



DORCHESTER NEWS

March 2015

FREE TO EVERY HOME IN
THE PARISH

Talking Point

As Lent approaches, our thoughts move from the celebrations of the wise men to what Jesus taught us about the deeper things of life. St Paul commended as 'fruits of the spirit' the observance of patience, self-control, kindness among love, joy, peace and faithfulness (Galatians 5: 22-23). In Lent we step back from our habitual self-indulgence to try to see what we can learn by giving things up for the good of others and ourselves.

When I lived in Sudan it was a privilege to share in the discipline of Ramadan, which has a lot in common with Lent, with my majority Muslim colleagues. There was a lovely spiritual discipline in enduring the fast from dawn until dusk and offering the tiny discomforts of that up in prayer as a sacrifice to the God who gave so much for love of us. It taught me much I would not have otherwise stopped for long enough to learn.

During Lent, here in affluent Oxfordshire, what can we show, give up or practise self-control in to make a difference?

Can we:

- spare a blanket for an asylum-seeker without money or family support marooned in a foreign land after escaping unknown horrors? Ring Asylum Welcome on 01865 722082 and show an open heart.
- stop overindulging in puddings or alcohol and see if energy levels and motivation increase as a result? Try it and you may be surprised!
- give of our time to see what that brings? Vow to visit an elderly neighbour when we are feeling most busy, or to give the gift of

more attention and listening to children rather than rushing them round everywhere.

- do a mini-audit of your lifestyle and think of the CO2 cost and what you could cut back on for the sake of the next generation and a healthy planet? The sooner we start, the less drastic may be the final need.
- follow a little programme of daily suggestions? Try <http://40acts.org.uk> for some fun ideas.
- think more creatively of a better suggestion than the vicar's for how to use this Lenten season for our spiritual and personal growth?? Do let me know what you come up with!

So Lent is an important time on several levels. It is a time for reflecting how voluntary suffering can sometimes lead to growth if we are in the fortunate position of being able to direct its mini-privations. It's a time for following Jesus through the vicissitudes of life, even when people turned on him for disturbing their complacency: the road to the cross that ultimately led to wonderfully new life. It's a time to look deeper into ourselves to see what we need most to become what one writer called a 'soul survivor'.

If we ignore such things, we may be able to preserve an outward face but inside we can feel the shrivelling. If we engage, we may surprise ourselves and find the light can shine brighter than we imagine.

Revd. Paul Cawthorne

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Dorchester News

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Copy Deadlines for Dorchester News

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Advert Deadlines for Dorchester News

One week before copy deadline

Those items in electronic form may be sent via e-mail attachment to dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk. Anything people would like sent to newsletter editors for other churches in the Team should be sent to admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk by the 9th of the preceding month.

Magazine Advertising Costs

Why not use this parish magazine to advertise your business, service, function, etc? 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, for a quarter page £23.50, for a half page £35.25 and just £47.00 for a full page.

All charges are put towards the cost of the paper, printing and postage of copies being sent outside the village. You may supply your own advert or we can produce the advert and artwork for a fee.

Should you wish to incorporate a logo or artwork, please supply a copy, preferably via e-mail: dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk. 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.

Editorial

Do you find it frustrating and irritating to drive into Wallingford to do a bit of shopping only to end up driving round and round the car parks looking for that elusive space? I find that market days are particularly bad. The space does appear eventually, but only after a significant increase in blood pressure. There may be an alternative. Most of us wouldn't even consider taking a bus, but with a little forethought and planning I have found that that is often possible. If you just need half an hour at the shops, then the 09.12 can have you home by 10.15. Or a later start, at 11.22, will give 90 minutes' shopping time, enough to browse the sales in Pettits, and have you back by 1.15pm in time for lunch, picking you up and dropping you back in Dorchester High Street.

There are buses from the High Street to Abingdon and Didcot as well, but they are geared to working and school hours, and not so convenient for going shopping.

Personally I never drive to Oxford or Reading but always take the X39 or X40 from the by-pass. It can be a bit of a trek out to the by-pass, but so much easier than driving.

From this month Dorchester News includes the bus timetable for buses that come through the village. This will have a regular place on the inside back page to give you a quick reference when you think that perhaps you just might take the bus instead. And who knows, if we use the buses more we might get more buses.

Ian Brace

Useful Information

CONTACTING THE POLICE

To report a non-emergency crime, or to give information to Thames Valley Police, please call 101. Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111. In the event of an emergency dial 999

DIRECT LINE TO URGENT LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

Dial 111 to access urgent local NHS health care services. The NHS111 team will, where possible, book you an appointment or transfer you directly 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, is available every day from 10.00 am to 10.30 pm: 01865 425161.

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)

HEALTH CENTRE—BERINSFIELD
Telephone number 01865 340558

CLIFTON HAMPDEN SURGERY
Telephone Number 01865 407888

ABBAY GUEST HOUSE BOOKINGS

Anyone wishing to hire the Abbey Guest House for private functions, meetings, exhibitions, etc, should contact Hilarie Rogers on 01865 340007.

HIRE OF DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL

To hire our Village Hall, please contact Brenda Edwards; edwards.dorchester2@virgin.net, or telephone 01865 343062. Please telephone at least 24 hours in advance to arrange collection of the key.

THE COMMUNAL LOUNGE AT BELCHER COURT

The communal lounge at Belcher Court is now available for rent. Contact the Scheme Manager, Caroline Major, on 01865 343128.

STREET LIGHTING - FAULT REPORTING

Report any problems with a street light to 0800 317802, which is available 24 hours a day. Callers will be asked for the address of the site and the nature of the fault.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT 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

Any residents whose household rubbish is not collected on the due date (see page 31) should contact the contractor direct. The number to call is 03000 610610 and the website www.morecycling.co.uk

BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

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

OPENING HOURS

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

VILLAGE BUS SERVICES

Information about village bus services is now given on inside back page.

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

OXFORDSHIRE DIAL-A-RIDE

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

SHOPMOBILITY

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

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

Dorchester Team Lent Talks 2015

Revd Dr Michael Lakey: Understanding St Paul and his Epistles

The writings of St Paul have been immensely significant for the theology and practice of the Church for most of its history. From St Augustine reading Romans, to Luther reading Galatians, and beyond, St Paul can be found, just below the surface, in nearly all Western Christianity. However, though he is everywhere, St Paul is sometimes not read as much as he could be. Partly this is because we favour the Gospel readings, but can also be because St Paul's writings contain much that is difficult (whether for ancient or modern readers).

These five short Lent talks in Dorchester Abbey on Sunday evenings (35 minutes + questions and discussion) aim to offer an introduction to some of the issues and ideas that might help us to understand and appreciate St Paul better. When and where did he write? How ought we to think about his transformation from persecutor to apostle? Why did he write the way he did? What were his views about God, the World, salvation, men and women? You do not need to be a specialist! They will be followed by a short act of compline-style worship (apart from 15 March).

22 February 6pm — Paul on the Damascus Road
1 March 6pm - Paul and the Galatians
8 March 6pm - Paul and the Corinthians
15 March 6pm - Paul and the Romans
(this talk will be part of the regular Evensong)
22 March 6pm - Paul and Resurrection

'Beacons of Light' By Marcus Braybrooke Now available as a Kindle e-book

Beacons of Light describes the life-story and spiritual wisdom of one hundred holy people who have shaped the religious history of the world. All faiths at their best emphasise the love of God and a yearning for peace, an end to poverty and reverence for the natural world. This 'treasure of a book,' as one reviewer said, 'both informs and inspires.'

I am not sure how you have a Book Launch for an e-book: but free copies are available in Holy Week. Like a Sunday School child I am also keen to collect stars!

Beacons of Light is available at www.Amazon.co.uk (Search for: Beacons of Light Marcus Braybrooke) for £3.33. ISBN 978-1-942844-11-2

Special offer: available free from 30.03.15 to 03.04.15.
A paperback edition is available at www.o-books.net
Marcus Braybrooke

Lighting Work in the Abbey

There will be some disruption to the life of the Abbey for the next few weeks as the lighting is replaced and renewed. If it is likely to affect something you are doing, a member of the Abbey community will talk to you. If you have any questions, do ask.

Morning Service 1st March

Our preacher is the Reverend John Kiddle, who is the Director of Mission in St Albans Diocese and a Residentiary Canon of the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban. He will talk about the role and ministry of Volunteers and the care of visitors and we very much hope that all those who are involved in volunteering and in caring for our visitors will join us!

Mothering Sunday 15 March

As always we hope to welcome many of you to the Abbey to give thanks for those who have mothered us and for Mother Church – the service will be family friendly and suitable for all ages worshipping together. I look forward to seeing you there

Reverend Sue

Palm Sunday and Holy Week

On Palm Sunday, **March 29**, we remember Jesus coming to Jerusalem for the final time with a procession through the village, beginning with the Blessing of Palms at the War Memorial. Some years we are lucky enough to have a real donkey to lead the procession but at the time of going to press this cannot be confirmed. We gather at the memorial at 10.15am to process to the Abbey. The Litany of the Palms will be conducted without procession in the Abbey prior to the 10.30 service. Palm crosses will also be blessed at the 8am service in the Abbey.

Holy Week is a particular time of prayer and preparation for Easter. Morning Prayer will be said in the Birinus Chapel each morning at 8.15am and Compline, with silence and a short address on some of the characters in the Easter story, will be said at 8pm. Compline is one of the offices that the brothers who once lived and worked here said evening by evening. It is a short end of day office and a good opportunity to take time for a moment of peace and reflection. I do hope that you will join us.

Lent lunches 2015

The Ecumenical bread and cheese lunches will be held on Fridays, at the following addresses:

27 February	12-30pm-2pm	Julie Taylor's The Manor House, Overy
6 March	12-30pm-2pm	Margaret Edmondson's 8 Monks Close
13 March	12-30pm-2pm	Carolyn Oakley's 24 Bridge End
20 March	12-30pm-2pm	Honor Juniper's 34 Watling Lane
27 March	12-30pm-2pm	Meg Fisher's 4 Drayton Road
3 April Good Friday	12pm-1pm	The Abbey Guest House. Meg Fisher

All are welcome to come and enjoy a sociable lunch and have an opportunity to donate to a worthwhile cause. The charity chosen this year is Save The Children with a wish that the money be sent to the war torn Middle East

**Meg Fisher
Dawn Dudley**

1st—10th May

FESTIVAL NEWS

In this copy of the Dorchester News you will 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. Big 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!

Get your 10% early booking discount!

If you buy your tickets before 20th 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 Fair & Cookery Demos Sat 9th & Sun 10th 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!

Stress Free Dining with **Nick Galer**
BakeOff Demo with **Christine Wallace**
Kids cookery with **Mrs Bun the Baker**
Venice Recipes with
Katie & Guincarlo



Caldesi

Come & listen to the amazing Martha Collison from Bake Off speaking about her experiences at the Festival Service on 10th May.



Comedy

Comedy Night Fri 8th May 7.30pm

THE hit of the 2013 Festival, this year fronted by Angela Barnes, winner of the New Comedy award, writer for the Now Show and so much more...

Theatre Comedy Hot Coals Sun 3rd May

Hysterically funny theatre with no dialogue, using physical comedy and beautifully choreographed set pieces to music to tell the story. This will be great—don't miss it!



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....

Book your tickets now!!!

On line from the website , through the ticket hotline 0333 666 3366 or (limited events) from Hair of Dorchester

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!



Football Club Quiz Night

Coming soon...
The Football Club will be holding a
Quiz Night

Saturday 7 March
Bar and Hot Food

Teams of 6 to 8 people
£6 per head

7.30 p.m. start in the Village Hall

To enter a team please contact Mike Stimpson
Tel **01865 340385** email ljmw@btinternet.com



Pins and Needles Sewing Group

Meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month,
2pm to 4.30pm, at Meg Fisher's home, 4 Drayton Rd.
Embroidery, knitting, mending and quilting
all in progress.

Come and finish that piece of work that has been waiting
in your sewing box for a while! Supportive friendly group.

Meg Fisher



March 2015

Thursday 12th March 7.30pm Village Hall

AGM and Bring and Buy stall for ACWW

Please bring items for the sale.

Anyone willing to serve on the committee please let Linda Hender know before the meeting.

Please remember subscriptions are due £36. If you've not paid yet please give your cheque to Susan Jupp **01865 341066**

Linda Hender President
01865 340032

mobile LIBRARY

Alternate Thursdays, 10.40–11.15 am
Lay-by opposite the War Memorial

5 March, 19 March

Dorchester on Thames Historical Society

Wednesday 25 March at 7.30pm
Dorchester Village Hall (back room)

A talk by Professor Gregory Stores on 'Sleeping through the Ages: historical aspects of human sleep'. Although Professor Stores' clinical work and research have mainly concerned aspects of child neurology, his non-professional talks concern historical topics including examples of medieval medicine.



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

Gail Thomas
Chairman



Can you help Footsteps to secure an auction prize?

Dorchester-based charity Footsteps Foundation is set to be the principal charity for the second year running at the Wallingford Vehicle Rally & Parade on Sunday 10 May. (See p.27 for more about the rally—ed.) Last year's event raised just over £900 through the auction alone and this year we would like to try and raise even more! We are currently looking for a number of auction and raffle prizes which will help us to raise lots of money for children in need of intensive physiotherapy.

We are appealing to the local community for help in securing some great auction and raffle prizes for the event. Do you know anyone who could donate a prize that would appeal to a car lover? Or do you have connections with a local business who could make a donation? Or perhaps you can offer your own services?

Any help in securing prizes for the auction or raffle would be much appreciated by everyone at Footsteps. Please contact Clare or Maggie for further information on **01865 343851**, info@footstepsfoundation.com

Clare Morley
Fundraising Manager



Culham & District Horticultural Club

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

Wednesday 19 March

Winter Gardening: a talk given by Janet Cropley who has a beautiful garden near Brackley.

Membership is open to all those who have a keen interest in horticulture (annual subscription £15) and visitors are welcome at the meeting (donation £2).

For more details contact **01235 850381** or judy@tiggercat.me.uk



To launch the 2015 Festival an evening packed with a fantastic Indian feast, entertainment, live music and dancing

Featuring 2014 'Battle of the Bands' winner

THE UNDERCOVERS

The Festival BASH

Friday 1st May 2015, 7pm-1am

Tickets available via the Festival Box Office, cost £40

Early Bird Discount of 10% for bookings made before 22 March

In Support of



Beauty Essentials

Indulge yourself
in a full range of
Beauty Treatments
& Therapies

Manicures & Pedicures, Gel Overlays,
Facials & Eyelash Tints, Waxing & Electrolysis,
Massage & Spray Tanning, Pamper Parties,
Bridal & Special Occasion Makeup,
Children's Glitz & Glam Sparkle Parties,

GIFT VOUCHERS & MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERS - VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

Beauty Essentials has moved from The George Hotel, Dorchester to
Beauty Essentials, Rear of 81 High Street, Wallingford, OX10 0BX

Mobile Beauty Treatments available on request.

www.beautyessentialsoxon.co.uk | 07583 371198

Dorchester Abbey Bellringers

**“Stands the Church clock at ten to three?
And is there honey still for tea?”
The Old Vicarage, Grantchester.
Rupert Brooke 1912**

Do you ever glance up at the church clock as you come out of the Co-op or listen out for its chimes as you work on the allotments or walk across the Hurst meadows? This particular church clock has been showing the time to Dorchester since 1868 with its Westminster chimes added in 1900. We don't know how many clocks preceded it on the tower over the centuries, but we do know there was one, albeit not working, in 1441. During a visit by the Bishop of Lincoln it was reported that the clock was not working as the abbot had commandeered the clock rope to ring the bells! He was ordered to replace the rope.

Today the bellringers continue with the duty of ensuring the clock is running to time. Two share the weekly task of climbing the 70 steps to the clock chamber to wind the clock. The clock mechanism is a beautiful construction of brass and steel supported in an iron frame from which cables run to three huge weights. These weights fall over eight days to the ground floor through a boxed shaft in the corner of the tower. Once the laborious task of rewinding was done entirely by hand, now it is partly with the help of an electric motor.



Every second year the clock is overhauled by a specialist clocksmith but otherwise minor adjustments are carried out in house. At the end of this month an extra responsibility will be to reset the hands as we “spring forward” to British Summer Time, incidentally, an easier adjustment than “falling back” in the autumn.

Whilst the ringers guarantee not to interrupt the running of the clock in such a dramatic way as the unfortunate abbot, nevertheless the chiming mechanism is routinely disconnected to enable the church bells to be rung for services and practices. Sometimes the disconnection has to be a short while in advance of the ringing itself, e.g. for an event such as a wedding. But the silence is shortlived and you are soon enabled to hear again, as well as see whether it is time for tea.

There is more information on the technical details of the clock and its manufacture on the Abbey's visitors' app.

Don't forget, if you wish to know more about becoming a bellringer just contact our tower captain David Parker on **01865 340402** or on dlparker10@gmail.com.

Diana Vass

Chiropodist

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

19 March

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

Friends of Dorchester Abbey Visit to Malmesbury

The Friends of Dorchester Abbey are organising a visit to Malmesbury on Monday **11 May 2015**. The visit will include the return coach travel from Dorchester and a guided tour of Malmesbury Abbey.

More details will be available next month, but in the meantime, please put the date in your diary.

Yvonne Lawden

Arias at the Abbey 2

Saturday 14 March, 2015, 7.30pm

Following the success of the October 2012 concert, ‘Arias at the Abbey 2’ will be held at Dorchester Abbey in Oxfordshire (OX10 7HH) on Saturday **14 March 2015** at 7.30pm. This second evening of popular classical music will include excerpts from Carmen, Tosca and Les Miserables, and drinks and canapés will be served in the interval.

This programme of music and song will feature soloists Stuart Pendred, Hannah Pedley, Kylie Watt and Anthony Gregory; The Oxford Chamber Orchestra conducted by Neil Farrow and the award winning Wallingford Parish Church Choir directed by Sue Ledger. In aid of the Bone Cancer Research Trust. Tickets £25, students/U18 £15, at: www.bcrct.org.uk/ariasattheabbey.

Enquiries to ariasattheabbey2@bcrct.org.uk or tel: **01491 825680**.



Hempcroft Allotment News

You may be of the impression that February is a rather dormant time on the allotment, particularly in this cold weather. However the following advice is offered by people who prepare calendars of activities for allotment holders.

- Plant garlic bulbs if not already done, and plant shallots in sheltered areas.
- If the soil is not too wet sow parsnip seeds.
- In milder areas, sow broad beans under cloches for an early crop.
- Check spring cabbage and firm the soil around any that have been loosened by movement, and sow early cabbages.
- Clean established asparagus beds ready for spring growth. Top dress with well rotted manure or compost.
- Put early potato tubers to chit.
- Sow lettuce and radish (under cloches if necessary).
- Now is the time to prepare new asparagus beds. As this is a permanent crop the ground must be well prepared. This means removing all weeds and digging the bed to a spades depth. Incorporate plenty of manure or compost in the bottom and a dressing of bone meal. Three year old crowns are usually advised but you can use one year old crowns if you are prepared to wait a bit longer before cropping (two years).
- Lift and divide rhubarb if it is getting congested.

There is a skip on the allotments at the moment and so it is a good time for a general tidy-up before spring.

Edward Metcalfe



IN AID OF
**BONE CANCER
RESEARCH TRUST**

ARIAS *t t h e* **ABB EY** **2**

An evening of popular classical music and song

FEATURING

Oxford Chamber
Orchestra
Conductor - Neil Farrow

Tenor - Anthony Gregory
Soprano - Kylie Watt
Mezzo-soprano - Hannah Pedley
Bass-baritone - Stuart Pendred

The Award Winning
Wallingford Parish
Church Choir
Director - Sue Ledger

Drinks and canapes will be served during the interval

SATURDAY 14TH MARCH 7.30PM

Tickets available at www.bcrt.org.uk/ariasattheabbey

Ticket enquiries - ariasattheabbey2@bcrt.org.uk or phone 01491825680

Tickets - £25
U18s/Students - £15

Dorchester Abbey
Dorchester on Thames
Oxfordshire OX10 7HH



Dorchester Abbey Education Lent Term 2015

The start of the new year has gone well for Dorchester Education, with a number of bookings and a great deal of preparation work towards our artist-linked event as part of the Dorchester Festival 2015. Usually this time of year is quiet for school visits, but this year we have seen an increase in new schools booking. Yet again the Anglo-Saxon Experience Day has proved popular, with one visit in February and another planned for April! We had to alter some of the workshops to fit in with the time of year, so in February you might have seen us re-enacting an Anglo-Saxon farming ritual described by the Venerable Bede. We had special spiced cakes made of oats to eat and 'plant' into the ground in preparation for the spring plantings.

We also hosted a Key Stage 1 (ages 5-7) Special Education Needs group, who love coming to the Abbey so they can hear the music of the organ fill the nave! They were also very excited to be able to freely explore the Abbey building and monuments tactilely and to be able to openly express their responses to how the Abbey space made them feel. These visits are always so very special, as it means so much to the children that I can't help being moved by their sheer joy.

One of our March school visits is very interested in exploring the history of the Abbey itself and its development through time, including enjoying a time-travelling drama workshop!

Much of this term has also been about preparing for the exciting Dorchester Festival 2015 event we are involved with. We will be having the American Glass artist Carrie Fertig coming to give 2 days of school workshops, as well as an evening event for adults. She explores the spiritual in her work and it should prove very moving. She has worked and exhibited previously at Chichester Cathedral, to great acclaim. If you like the sound of this you may be interested to hear that we're looking for a few volunteers to assist with these schools workshops, either for one morning or one afternoon. Perhaps you'd like to give it a try - I'm sure you'd find it an amazing experience.

Late spring and summer is traditionally our busiest time of the year, with many more schools keen to get out and explore what we have to offer and take advantage of the better weather. I'm sure you're bound to see the children bounding around the Cloister Gardens area or picnicking there! But until then we'll just have to keep even busier to keep warm!

If reading this stirs an interest in getting involved with any of these types of visits, or if you have any comments, please drop me an email or pop in for a chat, I'd love to hear from you!

Margaret Craig
Education Officer
education@dorchester-abbey.org.uk



Dorchester Fun Run and Walk



The second running of the Dorchester 5K Fun Run and Walk is taking place on **Monday, 4 May at 11am** as part of Dorchester Festival.

Last time over 200 people took part aged from 1 to 81 so come and be part of it and bring your friends and family. Even your dog can join in!

Look out in the Dorchester Festival brochure and online **www.dorchesterfestival.com** to register or contact Jill Corran on **01865 341696** or e-mail **jillcorran@hotmail.com**

Get your application in early, dig out the lycra and get training NOW.....

We also need volunteers to help with time keeping, marshals and First Aid - if you would like to help please phone Jill on **01865 341696**.

Your Parish Council

It was good to see the Neighbourhood Planning meeting so well attended on Saturday 31 January. Councillors Metcalfe and Stevenson gave a clear and concise talk on what the plan is all about and what the Steering Committee is trying to achieve.

A date for your diary...on 7th May there will be a Parish Council election. New members will be needed so if you are interested in joining the PC please contact Geoff Russell for further details. (parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk).

I have now started to add village businesses to the website so if you live in the village, operate your business from the village and feel a presence on the website would be beneficial please let me know. (susie@whitegatehouse.net).



In last month's Dorchester News I talked about the wonderful effects of Community Events. How about a Village Bonfire Display, this November? Gorgeous grub, fantastic fireworks, a brilliant bonfire and an amazing village vibe! Please let me know what you think!



Sue Graney

RULES

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

Definitions

Class 1: Long trumpet: one flower on a stem; trumpet as long or longer than petals.
 Class 2: Short trumpet or cup: one flower on a stem; trumpet shorter than petals.
 Classes 23 & 24: Any natural material may be used.

**Please label varieties whenever possible
 Please note Rule 4**

**DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES
 SPRING FLOWER SHOW**

and
Plant Sale/Raffle
 in
DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL
 on
Saturday 11th April 2015

Viewing 2.30 pm- 4.00 pm

Prizes will be presented at 3.40 pm
 followed by Raffle Draw

Exhibitors will be competing for:

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

Class

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

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

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

- 23) Centrepiece for a dinner table (space 18" x 12" x 9")
- 24) Spring posy in a container of your choice (space 6" x 6" x 6")

COOKERY

- 25) Decorated coffee cake with butter icing
- 26) Lemon drizzle cake
- 27) Chelsea buns - 3
- 28) Savoury pasty
- 29) Flap Jacks - 5
- 30) Pot of marmalade

PHOTOGRAPHS - all unmounted and not exhibited previously.

- Conventional or digital camera (Must not be manipulated or enhanced in any way). Max 8" x 6"
- 31) Winter scene
- 32) Subject beginning with 'S'

Image manipulation - up to A4
 33) Any subject

HANDICRAFTS

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

CHILDREN (Please state age on exhibit)

- Aged 9 and over:
 - 36) Decorated biscuits - 4
 - 37) Hand made sock puppet
- Aged 8 and under:
 - 38) Peppermint creams - 5
 - 39) Draw a monster!

ENTRY FORM

Please return no later than **7.00 p.m. Thursday, 9th April** to: Christina Stores, 55 High Street

Class Nos

Full name of Exhibitor

Address.....

Telephone No

Entry Fee 5p. per Class

Email address (for Flower Show reminders and schedule only).....

The Village Hall

On June 22, **1871** the foundation stone of the new Girls' School was laid by Miss Cook.

In **1836** the Earl of Abingdon had given the Dorchester villagers a plot of land on the corner of Queen Street and Cheyney Lane for a Girls' and Infants' School with the perpetual curate as trustee. During Victorian times more and more attention was given to education and the building was too small to meet the requirements of all the new education acts.

In **1871** the Revd W C Macfarlane had a replacement started. It was a Gilbert Scott design popular at the time – red brick, high windows, open to the rafters, of church appearance. It was rectangular with one end screened off for the infants and an open coal burning fireplace in each section (still there in the Village Hall in the main room and in the bar area).

On January 8 **1872** the Bishop of Oxford opened the new school for about one hundred children. The Revd W C Macfarlane and his family paid for two thirds of its cost. During the next years there were more government rules and regulations – (Dorchester Boys had a new school in 1896 built on a plot given by Sir John Willoughby on the corner of Queen Street and Crown Lane. Mr S Johns of Wallingford was the architect and Mr J Kirby of Dorchester the builder).

The Girls' School was seriously overcrowded and the Inspectors threatened to withdraw the grant, so the Vicar, the Revd N Poyntz, raised some money and Bailey's of Warborough used Mr John's plans to build a new infant classroom (now the back room) – a most satisfactory addition - opened by the Vicar on September 10, **1900**.

On some occasions dances and concerts were held in the main room. There were no further additions to the building although its use changed. The Boys' and Girls' Schools were amalgamated in **1928**. Five years later the senior children moved into their new building in the Vicarage orchard (Kirby and Son were the builders) and the former Girls' School housed the juniors until **1959** when they were moved over to the former senior building. In **1960** the children from Clifton Hampden used the old school while their school was being restored after fire damage. Latterly the building was also in use for occasional meetings of local groups – such as Brownies and Girl Guides.

MT



This **1928** photograph shows the back room of the Village Hall, when it was the Infants Classroom. Teacher Queenie Beakhouse stands at the back. The boy sitting far left, next to the girl leaning against the wall under the Dorchester Infants sign, is Denis Atkins, Denise Line's late father. According to Denis this photograph was taken on "the first day of free school milk in Dorchester.

How the old Girls' School building became the Village Hall seems to be a rather complex story. The matter involved the Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council, the Boys' School, the Girls' School, the Guest House, Berinsfield School, the Charity Commission, the County Council, the Vicar and the Churchwardens for Dorchester and Burcot!

The Parish Council had for some time been trying to find premises for use as a Village Hall to replace the old one in the High Street (at the end of the Co-op building) and had been in correspondence with the County Council.

The County Council returned the old Girls' School property to the Vicar (Harold Best) and Churchwardens, and the Parochial Church Council (PCC), but later bought it back from the PCC. In **1973** the building was sold by Oxfordshire County Council to Dorchester Parish Council for £2,200. The remainder of the property, land adjoining the building and the Boys' School, was retained (and subsequently sold).

The building was established as a Charitable Trust for the benefit of the inhabitants of Dorchester and Overy, to be administered by a Committee of Management (under the Charities Acts) with the Parish Council being the 'Custodian Trustee', but not having the care or control which is entirely vested in the Village Hall Committee.

The first thing that had to be done was to make the building safe and usable. The County Council had only done the minimum necessary for maintenance. In **1975**, the trustees raised funds for the repair of the roof – the display inside the main hall gives the name and occupation of some of the people who gave money and of others who gave their time.

Since then all costs for maintenance and improvements have been paid for by the Village Hall Management Committee, which has raised funds, mostly, by public subscription.

And what of the Village Hall in **2015**? Keith Russell of the Village Hall Management Committee told me:

"Today the village hall is being managed as an attractive and successful self-funding facility that is used for meetings, wedding receptions, society gatherings, celebrations and theatrical events. It is a registered charity and it has its own website,

www.dorchesteronthamesvillagehall.org.uk, where availability and costs can easily be checked. Discounted hire charges are offered to users living or working in Dorchester."

(With thanks to Geoff Russell, Maurice Day and Keith Russell for information.)

Denise Line

Fishmonger

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

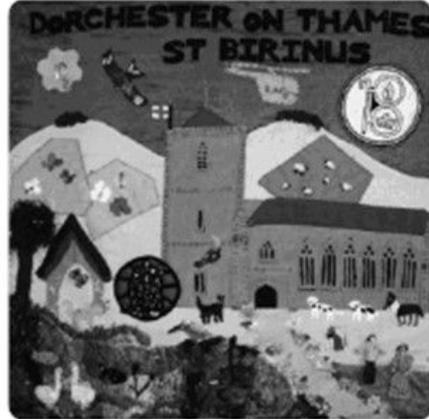
10.30 - 10.50am in High Street near War Memorial

Editor's note: If you like eating fish, please buy from this travelling fishmonger as the quality is excellent. There is a danger, though, that he will stop coming to Dorchester if there is insufficient demand.

Would you like to know more about your local school?

Pupils at Dorchester St Birinus Primary School:

- are part of a friendly and welcoming school at the heart of a historical and fascinating community
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- have weekly swimming lessons at Abbey Sports Centre
- have extra maths lessons when appropriate
- enjoy French lessons from class one onwards
- take part in a variety of after-school clubs, such as drama, football, athletics, maths and tag rugby
- use the on-site breakfast club
- regularly visit the adjacent Abbey for school events and services
- go on to a wide range of secondary schools, including Wallingford, Didcot Boys and Didcot Girls, and the three Abingdon schools.



Tapestry created by pupils for The Thames Heritage Tapestry Project.

Come along to the events advertised around the village and in *The Dorchester News* to find out more, or contact Russell Leigh, headteacher, on 340 081 to arrange an appointment.

www.st-birinus-primary.org.uk

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St Birinus School News

Just before I started to write our news I was gritting and clearing the snow from our paths. The snow certainly develops a buzz around school and the desperation to be outside. As you will see from the photographs, we developed our creative sides to make a variety of snow creations.



At the end of January, the choir, Mrs Clarke, Mrs Burns and I travelled to the O2 in London to take part in the Young Voices concert. These concerts are held around the UK in the large arenas, where the children sing a variety of songs and medleys and are entertained by special guest stars. The experience of singing in this massive arena with around 7000 other children is amazing, in addition to the pressure of remembering the dance moves (mainly for the adults). It was a very long day for us all getting back to school



around 12.45am the next morning, but it is certainly worth it, especially seeing the parents having to take part. Here's to the next time in a couple of years!

Congratulations to Sophia White, Riley Wells, Leona Shijo, who are our Writers of the Month for January – these are the children who have shown either good progress in their writing or a piece of writing has really caught the imagination of their teacher during the month. Well done to them!

Working within our Abingdon Schools Partnership, Luke Lochhead, Sam Waller and Xander Cleak attended a Level 6 Master Class in maths at John Mason School, where they explored different mathematical sequences and had to work out the algebraic general rule. All three boys had a great time and rose to the challenge extremely well. I enjoyed it too!

Finally, we were visited by Sarah's Adventures in Science with **Mischievous Matter**, where the children were able to see how dry ice could be used to explore the states of matter and how they change, through exciting demonstrations, which included a taste and smell sensation – check out our website for some photographs of the sessions: www.st-birinus-primary.org.uk

Russell Leigh
Headteacher
Dorchester St Birinus CE Primary School



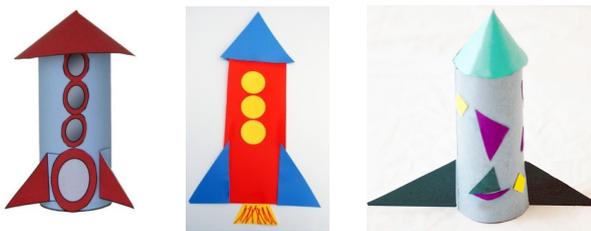
Pre-school news

Next term we will be flying to the moon with our topic Space: toilet roll rockets, silver-foil stars and polystyrene planets!

Easter is already on the horizon and, if last year's parade is anything to go by, I'm sure parents are already preparing for our annual Easter bonnet parade!

We have visits lined up to the Abbey (which the children always enjoy), and the rising 4's are spending more time with the Foundation team at St Birinus.

Our Easter Disco is stirring much excitement following the success of the Valentine 'bop'! And with numbers so strong, the dance floor is sure to be packed!



Some Blue Peter-style toilet roll rockets



Benson Choral Society

Regular followers of BCS will know that the Society never baulks at performing challenging music. Remember, for example, *Belshazzar's Feast?* The next concert (March 28) fits this pattern. It sees the performance of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* which he wrote between 1819 and 1823, and which the composer himself regarded as his greatest achievement

Given that Beethoven was never a regular church attendee, had little time for organised religion, and was once called an atheist by Haydn, it is interesting that he wrote of the *Missa Solemnis*, 'My chief aim ... was to awaken and instil enduring religious feelings not only into the singers but also into the listeners'. The composition followed an intense study of church music by Beethoven, going back even to the ecclesiastical chants of monks, and he added the following inscription to his manuscript score *From the heart, may it go to the heart.*

Beethoven apparently struggled with the fugue, as did our singers during early rehearsals. Indeed, nothing in this great work is easy, but an extended rehearsal period dating back to mid-autumn should ensure the usual confident and polished performance. As always Chris Walker will direct and conduct the choir, the Elgar orchestra, and a group of distinguished soloists.

This concert begins at 7.30pm in Dorchester Abbey on **March 28** and is certain to be sold out, so early booking is strongly advised.

To book tickets, either phone **01865 407395** (Evenings) or use email tickets.bensonchoral@gmail.com

Ticket prices £18 £15 £12

(This article appeared in late editions of the February Dorchester News.)

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We meet monthly at Cornerstone in Didcot at 8:00pm. Annual membership costs just £5 per year, members can buy tickets for themselves and a guest, film tickets are £5 each. Tickets can be bought through the normal Cornerstone booking system in person or online.

Our next films, Spring 2015:



'71 (2014)
Wednesday 25 March 2015

British historical action film set in Northern Ireland. A young British soldier (Jack O'Connell) must find his way back to safety after his unit accidentally abandons him during a riot in the streets of Belfast.
Director: Felix Herngren
Starring: Jack O'Connell



Casablanca (1943)
Wednesday 29 April 2015

One of the most beloved American films. It is the story of Rick Blaine who owns a nightclub in Casablanca, discovers his old flame Ilsa is in town with her husband, Victor Laszlo. Laszlo is a famed rebel, and with Germans on his tail, Ilsa knows Rick can help them get out of the country.
Director: Michael Curtiz
Starring: Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman and Paul Henreid.



Tampopo (1985)
Wednesday 27 May 2015

A Japanese comedy film. It is the story of a pair of milk-truck drivers (Tsutomu Yamazaki, Ken Watanabe) help a restaurant owner (Nobuko Miyamoto) learn how to cook great noodles.
Director: Juzo Itami

www.didcotfilmclub.org.uk / www.cornerstone-arts.org
Tel: 01235 515144

Focus on...Dorchester Football Club

Older than Liverpool FC, older than Newcastle United, and founded nearly 20 years before Chelsea, the Dots, our own Dorchester FC, have been playing football for most of the last 128 years since being first set up in 1887. Initially they played at Overy, where the changing room was a hedgerow, which must have given the visitors a bit of a surprise. But the club moved to the recreation ground in 1895, where it has played, on and off, ever since.

The club survived two world wars, when young men were in short supply, but, after 112 years, in 2000 the club ran out of steam after finishing bottom of Division 2 in the North Berks League. For more than 10 years the sound of boot on leather was not heard on Saturday afternoons on the recreation ground. But in 2011, thanks mainly to the work of Billy Warner and James Stimpson, Dorchester FC was reborn. Starting back in Division 3 of the North Berks League, the club stormed to the top of their league in their first season; were promoted again the following season; and then in their first season in Division One finished third in 2014. What a success story! A successful promotion story that even AFC Wimbledon would have been proud of (or Alf Ramsey's Ipswich for the older ones amongst us).

Now in the First Division the Dots face sides such as Wallingford, Long Wittenham and, this year, Watlington, all of whom they lined up against in 1887!

But just when you thought the fantastic run of promotions might have come to an end, the Under 8s have been promoted twice this season. They progress quickly at that age in terms of personal development and that is matched by the opportunity to progress quickly in their league, with promotion opportunities coming twice a season. And our Under 8s have managed just that. They sound like a real star team in the making. The Under 8s are a new venture this season, and it is hoped that they will form the bedrock for a youth policy for years to come as they grow.

With around 50 players on the books, that might seem a lot, until you realise that in addition to the first team and the under 8s, Dorchester Reserves play in the North Berks Third Division. So that is nearly 30 players turning out every week.

A lot of these players live in Dorchester, whilst others come from nearby, or have moved away and return here



Lining up for the 2013/14 North Berks Cup Final against Long Wittenham.

to play football every week. One player comes from as far away as Bromley each week, but then he is James Stimpson, one of the founders of the modern club. The Dots can't look to Berinsfield, with its younger age profile, as a source of young players: Berinsfield FC also play in the North Berks Division One. Not only are they the keenest rivals of the Dots, but are currently sitting five places above us in the league.



Had you been at the recreation ground on 20 September last year you might have thought that Arsenal were the opposition, given the size of the crowd. That day a massive 204 spectators crowded round the touchline. But the visiting team were Ardington & Lockinge – hardly likely to bring that sort of support with them. No, this was Ground Hop day, when a group of enthusiasts known as Ground Hoppers, whose main purpose is to attend a game at as many grounds as possible in the country. (One website describes them as modern day train spotters.) In front of this big crowd, Dorchester won 3-0. And the Dots also had to pull out all the all the admin stops and produce a programme and erect barriers to stop the crowd spilling on to the pitch.



A rare day indeed.

More usually the crowd is made up of Terry, and possibly a few others. No wonder the club has to charge the players to play. There usually aren't enough spectators to make charging them worthwhile. Surely we can do better than that, and give more support to a real success story.

Standing on the touchline on a cold winter's day may not suit everybody, but we can support them in their fundraising. Like any club, there is always a need for funds; the change strip was 'bought' by collecting 500 old compact discs in a special deal. The team have a new shirt sponsor, In House, as we saw last month, and the club holds events such as the Quiz Nights, one of which is coming up very soon, on Saturday 7 March (see page 5). So supporting them can also mean having a good night out at the Village Hall.

Over the last few years Dorchester Football Club has been a real success story for the village and they deserve the support of everyone to help them continue to be so.

North Berks League Final positions 2013/14

	Team	Points
1	Kintbury Rangers	41
2	Ardington & Lockinge	39
3	Dorchester	38
4	Long Wittenham Athletic	26
5	Berinsfield	26
6	Saxton Rovers	24
7	Faringdon Town	24
8	Harwell International	11
9	Wallingford Town	11
10	Crowmarsh Gifford	10



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Douglas Jupp 1930-2014

Douglas was born in Upminster, Essex, twenty minutes before his twin brother Leonard. Their father had inherited the family butcher's shop, but disliking the work, he sold the shop, so Douglas had little memory of it. Their father built a bungalow at Noak Hill and occupied himself as organist at the Church, making sure that all six sons joined the choir. This resulted in a lifelong love of singing for Douglas and his brothers.

Douglas remembered a wonderful childhood at Noak Hill, helping on a nearby farm and cycling the byways of Essex. He and Leonard loved playing cricket with their older brothers, even though they were mostly confined to retrieving the ball! After attending Noak Hill School, they passed the 11+ exam and went onto the Royal Liberty School in Romford.

At the beginning of the war Douglas and Leonard were evacuated to an Aunt in Devon. Their mother missing them, soon brought them home but, as bombing got worse, they were evacuated again to Bungay in Norfolk, where they spent much time on the golf course, caddying for the American service men stationed near there, and enjoying the reward of sweets.

Douglas left school after passing his school certificate and went to work for 'Howard Wall' in Shoreditch as a 'costing accountant'; he had to work out how long it took to make something and calculate how much it should be sold for. In 1948 he was called up to do his National Service in the RAF. At the beginning of his National Service Douglas was only 5ft 2ins tall, he then proceeded to shoot up to become 5ft 7ins, but was never given a new uniform to suit the change - much to his embarrassment.

On discharge Douglas went back to 'Howard Wall', then in 1955 to work as an accounts clerk for his uncle in Ilford. In 1964, now a qualified accountant, he joined the Civil Service Insolvency Service based at Aldwych and later the Companies Investigation section in Moorgate. The work involved investigating companies for fraud or incompetence and Douglas became Deputy Inspector of Companies. This involved meeting the directors of many different companies, some of whom were quite reluctant to tell the truth about company finances. Douglas's ability to question quietly and patiently without getting cross, meant he always got the truth in the end. This was typical of Douglas's character; never rude, cross or belligerent, he was a real gentleman and he remained like this even with dementia.

In 1970 Douglas moved from Upminster to a new flat in Lambeth. This was a fateful decision because in 1975 the flat had boiler problems and flooded the flat downstairs. Expecting to have a very irate encounter with the said neighbour he was surprised to be greeted with the question 'Did you have a bath this morning?' - the plumber had suggested a bath as the cause of the flood! No serious damage was done. The neighbour, whose name was Susan, was actually quite nice and like all fairy tales, it ended in them getting married in July 1979. After they were married Douglas and Susan bought a house in West Square in Lambeth. This was so central that they were both able to walk to work, keeping them fit and much healthier than any commute.

Douglas retired in 1990 at the age of 60 and, shortly after, Susan began working just two days a week. After 13 very happy years in West Square, they felt it was time to move

out of London and look for a house near Susan's family. They were fortunate in finding the house in Dorchester and a one bedroom flat very close to Guy's Hospital, so Susan could continue to work there until she, too, fully retired. This allowed Douglas to continue Tuesday night rehearsals with the London Chorus, to play golf on a Wednesday morning at Orsett in Essex - something he continued to do until he was 80 - and also to stay in London on concert nights.



Douglas's lifelong passion was music and particularly singing. He sang with the London Chorus for over 55 years, only leaving in 2012 because of his dementia. He was their treasurer for 40 years, guiding the choir from near bankruptcy at one point back to solvency. He also sang in a quartet at various London Churches on a Sunday morning, regularly at Waltham Abbey with his great friend the organist, Norman Rimmer. He especially loved singing at Brecon Cathedral every Easter, singing the bass solos in the St Matthew and the St John passions.

Apart from singing, Douglas continued to play the cricket he had enjoyed as a youngster at Upminster into his late twenties. Later cricket gave way to golf. Golfing days began at 6.30am summer and winter. Douglas drove to Orsett to meet his old friend Allan Ford so they could get a clear round before the hordes! There were hazards starting that early; once Douglas slipped on a frosty slope and broke his wrist and Allan had to choose between continuing the round and taking Douglas to hospital. Fortunately the hospital won! On more than one occasion they absent-mindedly sent a golf trolley off without them and had to run to catch up with it! In Dorchester Douglas enjoyed golf at the Springs Golf Club and as a member of the Dorchester Golfing Society.

In addition to golfing holidays in Wales and Portugal, Douglas also went sailing with his brother Edgar. After marrying Susan he joined her and her brothers on a couple of skiing holidays. This he fairly rapidly decided was not a good idea and Susan and Douglas took to less hazardous holidays walking in Switzerland and France.

In Dorchester, John Crowe the Rector, found out that he was an accountant and persuaded him to become PCC Treasurer and manage the Educational Trust. These jobs kept him busy for about 15 years after which he became Treasurer of the Abbey Friends which he continued until his dementia made it impossible.

Dementia was suspected in 2009 but not officially diagnosed until 2011. It did not seem to worry Douglas, and he never got cross or upset. Though he stopped reading books and the Newspaper and doing the crossword Douglas still loved singing with the Abbey choir. Susan and Douglas joined the Dorchester indoor bowls club and he became rather good at it, despite bouncing the ball loudly because he couldn't bend down sufficiently to throw it smoothly. He took to walking in a big way, going for walks every afternoon whatever the weather. In July the progression of his dementia made it impossible for Susan to care for him any longer at home and he went into Huntercombe Hall Care Home.

Douglas was a real gentleman, kind, thoughtful, intelligent, well read and a pleasure to be with. He will be greatly missed.

The full script of the tribute given at Douglas's memorial service is available from the Abbey Rectory office.

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Zoe Patricia Woodcock

1922-2014

Zoe Patricia Woodcock, née Connell, was born in Madras, India on 5 October 1922. Her early years were spent in colonial Madras where her father was Chief Engineer at the British Ministry of Works. Her godparents were the Viceroy and Vicereine of India. When Patricia was eight, the family returned to England to their home Moorlands in Ashstead, Surrey. At school, she developed her lifelong love of poetry.

During World War II, her mother became a Red Cross nurse and their house became a hospital for Canadian airmen. Her brother Michael joined the Army, and Joan the Wrens, so Patricia left her job at the Colonial Office and joined the WAAFS, training in Morse code in Edinburgh. (She also applied to be an ATA pilot but, as her only attempt to drive a car finished in a field of surprised cows, the RAF was probably wise not to choose her!). Patricia volunteered for everything and, braving U boats and bedbugs, was sent as a wireless operator to Egypt where she met David, an RAF flight engineer and pilot. After the war they married and Anne was born soon after, followed by twins Sue and Sally.

Patricia guided our family life, providing stability in our RAF postings in England, Holland, Scotland and Cyprus, involving three-yearly moves to new houses and new schools. Through her qualities of enthusiasm and courage, she encouraged us to have a go and join in. She supported us with pride in our sporting, artistic and academic achievements. Always elegant at mess functions, she also entertained at home with great flair.

They retired from the RAF to a seaside home in Ovingdean, near Brighton. Patricia became an accomplished calligrapher. She also made a unique record of the wartime Sicily landings in which her beloved brother Michael went missing and she captured our family celebrations in six-monthly albums of photographs. She achieved all this

through her love of new technology - digital cameras, printers and computers and just a few months ago, the latest iPad.

She transmitted to her grandchildren, as she did to us, her strong values for making the most of everything that life has to offer and always believed in each one of us. Patricia made special every family event. So many birthday cakes, exciting Christmases (the most treasured of the grandchildren's memories) and barbecues were made possible through her graceful hospitality. She loved flowers and her greenfingers nurtured them with care.

After 2010, everything became difficult when David became ill in hospital and returned home having lost his sight. But where many would have despaired, Patricia's resilience and fighting spirit shone through – true to the Connell motto *ONWARD*, she devised routines for them both and kept everything going.

When they moved to Dorchester on Thames three years ago, they were embraced into the caring support of the village community. Patricia adored her bungalow and her friends in the village. When David died she was devastated; he was in her every thought. But her fighting spirit continued. She kept her sense of humour, made the most of every moment and, despite her suffering, was very courageous to the end.

She was looking forward to the arrival of her first great-grandchild, due in March, who she will not now see but, though we will miss her immeasurably, Patricia will live on forever in all of us. She was part of a generation who gave us our freedom and we will always remember her with great love and pride. We are thankful for her long, happy life, well lived. Now, reunited with her beloved David, she is at peace.

An apology

I would like to apologise to my neighbours, including the person who sent me an anonymous letter, for the obvious distress I have inadvertently caused to some of you during the course of my building works. If I may quote the letter:

"You should be ashamed to have so much rubbish (sic) out on the road, being the narrow part of the village. Skips forever, old white car – bags and vans. You do have a drive at the back – use it. We are all fed up with people like you parking on the footpath. Do something about it NOW."

I will address some of these points:

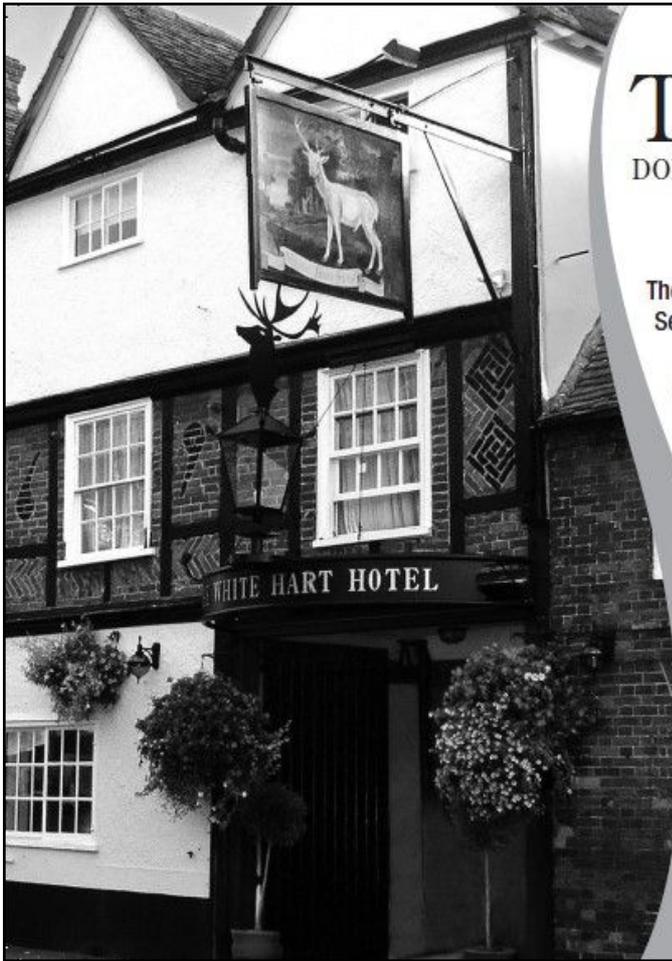
- It was necessary for the skips to be outside my property, as unsightly as they were, as Crown Lane was unsuitable for them. They were legally there, with permission from the Council, with appropriate fees paid. The skip had gone before the letter was sent.
- The shabby old white car is my only vehicle and I am sorry that it offends you. I would be delighted if someone was to buy me a new one, because I am not in a position to.

- There is insufficient room in Crown Lane for me to park, so my car has to be parked on the High St..
- The High St is narrow at that point and all who park there do so half on the pavement so that traffic is not obstructed but we all ensure that there is sufficient room on the pavements for mobility scooters and baby buggies to pass.
- Some of the unspecified white vans may have belonged to my builders, but they are what builders use. The work is almost finished and my builders' vans, at least, will soon be gone.

I am sorry that the anonymous letter sender felt unable to knock on my door as you clearly know which one it is. My phone number is below should you wish to call me.

Once again apologies to all my neighbours for the inconvenience suffered while my building works were in progress.

Deidre Wollaston
52 High St
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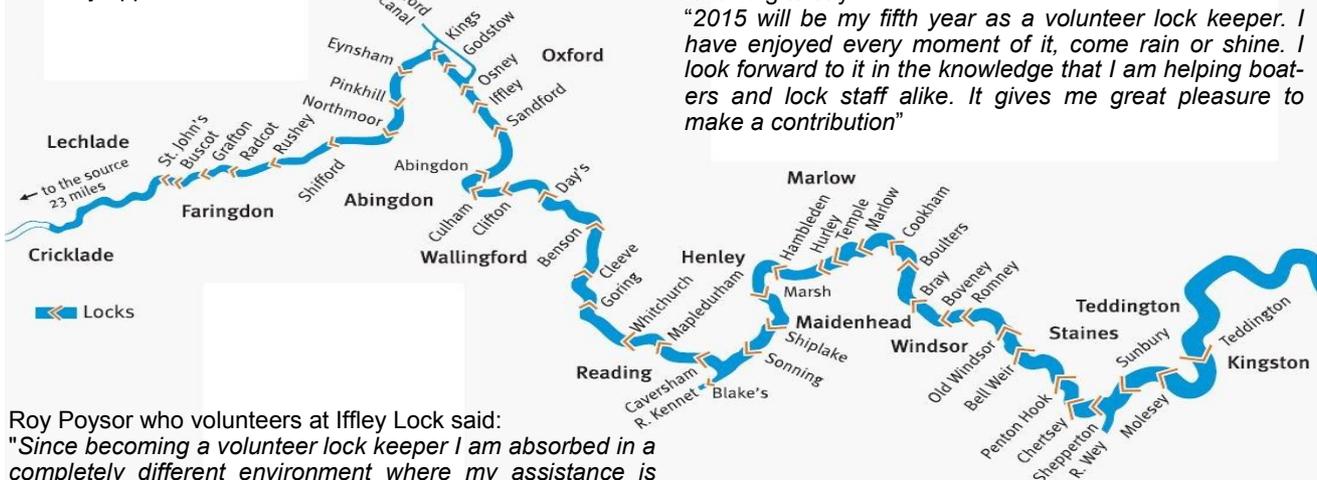


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Thames Locks Volunteers

For the last 4 years volunteers have been assisting our Lock Staff on the Thames at the 45 locks along its length between Lechlade and Teddington. Now, ahead of our fifth season, we invite you to apply to become a **Volunteer Assistant Lock Keeper** at a lock near you.

The Environment Agency, which is the navigation authority for the Thames, is now recruiting for the 2015 season and is looking for volunteers who can commit to assisting at least one day a week between May and the end of September. Volunteers can agree their days with lock keepers but need to be available from 10 to 5. Volunteering is a great way to meet people and to find out more about the Thames, its history, wildlife and management. At the same time volunteers know that they are doing something worthwhile that is really appreciated.



Roy Poysor who volunteers at Iffley Lock said: *"Since becoming a volunteer lock keeper I am absorbed in a completely different environment where my assistance is greeted by the enthusiastic boating fraternity, who give me immense pleasure with their friendship and banter"*

Our Volunteer Assistant Lock Keepers work alongside paid lock keepers. They help boats pass through the lock safely: taking ropes, directing traffic, and operating sluices and lock gates. They help maintain the site: painting, tidying and gardening. They provide information to visitors, be they on foot or afloat, so that they can make the best of their time on the river. Visitors really appreciate the local knowledge that volunteers can provide.

All applicants are invited to an assessment at a local lock. Here they will have the role explained to them and be shown what it involves in practical terms. They will also be assessed to decide which site may be most appropriate for them and to ensure that they have the physical capabilities required. After successful completion of the assessment, they attend an induction course which focuses on safety and preparing them for the lock side.

On the lock side the volunteers follow a documented training programme before being signed off to take charge of the lock on their own. This will only be for short periods, while the paid keeper is at lunch for example.

William Partridge who volunteers at Benson Lock had the following to say: *"2015 will be my fifth year as a volunteer lock keeper. I have enjoyed every moment of it, come rain or shine. I look forward to it in the knowledge that I am helping boaters and lock staff alike. It gives me great pleasure to make a contribution"*

Volunteers are provided with uniform and can claim mileage for travel to and from a lock local to them. They also receive a monthly newsletter which keeps them in touch with what is going on along the river and other activities of the Environment Agency.

To find out more about volunteering on the Thames and to receive an information pack and application form, contact the Volunteer team on **01491 828360** or email thames.volunteers@environment-agency.gov.uk
Demetri Somarakis
River Thames Volunteer Team - Waterways



Cornerstone Didcot What's On March

<p>Wed 4 Mar: The Serial Killer Formula 7:30pm. Prices: £8, £5 (concs) Ages 14+</p> <p>Fri 6 March: Fred's House With Support from The Portraits Prices: FREE</p> <p>Sat 7 Mar: Peter Knight's Gigspanner 8:00pm. Prices: £15, £13.50 (concs)</p> <p>Sun 8 Mar: A Cappella Day 10:00am. Pre-registration is essential. For further details www.acappellaspringfest.org.uk or phone 01235 223584 Prices: £45 (discounts available)</p> <p>Fri 13 Mar: Richard Herring: Lord of the Dance Settee 8:00pm. Prices: £15, £13.50 (concs)</p>	<p>Sat 14 Mar: Yolanda Brown 8:00pm. Prices: £16, £14.50 (concs)</p> <p>Wed 18 Mar: Doug Patterson 6:30pm. FREE (booking required)</p> <p>Thurs 19 Mar: Lee Nelson: Suited and Booted 8:00pm. Prices: £15, £13.50 (concs) Ages 16+ Strong Language</p> <p>Fri 20 Mar: The Tiger Lillies: The Very Worst of the Tiger Lillies 8:00pm. Prices: £19</p> <p>Sat 21 Mar: CELL 8:00pm. Prices: £14, £12.50 (concs) Ages 11+</p> <p>Sun 22 Mar: Hugless Douglas 11am & 2pm. £8, £6 (concs), £24 (family ticket) Ages 3-7</p>	<p>Thurs 26 Mar: Teechers 8:00pm. Prices: £15, £13.50 (concs) £10 (school bookings)</p> <p>Fri 27 Mar: The Poozies 8:00pm. Prices: £15, £13.50 (concs)</p> <p>Sat 28 Mar: A Little Touch of Schmilsson in the Night 8:00pm. Prices: £15, £13.50 (concs)</p> <p>Sun 29 Mar: The Ugly Duckling 2:00pm Prices: £8, £6 (concs), £24 (family ticket) Age guide 5+</p> <p>For details of all events visit www.cornerstone-arts.org</p> 
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Wallingford Museum Wallingford's Royal Castle Revealed

Wallingford Museum's 2015 season will bring a wonderful new exhibition - **'Wallingford's Royal Castle Revealed'**. It will display for the first time the fantastic results of fresh historical and archaeological research into the life and importance of one of the greatest royal strongholds of Medieval England.

This new research shows Wallingford Castle's importance as the third great stronghold of the Thames Valley - Tower of London, Windsor and Wallingford; wonderful new details of the life of the castle, its buildings, people and activities. It will reveal the daily life and the layout of the Castle. This exhibition will complement a weekend of 'living history' on 27-28 June, when the English Civil War Society and Town Council have organised a 'Civil War re-enactment' on the Castle.

Alongside, to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta, there will be an additional display **'Magna Carta and All That!'** highlighting Wallingford's role in the events of 1215, and why it is only one of four towns mentioned in Magna Carta. King John was at Wallingford Castle on several occasions during his falling out with the barons which led to Magna Carta.

There will be special events during this year, including guided History Walks (11 April), a Night at the Museum (15 May), Family Archaeology Day (18 July), a Medieval Day (15 Aug) and an Agatha Christie weekend (18-20 Sept), culminating in a major history conference about Wallingford Castle in October.

During the afternoon of Sunday 14 June, St Mary's Church bells will ring a special peel as part of the national commemoration of Magna Carta.

The Museum is open from Tues 3 March as follows:
Tuesdays - Fridays 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Saturdays 10.30am - 5.00pm
Sundays (June - August only) & Bank Holidays 2.00pm - 5.00pm

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk



Wallingford Historical Children and War Children's experiences of WW II in Oxfordshire

March's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be by Liz Wooley. She will present **'Children and War - children's experiences of WW II in Oxfordshire'**.

Oxfordshire escaped major bombing during World War II but the county's inhabitants were, nonetheless, heavily affected by the War. Preparations for possible attack and invasion altered the familiar landscape and everyday life in towns and villages was disrupted. Liz's talk looks at how the lives of Oxfordshire children - both born in the county and evacuated here - were affected by World War II. It is likely to prompt older listeners to recall and share their own wartime experiences.

The talk is presented in association with the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust.

This talk will be held on Friday 13 March, 7.45 for 8pm at Wallingford Town Hall. Visitors (£3) are most welcome.
www.twhas.org.uk



Earth Trust March events

Annual Earth Trust Hedgelaying Competition Sunday 1 March, 9.15am-4.30pm

Come and take part in this friendly hedgelaying competition. Competitors will work in pairs and have five hours to lay 10 yards. Expert Clive Leeke will be on hand to provide advice and the top three pairs will win prizes! Free to enter (donations gratefully received) but please book: **01865 407792** or admin@earthtrust.org.uk.

Foraging and Calzone Pizza Making Sunday 1 March, 10am-2pm

Drop in and go foraging for some natural ingredients and turn them into a delicious calzone over the outdoor fire. £4 donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

Lambing Weekends

Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 March, 10am-4pm Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 March, 10am-4pm

Earth Trust's annual lambing weekends in partnership with Little Wittenham Lamb. Enjoy a day out on our working farm visiting the new spring lambs. Plenty of fun craft activities to also have a go at, and refreshments will be available. Don't forget your wellies! £6 adult, £3 child, £15 family, FREE for Earth Trust Friends.

Earth Trust Explorers: Clumps Club

Monday 30 & Tuesday 31 March, 9am-5pm

Wild adventures for children aged 8-12 years! Join us for outdoor fun as we build dens, cook on the fire and make new friends. Easter-themed activities also included! £25 per child per day; booking essential: **01865 407792** or admin@earthtrust.org.uk.

Little Explorers

Tuesday 31 March, 10am-11.30am

Sensory buggy walk for babies and toddlers. We will use our senses to learn about the natural world around us - stopping to smell, touch, taste, listen and look! £4 donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

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. If you don't have room for them all please focus on the Lambing Weekends, which are always very popular.

Be a Friend of Dorchester Abbey

The Friends of Dorchester Abbey is an association with a legal identity separate from the Parochial Church Council and raises funds to be used exclusively for the restoration, maintenance, embellishment and improvement of the structure of the Abbey Church.

Since our formation in 1959 we have contributed much to the life and witness of the Abbey. Over the years we have promoted and supported social events such as concerts, lectures, flower festivals as well as visits to cathedrals and other abbeys.

The subscription is not fixed, and members choose their own amount, but we hope for a minimum annual subscription of £20. Life membership is also available for a single payment of £300 per person (£500 for a couple). For further details contact the membership secretary, Mrs Honor Juniper (**01865 343228**).

The application form to join the Friends is available at the Friends' notice board in the Abbey.

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CLEARVIEW
STOVES



WOODBURNING STOVES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The Wallingford Vehicle Rally and Parade Sunday May 10 2015

This relaxed, friendly and very informal event is one of the "must see" events on the Wallingford calendar and has been raising money and awareness for local charities for the past 11 years.



The event will kick off at 11am with a parade of 250 vehicles through Wallingford, culminating in a static show at the Kinecroft in the centre of town. Throughout the day there will be displays and side stalls hosted by local suppliers and charities. Local food traders will also be there so you can sample the tasty delights from local suppliers.

The principal charity will once again be Footsteps, who provide much needed intensive rehabilitation programmes for children and young adults with neurological disorders. Children and their families travel from all over the country to the centre in Dorchester and their work has been providing child-friendly intensive therapy for over a decade. You can find more information on their website at www.footstepscentre.com

The parade itself is quite some spectacle. There will be wonderful live music from the Wallingford School Big Band and Cholsey Silver Band as the parade arrives in the Kinecroft. The vehicles themselves aren't limited in any way. All cars, bikes, trucks and scooters are welcome, the weirder the better, and prizes will be given to the furthest travelled, the Mayor's choices and the Vehicle of The Show.



You can also make a donation and take a trip out in a supercar. The Sporting Bears organization will be back once more with their amazing collection of cars, both modern and classic, to take you out for a drive in the stunning local countryside.

We have several car clubs booked already, including the Porsche Cars GB Owners Club, TR Register, and CSMA. Wallingford Emergency Services will be putting on their display and we are currently booking other organisations to put on displays throughout the day.

Pre-registration is in full flow and will, no doubt, be full very soon. (120 registrations in the first week alone!!). However even if we are full, you can still take place in the parade on the day and afterwards you will be directed to our overflow car park on St George's Road.

Drop us a line if you would like to take part, or simply turn up at The Wallingford Sports Park on Hlthercroft Road, Wallingford at 9am on the morning itself.

More details on the car rally website www.wallingfordcarrally.org.uk, or drop us an email at info@wallingfordcarrally.org.uk.

Wallingford & District Art Club

Wallingford and District Art Club meets on Tuesdays, 7.30-9.30pm at Centre 70, Goldsmiths Lane. On **17 March** artist Max Hale will demonstrate palette knife painting with acrylics and you are most welcome to join us for what is always an entertaining and interesting evening (visitors £5, members free). And why not come along to a **free** taster session at one of the untutored painting evenings we have on all other Tuesdays? Just bring your own materials and ideas. Or simply come to have a look round and a friendly chat. Do ring or e-mail me if you would like more information on this or on the other exciting demonstrations we shall be having each month.

Stephanie Toole
01491 825042
toole.stephanie@yahoo.co.uk

Wallingford Flower Club

Invite you to a Floral Demonstration "Bamboozle" by Jenny Clarke
At Crowmarsh Village Hall OX10 8ED
Wednesday **11 March 2015**
7.15pm for 7.45pm
Membership £22
Visitors £4
All welcome
Parking outside the Hall, Sales Table, Raffle and Coffee.
For further information phone: **01491 834303**

Wallingford Gardening Club

The Incredible World of the Honey Bee

At the March meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, Steve Moll will give an illustrated talk on **The Incredible World of the Honey Bee**.

Through the eyes of a beekeeper we will follow the activities of a bee colony through the calendar year; looking at how the colony survives winter, their sophisticated methods of communication, and why they swarm. Many fascinating facts about this incredible insect will be uncovered - did you know that bees gather nectar from two million flowers to produce a jar of honey! We will also look at some of the pest and disease challenges facing honeybee colonies throughout the world.

Steve Moll has always had strong links with the countryside and agriculture, inspired by his upbringing on a Suffolk farm. A biologist, he spent his career working for multinational companies specialising in crop protection products and crop seed variety development. Steve and his wife Vivien started beekeeping in 2006, first with a single hive in their garden. Their love for the beekeeping craft has seen hive numbers grow, to over seventy located at sites across South Oxfordshire and Berkshire.

The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm on Thursday **12 March**.

Visitors very welcome - £2.

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Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum Talk by Al Murray

On Monday **9 March** from 3pm-5pm comedian and military history enthusiast Al Murray (the pub landlord) will be talking about 'History and comedy- my debt to Oxford'. The event will be held at Oxford University Officers Training Corps (OUOTC) in Oxford. This will give you a unique opportunity to chat with and meet Al Murray. The event tickets are £10 and can be purchased from The Soldiers of Oxfordshire museum by telephoning **01993 810213**, or via our website www.sof.org.uk/shop.php



Benefits for Better Mental Health

Residents of Henley and Didcot to benefit from new service

Oxfordshire Mind's specialist Benefits for Better Mental Health team give anyone with a mental health problem expert advice and guidance to help them navigate the complex benefits system.

Now the Oxfordshire Mind Benefits team are working more closely with Didcot/Henley Citizens Advice Bureau, as part of the Tap-In Advice Service across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse. David Bryceland, Oxfordshire Mind's Benefits Project Service Manager, explained what the team can do to help people having problems with their benefits:

"We often get people visiting our service who are confused about the benefits system and are worried that their current benefits could be taken away. Our team will work with that person to give them a thorough 'benefits health check' to make sure they are claiming everything that they're entitled to. We can explain what the letters they receive actually mean and resolve any problems they might be experiencing. We can also help them complete the right forms and make difficult phone calls."

The Benefits team will be working out of the Didcot CAB and Henley CAB twice every month. Anyone who has a mental health problem and would like advice should make an appointment by either contacting their local CAB or by ringing the Benefits for Better Mental Health hotline (Mondays to Thursdays, 10am to 1pm) on **01865 243585**.

People in Didcot who are suffering from stress, are depressed, anxious or have other mental health problem are also welcome to join Oxfordshire Mind's other services in the town, including peer support groups, courses, sports activities and one-to-one information sessions. For more information about these free activities, visit the Oxfordshire Mind website at www.oxfordshire-mind.org.uk/support-in-your-area/didcot or ring our Information Line on **01865 247788** (Mon to Fri, 9.30am to 4.30pm) or call our Didcot team on **01235 522096**.

For CAB services, call Adviceline on **03444 111444** or drop in to the Didcot Citizens Advice Bureau. For opening hours, see www.caox.org.uk



Didcot CAB Now open on Wednesday mornings

Didcot CAB offers a drop in service 5 days a week. From 4 February we are open on Wednesday mornings. Our opening hours are as follows:

Monday	10.00am to 1.00pm & 1.30pm to 4.00pm
Tuesday	10.00am to 1.00pm
Wednesday	10.00am to 1.00pm
Thursday	10.00am to 1.00pm & 1.30pm to 4.00pm
Friday	10.00am to 1.00pm & 1.30pm to 4.00pm

Didcot bureau is located in "Dales", 9-15 High Street. We can also provide information on most issues over the phone. Our phone number is **03444 111 444**, Monday to Friday, 10.00am to 4.00pm

Information and fact sheets are also available on our website: www.adviceguide.org.uk

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Wallingford U3A

At our February meeting **Professor Gregory Stores**, from The University of Oxford Medical School, spoke to us about "Charles Dickens as Social Reformer and Medical Observer". We were happy to welcome a number of visitors who came, attracted by the topic. As Professor Stores said, most of us have read some Dickens, even if not since school, but we are all familiar with many of his great stories and characters. What is less well known is his wider life. Apparently he suffered from insomnia, and used to walk miles around London at night. This is how he discovered the levels of destitution, homelessness, vice and hopelessness in the back streets and alleys of Victorian London. He became a tireless campaigner against poverty, injustice and inequality.

At our meeting on Wednesday **March 4**, Mrs Jill Carey will speak on "Three Birders in a Bush".

Our Meetings are held in Crowmarsh Village Hall at 2.00pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Visitors are always welcome, although they are asked to sign in. (Fire regulations)

The visit to Sonning Mill goes ahead on **Feb. 28**. The 5 day holiday to the Peak District is all set. The new Speakers Programme will be out in March.

For more information about what we do, visit www.u3asites.org.uk/wallingford.
Phone Hermione on **01865 858024**, or
Jill on **01491 835 994**.

Wallingford Day Centre

Wallingford Day Centre is looking for new volunteer helpers. Could anyone reading this run a Book Club at the Centre? Do you have any sort of musical skills you could share? Can you sit and listen with a sympathetic ear? What about painting or craft skills? The Day Centre is now open on a Saturday. Could you provide transport for clients would like to attend on a Saturday? Any of these would help the wonderful staff at the Centre and enrich the lives of the clients who go there.

If you feel you can help in any way please contact Kerry on **01491 836467**. She would love to hear from you.

Eira E Hoare
Friends of Wallingford Day Centre



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Dorchester News online

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

Remind your friends and family who have moved away from the village that they can catch up with what's going on in Dorchester.

Corn Exchange Wallingford What's On March

Cinema: performances start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. Tickets are £6 adults, £4 under-15s. NT Live screenings will differ, so check at box office or website.

Sunday 1, Monday 2, Tuesday 3: **Kingsman – The Secret Service** (15)

Wednesday 4, Thursday 5: **A Most Violent Year** (15)

Friday 6: **Boyhood** (15)

Sunday 8, Monday 9: **Whiplash** (15)

Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11: **Inherent Vice** (15)

Thursday 12: NT Live. **Behind the Beautiful Forevers.**

David Hare's new play starring Meera Syal. 7pm

Friday 13: **Birdman** (15)

Sunday 15, Monday 16: **Selma** (12A)

Tuesday 17: **Swan Lake**, Live by satellite from the Royal Opera House. 7.15pm

Wednesday 18, Thursday 19: Wallingford Children's Film Festival

Friday 20: **Shaun the Sheep** (U)

Sunday 22, Monday 23, Tuesday 24: **Fifty Shades of Grey** (15)

Thursday 26: NT Live recording of the Young Vic's stunning award-winning production of Arthur Miller's

A View from the Bridge (12A) at 7pm

Friday 27: **The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel** (PG)

Saturday 28: **Shaun the Sheep** (U) at 10.30am

Saturday 28, Sunday 29, Monday 30, Tuesday 31:

The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG)

LIVE

Saturday 7 at 7.45pm. **ABBA As Good as New.** Tribute band Gimme ABBA promises to dazzle its Wallingford audience with the Swedish supergroup's hits from their golden age. A must for all ABBA fans, young and old.

Saturday 21: **Pirates of Penzance.** Opera Anywhere will be making a welcome return to the Corn Exchange with their very own innovative version of Gilbert & Sullivan's well-loved operetta. 7.45pm.

REMINDER: Open auditions for a singing role in the Corn Exchange-Crescendo's **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang** and **Mary Poppins** musical showcase will be held on March 14, 15 and 28. For information, consult www.cornexchange.org.uk or phone **01491 839613/01296 662129.**

ADVANCE NOTICE

April 15 to 18: Sinodun Players will be presenting Alan Ayckbourn's dark comedy **Life of Riley** at 7.45pm. Watch this space in the next issue for more details.

May 5. Direct from the Royal Opera House at 7.15pm, satellite recording of the Royal **Ballet's La Fille Mal Gardée.**

May 14. Live from the National Theatre, George Bernard Shaw's exhilarating **Man and Superman** starring Ralph Fiennes.

Bookings can be made in person or by telephoning the box office, 01491 825000 (between 10am to 2pm Fridays and Saturdays and each evening between 7 and 8pm) or online at www.cornexchange.org.uk. Listings may occasionally be subject to change. Please check website for up-to-date information and ticket prices.



Refuse Collections

Fridays from 7.00 am.

Weekly: food waste (in bio-degradable starch-based bag or wrapped in newspaper, in green caddy)

Fortnightly: garden waste, recycling; non-recyclable waste

Fri 6 March	Green
Fri 13 March	Black
Fri 20 March	Green
Fri 27 March	Black

Green = recycling (loose in large green bin) and garden waste (brown bin, +£34 pa)

Black = non-recyclable waste (in a bin liner if you wish, in black bin)

The recycling centre at Oakley Wood (signposted off the A4130 Nettlebed/Henley road 1½ miles east) is open 8.00 am – 5.00 pm seven days a week.



Village Bus Services



From Dorchester (War Memorial)

No.	To	Dep	Arrive	
97*	Didcot	7.25	8.12	NS
114	Abingdon	7.49	8.18	NS
114	Wallingford	9.12	9.22	
97	Didcot	10.10	10.49	
97	Wallingford	11.22	11.32	
97	Didcot	13.10	13.49	
97	Wallingford	14.22	14.32	
114	Abingdon	15.48	16.13	
114	Wallingford	17.40	17.56	NS

To Dorchester (War Memorial)

No.	From	Dep	Arrive	
114	Wallingford	7.30	7.49	NS
114	Abingdon	8.25	9.12	
97	Wallingford	10.00	10.10	
97	Didcot	10.50	11.22	
97	Wallingford	13.00	13.10	
97	Didcot	13.50	14.22	
97*	Didcot	15.25	16.10	NS
114	Wallingford	15.38	15.48	NS
114	Abingdon	17.00	17.40	NS

NS= Not Saturday. No services on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

97* operates school days only.

Destinations at Didcot and Abingdon vary. Please check.

X39 and **X40** provide half-hourly service to Oxford, Wallingford and Reading from the bypass.

All buses operated by Thames Travel: www.thames-travel.co.uk or **01491 837988** except 97* operated by Whites: www.whitescoaches.com or **01865 340516**

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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.

MAGAZINE COPY:
dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

ABBEY WEB www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk
VILLAGE WEB www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

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Abbey Calendar March

Sundays

March 1	Lent 2
8.00 am	Holy Communion (1662) (Revd Dr Marcus Braybrooke)
10.30am	Morning Service
6.00pm	Lent Worship and Talk
March 8	Lent 3
8.00 am	Holy Communion (1662) (Revd David Haylett)
10.30 am	Sung Eucharist
12noon	Baptism
6.00pm	Lent Worship and Talk
March 15	Mothering Sunday
8.00 am	Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booy)
10.30am	Family Service
6.00pm	Evensong with Lent Talk
March 22	Lent 5
8.00 am	Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booy)
10.30am	Sung Eucharist
6.00pm	Lent worship and talk
7.00pm	Taize@7
March 29	Palm Sunday
8.00 am	Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booy)
10.15am	Palm Sunday procession and Service
6.00pm	Team Worship

HOLY WEEK
Monday – Wednesday, 30 March – 1 April
8.15am Morning Prayer and 8pm Compline

Weekdays

Every Tuesday
10.30am – 12 noon Coffee in the Abbey

Every Wednesday
9.30 am Holy Communion at Berinsfield Church

Tue 10	10.15am	Short Communion
Sat 14	7.30pm	Arias at the Abbey 2
Thu 26	2.30pm	Service at the Cheshire Home
Sat 28	7.30pm	Benson Choral Society Concert

Parish Registers

Funeral
12 January Zoe Patricia Woodcock
15 January Iris Taylor
23 January Denis Dunbar Gibbs

Memorial Service
17 January Douglas Jupp
30 January Anne Symons

Regular events

Weekly:

Monday 10.00 am – 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm
Abbey Guest House: **Watercolour Painting** [Full details from rebeccaahind.com]

Tuesday 7.30 pm Abbey: **Bellringing Practice**
10.30-10.50am by War Memorial **Fishmonger** (p.11)

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

Friday 7.00 pm Abbey: **Choir Practice**

Alt Thurs 10.40 – 11.15 am War Memorial: **Mobile Library** (p.5)

Monthly:

2nd Thursday 7.30 pm Village Hall: **WI** (p.5)

3rd Wednesday 7.30 pm Abbey Guest House: **Parish Council** (green p.1)

3rd Wednesday **Culham Horticultural** (p.5)

3rd Thursday **Classic Car Show** George Hotel

3rd Thursday Belcher Court: **Chiropodist** (p.7)

4th Wednesday 7.30 pm Village Hall: **Historical Society** (p.5)

4th Thursday 2.30: Service at the **Cheshire Home**

See Village Notice Boards for details.
Please send all entries and updates for this Dorchester Diary to Geoff Russell by email to:
parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk.

The Diary will also appear in the Parish Council's website

www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Deadline for

April

Dorchester News

All items must be sent by
Friday 13 March

to

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Anything you would like sent to newsletter editors for other churches in the Team should be sent to admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk by the **9th** of the preceding month

Parish Council Notices

Monthly Meetings

In March the Parish Council will hold its meeting on the second Wednesday which is 11 March. In April the meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 April. The agenda for the meetings will be displayed on village notice boards at least three clear days in advance. All are welcome to attend and, at the beginning of the meeting, may raise any matter of concern.

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

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

e-mail: parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk
Cllr Margot Metcalfe, the Chairman of the Council, can be contacted via chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

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

From your County Councillor... Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

New ways of running local government to protect front line services

Oxfordshire County Council continues to break new ground about how public services are run and will move to a new more networked management structure in the summer. The world of Local Government is changing. Oxfordshire County Council is now an enabler, commissioner and partner with fewer services being delivered in traditional ways. We increasingly work across boundaries in the public sector and join things up to benefit residents.

Chief Executive Role to be axed

Further modernisation is essential to protect front line services in the light of further likely cuts to local government funding after the General Election in May. The days of a traditional management hierarchy have gone. On 30th January it was announced that Chief Executive Joanna Simons will be standing down in June. She will not be replaced, and the roles of the Chief Executive will be devolved down the organisation.

The Case for a Unitary Authority

The County Council Leader Ian Hudspeth recently launched a discussion document **Strategic Financial Case for a Unitary Council**. He wants to start the debate about how local government should be organised in Oxfordshire to simplify things for the public and save money for essential services.

£108.6m growth deal signed

A £108.6m investment into Oxfordshire has been given the go-ahead with Minister Greg Clark MP signing a Local Growth Deal that will create 6000 jobs and 4000 homes across the county by 2021.

The deal includes:

Investment in substantial measures to **reduce the risk of flooding**, ensuring businesses continue to operate, roads and railways remain operational and people can be confident that their homes and businesses won't be damaged.

Joint investment with the University of Oxford in a **new Centre for Applied Superconductivity** to bring university professors and entrepreneurs together to collaborate on exciting developments in fields as diverse as computing, cryogenics, x-rays and MRI scanning and electricity storage.

Investment with the both City of Oxford College and Abingdon and Witney College in state-of-the-art skills centres enabling **local people to be trained**

in vital skills in science, engineering and technology, preparing them for future employment.

Significant investment to **improve transport links** including roads, cycling networks and parking – linking Oxfordshire's world class universities with businesses and helping people get to where they need to be faster.

Continued investment into Oxfordshire's Growth Hub, Oxfordshire Business Support (OBS) which **helps local businesses access the support and make the connections needed for growth**.

The Oxfordshire Growth Deal is part of a national £12 billion long-term programme to revitalise local economies and was announced by the Government in July 2014. The deals are significant for rebuilding the economy and sharing the benefits locally through the network of 39 LEPs.

County council sets out long term transport plan

On 27 January, the Cabinet of the County Council approved the Local Transport Plan (LTP4). It will now be sent out to **further consultation between February and April**. The plan will support the ambitions for the county to 2031, before which an expected **100,000 new homes and 85,000 new jobs** are likely to be created.

The plan includes the Oxford Transport Strategy, which sets out ambitious plans for transport in and around Oxford city, including looking at **mass transit solutions like rapid bus services along strategic routes**, integrating transport modes by **transforming the park and ride network** and making it easier to cycle by introducing cycle super routes across the city. Also featured is our innovative 'Science Transit' approach to deliver a comprehensive, high quality public transport network for Oxfordshire and **new, updated Bus strategies**.

Unwanted book drive at five oxfordshire libraries

Oxfordshire people looking to make space on their bookshelves for Christmas gifts will have the opportunity to donate unwanted books to charity at local libraries during January and February.

The county council's library service, in association with the National Literacy Trust are inviting donations of books at five libraries – Oxford Central, Witney, Banbury, Cowley and Didcot.

Continued overleaf...

From your County Councillor... Lorraine Lindsay-Gale - continued

Parishes Berinsfield

Speed Limit - The long-awaited 40mph speed limit at all four approach roads to the roundabout at Berinsfield has hit technical problems. The County Council agreed the limit several months ago, but our engineers are waiting to hear back from SEC on their planned programme for the illuminated signs required south of the roundabout. The other non-illuminated signs and road markings are in hand, but can't be put in place until this electrical work is completed. The earliest date being quoted at the moment is 'end of February'. Our officers and I continue to chase, but sadly this frustrating delay is out of our hands.

Cycle Way - At a recent Localities meeting I was able to promote the proposed cycle way from Berinsfield to Oxford on behalf of the Parish Council to Richard Jeremy, one of OCC's strategic planning officers who is directly involved with the development of the Local Transport Plan. He confirmed that it is not too late to get the scheme included into the plan by responding to the consultation which goes out in February.

Day Centre - The County Council is due to transfer our Adult Learning Service out to Abingdon and Witney College on 1st June. We have now agreed that The Union Cowley, Kidlington, Berinsfield, Banbury, Grove and Blackbird Leys centres will definitely transfer. The Berinsfield Day Centre's lease with OCC Adult Learning will transfer to the College so they can operate as normal and expect no changes to this arrangement.

Clifton Hampden

New Infrastructure - After much lobbying it's good that The Science Vale transport strategy in LTP4 contains a key new scheme, involving a new road north from Didcot, an additional Thames river crossing, supplementary access to Culham Science Centre and a direct link to the B4015 up to the A4074 at the Golden Balls roundabout which would provide Clifton Hampden with a desperately needed bypass. The scheme would help to provide an additional link from south to north between the Science Vale and Oxford, in particular the major employment areas of Oxford in the Eastern Arc, as well as providing an alternative route to the A34. Improvements to access to the Culham Science Centre through increased connectivity by bus and cycle are also included.

New Park & Ride - As part of the County Council's objective of cutting the number of cars going in and out of Oxford, a series of six new Park & Ride facilities are proposed in LTP4 and planned to be sited outside the ring road. The nearest one to villages in this Division is proposed to be sited next to the A4074 on the Science Park at Sandford. To encourage people to use these new car parks a rapid, mass transit bus service will be provided to and from the City.

For more information on many of these items see:
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/



From your MP... John Howell

I am writing this month when we have just witnessed one of the worst attacks of arson known in the area. The fire at the District Council offices, the funeral directors, and the cottage in Roke Marsh left significant problems, enormous concern and much uncertainty. I am grateful to all those who have worked so hard to get the district council services up and running so quickly following the event. I would also like to record my thanks to the fire service and police for the excellent work they did on these incidents.

Arson attacks are thankfully rare events. More generally there is good news that the level of crime has reduced across the county. I was particularly delighted to see figures recently published that showed that in the four year period from June 2010 to June 2014 there has been a 30% decrease in recorded crime in the Thames Valley Policing area. I was pleased to have the opportunity to put this on record in the House and to seek the Minister's congratulations for our police force on their work to keep us safe.

For people living on the eastern side of the constituency an issue that has been prominent recently is the increased volume of air traffic and the associated noise. I wrote to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), the Chief Executive of Heathrow Airport and the Minister responsible for aviation on this. The greatest issue appears to be the wind direction which affects the direction of take-off and

landing. In the UK the prevalent wind is from the west but an unusually high level of easterly winds has meant that aircraft have been taking off and landing over this area. For more information I have arranged for representatives from the CAA and Heathrow to meet with residents on 26th February.

The state of our roads is another issue regularly raised with me. Maintenance and repairs are a responsibility of the county council and I welcomed the recent announcement of nearly £17 million of new funding for Oxfordshire for road maintenance. This is part of £87,143,000 of funding allocated for road maintenance in Oxfordshire up to 2020/21.

With several months until the election, and plenty of work to do, it is frustrating that things already seem to be focusing on campaign issues. Let me reassure readers that my office is keeping focus on the work that needs to be done and will continue to help with issues where we are able, as usual. My contact details are below. If I am not the right person to help with a particular issue we will always try to direct you to those best placed to help.

Email: howelljm@parliament.uk
Website: www.johnhowellmp.com
To be added to my regular updates email me at
john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com