

# ***Dorchester News***

*Free to every home in the parish*  
**February 2017**







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## Dorchester News February 2017 A DoT view

In this issue we look both backwards and forwards. Back to Aladdin put on by DADS in the Village Hall in late November/early December. We have Jim Levi's review and photographs of the production as our centrepiece. Everyone seems to have enjoyed themselves, whether in the audience or as part of the production. DADS, and in particular Ann Winslet the director of the show, are to be congratulated on a brilliant panto. I'm told it was sold out and people were turned away.

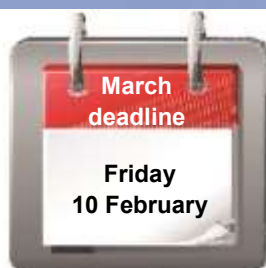
We also look back to Christmas with a review of some of the illuminated decorations we put up to celebrate. Whether you consider them tasteful or not, they do add colour and a sense of celebration over the Christmas period. I am one of those who left my house in darkness and did not contribute but I will be making an effort next Christmas to provide some luminosity to cheer passers by.

But well before we get to Christmas, we have the 2017 Dorchester Festival. This is the seventh time that this will have been held, and they just get better and better. The programme for this year is outlined on page 9. More detail can be found online and the printed programme will be out soon. Many people in the village contribute to the Festival, but more are always needed. If you can help in some way, even if its just putting out and clearing away chairs you can email or phone Steph Forman and be a part of the Festival rather than just a partaker. The last Festival raised £27,000 for PACT. This year's charity is the Sue Ryder home at Nettlebed, so it is all in a good cause.

Meanwhile, take a look at the picture on page 5, then cross your fingers that we don't have a winter like that one.

Ian Brace

Cover: A frosty morning on Hempcroft Allotments



**Deadline for  
March  
Dorchester  
News**

### Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Gillian Johnson

### Distribution Co-ordinator

Maurice Day

### Copy Deadlines for Dorchester News

March edition	10 Feb
April edition	10 Mar
May edition	13 Apr

### 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](mailto: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.

In many ways 2016 was a divisive year; two democratic decisions were not widely predicted, yet significantly changed the political landscape. I'm thinking of the Brexit vote on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and further afield the result of the United States' Presidential election in November. The Brexit vote seems to have set off a political tsunami the shock waves of which will continue for many years. President Trump has only just taken office; we must hope and pray that his term as president is not as contentious as some of the campaign rhetoric from both sides suggest it might be.

Political events such as these lead many people to ask how we as Christians living in a democratic state can both support and at the same time challenge those in government.

The theologian Karl Barth said 'pray with the newspaper in one hand and the bible in the other'. Barth is not implying that they have equal footing but that one (the news) is to be interpreted in the light of

the other (the Bible). When we read the bible in the light of current events, while reflecting upon Christian tradition, there is much to guide us and prayerfully reflect upon.

St Paul's first letter to Timothy, Chapter 2;1-2 Paul says; 'First, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.' I understand Paul as meaning that we need wise and just leaders of the highest integrity. Paul reminds us of the need to pray for our leaders, and for good ordered society so that we can live in a peaceable way.

Looking to scripture in general and to the life of Jesus as it is recorded in the gospels we see that much biblical literature does not treat people equally but sides with the poor and vulnerable. Alongside praying for those in authority I have always believed we have a duty to pray for

prophetic leaders unafraid to speak not only on behalf of those in power but who also listen to the voices of those on the margins, and speak up for the dispossessed.

There is a long and honourable Christian tradition of peaceful protest and of civil disobedience in standing up to injustice. Think of the role Christians played in the abolition of slavery movement in the early 1800s; of Christian theologians such as Bonhoeffer whose Christian faith led him to plot to assassinate Hitler; of the role of Archbishop Tutu in standing up to apartheid; and of Martin Luther King at the forefront of the racial justice movement in 1960s America.

As the world begins to react to the Trump presidency and as Brexit negotiations continue, pray for our leaders and those in positions of responsibility, but pray too that we may be represented by politicians of the highest integrity who truly want the best for all.

## Happy New Year

A very happy new year to you all from the Rectory – and thank you for the Christmas Greetings received here. As Reverend Caroline writes we are all wondering what the coming year will hold. She also raises the question of what the response of a Christian, or indeed a Christian country, should be and how we might challenge government. You might be interested to know that two of the Anglican Church's five Marks of Mission are:

*To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation and To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.*

The Morning Service in February offers an important opportunity to hear a leading theological thinker talk about the concept of a Just War – and in Lent we have a good range of speakers lined up to help us think about the Environment and climate change. These events are for everyone – and I very much hope that many people with an interest in these issues will join us. There will be opportunities to meet our speakers and ask them questions. More details below!

Rev. Sue

## Morning Service Sunday 5 February

All are welcome to hear our visiting preacher, Nigel Biggar, on 'How Can a Christian Justify War?'. Nigel is Regius Professor of Moral and Pastoral Theology, and Director of the McDonald Centre for Theology, Ethics, and Public Life, at the University of Oxford. He is a Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, and author of *In Defence of War*. He has lectured at the UK's Defence Academy and at the US Military Academy at West Point, NY.

## Ash Wednesday 1 March

Services for the Team will be held at Berinsfield at 9.30am, and Clifton Hampden at 7.30pm.

## Caring for Creation

### Lent 2017 in the Dorchester Team

On Sunday evenings during Lent at Dorchester Abbey there will be a number of speakers and events focusing on the fifth Mark of Mission of the Worldwide Anglican Church:

***To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth***

Each event will begin at 6pm with a short act of worship. No event will end later than 8pm.

- 5 March Showing of **The 11th Hour** a documentary film created, produced, co-written and narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio, on the state of the natural environment.
- 12 March **Michael Northcott**, Professor of Ethics at University of Edinburgh and author of 'The Environment and Christian Ethics', 'An Angel Directs the Storm' and 'A Moral Climate' will help us to explore a Biblical and theological approach to climate change.
- 19 March Dr Martin Hodson of A Rocha will speak on a practical Christian approach to climate change and the Environment

*No event on 26 March*

- 2 April A Panel of local experts will gather to interact and respond to questions on the subject of Climate Change and our care of Creation
- 9 April Palm Sunday Service of Reflection

Material will be available for parish Lent discussion groups on this subject and it is hoped that details of the groups will be circulated as widely as possible.

## Lent Lunches 2017

All are welcome to share a simple lunch on the Fridays in Lent at the following addresses:

- **3 March** with the Rev. Sue Booy at The Rectory, Manor Farm Rd., D o T.
- **10 March** with Dawn Dudley at Church House, Queen St., D.o.T.
- **17 March.** With Carolyn Oakley at 24 Bridge End, D.o.T.
- **24 March** with Catherine Paul at 3 Haven Close, D.o.T.
- **31 March** with Meg Fisher at 4 Drayton Rd., D.o.T.
- **7 April** with Julie Taylor at The Manor House, Overy
- **14 April** with Judy Parker at the Abbey Guest House, D.o.T.

All lunches are from 12.30pm-2pm except Good Friday 14 April which is at 12 noon -1.00pm.

Your contributions this year will be sent to Aspire Oxford a local charity that helps the disadvantaged and homeless in many ways. More information will be available at the lunches.

**Meg Fisher**

## Dorchester Abbey to host Bellringing Branch AGM

Dorchester Abbey Bell Ringers are delighted to announce the team will be hosting the annual general meeting of the South Oxfordshire Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers on **Saturday 25 February**. The meeting will start with ringing at 3.00pm. That will be followed by Evensong at 4.00pm to which visitors are welcome. The ringers then have tea and start their formal meeting at about 5.00pm.

Apart from the formal business and the election of new members the meeting provides an opportunity for ringers from the twenty towers within the Branch to get together socially, to learn a wider range of skills from each other, and to ring more complex methods on Dorchester's beautiful bells.

## Thames Consort 5 Feb Dorchester Abbey

The Thames Consort directed by Jeremy Boughton will be performing at Dorchester Abbey on **Sunday 5 February** at 7pm. The programme includes vocal and instrumental music by members of the Bach family, including the great Johann Sebastian and also by Handel and Schütz. The singers of the Thames consort are joined by Sharon Warnes and Claire Parkin – violins, Judith Dallosso – 'cello and Glynne Stackhouse – organ continuo.

There will be a collection at the end of the concert given (after expenses) to the Friends of Dorchester Abbey.



## Were you Christened at Dorchester Abbey?

On **Sunday 30 April** we are having a very special Team Service in the Abbey as part of the Dorchester Festival to celebrate with everyone who was Baptised in a Christening service in any of our Team Churches

If you, your children or god-children were baptised in the Abbey we would love to hear from you so we can send you a special invitation.

Anyone who would like to celebrate a Christening or bring their children or godchildren to church do please come and join us for this special service – look out for details in the Dorchester Festival programme and in the March and April editions of the magazine.

There will be a list at the back of the Abbey for you to enter details of anyone who would like an invitation to the service.

We plan to have a small exhibition about Christenings during the Festival and if you have photographs, christening gowns, gifts or other memorabilia you would like to share please get in touch with Denise Line ([denise.line@btinternet.com](mailto:denise.line@btinternet.com)) or Helen Russell (**01865 340759**).

## Fishmonger

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

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Dear Readers,

I hope the New Year has been good to you so far. During December we had wonderful entertainment at our Christmas Party called 'Christmas Crackers' from Joan Dark, who read us poems and told amusing tales and jokes. The highlight for me was the one entitled 'It's hard to be a fairy at Christmas!' Thank you to members who supplied delicious food and to Linda for supplying the festive mulled wine.

In January at the regular monthly meeting we listened to Ian Jones, an ex bomb disposal man. It was a very interesting and sometimes moving talk from his early days at age 15, setting his own bedroom alight to disarming bombs all over the country including some time in Northern Ireland and Kosova.

On 26 January, we had our New Year's Lunch at the Fleur de Lys. Thank you to Susan Jupp for organising this event for us, one that we all look forward to.

This month we look forward to meeting Michael Palmer who will enlighten us on being a met man in the Falklands and S. Georgia. As always the second Thursday of the month (9th) in the Village Hall.

March will be our AGM and Bring and Buy Sale. We will be looking for some new committee members please!

Subscriptions for 2017 are now due. £39; cheques payable to Dorchester On Thames WI, please, or for dual membership £19.

Interested? Did you know that the W.I. is the largest and most dynamic voluntary women's organisation in the country with more than 219,000 members. General information on the whole organisation can be found on [www.theWI.org.uk](http://www.theWI.org.uk) or look us up on Facebook [www.facebook.com/thewi](https://www.facebook.com/thewi)

We welcome women of all ages and backgrounds. For more information do call Pauline Kenway-Jackson on **01865 340746**, Gill Haworth on **01865 340775** or Susan Jupp on **01865 341066**.

## They don't make winters like this any more!



The Arctic winter of 1961 and a group of village lads take a Morris Minor pick-up on a trip round the lake on the ice, pulling a sledge. The lake is behind the Oxford Road near the Recreation Ground, and the group of lads certainly includes James Pratt, but who are the others? Are you amongst them? Were you there?

With thanks to Jane Brooks for the photograph.



### Hempcroft Allotment News

For those who want to get a head start for the 2017 growing season here is some advice for activity in February and March from an experienced plot holder (not me).

Plot preparation; digging, mulching, manure etc when weather allows. Harvest leeks, parsnips. Warm up areas of the plot for early sowing with carpet or polythene etc. Start chitting early potatoes to plant St Patrick's Day (17 March). Force rhubarb under straw or long pot. Sow onion seed, and if the ground is not frozen could sow some broad beans and cover. Look out for hungry slugs, check nets, remove dead leaves from around cabbages.

**Edward Metcalfe**



### Pre School News

A warm welcome to our new children starting this term who will be well into the swing of life at Pre School by the time this is published. They will be joining with the other children in exploring the village looking for the shapes and colours of the term - squares and rectangles, black and white. The Arctic is an appropriate subject for the chilly weather and the children will be experimenting with ice in science experiments and have been making igloo collages. They will learn about Chinese New Year and Valentines Day this term, and the home corner will be a camp site.

**Louisa Margison**

On behalf of Matthew Kestner - Pre School Chair



### Dorchester Abbey Bellringers

Dorchester Abbey Bellringers held their AGM on Tuesday 3 January. Activity in the previous year was reviewed. In addition to normal Sunday services there had been five weddings, the induction service for Revd. Michael Lakey, an Archdeacons service to welcome the new Bishop of Oxford, and a special

Evensong for the Beauforest Society. One new recruit had been trained taking the number of active bellringers to 13. Dr David Parker was re-elected Tower Captain with Nick Forman as Deputy.

Anyone interested in becoming a Bellringer should contact David or Nick.





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## St Birinus Primary School News

### School News

With the introduction last year of the new tests and the changes to the reporting of the results, we have waited for the publishing of the national results to share our fantastic KS2 results from last July.

The key headlines of our results this year are:

- 75% of our children reached the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to the national average of 53%, this put us in the top 20% schools in Oxfordshire and nationally.
- Our reading results and progress since KS1 put us in the top 10% in Oxfordshire and nationally – and joint first out of all primary schools in Oxfordshire for our reading results.
- Our writing results were in the top 10%, whilst our progress was in the top 20% in Oxfordshire and nationally
- Our Grammar, punctuation and spelling results put us in the top 10% in Oxfordshire and nationally

Huge congratulations to Sophia, Emilia, Nat, Grace, Jemima, Liberty, Olivia and Oliviya for their hard work and dedication to completing all the work and a thank you to the staff past and present, who worked with the children during their time at the school.

At the end of their topics, each class invited their parents to a Topic Event to share all their work throughout the term. There was a Roman Event in Owl Class, an Ancient Greek event in Fox Class, Squirrel Class were looking at Dinosaurs and Hedgehogs had been learning 'All about me'. It was great to see so many parents come and share their children's work and presentations. The children certainly enjoyed it.

Each month, we have our Writers of the month – this recognises children who have shown a great improvement in their writing during that month. Congratulations to Poppy Line, Maya Popa, Izzy Elliott, Jezreel Shijo, Brynmor Bennett, Annabelle King, Katie-Marie Newport and Megan Sadler for being November's Writers of the Month

We completed the last week of the Autumn Term 2 with all the Christmas festivities :

- KS1 performed their play – 'Little angel gets her wings'. The children sang and acted beautifully, which made it a magical performance with a special mention to Angelina Sirjajeva – the little angel.
- Our Christmas Party was very exciting especially with the visit of a very special person, with a sack of presents.
- Finally, on the last day of term we all dressed in our Christmas Jumpers to raise money for the Save the Children charity before heading to the Abbey for our Christmas Service.

It certainly was a busy week.

The Spring Term started with 'Abracadabra' – to start our Big Write theme of Magic. As an introduction to the theme, each



class shared the book 'Leon and the Place Between', which is a beautiful picture book. They then read a letter from Abdul the magician, linked to the book, asking us to audition a new magician to judge his suitability for his show – such a responsibility.

So, we watched and marvelled at Magnificent Mike during his audition, following this he kindly taught some magic tricks in each class. A wonderful experience for everyone with the children writing letters to Abdul as part of their Big Write to explain the suitability of the new magician. A great start to the theme and the new year.

**Russell Leigh**

Headteacher

Dorchester St Birinus CE Primary School



## Dorchester-on-Thames Village Hall Vacancies

### Bookings Officer, Caretaker

Allan Smith, Caretaker, have declared an intention to step down at our next AGM in March 2017.

These roles are vital for the smooth running of such an important feature of Dorchester and we are hoping to fill them soon.

The hall is running smoothly as much of the work to set it up has been successfully completed and it now requires people who have some spare time and are interested in becoming involved in so many aspects of life in a vibrant village.

Dorchester village hall is a unique, historic and attractive centre for many events, celebrations and social activities. It is run as a charitable trust and its only sources of income are booking fees and occasional fund raising initiatives. It is widely admired for its facilities and appearance, much of which is down to the efforts of a small team of supporters.

However, after years of excellent work Brenda Edwards, Bookings Officer, and

If this appeals to you then please contact **Keith Russell 340838**, Chairman, or **Mark Williams, 340441**, Treasurer, and we'll be delighted to discuss how this might work.





## Dorchester on Thames Historical Society

Wednesday 22 February at 7.30pm  
Village Hall (back room)

Professor Greg Stores will speak on 'Intriguing and Surprising Themes in Medieval Illuminated Manuscripts'. Will there be another medical twist to this talk?

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



## Dorchester Village Hall 200 Club Prize Draw

Congratulations to the winners of the December draw.

1st Prize	£100	No.116	Mrs J Parker
2nd Prize	£45	No.131	Mr G Stores
3rd Prize	£25	No.114	Mr Lawden

The next draw will be in March, with the first prize reverting to £75 so join now for a chance to win!

The 200 Club is a quarterly prize draw to raise funds for the village hall. There are only 200 tickets and some are still available at £12 for the year (4 draws from when you join). To join, contact Elaine Moore on **340441** or email

[admin@dorchesteronthamesvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorchesteronthamesvillagehall.org.uk) for a form.

## Culham & District Horticultural Club

Meetings are held at the Abbey Guest House,  
Dorchester on Thames at 7.30pm  
Wednesday 15 February 2017

*A plantsman's garden in North Yorkshire* an illustrated talk by John Grimshaw

John is currently Director of The Yorkshire Arboretum, North Yorkshire. He writes regularly in 'The Garden' (RHS magazine).



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](mailto:judy@tiggercat.me.uk)

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Photo by Nick Forman



## 28th April—7th May

We are now looking forward to our 7<sup>th</sup> Dorchester Festival!

This year money raised will be shared between Dorchester Abbey and Sue Ryder, Nettlebed, who are raising money to provide palliative care for people with life-limiting conditions. It would be wonderful to repeat our 2015 success and raise £50k for these two worthwhile causes. We have a brilliant mix of events all available on your doorstep. All you need to do is come along and enjoy yourself (and bring lots of friends)!

### Programme Highlights—book in your diaries now...

Fri 28th Apr- 7th May	<b>Scarecrow Trail</b>	Weds 3rd—Fri 5th May	<b>Pre Supper Concerts</b>
Fri 28th Apr	<b>The Masquerade Bash</b>	Thurs 4th May	<b>Film Night</b>
Sat 29th Apr	<b>Abseiling from the Abbey Tower</b> <b>Family Dog Show</b> <b>Local Artists Exhibition</b> <b>Bond Night with BBC Elstree</b>	Fri 5th May	<b>Comedy Night with Gary Delaney</b>
Sun 30 Apr	<b>Tentertainment! &amp; Duck Race</b> <b>Showstopper the Improvised Musical</b> <b>Games Cafe @ the Festival Arms</b>	Sat 6th May	<b>Food Fair &amp; Cookery demos</b> <b>The Tallis Scholars</b>
BH Mon 1 May	<b>Fun Run</b> <b>Kids Science</b> <b>Vintage Pedal Cars</b> <b>Jazz Supper</b>	Sun 7th May	<b>Food Fair &amp; Cookery demos</b> <b>Quintessential Kids classical concert</b> <b>Mad Hatters Tea Party</b> <b>Out of The Blue</b> workshops & performance

### Amazing village events

#### The Big Bash

**Friday 28th April 7pm** The party of the year!

#### Charity Fun Run

**BH Mon 4th May 11am**

The great village event! Get training to win a prize for 5k or just walk it with the dog!

#### Dorchester Scarecrow Trail

**28th April—7th May** Following last year's runaway success! Can the WI win again? Enter your own children's book character scarecrow in the trail for just £5 and win a prize for the best! Start planning now—entries by 14th April.

#### Dorchester Duck Race

**Sunday 30th Apr 5pm**

Buy a duck to launch down the river from the Hurst Water Meadow to a nail biting finish next to the Abbey. Prizes for the first three ducks!

#### Family Dog Show Sat 28th Apr 10am

A fun day out for you and your best friend

### Great music

#### The Tallis Scholars Saturday 6th May 7pm

These world famous a capella classical music stars sold out last time and will be sold as numbered seating. Book early to avoid disappointment!

#### Out of the Blue Sunday 7th May 7pm

Youtube sensations (over 13 million hits can't be wrong!) and semi finalists on *Britain's Got Talent*. This great all male a capella Oxford undergrad group are running workshops and performing our last event. Wow!

#### Showstopper! Sunday 30th Apr 7.30pm

Olivier Award winning West End musical comes to Dorchester!! Very, very funny

#### Jazz Supper with Cate Cody

**BH Mon 1st May 7.30pm**

Fresh from her BAFTA performance, Cate and her jazz quintet have sung at all the best places. Fish & Chip supper. Great Night Out.

### Look at our brilliant website for the full programme

Printed programmes will be available next month and the box office will be up and running on 1st February including the on-line booking system. Get on our mailing list from the website.

### Get your 10% discount for booking before March 6th!

In 2015 over 150 people gave some time to support the Festival, had great fun and made new friends in the village. If you would like to get involved in any way please do contact Steph Forman by email on [festival@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:festival@dorchester-abbey.org.uk) or **01865 340434**. There is a job for everyone, regardless of abilities or how little time you feel you can commit. Event helpers get free tickets!



## Football Results North Berks League

### Division 2

19/11/2016	Hanney United	1	0	Dorchester
26/11/2016	Dorchester	0	2	Kintbury Rangers Res
10/12/2016	Dorchester	2	5	Westminster
17/12/2016	Dorchester	H	W	Faringdon Town Res
07/01/2017	Dorchester	1	1	Hanney United

### Division 4

19/11/2016	Dorchester Res	1	4	Stanford in The Vale Res
03/12/2016	Dorchester Res	1	1	Hagbourne United
10/12/2016	Lambourn Sports Res	H	W	Dorchester Res
17/12/2016	Stanford in The Vale Res	5	2	Dorchester Res
14/01/2017	Burghclere Res	9	0	Dorchester Res

### North Berks War Memorial Cup

03/12/2016	Sutton Courtenay	0	2	Dorchester
14/01/2017	Dorchester	1	3	Benson Lions

### AG Kingham Cup

26/11/2016	Sutton Courtenay Res	3	2	Dorchester Res
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HW = Home Walkover



### CALLING ALL KNITTERS!

We need your knitted hats to help fund our Information and Advice Helpline.

For every hat you send to us we receive 25p.  
Please send in your knitting!

Do you knit? Or do you know someone who does?

You could help Age UK Oxfordshire raise vital funds for our Information and Advice Helpline. Every year we take part in 'The Big Knit' which is a partnership between Age UK and *Innocent Drinks*. We ask people to knit little hats to go on top of smoothie bottles and for every hat we send to Innocent Drinks, 25p is donated to Age UK Oxfordshire.

This year we have a target of 28,000 hats to reach by summer 2017 and we really need your help to spread the word far and wide: we need your little knitted hats!

If you knit, you could visit our website to take a look at some of our knitting patterns and get inspired! <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/news--campaigns/the-big-knit/>

If you don't knit, we challenge you to spread the word! You could do this by telling family and friends, or forward this email to someone you think could help us. Whichever way you choose to help will be much appreciated.





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## Earth Trust February events

### Sunday Drop-in: Build a Bug House

**Sunday 5 February, 10am-2pm.**

Come and give wildlife a helping hand! At this Sunday Drop-in you can make a bug house to go in your garden for all the local creepy crawlies to enjoy. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

### Creepy Crawly Comics

**Monday 13 February, 10am-3pm.**

You'll be the bees' knees at creepy crawly comic drawing after attending our session with popular cartoonist Neill Cameron, whose work features in The Phoenix comic. You'll explore the nature reserve and then create a comic inspired by what you saw. For 7-11 year olds; parents welcome to stay. £30; booking essential: **01865 407792** or online at [www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson) (ask about our discount for siblings).

### Planetarium

**Tuesday 14 February, 3pm-6.30pm.**

Science Oxford is bringing their pop-up Planetarium to the Earth Trust Centre! There'll be 30 minute slots in the Planetarium followed by astronomical activities. £9 per child, one accompanying adult free (subsequent adults £4.50); booking essential so plan(et) ahead and reserve your place now either online at [www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson) (incurs a fee) or by ringing us on **01865 407792**.

### Woodland Adventure

**Wednesday 15 February, 10am-12pm.**

An expedition for 5-8 year olds. Use your detective skills to explore, build and play in the woods! £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

### Wildlife Wednesday at Mowbray Fields

**Wednesday 15 February, 10am-2pm.**

Our roving Wildlife Wednesday visits a different Earth Trust community nature reserve each school holiday. Come out and play and learn about your local wildlife! This event is supported by Whittard. £2 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

### Build a Bird Box

**Thursday 16 February, 10.30am-12pm and 1.30pm-3pm.**

Take home a handmade bird box and help encourage more wildlife to your garden. All tools provided. £15 per box; booking essential: **01865 407792** or online at [www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson) (incurs a booking fee).

### Discover and Play

**Friday 17 February, 10am-12pm.**

Forest School for the under-5s is back this half term so join us for a morning of play and discovery in our woodlands. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

### Song Writing Workshop: Climb That Tree

**Saturday 18 February, 11am-12pm.**

Have a go at making some music and having a sing-along with singer-songwriter David Gibb. For children aged 6-11 years. £6 per child; accompanying adult(s) free; booking essential: **01865 407792** or online at [www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson) (incurs a booking fee).

### New Moon Walk

**Tuesday 21 February, 7pm-9pm.**

Glory in the night sky on a guided walk to Little Wittenham Wood, lit by the monthly occurring new moon. £5 adult, £2 child; booking essential: **01865 407792** or online at [www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson) (incurs a booking fee).

### Basket Weaving

**Sunday 26 February, 9.30am-4.30pm.**

In this practical workshop you'll learn how to weave with willow in a session lead by Catherine Tregaskes, from Crafts for a Sustainable Future. £45; booking essential: **01865 407792** or online at [www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson) (incurs a booking fee).

As always, more information can be found on our website [www.earthtrust.org.uk](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk). All events take place at the Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, OX14 4QZ unless otherwise stated.

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'Aladdin' the DADS (Dorchester Amateur Dramatic Society) Panto for 2016 was another triumph for the company now in its 33<sup>rd</sup> year. The performance was all the more remarkable in being the directorial debut of Ann Winslet. She was ably assisted in this by Rosemary Mills. Winslet and Mills should do it again. They look like a winning team.

The denizens of Dorchester are always up for a good laugh – especially on a chilly winter evening in early December. And there were laughs aplenty in this production which turned Ben Crocker's version of this very traditional panto into an effervescent and refreshing show. Ann Winslet skilfully blended a cast of highly experienced players with some relative newcomers and a sprinkling of complete novices. The result was a show rattling along breathlessly with hardly any hitches.

Particular mention should be made of the costumes by Elaine Moore and her team of helpers. These were outstanding. This reviewer was so much taken with the heliotrope hairdo of Widow Twanky (Mike Lord) he suggested to his wife she should try a purple dye. (The idea received short shrift) Also much admired were the matching chessboard socks and emergency light helmets of Sergeant Ping (Mark Williams) and PC

Pong (Carol-Ann Tilley). Thames Valley Police should adopt these as their standard uniform as soon as possible. The stripey socks and sandals combination of Mike Selway in the opening number by a well coordinated chorus were also a big hit.

Musical direction by the ever-reliable Russell Leigh with support from Grace Hancock gave us a compilation of appropriate popular songs delivered with gusto by a well-trained cast. It left the audience wanting more music. The Abba hit '*I Have a Dream*' duet by Aladdin (Jo Cleary) and Princess Jasmine (Amanda Taylor) was particularly well received.

**The show rattled  
along  
breathlessly.**

The colourful and neat set design by Adrian Brooks and his team was up to the usual high standard expected of a DADS production. The torture bench constructed for Aladdin by the evil Abanazar (John Cornelius) was worthy of the climax to a Bond movie. But the reviewer did have trouble recognising the entrance to Aladdin's cave - it looked a bit like a large dead hedgehog or possibly a possum

playing possum.

As to the cast it was clear they had worked very hard to deliver such consistent performances keeping the audience constantly entertained. For many the highlight would have been the hilarious Egyptian dance towards the end of the show. This had obviously been an intensively rehearsed team effort.



Of the individual performances John Cornelius as the evil Abanazar proved suitably greasy and sinister despite the Brummy accent and occasional attempts to imitate Tommy Cooper. The two genies Maxine Briscoe and Rosemary Mills made a nice contrast in displaying their magic while the constabulary in the form of Sergeant Ping and PC Pong performed their slapstick routines with great style.

Ed Metcalfe remained dignified yet frightening throughout his performance as the emperor while Rachel Winslet-Morris (Wishee Washee) and Jane Brooks (Nobby) both gave strong support to Mike Lord whose performance as Widow Twankey was outstanding. It was also hard not to be captivated by the charms of Amanda Taylor whose performance as Princess Jasmine was difficult to fault.

Gerry Wells (no previous experience as an actor) left his beloved lawnmower to join DADS on stage and nearly stole the show with his performance as a camel. He knew his lines perfectly and never missed a cue!





Finally the title role: Jo Cleary returned to the stage for first time since childhood to take on the demanding role of Aladdin. She offered her performance as a tribute to her late father, Terry Chipperfield, who had for many years been a leading light at DADS and one of its founders. She slapped her thigh in the finest traditions of the Pantomine Principle Boy and played throughout with consistency and vigour. Terry would have been proud of her as he would of the whole company.

**Jim Levi**

*Above Aladdin and the Princess centre stage, with Mike Lord in one of his many costumes right*

*Below: The hilarious Egyptian dance and Twankey's laundry show the set by Adrian Brooks's team..*

*Bottom: The cast (and camel) take a well-earned bow.*





## Charity Founder awarded an MBE in recognition of her work helping disabled children

Pip Hoyer Millar was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours list in recognition of her achievements setting up The Footsteps Centre 12 years ago. From humble beginnings in Pip's barn to the purpose-built physiotherapy centre based in Dorchester on Thames which has provided over 75,000 hours of specialist therapy for disabled kids.

Pip originally found the specialist Spider therapy being practiced in Poland and took her daughter Minty, who has cerebral palsy, for treatment. The results were impressive: Minty progressed rapidly and became much more mobile, soon learning to walk despite doctors saying this was highly unlikely.

The trials of travelling to Poland with her disabled daughter for months at a time, prompted Pip to look at the possibility of accessing the therapy in the UK. The therapists who were working with Minty: Filip and Gosia agreed to come over to the UK and before long parents were queueing up. Pip soon realised



that the private therapy was not affordable for all and set up the charity, Footsteps Foundation, to help pay for the therapy for those on lower incomes. Pip believed that no disabled child should be excluded from the help they need due to financial constraints.

### Track record and recent achievements

over the past 9 years of operation include supporting 237 individual children, many of whom have attended Footsteps regularly over the course of many years. During this time we have funded over 20,000 hours of therapy and children with neurological conditions have improved in

strength, independence and confidence, learning new skills such as sitting upright, crawling, standing and even walking. These achievements often surpass medical expectations and are down to the hard work of the children, dedication of the parents and skill of the Footsteps therapists.

For more information about the work of Footsteps you can visit [www.footstepsfoundation.com](http://www.footstepsfoundation.com)

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## Neighbourhood Development Plan Update

Just a short update this month. The document was sent to a publishing company for professional layout, editing and presentation before Christmas and is still with them. We do not expect the resulting document until the end of January. Meanwhile, with help from a member of the Chinnor NDP team, digital maps are being created from hand drawn additions to paper OS maps. These include the locations of such things as for example, the Dorchester and Overy Conservation Areas, significant buildings and walls, places that have been identified as village green spaces and green verges and of course footpaths!! These maps will then be incorporated into the final document which by that time will be ready for public presentation and submission to SODC.

On a general note, there have been some changes to the NDP process and in particular District councils across the country. Where a district council has less than a 5 year housing land supply (identified for the number of houses they have been allocated to build) villages have been vulnerable to speculative attempts by developers to build almost anywhere they choose unless they have an approved NDP. This has happened in local villages as close as Benson.

Where SODC have tried to defend these applications, they have been unsuccessful at Planning Appeals due to the absence of a 5 Year Housing Land supply (SODC have a 3.8 year land supply). The recent changes mean that Local councils will in future require just a 3 year land supply making it easier to defend against speculative developers. We have been fortunate in Dorchester so far to avoid similar attempts as the whole village is in the Green Belt and new housing is only allowed where there are exceptional circumstances.

**Cllr. Chris Hill**

### Chiropodist

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## Parish Council

### Monthly Meeting - February

The February meeting will take place in the back room of the Village Hall on **Wednesday 8 February** commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Agenda will be posted on Village notice boards and on the Parish Council section of the Village website – [www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk](http://www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk) - three clear days in advance of the meeting. All Parish Council Meetings are open to the public; a resident who wishes to raise any matter of concern is welcome to do so at the start of the meeting.

### Precept 2017/18

For the second year in a row the Council has decided that there will be no increase in the Council's Precept (i.e. its share of Council Tax).

### Annual Parish Meeting 2017

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 31 May**.

### 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) **07745 311439**. Texts are always welcome.

e-mail: [parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

Cllr Chris Hill, the Chairman of the Council, can be contacted via [chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk](mailto:chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

More information about the Village is available at [www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk](http://www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

## Planning matters

### Have your say on how the council should engage with people

Residents and businesses can have their say on how South Oxfordshire District Council should engage with them on planning application and policy development across the district.

The district council is updating its Statement of Community Involvement – the document that explains how the council will engage with people about planning matters. The previous Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in 2006 and a draft updated version has now been produced to reflect changes to the way in which people communicate.

People can view and comment on the draft Statement of Community Involvement by visiting [survey.southoxon.gov.uk/s/SCIConsultation](http://survey.southoxon.gov.uk/s/SCIConsultation).

The consultation is open from Wednesday 11 January to 5pm on **Wednesday 22 February 2017**. It is also available to view at public libraries throughout the district.

Cllr John Cotton, Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council, said: 'It's very important everybody in the district has a chance to get involved with planning applications. Nobody knows the district like its residents and businesses, and we want to make sure we're making it as easy as possible for people to let us know what they think about applications and policy development that may affect them.'

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils  
[www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk) | @southoxon

## John Cotton January 2017

### Planning Matters

Didcot Garden Town is a major part of SODC's plan for development in the District, offering a significant number of jobs and homes. Following the consultation, all comments from the website, events and conversations with community groups are being used to help prepare a draft masterplan for the Garden Town. This masterplan and vision for the area, supported by a Garden Town delivery plan setting out how this vision will become a reality, will be published in spring / summer 2017, at which point the community will have another opportunity to comment.

### Neighbourhood Planning Update

During December, Minister For Housing, Gavin Barwell MP, announced new ways Neighbourhood Plans will affect development. Our MP, John Howell, summarises the new approach well in his blog and I have taken this quote from there. *'The new rules mean that Neighbourhood Plans should not be considered 'out-of-date' where: The Neighbourhood Plan is less than 2 years old or has been part of the local development plan for 2 years or less; The Neighbourhood Plan allocates sites for housing; and, The Local Planning Authority can demonstrate a 3 year supply of deliverable housing sites'* John's full statement can be found at: <http://www.johnhowellmp.com/news/neighbourhood-plan-update/917>

This has significant implications for existing and up and coming Neighbourhood Plans and emphasises the importance of keeping them up to date. I know that John is working hard to get this and other provisions onto the Statute Book as soon as possible. To get up-dates on his activities in this and other areas I do recommend you follow John's Blog and sign up to his newsletter.

Naturally, the developers are none too keen on this provision, which puts planning back in the hands of democratically elected representatives rather than their barristers and they are challenging the Minister's decision with a Judicial Review.

### A competition for new businesses

Together with our partner Council, Vale of the White horse, we are sponsors of a new competition for businesses which are less than two years old. Southern Oxfordshire New Business Competition 2017 (SONBC '17) is accepting applications from 1 January to 28 February. Judges are looking for the brightest rising stars in local business, whatever their

trade or industry. The winner will receive a serviced office rent-free for a year, plus a host of other great prizes to help boost their business including: expert branding and website advice, social media coaching, IT consultancy and support, accountancy services and a full programme of business mentoring. For more information and to download an application form go to [www.sonbc.co.uk](http://www.sonbc.co.uk)

Grants available to help get residents active new funding from Sport England will be available to councils, community groups and sports clubs from January 2017. The funding is aimed at projects which reduce inactivity, increase volunteering and improve facilities. There are the following funds:

- Community Asset Fund for capital projects to provide new or enhanced facilities, or new facilities in fields or unused buildings. Types of projects that could be eligible include renovating a sports pavillion, installing floodlighting or creating a new sports pitch. £5,000 - £150,000 is available.
- Inactivity Fund for revenue projects that increase activity levels in people aged 55 and over such as Walking Football or care home activities. Funding is anticipated to be between £250,000-£500,000.
- Volunteer Funding which targets under-represented groups and young people aged 10-20 years. Projects could include charities and organisations working with groups to promote volunteering opportunities for example matching volunteers to sports club volunteering roles.

For more information please contact Cath Dale, Participation Officer on **07801 203 551** or **01235 422222** or by email [cath.dale@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:cath.dale@southandvale.gov.uk).

### Policing Matters

Questions about the response rates to 101 calls were raised with the Chief Constable at his Annual Report to SODC, and our District Representative on the Police And Crime Commissioner's Panel has canvassed other District Councillors to see how wide spread this problem is and raised it as an issue at the Panel on 16 December. There have been few reports of this as an issue as people would not naturally think of this as an issue councils

can resolve. We have summarised the responses received from Chief Constable Francis Habgood as;

1. There are robust monitoring systems in place, covering both 999 and 101 services.
2. The Chief Constable has been aware of this issue over the summer and autumn period.
3. A number of issues have been identified, including abnormal peaks in near simultaneous incidents on the M1/M4/M25/M40/A40/A34 roads in particular, an unexpectedly high turnover of staff and a general increase in reporting incidents over the period.
4. The 999 number is receiving a significant increase in multiple reports of incidents by mobile phone. As the increased load means that 101 line resources are re-tasked to cover the peak it does mean that the 101 service is reduced temporarily.
5. Steps have been taken to address the issue in the short term, but there has been a delay in getting to optimum levels. One reason is that it takes 9 months to train an operative to the required level.
6. To ensure that standards are maintained in the longer term, a number of initiatives are being looked at, including web chat and web reporting.

This will remain on the Panel's radar for review. In addition to the normal PCC Panel work, we have been involved in the scrutiny of the PCC's proposed budget to ensure that value for money is being obtained, and this piece of work will continue until the end of February.

### Let us know about your local community blogs

We're always keen to reach as many people as possible across the district. Please let us know about any key community blogs and newsletters in your area that we might use to distribute our newsletters, press releases and other useful local information. Please send any info to [communications@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communications@southandvale.gov.uk)

On that very subject, a quick reminder that we are keen to improve communications with residents and South News, the newsletter which includes information of interest to residents, is one of our initiatives. Please sign up for the newsletters which will be published every two months.





### Crime prevention advice

During November and December we have unfortunately seen an increase in thefts from people. More commonly known as 'pick pocketing' and 'purse thefts'. These incidents have been reported around Wallingford Market Place, in particular the supermarket. Older women have been targeted and have had their purse stolen from their handbags, none of the victims have noticed until they have gone to pay for items or got home. You may have seen an increase in officers patrolling around these areas. We have been handing out leaflets and reminding people to keep their belongings out of sight and purses/wallets to be zipped away. As part of this initiative we have some 'purse bells' to hand out. If you would like a FREE purse bell please speak to your local officer or contact us. (Details below)

### Shoplifting

During the build up to Christmas officers were involved in shoplifting deterrents. This involved high visibility patrols and plain clothed patrols in and around the shops in Wallingford. This was very successful and we saw a decrease in shoplifting reports. This also provided a great reassurance to members of the public and shop staff.

To contact the neighbourhood team call the police non-emergency number 101 or if it is an emergency then dial 999.

You can also contact us via email

[WallingfordBerinsfieldCholseyNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:WallingfordBerinsfieldCholseyNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

[www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

**Action Fraud** has received several reports from victims who have been sent convincing looking emails claiming to be from Amazon. The spoofed emails from "service@amazon.co.uk" claim recipients have made an order online and mimic an automatic customer email notification.

The scam email claims recipients have ordered an expensive vintage chandelier. Other reported examples include: Bose stereos, iPhone's and luxury watches.

The emails cleverly state that if recipients haven't authorised the transaction they can click on the help centre link to receive a full refund. The link leads to an authentic-looking website, which asks victims to confirm their name, address, and bank card information.

Amazon says that suspicious e-mails will often contain:

- Links to websites that look like Amazon.co.uk, but aren't Amazon.co.uk.
- Attachments or prompts to install software on your computer.
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Royal Academy of Music

## Sheku Kanneh-Mason and Junior Academy at Dorchester Abbey



### Haydn Cello Concerto in C Mozart Requiem

**Saturday 4th March 2017 7.30pm**

Dorchester Abbey, High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames OX10 7HH

**Sheku Kanneh-Mason** cello (BBC Young Musician 2016)  
**Junior Royal Academy of Music Chamber Orchestra**

**The Laudate Choir / Howard Ionascu** conductor

6.30pm: pre-concert talk with Professor Timothy Jones (Royal Academy of Music), whose edition of Mozart's Requiem will be performed this evening. Free to ticket holders.

**Tickets £25, £20 (students £10)**

Tel. 0333 666 3366 or [www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/303538](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/303538)

## Exciting new talent comes to Dorchester

Howard Ionascu (Director of the Junior Royal Academy) and I are organising a special one-off Concert on **Saturday 4 March 2017** in Dorchester Abbey, described on the left.

We are very excited that the inspirational young cellist, Sheku Kanneh-Mason, the BBC's Young Musician of 2016, and the Junior Royal Academy Chamber Orchestra will perform Haydn's Cello Concerto. After an interval (with a complimentary glass of wine) Mozart's Requiem will be sung by the Laudate Choir, again with the Academy's Orchestra conducted by Howard Ionascu. Before the concert at 6.30pm there will be a talk by Professor Timothy Jones whose edition of Mozart's Requiem is being performed; this talk will be free to concert ticket holders.

The net proceeds of this event will be shared between Dorchester Abbey and the Junior Royal Academy, the latter using the funds for a Bursary.

Please do give me a ring or write to the address below if you would like tickets, making cheques payable to 'Dorchester Abbey PCC' or go to the website given on the left. We very much look forward to seeing as many of you and your friends who can be with us on this special evening.

**Margy Jenkins**

The Old College

16A High Street

Dorchester-on-Thames

Oxon OX10 7HH

**01865 341050**

Sometimes it seems that the same items dominate our new reports on a regular basis. Behind the scenes much goes on which, although less sensational in news terms, is important in our everyday lives. For example the state of our roads is an issue regularly raised with me and a source of frustration for motorists. Government has ring-fenced money for their repair in the past and has now announced a dedicated £1,315,000 pothole fund for 2017/18. It is part of a £1.2 billion fund for local roads that the Government is allocating to councils to repair and rebuild our transport links. The total allocation for Oxfordshire comes to £19,409,000. This builds on the 1,036,000 we got last year in Oxfordshire.

The Prime Minister has also recently announced new measures to transform the way we approached and deal with mental health, especially for children and young people where mental health problems are a growing concern. Each secondary school will be offered mental health first aid training to increase awareness around mental health and help to tackle the unacceptable stigma around the issue. To support this initiative, new proposals will outline how mental health services for schools, universities and families can be improved, so that everyone in the community is supported, at every stage of life. There will also be an expert review into how we can improve mental wellbeing in the workplace. I very much welcome this as there has not been sufficient focus on mental healthcare in this

## From your MP... John Howell January 2017

country. Of course, health care generally has been very much in the news with pressures reported on the NHS as demand is unprecedented. A number of measures have been taken towards winter preparedness including an allocation of £400 million to local health systems. It is recognised that our healthcare professionals work hard and different action is being taken in different areas to locally manage specific concerns. Of course we can all help relieve the pressure by directing our own concerns to the appropriate resource and making greater use of our local pharmacists and NHS Direct.

Another hot topic is the growth in new housing. I have written about the changes to the planning system on several occasions and now report a new measure introduced by the Minister just before Christmas. He has set out another provision to strengthen those communities that have developed a Neighbourhood Plan. Where there is a Neighbourhood Plan there is only a need to demonstrate a 3 year land supply to be able to ward off aggressive development rather than the usual 5 year supply. I am certain that for communities where this applies the implications will be clearly understood and welcomed.

To receive my regular e-newsletters and briefings please email me to be added to the circulation list at [john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com](mailto:john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com).

## Abbey's ancient walls resound to the tumultuous and ethereal

Review of Verdi's *Requiem*  
Benson Choral Society  
Dorchester Abbey  
Sunday, November 26 2016

THERE can be few venues more suited to Verdi's awesome *Requiem* than Dorchester Abbey. A large well-disciplined choir, four ideally-matched soloists and an augmented orchestra filled this ancient building with a glorious variety of sound from the tumultuous roaring of the *Dies irae* (Wrath of God) to the ethereal beauty of the *Libera me* (Deliver me, O Lord).

What made this performance so outstanding was that Maestro Christopher Walker's choices of tempi were exemplary throughout.

From the beginning he savoured every detail of each pianissimo phrase and the whole ensemble responded sensitively to every nuance.

He established an atmosphere of respect, peace and nobility as befits the funeral of a great man - in this case Verdi's countryman Alessandro Manzoni, to whose memory the work was dedicated.

In the religious context it is a source of puzzlement to yours truly that the peaceful opening 'Grant them eternal rest, Lord' is shortly followed by the tumultuous *Dies irae* in which fire and brimstone rain down upon them - but musically the juxtaposition works very well. In the *Dies irae* Maestro Walker stuck firmly to his chosen tempo. Consequently, the imposing antiphonic brass fanfare, *Tuba mirum*, arguably the most majestic and exciting crescendo in brass history, was absolutely spine-tingling.



The four vocal soloists, individually and in their trios and quartets, such as *Offertorium* and *Lux Aeterna*, provided many beautiful moments too numerous to describe here. Some high points were as follows.

Christopher Foster bass in his solo *Mors stupebit* (Death will be astounded) left us in no doubt that grim death was nigh. Also, his contribution to the trio *Lux Aeterna* was gorgeously resonant and fruity.

Mark Chaundy, tenor, in his long, high-pitched and challenging aria *Ingemisco tamquam* (I moan as one accused) exercised superb breath control and evenness of tone. Susan Legg, mezzo-soprano, was on top form throughout and clearly enjoying it. Her clarity and sweetness of tone in her first number, *Liber scriptus* (A written book) was particularly telling.

Elizabeth Roberts, soprano, in the unnerving final aria *Libera Me* (Deliver me) sang with admirable simplicity and accuracy of pitch.

She, and the choir, should be congratulated on successfully navigating the unaccompanied key modulations that so

often end up with the choir singing in one key and the soloist in another. Their intonation remained rock solid.

Thomas Oxley played the notoriously difficult bassoon solo in *Quid sum miser* (What such a wretch as I) with great liquidity and deceptive ease.

Also, notably, the cello section played the start of the *Offertorium* successfully in unison. Even in the most professional performances this tricky passage is sometimes left for the leader to perform as a solo.

And that leaves the choir - last but by no means least. Immaculate in dress and voice they sang consistently well and evenly, fully responsive to the conductor and very supportive of the soloists in their combined numbers.

Verdi's *Requiem* would have been as nothing without their discipline and fine attention to detail.

**John Burleigh**

This review appeared in Henley Standard from which it is reproduced with kind permission.



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## Wallingford Museum Forthcoming special exhibitions at Wallingford Museum

Volunteers are busy preparing new exhibitions for Wallingford Museum's seasonal opening from **1 March**. The new exhibitions are:-

**'Pettits: past to present'** exhibition will give a history of Wallingford's department store, and a little about the family who ran it from its beginning in 1856 to the present day. The business was started by two brothers and changed and expanded through the years as it passed to later generations of the same family until 1987 when it was taken over by another local family. Over time it has sold a large range of merchandise and undergone several transformations while continuing to serve the people of Wallingford and the surrounding area. The newly renovated department store will be re-opening during 2017.

**'Wallingford Castle - the Inside Story'** presents a closer look at different parts of the castle based on recent research - featuring details of June Strong's new artist's impression of the castle and exploring how the town and castle were linked by many essential services.

But this is not all...

**'Ways to Wallingford'** describes how Wallingford has been an important crossing point on the Thames since the Saxon times and the exhibition will look at transport and trade to and from Wallingford over the ages and consider roads, the river Thames, railways and aviation. In addition to looking at how the routes have developed with fords, ferries and bridges the Museum displays will cover the many uses of the river and also the importance of RAF Benson from its establishment just before WW II up to the present day.

And if you come early in the season, your £5 entry ticket will give you terrific value, as you'll be able to return as many times as you like for no extra cost. The Museum is open from 1st March. Accompanied children under 16 are free, and there's lots for the family to enjoy throughout the rest of the Museum too. Look out for special events this year including Town and Castle history walks (**8 April**), A Night at the Museum (**19 May** and **28 Oct**), Family Archaeology Day (**22 July**), BunkFest offers, and the Agatha Christie Weekend (**8 -10 Sept**).

You can also join an increasingly popular Guided Historic Town Walk on any Saturday morning from Easter until the end of September, starting from the Town Hall at 11.00am. Walks last 1 - 2 hours and cost £5 per head, money which will be donated to support Wallingford Museum.

These are general walks covering the rich history of our town, but also touching on the links with Agatha Christie and 'Midsomer Murders'. They will appeal to residents and visitors alike.

If you'd like to organise a Town Walk like this for your group / society / school at a different time, then please contact Philip Burton on **01491 836200** or [pburton6@talktalk.net](mailto:pburton6@talktalk.net)

Full details at [www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk)

## What's on in Wallingford



## 'Treasures Beneath our Feet' 'Ways to Wallingford'

February's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be given by Steve Capel-Davies. He will present 'Ways to Wallingford'. Steve's talk is very timely as it complements the forthcoming 'Ways to Wallingford' exhibition at Wallingford Museum.

Wallingford has been an important crossing point on the Thames since the Saxon times and the exhibition will look at transport and trade to and from Wallingford over the ages and consider roads, the river Thames, railways and aviation. In addition to looking at how the routes have developed with fords, ferries and bridges the Museum displays will cover the many uses of the river and also the importance of RAF Benson from its establishment just before WW II up to the present day.

The talk will be preceded by a short (as usual!) Annual General Meeting.

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

Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

[www.twhas.org.uk](http://www.twhas.org.uk)



## Wallingford Gardening Club Madeira Quintas and Botanical Garden Thurs 9 Feb

At the February meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, Brian Fisher will talk about the 'Madeira Quintas and Botanical Garden'.

Brian has a Wisley Diploma and is a recognised plantsman, working practically with plants and in gardens. Although he is retired, he continues to advise in several private gardens, and lectures widely at horticultural societies and on cruise ships. He is writing a book on Tropical Plants for Travellers.

The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm on **Thursday 9 February**.

Visitors very welcome £3.

**Isabelle Darby**  
**01491 836867**



## What's On February

**Cinema:** Performances start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.  
**February**

- Wed 1 **Mum's List** (12A)  
 Thurs 2 **NT Live: Amadeus**. 7.00pm  
 Fri 3 **La La Land** (12A)  
 Sat 4 **Ballerina** (U) 10.30am and 2.30pm  
 Sat 4 **La La Land** (12A)  
 Sun 5 **La La Land** (12A)  
 Mon 6 **The Eagle Huntress** (U)  
 Tues 7 **A Street Cat Named Bob** (12A)  
 Wed 8 **My Feral Heart** (12A)  
 Thurs 9 **Singin' In The Rain** (FILM CLUB) (U)  
 Fri 10 **Star Wars: Rogue One** (12A)  
 Sat 11 **Moana** (PG) 10.30am and 2.30pm  
 Sat 11 **Star Wars: Rogue One** (12A)  
 Sun 12 **Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them** (12A)  
 Mon 13 **Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them** (12A)  
 Tues 14 **A Monster Calls** (12A)  
 Wed 15 **A Monster Calls** (12A)  
 Thurs 16 **NT Live: St Joan** 7.00pm  
 Fri 17 **Hacksaw Ridge** (15)  
 Sat 18 **Hacksaw Ridge** (15)  
 Sun 19 **Hacksaw Ridge** (15)  
 Mon 20 **Manchester By The Sea** (15)  
 Tues 21 **Manchester By The Sea** (15)  
 Wed 22 **Christine** (15)  
 Thurs 23 **Christine** (15)  
 Fri 24 **Jackie** (15)  
 Sun 26 **Jackie** (15)  
 Mon 27 **Jackie** (15)  
 Tues 28 **Live ballet from Royal Opera House:  
The Sleeping Beauty** 7.00pm

### LIVE

**Saturday 25 February** at 7.45pm **Eat, Drink, Love**. The Merry Opera Company makes a welcome return to the Corn Exchange with their mouth-watering musical celebration of human appetites for drink, for food and for love. A delicious buffet of cabaret songs, operatic arias, duets, trios and quartets containing notes of passion, jealousy and love flavoured with Merry Opera's trademark sauciness. £15 (seniors and under-18s £12).

Tickets and further information, including late additions to cinema programme are available online

[www.cornexchange.org.uk](http://www.cornexchange.org.uk) or box office **01491 825000**.

## The Corn Exchange Wallingford Roof Appeal

### We need your help please

Wallingford's historic Corn Exchange is embarking on a major project costing £550,000 to replace the roof on the Grade II listed Victorian building. The existing glass roof, the 1856 original, leaks badly in poor weather and is damaging the building's interior and infrastructure.

The Corn Exchange Wallingford Roof Appeal was officially launched in the New Year and a number of fund raising events will be held during the year to secure the finances.

A dedicated team of volunteers has already started the process of applying for various grants and will be appealing to local businesses for sponsorship.

The Corn Exchange is a charity, run by volunteers, with all profits ploughed back into the running and maintenance of the building. The charity has already set aside £150,000 for the project from its reserves. The new roof, which has been designed by an architect who specialises in old and listed buildings, will incorporate a modern ventilation and heating system and, in opening up the interior roof space, will allow the full splendour of the original Victorian framework to be appreciated.

Work is expected to start in June and work completed by October.

So, if you love cinema and theatre and would like to donate to help preserve this very important amenity for Wallingford and surrounding area, here's how to do it:

Cash or cheques (payable to Sinodun Players) can be placed in a special box in the Corn Exchange foyer, or post cheques to fundraising co-ordinator John Warburton, Corn Exchange, Market Place, Wallingford OX10 0EG. Donations can be made by BACS to Sinodun Players, National Westminster Bank, sort code 60-22-19, Account No. 66525705 (ref 'roof fund').

Thank you for your support.

## Wallingford U3A

**Feb 1** A brief AGM: then John and Simone Richards will speak on "Travels in India and Nepal"

**March 1** Still in India. Richard Wilson: *The Global Problem of Slums. What can be Done*.

Our Groups are beginning to function again after the Winter Break. Find out more about what we do by visiting Google u3awallingford, or by phoning Hermione on **01865 858024**.

Each U3A is what its members make it. New people join. New interest groups are formed. New friends are made. Come and join us.

Our Meetings are held in Crowmarsh Village Hall at 2.00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Visitors are always welcome. To see more of what we do please visit our Website Google u3awallingford. Or phone Hermione on **01865 858024**, or Jill on **01491 835994**



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## Day by day

Sat 4 Feb	<b>Singing Saturdays</b> 9.00am to 4.00pm Dorchester Abbey
	<b>Dorchester v Sutton Courtenay</b> North Berks League Div.2 2.00pm Recreation Ground
Sun 5 Feb	<b>5th after Epiphany</b> 8.00am Holy Communion (1662) (Revd Sue Booy's )  10.30am Morning Service and Baptism  <b>Thames Consort concert</b> 7.00pm Dorchester Abbey
Mon 6 Feb	<b>Parochial Church Council</b> 7.45pm Abbey Guest House
Wed 8 Feb	<b>Parish Council</b> Monthly meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
Thurs 9 Feb	<b>W.I.</b> <i>Working as a Met. Man in the Falklands and S. Georgia</i> Michael Palmer 2.30pm Village Hall
Sun 12 Feb	<b>3rd before Lent</b> 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662) (Revd Jon Roberts )  10.30am Sung Eucharist
Tues 14 Feb	<b>Short Communion</b> 10.15am
Wed 15 Feb	<b>Culham &amp; District Horticultural Club</b> <i>A plantsman's garden in North Yorkshire</i> John Grimshaw 7.30pm Abbey Guest House



Thurs 16 Feb	<b>Classic Car Show,</b> George Hotel 1.00-4.00pm  <b>Chiropodist</b> Village Hall (see p17)
Sun 19 Feb	<b>2nd before Lent</b> 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662) (Revd Jennifer Morton)  10.30am Family Service  5.00pm Evensong
Wed 22 Feb	<b>Dorchester Historical Society</b> <i>Intriguing and Surprising Themes in Medieval Illuminated Manuscripts</i> Prof Greg Stores 7.30pm Village Hall
Thurs 23 Feb	<b>Service at Cheshire Home</b> 11.30am
Sat 25 Feb	<b>South Oxon Bellringers AGM</b> 3.00 pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 26 Feb	<b>1st before Lent</b> 8.00am Holy Communion (1662) (Revd Sue Booy's )  10.30am Sung Eucharist

Church services in the Abbey appear in red.  
More details can be found at :  
[www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk](http://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

## Weekly events

Tuesday	<b>Coffee in the Abbey</b> 10.30am-12noon <b>Bellringing Practice</b> 7.30 pm Abbey <b>Fishmonger</b> 9.30am to 9.40am by War Memorial (p.4)
Wednesday	<b>Holy Communion at Berinsfield Church</b> 9.30am <b>Lunch Club</b> Village Hall 12.30pm
Thursday	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b> 9.30am – 11.00am Village Hall: (term time only)
Friday	<b>Choir Practice</b> 7.00pm Abbey

Regular events also appear in the Parish Council's website:  
[www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk](http://www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

## Parish Registers

### Funeral

17 Nov	Margaret Scott
30 Nov	Andrew Portwain

### Baptism

11 Dec	Georgia Samantha Parsons
--------	--------------------------

### Wedding

30 Dec	Daniel Jenkinson and Sarah Beal
--------	---------------------------------

For details of services at St Birinus RC Church go to:  
[www.stbirinus.co.uk](http://www.stbirinus.co.uk)

## The Dorchester Flyer

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Departs Wallingford (Corn Exchange):	11.40	13.00

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Monday-Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm, Sunday 10:30am-5:00pm Closed Tuesdays



## Valentine's Day Tuesday 14 February



Oh, if it be to choose and call thee mine,  
love, thou art every day my Valentine!

Thomas Hood



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### 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

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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; [edwardsbrenda148@gmail.com](mailto:edwardsbrenda148@gmail.com) or telephone **01865 343062**.

Please telephone at least 24 hours in advance to arrange collection of the key.

## 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](mailto: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.more recycling.co.uk](http://www.more recycling.co.uk)

## BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

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

### OPENING HOURS

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

## Useful Information

## ANIMAL WELFARE

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

## TRANSPORT

### DORCHESTER FLYER

The Dorchester Flyer runs every Friday from Dorchester to Wallingford at 10.15am and 12.00noon, returning at 11.40am and 1.00pm. Tickets must be bought from Lily's in advance.

### OTHER BUS SERVICES

Information about bus services, both local and national, is available from [www.traveline.info](http://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; **07745 311439** (during normal office hours, please, unless an emergency); [parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk).

More information about the village is available at: [www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk](http://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](mailto:education@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

### ABBEY E-MAIL:

[admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

### VILLAGE WEBSITE

[www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk](http://www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

### ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST

The Presbytery  
**Fr. John Osman**  
Bridge End  
**01865 340417**  
[www.stbirinus.co.uk](http://www.stbirinus.co.uk)

Dorchester Abbey Museum E-mail  
[museum@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:museum@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)



## REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Fri 3 Feb **Green**  
Fri 10 Feb **Black**  
Fri 17 Feb **Green**  
Fri 24 Feb **Black**

### Weekdays from 7.00am.

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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## The Christmas lights of Dorchester

London has the Christmas lights of Oxford Street and Regent Street. In Dorchester things are a little more sedate. Thank you to all who made our Christmas a little bit brighter and cheerier.

