



DORCHESTER NEWS

June 2015

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Talking Point

Do you ever wish you had a crystal ball and could look into it and see what the future holds? At the time of writing this article (end of the first week in May in order to meet magazine deadlines) that is exactly how I feel at the moment. Given the title "Talking Point" I imagine you are reading this expecting some illuminating words on some subject which is currently making news. This week that could be fairly easy: the week began with the birth of a new princess, fourth in line to the throne, then we moved into a General Election and a result which totally confounded all the pollsters (I imagine they wish they had a crystal ball!); followed by the resignations of the leaders of not just one, but three, political parties; then we moved on to commemorate the 70th anniversary of VE Day; and pushed into the background is the crisis and suffering in Nepal caused by the massive earthquake which struck that country but which no longer dominates our news although the situation is far from resolution. By the beginning of June who knows what will dominate our news?

At the risk of being out of date I want to concentrate on the political news. What stance should Christians be taking as politicians who lost their seats or failed to be elected recriminate on one hand and rejoice in a parliamentary majority (albeit slim) on the other? The easy way out is to say something along the lines of "The Church should keep out of politics" and bury our heads in the sand. Keeping out of politics is not the Christian way. Universal suffrage is a right which was fought for hard and long in the past. At the beginning of the last century women were still not allowed to vote, that cannot be right but many people do not exercise their right.

At the start of the election campaign the Bishops of the Church of England, closely followed by Cardinal Vincent

Nichols, issued statements saying that there was a hard won fight to give everyone the right to vote and you need to use that right. "Unless we exercise the democratic rights that our ancestors struggled for, we will share responsibility for the failures of the political classes. It is the duty of every Christian adult to vote, even though it may have to be a vote for something less than a vision that inspires us."

As just one example, it was political action in Parliament by Christians led by William Wilberforce that was responsible for the abolition of slavery in this country in 1833. If the Church had kept out of politics what would have happened?

I firmly believe that religious belief does have something to say to the world of politics, something about justice, mercy and compassion, our attitudes to the poor and needy and the outcasts of society and our love for our neighbour. I support the right of Church leaders to offer support for, or argue against, policies put forward by political parties.

Jesus himself had things to say about attitudes to power and its use and misuse. Speaking to the religious leaders of his day he condemned them in no uncertain terms using words which could easily be applied to some political views, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practised without neglecting the others."

So my prayer is for politicians of all viewpoints that they will rule through parliament with justice and mercy, compassion and integrity.

David Haylett
Associate Vicar

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Dorchester News

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Copy Deadlines for Dorchester News

July/August edition	12 June
September edition	14 August
October edition	11 September

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

I am well aware that I have written about the anticipation of the Dorchester Festival in previous months, and make no apology for coming back to it again. We can see from the amount of money raised given on page 5 what a success it was financially. But what a success it was in so many ways providing a diverse range of entertainment, fun and delight for so many people. I enjoyed the concerts: the BBC Elstree Band together with the military wives choir, the spell-binding sounds of the Tallis Singers, and the sheer energy of Out of the Blue. The Comedy Night was great fun, but Dizzy Dean, the children's entertainer, equally made me laugh and laugh. Ben Morris, talking about making films was captivating, and The Big Bash got the Festival off to an amazing start. But we can't forget the Scarecrow Trail, in which so many people participated, and got the attention of the local newspapers. The answers are given on page 6, if you still don't know. And all in such a good cause.

But now we need to move onto other things. The big attraction in June will be DADS' production of Man of the Moment, and we spotlight DADS in our 'Focus' feature this month. This sounds like it is going to be a great night out.

On a more everyday level, the Parish Council is still looking for a volunteer to join them, to fill the empty space. If you have any interest at all in supporting your village in this way, then have a look at the Parish Council notices in the green pages.

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 29) should contact the contractor direct. The number to call is **03000 610610** and the website www.more recycling.co.uk

BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

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

OPENING HOURS

Mon - closed	Tues, Wed, Fri 10.00 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

Thanks for the Festival

Thank you to Steph and Nick Forman and the various event organisers ... and to everyone who helped with the Dorchester Festival - it was wonderful to see the Abbey and its surroundings buzzing with such a wide range of different events.

Sue Booyes



Hempcroft Allotment News

Three years ago I planted an asparagus bed, and Mari and I are now harvesting for the first time and enjoying regular additions of asparagus to our evening meal. So now is a timely warning about the dreaded asparagus beetle. They are bright red, cream and dark blue coloured beetles, oval shaped and about 1cm long. They will be feeding or laying eggs only on asparagus spears and fronds. Larvae are grey coloured hump-backed grubs with black heads and three pairs of short legs. They will usually be found feeding on the fronds.

Adults appear in mid to late spring as asparagus spears are emerging through the soil. They lay their dark coloured eggs in small rows on the spears and when the eggs hatch the larvae will initially feed on the tips of spears, but later will migrate to the fronds. They will feed for a few weeks before pupating in cocoons in the soil around the base of the plant or in nearby mulch.

Adults will overwinter in the soil, leaf litter, or in hollow stems of asparagus plants. Feeding by adults and larvae will cause yellow-brown discolouration of the leaves and stems and large infestations can completely defoliate and eventually kill plants.

There are two ways of treating for asparagus beetle. Chemicals containing pyrethrum are all effective on asparagus beetle. If you want to stay organic then you must regularly inspect plants and hand pick adults and larvae from the spears and fronds, and remove old dead stems and dispose of them to prevent adults over-wintering.

By the way, I have heard a rumour that Benson Parish Council are going to reclaim their allotments and convert them into a car park.....

Edward Metcalfe

Urgent Village Notices

The Parish Clerk sends urgent village notices via e-mail as the occasion warrants. If you would like to be added to his e-mail list, please send a message to parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk. When you receive the message, you will view only your own e-mail address: as a security precaution, all other residents' addresses are hidden. This is standard practice to protect your e-mail address.

mobile LIBRARY

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

11 June, 25 June

Important date for your diary

Many of you will have met Michael Lakey our self supporting Curate who will be ordained Priest by the Bishop of Dorchester in Dorchester Abbey on 28 June at 10.30am with other priests from the Diocese. He will celebrate his first Communion in the Abbey at 5.00pm that day with friends, family and the Dorchester Team. Please make a date to attend one of the services and support Michael!

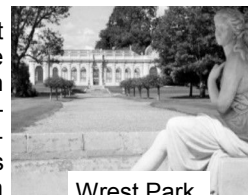
On Saturday 4 July at 6.00pm in Christchurch Cathedral the Bishop of Dorchester will ordain both Jon Roberts and Jennifer Morton Deacon. They will serve across the Team with Jon having a focus in Berinsfield and Jennifer in the Baldons.

Dorchester on Thames Historical Society

Visit to John Bunyan's Meeting Church and
Museum, Bedford and Wrest Park
Saturday 27 June 2015

Our morning visit to John Bunyan's Meeting Church and Museum looks at his life as tinker, soldier, dissenter, preacher, prisoner and writer of 'The Pilgrim's Progress'.

In the afternoon we will visit Wrest Park where you can explore the evolution of the English Garden through three centuries of landscape design. It will also be possible to see the opulent Countess's Sitting Room and conservatory on the ground floor of the mansion house. An interactive exhibition traces the history of the de Grey family and their estate.



Wrest Park

9.00 Departure from Bridge End Car Park.

10.30 Coffee can be obtained in the John Bunyan Meeting Church café before visiting the church and museum.

12.30 Wrest Park. Lunch can be obtained in the excellent café or bring your own picnic.

I will organise the tickets for entrance to the House and Gardens and you will be free to explore on your own.

4.00 Departure.

The cost is £28 (coach and entrance to Wrest Park). Cheques payable to Dorchester Historical Society. Please send to Gail Thomas, 14 Herringcote, Martins Lane, Dorchester on Thames, Oxon OX10 7RD.
Tel. 01865 341977

Chiropodist

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

18 June

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

Fishmonger

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

10.20 - 10.30am in High Street near War Memorial

Please note change of time. The fishmonger now comes earlier than he used to.

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clhalton@live.co.uk

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www.fullcircletravel.co.uk

T: 01491 833227

E: holiday@fullcircletravel.com



Thank you for supporting your Festival!

Whether you organised a whole event or poured tea, moved tables, staging or choir stalls, took ticket money, cooked for artists, directed traffic, made cake, sold raffle tickets, helped with marketing, abseiled, sponsored, made a scarecrow or simply came along and had fun!



Together we raised about

£45,000

(and still counting!)



The winner of the scarecrow competition:
The WI's entry 'Calendar Girls'
(full list of answers on Page 6)



Take a look at the full photo gallery at
www.dorchesterfestival.com
(and please email your photos and video to
festival@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

The Scarecrow Trail



261
maps sold



53
completed
and
returned

0
with all
correct
answers

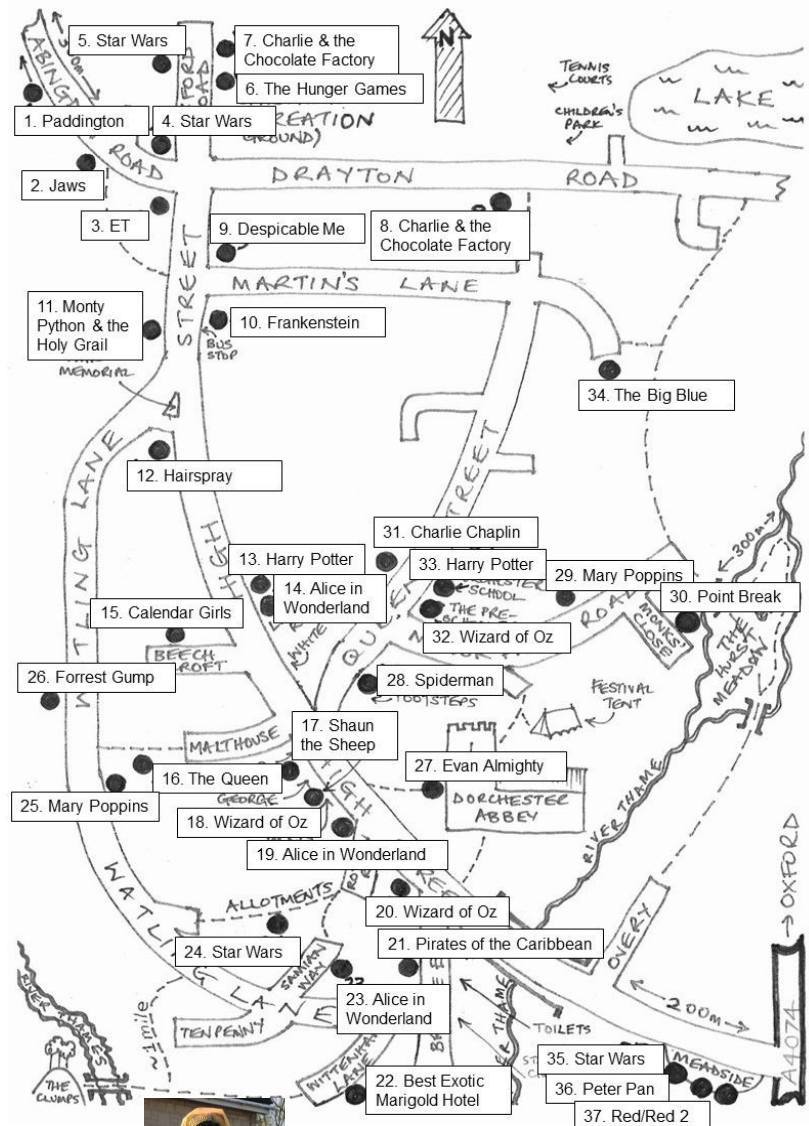
6
with 35
correct
answers

The 2015 Dorchester Festival saw the village's first scarecrow trail. It was brilliant to see the whole village get behind it.

- Great minds think alike: there were 4 Star Wars, 3 Wizard of Oz and 2 Charlie and the Chocolate Factory entries.
- The winners pulled out of the hat were Penny, Dan, Amelie and Sophia White, also the makers of Peter Pan's Captain Hook on Meadside. They win cream tea for four at Lily's Tea Room.
- The Whites were also the only people not to be foxed by the Abbey scarecrow: the 2007 Steve Carell film 'Evan Almighty'.
- The trail raised **£372** for PACT and Dorchester Abbey from entry fees and map sales.
- The WI won the 'most popular scarecrow' with their beautiful Calendar Girls with a convincing 14 votes – their prize was a large BBQ pack from Wallingford Butchers. ET was second with 8 votes.
- The scarecrows made it into *The Oxford Mail* and *The Wallingford Herald*.

Julia Sadler
Scarecrow organiser

Which did you recognise? Check your film knowledge here.



The winning scarecrow, No.15



In second place, No. 3



No.29



No.10



No.22



No.17

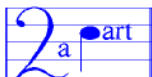


No.32



No.11

A few of the scarecrows.



May Morning in Dorchester

On Bank Holiday Monday morning TWO A PART, eight a-capella singers based in Dorchester, welcomed May with their concert in the Abbey, preceded by the traditional rendering of Now is the Month of Maying, Calon Lan (in Welsh) and Cwm Rhonda (in English) from the top of the tower.

An enthusiastic audience of over 100 enjoyed a continental breakfast whilst listening to a short but eclectic programme including Edelweiss, a solo for the group's new tenor, as well as some TWO A PART favourites.

Ticket sales raised £490, to be shared between the Festival Charities and the Nasio Trust. Some of the young volunteers who had been to Kenya to work at the Trust's Centre impressed the audience with moving accounts of their experiences, and donations on the day raised a magnificent £365 to support their work.

Many thanks to all those who gave of their time, talents and cash, Dorchester Festival for ticket sales, Dorchester Co-op for ticket sales and getting up early to cook the croissants and the Abbey for once again providing such a unique venue.

Tim Cook



'Up On The Roof' was not part of the repertoire, but that was where Alison and the rest of Two-A-Part sang before descending into the Abbey.



Dorchester 5km Fun Run

We had just over 150 entries for the Fun Run on Bank Holiday Monday – the weather was perfect and lots of people brought their dogs too!

The winners in each category were:

	Male	Time	Female	Time
Adult Villager	Andrew Ponting	21:29	Tabitha Kruczko	24:31
50+	Mark Bristow	25:10	Catharine Fitzgerald	32:43
Adult	Henry Kruczko	19:06	Jennifer McNulty	23:27
Under 18	Toby Collins/ John Corran	21:30	Beth Sayers	29:00
Under 12	Hylton Harvey	21:39	Rose Buckley	24:42
Under 8	Luxon Bristow	40:35	Millie Cooper	29:19

I would like to thank all the marshals – Louise, Cameron and Fraser Beland, Maggie Martin, Dick Tilley who were co-ordinated by Graham Beland, Richard Booy who was our First Aider by the Thame bridge, Ian Brace our time keeper and especially my husband, Mike for helping to organise everything. Finally thanks to everyone who supported the Fun Run.

Jill Corran
Fun Run Organiser



DADS

Dorchester Amateur Dramatic Society

MAN OF THE MOMENT by Alan Ayckbourn

Dorchester Village Hall

24th - 27th June 2015

Tickets

available from

Hair, Lily's & Co-op in Dorchester,

Aisha Stores, Warborough,

Post Office, Clifton Hampden

Web www.dads.ticketsource.co.uk (booking fee applies)

Email tickets@dads.org.uk

or

Phone 01865 340792

Wednesday £ 8.00

Thursday-Saturday £ 10.00

This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.



Some Festival memories

The Duck Race

One of the new events this year was the duck race: hundreds of yellow pieces of plastic merrily floating down the Thame, getting in each other's way, tangling with twigs and branches whilst adults and children alike wait to see whose will appear first. It is rather like a horse race in thick fog with no commentary, where you have no idea who is in the lead until they reach the final furlong.

Then suddenly there is excitement amongst the spectators; a ripple of "They're coming", "I can see some" and of the hundreds that started the course, a handful float into view. One of them sticks in some twigs, another takes a diversion towards the far bank, leaving one heading out on its own. "I think it's mine" a five year old says. "Of course it's not" says careful parent, trying to ward off disappointment, almost guaranteed given the frightful odds. "I can see the mark I made on its back, Mummy." "Yes dear, but it's too far away to see properly." And the first clutch of yellow ducks are gone, down to the finishing line.

Five minutes later, the ducks have been caught by the team with nets and boats across the river, trying to make sure none escape to the sea. Steph Forman mounts a box and announces the winner. "It is me Mummy. I told you it was" and a five year old excitedly chooses his prize. "Young man", says an avuncular bystander, "you must have trained your duck well to make sure it won." "Don't be silly" comes the withering reply "it's only a toy."



The excited winner of the duck race clutches his prize and his balloon dog from the Tentertainment.

The Pasta Party

An Italian cookery lesson at The Old Forge, and another lovely kitchen that makes us all green with envy.

This is with Giancarlo Caldesi, and is based on some old Venetian recipes that he and his wife have resurrected in their recent book. The star of this show is undoubtedly the pasta. Unusually it is brown, coloured by the addition of cocoa powder, which is sure to grab our attention. We all watch in awe as Giancarlo repeatedly puts it through the machine to thin it and then thin it again. As it thins this lump of pasta gets longer and longer and more and more delicate until you can almost see right through it. We marvel at his ability to keep it in one piece.

And then with a flick of a wine glass, he has made round ravioli, and half moon shaped mezzaluna, stuffing them with a cheese filling that Claire has been preparing. The off-cuts go back through the machine to make tagliatelle.

Over on the Aga, Vicky is busy stirring arborio rice with almond milk flavoured with cardamom and orange. And stirring it and stirring it. And stirring it some more.

And so to taste it. It is divine. The pasta is light and delicate, the rice has subtle tastes of fruit that are delicious. Giancarlo sells us the book on our way out, of course, but he could have sold us each a pasta machine as well, so enraptured are we.

The Baking Lesson

We are all here in the Broadbent's kitchen to see Christine Wallace demonstrate the baking skills that took her to the quarter finals of the Great British Bake Off a few years ago.

Eagerly we perch on stools, trying to ensure that we each get a good view of every turn of pastry that we are expecting to see. In comes Christine. "Ask me questions as we go along" she says. "And I am out of the non-disclosure period from the Bake Off, so I am now free to talk about that as well." Suddenly the level of interest in how many times you fold your pastry to make it puff up, and how long you leave it between folding has dropped. Now what we want to know is "What's Mary Berry like?", "Is Paul Hollywood as gorgeous as he looks on screen?". We are fascinated by the stories. Of course, we all knew that what we see on screen is not everything, but we are a bit taken aback by some of what she tells us. Such as you can't take anything out of the oven without a cameraman perching on your shoulder. They want to ensure that if you drop it, they will have disaster on film. And if a cameraman is not available, then your dish may well be past its best before one arrives, and they get the burnt dish footage instead.

And who would have guessed that the judges don't taste the food for about 90 minutes after it has been made, whilst the tent is tidied up. So the food is cold and may well have gone soggy by the time they tell you how delicious it is. Christine recalls Mary Berry reassuring her that she had seen that her ginger snaps were nice and crisp, and that although they had gone soft by judging time she wouldn't be marked down.

But we do watch Christine make some puff pastry fruit baskets as she talks, and then mille feuille, using little templates made by her husband – useful to have a husband with a plastics moulding business. We are enthused to possibly making these and I make sure I get one of the templates that she gives out at the end. Now, where did I put it?

The Big Bash

The Big Bash team would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that supported the party and bought a ticket. Everyone agrees the night was a huge success, with lots of fantastic reports of the fun that was had.

We had incredible food, the band managed to keep the dance floor packed and, importantly, lots of money was raised for the charities.

Particular thanks must go to Liaan, Chantelle and George from The George for their massive generosity and help on the night.

Hopefully not all heads were as sore as mine the next day, but that said, it was most definitely worth it!

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Chelsea Bidwell

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'DOGS'

Dorchester Golf Society is a village club that puts an equal value on golf outings and non-golfing social events

Schedule for 2015 includes

June

Tuesday 9 7.30 pm: Aunt Sally evening and bar meal at the Fleur de Lys

Tuesday 16 10.30 am: Wrag Barn GC. 18 holes and sandwiches

July

Monday 20 5.00pm: The Springs GC. 9 holes and back to the village for a social get-together.

August

Saturday 8 6.30: DOGS BBQ Kindly hosted by Mr & Mrs L Radford

Plus: First Monday of every month, 8.00pm in The White Hart bar for an informal social gathering.

DOGS warmly welcomes golfers (from beginners to not bad) and non-golfers (from any age group) to join us for all or any of these events.

Call John Mills, **01865 340285** email: john@jmpmills.co.uk
(Or just show up at the White Hart for a drink.)

Discovering Dorchester Excavations 2015

The Discovering Dorchester archaeology project, run jointly by the University of Oxford, Oxford Archaeology, and the people of Dorchester, will be continuing this year with its 6th season of excavations in the Dorchester Allotments. The excavations will run from Sunday 28 June through to Friday 24 July, with the annual Open Day held on Saturday 18 July.

This year promises to be very exciting as we dig further down into the early 2nd Century and 1st Century layers of the Roman town. We will be continuing our excavation of the central road through the settlement, hoping for more dating information on the three different surfaces identified last year, and investigating how the road relates to the area directly to its west, a piece of prime real estate very near to the centre of the Roman town. We will also be further exploring the complex series of ditches that run along the north side of the trench and the early features through which they are cut that could further enlighten us as to the presence of the postulated early fort.

The project is open to volunteers from within the local community, with no experience necessary, so if you would be interested in getting involved please email edward.peveler@arch.ox.ac.uk for more information.

Everyone is also invited to the Open Day on Saturday 18 July, 12pm-5pm, when there will be artefact displays, site tours, and other activities. Come along and find out about Dorchester's rich past!



Dorchester Safari Supper Saturday 18th July

7pm drink & canapés
(as a large group)

Main course
(at a house in Dorchester)

Dessert
(at another house in Dorchester!)

Coffee
(at Dorchester Rectory)

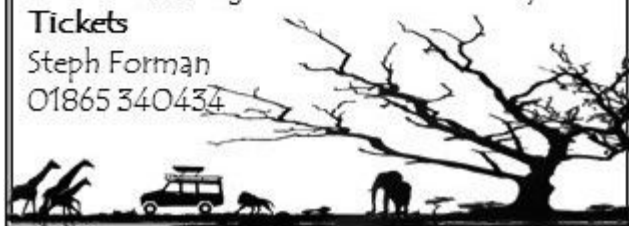
£20 per person
Incl all food and 3 glasses of wine

Fundraising for Dorchester Abbey

Tickets

Steph Forman

01865 340434



John Masefield House Marathon Achievement

Gordon Hearmon and Jim Faithful, two sponsored runners and supporters of Leonard Cheshire Disability, ran in the Virgin London Marathon last month to raise money for the John Masefield House Activities Room Appeal. Both runners completed the 26.2 mile course, achieved their target run times and were well supported along the route by family and friends.

David Williams, volunteer coordinator for John Masefield House, said: "This is a fabulous achievement and everyone at John Masefield House really appreciates all the time, effort and training put in by Gordon and Jim to complete the marathon and raise funds for our care home. Because of the wonderful sponsorship amounts received by both runners we anticipate around £3,000 will have been raised to start our new fundraising appeal".

A thank you party was held at the beginning of May to enable care home residents, staff and volunteers to thank the runners and celebrate their success.

From the team who gave you
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[We're All Mad Here]

ALICE'S 150th BIRTHDAY PARTY

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[or his assistant, Geoff Russell, 01865 34075](mailto:whiterabbit@dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

All proceeds are being donated to village charities



Dorchester on Thames Football Club

The Football Club had an eventful season in 2014/15, with several ups and downs. The first team did well initially, but with changes in management, results fell away, and they finished mid table in Division 1. The Reserve team showed improvement and did well to retain its Division 3 status. The great success within the club was the new Under 8s team, which had an enjoyable and entertaining season.

Looking forward to 2015/16, the club are seeking a new first team manager and are always on the look out for new players. It is hoped to establish an Under 17s team, whilst this years Under 8s will be moving up to Under 9s. There should be a lot of good football played on the Recreation Ground next season !

North Berks League Division 1 Final table 2014/2015

		Points
1	Berinsfield	58
2	Kintbury Rangers	56
3	Abingdon Town	36
4	Wallingford Town	36
5	Long Wittenham Athletic	34
6	Ardington & Lockinge	32
7	Dorchester	29
8	Faringdon Town	26
9	Saxton Rovers	23
10	Drayton	19
11	Crowmarsh Gifford	15
12	Watlington Town	12

North Berks League Division 3 Final table 2014/2015

		Points
1	Turnpike Sports	50
2	Hanney United	40
3	Newbury Reserves	38
4	Harwell Village	38
5	Hungerford Town Swifts	36
6	Grove Rangers	33
7	Benson Lions	27
8	Dorchester Reserves	22
9	Union Street	14
10	Blewbury	12
11	Abingdon Town Reserves	9

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**DORCHESTER-
ON-THAMES WI**

4 June WI Centenary AGM from Albert Hall

Follow this event on screen at Jill Love's house.

Arrive from 9.40am; starts at 10 am

At 46 Church Road

Sandford on Thames OX4 4XZ

01865 716557

There will be a shared lunch during the Break.

Thursday 11 June at 7.30pm Village Hall

Talk "Women in Disguise" to be given by Marguerite Osborn. Another interesting evening.

Meetings in July and August will take the form of Social Events. A time for members to get to know one another.

9 July Summer Party at 6.30pm

Guests of Pauline Kenway- Jackson

2 Monks Close **01865 340746**

Food lists for signing will be at 11 June meeting.

20 August 2.30pm Oxford Playhouse

The Mouse Trap

Susan Jupp **01865 341066**

is kindly arranging this event.

Transport will be car share.

Our South Oxfordshire WI Centenary Celebrations at Dorchester Abbey on 20th April was marvellous. Mary Tame our 101 year old member cut the cake but first encouraged us all to keep strong and to move forward. WI members from 23 Institutes attended.

Berinsfield Institute brought the Baton travelling by trailer with adventures on the way. The Baton on its cushion was passed from hand to hand around the Abbey. Many enjoyed lunch in the Abbey Gardens beforehand. At the end of the Ceremony, members ate delicious cake made by WI members from each of the groups.

Tuesday 21 April Grey's Court Baton Handover to Buckingham Federation.

Pauline, Linda, Rene and Jill attended from our Institute. A very simple ceremony in a perfect setting.

Dorchester Festival

Thanks to all the members who made cakes. The biggest vote of thanks, however, goes to the Scarecrow ladies Les Girls (Susan, Denise, Anne and Meg) for the fabulous scarecrows on the film theme Calendar Girls. Thank you Denise for getting us into the press.

12 July Dorchester Abbey Tearooms

Cakes and help will be needed. One of our main fund raising events.

Thanks to Sally Greenaway (**01865 340707**), Pat Smith and Linda Kent for organising this.

More Committee members urgently needed. Willingness to take Office in 2016-2017 essential. Otherwise, closure of Dorchester on Thames WI Institute.

Thank you to all members for their continued support and enthusiasm.

Ladies interested in joining contact Pauline or Jill or other members.

Pauline Kenway-Jackson (01865 340746)

President

Jill Love (01865716557)

Publicity and Vice President



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Sean Harris
Manager – The White Hart



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Dorchester Abbey Bellringers

“Englands ye Ringing Ile”

Poem Oliver Palmer 1657

‘Change ringing’ as we know it in England today really took off at the beginning of the 17th century, building on the technical and social developments of the previous century. Advances in bell hanging enabled greater control of bells, and the Reformation had led to the increased management and use of bells for secular ringing. Reference to “pleasure peals” occur frequently in 16th and 17th century documents often to forbid them on the Sabbath, when only a single bell to call worshippers to prayer seems to have been allowed in many towns and cities.

Ringling tower bells for pleasure, as opposed to ringing for payment for religious or civic purposes, at this time was becoming a fashionable sport and intellectual pastime of young gentlemen. These gentlemen would meet and devise permutations of changes on as few as three or four bells as physical and mental exercises. The phrase “ringing the changes” was used in a sermon in Bedfordshire in 1614. This suggests the phrase would be understood and change ringing was practised at least locally. Apart from written sequences of changes found in manuscripts and documents of the period, sequences have been found scratched on a belfry door jamb in Suffolk dating from the 17th century and painted on a wall in Wiltshire, dated 1682. *Tintinnalogia* 1668 and *Campanalogia* 1677 by Richard Duckworth and Fabian Stedman were the first books to be published, of which more at another time. This widespread evidence of change ringing indicates the explosion of interest in the exercise.

Associations of ringers formed; the earliest society for which there is a record was the “Company exercising the Arte of Ringing knowne and called by the name of the Schollers of Cheapeside in London”. According to manuscripts containing their rules, this society was founded in 1603 and apparently continued to 1662. One member and Treasurer of this society was Fabian Stedman. There are records of several societies formed in the period; enduring to this day is the Society of College Youths founded in 1637. Its members ring now at St Paul’s Cathedral and Westminster Abbey.

Dorchester Abbey with five bells by 1603 would have been able to sustain a group of ringers engaged in the sport and a dedicated team could well have brought pressure for a sixth bell to be installed as happened in 1651. The bell ringing history of the Abbey in this period has not been explored and without combing Abbey records which exist we can only surmise.



Much of the above information is drawn from a publication “Change Ringing: The History of an English Art” ed J Sanderson published by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, from which the illustration is also taken.

Please remember to keep this art alive; new ringers are always needed. If you are interested do not hesitate to contact David Parker our tower captain on 01865 340402 or e-mail dlparker10@gmail.com. If you live out of this area try contacting your local church or look on line for your Guild of Church Bell Ringers who can advise you.

Diana Vass
Bellringer

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.

The 2015 Dorchester Lecture Wednesday 24 June at 7.30pm

Professor Roger Ainsworth will talk on ‘Creative Partnerships – The Brunels: Father and Son’

Isambard Kingdom Brunel and his great achievements are familiar to many, at least in this country. But far fewer are aware of the great creative partnership he formed with his father, Sir Marc Isambard Brunel.

Professor Ainsworth will explore the historical and technical background, the genetic imprint, to the ingenuity which was a hallmark of all they achieved.

Tickets £10.

Email friends@dorchester-abbey.org.uk in advance for seats in the front half of the Abbey. Seats further back in the Abbey will be available from 6.45pm on the day.

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St Birinus School News

The Scarecrow Trail preparation started the excitement of Term 5. The process started during one of our Pupil Parliament sessions where the children, in groups, discussed ideas and themes for our scarecrow and how it would be best to make it. We eventually decided on a theme



and developed the idea for our film character. Creating the scarecrow became a whole school project from Yellow Class filling the scarecrow full of straw (probably the most exciting part!), to Blue Class creating the hair and finally Red Class adding the finishing touches including the beard. We were very proud of our scarecrow and I hope you were able to see it under the tree.



Charlie, Katie, Amber, Abbie, Thomas, Megan and Tomas represented the school in a Year 3/4 Football Festival at Hagbourne School on the 28th April. A great opportunity for them to experience a sporting fixture outside of school. They played extremely well and I was extremely proud of their team spirit, which

developed as their games went on.

May Dancing was the order of the day on Friday 1st May; once again the weather was kind to us. It was great this year as the Pre-School children were also able to join with us and present their dances, which made it a very special event. We finished the afternoon with the Circassian Circle, which was a group dance including the children and their parents. It was a great spectacle! A big thank you to the teachers for preparing the children for the dancing and to the PTA for the refreshments.



You may have noticed in the Lady Chapel of the Abbey during part of the Dorchester Festival, a fabulous art installation made up of glass – 8 children and I were lucky enough to take part in a Spiritual Artist Workshop given by Carrie Fertig and organised by the Abbey Education Officer that helped to create this installation. The children were asked to come up with ideas and suggestions to describe what the

word 'spirit' means to them and then represent this inside one of the glass objects using a range of materials. I was extremely impressed at the children's insight into this topic and I know Carrie was too! We had a great session and were certainly taken in with Carrie's enthusiasm in creativity and connections with others.

Congratulations to Katie-Marie Newport, Chiana Cleak and Warwick-Zion Taylor who are our Writers of the Month for April – 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!

Russell Leigh
Headteacher

Dorchester St Birinus CE Primary School



Pre School News

We have certainly had good luck with the weather this term as our two big events remained dry, which ensured lots of fun was had by all.

Even though it had been absolutely pouring down just five minutes before we left, nothing was going to dampen the excitement as we set off from Pre-School and headed to the new Hurst Water Meadow classroom for our picnic! With workbook and pencil in hand, we marched on, ticking off all the pictures that we spotted on the way - it really made the children look beyond their own two feet and take in all the details around them - blossom, nettles, gates and numbers. We re-fueled on the (somewhat damp!) logs and then enjoyed a talk from Andrew Clements about the insects and wildlife that surrounded us there.



We are very grateful to Big School for letting us be a part of their May Dancing - watching their performance was fun and inspiring for our little ones, but it also helped build their confidence for when we 'took to the stage'. A special moment

for me, was watching how supportive and encouraging the Primary School children were to our attempts - they clapped and sang along with encouragement! As always, Helen's choreography was beyond compare!!

Looking ahead, we continue preparing the 4 year olds for their transition in September; we have the Toddle Waddle to look forward to, in aid of meningitis and the theme this year is 'pirates' - do stop by and sponsor us if you can! Our topic, 'Celebrations' means we'll be looking at Fathers' Day, Birthdays, Christenings, Graduations and Marriage (and I can tell you, there's going to be some serious competition for who gets to act out the Bride and Groom!)

We are always looking for new committee members, and these don't always have to be parents so we'd love to hear from anyone that might like to help out.

Vacancy for Pre-school Administrator

Dorchester Pre-school is looking to recruit a Pre-School Administrator. Reporting to the Pre-school Committee Chair, this home-based role will include admissions, financial reporting, staff and committee organization and general correspondence.

This role would suit a highly organized individual with excellent numerical and written skills and some experience of book-keeping. Must have good communication skills and ability to work independently and as part of the pre-school team of staff and volunteer committee members.

12 hours per week term-time only (38 weeks) plus occasional hours during school holidays. Anticipated salary of £5110 p.a. including holiday allowance.

If interested, please send CV and covering letter in confidence to Claire Andersson
Claire@claireandersson.co.uk
Deadline 12 June 2015.

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Focus on...DADS

Amateur theatre has been around for a long time. It was sufficiently familiar for Shakespeare to include a troupe of amateur players, in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, written in the 1590s, putting on their production of 'Pyramus and Thisbe' as a play within a play. By the 1840s editions of plays were being produced aimed especially at amateur companies, and in 1899 the National Operatic and Dramatic Association was founded to support them. An upsurge during and following World War I saw the establishment of the Village Drama Society in 1918 and in 1927 the Carnegie UK Trust began to provide subsidies for amateur groups. At the latest count, there were estimated to be about 8,000 amateur companies in the UK.

So, it is in a long tradition that the village has its own drama company, Dorchester Amateur Dramatic Society. For more than thirty years DADS has provided entertainment for the village, generally twice a year, in the Village Hall. With 59 shows put on since 1983, that's some going.

DADS grew out of a production of 'Oliver!' put on by then Head of St Birinus School, Martin Peters, in 1982, which involved lots of the school children and their parents, inspiring Kim and David Harris to put on 'The Prince Who Couldn't Laugh' the following year, and DADS was born. Many of the plays in the early years were written especially for DADS by Elizabeth Davis, including 'After the Yeti' which included a scene at 'The Royal Dorchester Zoological Society'; the sort of local fun that a local writer can bring to a production.



The Very End of the Pier Show, 1984

Since then there has been a variety of productions including comedy and a regular injection of musicals. As far as I can see no Ibsen or Pinter or Shakespeare yet, although 'Kiss Me, Kate' (2007) could be said to come close. Five shows were so successful that they have been revived, including 'Showboat' (2002 and 2011), 'South Pacific' (1992 and 2005) and 'Oklahoma!' (1988 and 2000), which just goes to show that you can't keep a good musical down.

Initially DADS was run on the basis that any surplus income made from a production was given to charity, but as time has gone on, the cost of putting on a production has increased: hall hire, licences, costume hire, lighting, sets and staging. Any surplus now made has to be invested in the next production. So don't complain about the ticket price, or they won't be able to create the next show.

And it is not just money that has to be looked after. Available talent seems to be rarer than it used to be, with it becoming more difficult to assemble a cast. Nor is it just acting talent that is required; people for back stage scene building and shifting

are always being sought and this is a great way of getting involved, even if you don't want to be on stage. There have been some great sets over the years: Peter Pan (2000) and the Mikado (1989) are particularly fondly remembered.

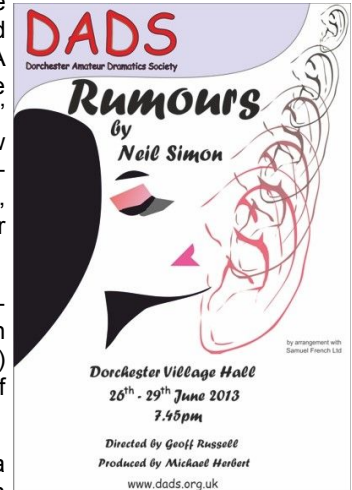


Other off-stage activities include promotion and advertising. The DADS posters are consistently a delight, and are always stylish and well designed. A

particular recent favourite of mine was for 'Rumours' which captured in a few well drawn lines the essence of the comedy, more so than any other poster I have seen for it.

Other recent posters worthy of note include 'Death by Fatal Murder' (2010) and 'The Importance of Being Ernest' (2009).

True to form, there is a new show for June, which is Alan Ayckbourn's 'Man of the Moment'. This was Ayckbourn's 35th play and was first produced in 1988 in Scarborough and then in London in 1990, when Michael Gambon, Peter Bowles and Samantha Bond played the leads. So no pressure then.



In Ayckbourn's own words it "is about the way we make heroes of villains. My hero is the little man who has a go." It was inspired by what Ayckbourn saw as the unwarranted fame of Great Train Robber Buster Edwards, when the real hero was the train driver, Jack Mills.

The Guardian said: "Alan Ayckbourn's *Man Of The Moment* strikes me as one of the best things he has ever done." What's On said: "...nothing is quite what it seems and nobody quite so clear cut as we first thought." But if you are worried that this may not sound quite as side-splitting as some other Ayckbourns, he himself said: "I hope to keep the laughter going: it keeps eyes open."

A swimming pool is central to the play, which is quite a challenge to the set designers. I am told that there is a lot of water involved; some people, not the audience, get very wet. So be there, 24 to 27 June, and enjoy the evening.



Habeus Corpus, 2011

No sooner will this be over but the next show will get into production. This is going to be a panto version of Camelot, which sounds great fun, I understand that it has a large cast, and casting will start in the summer. So if you fancy dressing up as a knight or a damsel in distress, watch out for the ads that tell you when.

Returning to 'Man of the Moment', the Daily Telegraph reviewer wrote: "In his ability to convert the tears and laughter of everyday life, he [Ayckbourn] is more like Chekhov."

So still no Shakespeare or Ibsen, but at least this time we have someone who is "more like Chekhov."

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Earth Trust June Events

Summer Birds at Thrupp Lake

Sunday 7 June, 10am-12pm

Join the Earth Trust and local expert Ben Carpenter for a morning stroll around beautiful Thrupp Lake, near Abingdon. Learn all about the summer migrating birds and their habitats. £5 adult, £2 child; booking essential: admin@earthtrust.org.uk or **01865 407792**.

Upcycling and Natural Creations

Sunday 7 June, 10am-2pm

Drop in to the Earth Trust Centre and give upcycling a go! Make jewellery, wallets and other useful items from 'waste' and natural materials. Take home whatever you make; materials will be provided or bring along anything you'd like to reuse. £4 suggested donation per child, £5 suggested donation per adult (taking part).

Heritage Skills Taster Session: Woolworks

Saturday 13 June, 10am-3pm

Come along to the Earth Trust Centre and try out simple spinning and weaving techniques. Discover traditional dye plants and watch natural dyeing in action. No need to book; this is a free taster session as part of our **Stepping into our Natural Heritage** project. More information: volunteering@earthtrust.org.uk or **01865 409413**.

Paradise Wood Open Evening

Monday 15 June, 6pm-8pm

This is your opportunity to explore the Earth Trust's national research woodland, Paradise Wood, which hosts the largest genetic collection of hardwood timber trees in the country. Join our Forestry Research manager Dr Jo Clark and discover how we use these trials for timber improvement purposes and in the fight against *Chalara* ash dieback. £5 adult, £2 child; booking essential: admin@earthtrust.org.uk or **01865 407792**.

Heritage Skills Taster Session: Grassland Plants

Tuesday 30 June, 7pm-9pm

A guided walk to discover the traditional uses of the wild plants growing in the Earth Trust's meadows and hedgerows. No need to book but please arrive at the stated start time. This is a free taster session as part of our **Stepping into our Natural Heritage** project. More information: volunteering@earthtrust.org.uk or **01865 409413**.

More information can be found on our website www.earthtrust.org.uk. All events take place at the Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, OX14 4QZ unless otherwise stated.

Reflexology Admin Vacancy

A Reflexology based therapy was created 10 years ago by a local Chartered Physiotherapist, which helps parents themselves, to deal with normal baby and toddler problems with their own children. There is now an opportunity to actually participate in this entrepreneurial undertaking in a friendly office that expects to move to Dorchester by assisting with our members and the general routines that make up a small business. Those interested can choose their own working days and will receive appropriate remuneration by mutual agreement according to the hours they invest.

For an interview please send a CV to info@babyreflex.co.uk OR ring: **01491 839227** or **07720 427 500**. www.babyreflex.co.uk

Hurst Water Meadow Trust News

The Trust Annual Report for the year ending 31 March 2015 has been published and is available on our website: www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk.

New log seats in the Hurst

Three large tree boles, which have been cut to form seats, were brought into the Hurst in April. At the same time a square cut 'table' and nine oak logs were placed under the large oak tree at the far end of the Hurst, close to the beach area. This new 'outdoor classroom' was inaugurated by the pre-school children on 29 April and, when not being used by school groups, we hope that it will be enjoyed by walkers and picnickers. (A reminder that no fires or barbecues are permitted on the Hurst).

Learning traditional skills

The Trust has purchased a set of Austrian scythes, and on 2 May seven trustees and volunteers attended a course of instruction in the Hurst with Clive Leeke (who has an interesting website: www.austrianscythes.co.uk). The learners reported that scything was very enjoyable; no harder and a lot lighter than using a petrol trimmer. Later, one of the younger participants even tried scything the family lawn (well that's how lawn mowing used to be done!). From now on scything will take precedence over strimming. There may be an opportunity for a further scything course so if you would like to participate please contact us

Fishing on the Hurst Water Meadow Trust's Waters

With immediate effect the Trust has agreed that Dorchester Angling Society (DAS) will manage all of the fishing waters owned by the Trust; that is to say in the Hurst itself, Old Bridge Meadow and Overy Mead Piece. The Society fully funded the acquisition of the fishing rights to Old Bridge Meadow and Overy Mead Piece. They have agreed that these rights be held by the Trust in the name of the Official Custodian of Charities. This effectively secures in perpetuity the rights of our community, through DAS, to fish this stretch of the river Thame. In 1996 the Trust acquired the fishing rights to the Hurst Water Meadow and neighbouring land. Prior to this DAS fished the waters from the late 1930s. There is even a Hurst Cup which dates back to 1937. We now wish to restore this tradition and draw on the Society's expertise to manage the angling for our community.

Both organisations support the aim to encourage juniors to fish responsibly and safely. Local juniors (under 16 years of age) may join DAS at no charge if they only wish to fish the Hurst waters. To fish all DAS waters juniors pay £5.

Full adult membership is £20 p.a. for all DAS waters. Senior Citizens' and concessionary rates are available for £10 p.a. Please check that you have an annual Environment Agency rod licence, obtainable from a Post Office or online.

Obtaining further information and a membership card

Full details covering the new fishing arrangements and a copy of the policy document signed by both organisations can be downloaded from our website at:

www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk/fishing.html

New notices will appear on the meadows with costs and how to apply for membership.

Gillian Johnson
Honorary secretary
01865 340925

Andrew Clements
Honorary Treasurer
01865 340753

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STOVES

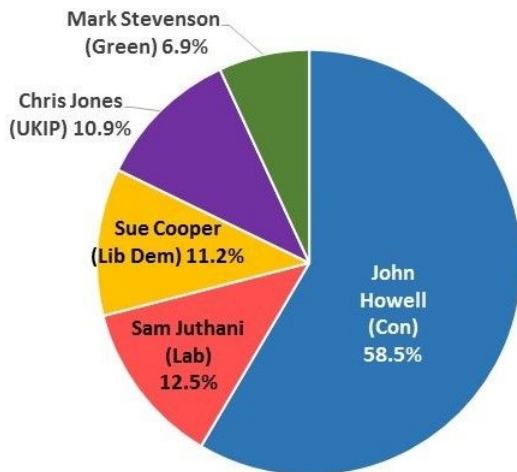


WOODBURNING STOVES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Election Results

In addition to the Parish Council elections on 7 May, the outcome of which is given in the Parish Council News on the green pages, we went to the polls for both a General Election to Parliament, Henley Constituency, and for South Oxfordshire District Council, for the ward of Berinsfield. In case you missed the results they were:

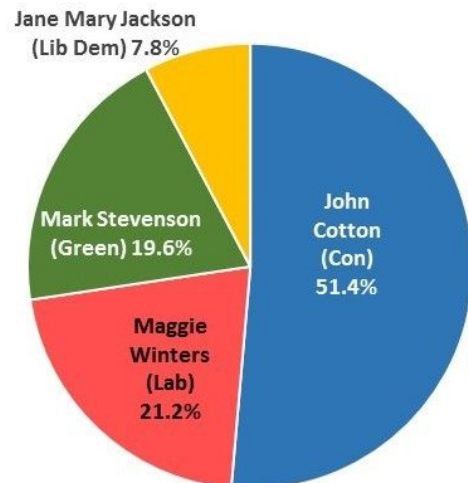
General Election Henley Constituency



Total votes cast: 55,236
Turnout: 70.6%

Source: BBC

South Oxfordshire District Council Berinsfield Ward





Total votes cast: 1,884

Source: SODC

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Coping with mobile phone contracts

Q. I bought a new mobile phone six months ago. Before doing so I consulted the online signal checker, but I never have any signal at home or at work. I want to cancel my contract and go back to my old mobile phone company as I always had good service from them, but my new provider says I'll have to pay all 18 months of the contract remaining even if I want to cancel. I can't afford to pay that all at once as well as pay for a new contract, but I also can't have a mobile phone that never works when I need it. What can I do?

A. Most mobile phone contracts last 24 months, but often they don't specify minimum standards of service, so it can be tricky to get out of them without having to pay for the unexpired part of the contract. Your best bet is to keep a log of times when your phone doesn't work, then contact your service provider and ask them if there is anything they can do about it. This might resolve the problem without any need for cancelling.

Your contract might say something about how much reception you should get: if so, you should be able to cancel the contract without paying. Unfortunately, you can't rely on what online coverage checkers will say as they are just a guide and will only ever give an idea of the average signal someone can expect outside in that area.

If the mobile phone doesn't work in your house or work place but does work outside, there might be a problem with those buildings themselves. In that case you wouldn't normally be able to cancel the contract without any kind of penalty. It might be that the signal just isn't strong enough, so you should ask your provider to carry out a signal strength check.

If there is no signal anywhere in your area, you might be able to cancel your contract under the Supply of Goods and Services Act. If there is very poor service most of the time, this might mean that the network is breaking your contract. Some contracts set terms and conditions allowing them to not provide a service sometimes, so you need to get advice to see if this applies to you.

Before anything else, contact your service provider, share any evidence of poor service and explain why you should be let out of your contract early. They might well allow you to cancel without any financial loss.

If you need more advice, visit www.adviceguide.org.uk or phone 03444 111444. Otherwise, drop in to your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau, which is located at Dales, 9-15 High Street, Didcot OX11 8EQ. For opening hours, see www.ca.org.uk

Speed Monitoring

The Village has access to speed monitoring equipment but we need volunteers to spend an hour or two a month, at various times, to record car registrations and speed.

Please contact Malcolm Corry at mamacorr@aol.com if you have time to volunteer.

Malcolm Corry

Footsteps Foundation

May has become one of the busiest months in the Footsteps calendar, as it was for Dorchester residents with the fabulous Festival this year. We particularly enjoyed joining the Dorchester Scarecrow trail – did you spot 'Spider' man?

We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank-you to all of our volunteers and supporters in the community.

We have a wonderful volunteer committee that meets once a month to brainstorm and to help out at our fundraising events throughout the year and without their support Footsteps Foundation simply would not be able to carry out its work.

Community events are important for small charities and we are beneficiaries of the fantastic annual Wallingford Vehicle Rally & Parade held at the Kine Croft on Sunday the 10 May. This brilliant event raised nearly £7,000 for Footsteps Foundation and was a fun day out for all the family.

We also have many supporters from local and national schools and companies that help spread awareness of our work and hold one-off events such as cake-sales, charity presentations and non-uniform days. We are also very honoured to be nominated as 'charity of the year' for various sports and golf clubs, schools and a variety of local companies.

So how can Dorchester residents help out? We are always looking for people to enter fundraising challenge events such as bike rides, treks or runs, or perhaps you would like us to come to your club/group or company to give a charity presentation? We often need interesting auction & raffle prizes and if you would like to commit a bit of time to fundraising in Dorchester, maybe you could join the volunteer committee?

If any of the above has inspired you, there are many ways you can support your local charity: Please do come and visit us at our centre in Queen Street, meet the team and some of the wonderfully brave and inspiring disabled children that attend the centre for therapy. Have a look around and see the inspiring work that we do here, right in the heart of the village.

Tel: **01865 343851**

Website: footstepscentre.com/footsteps-foundation/

Email: admin@footstepsfoundation

Facebook: www.facebook.com/footstepsfoundation

Dorchester News online

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

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



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Wallingford Archaeology



Friday 12 June

June's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be by Professor Helena Hamerow. She will present **'The Origins of Wessex: re-shaping identities in the Upper Thames Valley, 5th-7th centuries'**.

The Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Wessex is popularly assumed to have originated around its later capital, Winchester. In fact, its origins lie in the Upper Thames Valley (stretching roughly from Lechlade to Reading), with the emergence of a people referred to in early sources as the Gewisse, who, by the end of the 7th century, had come to be known as the West Saxons.

This talk considers how new, post-Roman identities and forms of authority developed in the Upper Thames valley with the emergence of the Gewisse. Drawing mostly on archaeological sources, the talk examines the formation of a 'Gewissen' identity and the British contribution to it, and how leading families of the Gewisse used material culture and the landscape itself to establish their position.

Helena Hamerow is known within the town, as she was a member of the project team which has researched Wallingford for the 'Burh to Borough Project'.

This talk will be held on **Friday 12th June, 7.45 for 8pm at Wallingford Town Hall**. Visitors (£3) are most welcome.

Wallingford Model Railway Show

Sunday 21 June

Wallingford will host its first ever model railway exhibition on **Sunday 21 June**. The event is being held at St John's Primary School, Paddock Rd, Wallingford, OX10 9AG.

More than 15 model railway layouts, along with a number of trade stands, will be on show in a variety of scales from tiny Z gauge to garden sized G scale.

The exhibition is being well supported by clubs and modellers from around Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Bucks and Hampshire and many of the layouts are new to the exhibition circuit.

Of particular interest is Kuritu Line, a two dimension layout of both rural and urban Japanese scenes. There will also be a selection of layouts: Plas Halt, Dawes Creek and Halland. You will see Oxfordshire based layouts in the Abingdon Branch Line and Witney Euston and Dowdan International, an airport layout and for the American modeller, Southern Renegades.

St John's Primary School is located at Paddock Road, Wallingford, OX10 9AG.

It is down the road from Wallingford station, which is running Father's Day steam specials on the day from Cholsey to Wallingford, Free parking onsite at the school. The exhibition will be open from 10am – 4.30pm. Admission is £4 for adults, £1.50 for children and families £10 (2+2).

Wallingford Museum

June



There are several amazing events in Wallingford during June, which should tempt you to make a way to Wallingford Museum to find out more about the town's history.

Sat 13 June: There will be a peal from the bells of St Mary's Church from 1230pm for about three hours, in commemoration of the signing of Magna Carta. This peal is an initiative which will be happening nationwide during that weekend. As well as listening to the peal, why not come along to the Museum that day to see the **'Magna Carta and All That'** display highlighting Wallingford's role in the events of 1215, and why it is only one of four towns mentioned in Magna Carta.

Sun 21 June: The town's inaugural **'Festival of Cycling'** - a day celebrating many forms of cycling including community events as well as competitive cycling. It will be based around the tight streets of the Oxfordshire market town. One of the races will be the 'Agatha Christie Youth Girls' race! Use that as an opportunity to visit the Museum to see the exhibition **'At Home with the Queen of Crime'** which presents Agatha Christie's life of 42 years residing in the town. There is also the **'Midsomer Murders'** display, showing the Wallingford connections with this popular TV series.

The weekend of **Sat 27/Sun 28 June** will bring many visitors to the town to experience Wallingford at the time of the **Civil War** and to witness a **re-enactment** battle by the English Civil War Society. What better occasion to learn about Wallingford Castle's role in the Civil War - part of the acclaimed new exhibition **'Wallingford's Royal Castle Revealed'** which has fresh historical research into the life and importance of one of the greatest royal strongholds of Medieval England.

A £4 ticket will give adults (children free) unlimited access to the Museum for the whole 2015 season. It is open as follows:-

Tuesdays to 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 Country Market

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'Strawberry Sensation', Friday, 3 July, 2015

On sale: fresh Strawberries – locally grown, Strawberry baking and preserves. Free refreshments, including home-made scones with jam/cream

Our annual **Outside Market** will be held in the Market Place, Wallingford on Saturday, **13 June, 2015**. This will replace our usual Friday market

Enquiries about your local Country Market to - Market Manager, Tel: **01865 890649**



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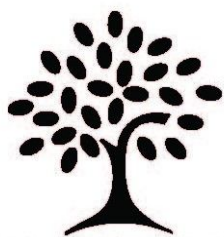
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Corn Exchange Wallingford What's On June

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

Mon 1	A Royal Night Out (12A)
Tues 2,	Far From the Madding Crowd (12A)
Wed 3	Far From the Madding Crowd (12A)
Thur 4	Far From the Madding Crowd (12A)
Sun 7	Spooks—The Greater Good (15)
Mon 8	Spooks—The Greater Good (15)
Tues 9	Spooks—The Greater Good (15)
Wed 10	Clouds of Sils Maria (15)
Thurs 11	Force Majeure (15)
Sun 21	The Age of Adeline (12A)
Mon 22	The Age of Adeline (12A)

Live

Fri 5 Comedy Night. A double helping of comedy from the Edinburgh Fringe: **Tom Allen's Life/Style** and **Carly Smallman's Made in Penge**. An absolute hoot. Come young, come old, come everyone to this knockout riotous evening's entertainment. Tickets £10 (seniors £8) seniors.

Mon 15 **Wallingford Drama Festival.**
to Amdram groups from Oxfordshire, Berkshire –
Sat 20 and beyond – will be competing in this popular festival, now in its 28th year. Each night up to three groups will perform a one-act play and then receive detailed on-the-spot feedback on their performance by professional adjudicator Paul Fowler. Trophies awarded on last night. Great insight into stagecraft for anyone interested in theatre. Tickets £5 with a discount for those attending each night.

Coming soon

July 14-18: **Plaza Suite.** Sinodun Players present Neil Simon's classic comedy.

Tickets on sale at box office or phone **01491 825000** during opening hours, 7-8pm daily and 10am-2pm Fridays and Saturdays.

Or book online, www.cornexchange.org.uk

Please check website for any programme updates.

Wallingford U3A

At our May meeting we were delighted to welcome back Dr Gillian White who promised us some history, some architecture and some scandal associated with Chatsworth and the Cavendish family between 1550 and 1850. This she delivered at a cheerful speed, quite wonderfully illustrated.

Future Talks.

June 3 Tony Trafford: The Ladies of the Tower

July 8 John Radcliffe: Doctor and Philanthropist

Aug 5 Timothy Walker: The Oxford Botanic Gardens and Harcourt Arboretum

Our meetings are held in Crowmarsh Village Hall at 2pm. Visitors are always welcome.

To find out more about us and what we do please phone Hermione on **01865 858 024**, or visit www.u3asites.org.uk/wallingford where you will find photographs and up to date information



Refuse Collections

Fridays from 7.00 am.

Saturdays from 6.00am

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

Fortnightly: garden waste, recycling; non-recyclable waste

Fri 5 June	Black
Fri 12 June	Green
Fri 19 June	Black
Fri 26 June	Green

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.8.00am – 5.00pm 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.

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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.

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Weekly:

Monday 10.00 am – 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm
 Abbey Guest House: **Watercolour Painting** [Full details from rebeccahind.com]
 Tuesday 7.30 pm Abbey: **Bellringing Practice**
 10.30-10.50am by War Memorial **Fishmonger** (p.3)
 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.3)

Monthly:

2nd Thursday 7.30 pm Village Hall: **WI** (p.13)
 3rd Wednesday 7.30 pm Village Hall: **Parish Council** (green p.1)
 3rd Wednesday **Culham Horticultural**
 3rd Thursday **Classic Car Show** George Hotel
 3rd Thursday Belcher Court: **Chiropodist** (p.3)
 4th Wednesday 7.30 pm Village Hall: **Historical Society** (p.3)
 4th Thursday 2.30 pm: 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 July/August Dorchester News

All items must be sent by
Friday 12 June
 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

Abbey Calendar June

Sundays

June 7 Trinity 1
 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)
 (Canon Sue Booy)
 10.30am Morning Service (Canon Sue Booy)
June 14 Trinity 2
 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)
 (Revd David Haylett)
 10.30 am Sung Eucharist
June 21 Trinity 3
 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)
 (Revd Caroline King)
 10.30am Family Service
 6.00pm Evensong
June 28 Trinity 4
 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)
 (Canon Sue Booy)
 10.30am Ordination
 5.00pm Eucharist

Weekdays

Every Tuesday
 10.30am – 12 noon Coffee in the Abbey
Every Wednesday
 9.30 am Holy Communion at Berinsfield Church
 Tues 2 Interfaith study day
 Sat 6 11.00am Wedding in the Abbey
 Sun 7 2pm, 3pm and 4pm
 Busking in the Abbey
 Mon 8 School visit to the Abbey
 6.45 pm Friends AGM
 Tue 9 10.15am Short Communion
 7.00pm Mayors and Chairs
 Mon 15 to Fri 19 Festival of Voices
 Sat 20 Benson Choral Society
 Wed 24 7.30pm Friends of the Abbey Lecture
 Thurs 25 2.30pm Service at Cheshire Home
 Sat 27 4.00pm Wedding in the Abbey

Parish Registers

Weddings

18 April James Lee Matthew Turner
 and Samantha Jane Evans
 15 May Charles Finnie and Sharon Warnes

Funerals

29 April Molly Theresa Anderson

Parish Council Notices

New Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2015/16

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 May Cllr Chris Hill was elected to be Chairman and Cllr Mark Williams was elected to be Vice-Chairman. The Chairman's e-mail address is chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Monthly Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 10 June. The full agenda will be posted on Village notice boards 3 clear days in advance. The July meeting of the Council will take place on Wednesday 8 July.

Parish Council Vacancy

In the recent Parish Council election there were seven candidates for eight places and so there is one vacancy which the Council is now free to fill by co-option. Anyone who would be interested in knowing more about what is involved in being a council member should contact the Clerk.

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 Chris Hill, the Chairman of the Council, can be contacted via

chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

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

SODC seeks your views

Following the recent elections, SODC wishes to find out how residents thought they handled them. The following was released by SODC on 14 May 2105:

Elections 2015 – how well did we did we manage things?

Members of the public are being asked to comment on how they feel the national and local elections were managed in southern Oxfordshire.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils were responsible for managing voter registration, postal and proxy voting, polling stations and the counts for the May 2015 elections. These included parliamentary elections for the Henley, Oxford West & Abingdon and Wantage constituencies, council elections for the two districts and a number of town and parish council elections.

Voting for all elections took place on Thursday 7 May with the counts spread over the next two days.

Returning Officer David Buckle would now like to know what people thought went well and what improvements could be made to the way the elections are managed across southern Oxfordshire in the future.

Anyone who lives in the three constituencies, which include the whole of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse areas, can take part in the survey.

Separate questionnaires are also being made available for elections staff and for election agents and candidates.

To have your say please visit

www.southoxon.gov.uk/haveyoursay.

The consultation closes on Thursday 18 June.



From your MP...

John Howell

With the General Election now behind us I am delighted to be back in Parliament. I am, of course, grateful to those who supported me on polling day, However once polling day is over I am the MP for everyone who lives in the Henley Constituency. As such I am always interested in people's views and am open to listening to differing sides of debates as issues arise. I find such debates helpful in forming my own view, and in the end coming to my own judgement on issues.

Sometimes people have issues or problems and seek the advice of their MP. I am happy to try to help with issues where possible. Strictly speaking MPs are there to help with matters in their own constituency for which Parliament is responsible although sometimes I can help beyond this. Concerns relating to the NHS, HM Revenue and Customs, the Borders Agency, and the Department of Work and Pensions are examples of issues that I can directly take up. However, many of the issues that are raised with me are matters for our local councils and you have elected representatives to these councils who are often best placed to help. For example, matters such as planning, refuse collection, housing benefit and council tax are dealt with by the district council, whilst issues relating to highways, social services, school transport and trading standards come under the remit of the county council. Full details of the responsibilities of the different councils can be found on their websites and my office is always willing to try to direct you to the best point of contact for help should you need it.

I do hold surgeries and as the constituency is geographically large I move them around to try to be nearer to different communities at different times. However with the use of technology many issues can be addressed more promptly using phone and email. In my experience over the last 7 years as your MP, I have found more and more issues have been dealt with in this way. It enables much more prompt action to get the ball rolling to resolve issues. Individual case issues are usually dealt with through my constituency office so in the first instance please call there if you would like help or advice.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months and hearing from many more on the various issues that will no doubt arise.

Contact Details

Email: john.howell,mp@parliament.uk

Phone: Constituency Office - 01491 613072

Westminster Office – 0207 219 6676.

Postal address:

Constituency Office

PO Box 84

Watlington, OX49 5XD

From your county councillor...

Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

May 2015

The county council after the elections

On May 7th a by-election also took place for the County Council in West Witney & Bampton. It was won by James Mills for the Conservatives. The Conservative Independent Alliance still retains control of the County Council.

Now that there is a Conservative majority in Parliament the Party can implement their Manifesto in full. It outlines a considerable number of policies that will have implications for services run by the County Council, and we will get details as soon as they are available. A pdf of the 2015 Conservative Manifesto can be found at <https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/manifesto2015/ConservativeManifesto2015.pdf>

For this Division one of the key policies is a commitment to safeguard the national Green Belt and to protect local green spaces under a new Local Green Space planning designation. For the residents of Garsington, Marsh Baldon, Toot Baldon, Nuneham Courtenay and Sandford-on-Thames who are concerned about the City's plans to build 4,000+ houses at Grenoble Road, this will come as very welcome news.

There is also a commitment to support locally-led proposals for garden cities/towns and prioritise brownfield development, making sure that new developments are always matched by the necessary infrastructure to support them. I am personally in favour of one or even two new garden towns (we don't need cities) in the south of the county to take the pressure off existing communities.

New fire control centre goes live

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (OFRS) has joined forces with two neighbouring services to create a state of the art emergency call handling centre. OFRS has joined Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS), and Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire and Rescue Service (BMKFRS) to set a new joint Control centre, based at RBFRS HQ in Calcot, Reading. The Thames Valley Fire Control Service (TVFCS) answers 999 calls and mobilises resources on behalf of the three Fire and Rescue Services (FRS's) to incidents across the Thames Valley, serving a combined population of around 2,253,400. The phased transition to the Thames Valley Fire Control Service (TVFCS) was completed on Thursday 23rd April.

The TVFCS replaces the three FRS's individual control rooms, which were in urgent need of updating following the termination of the Government's national FiReControl project in 2010. After the FiReControl project came to an end, each FRS in England was given up to £1.8m grant money each from Government to undertake this work.

For more information: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/apr/new-thames-valley-fire-control-service-goes-live

Consultation on sixth form school transport

The County Council is consulting on its proposed annual transport policy statement covering young people of sixth form age. The policy statement details **the transport provision and financial assistance with transport that the council believes are necessary for Oxfordshire residents of sixth form age who are receiving education or training**. Therefore this statement covers those young people in Oxfordshire aged 16 to 18 and those continuing learners who started their programme of learning before their 19th birthday.

A key priority of the Government is to close the gap in attainment between those from poorer and more affluent backgrounds, and to ensure every young person participates in and benefits from a place in 16-19 education and training. The Government provides funding to tackle disadvantage both through the Education Funding Agency's (EFA) funding formula and through the £180 million 16-19 Bursary Fund to help young people meet the costs of participating in education and training post-16. 2015/16 will be the fifth year of the 16-19 Bursary Fund. The consultation and supporting documents can be found at: <https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult/ti/Post16Transport/consultationHome>

Have your say on social care

Do you use social care services, for example, home support, day services and respite care? Or do you care for someone who does? Please come along and talk to the Director of Adult Social Care, John Jackson, and senior managers. It's your chance to raise issues and concerns which are relevant to you or tell us what is working well.

A meeting for South Oxfordshire took place on 7th May in Didcot, but there is still an opportunity to attend a countywide event on Saturday 20 June at the King's Centre, Oxford from 1.30-4.30pm.

Two more local meetings will take place for Oxford and North Oxfordshire:

- Oxford: Thursday 21 May, 10am-1pm, The King's Centre, Oxford.
- North Oxfordshire: Thursday 4 June, 10am-1pm, The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury.

More information:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/hearsay

Free seminars to explain new consumer rules to business

Free seminars to help Oxfordshire businesses understand new consumer rules due to be brought in during October are being held by Trading Standards in June. These changes to the rules will affect most goods or services and involve consumer rights relating to what to do if those goods or services are faulty.

The major changes cover:

- What should happen when goods are faulty.
- What should happen when digital content is faulty.
- How services should match up to what has been agreed, and what should happen when they do not or when they are not provided with reasonable care and skill.
- Unfair terms in a contract.
- What happens when a business is acting in a way which isn't competitive.
- Written notice for routine inspections by public enforcers, such as Trading Standards.
- Greater flexibility for public enforcers to respond to breaches of consumer law, such as seeking redress for consumers who have suffered harm.

Kate Davies, Team Leader for Oxfordshire's Trading Standards Service said: **"The changes aim to make the law clearer and easier to understand, meaning that consumers can buy and businesses can sell to them with confidence.** On the rare occasions when problems arise, they will be able to resolve disputes more quickly and cheaply. The changes are relevant to all consumers and every business which sells directly to consumers."

For more information:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/apr/free-seminars-explain-new-consumer-rules-businesses