchild Maddie. From the beginning it was clear that she was going to leave a lasting impression on what was to be a wide circle of friends and family in Warborough, Dorchester and the North.

Leslie sadly passed away in 1998, shortly before the birth of their only grandson, Sebastian. Ethel had her family and friends around her which gave her great comfort, although there was something missing in her life. Everyone was delighted when she met and found love a second time round with Reg, which many would describe as chalk meeting cheese! They For Alex and Caroline, Ethel was a guiding



say opposites attract, and perhaps there has never been such a true example! Reg and Ethel worshipped one another though sadly Reg died, and after much happiness, Ethel was without her partner, once again.

So, what do we all know about Ethel?

She loved her cigarettes and she was always going to give these up... she only smoked to be social, of course! When asked for a drink, Ethel always wanted 'a half a Lager'. Reg tried in vain to introduce her to finer wines but Ethel was not to be moved.

She was devoted to her family and her strong opinions influenced family life. When her first grandchild Natalie, brought her future husband, John, home for the first time, Ethel's response was truly classic - the immortal words of... You have a lot of spots and a bit fat' .Natalie was mortified and embarrassed by her Grandmother's comment; thankfully John was accepting, and the legacy of Ethel continued. Ethel did not do subtlety! When Maddie, her second granddaughter started dating Ethel's comments were heard repeatedly 'Make sure you do not bring anything home that is not welcome'. Typical Ethel: straight from the heart, very protective but never subtle!

As her only grandson, Sebastian had a special focus from his grandmother. Sebastian is an aspiring rower, and although Ethel was very proud of his achievements, the reality of standing for hours on a cold, wet river bank, led to the immortal comment, 'Is that it now, Alex, my hair is going to be frizzy!!'

force in their lives. She was always there, ready to give her opinion (welcome or otherwise) and support and they will miss her deeply

Most recently Ethel became a village institution. Taking up work and quickly becoming the face of the Dorchester Co-op where many of her customers benefited from Ethel's friendly greetings and pearls of wisdom! In her last few days, despite being in considerable discomfort she passed the mystery shopper test with flying colours refusing to sell tobacco, alcohol and scratch cards to an under aged person. Ethel will be missed by customers and colleagues alike.

Finally, what can I say about Ethel? She always enjoyed her family holiday to Herm Island, typically making many new friends to whom she would say every year 'No need to book for me next year, I won't be here.' Sadly this will now be true.

Thank you Ethel for being part of our lives; you will be missed, but your legacy and our memories will remain forever.



Ethel dressed up for the Co-op's 100th anniversary in Dorchester in 2014.

Alan Fisher 1939-2015

B orn in Abingdon to a GP and physiotherapist, Alan trained as a dentist at Guy's in London and moved to Dorchester in 1968 with his wife Meg, where they raised four children. Alan was a dentist at the Castle Street practice in Wallingford, and played an active role in village life for over forty years.

Alan loved being with people and helped many of us over the years, giving guidance and advice balanced with a good measure of teasing, wit and kindness. Above all, he was always ready to chat, smile and share simple joys.

His natural inclination was to put others first. Through treatment this year, Alan did not complain once; he just wanted to make things as easy as possible for Meg. Nor did he have a bucket list of things he wanted to do as, in his words, he had 'seen some beautiful places and had had some lovely times'.

Alan's love of people was reflected in the way he was always welcoming and ready to have fun – from grape crushing parties and throwing-eggs-over the house competitions at Easter, to hosting large birthday gatherings 700 miles away in Skye.

He was also very much part of the village community. Over the years he was on the pavilion and village hall committees, played for the cricket team and with DOGS, as well as helping with the St Birinus pilgrimage. He was a good friend to many.

His love of people naturally flowed on to his love of talking. It was almost a rite of passage for new additions to the family to be sat next to him to see if they coped with his amazing ability to cover so many big topics seamlessly, though not perhaps in a linear or entirely logical fashion.

Some would say dentistry was the perfect vocation: it is quite a skill to be able to talk to someone for 10 minutes in perhaps a stressful situation, with limited input from the other person, whilst keeping them relaxed and their mind off other things.

Golf was one of Alan's true passions which he excelled at, and was once told he could have been a professional golfer if he worked at his putting. However he was never competitive and took great joy in playing with everyone. He played at Frilford for 65 years and was the longest playing member they have ever had, starting as a boy with his father, brothers and Abingdon uncle and cousins, and continuing to this year with friends and family. His Monday and Wednesday rounds of golf were always something he looked forward to and only health and weather thwarted his plans.



Alan passed on his love of the mountains to many. His enjoyment and sense of wonder was infectious. It even affected his choice of National Service. Unfortunately, his dreams of climbing in snowy Norway with the Royal Marines didn't materialise and he spent his time in Malta – happy, but not the natural climate for Alan who was sun and sand averse.

His affection for the mountains came from his parents and his aptitude for climbing was apparent at an early age. His particular fondness for Skye began at the age of 15. When his school climbing party failed to turn up, Alan, who had travelled up independently, went to the Youth Hostel at Glen Brittle and joined some young climbers who were staying there. He never looked back. He traversed the Cuillin Ridge many times and climbed to a high standard in the Alps, Pyrenees and Dolomites.

Alan was a kind, gentle and thoughtful man; a happy, good humoured friend who only ever spoke well of others. He will be missed by many.



In the Greet Hall, Warborough, by Chartered Physiotherapist, fully certified with the Australian Physiotherapy and Pilates Institute.

> Physiotherapy and Sports Injuries Clinic Matwork Pilates class: Tuesdays 9am (£10 PAYG, £48 for block of 6 weeks)

Reformer Pilates studio equipment (1:1 up to 4 people).

Class: Mondays 6.15pm (£15, booking essential)

Ante/Post Natal Pilates classes:

Mondays 5.15pm/Tuesdays 12.45pm (subject to demand)

Please contact Anna Jenkins, email: anna@oxfordsportsphysio.co.uk

phone: 01865 858955 or 07825 269287. Website www.oxfordsportsphysio.co.uk





CHIMNEY SWEEPING COMPANY LTD

- ★ NO FUSS ★
- ★ NO MESS ★
- **★** NO PROBLEM ★

Oxford Stadhampton Deddington Mobile 01865 772 996 01865 400244 01869 337500 07711 443050

T.W Hayden Heating Services

Tel: 01865340720 Mobile: 07813904055 E-mail: Twhayden@tiscali.co.uk

All plumbing and heating works undertaken. Free estimates.

15 Fane Drive, Berinsfield, Wallingford, Oxford, OX10 7NB

The Village Mechanic

- * All makes and models seen
- Full servicing & repairs
- * Prices estimated in advance
- ★ Full bodywork & machine shop
- **☆** Recovery Service

"An honest service with honest prices. No more dread about taking my car to the garage. They can even arrange my MOT!" (A member of Dorchester Parish)



Call Anne or James now on (01865) 341503

Willowfields No.1 Drayton Road, Dorchester-on-ThamesOxon OX10 7PJ



Tree care...we care

Insured Qualified Experienced Telephone: 01865 735235 simon@ringrosetrees.co.uk

"Your work has exceeded all our expectations and our beautiful old oak will now live on!"

Blagrove Lodge, Fox Lane Wootton, Nr Abingdon Oxfordshire OX13 6DE







Truly a Home from Home

Winterbrook Nursing Home

Where Care comes first

- Idyllic setting with picturesque gardens
- 24 hour professional nursing care
- · Long & short term care · Convalescent care

Wallingford (01491) 833922

18 Winterbrook, Reading Road, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 9EF



What's On **February**

Cinema: Performances start at 7.30pm unless otherwise

stated.

Mon 1 **Bridge of Spies** (12A) Tues 2 **Bridge of Spies (12A)**

Wed 3 **Carol** (15)

Thurs 4 NT Live. Les Liaisons Dangereuses (15) at 7pm

Fri 5 Star Wars (12A) Star Wars (12A) Sat 6 Sun 7 Sunset Song (15)

Mon 8 Joy (12A) Tues 9 Joy (12A) Wed 10 Grandma (15)

Thurs 11 Janis: Little Girl Blue (15)

Fri 12 Dad's Army (PG) Sat 13 Dad's Army (PG) Sun 14 Dad's Army (PG) Mon 15 Dad's Army (PG) Tues 16 Dad's Army (PG)

Wed 17 Dad's Army (PG) at 2.30pm and at 7.30pm

Thurs 18 Dad's Army (PG)

Sat 20 **Room** (15)

Sun 21 The Danish Girl (15) Mon 22 The Danish Girl (15)

Tues 23 TBA Wed 24 TBA

Thurs 25 NT Live As You Like It at 7pm

Fri 26 Youth (15) Sat 27 Youth (15) Sun 28 **TBA** Mon 29 TBA

LIVE

Friday 19. Stand-Up Comedy Night with Ellie Taylor, Luisa Omielan, Alistair Williams and David Morgan. A night of hilarity is guaranteed with this feisty set of comedians wellknown on the comedy circuit and on TV. Tickets £10. At 8pm

Saturday 20. The Little Match Girl. A magical and mischievous twist on a classic tale, complete with puppetry, story-telling, live music, and audience interaction. The Moon On A Stick company will transform the stage into a stunning snowy spectacle. Suitable for 3 years and upwards. £10 (under 16s £5). At 3pm

Tickets and further information, including any last minute additions to cinema programme, available from

www.cornexchange.org.uk or box office (01491 825000).

Parish Council Vacancy in the Office of **Parish Councillor**

Following the resignation of Claire Andersson due to pressure of other duties, the Parish Council wishes to co-opt a new member to serve until the next election, which will be held in May 2019.

It is hoped that this co-option can take place at the next meeting of the Parish Council, which will be on Wednesday 17 February (one week later than normal).

If you are interested in being considered for this vacancy and would like some more information about what is involved please write to the Parish Clerk, Geoff Russell, The Pigeons, 5 -7 High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames, OX10 7HH or e-mail: parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Claire tendered her resignation at the Council's December meeting. On behalf of the whole Council Cllr Chris Hill, Chairman, thanked Claire for all the work that she had done during her time on the Council. Members are delighted that Claire has offered to continue her service by undertaking special projects.

Village Bus Services

From Dorchester (War Memorial)						
No.	То	Dep	Arrive			
114	Abingdon	07.30**	08.09			
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	16.08	16.26	NS		

To Dorchester (War Memorial)							
No.	From	Dep	Arrive				
114	Wallingford	07.15**	07.30				
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	16.08	NS			

NS= Not Saturday. SO=Saturday only.

* = Mon-Fri in school term. Five minutes later Mon-Fri in school holidays 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 website 17 January

Parish Council Notices Monthly Meetings

The March meeting will take place in the back room of the Village Hall on Wednesday 17 February commencing at 7.30 pm. 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.

Please note that the meeting is one week later than usual.

Precept 2016/17

At its meeting on Wednesday 13 January the Council decided that there would be no increase in the Council's Precept (i.e. Council Tax) for 2016/17.

.....

Parish Council Public meeting 14 January 2016 **Demesne Field and** Green Belt declassification.

As a result of the District development opportunities in Council's Green Belt Review the foreseeable future. and other information received and recently discussed at Parish Council meetings it was felt that a realistic risk of the Demesne Field losing its Green Belt status, together with outside interest in developing the site for new housing, should be opened for wider village contributions. The Demesne Field is the 35-acre field that borders the by-pass alongside the Hurst Water Meadow and backs onto established Dorchester residential areas. It is currently accessed only through Manor Farm Road and Drayton Road.

In a worst-case scenario this site could then be developed into a new 300+ house estate, which would very nearly double the size of Dorchester and change the nature of our village.

After short presentations centred on the Parish Council's concerns, Councillor John Cotton, the leader of SODC, gave his assurances that their consultant's report suggesting this approach contained no more than this, suggestions. He went on to say that, although this particular development might seem large by Dorchester standards, it was very small when compared to challenges elsewhere. ln summary, he indicated that we have nothing to worry about from SODC wanting to remove the field from Green Belt or to follow up any

But this isn't the end of the story. Even if the field remains in the Green Belt it may still be vulnerable to potential development proposals by the landowner or others. Councillor Cotton stressed that the best way to defend our Green Belt areas and manage future development is to have a formal Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) agreed and approved. This is currently under way and the meeting urged that it be given top priority status.

Some 150+ Dorchester residents attended this presentation and in response to a Parish Council request for support it was overwhelming voted by a show of hands, that continued efforts must be made to protect this Green Belt area and also that this meeting had offered reassurance the matter was being taken seriously.

All Dorchester residents will have a vital responsibility to approve the final NDP in a referendum later this year. To help this process a data-base of interested residents is being created, so if you would like to hear of any further developments and didn't fill in a form at the meeting, please send contact details to Geoff Russell, by email or by written notes to the addresses given under 'Contacting the Parish Council' above.

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



From your MP... John Howell January 2016

asked about the role of an MP or to speak to groups on what I do. There is no job description for an MP but rather some key roles they are expected to play. The main role is to review legislation and represent local interests in Parliament. During the course of a week MPs divide their time in Westminster between scrutinising legislation, attending debates, committees and a wide range of briefings and other meetings. In doing so an MP will hold the national interest at heart and ensure that the interests of their own area are represented in this bigger picture. Beyond this overall description it is down to each MP to work it out in practice. When Parliament is sitting MPs are expected to be in Westminster from Monday to I am always pleased to know Thursday. Outside of sitting weeks there is more time for constituency meetings and visits

When in Westminster there are many different issues that I would like to speak on but to some extent we are dependent on being called by the Speaker to make a contribution to a particular debate. The website

theyworkforyou.com records the activities of all MPs. According to their data I have been included in the top 100 backbenchers for speaking in the House of Commons after excluding frontbenchers on both sides and the speaker and deputy speakers. Since the General Election in May I have spoken on a wide range of subjects as noted on that website. There are many issues that I raise in Parliament and it is always essential to john.howellmp

The question of what an MP choose the best way of doing does is obvious to some but so to get the desired action or less so to many. I am often response. Some issues are best raised directly with Ministers. Other issues can, where appropriate, be raised on the floor of the House. At other times I ask questions of Ministers either in the Chamber or in writing.

> Since the General Election I have attended some 148 meetings and events in the constituency. I also hold advice surgeries. However, like many MPs I often find that people now prefer to use email or phone if they have a problem. Generally speaking individual issues that I may be able to help with relate to Government departments. Concerns with local council services are best raised with local councillors.

> what is going on around the constituency. I welcome constructive debate on a range of issues in person, by letter or email. However it is impossible for me to represent all of the different views inevitably expressed on different issues by people from across the constituency. In the end every MP has to make a judgement on what they say and how they vote on particular issues.

> If you would like to be on the circulation list for my e-newsletter and occasional briefings please email me iohn.howell@oxfordshireco nservatives.com. For more information about my work please visit

> www.johnhowellmp.com. You can also follow me on twitter @johnhowellmp or www.facebook.com/

From your county councillor... **Lorraine Lindsay-Gale** December 2015/January 2016

Local Government Settlement

Oxfordshire County Council has now received details of future grant funding from central Government and the levels are even worse than feared. The council had been preparing for up to £50m of savings from 2016 to 2020 (on top of the £292m it is already in the process of making for the period from 2010 to 2018). However, on the basis of figures provided by central Government last month, OCC will have to make £20m further savings on top of the £50m, bringing the total saving to £70m over the next four years. Central Government has changed the formula for funding councils, and it seems shire counties, particularly in the south of England, have come off worst.

The list of proposed savings for £50 million was already controversial, with many members of the public opposing them. To achieve the additional £20 million savings, no area of the council can be exempt other than those where there is a statutory obligation to provide for the most vulnerable in the county. This means other areas will suffer disproportionately, which will involve some very difficult and controversial decisions. By law, the Council has to pass a balanced budget with no revenue borrowing. The Cabinet recommendations will be published 18 January for decision 26 January, before the budget goes to Full Council on 16 February.

Devolution

OCC Leader Ian Hudspeth, District Leaders, LEP representatives and health colleagues attended a meeting with the Secretary of State in December to put forward the case for Oxfordshire devolution. The meeting was very positive, however Government has not yet said what it will ask for or offer. Any move towards a Combined Authority is very much dependent on this and will be preceded by a governance review. All aspects of the offer and governance have to be agreed by each individual council before a Combined Authority can be created.

Supported transport services

On November 10th, OCC's Cabinet met to agree proposals for the future of the county's supported transport services. This followed a consultation held over the summer, which had over 2,600 responses. The proposals were discussed as part of the need to make between £6.3m and £7.5m savings from OCC's supported transport budget. The Cabinet agreed to withdraw bus subsidies from all services, with the caveat that if the Local Government Spending settlement to be announced later in the year is more generous than predicted, some funds would be made available to subsidise off-peak services on key routes. The 100+ subsidised bus services in Oxfordshire make up around 9% of the bus network. This means that more than nine out of ten services run without any public subsidy and are not affected by any of the proposals.

Preparations for winter weather

OCC is fully prepared for winter with a full fleet of 31 gritting Faringdon vehicles, which have been serviced and tested over the summer. They are ready to run on 28 routes, covering a total distance of 1200 miles. Winter depots have been stocked with 12,500 tonnes of salt, which allows OCC to undertake 50 gritting runs of the entire network (at 240 tonnes per run). Since the last major 'snow event', OCC has increased the starting stock of salt by a third and has also restocked the county's 1300 salt bins. Free bulk bags of salt have been offered to all town and parish councils. The take-up so far this year has been minimal, with only 52 requested, as stocks have been retained from previous years. The daily update on whether roads will be gritted is posted on the winter pages of the OC-C's web site.

Berinsfield services at risk

As a result of the proposed budget savings announced by OCC the Berinsfield Information Centre, the Day Centre and the Children's Centre may face having their funding withdrawn in the future. I am working with the Parish Council to see if there are any ways in which the community can support them to stay open such as finding other sources of funding, co-locating with other services and forming clusters with others to share costs. If anyone can help with this work please get in touch with me or the Parish Council.

The consultation detailed in last month's report runs for a few more weeks until the end of Sunday 10 January 2016.

Clifton Hampden—planning issues

The application to establish a Solar Farm between Clifton Hampden and the Culham Science Park has been granted.

Hills Quarry Products held a public exhibition on 25th November to explain the details of their proposed quarry site between Clifton Hampden and the railway line. The area has been reduced from 160 hectares to 104 hectares, to accommodate the newly scheduled archaeological site known as Fullamoor Plantation. The projected tonnage has been reduced from 5 million tonnes to 2.5 million tonnes and the time scale for excavation to 10 years rather than the previously proposed 25 years. While these adjustments are welcome none will address the very worrying impact of lorry movements in and out of the site which will be routed through Clifton Hampden and Burcot onto the A4074, or via Abingdon and onto the A34. Routing agreements will be put in place to prevent lorries using Culham and Clifton Hampden bridges, but enforcing such agreements is notoriously difficult. The application will be submitted in the New Year.

The County Council has committed to building a new road north from Didcot, across the Thames to join up with the A415 close to the Culham Science Park. The precise route has yet to be determined and funding found from the central government supplied Local Growth Fund. This new river crossing will link with a new Clifton Hampden relief road that will take traffic away from Clifton Hampden village and onto the Golden Balls roundabout on the A4074.

New Oxfordshire Libraries App

Oxfordshire Libraries can now be accessed from smart phone or tablet. People can:

manage their account search the catalogue

renew and reserve books.

Bar code scanning is available on devices with a front-facing auto-focus camera.

Search for 'Oxfordshire Libraries' at the App Store or Google Play.





LB PLUMBING

Toilets, taps, immersions, showers, leaks and more, **no job too small**

Fully insured, free estimates, no call out charge

Call Lee 01491 834484/ 07981642688

BODY CONTROL PILATES

BCP level 3 certified teacher specialising in back & joint care, sports rehab, pre & post natal and Parkinsons Disease

> Beginners and Mixed Ability Classes in Benson and Dorchester On Thames 121 sessions available for personalised programmes

To book contact Claire on 07801 298 978 www.millstreampilates.co.uk claire@millstreampilates.co.uk

VICTORIA DYDE

Curtains and Soft Furnishings

Challis Farm High Street Long Wittenham Abingdon Oxon, OX14 4QH 01865 407197

mcknight1967@gmail.com

Bell Motors

Behind H Cafe at the Berinsfield roundabout

MOT's while you wait £15 discount on MOT's when you quote this advert

On site MOT bay and Workshops. All makes and models catered for Need a service give us a call.

Electronic diagnostics:~ engine management, ABS, air bags all undertaken.

Need a SERVICE. (10 % discount when you quote this advert) We supply and fit exhausts, brakes, batteries We will carry out any MOT work required. (tyres and air con please call for quote)

Free collection of your vehicle, or we will take you home and collect you upon completion.

We will come out for breakdowns/recovery as needed. Welding, you break it we will try and repair it, and not just your car!!

Garden machinery not starting we may be able to help?
All credit and debit cards welcome.

MOT`s 01865 341039 WORKSHOP 01865 341155 MOBILE 07931970392

St Mary's Dental Practice

Chris Ballard, BDS (Lond). LDS.RCS (Eng) www.stmarysdental.co.uk

21a St Mary's Street Wallingford Oxon OX10 0EW Tel 01491 825252

We are a family orientated Practice located in the centre of Wallingford providing care and consideration from all members of my team to help provide you with all aspects of your dental requirements.

For further information, or make an appointment, please call my Receptionist on 01491 825252

STEVE WILKINSON PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Painting, Plastering, Stonework, Fencing, Patios, Repointing, Carpentry, Garden Tidying, Etc.

> Telephone: 01865891554 Mobile: 07885538514

Traffic Survey Results



residents. one

with Thames Valley Police and look more closely at the issue of speeding, with the objectives of reducing the potential risk of harm bus. to others and of encouraging more responsible driving.

At a Parish Council meeting on 9 September, the Clerk advised that checks would take place on the coming month. With funding support from Oxfordshire County Council, speed sensors were placed in a number of locations, including on the Henley and Abingdon Roads, to measure speeds in both directions throughout the first week of October 2015. Signs were placed at each end of the village by Thames Valley Police, advising drivers that a speed survey was underway. All locations are covered by a legal speed limit of

The charts below show the percentage of vehicles travelling at varying speeds during the

The survey shows that, during this **Enforcement** period, several hundred vehicles were travelling at well above the to right). N.B. There have been questions as to whether the shows that, even if there were a change to a higher limit (e.g. 40mph), the speeding problem would remain.

In October 2012, a Speed has been identified used by volunteers (of which public meeting identified nationwide as a contributor to there are several) to remind several issues of increased traffic accidents and drivers of their actual speeds. concern to Dorchester to increased injuries when such of accidents happen, particularly which was the speed where pedestrians are involved. of traffic through the It is worth noting that there are indicates that they are supportive village. Consequently, a group of specific risks to pedestrians in residents volunteered to work both monitored locations – a narrow pavement on the Abingdon Road and children crossing the Henley Road to catch the school

Whilst the village's record of a low number of traffic accidents is a good one, it would seem to make sense to look at ways to reduce the level of speeding in speeds through the village during the village before a tragic accident in the event that the measures

There are a number of options:

Speed Awareness

A first step is to increase awareness of speed limits and encourage drivers to slow down. This can be done with:

- · signage at the north/south entrances the to village (although they'll probably need to be post-mounted as one existing ground level sign has already been broken)
- regular reminders in the **Dorchester News**
- notices around the village e.g. Co-op, Village Hall

Speed Monitoring/

Increased dialogue with Thames Valley Police to obtain more legal speed limit (figures in column frequent speed monitoring and, if necessary, speed enforcement, as is the case in Shillingford. 30mph speed limit is appropriate Even the infrequent presence of to the straight parts of the Henley the police 'speed van' is likely to and Abingdon Roads. This survey deter speeding if convictions follow.

> An additional option is for the Parish Council to obtain a mobile speed display which can be

The cost of such equipment is approximately £2,500. Dialogue with Thames Valley Police of this approach.

Investment in Speed Reduc-

Longer-term, consideration can given to traffic-calming measures such as rumble strips and road plateaux. Such measures would require an application for capital expenditure by Oxford County Council and are therefore seen only as a step to be taken outlined above make no difference.

The Parish Council would like to get the views of as many village residents as possible as to whether specific actions are needed to counter speeding in the village and, if so, what actions are likely to be the most effective.

Please write to or email the

(parishclerk@dorchesterontha mes.co.uk) with your feed-back, specifically with reference to the following:

- Is the number of vehicles speeding acceptable?
- Do we wish to take action, or not, to reduce this number?
- What measures would you support and/or recommend (taking account of cost constraints)?

Handwritten or typed notes can be left at The Pigeons, next door to the Fleur de Lys.

Graham Shaw

Survey Results

Abingdon Road Sailing Club South

Average per day: No. of vehicles: 807 Exceeding 35 mph:



Exceeding 45 mph:



North

Average per day: No. of vehicles: 856 Exceeding 35 mph:



Exceeding 45 mph:



Henley Road Meadside West

Average per day: No. of vehicles 648 Exceeding 35 mph:



Exceeding 45 mph:



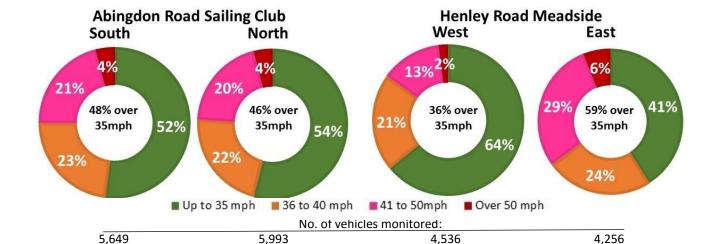
East

Average per day: No. of vehicles: 608 Exceeding 35 mph:



Exceeding 45 mph:







Thames Crossings Ferries, Fords and Bridges

February's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be given by Steve Capel-Davies. He will present 'Thames Crossings - Ferries, Fords and Bridges'.

Steve has had an extensive career involving rivers, and will draw on his personal experiences and knowledge of the River

The River Thames has been very important as a key route for trade but it has also been a major barrier to those wanting to cross it! This talk on Ferries, Fords and Bridges will look at how these have evolved over the years including local examples, such as at Wallingford where the bridge has at times had drawbridges installed, been destroyed by a flood, rebuilt and widened.

The talk will be preceded by a short (as usual!) AGM.

This talk will be held on Friday 12 February, 8 pm at the Methodist Church Centre, St Leonard's Square, Wallingford. Visitors (£3) are most welcome.

www.twhas.org.uk



Wallingford Museum

Two exciting new special exhibitions. It is 950 years since England was last successfully

invaded by a foreign army. Most of us know of the great battle in 1066 at Hastings where the English (Saxon) King Harold was killed by an arrow in his eye (probably) and some may know that William the Conqueror came to Wallingford after the battle to cross the River Thames with his army! But why Wallingford? What was happening here at the time to make him come? What effect did it all have on the people living here? There is an intriguing story to tell and in this new exhibition - '1066: William Comes to Wallingford' - where all will be revealed - based on the latest research and evidence. Not to be missed!

You'll also be able to see some of the latest discoveries from our recent archaeology, including the smallest medieval chess piece ever found in England - a beautiful little object made of antler, discovered behind the Museum in the dig last summer.

But this is not all...!

There's also a brand new special exhibition presenting '300 Years of Cartoons!' This spectacular collection has been brought together by Dr Steve Head to show wonderful examples of the development of the use of cartoons in the last three centuries. Featuring about a hundred cartoons of all kinds, the exhibition allows you simply to look at the cartoons and enjoy them for themselves, or to take time to read a little about each one and learn a great deal - a very special experience.

And if you come early in the season, your £5 entry ticket will give you terrific value, as you'll be able to return as many times as you like for no extra cost. The Museum is open from 1 March. Children under 16 are free, and there's lots for the family to enjoy throughout the rest of the Museum too. Look out for special events this year including Town and Castle history walks (2 April), A Night at the Museum (13 May and 28 Oct), Family Archaeology Day (23 July), a William the Conqueror event (20 August), BunkFest offers, and the Agatha Christie Weekend (9-11 Sept).

Full details at www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk



Wallingford U3A

The next Meeting of Wallingford U3A will be on Wednesday, 3 February. The AGM will be followed by a talk by Jim and Pat Fish on "Travels and Wild Life in Tanzania". We know from previous talks by Jim and Pat that this will be fascinating, and wonderfully illustrated. Our meetings are held in Crowmarsh Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month, at 2.00pm. Visitors are always made welcome. For more information visit our website: www.u3asites.org.uk/wallingford, or phone Hermione on 01865 858024

Wallingford Photographic Club What's On

4 Feb Members Evening 11 Feb Themed Print Competition-Lifestyle Judge: Stan McCartin. 18 Feb Themed Digital Competition Lifestyle Judge: Brian Swinyard. 25 Feb Aerial Photography/Aarchaeology

Speaker: Ian Cartwright.

Wallingford Photographic Club meets on Thursday evenings at Crowmarsh Pavilion. The club is always pleased to welcome visitors (£3 for the evening) and new members, from beginners to advanced photographers. If there is something which interests you in the club programme, why not come along as a visitor and find out more about the club. Full details can be found on the club website

www.wallingfordphoto.club

Wallingford Vehicle Rally and Parade

The Wallingford Vehicle Rally and Parade returns on Sunday May 8 2016 for its 12th year. This relaxed, friendly and very informal event is organised by a small group of volunteers who have made this show one of the "must see" events on the Wallingford calendar. The event will kick off at 11am with a parade of 250 vehicles through the picturesque Oxfordshire town of Wallingford from The Wallingford Sports Park, snaking around the streets, through the Market Place and culminating in a static show at the Kinecroft in the centre of town. Throughout the day there will be displays and side stalls hosted by local suppliers and charities, helping raise funds for their worthy causes.

Pre-registration for the parade is highly recommended as the 2015 event was fully booked wihtin a month and spaces are limited to 250 vehicles on the day. This can be done NOW via the website

http://www.wallingfordcarrally.org.uk/register.shtml

There you will also be able to see more on the charities involved. details on the event, a gallery from previous shows, information and links to our very generous sponsors and you can even volunteer to help out on the day in some way. If you would like to help out or be included in some way, drop us an email at info@wallingfordcarrally.org.uk or via the website http://www.wallingfordcarrally.org.uk/



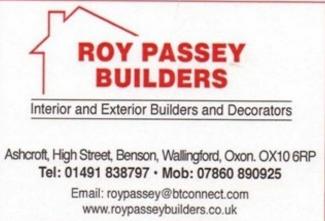
GARDEN, GROUNDS & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE FROM A LOCAL SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

'Quality & value By and For The Community'

01865 343715 www.bcomb.co.uk











Logs for Sale

Martin Drew

01865 343378 or 07774 170727





Mobile: 07879 522511

Workshop: 01865 340173

River Mead, 12 Oxford Road, Dorchester on Thames, Oxford OX10 7LX www.kesfurniture.co.uk



Visit your Local Library and see what we have on offer





Coffee Morning 3rd Tuesday 10.30-12.00am All Welcome

Half Term Craft Afternoon

Wednesday 17 February 3.45pm Children to be accompanied by an adult please

Rhymetimes for Under 5s Wednesday 10.30am

Junior Reading Group

Knit and Natter 3rd Tuesday 2.30pm

One to One Computer lessons for over 50s Friday mornings

Storytime Wednesday 3.45pm

Book and a Bun Reading Group 2nd Thursday of the month 2.00pm





Day by day

Thur Mobile library 4 Feb 2 55-3 15 Opposite War Memorial Sat **Dorchester Reserves v** 6 Feb **East Hendred Reserves** AG Kingham Cup Quarter Final 2.00pm

Recreation Ground

Sun **Sunday before Lent** 7 Feb 8.00am Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booys)

> 10.30am Morning Service

Tues **Short Communion** 10 15am 9 Feb

Wed Ash Wednesday 10 Feb 9.30am

Holy Communion at Berinsfield

Team Service at Warborough

Thurs **Dorchester WI** 11 Feb 2.30pm Village Hall

'Covent Garden and its wicked history'.

Fri **Lent Lunch** 12 Feb 12.30pm The Rectory

> Abbey Choir Come and Sing evening

7.00pm Dorchester Abbey

Sun Lent 1 14 Feb 8.00am

> Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booys)

10.30am Sung Eucharist

Wed **Culham Horticultural Society** 17 Feb 7.30pm

Abbey Guest House 'Leicester Botanic Garden, its landscape and plants'.

Dorchester Parish Council Meetina 7.30pm

Village Hall (back room). (Please note this is one week later than usual.)

Thurs Classic Car Show George Hotel 18 Feb

> Chiropodist 1.00-4.00pm Belcher Court (see p.5)

Mobile Library

2.55-3.15 Opposite War Memorial

Fri **Lent Lunch** 19 Feb 12 30 1, Beechcroft



Sun 21 Feb 8.00am

Holy Communion (1662) (Revd Marcus Braybrooke and Revd Jon Roberts)

10.30am Family Service and Baptism

Evensong

Wed **DoT Historical Society** 24 Feb

7.30pm

'Afflictions, supposed causes, and curious remedies in days gone by' by Prof Greg Stores

Thurs Service at the Cheshire Home 11.30am 25 Feb

> **Demistifying IT** 2.30pm Village Hall

Lent Lunch 26 Feb 12.30pm

4, Drayton Road

Sat Wedding 27 Feb Neil Williams and Amanda Groom

2.00pm Dorchester Abbey

Sun Lent 3 28 Feb 8 00am

Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booys)

10.30am Sung Eucharist

7.00pm Taize@7

Church services in the Abbey appear in red. More details can be found at:

www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

For details of services at St Birinus RC Church go to:

www.stbirinus.co.uk

Weekly events

Monday **Watercolour Painting** 10.00am-12.30pm and

1.30 pm-4.00pm Abbey Guest House. Full details from www.rebeccahind.com

Coffee in the Abbey Tuesday

10.30-12.00 **Bellringing Practice** 7.30 pm Abbey Fishmonger

10.15 to 10.25am by War Memorial

(p.11)

Wednesday Holy Communion at

Berinsfield Church 9.30am **Lunch Club** Village Hall 12.30

Baby & Toddler Group Thursday

9.30am - 11.00am Village Hall: (term time only)

Choir Practice Friday 7.00 pm Abbey

Regular events also appear in the Parish

Council's website:

www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

22 Nov Arthur James Flower 20 Dec Lily Mae Richards

Holy Matrimony

21 Nov Paul Norris and

Abbie Anns

Funeral

27 Nov Alan Fisher 16 Dec Ethel Higgins

Funeral service at the Crematorium

27 Nov Raymond Jeliffe

If you would like your village meeting or event to appear here, send details to the editor by the copy date given on p2.

Shrove Tuesday, 9 February



CONTACTING THE POLICE

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

HEALTH SERVICES

DIRECT LINE TO URGENT LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

Dial 111 to access urgent local NHS health care services. Where possible, they will book you an appointment or transfer you 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, daily 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)

SURGERIES

Berinsfield Health Centre: 01865 340558 Clifton Hampden: 01865 407888 Millstream Benson: 01491 838286

ROOM HIRE

ABBEY GUEST HOUSE BOOKINGS

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

HIRE OF DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL

To hire our Village Hall, 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 available for rent. Contact the Scheme Manager, Caroline Major, on **01865 343128**.

FAULTS AND COMPLAINTS STREET LIGHTING

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

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

If your rubbish is not collected on the due date contact the contractor direct. Call **03000 610610** and the website: www.morerecyling.co.uk

Useful Information

BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

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

OPENING HOURS

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

TRANSPORT

BUS SERVICES

Information about bus services, both local and national, is available from www.traveline.info, and 0871 200 2233, which also provides information about trains, London Underground and Overground and ferries throughout the UK.

OXFORDSHIRE DIAL-A-RIDE

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

SHOPMOBILITY

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

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

......

The Parish Clerk is Geoffrey Russell of The Pigeons (next to The Fleur de Lys), High Street, Dorchester on Thames OX10 7HH; 01865 340759 (during normal office hours, please, unless an emergency);

parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk.

More information about the village is available at: www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

......

USEFUL CONTACTS

ANGLICAN PRIEST

Dorchester Rectory **Revd. Canon Sue Booys** 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.

ABBEY WEBSITE

www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

VILLAGE WEBSITE

www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST The Presbytery Fr. John Osman

Bridge End **01865 340417**

www.stbirinus.co.uk



REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Fri 5 Feb Green
Fri 12 Feb Black
Fri 19 Feb Green
Fri 26 Feb Black

Fridays from 7.00 am.

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

The recycling centre at Oakley Wood (off the A4130) is open.8.00am – 5.00pm seven days a week.

Index of advertisers

	Page
AKT Planning	10
Altom tree care	26
Anderson Orr	4
Arbocare	21
Beauty Essentials Bell Motors	7 26
Berinsfield Community	20
Business	29
Brannfords	10
Browning Ovens	29
Bryan's Locks	10
CP Groundworks	17
Dorchester Fireplaces	5
Finders Keepers	19
Four Winds	12
Full Circle	9
George Hotel	12
Graceful Gardens	17
Howard Chadwick funerals	
In House	6 22
JEM chimney sweep Jemini	10
Jenks	4
Kes furniture	29
Larkmead vets	15
LB Plumbing	26
Marcus Maunder	10
Martin Drew Logs	29
Millstream Pilates	26
Oxford Sports Phsylo	21
Pipeline Direct	10
Ringrose	22
Roy Passey Builders	29
St Mary's Dental	26
Steve Wilkinson	26
T W Hayden	22
Victoria Dyde	26
Village Mechanic White Hart	22 4
Winterbrook nursing home	22
Wittenham Dog Grooming	10
Willeman boy Glooming	10





christmas 2015







at Dorchester Abbey





Photographs courtesy of Steph and Nick Forman

Some notes on Dorchester Abbey Choir

by David Parker

January 2016

November 1972 When I moved to Dorchester in November 1972, there was no adult choir at the Abbey. The Revd. Harold Best was vicar.

Mr Bromley Challoner (from Abingdon) was the organist. He showed no interest in training a choir. There was a small junior choir (in white robes) run by Miss Hilary Savage, a teacher at the primary school. One of the choristers was Alison Hornsby.

There had been an adult choir in the past (black cassocks were still stored in a cupboard) and a few adults in the congregation had sung in that choir, e.g. Douglas Exon (village baker, PCC member and captain of the bells). He died in 1987.

1973-74 During this period, the seeds were sown for the formation of a full choir. Edward Kramer (bass) was a young man who had moved into one of the new houses in Page Furlong, and shared thoughts with me and a few others about forming a choir. As I remember, our first project was for a carol service, probably in 1973. Edward conducted us and Mary Knedler (alto, died in the late 1980s) played the piano. Others who joined us were: Phil Greenaway (bass), Vera Baker (alto), Jenny Nudds (alto), Roy Holliday (tenor) and Alison. Also possibly John Beveridge (died c.1997).

Phil, Roy, Alison and Jenny had been in the choir in the past, even as early as the 1940s (Phil and Roy).

1974 Following the retirement of 'Father' Best, the Revd. Ray Nichols was appointed Rector. Soon afterwards, Bromley Challoner retired, and Ray appointed Richard Goodall as organist. Richard was a music graduate and came to live in Dorchester while reading for a D.Phil at Reading University. He was housed in the Rectory flat. By this time the junior choir had folded when Miss Savage moved to another school.

Richard Goodall set about training a choir and he taught us to sing unaccompanied. The choir grew from the nucleus of:

Phil, Roy, Vera, Jenny, Alison, me (all still in the choir today), Edward, Douglas Exon, Mary Knedler and John Beveridge.

Edward soon moved away, but Steve (bass) and Jenny (soprano) Pond joined, together with Paul Unsworth (tenor), all of whom had moved into Jemmetts Close. Barbara Nichols (alto) joined and was very supportive. Richard's girlfriend Liz (now Goodall) was a valuable soprano.

Richard Goodall prepared the choir for monthly Sung Evensong, a tradition which has survived.

- 1977 Richard Goodall moved on and the Rector appointed Richard Barnes in his place as organist and choirmaster. Barnes had been a Westminster Abbey chorister and a choral scholar of Kings College, Cambridge. We were lucky to be trained by someone of his calibre, but he did not stay long. The junior choir remained rather weak.
- 1981 Richard Barnes left, and his place was taken by John Simpson who had moved into Dorchester (and joined the choir as a bass) on retiring from being bursar at Radley College. John continued as organist and choirmaster for 24 years, during which time the choir built up a large, extensive repertoire.
- c. 1979-2005 Many notable choir members joined in this period (and, as noted as follows, we sadly lost several):
 David and Jill Eldridge, Angela Simpson, Tim Cook, Charles Mould (moved to

Woodstock), Julie Bartley (moved to Brighton), Sue Dixon (2016, moved to Chichester), John and Sarah Cornelius, Steph Forman and others.

Eleanor Leahy, Jenny Pilgrim-Morris, John Beveridge, Alan and Betty Excell from this period have died.

2005 Jeremy Boughton was appointed organist and choirmaster on John's retirement.