

Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

October 2016





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Dorchester News October 2016 A DoT view

October is one of those turning points in the year when you can really see the seasons changing in front of you. The last traces of any Indian Summer that we might get have by now gone, and before the end of the month the leaves will be falling and the clocks will have gone back. It is a time of golden colours as the leaves turn, and Gordon Roberts's photograph of the Abbey Guest House on this month's cover, beautifully suggests the golden light of the autumnal evenings.

A sign of the turning point that is autumn comes in this issue where, on page 14, we go from summer to winter on one page by way of the last cricket matches of the summer, the first football of the season, and a preview of the HfT Christmas concert in the Abbey.

Autumn is a time of events; more so this year than usual. On 5 November the village fireworks will hope to repeat last year's fantastic success when around 1,000 people attended. Later in November DADS will be giving us Aladdin as this year's pantomime (more about that next month). Before all of that, though, comes *Narnia*. Workshops are already under way to create this amazing interactive exhibition, which runs in the Abbey from 22 October for a month, with special activities during half term week. Everybody should visit at least once and enjoy this journey into this imaginative world of C.S. Lewis.

I would like to draw everyone's attention to the report on page 19 from Earth Trust about several sheep dying after being chased into the river by a loose dog. I am sure that all Dorchester dog owners keep their dogs under control, but this just serves as a reminder that all animals, and people too, need to live in harmony with one another.

Ian Brace

Cover: Abbey Guest House by Gordon Roberts.



Deadline for October Dorchester News

email: dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

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Distribution Co-ordinator

Maurice Day

Copy Deadlines for Dorchester News

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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.

The end of September and beginning of October is the season in the Church's year when we celebrate harvest time, think about God's goodness to us and remember the work of the farmers who grow our food in the fields around us.

Therefore, it seems particularly appropriate, when our thoughts turn to giving thanks for what the land produces and how this might be shared with others, that, all being well, we will be welcoming visitors from South Africa who run the food project that the churches in the Dorchester Team support.

This project is based in the small community of Boegoeberg in the Oxford link Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman and undertakes to feed those pre-school children who had no guaranteed meal with one good meal a week. With our support this has been extended to three meals a

week. I hope that while Sarah, Susanna (Cheeks), Natalie and Theresa are here you will find an opportunity to meet with them and hear first-hand about what they are doing in their community.

Of course at this time of year we may be able to share with others surplus produce from our own gardens but for those of us not blessed with green fingers this probably means either buying groceries to donate or giving the cash. I wonder then how often we stop and think about how we spend our money. Maybe we feel we have barely enough to manage ourselves and there will have been families across this country who have struggled to feed their children during the holidays when there are no free school meals available.

Those of us who are more fortunate are able to donate to causes close to our hearts or raise money on their behalf.

This includes the churches in our communities, which depend on the generosity of parishioners to keep them open. Many other organisations also depend solely on such generosity and the RNLI springs to mind. You can now play an RNLI Lottery, an interesting development, and it made me wonder whether the possibility of winning a prize was a greater incentive than just donating to a good cause. For example, during the Olympics it was evident how dependent on profits from the National Lottery our successful athletes are but I am not sure if as much would have been raised directly.

Whatever our circumstances, we all have choices to make when using the resources we have, financial or otherwise, and harvest time seems a good opportunity to consider these once more.

From the Rector

I hope you have all enjoyed the summer and some relaxation and enjoyment as well as perhaps visiting another country. This month we will be rejoicing in our visitors from South Africa and I hope that you will have an opportunity to meet them. During the summer season many of you have given generously of your time baking and serving cakes in the tea room – without this income it would be impossible for us to keep up our annual charitable giving – and this year a number of charities have benefited directly by looking after the tea room for an afternoon. As Jennifer suggests above this kind of sharing of time and resources is a harvest of our talents and generosity!

Confirmation

The Bishop of Oxford will conduct a service of Confirmation in Dorchester Abbey at 10.30am on **Sunday 30 October**. If you would like to know more about being confirmed, please speak to your vicar. Amongst the candidates, it looks like there will be a number of young people so do contact the Abbey Office (**01865 340007** or **admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk**) or your vicar for details of the day of preparation we are doing.

Harvest Festival

This year our Harvest Festival will be an opportunity to celebrate the harvest of our own allotments and gardens and hear about some of the difficulties in producing fresh food in the allotment garden at the Burning Bush Project and in other parts of the world. The service will be followed by the Harvest lunch to which everyone is warmly invited. We are inviting you to continue the theme of celebrating the world's diversity by sharing dishes from across the world. We hope that our visitors may cook something for us – and that you might bring a dish from your own country or a country you have enjoyed visiting. It is not too late. Please pop into the Abbey to sign up so we know how many tables to put out.

South African visitors

We are very excited about the visit by key leaders of the Burning Bush Ministry, which provides food and hospitality to pre-school children in the village of Boegoeberg, South Africa.

Sarah, Susanna (Cheeks), Natalie and Teresa will be arriving on **Sunday 25 September** and leaving on **Monday 10 October**. This means that they will be able to join us at our Harvest Festival celebrations, and also visit the various lunch clubs, coffee mornings and mid-week services around the Dorchester Team. There will be some time for sight-seeing too - we will be showing them around Oxford, and taking them to London and the seaside.

The two Saturdays are also important. On the first of these, **Saturday 1 October**, we will be meeting to discuss the future of our link with the ministry. Since we first linked up three years ago a great deal of thinking has been put into ways in which the ministry can become self-supporting, an essential sustainability goal. It promises to be a fascinating day, with discussions around how best to meet the ever-increasing need of the ministry for food as it reaches out to more and more people, while at the same time having to deal with severe water restrictions which put pressure on its ability to grow food and hold livestock.

On the second Saturday, **8 October**, the visitors will be guests at a Diocesan event which will be looking at these issues of food and water security from a regional and international perspective.

All are warmly invited to all of the events.

New Bishop of Oxford

At the very end of September Steven Croft will begin his formal ministry in the Diocese (he is already legally the Bishop of Oxford) with a special service in the Cathedral. He is trying to meet as many people as possible across the Diocese and there will be a special service in the Abbey for our part of the Diocese on **Sunday 9 October** at 3.30pm - do come and meet him.



The Abbey's Narnia Exhibition Needs You!!!

22nd October to 22nd November 2016

Please help make the Abbey's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: Narnia Exhibition* a great success

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to be:

- 'Meeters and Greeters'
- School Visits Helpers
- Art/Craft Workshop Helpers
- *Dramatic Personae* (i.e. dressing up as a Narnia Character!)

Full guidance provided, so you don't need to be a Narnia expert – just enthusiastic!

For info or to offer help, please contact **Margaret Craig, the Abbey Education Officer:** education@dorchester-abbey.org.uk or tel. Mon/Tues 01865 343164

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Culham & District Horticultural Club

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

Wednesday 19 October 2016

'Oxford Botanic Garden: a plethora of plants'
An illustrated talk by Tom Price.



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

Dorchester Education Trust

This small Trust exists for the benefit of the young people of Dorchester up to the age of 25. The Trustees are keen to support young people with small grants that will make it possible for them to do something that they might otherwise have found difficult or that will stretch them. Examples of past grants have been to the school to support a particular piece of work or a visit and to individuals to help with the cost of travelling or studying. If you think we can help you please write to the Trustees c/o The Rectory, 10 Manor Farm Road or speak to one of the Trustees: Sue Booy, Rebecca Slingsby, Gerry Wells, Malcom Lucas and Sarah Gauden or to the clerk, Richard Winslet.

This will be a joint effort between Hayley Poole and Jill Love. Hayley is going to take over writing the W.I. News for Dorchester. Jill wishes her every success and hopes that the readers will enjoy her monthly contributions.

Summer Tearooms: Thank you everybody for your support; we raised £439.40 in total over two Sunday afternoons. Some of this money will help keep our institute solvent and help to make our programmes interesting by paying for exciting and fascinating speakers.

On 8 September, Kate Lace gave an amusing talk entitled '*From Guns and Roses to Hearts and Flowers*'. A retired army captain, she turned from guns, and peace keeping to being chair of the Romantic Novelist Association. She has published several books of a risqué nature and other novels based on her life in the army, under her own name and three other pen names.

Thursday 6 October at 7.30pm. Shillingford Group Meeting for members only. Dorchester on Thames W.I. is hosting this event, the speaker will be Colin Oakes, entitled '*Gutsy Women, A History of Women's Achievements in London*'.

This grouping includes members from Wallingford, Warborough & Shillingford, Benson, Berinsfield, Clifton Hampden & Burcot and ourselves. Members willing to give help on the afternoon to set up the hall and to help prepare food, please contact Susan Jupp on **341066** or Pauline Kenway-Jackson on **340746**. This would be greatly appreciated.

Thursday 13 October at 2.30pm in the Village Hall, Elizabeth Parker will give a talk entitled '*Love in a Box- the Shoebox Charity*'. Do please come and hear about this charity as so many of you annually fill shoeboxes with gifts for children near and far.

Thursday 10 November at 2.30pm in the Dorchester Guest House, Martin Sirot-Smith will talk about '*Sulgrave Manor and the Washingtons*'. This should be an interesting talk, Sulgrave Manor is a great place to visit and children would enjoy it as well. The Washington flag formed the basis of the American Flag, more stars were added later representing the States of the USA.

Continued in next column...



Pre-School News

The new term promises to be as busy as ever with plans for music sessions, PE at 'big' school, mini beast nature trails, Harvest Festival and Halloween. The theme for the term is 'Mini Beasts' so we'll be getting up close to some creepy crawlies! We're focussing on numbers 1 to 10 and letters A to F, our shape is the square and our colours are the colours of autumn. We hope to be outside as much as we can in the newly tidied garden and play area.

It's been lovely to welcome some new children to pre-school this term. There are still places available now and starting throughout the year. For information or to arrange a visit please contact manager Helen Morris on manager@dorchesterpreschool.co.uk or call the Pre School on **01856 341805**.

**** Pre-school parents - a date for your diaries - the Pre-School AGM is on Thursday 13 October **** Please come along to support your pre school and have your say. The Pre-School is a charity run by a committee of volunteers, mostly parents of children at the pre-school. We warmly welcome volunteers to join the committee to help keep this wonderful pre-school running. See you there!

Louisa Margison (on behalf of Mathew Kestner - Pre School Chair)

WI continued

Thursday 8 December at 2.30p.m. in the Village Hall, our Christmas Tea Party and Christmas crackers.

Ladies aged 18 and over are very welcome to this friendly gathering. We are still looking for more members to join the Committee and to take on some of the responsibilities of running a W.I.

Finally, the Committee and members would like to thank Jill Love for all her hard work & time at the Dorchester W.I. and wish her all the best for her new work at Sandford.

We look forward to meeting you at our meetings.

Chiropodist

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

20 October

For an appointment, Jo Bennett,
07903 133469
Cost £15

Village News

St Birinus School News



As I write this on the first week of term, it is very exciting to see the school

continue to grow and this year, we welcome the following children to our school – in Hedgehog Class; Anushka, Mikey, Tobith, Freddie, Tre, Alfie, Maximus, Juvanita, Layla, Cressida, Poppy, Zachary and Maya; in Fox Class; Daniel and Morgan and in Owl Class; Tom and Jake. It is great to have them with us.

Our term started with a crime scene being described in assembly about a mystery person who had broken into a family home, where the person had eaten the family's food, broken their chair and bed. I had several pieces of evidence to share with the children; these included three different sized bowls, a wooden chair and a pillow. Who could the mystery burglar be? You have probably worked out the crime scene was based on the story of Goldilocks and the three bears – the children did! This assembly was the start of a two-week topic of work for each class as they explored this traditional tale and different versions of the story in their work.

The time is approaching when parents of children preparing to start school are selecting their school (closing date for applications is **15 January 2017**). With this in mind, we are holding our Open Morning at 9:30am on **14 October 2016** for a chance for prospective parents to come and see the school in action.

It has been a great year for the school, starting with receiving the Good rating from Ofsted, increasing the classes from three to four. This has enabled us to provide more dedicated teaching time to the Foundation children as they start their school journey with us. Added to this is our recent success in our SATS results, which were higher than Oxfordshire and National averages for our Year 6 children (well done to them!). We would love to share all this and allow our children to share their work throughout the school, so I hope you will be able to come and visit us. Invitations will be sent out with further details. However if you require any additional information or would like to visit at a different time, please phone the school (**340081**).

Russell Leigh

Headteacher

Dorchester St Birinus CE Primary School



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Dorchester on Thames Historical Society Wednesday 26 October 2016 7.30pm Village Hall

Professor Malcolm Airs will speak on '*Barns, Bridges and Bay Windows*'.

Will you recognise where these are in Dorchester?
Come and find out.

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

Gail Thomas
Chairman



Hempcroft Allotment News



On Thursday 22 September the Dorchester Allotment Society AGM was held. This copy of Dorchester News will have arrived in most people's letterbox after 22 September. A full report on the AGM will be in the next edition but this is a reminder to those who could not attend the AGM that their annual Society subscription (£5) is due plus the rent for their plot. In addition seed catalogues can be collected from Mark Townson at 26 High Street.

On a recent Sunday evening one of the plot holders saw a dog scampering about the allotments near his plot. The owner of the dog was there but was not in control of the dog. When she was asked to put the dog on a lead she said that the dog was not doing any harm. When it was pointed out to her that the dog was disturbing a recently planted seed bed she still said that her dog was not doing any harm and would not control the dog. Can I remind people that the Hempcroft allotments are private property and the area is not a general exercise yard for dogs. The allotments are used to grow food for human consumption and this usage and dog shit do not mix. There are two public rights of way across the allotments and dogs should be restricted to these paths and kept on leads. I am sure that responsible dog owners and Allotment Society members can co-exist if people recognise their obligations to others.

Edward Metcalfe



'Newcomers' Welcome / Information Evening Tuesday 18 October

On **Tuesday 18 October** the Parish Council is holding an event in the Village Hall which, although open to all, is particularly aimed at those who have moved to the village since March 2014. Clubs and Societies are encouraged to promote their activities (free of charge) to these recently arrived residents as a way of attracting new members. Complimentary light refreshments will be served from 7.00 p.m. until 9.00 p.m.

Sale of Pat Owen's work

There will be a sale of Pat Owen's work on **Saturday 1 October** (12.00 to 5.00pm) and **Sunday 2 October** (12.00 to 4.00pm) at 7 Queens Close.

Marcus Braybrooke's book *Meeting Jews*

Now available as a kindle-ebook.

For the Jewish New Year the book is free from October 3-7.



Meeting Jews introduces the reader to Jews and to the Jewish world. This wide ranging book explains what it means to be Jewish and tells the story of British Jews. The reader is welcomed into a Jewish home and to a synagogue.

The causes of the Holocaust, Christian responsibility, Stories of Righteous Gentiles and Jewish answers to the question, 'Where was God?' are discussed.

The story of Zionism, the creation of the state of Israel, its growth and its struggles, and what Israel means to Jews are told.

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- 13th & 20th September
Create magic snowflakes
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Find out more or book a school visit:

www.dorchesterabbey.org.uk education@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

*This event celebrates the 60th anniversary of the publication of
The Chronicles of Narnia*

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www.narnia.com www.facebook.com/TheChroniclesofNarnia

Autumn Flower Show

What a great show that was. As you would expect from a gathering including many gardeners, no-one was put off by the rain on the day and a good crowd turned up to view 280 entries from more than 60 entrants. The hall looked stunning, and the fruits of all this lovely autumn sunshine were very much in evidence. It was especially good to see more children entering the show, including many entries from St Birinus Primary School.

The committee would like to thank all those who entered and who helped to make the show such a success. Special thanks this year to our new committee member, Candy, and to Dan Duke for his publicity work.

The committee

Children's Classes Prizewinners

Category	Age	Winners
Drawing of Mummy or Daddy	Under 5	1st: Delilah Budd
A vegetable monster	5 to 8	1st= Fern Andersson, Theo Beaman, Milo Budd, Alistair Mucklow, Cary Sadler, Florence Townson
Design a book cover	9-15	1st Judith Biju, 2nd Tabitha Gauden, 3rd Katie Newport. Highly commended: Leona Shijo, Lilli Talbot, Charlie Talbot, Megan Sadler, Abbie Sullivan-Webb, Tom Smith, Amelie White

Adult Trophy Winners

Runner Bean Plate	John and Margot Metcalfe
Pat Cheese Potato Cup	Charles Dickerson
Vegetable Collection Plate	Donna Watkin
R Belcher Onion Cup	Roger Seabrook
Best Vegetable Award	Jenny Trinder
Fruit Plate	Donna Watkin
Best Kept Allotment Tray	Mr and Mrs Ireson
Blackwell Photography Cup	Richard Juniper
Jerry Nudds Fruit Cake Plate	Stuart Poole
Victoria Sandwich Award	Vera Baker
Rose Plate	Steph Forman
H C Smith Dahlia Cup	Jenny Nudds
Floral Art Cup	Hayley Poole
Britain in Bloom Cup – most points in flower classes	Janet Delaine
Amey Tankard – gentleman with most points in show	Nick Forman
Amey Rose Bowl – lady with most points in the show	Donna Watkin



Richard Juniper with the Blackwell Photography Cup. His winning entry can be seen on page 15



Harmony in the Forman household, as Steph takes home the Rose Plate and Nick the Amey Tankard.

Thanks go to Richard Juniper and David Wilkinson who contributed photographs for this page.

A Pantomime by Ben Crocker

Aladdin

The DADS Panto

Dorchester Village Hall
7 Queen Street
OX10 7HR

Wednesday 7pm - Children (under 12) £5 / Adults £ 8
Thurs & Fri 7pm - Children (under 12) £7 / Adults £10
Saturday 4.30pm - Children (under 12) £7 / Adults £10

Tickets available from:

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Email:- tickets@dads.org.uk

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30th Nov - 3rd Dec 2016

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Earth Trust October events

Autumn Water Festival

Sunday 2 October, 11am-4pm

Join us for our annual autumnal celebration of water and wetlands! See web for full details. £6 adult, £3 child, £15 family. Book online (incurs a booking fee) at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson or pay on the gate.

Blacksmithing

Sunday 9 October, 10am-5.15pm

Make your own ironwork object using a forge and anvil. 45min sessions with Cobalt Blacksmiths; participants must be over 18yrs. £20; booking essential: 01865 407792 or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Mud Pie Monday!

Monday 24 October, 10am-11.30am

Come and get messy in the Earth Trust mud kitchen – buckets of mud and buckets of fun! Wellies and waterproofs advisable. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

Tree Climbing

Monday 24 October, 10am-5pm

Use ropes and harnesses to access the treetops in Little Wittenham Wood! 1hr sessions with The Great Big Tree Climbing Company; minimum age 6yrs (no maximum!). £20 per participant; booking essential: 01865 407792 or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson.

Build a Bat Box

Tuesday 25 October, 10.30am-3pm

Help bats prepare for hibernation by making a shelter to put in your garden. Two sessions available: 10.30am-12pm and 1.30pm-3pm. £15 per box; booking essential: 01865 407792 or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Woodland Adventure

Wednesday 26 October, 10am-12pm

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

Wildlife Wednesday at Wallingford Castle Meadows

Wednesday 26 October, 2pm-4pm

Our roving Wildlife Wednesday visits a different Earth Trust community nature reserve during each school holiday. This half term, come out and play at Abbey Fishponds (OX14 3UB); learn about local wildlife and have lots of outdoor fun! £2 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free; no need to book.

Family Bushcraft

Thursday 27 October, 10am-4pm

Bring the whole family and go wild in the great outdoors! Explore the woods, make shelters and learn how to light a fire and use a knife safely. £20 adult, £15 child; booking essential: 01865 407792 or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Hurst Water Meadow Trust News

Autumn / winter land management and volunteering:

We are now well into our autumn / winter land management programme. This will be our third year of rotational management where we aim to spread our management load to create different habitats. Take a close look at willows and you will see examples of new growth, mature trees and dead stumps covered with fungi. This is all part of our strategy to increase biodiversity and variety on our lands for all to enjoy. From the economic side it also helps us spread our costs.

We have a small active band of volunteers moving around the meadows and a good working relationship with Sonning Common Green Gym. We would love a few more people to join in and help us. So if you are looking for a gentle (or not so gentle!) workout in our 'green gym', the opportunity to learn traditional skills, find out about local wildlife, gain fresh air in all weather conditions, and enjoy friendly company, then why not give conservation volunteering a go.

Take a look at the section of our website specific to volunteering. You'll find details about our plans and may recognise some people you know:

<http://www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk/volunteers.html>

How we are managing financially:

One of our farming grants worth £1,900 p.a. and an education grant, which was worth £1,800 at our last claim, ended on 31st July 2016. We are trying to negotiate a follow-on grant for five years which would start on 1 January 2017, but there are no guarantees and plenty of red tape to get through and rules to follow. We probably won't know if we've been successful until later this year.

Our accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 can be downloaded from our website (www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk).

Trying to balance the books from year to year is not easy in these times of uncertainty. If you would like to make a donation to the Trust your generosity would be greatly appreciated.

Gillian Johnson
Honorary Secretary
01865 340925

Andrew Clements
Honorary Treasurer
01865 340753

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

Earth Trust continued

Discover and Play

Friday 28 October, 10am-12pm

Forest School for the under-5s. Join the Earth Trust for a morning of play and discovery in our woodlands. Forest School offers hands on learning experiences in a natural environment. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

Spooky Dusk Discovery Walk

Sunday 30 October, 5.30pm-7.30pm

If you go down to the woods tonight, you're sure of a big surprise! Come and explore Little Wittenham Wood at twilight. Don't forget your torch. £5 adult, £2 child; 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.

Football Results North Berks League

Division 2

03/09/2016	Kintbury	1	3	Dorchester
	Rangers Res			
10/09/2016	Harwell Village	P	P	Dorchester

Division 4

10/09/2016	Hagbourne United	1	3	Dorchester Reserves
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Hft Christmas Concert

7.30pm Thursday 8 December

Join learning disability charity Hft on **8 December** in the historic **Dorchester Abbey** for this much loved festive event. The beautiful Abbey will be bathed in the glow of over 1,000 tea lights, as we enjoy festive music performed by the wonderful Magdalen College Choir and some wonderful readings. This year we are delighted to announce that our readers will be the actor Martin Clunes, OBE and actress Caroline Catz*. Martin is a Patron of Hft and is best known for portraying Martin Ellingham in the ITV drama series Doc Martin and Gary Strang in *Men Behaving Badly*. Caroline is best known for her role as Louisa Glasson in Doc Martin, starring alongside Martin Clunes and for her role as Detective Inspector Helen Morton in DCI Banks.

Tickets will include a programme and we would be delighted to invite you to join us for some festive mulled wine and mince pies in the Abbey after the concert.

All proceeds from the event will go towards supporting our Bytes Catering Course at our service in Milton Heights, Oxfordshire. This course provides individually designed training, in 'bite size' modules, in catering and hospitality for which graduates receive recognised qualifications and experience from taking part in a work placement.

*work commitments permitting.

Tickets are available at: <http://bit.ly/Hft-Christmas>
or : **0117 906 1767**

Cricket Results Oxford Cricket Association



Division 4

		Result
20/08/2016	Swinbrook v Dorchester	Dorchester win by 112 runs
03/09/2016	Minster Lovell II v Dorchester	Match abandoned
10/09/2016	Dorchester v Risinghurst	Match abandoned

Division 8

		Result
20/08/2016	Dorchester II v Risinghurst II	Risinghurst II win by 9 wickets
27/08/2016	Dorchester II v Chalgrove	Dorchester II win by 7 wickets
03/09/2016	Dorchester II v Eynsham II	Match abandoned

Final tables for 2016 season

Division 4

	P	W	L	NR	Bat-ting	Bowl-ing	Points	Total	Runs/Wkt
Risinghurst	18	11	3	4	54	62	240	356	24
Watlington	18	11	5	2	57	64	230	351	17
Swinbrook	18	9	8	1	58	76	185	319	21
Sunningwell	18	9	6	3	55	63	195	313	22
West Ilsley	18	7	7	4	54	56	160	270	28
Uffington	18	7	8	3	44	50	155	249	16
Minster Lovell II	18	6	8	4	49	56	140	245	19
Dorchester	18	6	8	4	48	54	140	242	24
Deddington	18	5	10	3	42	52	115	209	18
Hailey	18	4	12	2	37	38	90	100 *	15

Division 8

	P	W	L	NR	Bat-ting	Bowl-ing	Points	Total	Runs/Wkt
Eynsham II	14	9	1	4	47	53	200	300	25
Stanton Har-court II	14	9	2	3	40	52	195	287	19
Risinghurst II	14	8	4	2	39	54	170	263	19
Chalgrove	14	6	6	2	29	51	130	190 *	14
Marcham II	14	4	8	2	28	39	90	157	15
Dorchester II	14	4	9	1	30	41	85	156	14
Sunningwell II	14	4	9	1	24	40	85	149	13
Chadlington II	14	4	9	1	33	35	85	123 *	21

* Points amended for irregularities.

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*The photograph that won Richard Juniper the Blackwell Photography Cup at the Autumn Flower Show.
It is of Disraeli's church at Hughenden Manor.*



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Focus on... Featherstone Robson

If you go for a drink at The George and sit in the corner of the bar between the High Street and the archway you'll see a picture of the rear of The George from the 1920s. This month's 'Focus on...' is not about a club, institution or building in Dorchester, but is about the artist who painted that picture; an artist who was a best seller in his day and who put pictures of Dorchester into homes around the country. He was Featherstone Robson, and was one of the most prolific and popular artists of his day. And yet relatively little is known about him.

If he is known at all these days, it is for his series of prints of scenes around England, sold, usually in a neat black frame, in many leading department stores throughout the 1920s. I remember a print of a pen and ink drawing of Big Ben in my home when I was a boy, hanging in

the dining room, and have always been fascinated by who the artist was. Most of his prints, including this one, were just signed 'F Robson', as were the mounts they were in together with title, but they were written by someone in the office, not by him. I didn't know until recently what the 'F' stood for, so what a treat, then, to find out that his name was the very distinctive 'Featherstone' (although to my disappointment I also learned he was often referred to as 'Fred' for simplicity) and that his collection included at least three pictures of Dorchester. That is how many I have been able to track down so far, but there is no definitive list of his work, so there could be more.

Robson was a Geordie, born in Hexham, Northumberland in 1880. At age 13 he became an apprentice to a 'Harness, Leather and Rubber' manufacturer in



Robson's *The George, Dorchester* hangs in The George, Dorchester.



South Shields, and the following year enrolled at the South Shields School of Art. Although he finished his apprenticeship as a harness maker he never took it up as a profession, preferring instead to turn to his art to make a living. In 1897, at just 17, he moved to London, where he became a printer and engraver, initially with The Strand Engraving Company. (He went on to work for Waterlow and Sons and for Carl Hentschel.) But the following year he was back in South Shields, and taking evening classes in art at the Westoe Road Higher Grade Science & Art School. He clearly impressed, because the school offered him a job as an Assistant Teacher two years later. Soon after, he had two paintings exhibited at the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1905.

In 1910 he and his fiancée emigrated to Canada, marrying in Vancouver the following year. Over the next couple of years he exhibited his work in Seattle, Chicago and New York. In 1915, then resident in Chicago, they moved back to England, despite there being a war on, where we find him working for engraving and printing firms once again, including John Swain and Son, whose works were in Barnet, and who went on to produce many posters for London Transport. As well as working as an engraver, he continued his own art, in 1918 exhibiting at the Royal Oil Institute and working as a freelance on drawings of jewellery for Liberty & Co, and exhibiting at the Royal Academy in 1923.

In 1922, he was commissioned to paint a series of English Cathedrals for William Haigh and Sons of Southall, which appears to have started him on the series for which he is now best known. Over the next eight years he completed over 300 drawings and paintings of cathedrals, churches, villages, inns, mills and country scenes, mostly for William Haigh. These would generally be in their black frames, to be sold in department stores around the country, but the Co-operative Society did their own framing and these prints carried the Co-op name. It is reported that in 1926 Pontings store in Kensington sold 151,000 copies of his *York Minster* alone. (That explains why there is almost always a copy of *York Minster* for sale on ebay.) For those who remember the ubiquitous Boot's Green Girl of the 1960s, she was a direct descendant of this type of mass art.

Robson travelled the country by train and bus (he never learned to drive) to depict the cathedrals for Haigh & Sons, from Truro to Winchester to York and beyond. His rural scenes seem to be more limited geographically. There is a cluster of them in Hertfordshire. He lived in Barnet for some years and there are prints of Barnet, St Albans, Ware and others and then another cluster in Buckinghamshire: High Wycombe, Beaconsfield, Chalfont St Giles,.

It is known that he took a holiday in Abingdon in 1928, staying at what is now The Mill Hotel, at the time The Nags Head, and his six prints of Abingdon almost certainly date from that visit. It would also seem likely that his three drawings of Dorchester could well have been made at that time. So as you look at the print in *The George*, you are probably looking at how Dorchester was nearly 90 years ago.

The scenes certainly can't be much more recent than that because in 1930 Robson emigrated again to Canada, this time settling in



Toronto, finding work with *The Toronto Star*. His family joined him when he had made sufficient money for their fares. After five years, though, they wanted to move back to England. Robson found a job with Odhams in Watford and his wife and family moved back ahead of him in May 1936, expecting him to follow at the end of August. But on the day before he was due to sail he was operated on for a strangulated hernia and died in hospital, aged 55. He never saw his family, or the scenes of England he had so widely drawn and painted, again.

There are other artists who have painted scenes of and around Dorchester, of course, including Cecil Aldin and JWM Turner (*Thames and Isis (Dorchester Mead) Oxfordshire, 1808*) to name just two. We don't know how many copies of Robson's Dorchester prints were sold; not as many as *York Minster* that's for sure, but they do turn up on ebay from time to time so they must have sold reasonably well. And it seems unlikely that any painter was responsible for so many depictions of Dorchester hanging in the nation's living rooms throughout much of the 20th century as was Featherstone Robson.

He may not have been one of the great artists of the 20th Century, but he introduced many people to some of England's iconic scenes, including those three pictures of Dorchester. Yet now he is so forgotten that he doesn't even have a Wikipedia entry!

Ian Brace

Main source of information is: *An Artist Remembered, Featherstone Robson 1880-1936* by Leonard Franchetti



Golf and Social

'DOGS on Tour 2016' In September we went to the Bell at Bramshaw, a very nice hotel with two golf courses. Sunday afternoon we played The Manor Course, an established parkland layout with trees everywhere and hazards where you least expect them. We were told that this is the harder of the two so we were expecting an easier time the next morning. Dinner was our usual enjoyable and noisy social event where we met up with the non-golfers who had gone to the seaside. Monday morning it was the turn of The Forest Course. This was something of a surprise. For a start it has less trees than The Manor Course, but it is full of free-roaming New Forest ponies. There are local rules for these animals and their deposits, which is just as well as the course is extremely well fertilised. However, much fun and hilarity ensued. A great event all round



DOGS News



Golf

Friday 28 October

Our final outing for 2016 and the decider for many competitions, but it's open for anyone who wants to play at **Badgemore Park Golf Club**. The golf course is always in great condition and it has a number of 'interesting' holes. We keep the results of the **Andy Kent Memorial Trophy**, our 'champion of champions' season-long competition secret until the DOGS Dinner

Social

Friday 4 November

The highlight of our social season, the **DOGS Dinner** to be held in **The White Hart Hotel**. We dress up for the occasion, black tie or smart jacket and tie for men, but it's always a great laugh. Many of the attendees don't play golf they just come along for a fun night out. Perhaps we ought to remind people that DOGS is a social society that also plays golf. Many supporters attend only social events. Come and see for yourself..

Now on to 2017, details of next year's events will be published early in the New Year.

For more information and bookings call Mike and Jan Rimmer **01865 343719**



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On the morning of 8 September several animals were pulled from the River Thames after being chased in by a loose dog. Five had already drowned and a sixth succumbed to shock and water inhalation overnight. Church Meadow, at the foot of the Wittenham Clumps, is currently being grazed by around 200 sheep and 25 cows, and owners are urged to keep their dogs on leads when passing through this field.

'It's very distressing to see animals killed in this way, especially when the accident was completely avoidable. There are signs at every entrance to the meadow asking dog owners to keep their dogs on a lead whilst sheep are in this field. This is the second time in a week that sheep have been pulled from the river after being chased by dogs and, sadly, this time there were tragic consequences,' said Chris Parker, Farm Manager at the Earth Trust.

The flock is owned by shepherd Emma Blomfield, one of the Trust's Farm Step tenants. She has only recently relocated her business to the Earth Trust Farm and was shocked to receive the phone call reporting the incident.

Six sheep die - charity urges dog owner awareness

Six sheep were killed on 8 September when they were forced into the water by a dog on the Earth Trust Farm in Little Wittenham, and now the charity is urging owners to keep their dogs on a lead around livestock.

'I'm absolutely gutted. The sheep have been so happy grazing in Church Meadow over the last week - I've often found them hiding in the bushes and exploring the scrub. I'm devastated to have lost so many animals in one day' said Emma.

Sheep are naturally flighty animals and are easily spooked by dogs - this is not a problem when the dog is on a lead, as the sheep will stop running when they realise they're not being chased, however, if the dog is off the lead then it's another matter.

Emma continued: 'It's not the dog's fault, I like dogs, but owners need to be more vigilant when walking through livestock as situations with even the most well-behaved dog can escalate quickly.

Please, please keep your dog on a lead around sheep and other animals.'

The rest of the flock will remain on Church Meadow for a short while longer and during this time dog walkers are asked to respect the request. The sheep are moved around the farm to graze on different wildflower meadows throughout the year, providing vital habitat management along with a viable lamb business. The flock are Emma's livelihood and, as well as being extremely distressing, the incident has cost her upwards of £500.

Chris explained: 'Grazing is a critical part of the management for the meadow, as it helps to keep it in the best condition for wildflowers to flourish, so it's important we graze these meadows with sheep. The sheep can't just be relocated to another field with no public access. It's only for a short period of the year that we need to graze this field and for this time we simply ask that dogs be kept on a lead when people are walking here. There are plenty of opportunities to allow your dog off the lead on other parts of the farm.'



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Unitary debate

There have been reports suggesting that proposals for reform of local government in Oxfordshire are off the table due to the lack of agreement between the city and district councils, and the county. The government wants us to proceed by consensus where possible, and OCC hopes that the debate is not over – particularly when a new compromise proposal has been put forward which has yet to be fully discussed. With £200,000 spent on two independent reports, and with **both reports** showing that **savings in excess of £100m** are possible over a five-year time period through a single strategic authority for Oxfordshire, it is in everybody's interest that the debate continues.

Libraries Minister sees 'great example' at Bicester

I was delighted to welcome the Minister for Civil Society, Rob Wilson MP, to our flagship county council library at Bicester on August 23. This brand new library offers a wide range of council services and activities, and has attracted more than 2,000 new members since opening in April. Plans to expand Oxfordshire's Home Library Service and joining up services 'under one roof' were among the hot topics discussed during this fact-finding visit from Rob Wilson who has recently taken over responsibility for libraries.

Heralded as a 'great example' by Mr Wilson, Bicester exemplifies an emerging identity for Oxfordshire's libraries as focal points for a broad range of services, help and advice. The council recently announced plans to expand its Home Library Service so that people with mobility problems who can't get to a library can have books and other items delivered to their door by local volunteers.

SODC Local Plan Consultation**Chalgrove Airfield**

The selection of Chalgrove Airfield as SODC's preferred option as a strategic site for housing appears attractive because it is not in the Green Belt. However, the site has significant drawbacks in terms of infrastructure due to the lack of transport links. While not insurmountable these would be very costly to provide. 3,500 houses on the airfield would relieve the pressure on other local communities to come up with site options.

Culham Science Centre

The County Council's response to the Plan is lengthy. In summary with relation to this area it states: 'Oxfordshire County Council supports a focus on growth within Science Vale, which is the area concentrated around the three science parks at Harwell Campus, Culham Science Centre, and Milton Park, which also include two enterprise zones and at the centre of which is Didcot.

Although many of the opportunities for growth in that area have already been identified, additional growth at Culham Science Centre would help reinforce the Science Vale focus, deliver a sustainable community, and deliver jobs and infrastructure to benefit the wider area. The current development proposal for Culham could be an international exemplar for sustainable communities, fit well with the emerging Didcot Garden Town and enable more success for the Science Vale.' The planned new road from Didcot, the river crossing and a Clifton Hampden bypass would be viable prospects if such a vision was adopted.

Berinsfield

I have always supported the regeneration of Berinsfield and wholeheartedly support the District Council's work to assess potential options for new housing that could provide improved community facilities for the village. Just how many homes would be required will need to be balanced against the plans that are eventually agreed for Culham.

Oxfordshire Comet: the new bookable transport service

Several communities in my Division are already taking up this new OCC service and I would encourage those who have not yet done so to investigate whether it would be a good thing for their residents too. The Oxfordshire Comet is a not for profit, bookable transport service for those who can't access suitable public transport. It can be booked for any type of trip. The service is available 10.15am - 2.30pm Monday to Friday (not Bank Holidays). It uses vehicles that normally take children to school and adults to day care centres. Because OCC owns these vehicles, the Council only has to cover running costs, meaning charges are low for passengers. More information at: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/oxfordshire-comet>

Residents can get their electric blankets checked free

Now is the time for residents to book their blanket in for a free check in October. Oxfordshire County Council's Fire & Rescue Service and Trading Standards are urging electric blanket owners to get their blankets tested free of charge ahead of the approaching colder months.

Testing electric blankets annually is important as all electrical systems have the potential to go wrong. In 2015 a total of 22 per cent of the electric blankets failed the safety test and were declared unsafe to use. Testing is by pre-booked appointment only, strictly on a first come, first served basis. Residents should call Trading Standards on **01865 815000** option 4 to arrange an appointment or email communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Choose and deliver books to those who cannot get to a library...

As reported above, OCC has launched a new campaign appealing for home library service volunteers to help less able people in their community by choosing and delivering books to those who cannot get to a library.

Who benefits? Anyone who cannot get to a library, including the elderly and many disabled people across Oxfordshire who need a volunteer to bring library services to their door. They need a friendly face who can stop by once every three weeks to bring them some new books or CDs and stop for a little chat.

Home Library Service

Is the home library service really so important? Yes – the home library service brings entertainment, pleasure and human contact to people, where they may otherwise have none.

Could you spare a little time? Schedules can work around you and you can organise the drop off times directly with the people you deliver to. Expenses are reimbursed and you can do as many or as few journeys as you wish.

Visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homelibrary or contact your local library to find out

about volunteering for the home library service and helping people near you.

Gracie, 76, Faringdon – volunteer
'I sat down and imagined how I'd feel if I was totally housebound. I know the importance of having literature and company in my life now I'm living alone, ... It's fulfilling and very rewarding. The ladies I deliver to are keen to chat and talk about the authors and the plots.'

Edna, 88, Banbury – service user
'The Home Library Service means a lot to me, it's a real lifeline. Having reached this age of 88, I hadn't realised how alone you are...It makes me appreciate the Home Library Service more than ever.'

A new way of contacting the Parish Council

With immediate effect the telephone number of the Parish Council is **07745 311439**. The Council considers that it is no longer appropriate for the Clerk's private telephone number to be used for contacting the Parish Council. The new number will accept text messages and residents are encouraged to use texting whenever possible. A voicemail service will be available when the Parish Office is not attended. If the Clerk is away the telephone will be monitored by another member of the Council. (For email see below)

October Meeting of the Parish Council

The October meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Wednesday 12 October** in the back room of the Village Hall starting at 7.30 p.m. The agenda will be displayed on village notice boards and on the village website

- www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk - at least three clear days in advance. All are welcome to attend and, at the beginning of the meeting, may raise any matter of concern.

Attention Village Clubs & Societies:

'Newcomers' Welcome / Information Evening

On **Tuesday 18 October** the Parish Council is holding an event in the Village Hall which, although open to all, is particularly aimed at those who have moved to the Village since March 2014. Clubs and Societies are encouraged to promote their activities (free of charge) to these recently arrived residents as a way of attracting new members. Complimentary light refreshments will be served from 7.00 p.m. until 9.00 p.m.

The Parish Council's Village Clubs & Societies master contact list has been updated for this occasion. Residents who are unable to attend on 18 October should contact the Clerk to receive a copy; the information will also be displayed on notice boards and at www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk. As a matter of routine, all Clubs and Societies should inform the Clerk whenever there is a change to their contacts. Any new group that wishes to be included on the list should apply to the Clerk.

New Village Notice Boards

The new notice boards have been funded by donations made in memory of the late Ethel Higgins, who was universally regarded as a wonderful source of all village information.

The capacity of the new notice boards is 18 x A4 sheets outside the Co-Op (an increase in the available space) and 12 x A4 sheets outside the Village Hall (much the same as before). Demand for space often exceeds availability and so organisations wishing to display information should try to limit the size of their notices to A5 rather than A4. They should place the notice behind the door on the left (this is not locked) and, if the content conforms to the requirement that it relates to local, non-commercial activities, it will be allowed to remain on the board and, if space is available, moved to the locked area.

Please do not use staples. Drawing pins are provided. Since the boards are enclosed, there is no need for notices to be covered in plastic.

Commercial notices are not allowed and they will be removed. Businesses wishing to communicate with village residents should advertise in 'Dorchester News'.

Cemetery Recovery Project

Parish Council Chairman Chris Hill has been leading a project to tidy the area along the boundary of the Cemetery with Page Furlong. This has been grass seeded and now additional volunteers are needed to assist the Council to make further progress. The tasks include removing rogue root growth, persistent stinging nettles, weeds and other debris from the area that has been seeded. Chris would like to gather a group together at 10.00 a.m. on **Saturday 22 October**. All are welcome – the more the better. Please bring some hand tools and protective gloves etc.

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 Please note new direct line for calls and texting **07745 311439** The e-mail is

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

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

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Supper Clubs

return to Dorchester Abbey Guest House

14 and 15 October 2016

2 and 3 of December 2016

Local chef Claire Andersson is back hosting two themed Supper Clubs this autumn, this time over both a Friday and Saturday evening to increase the number of tickets available.

The first on the 14 and 15 October is an Italian themed evening 'La Dolce Vita' using some very special ingredients sourced directly from Italy. Priced at £35 you will enjoy a fizz cocktail with canapés, three delicious courses followed by coffee and biscotti.

The second on the 2nd and 3rd of December is the "Julbord – Swedish Christmas Table" back for the third year running. This unique evening offers a fantastic selection of traditional Swedish Christmas food cooked to family recipes and washed down with a glass or two of Swedish snaps. Priced also at £35 per head for a glass of fizz, three courses and coffee and chocolates.

You may bring your own wine, although there is a wine recommendation available to purchase on the night.

Tickets need to be booked in advance by email to Claire@claireandersson.co.uk. You are welcome to book as an individual, couple or group of friends and enjoy an evening of good company and delicious home-cooked food in the historic surroundings of the Dorchester Abbey Guest House.

See website www.claireandersson.co.uk for menus and details.

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Dorchester News online

Remember that Dorchester News is available to download
from the Abbey website each month (go to the homepage at:
www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk and click on Dorchester
News) and from the village website (go to www.dorchester-on-thames.co.uk
and click on the Dorchester News tab).

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Neighbourhood Development Plan October update

Although August is often in the peak of the holiday season, the Neighbourhood Development Steering group have been hard at it. The long awaited response to our Draft NDP came at the start of August and provided what was, on the whole, positive feedback. There were changes suggested by SODC but these were mainly with the wording and emphasis of the Policies (basically the specific Planning considerations to be applied to any developments proposed in Dorchester).

You may recall that these Policies cover the Historic Environment (including archaeology and conservation), the Natural Environment (wildlife and biodiversity), Housing and Building, the Economy and Tourism and Leisure. It was decided that in order to focus on each of these areas individual members of the group would meet SODC to discuss any specific changes that we should make in order to ensure the policies are sufficiently robust to meet the high standards expected by the Planning Inspector when our final document is presented to him later in the autumn. These meetings took place throughout August and following any amendments are being brought together in a final draft document in October. Then, the process of examination by the Planning Inspector could take another 8 weeks, and if successful, as we hope, will then lead on to the referendum where everyone in the village will have a chance to have their say by voting on acceptance of the NDP. This is now likely to be early in 2017. Once the whole process is complete it will provide us with the authority to assess all planning applications to ensure they adhere to those policies.

More next month.

Chris Hill
Chairman Parish Council

🔥RIDE+STRIDE= 2016



The annual Ride and Stride event on behalf of the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust took place on 10 September, when participants visited as many churches as they could.

Unfortunately the weather was not as kind as it might have been and here we see one participant sheltering under the lychgate at Dorchester Abbey. He was well prepared for the rain, though, and remained amazingly cheerful.



This month we would like to share a story about the convoluted ways in which fundraising for small charities happens and philanthropic connections are made! We had a wonderful local photographer come and take photos of our children at The Footsteps Centre. Cheryl George gave her time and talent for free, to create wonderful images like the one below for us to use on our website and brochures.

(<http://cherylgeorgephotography.com/>)



A few months later, Cheryl moved house and engaged the service of the Dorchester-based removals firm, Barleycorn Removals.

They were chatting together and Barleycorns' Chris Cox mentioned to Cheryl that he wanted to support a local charity through some fundraising. Cheryl suggested Footsteps Foundation.

A week later, we had a visit from Chris with a very novel fundraising idea...

With two colleagues, he wanted to take a sofa up England's highest mountain, Scafell Pike! Combining his love of hillwalking and climbing, with his profession, Chris had thought this would be an eye-catching way of making money for a local charity. After seeing first-hand the work that we do, he chose to support us. As you will be reading this in October, the event will have happened, so please do go on our website to see photos and press-cuttings of this unique sponsored hill-climb! It's not too late to support this brilliant local fundraiser and Chris and the Footsteps children would be very grateful! Just go to

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Sofa-up-Scafell>



We are also looking forward to the second instalment of the fantastic Dorchester fireworks night. We are over the moon that the committee have decided to support Footsteps Foundation again this year. So all profits will be donated to helping disabled children at Footsteps. Hope to see you all there on the 5th!

Mozart's last Italian comedy, 'Così fan tutte', one of the greatest comedies in all opera, has

a decidedly misogynous title, translating as 'All women behave so'. Yet, if women here take plenty of stick, men don't fare much better; human behaviour is simply hung out to dry.

Had the new genre, 'narropera' (narrated opera) been invented solely for this great opera and for none other, all the work to develop and hone narropera would have been worth it, so well does 'Così fan tutte' fit to the format of narropera.

The story and text are by Lorenzo da Ponte, who had previously written the texts for Mozart's 'The Marriage of Figaro' and 'Don Giovanni'. As with those operas, da Ponte's text for 'Così fan tutte' is brilliant, subtle, witty and complex and Mozart's incomparable music reflects these characteristics. Audiences in opera houses are hopefully able to follow the essentials of the story, yet they tend to miss out on understanding the sort of detail that raises enjoyment to another level. Narropera has been invented to supply a greater understanding of the story, relating it in detail with clarity and power and threading it between ten marvellous musical numbers from the opera: an introduction, six arias and three wonderful duets arranged specially for the Mozart Narropera Trio of soprano, violin and pianist/narrator.

When 'Così fan tutte' was first performed in 1790, it found favour with its Viennese public but, after only five performances, the reigning emperor died and all theatres were closed for a sustained period of mourning. When the theatres reopened,

Narropera returns to Dorchester Abbey Saturday 22 October

the new emperor was not nearly as supportive of Mozart as the previous emperor had been and public taste soon began to swing against Così fan tutte. Mozart died. Da Ponte was fired from his position as Court Poet and began his wanderings which took him finally to America, where he lived until his death, nearly 50 years after Mozart's.

Throughout most of the 19th century, the story of 'Così fan tutte' was regarded as not worthy of Mozart. There were several different attempts to rescue Mozart's music. New texts with totally different storylines were written (also with new titles for the opera, of course) and Mozart's music was force-fitted to the new texts. 'Save the music by marrying it to 19th century sensibility'. By the end of the 19th century,

the dislike of the original 'Così fan tutte' story was wearing off. Even so, it took until

1922 for 'Così fan tutte' to reach the USA and Britain's modern history with the opera didn't begin until 1934!

'Così fan tutte' had waited long for audiences to identify with its razor-sharp irony and hyperbole and even longer for its triumphant march up the popularity stakes. Today, statistics for international opera performances show 'Così fan tutte' currently holding the position of 14th most popular opera. With a bit more understanding of its brilliant text, who knows, it might even rise to number one.

**Tickets from the Oxford Playhouse
01865 305305 www.ticketsoxford.com
or on the night @ Dorchester Abbey
£20 including complimentary glass
of NZ sparkling Sauvignon Blanc wine**



The Mozart Narropera Trio in performance in the Wagner city of Bayreuth in Germany, in May 2016. (l. to r. Hanns-Heinz Odenthal, Haydn Rawstron, Dorothee Jansen)



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Wallingford Museum What did Wallingford Castle look like?

For several years Wallingford Museum has displayed a dramatic artist's impression of what Wallingford Castle may have looked like (until it was demolished by Cromwell's orders in 1652 !)

However, much documentary research in recent years, together with various archaeological digs has provided an opportunity to re-assess the layout of the Castle.

The overall impression of the size of the castle and many of its features are still valid but the documents have revealed several differences. Here are just a few:-

- the main gateways were actually nearer the bridge
- a great drawbridge crossed the moat into the inner bailey which had many more buildings than are shown here
- the Keep was a more dominating feature of the castle
- the arrangement of the water defences was more complex

A spectacular new artist's impression reflecting the current thinking has now been completed by Museum volunteer, June Strong.

Be sure to visit the Museum to see for yourself what has been revealed!

Back where they belong

Berenice Pedgley reports

On 6 August 2016, a simple ceremony of re-interment was held in a field at Coldharbour Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford. It was where, in November 1993, farmer Jack Edwards informed Wallingford Museum staff that a lead coffin with human bones had been found in one of his fields. The coffin was identified as Roman and The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) excavated the grave and recovered and recorded the burial.

Excavations on the site then took place in subsequent years and a total of 25 burials were identified, some of which had been ploughed out and damaged. The burials were aligned roughly north-south and a few grave goods were found, including a fine bone comb, coins and a complete pot. The coin evidence showed they were late 4th century burials. They could have been a family group, perhaps from a high status farmstead – which has yet to be found.

Now the bones have been returned to lie in peace. In keeping with Roman funeral practice, a short eulogy was given and the deceased were offered a libation of wine, salt and olive oil before being carefully covered up.

The Society wishes to record their thanks to the Edwards family for their help and interest. Some of the Roman items found at Coldharbour can be seen at Wallingford Museum.

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk



What's on in Wallingford



'God's House at Ewelme'

Dr John Goodall, FSA, Architectural Editor of Country Life magazine, will talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) about God's House at Ewelme. He wrote a magnificent book on it, published in 2001, and is also author of the equally magnificent The English Castle (2011). God's House at Ewelme was founded in 1437 by Alice and William de la Pole, then Earl and Countess of Suffolk. The almshouse and school that they founded still operate under the original endowment and the buildings that accommodate them remain intact. The talk will consider the history and life of this remarkable institution in the 15th century.

This talk will be held on **Wednesday 12 Oct, 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford.**

Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

www.twahas.org.uk



'Create a Cartoon' Night at Wallingford Museum

Following the success of our previous event in May, this October's 'Night at the Museum' will be another FREE bookable 'Cartoon' event for children. Here's what it's all about:

From 6.30 - 8.30pm on Friday 28 October, twenty children (suggested age range 7-11) will have a chance to try their hand at creating their own cartoon characters in Wallingford Museum with help from some local artists and inspiration from things they can see in the museum.

Steve Head, whose special '300 years of Cartoons' exhibition is on display at the museum until end-November, will talk to the children about how cartoons began and help them to look closely at what makes a cartoon special and get their ideas fired up!

Then it's time for the children to 'have a go' for themselves with help on hand from local artists who are kindly offering their assistance. All the necessary materials for drawing and colouring will be supplied - so all that's needed is lots of lovely creativity!

(Please note: children must be accompanied by a responsible adult - at least one adult to two children - but the adults won't be prevented from joining in too!) We're all aiming to have a fun evening.

This event has been generously sponsored for the Museum by The National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS), which works to advance decorative and fine arts education and appreciation.

For further details and booking, please contact Judy Dewey, **01491 651127**, preferably before **20 Oct!**



What's On October

Cinema: Performances start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

Sun 2	Café Society (12A)
Mon 3	Café Society (12A)
Tues 4	Things to Come (12A)
Wed 5	Things to Come (12A)
Thurs 6	Julieta (15) with subtitles
Fri 7	Hell or High Water (15)
Sen 23	Anthropoid (15)
Mon 24	Così fan Tutte (Live from Royal Opera House 6.30pm)
Tues 25	The Girl with all the Gifts (15)
Wed 26	The Girl with all the Gifts (15)
Thurs 27	The Fencer (12A tbc) with subtitles
Sun 30	The Magnificent Seven (12A)
Mon 31	The Magnificent Seven (12A)
Tues Nov 1	The Magnificent Seven (12A)
Wed Nov 2	Anastasia , ballet, live from Royal Opera House, 7.15pm

LIVE

October 1: **Pole Fitness Academy** - Theatre of Dance. The PFA team will perform a variety of acts including hula hooping, belly dancing and pole...and much more. Evening of great entertainment suitable for all ages. 7.45pm. £8

October 19 to 22. **The Tempest**. Sinodun Players' production of Shakespeare's masterpiece of magic, love and political intrigue promises to be an audio and visual treat. Against a backdrop of a truly original and outstanding staging, a soundscape of haunting music, lighting and costume, the Bard's final work of genius will be fun, enchanting, strange and fun. 7.45pm. Tickets £10. (Group booking discount available). There will be a Talkback Q&A with cast and director after the Thursday performance.

October 29: **Just Like That**. With magic and mirth, John Hower presents a tribute to the late Tommy Cooper in this all encapsulating show that pays homage to the true genius of one of Britain's favourite comedians. £12, seniors and under-18s £10. 7.45pm.

COMING UP

November 11 and 12. Encore Elite, Sinodun Players' senior youth group, present **Ithaka**, a powerful play set in Ancient Greece. The Club Room, 7pm and 8.30pm. £5.

Tickets and further information, including late additions to cinema programme are available online www.cornexchange.org.uk or box office 01491 825000.

Music at St Peter's Wallingford

1 October 8.00pm

The Thames Consort (Dir: Jeremy Boughton)
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www.musicatstpeterswallingford.org.uk



Wallingford Gardening Club Beautiful Kashmir

Wallingford Gardening Club starts its series of autumn talks in October with a lecture by Antony Powell on 'Beautiful Kashmir'.

Antony first trained with Hillier Nurseries before gaining a qualification in amenity horticulture at Askham Bryan College. He has worked in nurseries and gardens in England and France and travelled to many other countries during his horticultural career. He now manages four gardens in North Hampshire / West Berkshire.

He will present an illustrated talk about the 1983 Botanical Expedition to Kashmir. As an area that is now harder to visit, this talk will highlight the beauty of the country and the flowers that grow there.

The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm on **Thursday 13t October**.

Visitors very welcome £2.

Isabelle Darby
01491 836867

Wallingford U3A

Our September speaker was the ever welcome Dr. Martin Holmes who produced yet another tour de force, this time on Prime Minister Edward Heath. Dr Holmes carried his audience to a standing ovation. He is coming back to speak on Tony Blair. Don't miss it.

Our October speaker on **Wednesday 5 October** is local historian, Mrs Judy Dewey, who is both well known and welcome. She will speak on '*The Civil War in Wallingford*'. She has an extraordinary gift of bringing history to life. it will be good.

Our meetings are held in Crowmarsh Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month, at 2.00pm. Visitors are always welcome.

We are organising next summer's holiday, this time in Shropshire and the Welsh Marches:

For information about our interest groups and what else we do please visit our website. Just search u3awallingford. Or, if you would rather speak to someone, please phone Hermione on **01865 858024**

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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.

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David Williams

Volunteer & fundraising coordinator, John Masefield House

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www.white-hart-hotel-dorchester.co.uk

Day by day

Sat 1 Oct	Dorchester v Sutton Courtenay North Berks Charity Shield 2.30pm Recreation Ground
Sun 2 Oct	Trinity 19 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booyes) 10.30am Harvest Festival
Tues 4 Oct	Anglo Saxon Day for schools Dorchester Abbey Narnia Craft Making Create magic snowflakes 3.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Wed 5 Oct	Memorial Service 3.00pm
Thurs 6 Oct	WI Shillingford Group 'Gutsy Women', A History of Women's Achievements in London'. Colin Oakes 7.30pm
Sat 8 Oct	RSCM Choir Festival Dorchester Abbey
Sun 9 Oct	Trinity 20 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662) (Revd Michael Lakey) 10.30am Sung Eucharist 3.30pm Service for the Archdeaconry
Tues 11 Oct	Short Communion 10.15am Narnia Craft Making Create magic snowflakes 3.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Thurs 13 Oct	WI 'Love in a Box- the Shoebox Charity'. Elizabeth Parker 2.30pm Village Hall Pre-school AGM
Fri 14 Oct	St Birinus School Open Morning 9.30am Supper Club Abbey Guest House 7.30pm (pre-booked only)

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
16 Oct **Trinity 21**
8.00 am
Holy Communion (1662)
(Revd David Haylett)

10.30am
Family Service

6.00pm
Evensong

Wed
19 Oct Culham & District Horticultural
Society
'Oxford Botanic Garden: a plethora
of plants'
An illustrated talk by Tom Price.
7.30pm
Abbey Guest House

Thurs
20 Oct **Classic Car Show,**
George Hotel
1.00-4.00pm

Chiropodist
Belcher Court (see p13)

Sat
22 Oct **Narnia Event**
Dorchester Abbey
Until 22 November

Narropera
Cosi fan Tutte
7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Sun
23 Oct **Last after Trinity**
8.00am
Holy Communion (1662)
(Revd Caroline King)

10.30am
Sung Eucharist

12.00noon
Baptism

Wed
26 Oct **DoT Historical Society**
'Barns, Bridges and Bay
Windows'. Professor Malcolm Ains
7.30pm
Village Hall

Thurs
27 Oct **Service at Cheshire Home**
11.30am

Sun
30 Oct **All Saints**
8.00 am
Holy Communion (1662)
(Canon Sue Booyes)

10.30am
Team Confirmation



Weekly events

Monday **Watercolour Painting**
10.00am-12.30pm and
1.30pm-4.00pm
Abbey Guest House.
Full details from
www.rebeccahind.com

Tuesday **Coffee in the Abbey**
10.30am-12noon
Bellringing Practice
7.30 pm Abbey
Fishmonger
10.00am to 10.05am by War
Memorial (p.21)

Wednesday **Holy Communion at**
Berinsfield Church
9.30am
Lunch Club
Village Hall 12.30pm

Thursday **Baby & Toddler Group**
9.30am - 11.00am
Village Hall: (term time only)

Friday **Choir Practice**
7.00pm Abbey

Regular events also appear in the Parish
Council's website:

www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Parish Registers

Holy Matrimony

20 August James Stimpson and
Lucy Young

27 August Robert Heathcote and
Fiona Moultrie

3 Sept Darren Andrews and
Janice Willis

Holy Baptism

28 August Brooke Lily Stevens



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@virginmedia.com** 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.morerecycling.co.uk**

ANIMAL WELFARE

RSPCA (wildlife): **0300 123 0206**
St Tiggywinkles animal rescue: **01844 292292**
Swan Lifeline: **01753 859397**

Useful Information

BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

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

OPENING HOURS

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

TRANSPORT

BUS SERVICES

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

OXFORDSHIRE DIAL-A-RIDE

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

SHOPMOBILITY

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

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

ANGLICAN PRIEST

Dorchester Rectory
Revd. Canon Sue Booy
01865 340007

EDUCATION OFFICER

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

ABBEY E-MAIL:

admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk
Contact details for Church Wardens and other Abbey information are on the notice board in the Abbey.

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 7 Oct **Black**
Fri 14 Oct **Green**
Fri 21 Oct **Black**
Fri 28 Oct **Green***

Fridays from 7.00am.

Green* = Extra garden waste for brown bin customers

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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IT'S BACK WITH A BANG...

Dorchester on Thames Village Firework Display

SATURDAY 5th November at the Recreation Ground



Food and drink served from 5.30pm

Locally sourced burgers and hot dogs, Winter Pimms
and tray bakes and much more

Bring the family for tea and enjoy a selection of stalls

Lighting of the bonfire at 6pm

Entrance by voluntary
donation with all profits
going to FOOTSTEPS



(Please...NO SPARKLERS)



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