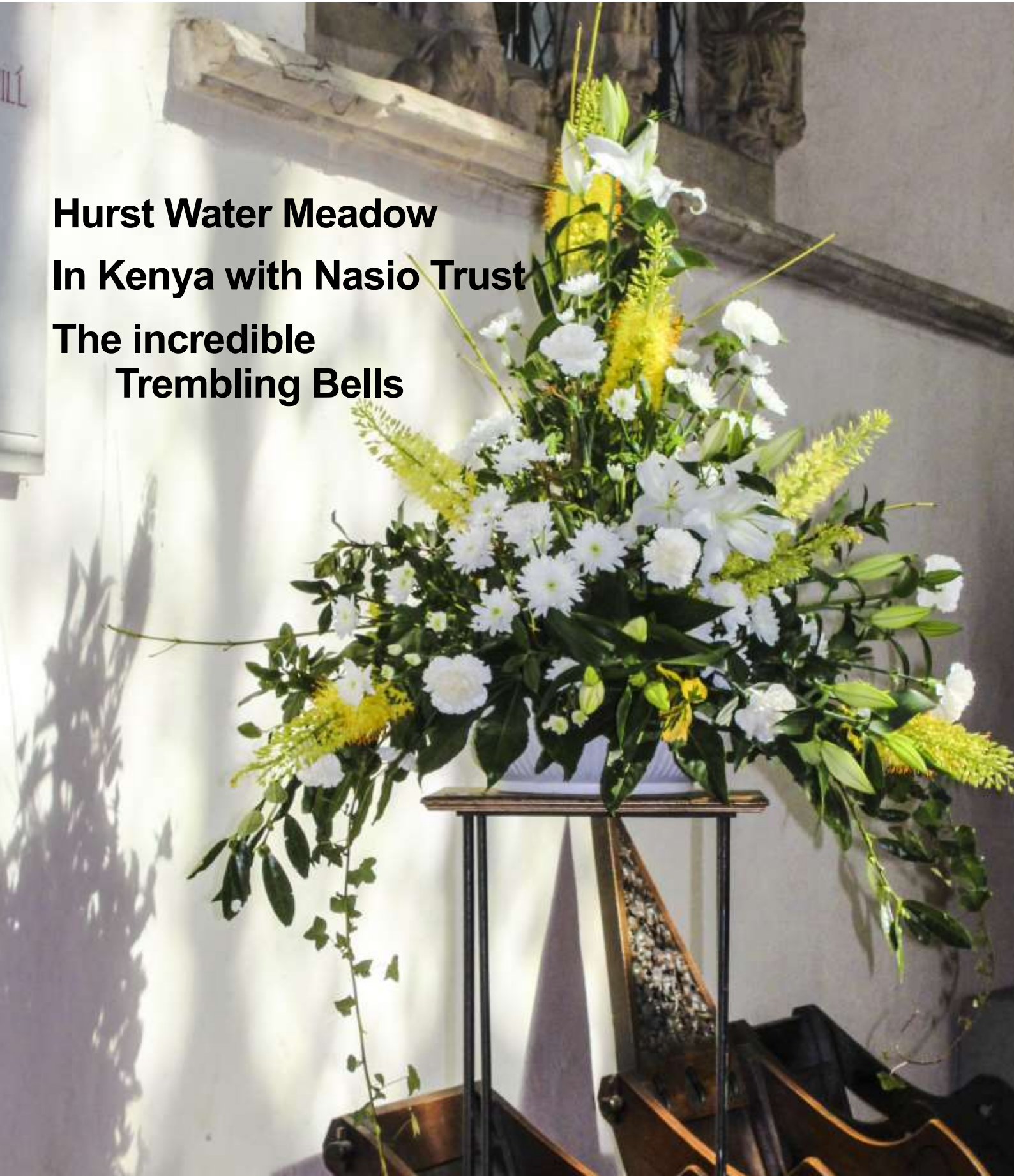


Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

May 2016

**Hurst Water Meadow
In Kenya with Nasio Trust
The incredible
Trembling Bells**





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Dorchester News

May 2016

A DoT view

May promises to be a busy month in Dorchester. There is a lot of music coming our way in the Abbey, starting with the Langtree Sinfonia on the 7th, who will be playing works by Beethoven and Schubert. Then on the 14th The London Chorus will be singing works by Handel and Bach amongst others. This concert will be in memory of Douglas Jupp, a long-time member of the choir and resident of Dorchester. This concert will be fund-raising for Parkinson's UK.

At the end of the month there will be four nights of music from the English Music Festival; always a highlight. They feature infrequently or not-previously played music by English composers. There are always some gems to be heard.

That just leaves one weekend without music, but there is no need to stay at home: DADS will be staging 'All Exclusive' at the Village Hall for four nights from 18 to 21 May, a comedy that they promise will be hilarious.

But the month starts with Two a Part singing from the Abbey tower, and then inside, on May Day morning, the 2nd, with breakfast. That event will be raising money for the Nasio Trust. To find out more about the Nasio Trust just go to page 11, for Caroline Seed's excellent article on the work that it does. And whilst you are in fund-raising mode, go to page 19 to read about Georgie Lucas's forthcoming bicycle ride in aid of Breast Cancer Now. A month to give generously and enjoy.

Ian Brace

Cover picture: Easter flowers in Dorchester Abbey.



Deadline for
June
Dorchester
News

email: dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Steph Cook

Distribution Co-ordinator

Maurice Day

Copy Deadlines for Dorchester News

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July/August edition 10 June
September edition 12 Aug

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.

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

One-time adverts, please send a cheque, payable to 'Dorchester Abbey PCC', to Nick Forman, Willoughby House, 73 High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames, OX10 7HN.

Printed by Higgs of Henley.

This May the Archbishops of Canterbury and York are inviting every church in England to join a week of prayer leading up to the Feast of Pentecost which the church celebrates on Sunday 15 May. At the heart of the many different prayer-based activities happening all over England will be the prayer that Jesus taught us The Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer is relatively short, a mere 70 words, but they are enduring words, still taught in schools, words that most people still know off by heart. The Lord's Prayer is said by billions of people in hundreds of languages and it continues to give us comfort and draw us nearer to God. Here are two versions, one in traditional language the other in more modern language. Both expressing the same profound truths.

Perhaps for each day in May you can commit to pray the

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Lord's Prayer, in its simplicity it offers beautiful words expressing profound truths. Through it we receives words of comfort, hope, challenge, forgiveness and the hope for a more just world 'Thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as in heaven.

Another of the Archbishops' suggestions is that you could commit to pray for five friends

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.*

daily. One way to do this is to find five small stones and write each of the people on your list onto each of the stones. Place them on your desk, bedside table or fireplace as a reminder to pray.

Alternatively, you could place each stone in a different room of your home and pray for each person as you enter or leave the room.

Below is an acrostic that can help us to pray.

Using the BLESS acrostic can help us to focus on all of the felt needs of those we pray for:

- Body – health, protection, energy
- Labour – employment/unemployment, retirement, adequate income
- Emotional – inner peace, joy, wisdom, insight, patience
- Social – healthy relationships between spouses, parents, children, friends;

Please look at the church notices for more details of events focussed on the week of prayer. If you would like to explore the ministry of prayer in more detail, please speak to your vicar or worship leader. We would love the opportunity to explore the transformative power of prayer with you.

Queen's Birthday Service...

As part of the Village Celebrations for Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday there will be a Village service in the Abbey at 10.30am on **Sunday 12 June**. Queen Elizabeth II has been clear that her faith has been important to her personally during her reign and the Abbey congregation will be honouring this by demonstrating the gifts we offer in Church during the weekend. You are invited to be a part of that service by coming to join in and, more importantly at this stage, by suggesting hymns, poems, prayers and readings that we can include.

Anyone - individual or organisation - is invited to contact me by phone, email or letter to ask for a particular piece to be included - and to offer to participate. I'm looking forward to hearing from you on **01865 340007**, email:

admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk or posted through my letter box at 10, Manor Farm Road. Thank you!

Sue Booy

...and afternoon events

The service will be followed by a picnic lunch in the cloister garden. Then, between 2.00 and 4.00 pm you are invited to see the Abbey in a new light - to meet the volunteers who keep the place ticking over and hear about what goes on behind the scenes. For example, you can meet the bell ringers and have a guided tour of the ringing chamber, discuss ideas with the gardeners and flower arrangers or listen to the wealth of knowledge our stewards have to impart.

And if you have ever thought about joining one of our volunteer groups here will be a chance to step forward.....

Save the date and look out for more details in next month's magazine.

Rebecca Hind

The London Chorus in Dorchester Abbey Saturday 14 May at 7.30pm

The London Chorus are coming to Dorchester to give a concert in the Abbey in memory of a past Dorchester resident, Douglas Jupp, who sang with the choir for more than 50 years and was their treasurer for over 40 years. The concert is to raise money for 'Parkinson's UK' for research and treatment of Parkinson's disease.

The concert will include Handel's *Dettingen Te Deum*, *Zadok the Priest* and *The King Shall Rejoice* and work by J S Bach *Air on the G string* and Telemann's *Tempo Giusto* and Zipoli's *Elevazione*. The conductor is Ronald Corp and the orchestra is 'Instruments of Time and Truth'. Tickets will be available on the door, £25 and £15 or in advance from:

anne@londonchorus.org.uk
or **020 8658 0829** or **07962 064018**.

Please come and support this excellent London choir and Parkinson's UK.

Susan Jupp

Lent Lunches

Many, many thanks to all who supported the Lent Lunches this year. £620 was donated at these sociable occasions and will be sent to Action Around Bethlehem Children with Disability.

Thanks again to the hostesses and the generous luncheon guests.

Meg Fisher and Dawn Dudley

Dorchester Abbey
Dorchester-on-Thames
OX10 7HZ



7:30pm Saturday 14 May 2016

George Frederic
Handel
Dettingen Te Deum
Zadok the Priest
The King Shall Rejoice

with works by
J S Bach and Telemann
including
Air on the G string

Conductor: Ronald Corp
Orchestra: Instruments of Time and Truth

Tickets: £25, £15
from Anne Howick
The London Chorus
anne@londonchorus.org.uk or
020 8658 0829 or 07962 064018
Parkinson's UK
01865 311302 or 07813 948448

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Pre-School News

Congratulations to the winners of our Easter Bonnet Parade - we had some fabulous entries: thanks to all the parents for your input.

The theme for this term is 'All about me'. We are looking at spring colours, particularly during our walks around the village. Now that the weather has finally perked up we are also visiting the park.

Plans are underway for the Queen's special birthday. We welcome visits from the librarian and also a dentist, who will be advising us on healthy eating and joining in with our fruit and veg activities!

School visits have started for our older children and we really look forward to the annual May Dancing with big school.

Pre-School is taking over the Abbey Tea Room on **Sunday 15 May** - Please do come and support us!

Matthew Kestner, Chair

Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society (DADS)

Don't forget to book your seats for DADS next production in the Village Hall on **18 to 21 May**. It's a hilarious comedy about Brits abroad by a relatively new playwright, Hugh Morrison:

Not everyone is having the holiday they were hoping for. Soon after British art critic and ageing hipster Ian Hurst arrives in the Central American republic of San Itairi, he finds himself stranded on the island by a transport strike. He is forced to stay at the rather down-market Las Cantatas resort amongst elements of his national culture he'd rather avoid. Despite initially impressing holiday maker Karen Kay and officious rep Trisha, Ian's snobbery rapidly puts him at odds with the rest of the beer loving, bingo playing guests. The strike becomes an uprising, the island descends into chaos and Ian finds himself having to choose between loyalty to art, and his fellow Britons.

And before things get better they're going to get an awful lot worse!

Tickets available now - see the full page advertisement on page 8 for more information.



DOGS Next Events

Golf: Monday 16 May. Wrag Barn GC 18 holes

Social: Tuesday 7 June. Evening Aunt Sally at the Fleur De Lys

Golf: Monday 20 June. Tadmorton Heath GC. 18 holes

Golfers and non-golfers equally welcome.

Contact Mike and Jan Rimmer: **01865 343719**



Queen's Birthday Celebrations 11 and 12 June Save the Dates!

Dorchester plans a Celebration of Community over the week-end of the 11 and 12 of June to commemorate the Queen's 90th Birthday. Events jointly organised by the Parish Council and Dorchester Abbey are planned with all of our community in mind.

Saturday 11 June - A Fun Family Sports Day at the Recreation Ground starting at 2pm - a series of games and taster sports for young and old. Tea and cakes, barbeque and beer tent and prizes for full participation!

Sunday 12 June - A special service at the Abbey in the morning and events planned throughout the day to celebrate the lifetime of HRH Queen Elizabeth II. The Cloister Garden will host a Family Picnic at 2pm so come along with your friends and family and share a special afternoon in the beautiful surroundings of Dorchester Abbey. Bring your own picnic or just enjoy the usual splendid tea and cakes from the tea room.

It's not too late to get involved. We will hold a planning meeting in early May, so please get in touch if you want to see your club or society represented or would like to help.

Claire Andersson
Claire@claireandersson.co.uk

See also the items about 12 June on page 3.

Photographic tribute to the Queen

As part of Her Majesty The Queen's 90th birthday celebrations in early/mid June an exhibition is planned. It will show the history of this community throughout Elizabeth II's life. To help us to represent each decade from 1920s to the present day we would welcome offers of original or scanned images from Dorchester's everyday life and special events throughout that period. Do not forget those pictures from the 1970s, 80s and 90s that you have. They are just as valuable as those from earlier decades

We can make arrangements to scan photographs if you wish. If you are doing the scanning yourself please ensure that it is done to a high resolution.

We would also welcome artefacts but please bear in mind that the exhibition will be held in the Abbey over several days and therefore occasionally unstaffed.

To discuss this further please contact Denise Line on **07765 302346** or denise.line@btinternet.com.

Abbey Rose Walk

Calling all keen gardeners! Is there anyone who would be prepared to give a couple of hours a month between April and November to help weed the Rose Walk? No great skill is required, just come along with a hoe or fork, at a time to suit yourself. At the moment there are two or three of us, but Sue Dixon has now moved away and we really need another volunteer to help share the load. It is a very satisfying job and we always receive wonderful comments from visitors saying how beautiful it is. It would be such a shame to lose it.

If interested to know more, please contact: **Julie Taylor 343069**



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Dorchester May Morning Monday 2 May

Two a Part will again welcome May by singing from the top of the Abbey tower and then give a free concert in the Abbey. Funds raised from breakfasts and donations will be shared between the Abbey and the Nasio Trust for the Medical Centre at their project for AIDS orphans and destitute children in Kenya.

Continental Breakfast

From 8.30am in the Abbey

Two A Part sing from the Tower at 9.00, then in the Abbey.



Breakfast tickets £5. **Please buy them in advance** from Dorchester Co-op.

£5 keeps a child in food for a month,

£10 provides a teacher for a month

Dorchester on Thames Historical Society Wednesday 25 May

7.30pm in Dorchester Village Hall (back room)

A talk by Richard Smith on '*Oxford Student Pranks: a history of mischief and mayhem*'.

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

**Gail Thomas
Chairman**

Dorchester on Thames Historical Society Visit to Baddesley Clinton Saturday 2 July 2016

This moated manor house has been a sanctuary since the 15th Century and was the home of the Ferrers Family for 500 years. Baddesley Clinton was a sanctuary not only for the Ferrers family but other persecuted Catholics in its priest's holes. The gardens include fish pools, walled garden and a lakeside walk.

The Barn Restaurant serves hot meals, drinks and snacks and light refreshments are available in the Stables. Picnics are welcomed. There is a National Trust Shop and second-hand bookshop.

9.15 Departure from Bridge End Car Park.

11.00 Baddesley Clinton.

I will organise the tickets for entrance to the House (these are timed and there is a guide and I cannot book in advance) and Gardens after which you will be free to explore on your own. If you are member of the National Trust please remember to bring your membership card with you.

4.00 Departure.

The cost is £29 (coach and entrance to Baddesley Clinton), cheques payable to Dorchester Historical Society. Please send to **Gail Thomas**, 14 Herringcote, Martins Lane, Dorchester on Thames, Oxon OX10 7RD. (Tel. **01865 341977** or email: gail.thomas8@btinternet.com)

**Dorchester
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**Saturday July 9th
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Fundraising for Dorchester Abbey

DADS

Dorchester Amateur Dramatic Society

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A Comedy By Hugh Morrison

Dorchester Village Hall

18th - 21st May 2016

7.45 pm



Tickets

Wed £8.00

Thurs, Fri, Sat £10.00

www.dads.org.uk

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Email:- tickets@dads.org.uk

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WI Year 2016-2017

12 May 'Recollections of Yorkshire Food and Traditions'
Peter Hague

A donation of £3 per guest will be appreciated
Lady non-members as guests may only attend 2 meetings in a year before becoming a full WI member.
Gentlemen may attend the talks with the same donation.

Thursday 9 June 'Artistic and Literary Footprints of the Thames Valley' Nick Brazil

Thursday 23 June Summer Tea Party at 3pm by kind invitation of Pauline and Christopher Kenway-Jackson

Thursday 11 August an afternoon on the Thames at Henley. Transport will be arranged amongst members.
Please let Susan Jupp (**01865 341066**) know if you want to go. Once numbers have been confirmed Susan will require the boat payment,

Thursday 6 October 7.30pm DOT Village Hall for Shillingford Group Meeting

We will be hosting this meeting which will be by ticket only, refreshments will be provided by us.
'Gutsy Women - A History of Women's Achievements in London' given by Colin Oakes

Oxfordshire Federation WI AGM 23 March Oxford Town Hall

Four members of our committee attended although all members can pre book and attend. Pauline Goddard OFWI chaired the meeting with good humour. Janice Langley, National Chairman, spoke about the Centenary Year and especially the protocol connected with having the Royals as guests and how some things didn't run to plan. She shared a photo book made by her daughter of Janice's granddaughter presenting HM the Queen with a posy at the Albert Hall, included were some of the young girl's comments. She took it all in her stride and was delighted by HM Queen's comments to her.
Richard O Smith, an author and comedian, amused us in the afternoon with quirky tales of Oxford.

Outings mentioned in 'News and Views'

Please let Susan Jupp know at least one week before the closing date with the appropriate money, preferably a cheque made out to 'Dorchester-On-Thames WI'

A big 'Thank you' to all the 2015-2016 committee, and especially to Audrey Houlston and Susan Jupp for their amazingly hard and dedicated work.

Needed more members to serve on the Committee. Several Committee members will retire in 2017.

Committee 2016-2017

Honorary President Mary Tame
President Pauline Kenway-Jackson (01865 340746)
Secretary Gill Haworth (340775)
Treasurer and Vice President Susan Jupp (341066)
Welfare and Raffle Irene Coleman (340255)
Publicity Jill Love (716557)
Programme Anne Parker (340520)
Vice Secretary Hayley Poole (340119)
Computer Based WI Support Linda Hender (340032)
Thank you Anne and Hayley for joining the Committee and to Linda for all the hard work she does behind the scenes.

Information about the Denman Appeal will be in the June issue. You can read about it in the March issue of *News and Views*.

Hurst Water Meadow Trust News

Hazardous waste on the meadows

Yes, really, ... dog waste.



The piles of dog faeces left on the meadows and on the footpath down to the main gate of the Hurst present a health risk to us, our children and grandchildren, and even to our dogs.

If you are a dog-walker do you:
Fail to observe what your dog is doing?
Forget to put bags in your pocket?
Prefer not to stoop to pick up after your dog?

Then you are giving other dog owners a bad name.

May we ask all dog owners to set an example and pick up after their dog (and put the bag in a bin rather than leave it on the path or hanging from a bush!)

The meadows are also spoiled by litter. Trustees and volunteers regularly pick up litter, sometimes by the sackful. Please help us to keep the meadows free of litter this summer.

May is a lovely month to enjoy the meadows

Flowers, butterflies and songbirds abound. Go and look: take the children, take a friend or a visitor. Let us know what you think.

Gillian Johnson
Honorary Secretary
01865 340925

Andrew Clements
Honorary Treasurer
01865 340753

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



Earth Trust May events

Brilliant Bees

Sunday 1 May, 10am-2pm

This month's Sunday Drop-in is all about bees! Bees are pollinators which means they're really important for growing all sorts of food. Give them a helping hand by making a bee hotel or diner to take home for your garden and *bee* inspired to create some wild art. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

Dawn Chorus Walk

Sunday 8 May, 4.30am-6.30am

Set your alarm clock and join us to listen to the birds celebrating the season on the Wittenham Clumps. Learn more about identifying birdsong with Ben Carpenter. £5 adult, £2 child; booking essential: **01865 407792**.

Bats at Wallingford Castle Meadows

Sunday 8 May, 8.15pm-10pm

Local expert Dominic Lamb will lead a walk at dusk to find out more about the wonderful winged mammals, including how to recognise different species using a bat detector. £5 adult, £2 child; booking essential: **01865 407792**.

Sensory Walk

Sunday 15 May, 2pm-4pm

Escape the stresses and strains of everyday life and immerse yourself in a hands-on nature sensory experience, including identifying birdsong, silent walking and photography, and blindfolded tasting. With Stuart 'The Wildman' Mabbutt and photographer William Mankelov. Bring your own camera. £12; booking essential: **01865 407792**.

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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www.thegeorgedorchester.co.uk

Hempcroft Allotment News—Special Report, The Nasio Trust in Kenya

During my most recent trip to Western Kenya with The Nasio Trust I got to visit their sustainable farming project. In a continued effort to make the communities they support as independent as possible, Nasio are teaching the orphans to grow and tend crops on the land and in greenhouses for their own use. They then sell any surplus at market. Relatives and guardians of the orphans tend the crops on a regular basis and when I was there in 2014 the charity was very much hoping to involve the orphans themselves in a practical way so they could learn farming skills that would help to sustain them and their communities for life.

It is difficult to compare the lives of these children with those of our own in this comfortable corner of the world. The orphans of Western Kenya face a daily struggle to survive, often without



Picking the leaves of the cow piece ready for drying

It surprised me how so many of the vegetables being grown in Kenyan soil are also familiar sights on our own allotments – onions, tomatoes, cabbages, kale; we can even grow sugar cane if we want to! Who knew? I started to hatch a plan for my own, rather neglected, allotment and when I got back I had a meeting with Russell Leigh, Headmaster at Dorchester St Birinus and Nancy Hunt who is the founder and Head of the Nasio Trust. Both were extremely enthusiastic about the idea of starting a joint project between the centres in Musanda and Mumias, Kenya, and our school here in Dorchester.

Now, thanks to the huge support from the allotment manager, Bill Downey, and Edward Metcalfe, the allotment has been trimmed and rotavated ready for pupils in Dorchester to start planting. It is hoped that they can grow many of the same things being grown in Kenya but also a few things that they don't, so that they can compare notes with the children there through letters, pictures, Facebook and even Skype. We hope that striking up this connection and relationship in such a hands-on way will prove an ongoing inspiration to our children. Who knows what might come of it?

Of course, fitting the necessary routine of tending the allotment into the school timetable is challenging and requires a lot of adult help and ongoing support. So far, we have had an extraordinary contribution from Bill and others who have worked incredibly hard, preparing the allotment for us to use and we owe them a huge debt of gratitude. We now want as many parents as possible to be involved but we also need the skills, experience and knowledge of allotments holders, and other local residents to spend some time, either with or without the children, offering help and advice.

If you think you can help us out for a little bit of time each week please contact me, at

caroline.seed1@btinternet.com or **07876 571027**. The Nasio Trust website: <http://www.thenasiotrust.org>

Caroline Seed



Caroline gathering the Cow Piece

any adult support and learning to raise crops to feed themselves will transform their lives. The children of Dorchester do not need to grow vegetables to survive but it struck me as I looked across the lush, green Kenyan landscape, just how much these skills could, nevertheless, enrich their lives, especially if they learned in conjunction with children who have such a vested interest in survival.

Fishmonger

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

10.00 - 10.05am in High Street near War Memorial

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The 2016 Spring Dorchester Flower Show

Many thanks to all who entered the show and to all those who turned out to support the event – we hope you enjoyed yourselves, and especially that you appreciated the high-quality entries. In all of the categories: flowers, vegetables, photographs, domestic and handicrafts, there were some entries that were simply stunning (Oh, those pork pies...). Special congratulations to Megan Sadler whose photo of a cockerel was entered in the Children's class, but which won the Blackwell Photography Cup.

Running two shows a year, in a small village, is a lot of work and relies on good support, both in terms of helpers, and entries. Please support the shows as much as you can, and if you could help us on the day, contact me. Sadly, if we don't find more help, we may have to hold only one show a year.

Prizewinners in the children's classes

Cheese Straws Age 9 and over 1st Megan Sadler

Cereal Crispie Cakes 8 and under 1st Alistair Mucklow
2nd Carys Sadler
3rd Delilah Winslet-Budd and Mylo Winslet-Budd

Photo of a pet Age 9 and over 1st Megan Sadler

Photo of a pet 8 and under 1st Carys Sadler
2nd Delilah Winslet-Budd
3rd Mylo Winslet-Budd

Trophy winners

Robert Soffe Cup
(Long Trumpet Daffodils) Caroline Scott

Short Trumpet Daffodil Cup David Parker

Spring Flowers Cup
(best flower exhibit other than daffodils) Pauline Fletcher

Vegetable Cup (best veg in the show) Roger Seabrook

Britain in Bloom Cup
(most points in all flower classes) Caroline Scott

Mary Tame Handicraft Plate
(best piece of handicraft) Richard Juniper

Domestic Classes Cup
(most points in domestic classes) Jenny Trinder

Blackwell Photography Cup
(best photo in the show) Megan Sadler

Helen Belcher Cup Keith Ives

**David Wilkinson
Show Committee**

For photographs from the Flower Show, see back page.



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Dorchester artists on show

During May, artists all over Oxfordshire open their doors and show their works. Last month Dorchester News highlighted some of the exhibitions around South Oxfordshire. But if you live in Dorchester you don't have to travel far to see the exhibitions of two artists in the village, Emma Louise Corry and Adrian Brooks.

Emma creates freehand embroidered pieces, using what she describes as 'her much-loved 30 year old Elna sewing machine using new and vintage cloth and black thread.'

Adrian creates witty and unusual wall-mounted theatres using puppetry to explore diverse themes. His website is at: www.traveltheatres.co.uk, where you can see some of his very original work.

For both Emma's and Adrian's exhibitions, check the dates and times shown on this page.

To see the work of Dorchester artist Patricia Drew, creator of the Dorchester News page 2 heading, you'll need to go to Oxford Printmakers, Tyndale Road, Oxford, OX4 1JL, between 7 and 15 May.

For more Oxfordshire artists, and there are 60 giving exhibitions in South Oxfordshire alone, visit www.artweeks.org where you can see full details or download a brochure with information on all 450 exhibitions across Oxfordshire.



Focus on... Hurst Water Meadow Trust

Celebrating 20 years this year is one of Dorchester's most valued resources: the Hurst Water Meadow, owned and looked after by the Hurst Water Meadow Trust on behalf of our community. I am sure that we all know the water meadow on the island between two branches of the

mentioned in any documents until the late 14th century. Following the dissolution of the monasteries the Abbey estate went to the Crown in 1536, and then in 1585 passed into private hands. Various families farmed it for the next 400 years until it was sold in 1980 to ARC (later Hanson Trust).

jobs at the right times. And a wide range of skills is required.

May is a wonderful time to enjoy the Hurst, and that is when a lot of work is done on maintaining footpaths. And, of course, the perennial job of picking up litter.

Much of the land management is carried out by volunteers using traditional methods such as scything, coppicing and hedge laying. Volunteers come from many local towns and villages including Wallingford and Burcot as well as Dorchester. They cover a wide range of ages from young men studying at school to the more senior citizen. Into the latter category falls the Sonning Common Green Gym, who descend on the Hurst en masse from time to time to provide labour as their means of getting a good work out and to share their vast knowledge and love of conservation.

Work on larger trees has to be carried out by tree surgeons, and, in a normal year, this is the biggest outlay that the Trust has, accounting for more than half of its overall budget. There are around 150 to 180 willows on the site and the Trust budgets to pollard around 10 to 15 each year. The large Black Poplar on the Hurst has had nearly £2,000 spent on tree surgery over the last twenty years, and that's just one of the many tall trees on site.

All this work is not done solely for the benefit



Spring flowers under a stormy sky

Thames, with the footpath connecting the village to Overy Mill. Eighteen acres that provide a wonderful open space for us all to walk, exercise, do heavy duty circuit training, walk our dogs, go fishing or just enjoy the changing seasons. The trust also owns Old Bridge Meadow, adjoining the bridge on its west side, and now, Overy Mead Piece, which connects Old Bridge Meadow to the River Thames. This was officially opened on 21 April by Graham Scholey, Conservation Technical Specialist at the Environment Agency.

To find out more about the Trust, Dorchester News has been talking to Andrew Clements, treasurer since its inception.

The name 'Hurst' probably comes from the Old English 'hyrst'. Although this was generally taken to mean 'wooded hill', which the Hurst clearly is not, in Middle English the term was used for a sandbank in a river (or at sea, as in Hurst Castle at Milford on Sea in Hampshire). The Hurst was described in an early nineteenth century document as a 'sandy loam', which reinforces that suggestion.

It would almost certainly have been part of the Abbey grounds from the middle of the 12th century, although it is not specifically

From them it went to Dorchester Fisheries in 1991, and in 1996 most of the Hurst was bought by the Trust.

The Trust had been formed in 1995 following the collapse of Dorchester Fisheries. The southernmost five acres had already been sold, but around 160 donations from the residents of Dorchester, together with a substantial contribution from the Parish Council, raised £31,000 to buy the remaining 18 acres. The campaign to raise the money and bring the Hurst effectively into village ownership, was spearheaded by Dr Pritchard, a local GP, who, together with Maurice Day and others, saw the opportunity to ensure that the meadows were retained as a village amenity.

Being owned by the Trust, a charity, the Hurst is effectively a village enterprise. The current nine trustees are all Dorchester residents and the aims of the Trust include preserving, conserving and protecting the Hurst for the benefit of the public. So we can be assured that they are always working on behalf of the village to provide a welcome amenity for all.

To do this requires a lot of planning and many hours of work throughout the year, working with the seasons to do the right



Buck Pool in winter

of the people of Dorchester, however. Conservation is one of the Trust's aims and that has a far larger context. In our world of increasing urbanisation and global warming the conservation of water meadows is a national priority. The Hurst is part of Conservation Target Area No.27, and so is part of Dorchester's contribution to the national objectives of maintaining biodiversity and conserving wildlife.

In 2015, after two years of hard work, the Trust received a £36,000 BIFFA Award that would allow it to purchase the strip of land along the left bank of the Thames from Old Bridge Meadow down to the Thames. This has been named Overy Mead Piece. This now gives unfettered access from Henley Road down to the Thames Footpath, and is the latest acquisition since Old Bridge Meadow in 2009.

What of the future? The Trust would really like to be given the opportunity to reunite the Hurst by bringing under its control the five acres to the south. This would enable it to manage the complete island that is the Hurst for the benefit of Dorchester residents and others.

The Demesne Field, to the north of the Hurst and between the village and the by-pass, has been the subject of much discussion recently. Would the Trust



Volunteers at work on Overy Mead Piece

have a role to play here? Trustees have been monitoring this situation since 2004, and registered an interest with SODC in 2008, so any interest now is not just a reaction to recent stories about potential development. However, with the Neighbourhood Development Plan recommending that the Demesne Field should become a wildlife-rich lowland meadow should it cease to be viable as agricultural land,

then there may be a role for the Trust. At 35 acres though it would massively increase the amount of land to manage, putting strain on resources.

How can the people of Dorchester contribute? The easiest way is to use the Hurst Water Meadow, Old Bridge Meadow, and Overy Mead Piece and to use them responsibly. This means picking up your litter, picking up your dog mess, even if it is off the path, and not leaving logs and branches hidden in long grass after your children and dogs have finished playing with them. Local farmers cut the long grass, but large pieces of wood can inflict damage to their machinery and they may not be so willing to continue after a broken blade or two.

You can help by volunteering – litter pickers are always needed, but you may need training to do some other activities. If you have a relevant skill or knowledge you would be particularly welcome.

Or you can contribute financially. Like all responsible charities the Trust has its reserves, but also needs to continue to raise money to cover the costs of maintenance and preservation. So leave them something in your will, and then go heavy duty circuit training round the Hurst, or perhaps try out that scythe...



Trustees Andrew Clements, Graham Beland and Mike Southon

Information sourced from 'The Hurst and Old Bridge Meadow' by Karen Selway Richards, The Hurst Water Meadow Trust website, and Andrew Clements.

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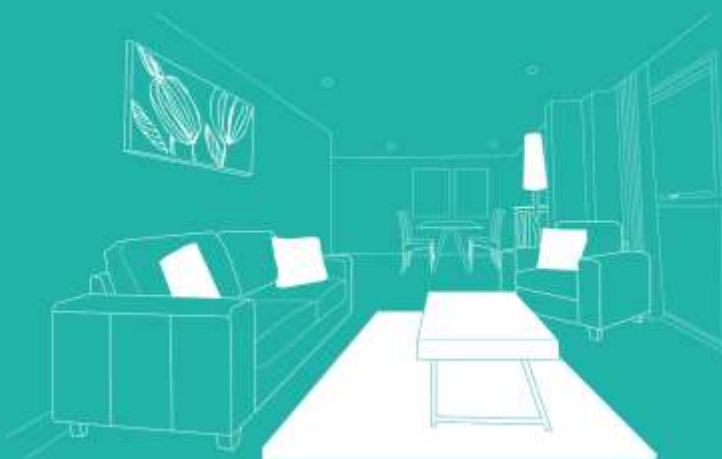
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Office Manager



Parish Council Notices

Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 3 May

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place in the Village Hall on **Tuesday 3 May** commencing at 7.30. The agenda for this meeting, which will include the Annual Report of the Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Chris Hill, and presentation of the Parish Council's draft accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016, will be posted on Village notice boards at least 7 clear days in advance.

John Taylor, Chairman of PAGE, will give a short presentation of the latest news about the campaign to prevent new gravel extraction in this area.

Both our County and District Councillors are expected and will be available to answer questions. All are welcome to attend and will find that there are several opportunities for public participation.

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council Wednesday 11 May

In May the Parish Council will hold its Annual Meeting on the second Wednesday which is **11 May**. The venue will be the Village Hall and the meeting will start at 7.30 p.m. The agenda for the meeting will be displayed on Village notice boards at least three clear days in advance.

In addition to its regular monthly business the Council will be electing its Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the coming year. All are welcome to attend and, at the beginning of the meeting, may raise any matter of concern.

Ed — For news of the Neighbourhood Development Plan see page 21.

Contacting the Parish Council

The Parish Clerk is Geoffrey Russell of The Pigeons (next to The Fleur de Lys), 5-7 High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames OX10 7HH

Telephone (during normal office hours, please, unless an emergency) **01865 340759**

e-mail: parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

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

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

Police Open Day Saturday 6 August!

Save the date! Thames Valley Police's fantastic annual Open Day will take place on **Saturday 6 August** at Sulhamstead training centre, near Reading.

The huge event usually welcomes over 5,000 people, who are given an insight into what goes on behind the scenes at TVP. Around 40 Force departments and external partners exhibit at the day, with a number of talks and displays from a variety of units including the Dog Section and the Mounted Section.

More information will be posted over the coming weeks and months, so watch this space
!#TVPOpenDay

Subsidised Bus Services

As reported in the April edition of Dorchester News, subsidised buses 97 and 114 are expected to continue operating to 20 July 2016 (end of school year). Thereafter 114 may be designated as a school bus, while 97 is very likely to be terminated.

The Parish Council is pleased with the 15 responses to the loose-leaf questionnaire received so far. The responses indicate:

- Most survey participants think that the Parish Council should take the lead in exploring the possibility of a local mini-bus service and support working with other villages.
- Most would use a Parish Council provided, reliable and minimal cost mini-bus service that picks up passengers at existing bus stops and also in Queen Street.
- Most would be prepared to pay for individual journeys.
- One individual recommendation is for a minibus to Wallingford twice a week. Others asked for a service to Clifton Hampden and Berinsfield Surgeries and Berinsfield Post Office.

The Council would like to know the needs of more Villagers so that options can be considered during April and May so that any replacement service can be established by July 2016.

Please complete the loose-leaf questionnaire included in the April issue of Dorchester News and deliver to the Parish Clerk at The Pigeons next to The Fleur de Lys as soon as possible.

If you require an electronic copy of the Questionnaire please send an e-mail to mamacorr@aol.com

Letter to the editor

Hi everyone,

I'm Georgie Lucas. I'm 19 years old and have lived in Dorchester my whole life. I am currently studying Human Biology at Loughborough University and am soon to take on a big challenge..

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in the UK with one in eight women developing it in their life time. Affecting not only women, approximately 12,000 people die from breast cancer every year. Breast Cancer Now are the newly merged charity of Breast Cancer Campaign and Breakthrough Breast Cancer. Breast Cancer Now are determined that by 2050 there will be a cure for breast cancer. They need our help to raise the money in order to fund the research which will make this possible.

To raise awareness for this amazing cause, in July 2016 I will be cycling 240 miles from London to Paris with other students from Loughborough University in just three days! You may be aware that I am not the most athletic person, so this will be a big challenge for me, but I'm determined to train lots and try my hardest! I'm so grateful for any support but please give as generously as you can so we can help stand up to breast cancer. You can sponsor me by visiting this web address:

<https://www.justgiving.com/GeorgieLucas/>

Thank you so much!

The Dorchester Archive

The archive

The archive aims to collect items of relevance to Dorchester's social history, both as a record of village life, and to support Museum exhibits. The Archive team from the Museum and Historical Society (Denise Line, Margot Metcalfe and Gail Thomas) has been busy examining and classifying new items, and rationalising the existing archive, prior to adding hundreds of new records to the archive database later in the year. Margot and Gail have been working mainly on documents, and Denise mainly on photographs. Some recent donations have included:

- Many fascinating items from Mary Tame's collections
- Material from the family of the late Miss Anne Bowditch of Bishops Court, including pictures of Dorchester, archaeological finds, maps, photographs, records of gymkhanas and horse shows, and memorabilia relating to the many activities of Miss Bowditch's late mother, Mrs Stephanie Bowditch (evacuees in WW2, the Primrose League, Red Cross....).
- Photographs, including two postcards of the dedication of the War Memorial from Marilyn Lines (née Bumpass), and a photo from Cedric Cherrill of Tegg's garage in the High Street, behind which in the 1930s were found the Roman pots exhibited in the Museum (donated by Mrs Hilleard, née Tegg).
- Papers and photographs from now disbanded local organisations - DOTS, DADAV, DARTS
- Roman coin found by Lionel Bridge at 4 Queen's Close 30 years ago

Dorchester Parish Magazine

Mary's collection included a few more precious copies of the earliest Dorchester Parish Magazines: No. 326 (August 1915), No 330 (December 1915), No 340 (November 1916), No 342 (January 1917), No 372 (May 1919). We already had a bound collection from the first issue (1888) to 1914 inclusive, and in the Bowditch collection are many issues from the same period – it would be wonderful to complete the set for 1915-1920, and get them bound to ensure their future preservation and accessibility. We have complete collections of all the later parish magazines in their various formats.

How you can help

Even apparently small or irrelevant items, like a receipt from a local shop, are part of the Dorchester story. We can scan photographs if you don't want to give them away permanently. So we appeal to residents and families, please, before throwing away any objects, documents, books, pictures or photographs relating to Dorchester and its archaeology or social history, or your family, show them to one of us, or bring them into the Museum when it is open.

What we don't collect

Space in the Museum, especially for the Museum shop, and for storage of both archives and stock, is at a premium, so we can no longer store material which is the administrative responsibility of another body. As a result, the Parish Council has deposited the contents of its chest at the Oxfordshire History Centre (County Record Office) where they will be properly conserved and catalogued, and the public will

have ready access. Similarly, a large collection of files relating to the recent Abbey refurbishment will be stored by the PCC.

Nor can we take in items which may be of general interest but of no relevance to Dorchester.

Former Residents

We have been contacted by the son of former Dorchester resident Ronald Arnold, who at age 19 in 1941 was living at the Farmers' Arms, and joined the Home Guard. He later served as a despatch rider, including at the Battle of Caen, and received the Légion d'Honneur from the French Government in 2014. Ron, now 89, lives in Romford, Essex, but we hope he will visit Dorchester in the summer and meet any of you who remember him. Denise has sent his son a very clear photo of the Home Guard, so we hope Ron may be able to identify some of his fellows.

Margot and Denise are using various sources, including some from Mary Tame, to work up the story of two young 19th century migrants to Australia, Charles and Sarah Ellen Swadling.

Exhibition

An exhibition is planned for June to mark the Queen's 90th birthday – more details to come.

**Denise Line,
Margot Metcalfe,
Gail Thomas,
contact
metcalfe.margot@btinternet.com**

World War I and the Belgian refugees – the Dorchester story – update

Last year we gave you the story of the Belgian refugees who came to Dorchester in 1914, set in the wider context of that crisis, and the role Britain played. We can now, as we promised, tell you what happened to those refugees, as described in an article from a 1915 issue of the Dorchester Parish Magazine (alas, we do not have the original in the archive).

Dorchester hosted refugee families for nine months, until May 1915. Four families came altogether, two at a time, and were housed in the cottage mentioned in our earlier article. Altogether 24 refugees were 'entertained', with 12 to 15 persons at the same time in the house – quite a crowd! However, rural life did not suit them; 'they found the country too dull, and expressed a wish to go to a town, so we sent them back to Earl's Court, London'. Possibly some national records might help in identifying them.

Subscriptions and donations raised £97 17s 8½d, of which £87 6s 2d were spent, the balance being distributed to the official Committee for helping Belgian Victims of the War who have not left their own country (£10 10s 0d) and 1s 6½d to the Navy Vegetable Fund in the village.

**Margot Metcalfe and Denise Line
Dorchester Historical Society**

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Edith Atkins

Last month's article about the Museum featured 'Edith Atkin's Story' which is on display there. Mary Tame has sent the following:

Mrs George Atkins

Many years later, Mrs Atkins was a valued member of the Dorchester Friendship Club which met at Belcher Court. They shared memories of two World Wars and discussed the changes in Dorchester. (Mrs George Atkins' patchwork sometimes needed a bit of help).

MT

Photograph of Mrs
George (Edith) Atkins.

Supplied by
Denise Line (née Atkins)



As we go to press, we are very sorry to hear of the death of Mary Tame, aged 102. More about Mary and her considerable contribution to the village next month.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Dorchester NDP has reached a major milestone in the process. After a lot of hard work, research and in depth analysis over a period of more than 3 years the Plan was sent to South Oxfordshire District Council on 30 March for them to make an initial assessment that it conforms to all the required processes. They will also confirm that it contains all the elements that are necessary for the size and type of village in which we all live. As well as SODC there are a number of other 'statutory consultees' including adjacent villages, Natural England, Historic England, The EA, local utility providers and major local organisations and employers, that were also sent a copy requesting their comments. All the consultees have 6 weeks in which to make any comments.

We should point out that this is an interim process to 'test the water' and depending on the comments there may need to be a number of additions and amendments before the final plan can be completed. Hopefully these will not be too extensive and we will be able to send the completed plan

Hand Bell Ringing Sound interesting?

We have a set of hand bells in Dorchester, and would like to know who is interested in creating a band to play them. In the June Dorchester News we will be giving notice of a meeting for all those interested.

Meanwhile if you want to find out more about hand bell ringing, there will be a concert in Benson on **21 May** at **Benson Parish Hall**, by *Britain's Got Talent* semi-finalists Gay and Alan Cooper and The Launton Handbell Ringers, 4.00pm. £2.50 on the door.



For further information about the concert, about Gay and Alan, the Wallingford Ringers, or to see videos of hand bell ringing go to:

wallingfordringers.wordpress.com/

If you want to let us know that you are interested in hand bell ringing, email: dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Dorchester Hand Bell Ringers

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Could you spare a few hours a month to volunteer?

Many of the adults with disabilities that we support can't access leisure and social activities in the evening and at weekends without the help of volunteers. By volunteering as a driver or buddy you could make all the difference to someone's life.

Things you might do include visiting museums, the theatre or cinema, pub lunches, trips to garden centres, watching and taking part in sporting activities or just meeting up for a coffee and a chat.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a volunteer please contact:

David Williams

Volunteer & fundraising coordinator, John Masefield House

@ david.williams@leonardcheshire.org

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A Goat of Many Colours

Often the Abbey is leased out to venerable Orchestras such as the OSJ and Choral societies. But what if it were to run and promote its own Folk Concert?

The idea of bringing the sounds of acclaimed musicians of the 60s and 70s with their modern day equivalents seemed novel and was put to the Abbey in January by David Phillip and myself.

Booking named acts for events is financially risky. Bravely the Abbey PCC agreed and so on **Saturday 25 June** a heady and unusual music event will be a first for Dorchester Abbey:

The psychedelic sound that influenced generations of musicians during the 1960s, the mystical and whimsical tunes of the Incredible String Band will dance around the Abbey's ancient stones following the Trembling Bells rendition of their latest album and much acclaimed fifth album *Wide Majestic Aire*.

The challenge now is whether we can fill seats. The George has kindly sponsored the event by putting up the nine member ensemble. But are there enough Incredible String Band fans out there to come to a rural village in Oxfordshire? Will the Trembling Bells fan base stretch from Glasgow and Oxford to our little village? Time will tell, but it is only right that I let the fans and the merely curious know what they are in for.

So what can one expect from Mike Heron, one of the most influential performers from the 60s that you've never heard of and his young protégés the Trembling Bells?

The Trembling Bells recreate the beautiful masterpieces performed by the Incredible String Band in the 1960s with the added sparkle of the amazing voice of Lavinia



Blackwall. Mike Heron sings and is joined by his daughter, singer songwriter Georgia Seddon. The result is a mystical journey through the experimental music of the late 1960s with songs that recapture the innocence and optimism of the time, including music from *Layers of the Onion* described as an acoustic *Sgt Pepper*. Marianne Faithfull effused: 'Mick and I loved them; I felt they made that record just for me'.

Rowan Williams chose their *Hedgehog Song* for as one of his Desert Island discs. The Rolling Stones, the Beatles and Led Zeppelin were among their fans, Billy Connolly remembered them, saying: 'I just love it, it means as much to me today as it did back then, you know, wee songs about caterpillars, I just love it.'

Although the Bells beautifully recreate the ISB music this is no mere cover tribute. The Trembling Bells in their own right have been achieving critical acclaim, as the band, formed in 2008 by singer songwriter, drummer Alex Neilson, busily tours the UK. They will be performing songs from their new album *Wide Majestic Aire* which received four stars from Mojo magazine and has been played live on BBC Radio 6. A keen ear will pick up their rich and varied prog rock and folk influences from Fairport Convention and Steeleye Span to Pink Floyd. The Bells are original experimental and inspiring. Anyone who loves this style of folk music is in for a treat.

'Wide Majestic Aire is a mellifluous relative of Shane MacGowan's Broad Majestic Shannon, and features the meltwater vocals of Lavinia Blackwell' Mojo

The result is a mystical journey from the artful and creative young talent of the Bells to the experimental music of the late



1960s with songs that recapture the innocence and optimism of the time.

Please support this Abbey Fundraiser and enjoy.

Saturday 25 June Tickets £20 available at: www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk or call 033306 660336

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Wallingford Historical Society The Excavations at Westgate, Oxford: the story so far

Ben Ford returns to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) with a talk describing the archaeological work currently being undertaken as part of the Westgate centre re-development in Oxford.

Oxford Archaeology's Ben Ford, Project Director for the excavations at the Greyfriars site under the former Westgate car park and shopping centre, will talk about the excavations carried out in advance of the redevelopment of the site by Westgate Oxford and Laing O'Rourke. This is the largest ever archaeological site in Oxford and has yielded a rich array of finds, including a medieval mill on the Trill Stream.

This talk will be held on **Wednesday 11 May, 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church**, Wallingford. Please note that TWHAS talks are now being held on the second Wednesday of each month at St. Mary's Church, Wallingford.

Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

www.twhas.org.uk

Friends of Wallingford Day Centre A date for your diary

On Saturday **9 July**, the Friends of Wallingford Day Centre (known as the Health and Wellbeing Centre) are holding a **Summer Fair** at the Centre in Millington Road, Wallingford from 2pm until 5pm. At 4.30pm the winning tickets for the raffle will be drawn (1st prize £100, followed by other generous prizes). Tickets for the raffle are already being sold at various events including the Car Rally on 8 May.

All money raised will be used to enhance the activities already provided for the clients at the Day Centre by the wonderful staff there.

We have already booked a variety of stalls. There will be live music and afternoon tea will be served. We are a very small committee and would love to hear from you if you feel you could help in any way on the day or in preparations before hand. We would very much like to have a book stall, could you do that? Please contact me on **01491 839415** if you could help in any way.

Eira E Hoare
Friends of Wallingford Day Centre



St Birinus School News

Our Easter celebrations started with our Easter Hat competition. As always the quality of the children's designs were very impressive and certainly made it a challenge to judge. There was then a hive of activity as we prepared to hold our Easter Fair; it was great to see so many people in school and thank you if you were able to attend. Thank you to the PTA who organised and helped on the day and to the teachers and children for preparing and running their games.

We had some great news at the end of the term as we have been awarded a grant to enable us to set up an After School



What's on in Wallingford



Wallingford Museum Cartoon event for children @ Wallingford Museum Friday 13 May

Experience a special 'Night at the Museum' at Wallingford Museum between 6pm – curfew (9pm) on **Friday 13 May**.

Following the great successes of previous years' events, this year's 'Night at the Museum' will be a bookable 'Cartoon' event for children featuring Steve Head and his cartoon exhibition plus a chance for children to be creative and draw their own cartoons inspired by Museum items, with help from local artists who will be on hand. The evening is kindly sponsored by Goring Decorative and Fine Arts Society (GADFAS). There are limited places for children, and although the event is free, there will be a small fee for materials.

For further details and booking, please contact Judy Dewey, **01491 651127**, preferably before 5 May!
www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Music at St Peter's Wallingford

14 May 8pm

String Quartets by Haydn & Mozart, Mendelssohn Octet
Tickets £14/£12 **01491 824792**

28 May 8pm

The Band of Music - Purcell, Blow, Handel, J C Bach and more!
Tickets £14/£12 **01491 824792**

11 June 8pm

Cello & Piano - Beethoven, Schumann, Glazunov, Ravel and Poulenc.
Tickets £14/£12 **01491 824792**

www.musicatstpeterswallingford.org.uk

Club to run up to 6pm each night. We have looked for ways of achieving this over the last few years and feel very excited about finally being able to do it. We are trialling the system over the next term, so that it is fully up and running before September. A wonderful addition to the school provision.

Don't forget our May Dancing on the **29 April** at 1.15pm - please come and join us!

Russell Leigh
Headteacher
Dorchester St Birinus CE Primary School



What's On May

Cinema: Performances start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

Sun 1	Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice (12A)
Mon 2	Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice (12A)
Tues 3	High Rise (15)
Wed 4	Welcome to Me (15)
Fri 6	Brief Encounter (PG). Charity screening in aid of Nasio Trust
Sun 22	Eye in the Sky (15)
Mon 23	Eye in the Sky (15)
Tues 24	The Brand New Testament (15) in French/German with subtitles

Live

May 18-21. Sinodun Players present **Bazaar and Rummage**, an adult black comedy by Sue Townsend. Funny and moving story of a group of agoraphobic women who, as part of a self-help group, decide to break through their troubled and insular lives to stage a jumble sale. Townsend, author of the Adrian Mole books, has crafted a witty, yet poignant play, about ordinary people, each with their own demons to combat in their effort to re-join society. Contains occasional strong language and smoking. 7.45pm. £10

(On **May 22** at 2pm, the Players plan to hold a sale of the rummage used in the play to raise funds for the Corn Exchange.)

NB. The Merry Opera performance of **Around the World in 32 Arias** on May 28th has been unavoidably cancelled. Please contact the box office for refunds.

Coming Soon

Miss-Leading Ladies. June 4. Siblings Ria Jones and Ceri Dupree star in a stunning celebration of 60 years of the greatest dames of stage and screen, from Merman, to Dietrich, Doris Day to Danny La Rue – adding their own unique family twist. Richly costumed with more than 20 show-stopping numbers. This talented duo have lifted the roofs off venues in London, Edinburgh and, after Wallingford, plan to wow audiences in New York. £12.50, under-18s £10. Probably not suitable for under-15s.

The 29th Wallingford Corn Exchange Drama Festival takes place **13-17 June**. Amdram groups from the area and beyond compete in an adjudicated competition for a variety of awards. In addition to an entertaining evening of diverse drama from both youth and adult drama groups, it's a great opportunity to learn about all aspects of stagecraft from the adjudicator's comments. Tickets £5 per night or £20 for the omnibus ticket.

Now Booking. The Andre Rieu Maastricht Concert 2016, **July 23**.

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

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

Dvorak : Stabat Mater

Friday 6 May 2016

7.30pm Dorchester Abbey

Saturday 7 May 2016 5pm

St John the Evangelist Church, Iffley Rd

East Oxford Community choir will be joined by Ensemble Vocal Interlude from Grenoble and exciting young soloists for two performances of Dvorak's very moving cantata '*Stabat Mater*', which was completed in 1877 after the deaths of his baby daughter, and his young son, as he tried to cope with his grief. This work, his first religious piece, became very popular in England in the 1880s, but is heard less frequently now.

Tickets are available through TicketsOxford or on the door £12/ £10 concessions/£3 under 18s

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From Dorchester (War Memorial)				
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114	Abingdon	07.30**	08.09	
97	Wallingford	09.07	09.19	
97	Didcot	09.36	10.16	
97	Wallingford	10.57	11.09	
97	Didcot	11.26	12.06	
97	Wallingford	12.47	12.59	
97	Didcot	13.26	14.06	
97	Shillingford	14.47	14.51	NS
97	Wallingford	14.47	14.59	SO
114	Abingdon	14.56	15.16	
114	Wallingford	16.08	16.26	NS

To Dorchester (War Memorial)

No.	From	Dep	Arrive	
114	Wallingford	07.15**	07.30	
114	Abingdon	08.34	09.07	
97	Wallingford	09.25	09.36	
97	Didcot	10.20	10.57	
97	Wallingford	11.15	11.26	
97	Didcot	12.10	12.47	
97	Wallingford	13.15	13.26	
97	Didcot	14.10	14.47	
114	Shillingford	14.52	14.56	NS
114	Abingdon	15.38	16.08	NS

NS= Not Saturday. SO=Saturday only.

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

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Times checked with Thames Travel website 14 March.

Narropera comes to Dorchester

An entertaining new format for presenting an opera comes to Dorchester Abbey from New Zealand this year, in two performances, on **4 June** and on **15 October**. On each occasion the new format, called 'narropera', will present a Mozart opera.



The Mozart Narropera Trio at Eastwell Manor in Kent ...

'Narropera' (narrated opera) is arranged for a chamber music ensemble of three musicians, a soprano, a violinist and a pianist who doubles as the narrator. The art of story-telling is used to relate the opera and within the storyline, nine or ten arias are performed. Before each aria, its text is narrated: the listener therefore understands both the context of the aria and what the aria is expressing. Narropera's motto is 'beauty, clarity and entertainment'. No narropera performance is longer than 90 minutes and each is presented without an interval.

Narropera was invented by New Zealander, Haydn Rawstron, a former Christopher Tatton organ scholar at Christ Church, Oxford, as a response to the earthquakes in Christchurch, New Zealand, where Haydn was brought up. Conceived merely as a stop-gap at a time when the city's performing venues were rendered unusable, the first performances proved so popular with the public, that narropera has become a way of life for Haydn and his young German wife, the renowned soprano Dorothee Jansen. In just three years, the Mozart Narropera Trio has honed the format, founded two narropera festivals, arranged six operas for the format and given nearly fifty performances of them in four countries: Germany, Isle of Man, UK and in New Zealand.



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Day by day

Sun 1 May	Easter 6 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662) (Revd Michael Lakey) 10.30am Morning Service
Mon 2 May	May Morning Breakfast and Two A Part 8.30am Dorchester Abbey
Tues 3 May	Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
Fri 6 May	East Oxford Community Choir Dvorak Stabat Mater 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Sat 7 May	Langtree Sinfonia Beethoven, Schubert 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 8 May	Sunday after Ascension 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booy's) 10.30am Sung Eucharist
Tues 10 May	10.15am Short Communion
Wed 11 May	Parish Council Annual Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
Thurs 12 May	WI 2.30pm Village Hall <i>'Recollections of Yorkshire Food and Traditions'</i> Peter Hague Mobile library 2.55-3.15 Opposite War Memorial
Sat 14 May	Wedding of Andrew Powell and Melinda Ziemer 12 noon Dorchester Abbey The London Chorus Handel, Bach, Telemann In memory of Douglas Jupp 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 15 May	Pentecost 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662) (Revd Michael Lakey) 10.30am Family Communion with Baptism 6.00pm Evensong
Wed 18 May	DADS <i>All Exclusive</i> 7.30pm Village Hall
Thurs 19 May	Classic Car Show, George Hotel 1.00-4.00pm Chiropodist Belcher Court (see p20)



Thurs 19 May	DADS <i>All Exclusive</i> 7.30pm Village Hall
Fri 20 May	DADS <i>All Exclusive</i> 7.30pm Village Hall
Sat 21 May	DADS <i>All Exclusive</i> 7.30pm Village Hall
Sun 22 May	Trinity 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booy's and Revd Jennifer Morton) 10.30am Sung Eucharist 7pm Taize@7
Wed 25 May	DoT Historical Society <i>'Oxford Student Pranks:'</i> Richard Smith 7.30pm Village Hall (Back room)
Thurs 26 May	Service at the Cheshire Home 11.30am Mobile library 2.55-3.15 Opposite War Memorial
Fri 27 May	English Music Festival Pre-concert talk 5.00pm Village Hall BBC Concert Orchestra 7.30pm
Sat 28 May	English Music Festival Music of the realm 10.45am Pre-concert talk 5.00pm Village Hall Pre-concert buffet 5.45pm The George English Symphony Orchestra 7.30pm Old Swan Band 9.30pm

All **English Music Festival** events are in Dorchester Abbey unless otherwise indicated.

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

Sun 29 May	Trinity 1 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662) (Revd Michael Lakey) 10.30am Team Service at Marsh Baldon
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English Music Festival
Pre-concert talk
5.00pm
Village Hall

Pre-concert buffet
5.45pm
The George

City of London Choir
The Holst Orchestra
7.30pm

New Foxtrot Serenaders
9.30pm

Mon 30 May	English Music Festival Kathryn Rudge/James Baillieu 10.45am
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Jaguar Land Rover Band
2.15pm

Pre-concert talk
5.00pm
Village Hall

Pre-concert buffet
5.45pm
The George

Bath Philharmonia
7.00pm

Weekly events

Monday	Watercolour Painting 10.00am-12.30pm and 1.30 pm-4.00pm Abbey Guest House. Full details from www.rebeccahind.com
Tuesday	Coffee in the Abbey 10.30-12.00 Bellringing Practice 7.30 pm Abbey Fishmonger 10.00 to 10.05am by War Memorial (p.11)
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)
Friday	Choir Practice 7.00 pm Abbey

Regular events also appear in the Parish Council's website:
www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Parish Registers

Funeral

24 March Nicholas Eric Dudley

Funeral at crematorium

4 April Nancy Enid Rust

Useful Information

CONTACTING THE POLICE

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HIRE OF DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL

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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**.

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Weds, Thurs 2.00–5.30pm
Fri 2.00–5.00pm
Sat 10.00am – 12.30pm

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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.

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CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

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USEFUL CONTACTS

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Margaret Craig
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ABBEY E-MAIL:

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

ABBEY WEBSITE

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VILLAGE WEBSITE

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Bridge End
01865 340417
www.stbirinus.co.uk



REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Fri 6 May	Black
Fri 13 May	Green
Fri 20 May	Black
Fri 27 May	Green*

* extra garden waste for brown bin customers

Fridays from 7.00 am.

Weekly: food waste (in bio-degradable 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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FLOWER SHOW

**Saturday 9 April
Village Hall**



*Caroline Scott receives the
Britain in Bloom Cup*

