

Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

March 2017





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Dorchester News March 2017 A DoT view

As I write this, the weather is damp and fairly mild, and one or two people have said to me that it looks like we have got through the winter without serious weather-related problems. However, we should remember that it is not too late even now. The cover picture of Manor Farm Road is taken from a photograph by Gaynor Roberts which she took in April a few years' ago. So we should not count our chickens...

Something else that several have spoken to me about recently is how they get items into the Dorchester News. We are a newsletter, not a newspaper. This means that we do not create content (with few, mainly photographic, exceptions) but rely on items to be submitted that are of interest to the village. Anyone can send me an item and, if it is of interest or relevance to the village, I will endeavour to include it complete and uncut. If it is too long for me to get it in I may edit it down, otherwise editing will be limited to spelling and grammar. And, of course, we do not publish anything that is obscene or defamatory and the authorship must be clear.

Our distributors are also happy to include material such as leaflets along with the Dorchester News as part of the distribution. There is no charge for this, but you need to provide the required number of copies and someone to insert them into the copies for distribution. I hope that this is clear.

This month we have several items relating to Bishop's Court Farm, all of which have been submitted in the usual way and are included as submitted.

Ian Brace

Cover: A cold day on Manor Farm Road.
From a photograph by Gaynor Roberts



Deadline for April Dorchester News

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Gail Thomas

Distribution Co-ordinator

Maurice Day

Copy Deadlines for Dorchester News

April edition	10 Mar
May edition	13 Apr
June edition	12 May

Advert Deadlines for Dorchester News

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

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

Advertising in Dorchester News

There are ten issues per year with double issues in July/August and in Dec/Jan. For an eighth of a page the cost is £11.75 mono, £12.75 colour; for a quarter page £23.50 mono, £25.50 colour; for a half page £35.25 mono, £38.50 colour and full page £47.00 mono, £51.00 colour.

All charges are put towards the cost of the paper, printing and postage of copies being sent outside the village.

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.

What are you giving up for Lent?

This feels a rather different question to ask in our present 'age of austerity' than in previous times of excess. At the risk of coming across as a po-faced Puritan, it is worth exploring a bit about how all this works in our modern society and our lives.

When one has been enjoying the cream of the land, a period of dieting can seem worthwhile and even righteous. The discipline of moderation can easily be understood and its underlying spiritual benefits appreciated. Forgetting the need to rein in one's appetites can lead to big problems. Recent official health initiatives about obesity have focussed minds on the dangers of eating junk food for too long. I wonder whether there is a rough parallel with the 'irrational exuberance' which Alan Greenspan diagnosed during the dotcom bubble of the 1990s before the wider financial crash. One could say the banks ate too much junk food in their lending and investment, grew bloated and didn't realise until too late how little nutrition some of it contained.

One can recall too the breezily entitled 'pension holidays' some organisations took, which really meant inflating profits by not putting enough money aside into employees' schemes in anticipation of the lean years. How much has changed now with prominent organisations burdened with pension scheme deficits and having

to formulate painful long-term plans to get back on the level again. It is complex stuff which is clearly spiritual, about fall and restoration, as is explored in the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for this year, *Dethroning Mammon: making money serve grace*.

Looking back before we look forward, it has been interesting to see how Alcohol Concern's Dry January campaign has caught on. For some it is a way of coming down from the party-fuelled excesses of the build-up to Christmas and the season itself. Of course one could say that with more moderation and spiritual focus on the meaning of Christmas the excess would not occur, so such an antidote would not be needed. Perhaps that is too idealistic. The traditional spiritual wisdom was to do things the other way round and put the period of restraint before rather than after. Advent used to be a period of waiting and preparation before enjoying Christmas to the full, but that has sadly been rather overtaken by our impatience in recent years.

So moving on to Lent, what can we do and why should we? Giving up chocolate or biscuits or coffee for Lent can be a neat little way to symbolise in our own lives preparing our hearts for Easter. The traditional approach over centuries has been observing Lent as a period of fasting and penitence for our sins, the failings

set us free and give us hope of a way out. It prepares us to walk with Jesus through suffering to his victory over the forces of destruction and helps get us ready to celebrate the wonderful redeeming mystery of his resurrection.

A church congregation I know decided that giving up most meetings for Lent was the best way to prepare for Easter! For that busy congregation, it had real benefits in creating fresh space they hadn't thought was there. In the Dorchester team this Lent, at the Abbey on Sunday evenings from 6pm and in parish gatherings during the week we will be thinking about ways of caring for creation and all are welcome to come along. Many Christian organisations have tried to give assistance with very practical ways of walking with Jesus. There is a helpful little booklet which gives practical suggestions for how people young and old in the wide family of the church can get into the spirit of Lent called *'Love Life, Live Lent: transform your world'*. It is downloadable at <https://books.google.co.uk/books?isbn=0715141821> There are lively down-to-earth suggestions about giving things up and taking things on; being generous; making more time for quiet; being greener; helping those who are suffering; preparing for new life.

So this Lent, how will you join in the the spiritual fellowship of this special season?

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.



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.

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

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

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



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

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) or Helen Russell (**01865 340759**).

EASTER LILIES 2017



As we look forward to celebrating one of the most important festivals of the church, the Abbey flower arranging team invite you to participate by making a contribution towards the cost of flowers which we will use to decorate the Abbey at this joyous season.

Perhaps you would consider making this a donation in memory of a loved one whose name would be displayed close to the Easter Lilies, the centrepiece arrangement.

Please complete the form below and send it to me:

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

or hand it to one of the flower arranging team - Cathy Glass, Helen Wigmore, Susan Jupp, Vera Baker

Name

Contact phone number

Amount of donation

Donation in memory of

Thank you from Kate, Emma and Sam

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to so many friends in Dorchester for all the cards, messages, kindness and support we have received following the loss of our lovely Mum and Grandma, Rita Dow.

A tribute to Rita appears on p19—Ed

Mothering Sunday Sunday 26 March

Sunday 26 March is Mothering Sunday please join us for a service to celebrate suitable for all ages – we look forward to seeing you all!



Dear Readers,
In February we listened to Michael Palmer who talked to us about his job as a 'met man' in the Falklands and South Georgia. Lots of interesting slides and cute penguins! On **March 9** we will have our AGM and Bring and Buy Sale for ACWW. We will be looking for some new committee member nominations please.

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 or look us up on Facebook 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**.

Also, see page 8 for an item on the WI Open Meeting on 13 April.

**DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES
SPRING FLOWER SHOW**
and
Plant Sale/Raffle
in
DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL
Saturday 1st April 2017
See insert for details



Hempcroft Allotment News

Hopefully we are now on the threshold of Spring and the new gardening season. The days are beginning to lengthen and, although it may not feel like it, the temperatures are slowly increasing day by day. More importantly the longer days are the real trigger to new growth and you will find that with the help of a little protection you can really go for those early sowings. The clocks go forward on 26th March. Plan your work load for the month according to weather and the time you have available.

Sowing and Planting

Plant out first earlies of potatoes as soon as possible and follow on planting out at regular intervals with the second earlies and first maincrops until the end of the month. But don't be tempted to plant out more potatoes than you can protect from any frosty weather that may appear. Sow

the seed of Brussels sprouts, summer cabbage, broccoli, onions and leeks in short rows on a 'nursery seed bed'. These can be transplanted in April. In the open ground sow in rows seeds of round seeded spinach, Swiss chard, early types of beetroot, carrots, parsnips, lettuce, spring onions, peas, broad beans and turnips. Plant out onion sets, shallots and garlic before they start to produce shoots. If you are buying any from garden centres reject any that are shooting they will only bolt during the summer.

General

Complete any unfinished digging and winter pruning. Clear the old leaves off strawberry plants and clean up the ground in between the plants before giving them a top dressing of a general fertiliser. Keep some fleece handy to protect the developing strawberry flowers from frost. When the weather conditions allow it, complete the preparations of seed beds for direct seed sowing.

Edward Metcalfe

From Mary Galer

I'm taking part in the Goring 10k on 26 February to raise money for Breast Cancer Now and I'd really appreciate your support. I'm going to be raising money in memory of Laura Painter.

It's easy to donate online with a debit or credit card - just visit my JustGiving page <http://www.justgiving.com/owner-email/pleasesponsor/MaryGaler1>

JustGiving sends your donation straight to Breast Cancer Now and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more.

Thank you for your support

Mary Galer

Many will remember Mary from her time at the Fleur de Lys with husband Nick. If you don't see this until after the 26 February you can still donate. Nick will giving a cookery demonstration on 6 May as part of the Dorchester Festival. Ed.



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Dorchester Evacuee Project Update

- At the Narnia exhibition, our poster and map on the Dorchester WW2 Evacuee Story attracted much attention, and was used as a teaching tool for school visits. The exhibition also attracted former evacuees and local residents who remembered the events of that time, and we have copies of the poster and map for use on other occasions.
- At the November Historical Society meeting, Megan Parry gave a talk about the project so far, and we described some of the possible directions and sources for further research.
- Liz Woolley's January talk to the Historical Society on Children of Oxfordshire in WW2 provided more excellent background material, and suggested new sources.
- We have collated all the information we have gathered so far on evacuee names and home addresses, local billets, etc.
- We have examined the school log book and Parish Council minutes covering the war period.
- Local residents have brought us photographs to copy, as well as written and verbal reminiscences.
- We have located some former evacuees, but hope to find more, with your help, and through contact with the Evacuee Research Association. We are especially keen to find any of the group from Thomas Road School, Stepney.
- In March we are hosting a tea party to bring evacuees and local residents together. Some people will receive personal invitations, but we would welcome others – see invitation to the right.

Margot Metcalfe

Invitation The Dorchester Evacuee Project invites you to A Tea Party

on
Thursday March 23 2017
Dorchester Village Hall
2.30-5.00 p.m.

Come and share conversation, memories, photos and any memorabilia you have of you or your family's experiences of WW2 evacuees and war-time in Dorchester

RSVP: Margot Metcalfe, 14 Queen Street,
01865 340054,
metcalfe.margot@btinternet.com



The George Hotel

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Join us on Sundays for traditional roasts served with our signature Yorkshire puddings

Ala carte menu available 12-3pm and 6pm-9pm daily
Senior citizen menu available daily from 12pm-3pm at £5.95 per head
Enjoy four fine real ales in our olde worlde pub



Christmas bookings now being taken
To reserve your table please call
01865 340404
www.thegeorgedorchester.co.uk



St Birinus Primary School News

School News

On 19 January, nineteen children, Mrs Burns and I attended the O2 arena to join another 7400 children at the Young Voices concert. It was a very long day, leaving school at 10.00am and returning at

12.10am – I think we all suffered from some form of tiredness in different ways. As always, it was a great experience of singing with a vast choir and having the chance to watch Urban Strides (Street Dance group), Beat Box Collective as well as some talented vocalists. The highlight was watching the parents joining in with the street dance – a priceless experience! The group, this year, were fantastic and it was an absolute pleasure to take them, even with the excitement of returning to the coach at the end.



Thomas L, Megan, Tom S, Abbie, Tom B, Amber, Tomas and Jake took part in a Futsal (Indoor football) tournament at the Oxford City Indoor Arena in Berinsfield. We had a great tournament winning most of our games with one draw. We were just beaten to the trophy by one point, which was disappointing but I am so proud of their efforts and all members of the team played their part.

As a school we noted the news at the beginning about the dangers of the internet <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-38508888>. Therefore, with this in mind, we will be holding a Parent Workshop led by Gooseberry Planet on **16 March at 6.30pm** about 'Keeping your child safe online'. We are opening this event to anyone that would be interested in the information not just to parents of the school. Therefore if anyone would like to join us for this event, please let us know on **340081**. It will be an informative evening about the dangers of the internet and what precautions we can make to ensure that our children keep safe. Topics covered will include:

- Privacy settings
 - Purchasing and managing apps
 - Video streaming
 - Managing internet usage
 - Internet sites to avoid.
- Do join us.

Russell Leigh

Headteacher

Dorchester St Birinus CE Primary School



Pre School News

Exciting news for the pre school! The Dorchester Food Store (Midcounties Co-Operative Society) has chosen the Pre School as their local fundraising partner for 2017. It's a wonderful opportunity for the pre school and we look forward to a successful year of fundraising together.

The topic for the term, the Arctic, has provided inspiration for activities and craft this term. Arctic rabbits, digging for treasure in big ice blocks and making crowns and wands from 'Frozen' were just the tip of the iceberg. The home corner has been a campsite and the children have enjoyed playing with the tent and a new play kitchen.

For Chinese New Year the children made red envelopes with collage roosters and ate noodles and prawn crackers. They had a go with chopsticks and looked at their names in Chinese.

Valentine's Day prompted a discussion about Love which is the value of the term. They made glittery salt dough hearts and little sweet treats for their families. There was a fabulous cake sale in conjunction with the Primary School and the children dressed in pink and red for the occasion.

Louisa Margison

On behalf of Matthew Kestner - Pre School Chair

DoT Tots

The village toddler group, 'DoT Tots', will be up and running again soon! We are in the process of finalising the details and updates will be found on our Facebook page (just search Dot Tots) or you can email dotstot2014@aol.co.uk. We are really keen to hear from you if you would like to come along to the group or if you have toys, craft supplies, time or money to donate to help us get going.

This group will be open to children up to school age and their accompanying parent/grandparent/carer. We will have toys, craft, music, a snack for the small people and tea and biscuits for the big people!

Watch this space (and the notice boards around the village) for more information.

Louisa Margison

Berinsfield Community Business

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Dorchester House, Wimblestraw Road,
Berinsfield, Oxfordshire OX10 7LZ
info@bcomb.co.uk www.bcomb.co.uk

Dorchester on Thames Historical Society

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

Richard Juniper will speak on 'The Livery Companies of London.'

Richard Juniper lives in Dorchester. He retired as Consultant Maxillofacial Surgeon at the John Radcliffe Hospital some 20 years ago. He was the third generation of his family to be Master of the Worshipful Company of Poulterers in 1994 and has always had an interest in the Livery Companies of London.



In his talk he will describe what the Livery Companies are and what they do now. He will then go back into their origins in the 10th century, and follow their development and influence to their prime years in the 17th Century. Their subsequent decline in the next two centuries and their revival in the early 20th century up to the present day will be explained

Members free, visitors £3. Visitors and new members are always very welcome to our talks and outings.

Margot Metcalfe
Chairman

WI Open Meeting.

Any resident in Dorchester is welcome to attend.
Thursday 13th April at 2.30 in the Village Hall back room.

Elizabeth Brightwell will speak on:

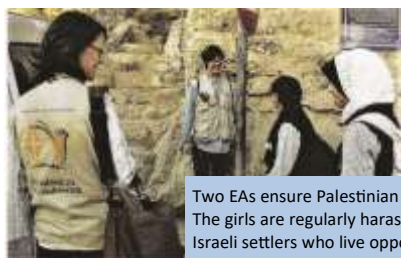
The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel.

The EAPPI sends international volunteers to Israel and occupied Palestine. The Ecumenical Accompaniers live with local communities, participate in daily activities and give voice to local groups working non-violently for peace.

Ecumenical Accompaniers help deter violence from Israeli military and armed settler groups. They monitor and document human rights abuses. They bring change on the ground.



British and Irish EAs monitor movement through a gate in the separation barrier to try to reduce the human rights abuses of Palestinian civilians.



Two EAs ensure Palestinian girls arrive safely at school. The girls are regularly harassed or attacked by extremist Israeli settlers who live opposite their school in Hebron.

'I am glad that the internationals are there. They can observe the truth and give some kind of protection. They make it possible for people to stay.' Fawri, Yanoun villager

Culham & District Horticultural Club

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

Wednesday 15 March 2017

Oxford University's Green Spaces: an illustrated talk by Walter Sawyer.

The talk will explain how the Parks have developed over the last 25 years and how the department operates to provide interesting and attractive spaces for everyone to use.



Walter became Head Gardener at Wolfson College Oxford in 1982 after training at Askham Bryan College, York. Nine years later he was appointed Superintendent of the University Parks Department. During his time there the Parks Department has grown from caring for 60 sites to more than 210, including over 20 colleges. The plant collections have developed dramatically as has the diversity of uses of the Parks.

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

Village working party The Drayton Road Cemetery

Saturday 18 March 10.00am

Following the earth removal, nettle and weed clearance, and grass seeding at the Cemetery, local volunteers Keith Russell and Chris Hill have planted more than 300 daffodil bulbs. However, in order to ensure the area continues to thrive we are inviting volunteers to a Spring Clean. This will entail strimming the grass, cutting back random weed growth and generally tidying any storm damage and clearing debris in the area. Tools required will be protective gloves and eye protectors, petrol strimmers, forks, spades, loppers, trowels and litter pickers. If we have sufficient numbers we can also tidy the area at the junction of the High Street and Abingdon Road near the Old Plough.

Please give me a call if you are able to help.

Chris Hill
01865 340910



28th April—7th May

In this copy of the Dorchester News you have a Festival programme hot off the press. If this is your second programme please pass it on to friends rather than the recycling bin! This is amazing entertainment right on your doorstep at a good price, so please do book tickets, bring your friends, and support two very worthwhile local charities. Masquerade Bash tickets are already starting to go fast so get together with your friends and organise a table of 12 for a great fun evening before it's too late—see the separate ad!

Claim your 10% early booking discount!

If you buy your tickets by the end of 5th March you get a 10% discount using the code DORFEST before you pay. There is no booking fee if you book online and print your ticket at home. There is a small fee for using the telephone box office 0333 666 3366 and for posting tickets.

Food



Food & Gift Fair & Cookery Demos Sat 6th & Sun 7th May

With amazing foods on offer the Tent is the place for lunch over the second weekend! Come and browse some great stalls, listen to producers be passionate about their food and book in for the great cookery demonstrations. These intimate sessions are in some of the smartest kitchens in Dorchester. Book early as numbers are very limited!

Seasonal Food with **Nick Galer**
BakeOff with **Christine Wallace**
Kids cookery with **Mrs Bun the Baker**
Midsommarfest with **Claire Andersson**
And.....(drum roll....)

Sophie Grigson has just confirmed her demos for Sat 6th May



PS — Village Essentials

Get training for the 5k fun run, plan your scarecrow for the trail and buy your duck!!!!
More details on the website....



Comedy Night Fri 5th May 7.30pm



Always one of the best nights, bring your supper (and lots of friends) and see the great **Gary Delaney**, master of the one-liners and regular on Mock the Week, supported by Festival regular Taylor Glenn, Caroline Mabey & Luke Toulson

Bond Night

With the BBC Elstree Concert Band and The Oxford City Singers

Sat 29th April 7.30pm

The great Big Band sound from the 48 piece Elstree playing all those film themes you know so well!



Dog Show

Sat 29th April from 10am

Prepare your best friend for a great range of classes including *Musical Sit* and *My Dog's got Talent*. All dogs welcome from mutt to pedigree!



Games Cafe @ The Festival Arms

BH Mon 1st May 7.30pm

Get your team together for the traditional pub games challenge or just turn up and enjoy the board games. Everything from Aunt Sally to table hockey!



Book your tickets now

On line from the website or through the ticket hotline 0333 666 3366

More details of events at: **www.dorchesterfestival.com**

Do email us with any queries (or offers of help!) at festival@dorchester-abbey.org.uk
....we always need one more person to pour tea!



Friends of Dorchester Abbey Visit to Salisbury Monday 15 May 2017

Cost: £25.00 per person for Friends of the Abbey.
This includes coach travel and guided tour of Salisbury Cathedral.
£27.00 per person for non-Friends of the Abbey

The coach will leave from the Bridge End car park in Dorchester at 9.00am.

We should arrive in Salisbury about 10.30am.

Guided tour of Salisbury Cathedral at 2.30pm.

The coach will leave Salisbury at 5.00pm.

Traffic permitting, we should arrive back in Dorchester by 6.30pm.

The Cathedral has the tallest spire, the largest Close and Cloisters and its Quire stalls are the largest and earliest complete set in Britain. It also has the best preserved of only 4 surviving original copies of Magna Carta and the world's oldest working mechanical clock.

There is a cafe/restaurant and a shop.

Friends of Dorchester Abbey will receive this information in the Spring Newsletter.

If anyone else would like to come, please send a cheque for £27.00 per person, payable to 'The Friends of Dorchester Abbey'

Your name, address and phone number to:

Mrs Yvonne Lawden, 9 Queens Close, Dorchester-on-Thames, Wallingford, OX10 7LR

by Friday 14 April. [Please note: you will not be sent tickets or a receipt, if you have any queries please phone Yvonne Lawden on 01865 340465 or email: y.m.lawden@gmail.com]

Further information will be sent to participants before the visit.



A Home Unpacked

*a collaboration between artist Adrian Brooks and
writer/performer Shane Anderson*

Performance at 18.30 Thursday 30 March 2017
at The North Wall Arts Centre, Oxford, OX2 7JN

For more information please visit:

ahomeunpacked.wordpress.com

Facebook @ahomeunpacked | Instagram @adrianhbrooks



Football Results North Berks League

Division 2

28/01/2017	Dorchester	2	7	Hungerford Town FC Swifts
04/02/2017	Dorchester	1	0	Sutton Courtenay

Division 4

11/02/2017	Dorchester Res	0	6	Blewbury
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St Mary's Dental Practice

Dr Ash Ratti (BDS Hons) Kings College London
www.stmarysdental.co.uk

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

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

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

Bell Motors

Behind H Cafe at the Berinsfield roundabout

MOT's while you wait

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

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

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

Need a SERVICE. (**10 % discount** when you quote this advert)

We supply and fit exhausts, brakes, batteries

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DOGS

Social Golf in Dorchester

Dorchester-on-Thames Golf Society is pleased to announce its initial plans for 2017.

Firstly, it stays committed to a long-standing intention that it's a society that plays golf, but more importantly, one that also brings together non-golfers who enjoy the company and activities we arrange. In fact, we usually get more than twice as many people turn out for our social events as we do for golfing outings.

So, a quick overview of what is being planned.

The first finalised golfing fixture is at Mapledurham GC, **Thursday 20 April**, 11.45am sandwich lunch, 18 holes, Tee time 12.45am, Cost £28.

This is a well-respected public course, one we haven't visited for many years, but maybe this is an oversight and a great, low cost introduction to this coming season.

Later on we will have a new midsummer competition based on three reduced rounds at local golf courses. These are 9-holes starting late afternoon to take advantage of longer daylight hours and cut-price green fees. We're looking at around £10 for important clubs such as Huntercombe GC, Oxford GC (Southfields), The Springs and so on.

Other golfing events will include Drayton GC, North Oxford GC and Studley Wood GC.

Socially, the agenda is even more packed. Details will be published soon, but these include an 'Aunt Sally' competition, a theatrical outing, our famous BBQ, a 'DOGS on Tour' overnight stay at Stratford-upon-Avon, lots of social get-togethers in the White Hart and our annual 'DOGS Dinner' for everyone, golfers and non-golfers alike.

Please call us to hear more.

Mike and Jan Rimmer
01865 343719



Update on behalf of Friends of Dorchester & Little Wittenham Open Spaces (FODLWOS)

It's been over a month since the meeting was held in response to Oxfordshire County Council's request for comments on the definitive map and statement submitted by the new landowner. It came as no surprise that the meeting was so well attended with an estimated two-hundred people packing into the village hall. Of those two-hundred roughly eighty per cent were Dorchester residents accompanied by a strong representation from Little Wittenham and surrounding parishes. We would like to express our gratitude to all those who came along and participated, and apologies to those of you who were only able to find standing room.

The main objectives of the evening were, firstly, to inform people of the process of village green registration as a proposed course of action for preserving our open access, and, secondly, to distribute and collect completed evidence questionnaires from those attending the meeting. Last week over four hundred completed questionnaires in support of registering both 'The Dyke Hills' and 'Days Lock Meadow' as village greens were lodged with Oxfordshire County Council. This represents the first of several steps in the legal process for which more information can be found on The Open Spaces Society website at: <http://www.oss.org.uk>

If you haven't yet filled out an evidence questionnaire it's not too late. Copies of the form can be downloaded from the village website at: <http://www.dorchester-on-thames.co.uk> or, if you prefer paper copies, please send an email to rightsofwaydot@gmail.com and this can be arranged.

Bishops Court

A message from Susan Bowditch

1] Thankyou

As I write this, no decision has been made on the development plans for Bishops Court.

Nevertheless, I wanted as soon as possible, to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who objected to the plans. There has been wonderful support, both publicly and privately.

2] Land clearance

We were so lucky in Dorchester to have had the beautiful gentle landscape of Bishops Court and surrounds. I am sure none of us took it for granted, especially as our precious countryside is under such pressure.

Due to extensive, brutal land clearance and relentless bonfires witnessed over many weeks it has become obvious that natural wildlife habitats have no value on the farm, although it is widely known that British wildlife is under threat.

Habitat loss is cited as a major reason for this.

Creatures we share this planet with have either died or been forced to flee.

Please may I make a plea to residents interested in the natural world? A small gesture in a garden or around the village might help to rectify the awful damage done.

My greatest fears for Bishops Court are being realised.

Susan Bowditch

It was reassuring to have collected so many questionnaires in such a short space of time, and this clearly indicates the disfavour felt by so many in our local communities towards the restrictions imposed on the open access that has been enjoyed for generations. The evidence that has been collected and collated also serves as a poignant archive for the rich social history of both Dorchester and its neighbouring villages, with written and photographic evidence dating back to well beyond the required twenty-year period. A small selection of these photos, along with updates and information, can be found on the FODLWOS Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FODLWOS>

Another area of concern for many is the changes to the public footpaths. A huge number of people have expressed concern at the safety implications brought about by the new proximity to both the Thames and Thame, and Dorchester Parish Council continue to make this their priority focus. A second meeting, to focus more specifically on rights of way and footpaths, is to be held in the Village Hall on **Tuesday 28 March at 7.30pm**. It would be fantastic if this could be as well supported as the meeting in January. Until then, a huge thank you goes to Kate Ashbrook and her team at the Open Spaces Society and to all those of you that have shown support.

FODLWOS

Dorchester Footpaths

Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, County Councillor

While I personally share the anger and dismay of many local residents and visitors at the fencing off of the meadows at Bishops Court Farm, I would like to make it clear what the County Council can and cannot do to help:

1. The County Council, not the District Council (a widespread misunderstanding) has the responsibility to keep public footpaths open, and maintain them so that they are safe for the public to use.
2. Our Footpaths officer has been to the farm on numerous occasions to confirm the location of the paths and to make sure that the public rights of way are respected.
3. The public rights of way have all been respected, i.e. accommodated on their definitive lines as recorded on the County's Definitive Map.
4. The County Council has not agreed to, or approved the erection of the fencing.
5. However, we have worked to remove the impact of the barbed wire, which was seen to be a risk to public safety.
6. We have erected the small wooded footbridge by the Thame because the bank had been eroded by cattle making it very difficult, if not dangerous to pass by.
7. We will continue to work with the farm to try and ensure mitigation measures are put in place at any other locations that present a hazard to the public.
8. As the Registration Authority the County Council has received applications to establish Village Green Status for the Dyke Hills and the Days Lock Meadows. They will be judged impartially according to the law. There will be a public consultation running for six weeks, probably in April/May.

Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

Bishops Court Farm, Dorchester on Thames — The Facts

From RMPI LLP Solicitors

RMPI LLP Solicitors acted on behalf of Vision Residences (Phase Two) LLP in connection with the purchase in autumn 2016 of 303 acres forming part of the above farm.

Prior to the purchase, RMPI carefully read the Sales Brochure and thereafter entered into a series of Enquiries Before Contract with the Sellers' solicitors who were acting on behalf of the executors of the late Miss Bowditch. In addition RMPI made extensive local authority searches, and the property was inspected a number of times by the Buyer's Surveyor and the Buyer's Farm Manager.

The intention behind the purchase of the property was that it would be used as a family home and as a commercial livestock farm.

The results of the local authority search showed the official footpaths, including the Thames Path, and in the replies to the extensive enquiries made of the Sellers' solicitors they categorically stated that they had not suffered or allowed to be acquired any adverse rights eg rights of common.

As the existing extensive barbed wire fences on the farm were in need of replacement and it was apparent from inspection and reports that livestock had been troubled by the failure of walkers to respect the Countryside Code, it was decided that for good husbandry and for the protection of the livestock planned to be introduced onto the farm, the livestock would have to be fenced away from the footpaths.

Prior to commencing fencing works the Buyer's Farm Manager and Surveyor made contact with the South Oxfordshire Districts Council Footpath Officer and the Thames Footpath Officer in order to make sure that no public rights of way were fenced off. The Footpath Officer has attended at the farm on numerous occasions to agree the location of and make sure that the public rights of way were respected.

Sadly, during these visits, dogs running freely and out of control were witnessed as was the presence of dog faeces in the fields and on the footpaths, together with extensive litter.

As a result of these visits the owners conceded additional land to make the footpaths more useable and safer than required by law.

In addition, the owner's representatives liaised with the Dorchester Parish Council who were made fully aware of the necessity of the fencing and who also asked for, and were given, concessions. At no time during these meetings was mention ever made of claims that any part of the farm was anything other than a farm until a note was put in the Dorchester News of the Parish Council meeting wherein it was mentioned that they were party to an individual leading a group of people whose intention was to claim that part of the farm was a village green – and, in effect, a park.

The Buyer bought a farm, not a park, and the Sales Brochure, all searches and enquiries back this up.

What is more interesting is that while Miss Bowditch was alive and following her death, no claim was made to the her executors or the selling agents, Adkin, (who were also her land agents), that any of the land was a village green. We believe that this may be due to the fact that she (when she was not bedridden) and her staff pursued an ongoing battle to keep walkers on the footpath and their dogs under control. It may be that individuals whom she knew were permitted to walk on the land but there is no mention of any such people in any of the responses given by her executors, and in any event these individual instances would not give rise to public rights.

Finally, no response was received from the Sellers' solicitors in reply to Enquiries Before Contract suggesting that the farm contained a village green or park. All of the claims now being made have been presented by the Buyer to the Sellers' solicitors who have firmly denied that any such rights exist.

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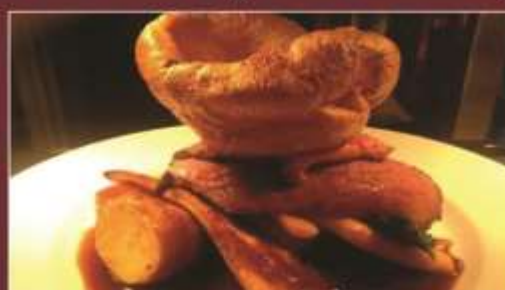
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On 19 January nine Nasio supporters, all of them with strong Dorchester connections, set off to visit the Nasio project in Musanda, Kenya. Some of us had visited a number of times before – John and Johnny Cornelius (John Junior as the Kenyans call him!) have been supporting and visiting Nasio for the whole fifteen years of the charity's existence; Tess Bartley and Alison Brucker both sponsor children from amongst the first fifteen who were cared for in a roadside kiosk in the town of Mumias, and three – Richard and Jen Booyes and Olivia Tuffrey - were all visiting for the first time. Mzungo is the Kenyan word for 'white', and one of the first things that you notice visiting a small community in Kenya is the fascination with your skin colour and the cries of 'Mzungo! Mzungo!' as you walk around. The small children in the Nasio children's centre's Noah's Ark and St Irene's stroke your white skin in absolute fascination.

Nasio began in Musanda – in the home that is now the visitor accommodation for the project – when Irene Mundenyo followed the sound of a crying child and found an abandoned orphan in the corner of a sugar cane field. (A tree now marks the spot – rather unsurprisingly it's called 'Moses' tree'.) Irene took in the baby and her family were inspired to begin caring for orphans in their community. Fifteen years later the Nasio Trust supports nearly 400 children in two day centres and in homes through school and now through college and university. One of the greatest excitements for us – and a great tribute to the charity – was to meet bright and articulate young men, now aged 18 and 19 who were working a 'gap year' for the charity and preparing to enter college or university. From my first visit I recall the four or five 9 year olds who appeared like magic from Township primary in 2010 – now one of them is telling me that he feels he can help the children being cared for by Nasio because he knows what their situation is and he can be a role model:

Caleb is running the new café and snack bar next to the medical centre in his gap year. The Nasio Trust is living up to its promise to be a charity that cares for its children for life!

So what did we do? We visited the Nasio children's centre and various schools, went to Church with children from the



charity, took bread, milk and tiny jumpers and hats (thank you Audrey and friends!) to the maternity unit at St Mary's hospital, learned about the Spirulina project and made a number of home visits. Johnny and Richard did some maintenance and plumbing at the Noah's Ark and in our home visits we washed clothes, did washing up and generally gave families in desperate circumstances a 'day off' the back-breaking task of fetching limited water from streams a distance away. We took an evening off to go to 'The Rock' and watch the sunset which was glorious! We also spent hours under the stars chatting and drinking the odd bottle of 'Tusker' (a light Kenyan beer!!) and beginning to understand our experiences.

A recent departure for Nasio is the Spirulina project. Spirulina (a simple water based botanical plant – remember those biology lessons about Spirogyra?!) is grown in tanks and dried. It is a rich source of protein grown primarily to supplement the children's diet but also sold commercially. The first Spirulina greenhouse is in full production and a second one is planned. Another new development is the Medical Centre – a completely new building to provide basic medical services to the community – it was great to deliver supplies donated by Clifton

Hampden and other local medical centres.

Without a doubt the three day house-building project was the highlight of the visit.

Day one – we cleared the ground, dug post holes, wove and secured laths around the posts and left the employed workmen to put on the roof.

Day two – we put up the walls – collected water, trampled the red Kenyan mud into a workable infill and filled the structure we had created the previous day. Lots of

Guardians (the women from the community who help to care for orphaned children – we'd probably call them foster mothers) came to help and we worked together in the heat for hours.





From the top:

The team assembles to start building.

Post go into the post holes.

The professionals put on the roof.

Day three – we stamped the floor solid singing and dancing; the workmen made the doors and windows; we cleared the site and handed over the house with lots of singing, dancing and prayers and a big cardboard key naming it 'Hope House'. The lady for whom the house was built was a grandmother who had been caring for four children in an immaculate house that was about the size of my downstairs loo!!

But there were many other highlights –

such different lives'

- 'Seeing everyone again. My boys and the other children my family sponsors. Seeing how much they've grown and developed into wonderful young people.'

- 'Levelling the floor in the new house. I think we made a tedious job good fun working as a team with the locals.'

'Having sponsored Rhoda for probably 10 years, having the opportunity to visit her three times and see her grow into the beautiful, confident young lady that she is today is priceless'

- 'When it was John's birthday and everyone was stood by the gate singing and

dancing as the band walked up the road! We then spent the afternoon laughing and drinking to our hearts' content. I knew then that I was very lucky to be surrounded by loved ones and knew then that I would forever have a home away from home in Kenya.'

- 'Digging post holes for the house we built with Kenyan workmen looking on ... I couldn't help feeling what a reversal of Empire this was and how our predecessors would have been the ones looking on. We were still the ones being brought fresh sealed bottles of water...'

...and the worst

- 'A home visit in the slums where we witnessed such a poorly girl who looked so unwell with suspected Malaria and feeling hopeless.'

- 'Feeling like there's so much more I should be achieving when I'm out there.'

- 'Washing the sheets and clothes of a lady whose feet were badly infected with jiggers and maggoty without showing how difficult the smell was.'

- 'Seeing St Irene's in such a bad state of repair and hearing that it will have to be demolished.'

Teams from Dorchester and Berinsfield were largely instrumental in raising the money and sending teams to build both the Noah's Ark and St Irene's Day Centres. Sadly the land on which St Irene's was built is less secure than it appeared and the building is cracking badly. It will have to be demolished and rebuilt. Heart-breaking for those who fund-raised and built but also for the leaders of the charity who have future plans for fund raising that didn't include a re-build

But I think we all agree with Faye...

'For me the only bad part is leaving! It breaks my heart every time! You always leave a piece – or a large chunk – of your heart in Kenya.'

This is just a flavour of our visit – if you'd like to hear more let us know and we'll invite you to a Kenyan evening of stories, food and photos – part of our efforts to raise money for the ongoing work that Nasio is doing.

Canon Sue Booyes

Find out more about The Nasio Trust at <http://www.thenasiotrust.org/>



A message from Footsteps founder, Pip Hoyer Millar MBE

As we approach the end of our first decade of operation, I am proud of our achievements to date. What started out as a mission to get the help and support my daughter Minty needed, turned into The Footsteps Centre that we know and love, and a valued resource for hundreds of families throughout the UK. We have been in Dorchester for 6 years now and we have been made to feel a welcome, valued part of the village community and we want to thank all our kind supporters in the village. So here's to many more years of supporting disabled children in Dorchester, and please do pop in if you are passing and say hello.

Since starting out, the charity has gone from helping 10 children in its first year, to 117 in 2016! We have spent £1.2 million on 20,000 hours of therapy and each year sees us going from strength to strength. But what we love are the human stories behind these statistics which are illustrated in the quotes from grateful parents below:

'Cerys had never taken an independent step before attending a session at footsteps, she was very weak in her legs and core, had poor balance and little confidence. In Cerys's first 3 week session at footsteps she took her first independent steps, something we had been told she would never manage!'

'I love it when I see his improvement after coming to Footsteps, it gives me hope for Chase's future'

'The physios work on making my child stronger and one step closer to achieving her dream. The physio's also help make Emily more confident and to believe in herself, building trust so that she has a better chance at achieving her dream'

'Footsteps is such a friendly and welcoming place and Gethin really looks forward to coming! He loves the therapists and the games they play with him. His strength has improved a lot: he can now crawl, and use a walker with support and his confidence has also improved massively'



For more information about the work of Footsteps you can visit www.footstepsfoundation.com



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Rita Dow 1927-2017

Marguerite Leslye, known to all of us as Rita, was born in Southgate daughter of Ivy and Arthur Stollery who owned a fishmongers. She was a middle child, having an elder sister Joy and younger brother, Jim. Later in her childhood the family bought a boarding house in Earls Court.

At the beginning of the Second World War Rita's family were evacuated to Henley-on-Thames where eventually they purchased a family home in the town. Rita trained as a teacher. Soon after she qualified she went as Governess to the children of Lord and Lady Camoys at Stonor Park.

Later she taught at RAF Benson and in two British Forces schools in Germany. On returning, Rita was a Primary School teacher for nearly twenty years. She taught at Clifton Hampden and bought Dolphin Cottage in Dorchester, her home for 27 years. Rita met her husband, Bob, in the Fleur and lived in Dorchester for



Rita was indomitable! After retiring from teaching she decided that she needed to keep busy, so took up employment at Petits menswear in Wallingford until she retired fully at 65. Reluctant to put her feet up altogether Rita volunteered in the Oxfam shop for two mornings a week. She thoroughly enjoyed this, making many friends and picking up the odd bargain along the way. She loved learning new skills and hobbies during her life including pottery, needlework, woodwork and metalwork!



Stonor Park where Rita was a governess

the remainder of her life apart from a short time living in Beverley, Yorkshire where Kate, her only child, was born in 1968. When Kate was 17 they moved to Tenpenny – a home that was important to Rita's grandchildren Sam and Emma as they grew up coming back from school for tea. Rita never enjoyed cooking and the family can fondly recall quite a few culinary disasters though Sam was more than happy with her signature dish bacon and onion roll and rock buns!

One of Rita's main loves was travel, she visited many countries throughout her life with friends and family. A firm family favourite was Pembrokeshire, which Kate, Sam and Emma love to remember. After retirement Rita also enjoyed many holidays with her sister Joy and her great friend Jonesy. She travelled across Europe and further afield to Russia, Egypt and America. Italy remained her firm favourite - her family thinks this had a lot to do with the food!

Throughout her life dogs were important to Rita. She would particularly enjoy walking through the Dyke hills with Tammy or Shirley and a group of dog-walking friends and returning to Joan Welch's for coffee and cake. She often said how lucky she was to live in a village as beautiful as Dorchester and over the years involved herself in many aspects of village life.

In addition to her volunteering roles outside Dorchester, Rita gave back to the village and church community here in many ways. She ran the Sunday School with Bunny Kerr, helped at the museum, was a member of the WI, and Abbey Ladies. She was an Abbey Guide and a sidesperson and for many years cleaned the Peoples Chapel. She supported the Children's Society distributing the collecting boxes and running a pop up book-stall. She listened to children read at the village school until, as she said, was just too deaf to hear them! Rita was also one of the founder members of the Abbey tea rooms with her friend Lettice Godfrey and an inspirational team of village women including her friend Felicity with whom she enjoyed lunches at the three village pubs as well as the Lunch Club until she became housebound.

Family was the keynote of Rita's life - she was a devoted mother to Kate and grandmother to Emma and Sam and her kindness overflowed to their friends in both generations. Rita truly had the gift of friendship and a sense of humour and sharp wit that made her fun to be with. So it was very sad that dementia gradually got the better of her. Kate and Emma, who moved in and made it possible for her to stay at home, have so many happy memories of caring for Rita in her final years. With Sam they would like to thank all Rita's wonderful carers from C3 care and in particular Tracy, Amy and Donna, Gavin.

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Earth Trust March events

Sunday Drop-in: IncrEdible Adventure

Sunday 5 March, 10am-2pm

At this month's Sunday drop-in celebrate spring by foraging for dandelions to cook on the fire and planting herbs and salad to take away. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

Wildlife Photography Walk

Saturday 11 March, 8am-10am

Join photographer Andrew Walmsley for a morning stroll around the nature reserve. Check out our beginner and intermediate workshops too. £20; booking essential: **01865 407792** or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Beginners Wildlife Photography

Saturday 18 March, 10am-3pm

Professional photographer Andrew Walmsley will help you get to grips with your camera and provide guidance on capturing images of wildlife. There are a series of workshops running throughout the next few months – book one or more as a course: first workshop £80, subsequent workshops 15% off. Booking essential: **01865 407792** or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Intermediate Wildlife Photography

Sunday 19 March, 10am-3pm

In each of these workshops professional photographer Andrew Walmsley will cover a different aspect of photography so you can build up a more in-depth knowledge. Future intermediate workshops: **22 April, 14 May and 18 June**; book one or more as a course: first workshop £80, subsequent workshops 15% off. Booking essential: **01865 407792** or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Lambing Weekends

Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 March, Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 April, 11am-4pm.

Come and see us down on the farm during our annual Lambing Weekends! Meet lambs, piglets, goats and more. Craft activities and refreshments available. £7 adult, £3 child, £17 family (discount for online bookings), FREE for Earth Trust Friends.

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.

Dorchester Historical Society Summer Visit Saturday 24 June

Hospital of St Cross and Almshouse of Noble Poverty and Winchester

The Ancient Hospital of St Cross is one of England's oldest continuing almshouses. The fine medieval buildings are home to about 25 elderly men known as 'Brothers'. There is a Norman Church, medieval hall and kitchen as well as a Tudor cloister. Explore the beautiful gardens and learn about the Wayfarer's Dole.

You will then have the opportunity to spend the afternoon in Winchester. Perhaps visiting the Cathedral, the Great Hall and King Arthur's Round Table, the Gurkha Museum or following the Winchester Tudor Trail.

9.00 Depart Bridge End Car Park

10.30 Hospital of St Cross and Almshouse of Noble Poverty

12.30 Leave for Winchester Visitor Centre (The Cathedral Refectory is one suggestion for lunch)

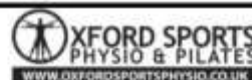
Free afternoon in Winchester where there is plenty to see and do.

16.00 Depart Winchester

17.30 Arrive back in Dorchester

COME AND JOIN US FOR A FASCINATING DAY

The Cost is £26 (includes the coach and the visit to the Hospital of St Cross only). Please make your cheque out to Dorchester Historical Society and send to Gail Thomas, 14 Herringcote, Martins Lane, Dorchester on Thames, Oxon. OX10 7RD.



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John Cotton
February 2017

Devolution/Unitary

After reviewing the various options for forming Unitary Local Government for Oxfordshire with DCLG and other partners and advisors, we have concluded that it will be best to form one council. We have commenced negotiations with Oxfordshire Council for us to join them in the bidding process to ensure that the best possible deal for our residents is achieved.

There will be much more information in coming months and we will be passing this on to you through the various communications channels available.

Neighbourhood Planning Up-date

Minister for Housing Gavin Barwell MP, announced new ways Neighbourhood Plans will affect development. This has significant implications for existing and up and coming Neighbourhood Plans and emphasises the importance of keeping them up to date. As expected the developers are none too keen on this provision, and they are challenging the minister's decision with a Judicial Review. This may prove premature as the Government's White Paper is expected this month and we anticipate that this provision will be included in the Bill.

5 Year Housing Land Supply (5YHLS) update

Our position remains that we have 3.8 years housing land supply (target 5YHLS).

- We have updated the district-wide completions data, which is being verified before we recalculate our 5YHLS
- We have received applications on Wallingford Site E (Winterbrook area), the edge of Reading for 245 homes and smaller sites around Brightwell cum Sotwell, Sonning Common, Shiplake, Chalgrove and Crowmarsh - all for between 30 - 150 dwellings.

South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2033

The Second Preferred Options consultation is scheduled to commence at the end of March 2017. The slight delay from the last update is to ensure we have the most robust evidence available to support the consultation – particularly for infrastructure. It will take the form of a full Draft Local Plan to include development management.

Design Guide shortlisted for award

South and Vale urban design officers together with collaboration from other specialist officers have had the South Oxfordshire Design Guide shortlisted for

the Public Sector entry in the Francis Tibbalds Urban Design Awards 2017.

Being shortlisted for the award is a good step towards raising the profile of the Council and the need to secure high quality design in South Oxfordshire. Awarded by the Urban Design Group, the awards give more recognition to urban design work, particularly at project stage. Voting is now underway and the results will be announced in March 2017.

Great British Spring Clean

We are backing a new nationwide campaign to get half a million people out and about cleaning up their local communities in March 2017. The Great British Spring Clean aims to help bring people together to clear up the litter that blights their local streets and parks.

Litter remains a huge problem across the country, causing harm to the environment and wildlife, with councils in England having to spend over £700 million on street cleaning services every year. To take part in the campaign and for information on how to set up your clean-up event visit www.greatbritishspringclean.org.uk.

We will be encouraging and supporting groups and individuals who want to help by offering equipment free of charge. If you require litter pickers, sacks, gloves and high visibility jackets please contact Eleanor Bunn by email (eleanor.bunn@southandvale.gov.uk) or call **01235 422146**.

Voluntary and Community Sector Forum

The annual South and Vale Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Forum, supported by the councils, will be held on **15 March 2017** (9.00am-4.30pm). The Forum aims to bring local community and voluntary groups together so they can share ideas and advice. The event, at Cornerstone Arts Centre, is free to attend and includes two workshops, lunch and a funding information fair, plus time for networking.

For more details about the day's programme and to book a place at the Forum please see the OCVA Forum page at <http://southandvale.us8.listmanage.com/> and If you have any questions about the event email OCVA at admin@ocva.org.uk or call **01865 251946**.

Communications

Another 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. Sign up for the newsletters which will be published every two months.

South News keeps residents in touch with news from the council, including the latest on planning and housing in South Oxfordshire, news on recycling collections and events at our leisure centres and Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot.

To receive South News visit

www.southoxon.gov.uk/southnews

Waste contamination update

To reduce contamination in the recycling we collect we've been running a campaign to get residents to recycle loose or use clear sacks so that waste crews can see what is in each bin before emptying it. Crews do not empty green bins which contain black or coloured sacks.

The campaign has been very successful. The quality of the recycling has improved, the contamination rate is falling and across the South and Vale districts we only have to have to leave a couple of dozen bins un-emptied each day.

New waste vehicles to improve collections

We are planning to introduce a new fleet of waste collection vehicles in June which will further improve our collection service.

Residents will only see a minor change to their collections, recycling or waste will be collected by one vehicle and food collected by a separate vehicle rather than the current vehicles collecting both.

Collections will continue to take place on the same day but not necessarily at the same time. Changing to a two pass system will give more operational flexibility when Biffa experience breakdowns or delays and will also provide more resilience when it comes to managing the increase in property numbers as a result of new developments.

Also by changing to a two pass system each vehicle will have increased capacity, this will reduce the number of visits in a day to the disposal points.

Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

February 2017

Unitary council proposal is backed by district councils

On 19 January OCC launched 'A Fresh Start for Oxfordshire', a draft of OCC's intended proposal to central Government on how and why a single unitary authority for Oxfordshire could work. At the beginning of February the leaders of South Oxfordshire District Council and the Vale of the White Horse District Council announced that they were prepared to back the plan.

Instead of six councils, one council could save £100m in the first five years – money that could be used to improve local services and keep council tax down. It would be simpler; offer better services; respond better to local priorities and be more efficient. A joined-up planning system with one council responsible for housing, infrastructure, transport and jobs would manage growth more effectively and get the investment we need to improve our road network, and ensure that housing development, schools and other facilities are in the right places.

Through a structure of 'Area Boards' more power would be devolved to Parish and Town Councils, with one unitary Councillor to represent your local communities for all services. Your Councillor would take decisions for your area on a new 'Area Board' and for the county as a whole as a member of the unitary council. Area Boards would work closely with Town and Parish Councils to give communities a strong voice in decisions, with an option for them to take on some additional powers and services if they want it.

The full proposal can be found online at www.oneoxfordshire.org. There will be meetings with key local stakeholders in the coming weeks and activities will take place across Oxfordshire's libraries. An online survey will enable OCC to engage with the wider public. The results will be incorporated into a revised version of the proposal to be considered at the March 14 meeting of the Cabinet. Following advice from the DCLG at the end of last year, OCC has been reassured that there is nothing preventing the pursuing of reorganisation of local government in parallel to working with the District Councils on a potential devolution deal for the county. OCC is keen to hear from as many councillors, community groups, businesses and residents as possible via the website.

Proposals for spending £3.4m of adult care temporary funding

Proposals for how £3.4m of temporary funding can be spent were discussed at Cabinet on 24 January. The money would come from OCC being allowed by Government to set a 5% council tax rise in 2017/18 and 2018/19 – with 3% intended to be spent on adult social care. If the council votes to levy the increase at its budget meeting in February, OCC proposes to spend the adult social care portion of the money investing in capacity

building and resilience, to help respond to future demand. The proposals are for the temporary funding to be spent in three key areas over 2017/18 and 2018/19:

1. £1.01million to grow, develop and build resilience in the external care workforce

The social care workforce is one of the key constraints on the health and social care system in Oxfordshire. The £1.01m would be used to improve recruitment and retention for existing providers, and the skill base of local care workers. It would increase workforce and capacity, and would benefit individuals funding their own care.

2. £1.485 million to transform delivery

OCC proposes to invest £1.485m in transforming capacity in the public and private sector. This involves optimising the use of available care capacity, improving purchasing and sourcing, and working with people who use services and their carers to make services better. OCC plans to increase staff capacity (social workers, occupational therapists, and care managers); to create additional capacity to support assessment and reviews; and to invest in improvements to systems to enable it to better to track and monitor the care demands in order to understand and use available capacity. This investment would release additional capacity into the homecare market, increase the availability of homecare, and improve the speed and timeliness of social care assessments.

3. Daytime support (£650,000)

This money would be used to form part of the £975,000 described below that OCC is proposing to spend supporting Daytime Support Services to transition to the new model of service provision.

Additional £975,000 to help transition for daytime support services

OCC is proposing a new daytime support system that would enable older people and people with disabilities to live independently in their community. Following consultation, the OCC's original proposals have changed - with £975,000 extra being spent. The proposals continue to include a guaranteed core service for people who require daytime support, alongside financial support to enable community-based services to continue to flourish. People with 'assessed needs' who receive help from OCC's adult social services would continue to receive support. The proposal now includes the additional money to be spent as follows:

1. An additional £550,000 in a transition fund for voluntary sector providers who receive grant funding from the council. This is in direct response to providers who, in the consultation, said more time was needed.
2. An additional £100,000 on fundraising

support for the voluntary sector.

3. Replacing current annual funding for 47 community-based daytime support services with grant pots totalling £350,000 a year.

Responses to CCG's consultation about Oxfordshire's health services

The Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group has launched the first phase of its consultation on proposed changes to health services in Oxfordshire. OCC is a consultee in the process, and Cabinet is due to make its view known at the cabinet meeting on 21 February. OCC officers are currently examining the detail of the proposals, and Cabinet will consider these alongside the emerging public view. The Cabinet's view will also be fed into the debate on the consultation, which the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) is hosting on the 7 March. HOSC is an independent joint committee, which includes representatives from the District Councils, the City Council and County Council. It is also scheduled to be debated at the full Council meeting on the 21 March so that all County Councillors can voice local concerns.

Carers set to continue to receive personal budgets

OCC currently provides personal budgets of between £200 and £600 a year to more than 1,800 people who provide care to relatives and others. A consultation was undertaken during 2016 about discontinuing these personal budgets to save the county council £690,000. However, after that consultation, a new proposal has been made for annual personal budgets of £300 targeted at those carers with the highest needs. It is estimated that only one-third of those who received a personal budget in 2016/17 would not do so at all in 2017/18. The revised proposals will save OCC £588,000, with £400,000 of this to be directly reinvested in preserving the Dementia Service which supports 120 people in Oxfordshire.

Science village proposal at Sandford

Magdalen College, Thames Water and Oxford City Council have published their latest attempt to develop land known as 'land south of Grenoble Road'. They are calling it 'The South Oxford Science Village'. It will include 3,500 homes, expansion to the Science Park, a school, up to 8 sports pitches, and community centre and shops next to the Kassam Stadium and a new roundabout on the A4074. It is clear that there is a strong body of opposition, supported by SODC and OCC.

I have always opposed development on Green Belt land at Grenoble Road, preferring to see large scale development at Culham and Berinsfield. However, both these sites are also in the Green Belt which is why SODC are promoting Chalgrove Airfield which is not. There is no doubt that we must build more houses in the county, but deciding which are the most appropriate, sustainable and attractive locations for our residents is a very complex problem.

Neighbourhood Development Plan Update

The document has been returned by the publishing company with a number of queries. These will be completed by the end of February as well as some changes to appendices to incorporate the maps.

We are encouraged that SODC have recruited new staff to their Neighbourhood Development Support team and one has been allocated to Dorchester to help us with the final stages of our plan. With recently announced new legislation regarding Neighbourhood Plans we are seeking clarification on how these changes might affect our Plan.

By next month we should be in a position to be able to determine a date for our Public Referendum.

Cllr. Chris Hill

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Parish Council

Monthly Meeting - March

The March meeting will take place in the back room of the Village Hall on **Wednesday 8 March** 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 - 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.

Riverside Paths

As explained in the Parish Council's insert which was distributed with the February edition of 'Dorchester News', the Council commissioned RoSPA to carry out a survey of the Riverside Paths in Dorchester-on-Thames and to make recommendations for any actions which should be undertaken to improve the safety of all users.

This report has now been sent to the landowner, the County Council and the Environment Agency with the request that all parties should work jointly to carry out the actions which have been recommended and thus achieve the best possible safety outcome for all.

Please contact the Clerk if you wish to see a copy of the RoSPA Report; this is available in both electronic and paper format.

Parish Council Vacancy

Notice of a Casual Vacancy on the Parish Council will shortly appear on Village Notice boards. This will include information about how this vacancy is to be filled. Further information is available from the Clerk.

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

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

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

Fishmonger

The travelling fishmonger comes to Dorchester every Tuesday and will stop between 9.30 and 9.50 (9.40 in winter months when weather bad, but 9.30 in summer months) in High Street near War Memorial

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Following the Verdi Requiem last Autumn, the next concert be the Benson Choral Society will by Bach's St John Passion. The Musical Director, Christopher Walker writes:

'Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750) was appointed Cantor at St. Thomas' Church, Leipzig in 1723, and remained here for the rest of his life. He completed the St John Passion for Good Friday 1724, and subsequently revised it several times.

The St John Passion is flanked by two great reflective choruses, 'Lord and Master' and 'Lie Still', while the gospel story is sung almost entirely by the Evangelist in a series of graphic recitatives. Other soloists participate as the characters in the story, or with arias commenting on the narrative. The chorus assumes several roles. In the chorales they reflect on the unfolding story, using familiar hymn tunes of the day, in which the congregation would have joined.

Bach's harmonies often surprise, highlighting the meaning of the words poignantly.

Benson Choral Society 25 March 2017

Elsewhere the chorus joins in the action as the crowd or as Roman soldiers. The gospel text and Bach's inspired music make a riveting combination for St John's account of the Passion, arguably unsurpassed before or since.'

The concert takes place in the usual magnificent setting of Dorchester Abbey.

on **Saturday 25 March at 7.30**. As usual the choir will be accompanied by members of the Elgar Orchestra.

The distinguished soloists will be:

Evangelist – Ben Alden

Mezzo Soprano – Caris Jones

Bass – Timothy Murphy

Choir and orchestra will, as usual, be conducted by Christopher Walker.

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



are also available on the door or from choir members.

Tickets are, as usual, £15, £12 (reserved) and £10 (unreserved), and the concert will begin at 7.30pm.

Dorchester man goes South

In what could be called a desperate attempt to find reliable January sunshine, John Craven, aged 38, of Abingdon Road, recently visited Antarctica, where he was one of 34 people attempting to run the Ice Marathon. His goal - to raise £10,000 for five fantastic charities - Marie Curie, SANDS, Anthony Nolan, upReach (the social mobility charity) and United World Schools.

Visiting Antarctica was an incredible experience. We stayed in tents for four days acclimatising to temperatures that on race day plummeted to -30C with winds of over 30mph. A marathon in these conditions provides unique challenges - we were warned of the risks of frostbite, and bizarrely, the importance of staying a little cold - if you get too warm and sweat, you could quickly get very cold and die. If we deviated off course, perhaps through disorientation, we risked falling down mile deep crevasses. No-one was tempted to take a shortcut!

Why Antarctica? Temporary insanity? Midlife crisis? Extreme cure for S.A.D.? Who knows.... Were there penguins or polar bears? How cold is it? How do you train? All is revealed on the



below website!

<http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/jcraven>

At the time of going to press, around £8,000, or 80% of the target had been raised so far. The charities and John would be extremely grateful for any donations you can offer (all donations go directly to charity, the trip was fully funded by John). If interested to find out more, you can contact John by email at john@upreach.org.uk

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Wallingford Museum

What did Wallingford Castle look like?

Wallingford Castle was one of the greatest royal strongholds of Medieval England, and it ranked alongside the Tower of London and Windsor Castle in its importance in the Thames valley. When Wallingford Museum opened with its new exhibitions on 1st March there was also on display a new artistic impression of the Castle. The new illustration has been produced by Museum volunteer June Strong, whose striking drawing brings to life the amazing details discovered in newly translated documents and investigations, revealing the daily life and the layout of the Castle.

There are three new exhibitions:-

- **'Wallingford Castle - the Inside Story'** presents a closer look at different parts of the Castle as revealed in the new documentary research. It explores how Wallingford and its local area was linked to the castle through provision of many essential goods, services, animals and food. Details include what has been suggested about the layout and uses of the castle buildings and their architectural details - as interpreted in the striking new 'artist's impression' by June Strong. It also considers where the building materials came from, how they were carried and who was employed. So come along and find out the latest about this incredible medieval royal castle!
- **'Pettits: past to present'** exhibition gives a history of Wallingford's department store, and the family who have run it from its beginning in 1856 to the present day.
- **'Ways to Wallingford'** describes how Wallingford has been an important crossing point on the Thames since the Saxon times. This exhibition looks at the development of transport to and from the town over the ages, considering the impact of roads, the river Thames, railways and aviation. In addition to looking at how the routes evolved and improved it covers the many uses of transport, including the importance of RAF Benson which was established just before the Second World War.

Further details at www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk



Wallingford Gardening Club

Disney World: a larger-than-life experience

At the March meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, John Negus will talk about 'Disney World: a larger-than-life experience'. The talk will be an exploration of the plants used to furnish the beds and borders at the Florida attraction where Disney's expert team of horticulturists work year-round to create beautiful landscapes for Disney World.

John is a gardening journalist, writing for Amateur Gardening magazine, and is Wisley trained.

He specialises in trees, shrubs and climbers, and lectures regularly. John broadcasts on Radio Surrey and Sussex, and on The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm on **Thursday 9 March**.

Visitors are very welcome (£3).

Isabelle Darby
01491 836867

What's on in Wallingford



Wallingford Historical & Archaeological Society

'New light on the Romano-British countryside'

March's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be given by Alexander Telford Smith. He will present 'New light on the Romano-British countryside: Current results of the Roman Rural Settlement Project.'

It has often been stated that Roman Britain was quintessentially a rural society, with the vast majority of the population living and working in farmsteads and occasional larger villages. Yet there was clearly a large degree of regional variation, and with the huge mass of mainly developer-funded excavation data created over the past 25 years, the incredible diversity and density of Roman rural settlement across the landscape is now starting to be demonstrated. The current Rural Settlement in Roman Britain project is using data collected from both published sources and unpublished 'grey literature' to provide new light on how the Romano-British countryside worked, including chronological and regional trends in settlement form and architecture, agricultural and industrial practices, and in matters of ritual expression.

Dr Alex Smith is a Senior Research Fellow at Reading University, and his main area of interest is the rural settlement of Roman Britain. His talk will provide a brief overview of the current state of this research, concentrating on southern Britain, and assessing how the TWHAS excavated site at Coldharbour Farm fits in with wider patterns in the Romano-British countryside.

This talk will be held on **Wednesday 8 March**, 7.45 for 8.00 pm at St Mary's Church, Wallingford.

Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

Further details at www.twahas.org.uk

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What's On March

Cinema: Performances start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated

March

- Wed 1 **Lion** (PG)
 Fri 3 **Lion** (PG)
 Sat 4 **La La Land** (12A)
 Sun 5 **Denial** (12A)
 Mon 6 **Denial** (12A)
 Tues 7 **Wallingford Children's Film Festival**
 Wed 8 **T2 Trainspotting** (18)
 Thurs 9 **Sully** (12A)
 Sun 12 **Moonlight** (15)
 Mon 13 **Moonlight** (15)
 Tues 14 **Hidden Figures** (PG)
 Wed 15 **Hidden Figures** (PG)
 Thurs 16 **Hedda Gabler** NT Live 7.00pm
 Fri 17 **Viva Las Vegas** (U) 8.00pm **Free** sponsored**
 film in aid of Corn Exchange Roof Appeal

April

- Sun 2 **Patriot's Day** (15)
 Mon 3 **Patriot's Day** (15)
 Tues 4 **Madame Butterfly** live from Royal Opera House
 7.00pm

LIVE

Thursday 2 March: UK premiere of the film **Dancer** followed by a Q&A and live performance by Sergei Polunin. Broadcast live from the London Palladium. 6.30pm

Saturday 11 March. Sinodun Players present a **Marathon Show**, 9.30am to 10pm. Lasting about 2 hours, the show will be performed 5 times during the day between 9.30am and 7.30pm. Each will consist of dramatic presentations, recitations, music, songs and dances and performers will be sponsored**. Audience can come and go throughout the day for £5. A Gala Night show will start at 8pm with a drink and canapé reception beforehand at 7.30pm. Tickets £12. All profits will go towards the Corn Exchange Roof Appeal.

Wednesday 29 March to Saturday 1 April. Sinodun Players present Richard Harris's classic cricketing comedy **Outside Edge**. It's a Saturday afternoon in the summer and an important local match is underway. But while the team captain is trying to keep his men focused on the game, there is slow-burning meltdown among the wives and girlfriends in the kitchen. This play is more to do with marital disharmony in the pavilion where tea is being prepared than scoring runs on the pitch. Bickering, back-biting and witty one-liners eventually lead to hilarious chaos and begs the question, 'which is more important? The match or the tea? 7.45pm. Tickets £10.

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

www.cornexchange.org.uk or box office **01491 825000**.

FUNDRAISING EVENT

A **Quiz Night** will be held in Crowmarsh Village Hall on Saturday **18 March at 7.30pm**. There will be teams of six people and the cost is £12 per person which will include a meal with a vegetarian option. A bar will also be in operation. Prizes will be awarded for winners of the main quiz and an interval quiz while people are eating. People can book as individuals and make up a team on arrival or reserve a whole table for six people. Tickets can be booked online at www.cornexchange.org.uk. Proceeds from the event will go to the Wallingford Corn Exchange Roof Appeal.

** You, too, can sponsor your favourite film or sponsor an element of the Marathon Show - and help raise much-needed funds for the Corn Exchange Roof Appeal,

For more information email

StopSingingintheRain@cornexchange.org.uk. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the Roof Appeal can contribute via www.justgiving.com/sinodun-players.

Wallingford U3A

When our members, Simone and John Richards, began their tour of Northern India and Nepal their tour guide advised them that it would be less a holiday than an adventure. At our meeting in February they took us on their adventure, giving us a fascinating account of much more than it is possible to report.

Wallingford U3A is picking up speed after the winter hiatus. Interest Groups are reconvening. 'Local Churches of Interest', which offers guided tours of local churches, with an optional pub lunch before or after a visit, is proving very popular. The next visit, to Cholsey, is on **March 23** at 10.30am. (For information phone Hermione on **01865 858024**).

The new 'i pads and tablets for beginners' meets on a Wednesday afternoon in Cholsey Library at 2.30. (Phone Christine on **01491 834598**)

Our July 2017 holiday offers five days in Shropshire. We have a Blue Badge Guide for two days, and a varied programme of visits in the area.

Outings are listed on our website. The next outing is on **16 March:** Coach to London to Exhibition Rd. Members then can visit the Science Museum, The Natural History Museum or the V and A ... or just make for Harrods. (For information about the holiday and outings phone Eileen **01491 825156**)

Talks: **March 1.** Richard Wilson: 'The Global Housing Crisis.... Can we find a solution?' Richard is involved in a housing development project in Mumbai.

April 5. Dr. Jill Eyers: 'The Grave Trade. The Archaeology of Burial.'

Our Meetings are held in Crowmarsh Village Hall at 2pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Visitors are always made welcome. Come for the talk, tea and biscuits and the chance of making new friends. 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 Mar **Junior Royal Academy of Music Chamber Orchestra with Sheku Kanneh-Mason**
7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Sun
5 Mar **Lent 1**
8.00am
Holy Communion (1662)
(Canon Sue Booy's)

10.30am
Morning Service

12 noon
Baptism

6.00pm
Lent Course

Wed
8 Mar **Parish Council**
Monthly meeting
7.30pm
Village Hall

Thurs
9 Mar **W.I.**
AGM and Bring and Buy Sale
2.30pm
Village Hall

Sat
11 Mar **OSJ Concert**
7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Sun
12 Mar **Lent 2**
8.00 am
Holy Communion (1662)
(Revd Jon Roberts)

10.30am
Sung Eucharist

6.00pm
Lent Course

Tues
14 Mar **Short Communion**
10.15am

Wed
15 Mar **Culham & District Horticultural Club**
Oxford University's Green Spaces
Walter Sawyer
7.30pm
Abbey Guest House



Thurs
16 Mar **Classic Car Show,**
George Hotel
1.00-4.00pm

Chiropodist
Village Hall (see p23)

Open Workshop
Keeping your child safe online
6.30pm
St Birinus School

Sat
18 Mar **Village Working Party**
10.00am
Drayton Road Cemetery

Sun
19 Mar **Lent 3**
8.00 am
Holy Communion (1662)
(Revd Jennifer Morton)

10.30am
Family Service and Baptism

5.00pm
Evensong

6.00pm
Lent Course

Wed
22 Mar **Dorchester Historical Society**
The Livery Companies of London
Richard Juniper
7.30pm
Village Hall

Thurs
23 Mar **A Tea Party**
Evacuee Project
2.30pm
Village Hall

Sat
25 Mar **Benson Choral Society Concert**
7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Sun
26 Mar **Mothering Sunday**
8.00am
Holy Communion (1662)
(Canon Sue Booy's)

10.30am
Family Communion

Tues
28 Mar **Friends of Dorchester and Little Wittenham Open Spaces**
Open meeting
7.30pm
Village Hall

Thurs
30 Mar Service at Cheshire Home
11.30am

Weekly events

Tuesday **Coffee in the Abbey**
10.30am-12noon
Bellingring Practice
7.30 pm Abbey
Fishmonger
9.30am to 9.40am by War Memorial (p.23)

Wednesday **Holy Communion at Berinsfield Church**
9.30am
Lunch Club
Village Hall 12.30pm
Song School
Dorchester Abbey
5.00pm

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

Funeral

2 Feb Rita Dow

Baptism

5 Feb Grace Mai Bucknall

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

Beware the Ides of March



The Dorchester Flyer

Minibus Service to Wallingford
Every Friday

Departs Dorchester (Herringcote): 10.15 12.00
Departs Wallingford (Corn Exchange): 11.40 13.00

Tickets must be bought in advance from
Lily's

28 High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire OX10 7HN
Tel: 01865 340900
Monday-Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm, Sunday 10:30am-5:00pm Closed Tuesdays



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 Tracey Francis; bookings@dorchesteronthamesvillagehall.org.uk or telephone **01865 340352**.

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.

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

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, 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.

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

Dorchester Abbey Museum E-mail
museum@dorchester-abbey.org.uk



REFUSE COLLECTIONS

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