Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish March 2016





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Dorchester News March 2016

A DoT view

We hope that by now the worst of the winter is over. Not that this has been a 'traditional' winter in the way that Charles Dickens taught to us to expect., It has lacked snow and frosts to any significant extent, at least to the time that I write this, which is probably tempting Providence. Now, however, we begin to look forward to Spring, this year with an early Easter. Not that being in March will mean that there is likely to be a shortage of Easter flowers. Daffodils are already in flower in places because of the mild winter, and with a little warmth should be in profusion by late March. With the Spring Flower Show still a month away, on 9 April (see page 13), the trick this year may be to keep them going until then. I hope that you will, and that the entries for the Flower Show will be better than ever. Then we will really know that Spring has sprung.

We have received many kind comments regarding the new format of Dorchester News, and are pleased that it appears to have been liked by so many. If you would like to get involved with creating Dorchester News each month, I am very keen to recruit someone to write features such as the 'Focus on...' article each month and other pieces about village activities. If you are an aspiring writer or journalist who would like some experience on your cv or an experienced old hack who wants to keep their hand in, email me at the address below. Also needed is a picture editor to create and manage a library of photographs of Dorchester and its surrounds for the front page or elsewhere. If you have an eye for a good picture, that could be you.

Ian Brace



email: dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Editorial Team
Ian Brace, Gail Thomas

Distribution Co-ordinatorMaurice Day

Copy Deadlines for Dorchester News

April edition 11 March May edition 8 April June edition 13 May

Advert Deadlines for Dorchester News

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

For newsletter for other churches in the Team send to admin@dorchester-abbey.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.

Talking Point Revd. Canon Sue Booys

or the whole of the month of March up and sometimes doing something more. Part of the Easter story is two journeys will be in my mind - one, happening on the other side of the world will be the journey represented by the primaries in the United States of America whose complex electoral system is designed to be as representative and consultative as possible. I suspect it is certainly more exhausting than any other electoral system in the world and won't actually end until May. It is a highly political journey and one in which faith, particularly He entered Jerusalem, where Roman rule Christianity often plays a significant part. In our country, the view that church and politics don't mix is still fairly widely held though in recent months the Bishops in the House of Lords have spoken effectively and with other faith leaders on social and moral issues.

The other journey is the Lenten journey and because Easter is right at the end of March all its major landmarks happen this month.

We need landmarks! For Christians Lent is a journey that takes place internally. It is about meeting the challenge in one way or another to live in a way that is closer to what we think of as Gods way. Sometimes this involves giving something

There are some particular landmarks in the that the religious and political Lenten Journey, for example, Mothering Sunday or Refreshment Sunday is traditionally seen as a Rest in the Lenten fast. Then, immediately before Easter comes Palm Sunday. This is perhaps one of the most significant landmarks in the Jesus story and it represents one of the back from the dead! most "political" actions that he took.

was established, in procession as a "King" a real challenge to the governor and civil authorities. At the same time Jesus challenged religious authorities as people claimed he was the one promised to be king of the Jews; a claim that represented both hope and challenge to the Jewish community. A hope because they longed to be set free from Roman rule and believed that the Messiah would help overthrow their oppressors. A challenge because in everything Jesus did he championed the poor, the outcast and those who had been treated unjustly whilst directing his most powerful invective It is for His Kingdom that we prepare in against those leaders of the faith who Lent and celebrate at Easter. used their power to uphold the status quo and squash any opposition.

authorities succeeded in squashing the challenge that

Jesus represented. He was, after all, sentenced and put to death. The message of Easter, as unbelievable at the time as it is often found today, is that Jesus came

In doing so He offered a new way of being a new and different Kingdom. It is a Kingdom of hope - one to be worked for in the anticipation that it is possible to seek this kingdom of peace and justice in the world we know but that it will only be fully realised in the future we cannot see. No wonder it is hard to believe! And yet the words and actions of many people in our own time those who profess a faith and those who don't, suggest that many people seek and hope for this ideal that Jesus described as The Kingdom. It is perhaps not a question of whether Christianity and politics should engage but how and when?

Team Lecture

Thursday 3 March 7.30pm, Dorchester Abbey

All are invited to the next in the series of Quarterly Talks arranged by the Dorchester Team, Ripon College Cuddesdon, and the Churn Churches:

Environmentalism in the religion and science debates: theology, spirituality and practical action

A talk by the Revd Dr Gillian Straine, Physicist and Church of England priest. Members of the Dorchester congregation may remember Gillian, who was a summer student here in 2008.

Mothering Sunday 6 March 10.30am

Everyone will be welcome to join us for this service to celebrate the gift of the mother church, our own mothers, and those who 'mother' us. The choir and the music group will help lead our worship.

·

Palm Sunday 20 March 10.15am Start at the War Memorial

It is very much hoped that we will have a donkey to lead our procession with palms from the War Memorial this year. Watch out for posters and check the website for details nearer the time.

Dorchester Education Trust

There is a small trust associated with the Abbey Guest House which gives minor grants for the benefit of the young people of Dorchester. Recent grants have been made to help purchase mugs for the children of Dorchester School to mark the Good OFSTED rating. Any enquiries regarding the Trust may be directed to the Trustees c/o the Abbey Office

Maundy Thursday

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

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

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

Good Friday

We are delighted that the Very Reverend Edmund Newey, Sub-Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, will be giving the addresses during the Devotion at Dorchester Abbey from 1.00pm to 3.00pm.

Edmund grew up in the Dorchester Team and it will be good to welcome him back!

Easter

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

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

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Sunday 6th March Mothers' Day 12 noon to 8pm

Easter Sunday 27th March 12 noon to 8pm

See menus on www.white-hart-hotel-dorchester.co.uk/eat

Friday March 18th St Patrick's Celebration from 8pm

Dansmall



Dan Plews (guitar, bouzouki) and Guy Fletcher (fiddle) are two fine musicians from Northamptonshire. Since 1995 the duo have taken their mixture of original and traditional songs and tunes through the UK, Belgium, Germany and the U.S.

01865 340074

Village News

Benson Choral Society Spring Concert

Sat 19 March at 7.30 pm.

The next Dorchester Abbey concert will take place on Saturday 19 March, and will feature a single work - Bach's Mass in B minor. This is generally recognized as the crowning peak of Bach's sacred music and throughout it his deep faith shines through as an inspiration and stimulus.

The B minor is a musical setting of the complete Latin mass. It was one of Bach's last compositions, and was not completed until 1749, the year before his death. Much of the Mass gave new form to vocal music that Bach had composed throughout his career, dating back (in the case of the Crucifixus to 1714), but extensively revised. To complete the work, in the late 1740s Bach composed new sections such as Et Incanatus est.

BCS conductor Chris Walker writes: 'More than 100 years ago the great Bach scholar Philip Spitta described Bach's Mass in B minor as 'probably the greatest musical work of art the world has ever seen.' The choral writing is musically diverse and technically challenging; the solo arias and duets have immense variety and beauty; the orchestral accompaniment is in turn poetic, colourful and exhilarating. This is a piece that has inspired performers, listeners and historians for hundreds of years, and I am looking forward to experiencing once again the glorious musical effects of performing this great work in the splendid surroundings of Dorchester Abbey'

The Elgar orchestra will once again feature, adding their usual high standard of musicianship to the performance.

Tickets from Stephanie Martin. Ring (evenings only) on 01865 407395, or email her on tickets.bensonchoral@gmail.com

Tickets prices are, as usual, £15, £12 and £10.

Friends of **Dorchester Abbey** Visit to Llandaff Cathedral and St Fagan's Monday 9 May 2016

£25.00 per person for Friends of the Abbey, which includes the coach travel, a guided tour of Llandaff Cathedral, followed by tea and cakes. £27.00 per person for non-Friends of the Abbey

The coach will leave from the Bridge End car park in Dorchester at 8.30am to arrive at St Fagan's about 11.00am.

St Fagan's Natural History Museum

Opened in 1948, this open air museum has over 40 re-erected original buildings of all periods and all types, on a beautiful 100 acre site in the grounds and gardens of St Fagan's castle.

A unique building – St Teilo's Church – shows how a church would have looked just before the Reformation. There are lovely walks and a restaurant, a traditional 1930s tea room, picnic area and bakery on site.

Guided tour of Llandaff Cathedral at 3.00pm followed by tea and cakes to end the visit. The coach will leave Llandaff at **5.00pm.** We should arrive back in Dorchester by 7.30pm.

Friends of Dorchester Abbey will receive this information in the Spring Newsletter. If anyone else would like to come, please send a cheque for £27.00 per person, payable to 'The Friends of Dorchester Abbey' with name, address and phone number to: Mrs Yvonne Lawden, 9 Queens Close, Dorchester-on-Thames, Wallingford, OX10 7LR by Monday 4 April. [Please note: you will not be sent tickets or a receipt. Any queries please phone Yvonne Lawden on 01865 340465]

Further information will be sent to participants before the visit.



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Dorchester Golf Society (DOGS)

'DOGS' combines friendly golf with non-golfing activities so don't worry if your golf isn't great, or even if you don't play at all and just want to come to our social events, you'll be warmly welcomed and you'll have fun.

2016 Schedule

First Monday of every month. Social. 8.00pm. An informal get-together for a few drinks in the White Hart Hotel bar. Many non-golfers attend and golf is rarely discussed.

Monday 21 March. *AGM/Social.* 8.00pm. Very brief agenda and our usual informal gettogether.

Saturday 9 April. *Social.* **The Mill at Sonning**. A dinner/show evening (now closed for entries)

Monday 18 April. *Golf.* **Drayton Park GC**. 18 holes. 9.00am Coffee, Bacon rolls and sandwich lunch.

Monday 16 May. *Golf.* **Wrag Barn GC**. 18 holes. 9.30 Coffee, Bacon rolls and sandwich lunch.

Tuesday 7 June. *Social.* **'Aunt Sally'** evening in the Fleur de Lys garden, plus optional meal.

Monday 20 June. *Golf.* **Tadmarton Heath GC**. 18 holes (Pairs). 12.30pm sandwich lunch.

Monday 18 July. *Golf/Social.* **The Springs GC** 9 holes 5.00pm. Plus optional meal at The White Hart Hotel. (golfers and non-golfers usually attend)

Saturday 13 August. Social. Annual BBQ Held in Jan and

Joey Joseph's garden.

Tuesday 16 August. *Golf/Social.* **Huntercombe GC** 11 holes. 5.00pm Optional meal at The White Hart Hotel (golfers and non-golfers)

Sunday/Monday 4-5 September. *Golf/Social.* **'Dogs on Tour'**. An overnight stay at a New Forest GC and alternative local activities for nongolfers.

Monday 26 September. Golf. North Oxford GC. 18 holes. 9.00am and a sandwich lunch. Friday 28 October. Golf. Badgemore Park GC.18 holes 9.00am Soup/sandwich lunch. Saturday 29 October. Social. Annual 'DOGS Dinner' (black tie) at The White Hart Hotel.

DOGS is all about relaxed fun with golf as a reason for organising events. Golf usually costs in the region of £30 to £38 for 18 holes, less for shorter outings. But it isn't just for golfers and 'other halves'. It's a village social club open to anyone who'd like to join in. Give us a call.

Contact details Golf - Jan Rimmer 01865 343719 Social - John Mills 01865 340285

Fishmonger

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

10.10 - 10.20am in High Street near War Memorial

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Culham & District Horticultural Club

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



Wednesday 16 March 2016

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

Wednesday 20 April 2016

'Less well known trees and shrubs suited to the smaller garden' an illustrated talk by Kevin Hughes. Kevin runs the nursery at Heale House in Wiltshire and will bring plants for sale.

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

Children's Society Boxes

If you have a Children's Society box, please would you return it to Carol at the Co-op by the end of March if at all possible. Many thanks

Lent Lunches 2016

The ecumenical Lent lunches continue on Fridays. All are welcome to join in and share a simple lunch offered between 12.30 pm and 2.00 pm at the following addresses.

- 4 March—with Caroline Oakley, 24 Bridge End, Dorchester 11 March- with Dawn Dudley at Church House, Queen St Dorchester
- 18 March-with Julie Taylor at The Manor House, Overy
- 25 March-with Judy Parker at The Abbey Guest House at 12.00pm-1.00pm

This year the money donated will given to A.B.C.D, - Action around Bethlehem Children with Disabilities.

.....

Do come to enjoy a sociable lunch.

Meg Fisher

Dorchester on Thames Historical Society

Wednesday 23 March 7.30pm in Dorchester Village Hall (back room)



A talk by Liz Woolley on Children's Experiences of the Second World War in Oxfordshire'. Liz Woolley is a local historian specialising in aspects of the history of Oxfordshire and Oxford.

She has been a regular speaker for the Society and her talks are not only enjoyable but informative.

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

.....

Gail Thomas Chairman

Source: Getty Images



Tennis News

The new season approaches and we look forward to some great tennis weather this year. We will kick off with the Spring Tournament on Sunday 10 TENNIS CLUB April at 2.00pm.

If you haven't been to one of our tournaments before, what can you expect? Well, tennis at all standards of play, a superb afternoon tea and a friendly welcome. We play mixed doubles format, but don't worry if you don't have a partner as we can fix you up on the day.

The junior coaching programme for children 4 years and over will commence after the Easter holidays every Tuesday from 4.00pm. Please contact me if you would like your child to join in.

Adult coaching continues every Friday morning at 10am and on Tuesday evenings at 7.00pm (after Easter). These are drop-in sessions and are open to all abilities. An open club session will run alongside the Tuesday evening coaching from 7.00pm to 9.00pm if you would like a game or two.

If you would like to join our friendly little club, we are accepting new members! Membership gives you access to tournaments and club sessions, coaching and great odds at winning a pair of Wimbledon tickets through our club ballot. The membership fees go towards court maintenance and improvement and we hope to install a practice hitting wall this season.

For membership enquiries, contact Chris Smith on chriscssmith@btinternet.com

For coaching enquiries, contact Claire Andersson on Claire@claireandersson.co.uk

> Claire Andersson **Tennis Club Chair**

..... Chiropodist

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

17 March

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

Village News



Easter Lilies 2016

We shall be decorating the Abbey for Easter Saturday and if you would like to remember a loved one with a donation towards the cost of the Easter Lilies/flowers please complete the form below and post to me or drop into Cathy Glass or Vera Baker in The Limes.

Sandie Griffith, 7 Castle Close, Benson, Oxon OX10 6SN 01491 832598

Name:	
TelNo:	
Amount of Donation:	
Amount of Donation:	

In Memory of:

Welcoming visitors to our abbey

church and one of my great pleasures in Sunday afternoon, welcoming visitors. Some the summer is to welcome people to look round it. If you haven't been in the abbey lately you might like to visit the website years), some enjoy the peace and quiet, www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk where you some come for the artwork or the occasional can take a virtual tour.

I am one of a group of volunteer stewards who each spend a couple of hours once a



In our village we have a wonderful abbey month in the summer, on a Saturday or visitors are keen on the history of the place (parts of which go back musical performance, and some come because they took part in the annual Festival of Voices when they were at school. Whatever their reason for visiting I am sure that a welcoming face is appreciated.

> To be an abbey steward does not mean you have to be religious, or an expert in church architecture. All you need is the capacity to enjoy the place and be prepared to share your pleasure with visitors. New stewards are well supported and there are plenty of helpful (and knowledgeable) people around to get you started. You are not expected to 'fly solo' until you are ready!

> Current stewards are invited to meet in the abbey on 6 March between 11.45am and 12.30pm, (after the Mothering Sunday service), to sign up for their sessions so if you might like to join us please come along or give me a call.

> > **Tim Cook** 01865 340314

warden@dorchester-abbev.org.uk



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Earth Trust March events

Mother's Day Edible Bouquets Sunday 6 March, 10.00am-2.00pm

Drop in to the Earth Trust Centre on Mothering Sunday and plant your mum an edible bouquet! Decorate your pot and fill it with seeds that will grow into tasty leaves, herbs and flowers. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

Lambing Weekends

Saturday 12.00 & Sunday 13 March, 11.00am-4.00pm Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 March, 11.00am-4.00pm

Our annual Lambing Weekends are back, but this year there's even more to see and do on the Earth Trust farm! As well as the ewes and their lambs, there'll be pigs, piglets, goats and more, plus bale climbing and craft activities. Refreshments available. £6 adult, £3 child, £15 family, free for Earth Trust Friends.

Easter Fun on the Farm Sunday 27 March, 11.00am-3.00pm

Get set for some egg-citing family fun this Easter Sunday! Eggs-plore the Earth Trust farm and meet some of the animals, plus bring your own egg (hard boiled!) to decorate and roll down the Clumps. Refreshments available. £5 adult, £2 child, £12 family.

Woodland Adventure

Wednesday 30 March, 10.00am-12.00pm

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.

Sling Walk

Thursday 31 March, 10.00am-11.30am

Bring your baby for a ramble around the Earth Trust nature reserve. A great opportunity for you both to get our in the fresh air and enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of the countryside with other local parents. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

Discover and Play

Friday 1 April, 10.00am-12.00pm

Forest School for the under-5s. Join the Earth Trust for a morning of play and discovery in the 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.

Nettles - Nasty or Nice?

Sunday 3 April, 10.00am-12.00pm

Stinging nettles may pack a bit of a punch, but did you know they're used by both people and wildlife? Join us at the Earth Trust Centre and get inspired by our delicious nettle recipes, and discover which other species like eating them too. With Love Food Hate Waste. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. Drop in.

Clumps Club

Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 April, 9.00am-5.00pm

Wild adventures for 8 to 12 year olds! Different outdoor activities each day, please check web for details. £30 per child per day; booking essential: 01865 407792.

Wildlife Wednesday

Wednesday 6 April, 2.00pm-4.00pm

Our roving Wildlife Wednesdays visit a different Earth Trust community nature reserve during each school holiday. This half term, come and join us at Wallingford Castle Meadows (OX10 8DL) to learn about local wildlife and have lots of outdoor fun! £2 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free: no need to book.

Hurst Water Meadow Trust News

Public Meeting

Everyone is invited to attend a public meeting which the Trust will be holding in the Village Hall on **Thursday 17 March at 7.30pm** (doors open at 7.00pm). It is almost two years since the last meeting, and we want to tell you what has been happening during that time as well as to think about the future. The Trust maintains its meadows on behalf of the community so do please come and voice your opinions on current management and future plans.

It was at the meeting in 2014 that the suggestion was made that we ought to consider purchasing the land bordering the lower Thame. The Trustees agreed, and as a result the Trust now owns Overy Mead Piece.

Official Opening of Overy Mead Piece

In case of bad weather and flooding we decided to delay the opening of Overy Mead Piece until April. The event will take place on **Thursday 21 April at 2.30pm** on the meadow itself. Graham Scholey, Conservation Technical Specialist at the Environment Agency, will formally open the meadow, and everyone is welcome to attend the opening and join us for afternoon tea.

We look forward to welcoming, to both events, supporters of the Trust and all who enjoy the meadows.

Free Firewood

Timber which has been removed from our meadows is stacked in the car parking area adjacent to Old Bridge Meadow at Dorchester Bridge. Large logs need to be sawn and split; the wood is still green, and much of it is willow. Anyone who can use this wood may help themselves. If you need vehicular access please contact Andrew Clements.

Gillian Johnson Honorary Secretary 01865 340925 Andrew Clements Honorary Treasurer 01865 340753

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

Earth Trust continued...

Family Bushcraft

Friday 8 April, 10am-4pm

Bring the whole family and go wild in the great outdoors! Explore the woods, make shelters, learn how to make a fire and use a knife safely. We'll cook on the fire but bring a packed lunch too. £20 adult, £15 child; booking essential: 01865

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.

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Dorchester Tennis Club
Spring Mixed Doubles Tournament
Sunday 10 April
2pm at the courts
£6 entry fee including afternoon tea,
scones and cakes
Open to members and non-members

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A New WI Year 2016-2017

Enormous 'thank you' to all 2015-2016 Committee. Your willingness to serve for another year means that DOTWI continues to exist. Without new Committee Members we will fold in 2017-2018. Ladies who are interested but new to the WI we will help you all we can. Urgently needed is a Deputy Secretary and Deputy Treasurer. Many thanks to Anne Parker for agreeing to ACWW projects. act as the new Programme Secretary and to Audrey Houlston for completing the 2016-2017 and being willing to give Anne Spring Lunch at Fleur de Leys

Anyone with ideas for interesting speakers for 2017 -2018 please contact Anne with full details (01865 340746)

Meting Time Changed

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

Subscriptions are due £37.50 payable to Dorchester -On- with members of her family and friends. 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 10 March at 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 coins £11.35 all went towards

Fourteen members enjoyed delightful company, delicious food and friendly cheerful service.

Many thanks Susan Jupp for your hard work in making this event possible.

February Birthdays

6 February: Rene Hender 90 12 February: Mary Tame 102

Belated Happy Birthday to both of our members. Many of us joined Rene in the Village Hall to celebrate this lovely occasion

New members very welcome.

Happy Mothering Sunday and Easter to everyone

Thank you for your support from:

President: Pauline Kenway- Jackson 01865 340746

Publicity: Jill Love 01865716557

severe. It is believed that the smell of the so, in theory, they could help repel potato

Hempcroft Allotment News

If you have not started onions masks that of the carrots, literally cyst eelworms. An added advantage of already now is the time throwing the carrot flies 'off the scent'. planting flowers like marigolds is their to start planning the year's Onions and carrots make good companions bright blooms which help attract beneficial planting. One way of for another reason - carrots are long- insects such as hoverflies and bees. controlling pests is to try Companion rooted and onions short-rooted, so there Planting - a system where different plant is less competition for nutrients and waspecies are grown together so that one, ter. There is anecdotal evidence that or both, benefits the other in some way. where cabbages are grown with unrelated Although there is little scientific evidence plants like runner beans, there's a reduced that it works, the technique has been incidence of cabbage aphid and cabbage used by gardeners for centuries. The root fly. Other aspects of companion following are a few of the better known planting are more complex. For example, examples. Where onions and carrots are some plants are known to exude chemicals grown together (and onions outnumber that suppress pests. Marigold roots are carrots), attacks of carrot fly are far less known to release a nematode repellent

Strong-smelling French marigolds are also said to repel whitefly. Other useful companions are legumes, such as lupins, that fix nitrogen with their roots for the benefit of adjacent crops.

Here are a few traditional friends and foes. But be warned; few authorities agree absolutely on what are good or bad companions. An exception is the combination of beans and peas with onions which is widely acknowledged to be a bad mix.

Edward Metcalfe

Crop	Good companion	Bad companion	
Asparagus	Tomato / parsley	Onion	
Beans	Corn, cucumber, potato	Chives, garlic, leek	
Cabbage	Celery / onion		
Onion family	Beets, carrot, cabbage	Beans, peas	
Potato	Beans, cabbage	Pumpkin, tomato	
Tomato	Asparagus, onion, carrot, cucumber	Potato, cabbage	
Spinach	Strawberry		



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RULES

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

Definitions

Class I: Long trumpet: one flower on a stem; trumpet as long or longer than petals.

Class 2: Short trumpet or cup: one flower on a stem; trumpet shorter than netals

petals. Classes 23 & 24: Any natural material may be used.

Please label varieties whenever possible Please note Rule 4

DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES SPRING FLOWER SHOW

Plant Sale/Raffle

DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 9th April 2015

Viewing 2.30 pm- 4.00 pm

Prizes will be presented at 3.40 pm followed by Raffle Draw

Exhibitors will be competing for:

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

Class

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

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

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

- 23) An arrangement in shades of yellow (forward facing, 18" x 18" x 12")
- 24) Spring arrangement in a glass (space 9" x 6" x 6")

COOKERY

- 25) Swiss roll
- 26) Ginger cake
 - 27) Sour dough loaf
 - 28) Pork pie
 - 29) Cup cakes 3
- 30) Pot of curd

PHOTOGRAPHS - all unmounted and not exhibited previously.

Conventional or digital camera Must not be manipulated or enhanced in any way. Max 8" x 6"

- 31) Machine or machinery
- 32) Subject beginning with 'U'

Image manipulation - up to A4 33) Any subject

HANDICRAFTS

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

CHILDREN (Please state age on exhibit)

Aged 9 and over:

- 36) Cheese straws 5
- 37) Photo of a pet

Aged 8 and under:

- 38) Cereal crispie cakes 3
- 39) Photo of a pet

ENTRY FORM Please return no later than 7.00 p.m. Thursday, 7th April to: Christina	Stores, 55 High Street
Class Nos	
Full name of Exhibitor	
Address	
Telephone No	Entry Fee 5p. per Class
Email address (for Flower Show reminders and schedule only)	



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St Birinus School News

Term 3, Blue Class disappeared to the Anglo-

Saxon period to discover what life was like all those years ago. Not in their usual uniform, they transformed themselves to people from a different time with some amazing costumes. Their experience was set in the Abbey with their expert Margaret Craig leading them through different activities. I know Mrs Eade was extremely impressed with the engagement and behaviour of the class throughout the day. The class have continued to use this experience as they develop their knowledge of the Anglo Saxons. I particularly like the colourful shields and brooches that brighten up our corridor.

On 12 February, Thomas, Oakleigh, Charlie, Amelie, Tabitha and Carys took part in a Year 3 and 4 hockey tournament at Little Milton. We had a great time and came second in the points table, which enabled us to go straight to the semi-finals. In the end we came third. I was really impressed with the amazing teamwork and spirit!

Slipping back in time in 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 Angelina Sirjajeva, Megan Smith, Leon Absolom, Olivia Obeng, Abbie Sullivan Webb and Sophia White, our writers of the month for January.

> Calling any green fingered experts, who would be willing to share some of their gardening expertise with the children as we start growing our seeds for the allotment - our aim is to plant seeds that have a link with Kenya to see if similar things will grow in this country as well. If you are willing to be part of this exciting project, I would love to hear from you.

> At the end of Term 4, there will be our annual Easter Fair, which will be held at 6.00pm on 23 March in the school please come along and support us to raise funds for our PTA. Thank you.

> > Russell Leigh Headteacher

Dorchester St Birinus CE Primary School



Pre-School

It has been a shorter term but we have crammed lots in! We have celebrated the Chinese New Year and Shrove Tuesday, both of which excited the taste buds! And there was much pink and red clothing to be seen on Valentine's

Our learning this term has once again taken us beyond the setting-we have practised our letters by finding words around the village and we've enjoyed watching the progress of the thatched roof. We'll continue the 'inside/outside' learning next term when we look at shapes and numbers.

We will also celebrate World Book Day next term which will incorporate a welcomed visit from the librarian. The term continues with us thinking about Mothering Sunday and that leads us on to our Easter theme and the famous 'Easter bonnet parade'!



Wednesday 2 March 7.30pm Marsh Baldon Village Hall

The South Oxfordshire Filling Station meets monthly mid-week to provide an opportunity for Christians (of all denominations) from our local communities to come together and celebrate in an informal setting. 'The Filling Station is not a new independent church movement, rather a model of how existing churches can work together to bring new spiritual life to

their areas' (thefillingstation.org.uk).

Come and see, meet friends, encounter the presence of God.

......

For more information: Liam 07738 004176

A War Effort

When the Ministry of Defence asked for horse chestnuts, Mr and Mrs Bowditch invited the Dorchester Brownies to gather nuts under the trees on the drive to Bishop's Court. The girls collected several hundredweights of conkers, but we were never told why they were wanted. To make toothpaste for the forces seemed a most unlikely need. Some years later we learned they were used in the manufacture of an explosive cordite.

Correction

In Mary's article headed 'Canvas' in the February issue of Dorchester News, we mistakenly said that hemp is 'Cannabis Salvia'. This should, of course, have been 'Cannabis Sativa'. Our apologies to the author.—Ed

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Focus on... John Masefield House

Leonard

Cheshire

Disability

At the top of Abingdon Road, as it joins the A415 is an entrance and housing benefits to pay for their care and accommodation. with which we are probably all familiar, but which many of us, But around £20m has to be raised independently in order to

including myself until recently, have never been in. This is John Masefield House. We know the sign but probably have little idea of what lies beyond. It is we know, because it says so, a Leonard Cheshire Home, but what does that mean. Dorchester News has been to find out.

'John Masefield House' might lead you to expect to find a lovely old Victorian House in which the poet John Masefield lived. Unfortunately that was destroyed by fire, possibly caused provide a home for severely disabled people.

Leonard Cheshire came from Oxford, the son of a professor of law and attended the Dragon School, Stowe

1948. He married another person well known in disability charities, Sue Ryder, in 1959, and in 1991 was made a peer. He died in 1992 aged 74 of the effects of motor neurone disease.

Today Leonard Cheshire Disability is a £150m organisation with 50 homes for the disabled in UK, and operations in many other countries, particularly in Asia and Africa.

John Masefield House (JMH) is one of around 50 LCD homes in UK and is dedicated to people from their 30s onwards who have serious and permanent disabilities, for whom there is no chance of them being able to live on their own again. The disabilities include brain injuries caused by accidents, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis and strokes. Of the 22 residents, 21 are wheelchair

There are around 50 staff at JMH, working in three shifts so that

there is always someone available 24 hours a day. The staff include carers, physiotherapists, cleaners, catering staff, an activities organiser and a fund-raiser.

The home is on a six-acre site that borders the Thames, but high enough not to be threatened by flooding. Pathways through the woods offer opportunities for residents on fine days and a jetty from which they can fish in summer. All of the rooms look out onto the gardens with some lucky enough to be able to see the river.

Much of the £150m that it costs to run Leonard Cheshire Disability comes directly or indirectly through those being cared for, utilising disability

provide all the 'extras' such as the bus to ferry people around, physiotherapy equipment, and material for activities of the residents. Raising this money largely falls to the individual homes, and each has a fund-raiser for that purpose. And in David Williams, JMH has one of the best fund-raisers in the organisation; indeed, he was awarded the Leonard Cheshire Disability Fund Raiser of

the Year award in 2014.

by an electrical fault, and the site was empty when the Leonard He has a programme of events throughout the year designed to Cheshire organisation acquired it in 1974. Now it is a series of bring the money that JMH needs to add to the lives of its residents. mainly single storey buildings built from the 1970s onwards to These include quarterly quiz nights, the Spring Fete in May and, in case it rains on fete day, a Families Day in August. There is also a Fishing Day in June and the home supports those running for LCD in general or JMH in particular in the London Marathon.

and Merton College in the 1930s. In The home receives a lot of support from organisations in the WWII he was in Bomber Command, area. David is particularly excited about the Swimathon held where he led 617 Squadron (the each year at Radley College-on April 9 this year-and LCD's Dam Busters), was awarded the connections with the RAF are still evident in the support that DSO, DFC and VC, and was the they get both from RAF Benson and the Oxford University Air British observer at the dropping of Squadron. This year RAF Benson are planning to hold a Spinathon the atomic bomb on Nagasaki in in Didcot (this involves pedalling static bicycles like mad) and 1945. Following the war, he wanted David hopes that a helicopter will land at JMH for the Spring to help the less fortunate and, after Fete on 30 May, which will be opened by local MP, John Howell. a couple of false starts, started Leonard Cheshire Disability in Teams from RAF Benson have also cycled the Thames Path

Over 80% of people who are disabled in the UK were not born with their disability.

from London to Oxford and walked it from Henley to Oxford to raise money for JMH.

Local support also comes from British Gas, Department of Work and Pensions, Sinodun Inner Wheel, Abingdon Vesper Rotary Club, St Edwards School and the 1st Granborough Cubs.

Some of the money raised has allowed the acquisition of a Vanraam Veloplus wheelchair cycle, seen in the photograph being tested at Horspath Athletics Arena. There are hopes that





some of the residents may be able to use this to get out of JMH and perhaps even down to Dorchester.

This is not the only modern technology being used to bring new benefits to residents. Eye tracking technology, Eye Gaze, used on an iPad, allows the most severely resident to use a computer by controlling it with eye movements.

But it is not just about raising money. There is practical assistance to be provided as well. A team from OUAS cleared some of the woodland last year to create the pathways, and just recently a team from Vodafone at Newbury came in and re-decorated one of the corridors in the home. The corridors in particular get

scuffed from the passage of wheel chairs up and down them all day, and the renewal was most welcome.

As important as these teams from other organisations are, the home could not function as it does without the support of all the individual volunteers who live locally, many in Dorchester. These vital people help with fund raising and with jobs around the site, both inside and out, but many also provide an important role with the residents, talking to them, playing games with them and reading to them. In total there about 30 people who give their time regularly, half of them coming at least once a week and

several more often, with one person who has been doing this for six days a week for more than 25 years. Now aged 90, Florence Broughton of Dorchester has been a mainstay of the support provided to the residents.

Helpers are always needed. At the moment more evening visitors would be welcome to read to and with residents

Sadly, one part of JMH is shortly to be closed. This is the Day Centre which JMH provides for severely disabled people three days a week. This is expected to close as part of Oxfordshire County Council rationalisation of all Day Care centres into a single unit. Whilst there may be some logic to this for people who have mobility and are able to get to the centralised unit without too much difficulty, David feels that this will cause real hardship to the most severely disabled who live locally and for whom the JMH Day Centre has provided a real option for relief for both disabled people and their carers.

But what of John Masefield and any remaining connections with the man who was Poet Laureate for 37 years until his death in 1967? The house is long gone, but JMH have reconstructed two artefacts associated with him. One is the summer house by the river where it is thought that many of his poems were written, and which now provides a pleasant sanctuary for residents. The other is a model of a sailing ship, found in pieces on the site, which has been reconstructed, and which just might have been originally made by John Masefield himself who had been to sea as a teenage apprentice. Reconstruction, though seems an appropriate theme for JMH given that is what they do with so many people's lives.





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Redcoats to Riflemen

Brigadier Robin Draper CVO OBE

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Doreen Beveridge 1932-2016

Doreen, known to her family as Midge, was born in Ruislip, Middlesex, to Lily and Geoffrey Peskett. When war broke out in 1939 we, like a lot of other people, moved away from Greater London for safety. We stayed with Aunts in Chichester, West Sussex - Mum and Dad were both born and bred there. Auntie Elsie owned a newsagents/toy/sweet shop and was a keen cinema-goer, she would often take us girls with her and Midge always retained a lot of information on classic films and their stars.

During the early war years, as Dad was Secretary to The King's/Queen's Flight, we lived in Benson later moving to rooms in Wallingford and attended the local schools. When the King's Flight disbanded in 1942 we returned to Chichester and Midge attended the Lancastrian Girls School where she met Jeanette, her lifelong friend.

Sheila, our little sister, was born in 1947, whilst we were living with an aunt in lived at Durocina, in Dorchester High Streatham where Midge started her working life in a jewellers shop. Each day when she came home from work her hair had a pink hue about it from the powder used in polishing jewellery!

The family returned to Wallingford in 1948 to live at Winterbrook. Initially, Midge worked in a crisp factory opposite Pettit's shop, (this time she came home with a slight "fried crisp" odour!) and was later employed at the Ordnance Depot in Didcot travelling early each morning by Tappins coach.

I met her husband, John working at John Wilders. We courted briefly (as sisters we liked to share!), then I introduced him to Midge, and the rest is history! They married



Street. Paul was born in 1953.

We all enjoyed family occasions - Christmas Days were spent together at Mum's in Wallingford followed by Boxing Days at Dorchester. The Beveridge Family were joined by several dogs over the years: Monny, Abbey, Robert, Prince and Tandy Health and Safety! - the latter known for taking Midge for a walk! Travelling to memorable family holidays silver teapot perched on the top of the luggage in the back of their Morris Traveller. In later years the adults ventured further afield and enjoyed Austria, Madeira, Portugal and Canada. In 2005, Midge, cousin Pat, Les and myself took a cruise to Norway.

Midge and John had their house at the in the Abbey on a snowy day in 1952 and end of Wittenham Lane built and moved

there in the late 1960s. They were superb hosts making everyone feel very welcome. Midge was a fantastic cook. She produced all sorts of wonderful food and dishes, often turning John's home-grown produce into delicious goodies. Her niece, Sally, remembers she was not too happy once when her jam or marmalade was disqualified at the Village Show as the jar was not filled to the required limit!

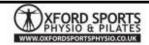
Midge was one of the many volunteers who made cakes and helped in The Abbey Tea Rooms. As a family we will miss our visits to the house with one of the best locations and views in England, certain that we'd enjoy a delicious home cooked meal as well.

Midge was most particular about her appearance; she took a great interest in the latest fashions, also enjoying perfumes and make-up encouraged by her three grand-daughters of whom she was very proud, as she was of her three great grandchildren.

Recently, although her failing health beat her she continued to fight - it's not so very long since she could be seen in her kitchen rigged up to her portable oxygen supply and still producing goodies - not sure that would have complied with

We will all miss her greatly. But, we will in Wales and Guernsey we followed the not be alone in grieving for her as the makers of Croft Original Sherry and many a wine producer of a nice crisp sauvignon blanc will be somewhat alarmed as their sales plummet!

> Based on the tribute delivered at the funeral by Jann Bolton, a sister of Doreen.



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Parish Council Notices Monthly Meetings

The March meeting will take place in the back room of the Village Hall on Wednesday 9 March 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.

.....

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) ${\bf 01865~340759}$

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 county councillor... **Lorraine Lindsay-Gale** February 2016

Budget

As reported last month, prior to Christmas, Oxfordshire County Council went out to consultation on possible additional budget cuts totalling £51m, which at the time was believed to be the worst-case scenario. It was hoped that when central Government confirmed the local government settlement that not all the building. The existing frontage of the Central Library will be 95 savings measures consulted on would have to be taken. As it transpired, due to a change in the funding formula which unexpectedly penalised shire counties, the settlement was even worse than expected and the total additional savings required now total £69m.

The Council found a series of short-term measures, including drawing on reserves, to buy time before we have to make yet more new savings to cover the difference between £51m and £69m. Our approach remains the same: we want to try to protect the most vulnerable people in Oxfordshire - by which we mean those adults who need help with basic personal care and children at risk of abuse or neglect.

By law, OCC has to produce a balanced budget and Cabinet has made the necessary recommendations that will be debated by Full Council on February 16th. This includes a proposal to raise Council Tax by 3.99%.

Backlash against shire counties settlement

On 8 February the Minister Greg Clark announced a final Local Government Settlement. Due to significant pressure from over 50 MPs from shire counties, a 'Transitional Grant' to alleviate the impact of proposed cuts to services was included. Oxfordshire will receive £4.5m in 2016-2017 and £4.5m in 2017-2018. The decisions about how this money will be used will be made following the setting of the budget on February 16.

Property, back office and reserves

There have been misleading media reports that OCC could reduce its financial challenges by selling property, cutting the back office and drawing on reserves. The reality is that OCC has already sold more than 100 properties realising over £62 million that has been used on capital projects. Furthermore, 26 leases have been terminated saving over £2.1 million pa. With regard to back office functions, the number of directors has been cut by 50%, senior managers by over 40% and staff generally by 30%. Various services are already shared with other councils and partners, and further options are being explored to find even more back office savings. Reserves are already being drawn upon and will soon become low compared to expenditure.

Rise of apprentices boosts thriving Oxfordshire economy

Recent growth in the number of Oxfordshire young people choosing apprenticeships as the key to forging a career is outstripping regional figures. While the number of apprenticeship starts for 16-24 year-olds fell across the South East by 2.5 per cent in 2014/15 compared with the previous academic year, Oxfordshire's figure rose by 2.4 per cent, as employers took on 2,510 new starters.

Temporary new home for Oxford Central Library

Continuing work to transform the Westgate Shopping Centre in Oxford has led to OCC's Central Library temporarily moving to a nearby location. Redevelopment work at Westgate includes the complete transformation of the front of the current library replaced to become part of the new curving wall forming the south side of Bonn Square marking the new entrance to Westgate. Once complete, the new library will feature a new entrance foyer, a refurbished and extended children's library and new feature windows with views over Bonn Square and Castle Street. While this work takes place, the location for the temporary library will be in the nearby Castle Quarter. Current plans are for the existing library to close to the public on February 27, with the new smaller temporary library opening its doors at the end of March. The library will remain there for 18 months until the new Westgate Oxford opens in October 2017.

Superfast broadband arrives in Berinsfield and Clifton Hampden

The County Council's Better Broadband for Oxfordshire programme has finally arrived in more parts of this Division. Ask your internet service provider about how to upgrade or go

www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk to find out more and use our Availability Checker.

Cherwell local plan consultation

A partial review of the Cherwell Local Plan (Part 1) has started regarding Oxford's unmet housing need, alongside a review of Development Management Policies and Sites. The consultation period extends to Friday 11 March 2016. Full details are on the Cherwell website.

WODC local plan

The West Oxfordshire plan has been put on hold to give an opportunity to identify more sites. It may be that the inspector will wish the authority to take into account the unmet need of Oxford, especially as Cherwell is consulting on additional sites for the unmet need. Whatever the outcome of these proposals, it is vital there is appropriate infrastructure to mitigate the development.

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Alternate Thursdays, 2.55-3.15pm Lay-by opposite the War Memorial 3 March, 17 March



of the role of an MP particularly in relation to the work in Westminster and the Constituency. I mentioned that MPs divide their time between working in Parliament or representing parliament elsewhere and working in their constituency. This month I will expand a little on the part of the role that involves representing parliament elsewhere.

In many cases it is the Government that attends key international meetings. In addition to this there are times when other MPs represent the Government and also many different ways in which British MPs across the political parties represent our views. The underlying purpose for all of this work is to ensure that British interests are represented and that we play our part in global issues.

For my part I am part of the UK delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). This delegation is made up of representatives of different. There are many different roles that MPs political parties. It debates current social problems and aspects of international politics and makes recommendations to governments for action. One of its key roles is to appoint judges to the International represented on the world stage in a

From your MP... John Howell February 2016

Last month my newsletter explained more Court of Human Rights. PACE meets for a week four times a year in Strasbourg.

> Another example of international work is that of Trade Envoys. These are a network of MPs appointed by the Prime Minster from across the political spectrum. Trade Envoys engage with emerging markets where UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) has identified substantial opportunities to promote British trade and investment. The work supports the drive for economic growth by building relations with these If you would like to receive more informarkets and generating long term benefits for the UK. There are currently 24 Trade Envoys covering around 50 markets. I have been appointed as the Prime Minster's Trade Envoy to Nigeria which is the largest market in Africa. This will involve working with UKTI in the UK and in Nigeria working to ensure that the Government is on track to develop policies to grow their own economy and to promote two-way investment For more information about my work with the UK.

undertake on behalf of the government and, as mentioned, many are cross party. All of the work contributes to the whole in making sure that British interests are

whole variety of ways. In fulfilling these roles MPs are working for everyone in the UK. This work augments the work in Parliament and has to be worked into the overall schedule of work in Westminster and in the constituency.

Further details of the work of Parliament including this international work is available on the parliament website at

www.parliament.uk.

mation on my work I send out a regular general e-newsletter and also special briefings on an occasional basis on specific issues. If you would like to be on my circulation list for these bulletins please email me at

john.howell@oxfordshireconservative

please do visit my website which is regularly updated. The address is

www.johnhowellmp.com. You can also follow me on twitter @johnhowellmp or on Facebook

www.facebook.com/john.howellmp

Printed and promoted by John Howell MP House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA



Dorchester Museum would like your comments,

Please let us know what you think about us ...

> Contact Anne-Marie Joffrin at joffrin.annemarie@gmail.com

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Dear Sir,

I remember reading somewhere that statistics could be made to say just what you want them to say to further your argument. Looking at those statistics presented by the Traffic Survey volunteers I fear it still holds true.

Looking at the pie charts at the bottom of the page there are two conclusions that can be drawn. The one put forward by the volunteers and the one I draw from them.

On the Abingdon Road just 25% one way and 24% the other were travelling at over 40mph, whilst on the Henley Road we had 15% and 35% above 40mph according to the pie charts in the report.

Looking at the raw data as collected, as I have done, the number of drivers who would not be caught speeding is around 80% which does show a general tendency to keep the speed down. Yes, there are some drivers driving above the speed limit on these roads but, if as the volunteers say, "Speed has been identified nationwide as a contributor to increased traffic accidents....." what evidence do the volunteers have that this is the case on these two roads as no reference has been made to the accident rate on these roads, no information as to whether it is increasing or not. So, the question is how many accidents have happened on these two roads in the last 5,10,15,20 years?

Further, how serious were any accidents that occurred on these two roads? How many people have been killed, seriously injured or incurred minor injuries? Also who was to blame for these accidents and was the vehicle travelling above the speed limit or below it and was it the fault of the driver or the third party involved?

Once we know the accident rate on these roads together with the cost of traffic monitoring or calming we should be able to see the cost benefit of such measures.

Would it not be sensible for the Council to tell the village the cost of implementing the various options suggested by the volunteers so that we can decide, hopefully by a vote, whether or not it is financially sensible to proceed.

If anyone is concerned about traffic in the village then they should walk along Martins Lane and down Queen Street at the beginning and end of the school day and take a look at the standard of driving and parking at that time. I would certainly support any measures that could make Queen Street safer at those times not only for the residents but the children themselves. Yours faithfully

Gordon Roberts

Traffic Survey Replies



Dear Sir,

In November 1999 speed limits on the Abingdon Road north of Field House, and the Henley Road, south of Dorchester Bridge were lowered from 50mph to 30mph. This was part of a blanket local authority policy to extend the 30mph limit to cover all villages in south Oxfordshire, including these less built-up parts of Dorchester. Since the speed limit reduction. some Dorchester residents have expressed concern at the number of vehicles exceeding 30mph on the two sections of road into and out of the village and periodically agitated for increased police enforcement and traffic calming measures. Some results of the latest traffic survey were published in last month's Dorchester News.

However, before calling for public money to be spent on any traffic calming measures, a case must be made based on evidence rather than unsupported assertions that these roads are unsafe, so it is surprising that accident statistics were not presented alongside the survey when these are freely available from the very helpful staff at Oxfordshire County Council.

In the whole sixteen years from the change of speed limits on 26/11/1999 to latest data at 31/12/2015 there were just four accidents involving injury on the Abingdon Road (three involving serious injury and one slight injury). This was no improvement on the comparable sixteen years before the speed limit change (1/10/83 to 26/11/99) when there were also four injury accidents (just one serious and three slight). Along the Henley Road, there were again four accidents (one serious, three slight) in the 16 years prior to November 1999 and only one (with slight injury) recorded in the 16 years since. Thankfully, there have been no fatal accidents on either road in the entire 32 years investigated.

Clearly, even one accident is one too many, but the statistics clearly show a remarkably low accident rate on these two roads. This is particularly striking, considering the high volume of traffic negotiating these roads day after day. Last month's article gives "Average per day: No of vehicles", but has actually understated the volume of traffic to only 86-88% of full daily totals, because data has been extracted and presented only for the hours 7am to 7pm. Looking at the

full survey data (available from either OCC or our Parish Council) vehicle movements average well over 900 per day *in each direction* on the Abingdon Road, rising to over 1,000 per day in each direction on weekdays. Even on the quieter Henley Road movements average over 700 in each direction on weekdays. That's a lot of traffic using these roads, every day, over many years but with very few accidents.

It is misleading to assume that speed is the main contributory factor in all accidents. Examining the Accident Descriptions provided by OCC, of the five serious injury accidents in 32 years, two of these, and two slight injury accidents, involved vehicles turning onto or off these roads or making a U-turn. Another two serious injury accidents, involved children crossing the Abingdon Road adjacent to their drop-off buses, a potentially hazardous situation always requiring extra caution from drivers and all others involved. There is a danger that focusing just on blanket speed restriction or enforcement would actually fail to address some particular and very real safety issues.

There is not space here to go into much of the very comprehensive data gathered in the survey but generally it does show only a minority of vehicles passing the Sailing Club or Meadside at 30mph or less, but 85% of traffic at 45mph or less. Last month's article is a little misleading in not revealing two additional survey points at Bridge End and just north of the Limes. At these points, closer to the village, drivers had greatly reduced speed, with 85% of inbound traffic at 28mph or less from the south and 35.5mph or less from the north.

I believe the survey shows the great majority of drivers are negotiating these roads at safe and sensible speeds. Their observed speed behaviour and the low accident rate show that this can generally be done safely at up to 40mph, when the traffic situation allows. Rather than seek "convictions" (unquote) of so many safe drivers as "speeders" we should accept that the revised 30mph is inappropriate for these roads. Rather than call for blanket enforcement of the existing limit we would do better to concentrate on real safety issues, such as using warning lights or signs to better safeguard bus stops at school pickup/drop off times.

If you agree with my analysis, ensure you mail the parish council or you may soon find inappropriate enforcement of the 30mph restriction on all your journeys into and out of Dorchester.

Richard Tilley

Subsidised Buses through Dorchester

arranged a parish/bus operator meeting some villages, taking into account the to discuss bus routes 97 and 114. Dor- wider picture of cuts to buses on existing chester Bus Users Group was represent- routes ed by Susan Symonds; Thames Travel Berinsfield-Oxford hourly and under was represented by Phil Southall threat). We specifically requested that (MD). Berinsfield, Burcot and Long Wit- any new route leaving Wallingford tenham were also represented.

TT advised that while cuts to subsidised bus services are inevitable, they are committed to mitigate the impact to bus users (and to their business and staff).

Our subsidised routes are:

- 97 Wallingford to Didcot via Dorchester - very likely to be cut.
- 114 to Abingdon (departs/returns Despite school bus (subject to council review). A subsidy would halve the operating cost of £80K and mean the this route or elsewhere off-peak. There may be potential for parishes To support this process, your comments to make up the shortfall in funding.

service to villages and to look at alterna- demand tives. We jointly considered three alter- A serious look at a community/voluntary natives:

First, diverting commercial services. TT remain opposed to running the Christmas next year X39/40 through Dorchester village, but they are well aware of our problems i.e.:

- Distance to walk to the by-pass
- Isolated location of the by-pass bus stops
- Lorries parked in the lay-by
- Muddy approach to the southbound bus stop

In January Oxfordshire County Council Second - devise a new route to serve nearby (e.g.T2 Abingdonnorthbound serve Dorchester village, NOT the by-pass, with the extra 3-4 minutes being saved by using Shillingford Hill rather than Benson Marina.

> Third - reduced service 2-3 times/week, combined with above.

> TT mentioned low passenger numbers in Dorchester. We pointed out that by-pass users must be included in their figures.

the disappointing picture, to Dorchester at 07.30/16.08 M-F) Thames Travel listened and were recepmay continue if subsidised as a tive to our suggestions. We cannot sit back and wait for the new timetable to be issued after the cuts have been implemented (they said by June), therefore we bus could make more journeys on will remain in touch with Thames Travel.

are welcomed and encouraged. For example, would you support the following? TT assured us they want to offer some A Dorchester transport survey to gauge

driver scheme

A bus to John Lewis Oxford, opening

Please deliver a note to The Pigeons next to The Fleur de Lys or e-mail suggestions to

parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Sue Symonds

Get Clean for the Queen in 2016

Throughout February and early March, South Oxfordshire Council is encouraging everybody to get together with their communities and make sure the neighbourhood is sparkling clean ahead of the Queen's 90th birthday. The whole country is having a big clear-up on the weekend of 4 to 6 March.

If you're interested in setting up your own litter picking group, register on the Clean for the Queen website and email waste.team

@southandvale.gov.uk. Biffa will contact you to give you some Clean for the Queen hi-vis gear, sacks and litterpickers and some tips on how to make your clean up a success.

Waste crews are also carrying out some extra clean-ups across the district - if there's a particular 'grot spot' in your area that you think could do with a bit of a polish, give them a call on 03000 **610610** or email

waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk, and you could be in with a chance of having your very own spring clean.

Councillor Tony Harbour, cabinet member for waste at South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "This is a great opportunity for everyone to get a bit hands -on and give their local area a bit of a freshen up. If there's a patch by you that's seen better days, make the most of what we can do for you - we might be able to come along and give it a good tidy-up."

For more information, including a competition for schools to take part in, visit the Clean for the Queen website

Released by SODC on February 9, 2016



Calling all walkers or would-be walkers. Do you fancy a fundraising CHALLENGE IN 2016? If so, come and join us for WalkWithMe 2016, a fundraising 26 mile 'marathon' walk being held on Sunday 22 May 2016. We start and finish in the beautiful grounds of



Moulsford School, Moulsford-on-Thames. The route winds through some stunning South Oxfordshire countryside, including the banks of the River Thames and a section of the historic Ridgeway. And you can take part for a suggested donation of £45. Following the staggering fundraising efforts of our walkers who raised £50,000 in 2015, for the 2016 event we are once again donating to Action Against Cancer, a charity which supports pioneering cancer treatments and therapies which aim to make cancer a disease we die with and not from. Visit our web site at www.walkwithme2016.com to find out about how to register and if you would like any more information please contact team@walkwithme2016.com. Come on, let's GET TOGETHER, GET FIT, MAKE A DIFFERENCE! www.walkwithme2016.com and www.aacancer.org



The Footsteps centre has been celebrating momentous child achievements in the hesitantly walked along the hall with first couple of months of 2016. We have watched children get stronger and more confident as they progress through their physiotherapy. One very emotional moment was when 9 year-old Grace Shiers took



her first ever footsteps! She was crying in amazement and kept saying 'look I'm doing it I'm doing it!' as she her walking sticks. Six months ago she had specialist surgery for her cerebral palsy but the doctors said she was borderline and they were not sure it would help. Her mum, Katy, told us she was utterly gobsmacked by how quickly the therapy had worked. Many children come to Footsteps after the SDR surgery for intensive rehabilitation.

One of the children who had been with us longest, Oscar Scott-Towers started walking across the room the other day and his family were astounded! Oscar, now 12, has been attending Footsteps since its very beginnings in an outbuilding in Warborough when he was just three years old. Oscar has an undiagnosed condition leading to developmental delays and was never expected to walk. He is always incredibly smiley and friendly and communicates through sign language. Oscar sometimes finds his therapy really hard as he is scared of losing his balance but patiently and slowly over the years the Footsteps therapists have gained his



trust and he found his confidence and started slowly walking - with a big smile on his

If you would like to see videos of Oscar and Grace taking their first footsteps, take a look at our facebook page:

www.facebook.com/footstepsfoundation

And if you would like to help at your local children's charity this year by fundraising, we are always looking for help, just call and chat to Maggie on 343851.

Bach St John Passion Dorchester Abbev 25 March at 6pm



Bach St John Passion. Written for Good Friday in 1724, the passion was the centre piece of Bach's year-long cycle of liturgical cantatas. Perhaps the biggest joy of the St John Passion is that, for all the ferocity and sorrow of the Good Friday story, it's a truly optimistic work, anticipating the resurrection with music suffused with light and hope.

Peter Kirk, Evangelist Henry Neill, Pilate Andrew Mahon, Christus Louise Wayman, Soprano Francesca Saracino, Alto Christopher Turner, Tenor Morgan Pearse, Bass **OSJ Voices** Orchestra of St John's, John Lubbock, conductor



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JS Bach Mass in B minor

Saturday 19th March 2016 Dorchester Abbey, 7.30 pm

Benson Choral Society & The Elgar Orchestra Conductor: Christopher Walker

Soprano – Helen Meyerhoff Mezzo Soprano – Susan Legg Tenor – Andrew Mackenzie Wicks Bass – Quentin Hayes

Tickets £15, £12 and £10

(£10, £7 and £5 for concessions (under 21) and free under 12) From tickets.bensonchoral@gmail.com or 01865 407395 More details: www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk

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Wallingford Historical Society The history of cartoons in British arts and politics

Environmentalist, historian, gardener, and avid collector Steve Head, from Cholsey, returns to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) with a further talk. He is an entertaining speaker, and the timing of this talk is most apt to coincide with the opening of the special exhibition at the Museum - '300 Years of Cartoons!'. Steve will be giving a special talk on the history of cartoons in British arts and politics. He will trace the evolution of cartoons from their medieval origins, through the great Golden Age in the eighteenth century, when cartoons were a major political force, on to the eras of Punch, Private Eye and now Viz magazine. The talk is designed to complement the exhibition of Steve's own collection which will be on show at the Wallingford Museum during 2016.

This talk will be held on **Wednesday 9 March**, **7.45 for 8.00pm**, **at St Mary's Church**, **Wallingford**. Please note that TWHAS talks will now be held on the second Wednesday of each month at St. Mary's Church.

Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

www.twhas.org.uk



Wallingford Museum History walks and Museum tours in 2016

During 2016 there will be opportunities to join one of the popular history walks led by Judy Dewey and Wallingford Museum volunteers.

On **Sat 2 April** there will be a walk around the Castle earth works in the morning, followed by a Town history walk in the afternoon. So a full day to absorb Wallingford's history, and a super opportunity to visit the Museum's latest exhibitions between your exercise! Put the date in your diary now!

Separately arranged group visits to the Museum or history walks (or combined) are proving increasingly popular. They can be specially tailored to your group's requirements.....out of hours, introductory talk, etc. If your group / society/ school would like to book for 2016 then please phone Judy Dewey as soon as possible, tel: **01491 651127**.

There are two new special exhibitions at the Museum this year '1066: William Comes to Wallingford' describing that William the Conqueror came to Wallingford after the Battle of Hastings to cross the River Thames with his army! But why did he choose Wallingford? and '300 Years of Cartoons!' a spectacular private collection , featuring about a hundred cartoons of all kinds.

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, when accompanied by an adult.

More details at www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk



Wallingford & District Art Club

Tuesdays, 7.30–9.30 pm, Centre 70, Goldsmiths Lane
On 15 March Heather Jolliffe will be demonstrating 'Buildings in a landscape' in line and wash. Non-members are welcome for a fee of £3. On the other Tuesdays of the month there will be the usual untutored workshops, where non-members are welcome for a small fee. Please bring your own materials and a project to work on at painting workshops. For further details about this or future demonstrations contact either:

Wallingfordartclub@hotmail.com or Rebekah Robinson on **01865 858463**

Wallingford Flower Club

March Meeting

NAFAS National Demonstrator Pat Dibben Demonstrating 'Fascination with Flowers' At Crowmarsh Village Hall

Wednesday 9 March 2016 7.15 for 7.45pm

Visitors £4 Enquiries: Fay 01491 834303

Wallingford Country Market

Regal Centre every Friday, 8.30 – 11.15 am

Why not celebrate 'Mothering Sunday (6 March) and Easter Sunday (27 March) with home produced cakes, gifts and plants from your local country market? Please note our Easter Market will be held on Maundy Thursday, **24 March**, in lieu of Good Friday.

All enquiries to Market Manager Tel: **01865 890649** or, better still, do visit us one Friday morning. You may be surprised at what you will find!

Wallingford Gardening Club

A Diet Plan for Plants Thursday 10 March

At the March meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, Paul Patton will talk about 'A Diet Plan for Plants'.

Paul is a professional horticulturist, plant pathologist, writer and broadcaster. His talk will cover all aspects of plant feeding, including the nutritional benefits of garden composts, different types of fertilisers and how to use them.

The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm.

Visitors very welcome £2.

Advance notice of future talks :-

Thurs 14 April – *Plants, Borders and Gardens* : the Bill Baker Memorial Lecture (Timothy Walker)

Thurs 12 May – South African Plants in the Wild and in your Garden: (Sue Bedwell)

Sat 14 May - Wallingford Gardening Club's Annual Plant Sale in Wallingford Market Place.

Isabelle Darby 01491 836867



What's On March

Cinema: Performances start at 7.30pm unless otherwise

stated.

Wed 2 **Bridge of Spies** (12A)

Thurs 3 NT Livee. Hangmen (Royal Court production direct

from West End) 7pm

Fri 4 **Zoolander 2** (12A) Sat 5 **Zoolander 2** (12A)

Sun 6 Zoolander 2 (12A)

Mon 7 Children's Film Festival (Treehouse School) 7pm

Tues 8 Children's Film Festival (Treehouse School) 7pm

Wed 9 **Spotlight** (15)

Thurs 10 Spotlight (15)

Fri 11 Le Mépris (15) with Subtitles

Mon 21 **Trumbo** (15) Tues 22 **Trumbo** (15)

Thurs 24 A Bigger Splash (15)

Sat 26 Snoopy and Charlie Brown, the Peanuts Movie

Sun 27 NT Live As You Like It. 7pm

Tues 29 The Big Short (15) Wed 30 The Big Short (15)

Live

Tuesday 15 to Saturday 19: A Spectacular Evening Celebrating the Music of Richard and Robert Sherman. Come and enjoy the well-loved songs from Mary Poppins and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang in this magical evening's entertainment. The show is a joint venture between the Corn Exchange and Crescendo Music with a huge cast of local talent. Singing, dancing and much more, including the appearance on stage of the Chitty Chitty car.

Adults £15, children under 14 £12. At 7.30 plus Saturday matinee at 2.30pm

Dates for diary

April 2: **Johnny Cash Revisited**, tribute evening to the C&W Man-in-Black legend Johnny Cash and his wife June Carter. 7.45pm

April 13 to16. Sinodun Players present **TWO** by Jim Cartwright. Set in the convivial atmosphere of a Northern pub, two of the SPs' most experienced actors play all 14 characters, including the landlord, landlady and a succession of customers. 7.45pm. £10.

April 29: **Croft and Pearce Comedy Sketch Show** featuring local funny ladies Hannah Croft and Fiona Pearce.

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

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

Wallingford U3A

Our February lecture was a marvellous compendium of history, geography and wildlife as members Jim and Pat Fish shared with us their travels in Tanzania.

At our March Lecture (Wednesday 2nd) Dr.Tony Maisey will speak on '*Talking to Children*'. Dr. Maisey has been before so we expect a lot of hard information and a lot of laughter.

Our Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 2.00 pm in Crowmarsh Village Hall. in March our full programme of events: holidays, outings, lectures and group cavities will be available on line

(www.u3asites.org.uk/walingford) or phone

Hermione on 01865 858 024

Visitors are always made welcome for the talk, tea and friendly company.

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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			
1						

NS= Not Saturday. SO=Saturday only.

Didcot

Shillingford

Abingdon

97

114

114

** = Mon-Fri in school term. Five minutés later Mon-Fri in school holidays No services on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

14 10

14.52

15.38

14.47

14.56

16.08

NS

NS

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

For a report on the possible future of these bus services, see page 24.



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Day by day

Thur 3 March Mobile library

2 55-3 15

Opposite War Memorial

Team Lecture

7.30pm

Dorchester Abbey

Fri 4 March Lent lunch 12.30pm 24 Bridge End Carolyn Oakley

Sat 5 March **Dorchester v Saxton Rovers**

North Berks League Division One 2.30pm Recreation Ground

Sun 6 March **Mothering Sunday**

Holy Communion (1662) (Revd Michael Lakey)

Mothering Sunday Service

Tues 8 March **Short Communion**

10 15am

Wed

Dorchester Parish Council

9 March Meeting

Village Hall (back room).

Fri

Lent Lunch

11 March 12.30pm

Church House, Queen St Dawn Dudley

13 March

Lent 5

8.00am

Holy Communion (1662) (Revd Sue Booys)

10.30am Sung Eucharist

Tues 15 March It's story time 10.15 to 10.45

Dorchester Abbey

PCC Meeting

7.45pm

Wed 16 March **Culham Horticultural Society**

'The garden and nursery at Copton Ash, past and present'

By Tim Ingram 7.30pm

Abbey Guest House

Thurs 17 March **Classic Car Show**

George Hotel

Chiropodist

1.00-4.00pm Belcher Court (see p.7)

Mobile Library

2.55-3.15

Opposite War Memorial

Hurst Water Meadow Trust

7.30pm Open evening Village Hall



18 March

Lent Lunch 12.30

The Manor House, Overy

Julie Taylor

Sun **Palm Sunday** 20 March

8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)

(Revd Michael Lakey)

Procession and Family Service

Team Service of Reflection

Wed 23 March St Birinus School

6.00pm Easter Fair

DoT Historical Society

'Childrens' Experiences of the Second World War in Oxfordshire' by Liz Woolley

7.30pm

Village Hall (Back room)

Thurs 24 March

Service at the Cheshire Home

11.30am

Maundy Thursday

Meal and service 6.30pm

Fri 25 March Lent Lunch 12 00pm

The Abbey Guest House

Judy Parker

Good Friday Devotion

1.00pm

OSJ St John Passion

6.00pm

Dorchester Abbey

Sun

27 March

Easter Day 8.00 am

Holy Communion (1662)

(Revd Michael Lakey)

Family Communion

NB No Taize Service this month

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 y Watercolour Painting

Monday

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 (Not Holy Week)

Fishmonger

10.10 to 10.20am by War Memorial

Wednesday Holy Communion at

Berinsfield Church

9.30am **Lunch Club** Village Hall 12.30

Thursday **Baby & Toddler Group**

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

Funeral

8 Feb Doreen Beveridge

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

Easter Sunday 27 March



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

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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

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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 4 March
Fri 11 March
Fri 18 March
Sat 26 March
Black
Black
Black

Fridays from 7.00 am. Saturdays from 6.00am

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.

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A New Spring Hat



Like all thatch, this roof deteriorates over time and has to be renewed. The state of the thatch at the beginning of tis year can be seen in the first picture.

Recently, the three joint owners of the wall, at Willoughby Grange, Willoughby House and Willoughby Cottage, got together to have the thatched renewed.

They brought in thatcher Christopher Smart, Master Thatcher, for this unusual job. Mr Smart said that it is rare that being asked to thatch a wall is something that happens only once every one or two years. This year, however, he already has a second one booked to do at Medmenham.



'Cob walls need a good hat and a good pair of boots. The hat keeps the rain out of the cob. Traditionally this was thatch but slate or tiles were also used. The boots were generally a brick, stone or flint plinth, which acted as a damp-proof course.'

Peter Facey www. geograph.org.uk

At the north end of the High Street, as probably everyone knows, is a wall with a thatched top. Made of cob, a mixture of mud and other things, it is protected from being washed away by its roof of thatch. Such walls are not common, with probably no more than half a dozen in Oxfordshire. The nearest ones are probably at Blewbury and Appleford.



The work took about six weeks to complete, requiring the old thatch to be stripped down before the new layer could be carefully built up. One of the owners, Mike Corran, said 'We feel that this wall is a part of the heritage of Dorchester. It is up to us to make sure that it continues in good condition into the future.'

The next job for these neighbours is the wall itself. They've given it a new hat, now they know that they have to make sure it has a good set of boots.

