



DORCHESTER NEWS

July/August 2015

FREE TO EVERY HOME IN THE PARISH

Talking Point

I was lucky enough to attend a performance of the opera *La Traviata* just yesterday evening – it was a very special treat! It got me thinking about communication. If you don't know the plot here's a quick sketch! In Act One the heroine (Violetta) is taken aback by the protestations of love by a young admirer, Alfredo, who challenges her to leave her life as a courtesan. Although she is initially reluctant, she finds herself convinced that a better life is possible and they move and set up home in a quiet suburb of Paris away from her previous life.

In Act Two, however, Alfredo's father visits Violetta in secret and puts pressure on her to leave because his daughter has been rejected in marriage on account of the relationship her brother has with a prostitute. Violetta makes up her mind to break the relationship and leaves without telling Alfredo the reason, though assuring him of her love. Alfredo's father comforts him, but also fails to communicate the real reason behind Violetta's flight and Alfredo draws the conclusion that she has returned to her former lover and protector. Anger, retribution, muddle and sadness ensue in Act Three and the couple are reunited mere moments before Violetta's death at the end of Act Four.

All good dramatic stuff and beautifully sung and staged but there was still a bit of me that wanted to shout "But why don't you TELL him!" I might say that this is just make believe and yet that cry 'But why don't you TELL.....' isn't an unusual one in so-called 'real life'. There are so many times when we don't say something important. This may be in order to protect someone or to stop ourselves feeling bad; maybe we misjudge the importance of something or sometimes we simply forget to mention it and then the moment passes.

Yet these missing links in our communication - however they might arise – can cause major misunderstandings.

Like Alfredo and Violetta, when we are new in a relationship or want something badly, we tend to work harder at our communication. Communication becomes poorer when we get so used to places, people and situations that we take them for granted, and even poorer when we don't tell the whole story – whether our intention in that is good or bad! Funnily enough communication can also become poorer when we see more or less of one another than we are used – so holidays and reunions are times to have special attention paid to them!

Centuries ago St Augustine wrote that every person has a God-shaped gap in their lives – the only way to fill that gap is to communicate with God. That doesn't sound very easy but it couldn't be easier – make space to listen. Listening is at the heart of ALL good communication. In fact if Violetta and Alfredo had listened carefully I suspect we wouldn't feel like shouting 'Why don't you TELL him / her'

This holiday why not take some time off to listen to yourself, to one another and to God! Happy Listening!

Revd Canon Sue Booy

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Autumn Flower Show
5 September
Village Hall
See page 8



Dorchester News

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Sue Dixon

Distribution Co-ordinator

Rosemary Day

Copy Deadlines for Dorchester News

September edition	14 August
October edition	11 September
November edition	9 October

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

This issue is for the two months of July and August. All the staff here at the Dorchester News can now relax and take a month off until we return for September.

Before then we'll be going to Alice's 150th Birthday Party at the Village Hall on 11 July (page 10), and, if we haven't disappeared down a rabbit hole, to the Safari Supper the following week (page 3). Hopefully we will benefit from some warm summer days for tea and cake in the tea room garden, spotlighted in the Focus feature this month, before getting the secateurs sharpened and the kitchen scales out for Autumn Flower Show at the beginning of September (page 8). If you have children who get bored over the summer holidays, take a look at what Berinsfield Library is offering (page 23).

I can't close without drawing attention to Lorraine Lindsay-Gale's report from the County Council on page 19. She points out the review of transport subsidies that is under way. I know that I have banged on about buses before, but here our county representative is warning us that our bus services have really reached the point that we must 'use them or lose them'. This echoes other recent reports in the local press, warning of the drastic cuts that will come to under-used bus services in the next round of budget cuts. We could find ourselves without even the few buses through the village that we currently have.

Have a good summer.

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 refer 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

ABBEY 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 27) should contact the contractor direct. The number to call is 03000 610610 and the website www.morererecycling.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

Welcome.....

to Jennifer Morton and Jon Roberts, starting their time with us as curates. Also Michael Lakey following his ordination as Priest. We look forward to their ministry in the Dorchester Team.

Michael will continue to serve predominantly in Dorchester but will be helping out more widely now he is priested. Jon will be based primarily in Berinsfield for this first year. Jennifer (as is customary for people ordained from within the Team) will work in each cluster in turn during her Deacon (first) year, beginning in Dorchester/Bridge Group.

It's Never Too Late to Spring Clean!

In fact when it comes to Abbeys, **Saturday 22 August** is the perfect time so please put the date in your diary now. Sandie and I will look forward to welcoming you from 10.00 am, for as long as it takes.

We will be cleaning upstairs in the Guest House too so there will be plenty of opportunity to enjoy these wonderful spaces in a new light and good company!

Materials will be provided but do feel free to bring your own gadgets if you know they will do a cracking job. We will meet at the back of the Abbey and promise refreshments to keep you going.

Don't worry if you can only manage a short stint, you will be welcome all the same.

It would be useful to know how many of you are coming so please sign up via sandie@jemini.co.uk.

Rebecca Slingsby

Abbey Lighting Project & Celebration

The Abbey lighting project was completed just in time for our Festival at the beginning of May, providing us with modern, controllable and efficient lighting which enhances the building.

Replacing the old sodium lights in the building with over 200 modern LED lights has transformed the way that the Abbey looks at all times of day with a quality white light rather than the more orange light that we have become used to. Previously dark corners such as the Chapels have now been subtly lit and the main features of the building quietly highlighted.

The new lights are also much more controllable, through simple one button settings on a wall pad and also through an iPhone app, providing us with the capability to switch on and dim any light for an event or service.

The new lights are much more efficient – cheaper to run and maintain, with longer lasting bulbs and much easier bulb replacement.

On Saturday **September 19** at 7.30pm we will celebrate our new lights with a great evening in the Abbey, starting with a short Evensong and finishing with drinks, canapés, and some short performances demonstrating the new lighting.

Please RSVP if you would like to join us: steph@forman.org.uk or 01865 340434.

Team Service

30 August 10.30am

Everyone is invited to St Mary's, Long Wittenham for the Team Service on 30 August.

Busking

As in previous years, on some Sundays over the summer, musicians will busk in the Abbey for 20 minutes at 2pm, 3pm and 4pm. They will be able to put out a hat for donations for a charity of their choice. At present, these are still being arranged and they will appear on the Notice Sheets nearer the time.

Concerts in the Abbey

A Summer Celebration of Music

Friday 3 July at 7.30pm – Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra

Music to include Rhapsody in Blue by Gershwin

Saturday 4 July at 7.30 pm – Oxfordshire Schools Symphony Orchestra, Oxfordshire Youth Wind Band and Oxfordshire Schools Orchestra.

Including music to celebrate American Independence Day.

Tickets £8/£5 available from www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford

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

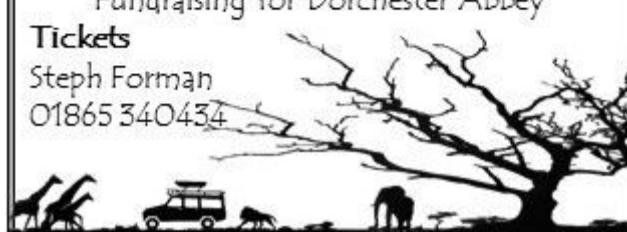
Incl all food and 3 glasses of wine

Fundraising for Dorchester Abbey

Tickets

Steph Forman

01865 340434



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DORCHESTER- ON-THAMES WI

DoT WI welcomes all ladies young, middle aged and old. Please join us.

Thursday 9 July 6.30 Summer Garden Party

Guests of Pauline Kenway - Jackson

2 Monks Close **01865 340748**

If you have missed signing the food list please contact Susan Jupp **01865 341066**

Sunday 12 July Abbey Tea Room

Cakes and help are still needed.

This event brings pleasure to many visitors to the village. Thanks to Sally Greenaway (**01865 340707**) Pat Smith and Linda Kent for organising and running this event.

20 August 2.30pm Oxford Playhouse

"The Mousetrap"

Susan Jupp has now got the tickets.

Please contact re. the cost and then pay her as soon as possible. **01865 341066**. Transport will be car share.

Thursday, 27 August Tea Party 2 to 4pm

Anne Parker is kindly hosting this event at the Barn, Abingdon Road

01865 340520

Early June has been a busy and exciting time for us.

2 June Garden Party at Buckingham Palace

Celebrating 100 years of the WI

Jill Love was fortunate in being selected by ballot to attend, together with over 6,000 other members from across the country, representing all the WI Institutes. The coach parked with many others in The Mall, where we walked and queued with thousands of other ladies, of many differing ages, dressed in their finery, some hats, some fascinators and some bareheaded. Security took a time once the gates opened; such large numbers are rare for Royal Garden Parties. Jill missed the Royal Walkabout by their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cornwall, Princess Alexandra and Sophie, Countess of Wessex, as ahead of her were hundreds of other people waiting to get into the Palace

Speed monitoring

As a result of the notice included in the June Issue of Dorchester News, the Parish Council is pleased that four volunteers have come forward to participate in speed monitoring.

The Parish Council is in the process of obtaining the speed monitoring equipment from the local Thames Valley Police office.

Discussions held at the 10 June Parish Council Meeting concluded that actual vehicle speed data is required for analysis and presentation to Oxfordshire County Council and Thames Valley Police before any controls can be applied.

But more volunteers are needed to collect the vital data required to make a case for speed control. You will only need to contribute a few hours over the coming months - dates, times and locations to be discussed.

Please e-mail the Parish Clerk, Geoff Russell, at parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk and/or Malcolm Corry at mamacorr@aol.com to advise your willingness. Thank you,

Malcolm Corry

gardens. The food was served in a long tent; each member could help themselves to the delicacies. Towards the end, waiting staff appeared amongst us with small tubs of ice creams. Everyone was very friendly and it was great fun talking to members from all over the United Kingdom. Fortunately, it did not rain as was forecasted, otherwise most would have got very wet as few had coats to put over their lovely clothes.

4 June WI Centenary AGM recorded from the Royal Albert Hall

Jill Love invited DOT WI members to her home to enjoy the event on her 60 inch screen in the comfort of her lounge. Eight attended and one member even photographed some of the event. During the 90 minute lunch break a delicious spread of shared food was enjoyed by all.

11 June "Women in Disguise" with Marguerite Osborne

Our members thoroughly enjoyed Marguerite's storytelling. She had us spellbound the whole way through. Her tales of women in disguise were from the Middle East, Scotland and Italy. Marguerite is willing to "Story Tell" at a variety of functions, including children's parties. Please contact Jill Love for her phone number if you are interested.

More members are still needed for the Committee with a willingness to take Office in 2016, otherwise DoT WI will cease to exist from 2016.

Thank you to everyone for your continued friendship, enthusiasm and support again this month.

Ladies interested in joining please contact:

Pauline Kenway-Jackson (01865 340746)
President
Jill Love (01865 716557)
Vice President and Publicity Officer

Home Library Service

Help for people who are unable to visit the library themselves

The Home Library Service is offered in partnership with Age UK and the Royal Voluntary Service to people who are unable to visit the library themselves through frailty, infirmity or a disability, and have no other means of getting access to reading materials. Full-time carers and those who might need the service on a short-term basis following debilitating illness or hospitalisation can apply too.

How it works

Contact us to discuss the kind of books, DVDs, music CDs or audio books that you like to read or enjoy. We then arrange for a library volunteer to deliver these to you in your home.

Our volunteers wear identification badges and provide a helpful and friendly service. Whenever possible, we try to arrange for the same volunteer to visit you each time.

Your library materials will be delivered and collected every 3 weeks. The Home Library Service is free of charge, and there is no charge for requests or late returns.

To register for this service or for further information:
Call Berinsfield Library **01865 340771**
E-mail berinsfield library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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E-mail: johnandlynnseymour@yahoo.co.uk

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E: holiday@fullcircletravel.com

Hurst Water Meadow Trust News

Those of you who regularly walk in the Hurst will appreciate the work of volunteer Richard Tilley who kindly cuts all the paths with our ride-on mower. We are very grateful to him; the Hurst looks lovely and it makes walking a pleasure.

You may also have noticed that the proposed permanent fencing in the Hurst for grazing cattle has not gone ahead. The requirements for moving cattle are such that the grazier felt it was uneconomical for him to proceed, especially with a limited grazing period between the hay cut and likely winter flooding.

New fencing has, however, been erected to demarcate the Trust's recently acquired land Overy Mead Piece alongside the lower Thame. The short length of fence and pedestrian gate across the footpath to the Thames has been removed as our land beside the lower Thame is now continuous from Dorchester Bridge to the confluence.

Closure of bridge over Buck Pool weir

The Environment Agency has raised a concern about the structural integrity of the weir at Buck Pool. We understand that the Environment Agency is contacting the land owner and we have written to the owner to try to ascertain what action he intends to take to have the structure of the weir professionally assessed. The Hurst Water Meadow Trust has no responsibility for the weir but, because of concern about the structure, the Trustees have erected mesh barriers and notices at each end of the second bridge across the weir to discourage access.

Magnificent Meadows

A 'National Meadows Day' is scheduled for Saturday 4 July, drawing attention to the loss of so many of our wildflower meadows and grasslands. There is a national 'Magnificent Meadows' photography competition (closing date 31 August 2015) and a number of 'meadow' events organised around the country. Information is available at www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk

Gillian Johnson
Honorary Secretary
01865 340925

Andrew Clements
Honorary Treasurer
01865 340753

Parish of Dorchester-on-Thames Vacancy in the office of Parish Councillor

Due to there being an insufficient number of candidates at the recent Parish Council election, there is a vacancy for one additional person to serve as a member of the Parish Council until the next election, which will be held in May 2019.

The Parish Council wishes to co-opt someone to fill this vacancy. If you are interested in being considered for this position and would like some information about what is involved please contact the Parish Clerk, Geoff Russell, 5-7 High Street Tel 01865 340759
e-mail: parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Geoffrey Russell
Clerk to the Council



Hempcroft Allotment News

Recently the conditions for renting a plot were revised and updated. Although these are now displayed on the notice board on the site I thought that it might be useful to publish them in Dorchester News.

Conditions for renting a plot

1. Plots must be kept weed free
2. Paths and hedges must be maintained and clear of debris
3. Plots must be marked with the name of the plot holder
4. Plants, including fruit bushes, that flower / produce for longer than 2 years can be grown
5. Sheds (max 4ft x 6ft) must be approved by Parish Council
6. No part of any assigned plot can be 'sub-let' to a third party
7. No trees (standard or half standard) can be planted
8. No barbed wire should be used anywhere
9. No hosepipes are to be used except to fill water containers
10. No firearms allowed on the site
11. No livestock or poultry is allowed on the site
12. No bonfires are allowed
13. No fireworks are allowed
14. Tenants must not cause nuisance or annoyance to other tenants
15. No minerals, gravel, sand, soil or antiquities can be sold or leave the site
16. No plants that may be used in making of, or for consumption as an illegal substance, are allowed

General

17. Rents are due 29 September each year
18. Non-payment of rent will indicate that a plot has been vacated and may be reallocated
19. All plot holders must be members of the National Allotment Society – subscriptions to Dorchester Allotment Society will cover this annually
20. The Parish Council has the right to terminate any tenancy for failure to comply with these Conditions
21. All plots can be inspected at any time by the Parish Council

If you are interested in taking on an allotment please send an email to Dotallotment@gmail.com

Edward Metcalfe
01865 340160

Your Parish Council

Following the installation of the two defibrillators in the village, training has been arranged for Thursday 23 July. This will take place in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Ian Jones, a paramedic and training officer, will be visiting from South Central Ambulance Service to deliver the training and answer any questions. Places are limited so if you would like to attend please contact me at susie@whitegatehouse.net.

Sue Graney

RULES

1. The Show is open to any person residing in Dorchester-on-Thames, Burcot, Drayton St Leonard and Berinsfield, or with a Dorchester allotment.

2. No exhibitor may exhibit more than one exhibit in each class, excepting Classes 20, 25 and 26, where three entries may be made.

3. The **number** of exhibits in Class 1 must be the same as in the corresponding class **where applicable** and **in a container**.

4. All entry forms, together with fees, to be submitted **not later than 7.00 pm. on Thursday evening** before the show.

5. All exhibits in classes 1-39 must have been grown by the exhibitor. All exhibits in classes 42-55 must be home produced by the exhibitor. All pot plants must have been owned for a minimum of 4 months.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. The Committee reserves the right to inspect any competitor's garden or allotment before or after the day of the show.

9. All exhibits for competition must be staged between 9.00 am and 10.30 am on the day of the show.

10. All competitors must leave their exhibits on show until after the Prize giving and raffle and clear immediately afterwards.

11. 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.

12. Any exhibitor infringing any of these rules shall forfeit all claim to any prize.

DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES AUTUMN FLOWER SHOW

and
Plant Sale/Raffle
in
DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL
on
Saturday 5th September 2015

Viewing 2.30 pm- 4.00 pm

Raffle draw and
presentation of prizes from 3.40 pm

Exhibitors will be competing for:

The Amey Rose Bowl, The Rose Plate,
The Amey Tankard, The Fruit Plate,
The R Belcher Onion Cup,
The Floral Art Cup, The Runner Bean Plate,
The Britain in Bloom Cup, The Best Vegetable Award,
Vegetable Collection Plate,
The Best Kept Allotment, The Pat Cheese Potato Cup,
Victoria Sandwich Award, The HC Smith Dahlia Cup,
The Blackwell Photography Cup and
The Jerry Nudds Fruit Cake Plate

Section 1 - Vegetables

- 1) Collection of 4 different types of vegetables (see rule 3)
- 2) Potatoes 5 white
- 3) Potatoes 5 coloured
- 4) Carrots 3, foliage 3" max
- 5) Parsnips 3, foliage 3" max
- 6) Onions 5 from sets
- 7) Onions 5 from set/seed max 3" dia
- 8) Shallots 7
- 9) Beetroot 3
- 10) Runner Beans 5
- 11) Longest Runner Bean
- 12) French Beans 5
- 13) Marrow 1, fit for table (up to 12" long)
- 14) Peppers 2
- 15) Tomatoes 5
- 16) Tomatoes, Cherry type 7
- 17) Cucumbers 2
- 18) Courgettes 3 (up to 7" long)
- 19) Herbs - 4 bunches in water (space 12"x12")
- 20) Any other vegetable (see rule 2)
- 21) Squash 2
- 22) A disaster vegetable

Section 2 - Fruit

- 23) Apples, Cooking 5
- 24) Apples, Dessert 5

- 25) Berry Fruit (see rule 2)
- 26) Any other fruit (see rule 2)

Section 3 - Flowers

- 27) Flowering plant in pot, pot not to exceed 8" diameter
- 28) Foliage plant in pot, pot max 8" dia
- 29) Dahlia - 1, 6" diameter and over
- 30) Dahlias - 3, 3" to 6" diameter
- 31) Rose - 1 bloom any type
- 32) Roses - 3 stems, one variety or mixed
- 33) Flowering shrub - 3 stems, one variety
- 34) Berried shrub, including hips - 3 stems, one variety
- 35) Michaelmas daisies - 3 stems
- 36) Annuals - 3 stems, one variety
- 37) Annuals - 5 stems, all different species
- 38) Biennials or Perennials 3 stems, one variety
- 39) Biennials or Perennials 5 stems, all different species

Section 4 - Flower Arrangements

- 40) 'In the Pink' arrangement (max 18" x 18" x 18")
- 41) Miniature flower arrangement (max 6" x 6" x 6")

Section - 5 Domestic

- 42) Chocolate cake
- 43) Gentleman's Fruit Cake
- 44) Victoria sponge, caster sugar topping, jam filling
- 45) Savoury scones - 5
- 46) Eccles cakes - 5
- 47) Pot of Jam - sealed with plain screw top lid
- 48) Pot of Jelly - sealed with plain screw top lid

- Section 6 - Photography and Art** - All unmounted, not exhibited previously. Classes 49 & 50: Conventional or digital camera (*must not be manipulated or enhanced in any way*) Max 8" x 6"
- 49) 'Harvest'
 - 50) Subject beginning with "T"
 - 51) Manipulated photograph, any subject - up to A4
 - 52) An unframed picture painted by exhibitor - state size on entry form

- Section 7 - Children** All own work please - state age on exhibit

- 53) Age under 5 years
Decorated paper plate (7") or cup
- 54) Age 5 - 8 years
 - a) Potato print (a5)
 - b) Photo of my holiday
- 55) Age 9 - 15 years
 - a) Face mask
 - b) Photo of my holiday

ENTRY FORM

Please return no later than **7.00 p.m. Thursday, 3rd Sept** to: Christina Stores, 55 High Street

Class Nos

Full name of Exhibitor Telephone no.....

Address..... Entry fee 5p per class.....

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



Earth Trust July/August Events

Introduction to Scything

Saturday 4 July, 9.30am-4pm

Learn the traditional way to tackle long grass and tall weeds with Clive Leeke. Practical but not back-breaking! All specialist tools provided. £50 (discount for Friends); booking essential: admin@earthtrust.org.uk or **01865 407792**.

Pond Dipping and Wild Art

Sunday 5 July, 10am-2pm

Drop in to the Earth Trust and find out what's living in our pond, plus create your own creature to take home. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

Summer Fruit Tree Pruning

Sunday 5 July, 10am-4pm

Discover how to maximise your fruit crop with Andy Howard. Including both theory and hands on application in the Earth Trust orchard. £30; booking essential: admin@earthtrust.org.uk or **01865 407792**.

Woodland Adventure

Wednesday 22 July, Wednesday 5 August & Wednesday 19 August, 10am-12pm

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

Discover and Play

Friday 24 July, Friday 14 August & Friday 28 August, 10am-12pm

Forest School for pre-school children. Come and join us for a morning of play and discovery in our woodlands. Forest School offers hands on learning experiences in a natural environment. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

Clumps Club

Monday 27-Friday 31 July, 9am-5pm each day

Wild adventures for children aged 8-12yrs. Join us for outdoor fun as we build dens, cook on fires and make new friends! A different exciting activity each day. £30 per child per day, book all five and get one day FREE! Booking essential: admin@earthtrust.org.uk or **01865 407792**.

Heritage Skills Taster Session: Frame Basket Weaving

Saturday 1 August, 9.30am-4.30pm

Learn to make your own frame basket from willow in just two hours. Three sessions available: 9.30am, 12pm and 2.30pm; FREE but booking is essential: admin@earthtrust.org.uk or **01865 407792**.

Marvellous Moths at Paradise Wood

Saturday 1 August, 9pm-11pm

Join Marc Botham, local moth enthusiast, and spend the evening catching, identifying and learning more about these fascinating night-time creatures in our woodland in Little Wittenham. £5 adult, £2 child; booking essential: admin@earthtrust.org.uk or **01865 407792**.

Moths and Grasshoppers

Sunday 2 August, 10am-2pm

Drop in for a morning with moths and/or an afternoon with grasshoppers, and discover more about these interesting insects. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

Little Explorers

Tuesday 4 & Tuesday 25 August, 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 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

Bats of the Clumps

Wednesday 5 August, 8pm-10pm

Take a peek into the mysterious world of these amazing animals! Meet some bats and enjoy a short talk by Dave Endacott from Oxfordshire Bat Group, followed by a sunset walk to look for local bats in flight. £8 adult, £4 child; booking essential: admin@earthtrust.org.uk or **01865 407792**.

Heritage Skills Taster Session: Pewterwork

Saturday 8 August, 10am-2pm

Imagine making your own beautiful pewter ornaments over an open fire. Drop in to find out how and have a go yourself. More information:

volunteering@earthtrust.org.uk or **01865 409413**.

Heritage Skills Taster Session: Prehistoric Painting

Monday 10 August, 2pm-4.30pm

Learn how to make paints using natural geological pigments, just like ancient cave painters, during this FREE taster session. Booking essential: admin@earthtrust.org.uk or **01865 407792**.

Introduction to Bike Mechanics

Wednesday 12 August, 2pm-5pm

Cycling is great for the environment and your well-being, and you're never too young or old to learn how to look after your bike. The team from Broken Spoke will teach essential maintenance like fixing a flat and sharpening your brakes. No previous experience necessary, just bring your own bike! £30; booking essential: admin@earthtrust.org.uk or **01865 407792**.

Family Bushcraft

Friday 21 August, 10am-4pm

Bring the whole family and go wild in the great outdoors! Explore the woods, make shelters, learn how to make a fire and use a knife safely. £20 adult, £15 child; booking essential: admin@earthtrust.org.uk or **01865 407792**.

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.

mobile LIBRARY

Alternate Thursdays, 10.40–11.15 am
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9 July, 23 July, 6 August, 20 August

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All proceeds are being donated to village charities



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WHO REMEMBERS “RIDE & STRIDE” ?

**The date to remember is Saturday 12 September.
Ride+Stride is a FUNdraising day out!**

**The Abbey has not taken part for a while
but we are going to participate again this year.**

Would you like to join in? Do you know someone else who would like to join in?

Ride and Stride is an annual sponsored event which takes place every year on the second Saturday in September. People are invited to cycle, walk or even ride a horse - to as many churches, chapels and meeting houses as they wish and on any route that they like.

The Abbey will also be open on that day to welcome visitors who are taking part from other parishes. Ride+Stride is a fun day out for everyone, that raises funds for historic churches. The 2014 Ride+Stride raised a record breaking £136,594! The money raised helps to preserve some of Oxfordshire's 650 churches, chapels and meeting houses that are at risk of falling into disrepair.

People from all over the county will be walking or cycling between churches, exploring and enjoying the countryside from Henley to Hook Norton, from Burford to Bicester and from Dorchester to Little Wittenham and Benson?

Further information will be available later on this month, in the form of a list of all the participating churches, sponsorship forms and instructions for taking part. For further information, please contact me, Rosemary Byrde*, on rosemarybyrde@btinternet.com

Watch the notice boards for further information if you think you might like to take part!

**Thank you,
Rosemary Byrde**

* You might think that you don't know who I am but if you come to the Abbey you have probably seen me as a Sidesperson sometimes!

Become 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 and the Abbey Guesthouse. These have included major repairs to the roof and stonework of the Abbey, new sound and lighting systems, restoration of the historic wall paintings and a new high altar frontal.

The Friends were formed in 1959 and over the years have promoted and supported social events such as concerts, lectures, flower and craft festivals as well as visits to cathedrals and other abbeys.

The subscription is not fixed, but we do ask for a minimum annual subscription of £20. Life membership is also available for a single payment of £300 person or £500 for a couple.

Details of the work of the Friends together with application forms can be found on the Friends' notice board in the Abbey and on the Dorchester Abbey website www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

For further information contact the membership secretary,
Mrs Honor Juniper. 01865 343228 or email friends@dorchester-abbey.org.uk



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Sean Harris
Manager – The White Hart



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Dorchester Abbey Bellringers

"Our ancestors in ringing took this order,
1234567, they never sought no further.
To rays, to fall, to close withal
It was their whole intention.....
...now our bells strike so cleare
And at every pull a change"
*Written on wall of Leominster church around 1700
referring to the introduction of change ringing*

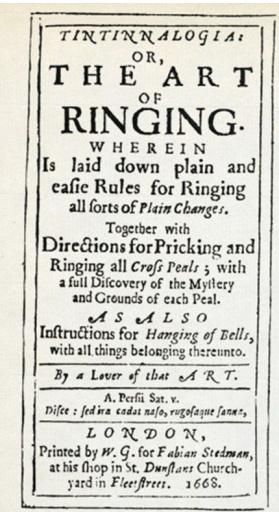
The developments in change ringing which took place in the first half of the 17th century were consolidated with the publication of two books, *Tintinnalogia* in 1668 and *Campanalogia* in 1677. The first is now confidently attributed to Richard Duckworth while he was Vice-Principal of Brasenose College, Oxford. Duckworth spells out the principles underlying change ringing and how to ring changes on four, five and six bells. The book includes a section on bell hanging which gives us clues to the technology of the period. As mentioned in earlier articles, advancements in technology enabling increased control of the movements of the bells went hand in hand with the development of more complex bell ringing.

Later in Duckworth's life he was rector of Steeple Aston in North Oxfordshire. Steeple Aston is one of the two centres used by the Oxford Diocesan Guild for annual training days in basic methods for novice bellringers, which brings an intriguing tenuous link for the beginner of today with the early days of the art.

Duckworth's collaborator, Fabian Stedman, was the person for whom *Tintinnalogia* was printed. The rapid development over the next few years rendered the first work soon out of date and Stedman wrote *Campanalogia* to include a variety of new methods, including methods on

five, six, seven and eight bells. The methods are said to have been composed in London, Nottingham, Oxford, Cambridge and Reading which imply there were well established change ringing teams by then. Stedman ex-

plains the principles underlying the methods on the higher number of bells, clarifying the development beyond the five and six bell principles in Duckworth's book. Stedman Doubles is a popular method rung today throughout the ringing world.



Sections of these two books were copied and included in reference books for gentlemen of the period but as the art continued to develop and advance new books were required. Today there is a vast array of books on ringing ranging from handbooks for beginners through collections of diagrams of more complex methods to studies of the bells in different counties.

Diana Vass

For more information on bellringing in Dorchester please contact:

David Parker on 01865 340402,
e-mail dparker10@gmail.com.

Donald Pearce 1942-2015

Donald was born in Birmingham on 23 September 1942.

He had 2 brothers Derick and Roger. They had a hard childhood and often moved about, first to Liverpool – this was not a happy time as they were fostered and looked after by relatives. Their mother suffered from TB and when Donald was eleven she was able to come home which meant that, in reality, Donald spent much of his time caring for her and his brothers as well as attending the grammar school in Widnes.

As a youngster he joined the Boys Brigade and as well as learning drums joined the Brass Band as a junior euphonium player. This began a lifelong love of music. Aged sixteen, Donald joined the Tank Regiment and went to study at Kneller Hall Military School of Music, switching to the trombone. He played at the Royal Tournament in 1963. He served with the band for 12 years, mostly in Germany. On discharge he went to work at the Camel Laird shipyard so that he could play in their Championship Brass Band.

In 1974 Donald met and married Barbara and adopted the then very young Michael. He decided to re-enlist and returned with the band to Germany where Helen was born in 1978. Unfortunately he had to stop playing after about seven years but took up service as House Steward to Major General Blacker, the Deputy Chief of Defence Staff. Later he moved to Catterick Garrison taking a role in the NAAFI, finally leaving the army in 1988.

Donald moved to London following a divorce and worked as a Butler with several 'characters' including Lord Profumo and the diamond merchant, Nicky Oppenheimer. Helen

remembers taking the helicopter from London to Maidenhead during school holidays! From Maidenhead Donald moved to Hailey House where, after a cold winter between owners, he began work for the Beardson family as chauffeur – he was very proud to have driven the Bentley across Europe. He became very much part of the Hailey community. His sense of humour – some might say a rare treat – ensured his invitation to the staff Christmas party even after retirement.

Helen remembers her father's sense of fun with great fondness – aged thirteen she asked if they could go to EuroDisney (just opened) but Donald went one better and took her to Florida – a holiday they repeated and enjoyed for some five years. Helen spent summer vacations working at Hailey and remembers Donald's dry wit – evidenced in his Christmas letter when, following trouble with her pacemaker, he advised her 'to see an electrician rather than a surgeon'!

Donald was a complex mixture – sometimes seeming thirty or forty years older than his calendar age and at others becoming the life and soul of the party. At the White Hart, where he became a regular after retiring to Dorchester in 2008, he was nicknamed 'Laughing Boy' – a title that cuts both ways!

More recently he had kept in touch with Helen by letter and Derick had contacted him about family history research but he didn't let them know how ill he had become. They were fortunate that friends contacted them when he was in the Churchill, where he was very well cared for.

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Focus on...The Abbey Tea Room

Kazuo Ishiguro, author of 'Remains of the Day' amongst many other novels was recently asked on Radio 4 what in his view was the essence of Englishness. His response was "The tea room."

So if tea rooms really are what makes England English, then Dorchester is doubly blessed, with both Lily's in the High Street and the Abbey Tea Room: the first a lovely, commercial enterprise, the latter run by volunteers to raise money for charity. It is the Abbey Tea Room that we are looking at this month.

In case you don't know it, the Abbey Tea Room is situated in the Abbey Guest House next to, you guessed it, the Abbey Church. The Guest House is a venerable and fascinating building in its own right, dating from 1445, when it offered hospitality to

the Abbey's guests and visitors, as it still does.

In the 1970s, the great village benefactor, Edith Stedman, was instrumental in opening the museum in the Guest House, and decided that tea could be served from the kitchenette next door. Soon that other village force, Lettice Godfrey, decided that the tea provision should be expanded into a proper tea room, and The Abbey Tea Room opened in 1977.



Lettice Godfrey, second from left, with helpers

From the start, the format of providing just two large tables was adopted, with stranger sitting with stranger to chat and put the world to rights over tea and home-made cake. For Kazuo Ishiguro a key feature of a tea room is the opportunity to sit and talk quietly with your companion. This was clearly not the approach that Lettice went for. Nevertheless, however un-English talking to strangers may be, this has worked well with the buzz of conversation ever-present for nearly 40 years. One visitor wrote to say that she found it "refreshing and sociable"; Philippa Davenport, writing in the Financial Times in 2005, described it as her "favourite tea place". The FT is not the only newspaper to like it. The Daily Telegraph described it as "the best tea room in England" and The Times included it in their top 50 'Places to eat in the great outdoors' in 2007.

Also initiated in 1977 was the practice of reducing the price for second and ensuing cups of tea, presumably in order to encourage visitors to tarry a bit longer and perhaps have a second piece of cake. Although stopped for few years in favour of a flat rate, this unusual practice has now returned and seems to delight or confuse customers in equal measure with its quirkiness.

For more than 20 years Lettice ran the tea room, before handing over the reins to Margot Metcalfe in 2000. These days it is run as a team effort, and continues to open weekends and Bank Holidays from Easter to end of September, with Wednesdays and Thursdays from mid-May. A change this year is the extension of the opening time by half an hour to start at 2.30 (except Wednesdays) although still closing at 5.00, or when the cake runs out!.



Last year more than £15,700 was spent in the tea room with most of this going to a variety of charities through the Abbey fund. One of the changes this year is that in addition to donating money to charities,

some of the charities have been invited to run the Tea Room themselves for an afternoon. So each second weekend in the month, the regular teams hand over to a team from one of the charities, who keep whatever they make; but they must keep to the Tea Room pricing policy so that customers, hopefully, don't notice the difference.

Many and varied are the visitors who have taken their afternoon cuppa at the tea room, but the day that sticks in Margot Metcalfe's mind is the Saturday morning when she arrived to set up to find the rector's wife already there. She had just learned that Margaret Thatcher was about to visit, having given everyone very little notice. And Lady Thatcher did indeed take her morning coffee there, in conversation with Lettice, who told that she should move to Dorchester.



A warm welcome at the hatch

Serving a former prime minister may be daunting but so is running the operation at any time. Team leaders need enough volunteer helpers to make tea, serve the customers and wash up; and enough cake to feed the visitors. The cakes are provided by a small army of bakers around the village. And they are needed. It is estimated that the average life of a cake in the tea room is about 12 minutes before it is all eaten and last year around 1,000 cakes were consumed. That's a lot of cakes that have to be made. And that is not counting the innumerable scones. So if you are a cake maker with some time to make a few cakes, they need all the help they can get.

For me there is little better on a sunny afternoon than to sit in the Tea Room garden where you can be served from the 'hatch' without having to go inside, and, either with a friend or a book, spend some time over a leisurely afternoon tea. Out here you really can just sit and chat quietly with a companion. Kazuo Ishiguro would undoubtedly find this to be the essence of Englishness.



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A York Mystery Play in the Abbey 1964

In the autumn of 1964, one early evening, medieval poetry from the renowned York Mystery Cycle echoed round the walls of Dorchester Abbey. Parishioners from the village of Aldermanston, Berkshire, had come to perform "Abraham and Isaak", one of forty-seven plays from the fourteenth-century cycle.

How this came about is quite a story. In 1957, inspired by the twelfth-century church of St Mary the Virgin, Aldermanston, I founded and directed a production of the "York Nativity Play". This was an adaptation of six plays from the cycle featuring the Nativity. The plays, which come together as a whole, follow the story from the Annunciation to the Purification. The whole production is accompanied by a choir who sing from the bell tower of the church. The music for the play was originally chosen by the Revd. (later Canon) Stanley Young.

The author of the York Nativity Play, E Martin-Browne, cleverly adapted it for choral performance. However, the original plays were performed on pageant wagons drawn through the streets of York. They were the responsibility of the Trade Guilds and it is worth noting that the term mystery, in this sense, means trade or profession.

In 1963, after a visit to York to see the whole of the cycle, I wanted to highlight the way the plays were presented on wagons. Accordingly, a huge cast was borrowed from the Englefield estate, together with a carthorse and a rather reluctant carter who didn't want to wear medieval costume. The play chosen for this was "Abraham and Isaak", the Parcemynders' and Bookbinders' play.

On a wonderfully fine Corpus Christi day, the procession for the play started at the main gate of Aldermanston Court at the top of the village. Dressed in their fourteenth-century costumes, the cast were already in position with a black horse and trumpeter leading down the village street to read a proclamation from the top window of the Hind's Head pub. With a large crowd gathering, the BBC recording and the traffic held up, the poetry of the play came over loud and clear:

Unto me told God on a tide
When I was tented under a tree,
He said my seed would multiply
Like to the gravel of the sea.
And as the stars were strewed wide,
So said He that my seed should be ...
(translated by Revd. J S Purvis)

After the performance outside the Hind's Head, the procession wound its way to Wasing Place, the home of Sir William and Lady Mount. Later in the year it toured the local village churches and the idea of taking the production to Dorchester Abbey came about.

For the production at the Abbey, a cart was not used but there was a splendid procession. About fifteen singers from the Abbey, dressed in cream-coloured monk-like robes, sang unaccompanied carols and plainchant as they entered the abbey. The cast followed, with Bill Cox as Abraham, Malcolm Lewis as Isaak and Jolyon Mylock as Angel. They assembled on the raised area of the People's Chapel and the performance began.

The actors were not usually nervous but performing in the huge and amazing Abbey was daunting. With great dignity and assurance, however, the players spoke clearly and with dramatic effect. They highlighted the beautiful and telling poetry of the play and the simple message contained in the story of Abraham and Isaak, so central to the Christian Church. At the end of the play the procession wound its way through the building.

Pat Eastop, MBE, June 2012

The account above was received from Hugo Brunner, who wrote:

Among the visitors to the exhibition "John Piper and the Church", held in the Abbey from April to June 2012, were Geoffrey and Pat Eastop. He was a distinguished potter who had worked with Piper. She mentioned to me that she had once brought a mystery play to Dorchester. I asked her to tell me the story. She put it on paper in her own hand and I, shamefully, sat on it – until now.

Pat died in September 2014 (her husband later that year), having directed the York Nativity Play for the previous fifty-seven years, an achievement which won her a national honour.

The play is still performed early in December each year in Aldermanston parish church. Tickets are free, with a collection in aid of the restoration of the building.

Hugo Brunner

Little Baldon Air Disaster 1965

"On 6 July 1965 a Hastings aircraft took off from RAF Abingdon with a crew of six and 35 assorted service personnel for a parachute drop over RAF Weston on the Green.

After take-off, the pilot of the Hastings, from 36 Squadron RAF, experienced difficulties with the elevator controls.

Shortly after contacting RAF Abingdon control tower for a priority landing the aircraft climbed steeply out of control, stalled and crashed into a barley field at Little Baldon, Oxfordshire. The aircraft burst into flames on impact and all 41 occupants on board were killed.

The passengers included eight RAF Parachute Jump Instructors; three NCOs and seven recruits from The Parachute Regiment; and a Gunner from 7th Parachute Light

Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery. At the time the accident was the third worst air disaster in the UK and resulted in the RAF grounding its entire Hastings fleet.

The subsequent investigation identified metal fatigue in the elevator attachment bolts as the cause of the crash."

(Taken from ParaData website, www.paradta.org.uk/content/little-baldon-air-disaster.)

This crash 50 years ago was witnessed by James Pratt of Dorchester who later wrote a poem. Unfortunately lack of space means that we can't include his poem, but I am sure that James would be happy to show it to anyone who is interested.



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From your county councillor

Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

June 2015

County council and central government budgets

In 2010 Oxfordshire County Council received £120 million from central government. This sum has reduced to £62 million in the current year, further reducing to zero by 2022. Since 2010 the council has saved £204 million, with a further £88 million of savings to be made by 2018. A report to the cabinet on 24 May stated that there could be another £50 to £60 million of saving to be found. This will be a challenge to the county council, particularly with the increasing pressure on both adult and children's social care – currently around 50% of the budget is spent on just 2% of the population. The government budget on 8 July, along with the spending review later in the autumn, will provide more details about the impact of central government cuts on local government.

Supported transport programme including bus subsidies

A report to cabinet started the consultation process, to be carried out by the independent Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, for the supported transport programme including bus subsidies. A message must go out to communities concerning local buses: 'use them or lose them.'

Devolved powers

There is a government commitment to devolve powers and budgets down to a more local level. OCC welcomes this move and the leader is working with Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire county councils to promote 'England's economic heartland', which has a similar size to the Greater Manchester area, to ensure that Oxfordshire does not miss out on infrastructure-funding opportunities. This is not about a super unitary or a mayoral system but about areas working together to deliver economic growth. If more powers were to be devolved down to the county council, it is likely that more powers could be devolved down to large town councils to enable decisions to be made locally.

How businesses can avoid wheelie bin blaze risk

Oxfordshire County Council's fire and rescue service has this month called on local businesses to cut the fire risk from wheelie bins. The service has recently been called out to fires which spread to properties after nearby wheelie bins and rubbish stored next to them were set alight. Stuart Garner, premises risk and protection manager for Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service, said: "It is important that businesses understand how dangerous it can be to keep wheelie bins too close to buildings. The rubbish in them can often be easily ignited and it can burn very quickly. Flames can rapidly spread to the nearby building, endangering lives, causing damage or in some cases totally destroying property." More details here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/jun/how-businesses-can-avoid-wheelie-bin-blaze-risk>

Woodlands: owners and managers asked to take part in survey

Oxfordshire County Council and the Sylva Foundation are working together to identify what support woodland owners need to get the best out of their woodlands in the future.

An online survey has been launched to gather views and opinions that will be used to improve existing and develop new support services for woodland owners and managers within the county. Details here:

www.sylva.org.uk/oxwoodsurovey

Work internships for young people with special educational needs

Oxfordshire County Council is launching supported internships for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). It is an exciting venture between local colleges, Oxfordshire Employment Service and Men-cap. The project aims to increase the number of education providers offering supported internships, resulting in more young people with complex SEN getting work placements leading to paid employment. It is funded by the department for education as part of the budget for colleges and aims to provide real life skills and to foster independence in trainees.

The pilot scheme, to be implemented in September 2015, involves four colleges: Henley, Banbury & Bicester, City of Oxford and Abingdon & Witney. These will provide the learning support, particularly with English and maths to twenty trainees. The launch events later this month will help strengthen the network, recruit trainees, and get the support from carers and employers.

The unpaid internships will last for 12 months and will expose the interns to different roles within a large private company environment, with the potential for a permanent job at the end of it or a progression route. These personalised internships differ from traineeships and apprenticeships, with extra workplace and learning support. Details here:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/news/2015/jun/work-internships-young-people-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities>

Fostering awareness programme

Oxfordshire residents are being urged to 'have a conversation' about fostering and to consider whether they could change a child's life by becoming a foster carer.

Foster carers provide a range of placements from emergency and short-term to long-term and specialist placements. The council would like to attract more local foster carers - particularly people willing to care for brothers and sisters, teenagers and children with special needs - to enable them to remain in-county and maintain links with their families.

The council offers excellent training, support and allowances to foster carers and would welcome enquiries from potential applicants who can call **0800 7835724**.

Nettlebed Art & Craft Show 2015

Paintings, Drawings &
Craft by local Artists

Saturday 1 August

12:00 noon – 6pm

Sunday 2 August

10am – 5pm

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www.nettlebed.org.uk

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St Birinus School News

As I write this we are approaching the end of the year with our Year 6 children bracing themselves to move on to their next school – an exciting but nervous time!

On 20 May, we held our first Musical Evening – this was an opportunity for the children who learn a musical instrument or drama, either in school or in their own time, to perform in front of an audience. It was absolutely fantastic to see the amazing talent we have within school from the children just starting their musical/dramatic journey and others further along their path. We were also joined by our school choir, who sang at regular intervals throughout the concert. I really enjoyed the evening especially being able to accompany some of these talented musicians. Looking forward to the next one!

Fundraising for additional school equipment is always welcome to support the children's learning and with this in mind, we set off on 4 June for our sponsored walk. The journey took us through the Hurst Water Meadow and up to Wittenham Clumps and then back to school. We were certainly blessed with brilliant weather – everyone did a brilliant job to keep going throughout the day and a big thank you to the parents and grandparents that were able to join us for the event.

Red Class have been busy over the last few weeks – firstly they attended the annual Moon Buggy Challenge at St Birinus School in Didcot. This always creates excitement with the creation of the moon buggies with their interesting designs. They certainly had a great day! Secondly, as part of their Water topic, they were fortunate to have Atkins Engineering bring in their Lego model of Oxford to enable the children to have a go at protecting the crucial infrastructure and historic buildings of Oxford from flooding using Lego sandbags – before flooding the city to test their flood defences! They also learnt about the water cycle and what can and can't be flushed down the toilet. Thank you to Atkins Engineering for giving us this special day.

Blue Class are preparing for their Evacuation Day linking to their topic on World War II – more details to follow next time.

With regards to staffing, we say goodbye to Mrs McEvoy (Blue Class Teacher) who leaves us at the end of this term after 13 years at the school - I would like to say a big thank you to her for all her hard work and dedication to the school over this time and wish her well for the future

Russell Leigh
Headteacher

Dorchester St Birinus CE Primary School

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.



Footsteps Foundation

**The Marketing Practice cycle 175 miles
for Dorchester Charity
Show your support**

Footsteps Foundation have some exciting news as one of our supporting companies is doing a sponsored bike-ride of 175 miles!

The marathon bike ride takes place on the **10 July** and will start at 4.30am in Wiltshire and includes pit stops at some of the agency's client offices, including AXA Wealth, HP, Salesforce, Canon, O2, SAS and Oracle – covering Basingstoke, London, Reading and Oxford. They will arrive in Dorchester on Thames **between 4.30 and 5pm** to visit The Footsteps Centre.

It would be lovely if you could join us at Footsteps from 4.30pm for drinks and cakes and to welcome the cyclists to the village. If you haven't seen the Centre before this is a great chance to visit us and have a look around to see what is happening at your local village charity.

The cyclists will be here for a pit-stop, before heading off to their HQ in East Hendred for a big welcoming party. This fabulous group of sporty sponsors will be aiming to raise a staggering £17,500 to help disabled children access the physiotherapy they need at the Footsteps Centre, Dorchester-on-Thames. With £17,500 we can fund an entire year of therapy for two disabled children.

Pop along on the day or please RSVP to Tina on 01865 343851 or email tina@footstepsfoundation.com (then we can be sure we have enough cakes!)

Footsteps Foundation is now recruiting volunteers for its fundraising committee. This informal group meets once a month in Queen street to support the disability charity in its fundraising activities throughout the year.

Wallingford U3A

Our meetings are held in Crowmarsh Village Hall at 2.00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month (although our July meeting will be on 8 July). Visitors are always welcome.

Future Talks:

July 8: David Cranston: John Radcliffe - Doctor and Philanthropist

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

Sept 2: Ms Marion Ackrill: Living by the Flute

All tickets for "Stepping Out" at Sonning Mill in November have been taken, but there is a reserve list.

The visit to Chalgrove Church was very successful. This is a new Group where we join to visit local churches of interest. The next visit will be to Checkendon Church at 10.30 am on Thursday, **25 June** and maybe a pub lunch afterwards. Anyone interested should phone Hermione on **01865 858024**.

Another new group, the History of Religion, is meeting on the 2nd Thursday of the month.. Ring Ann on **01491 839414** for details. For more information about what we do ring Hermione on **01865 858024**, or visit our website: www.u3asiles.org.uk/wallingford, where you will find photographs and up-to-the-minute information



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Face Painting Afternoon 29 July at 2.30pm
Bring a Teddy dressed as a Record Breaker
26 August 2.30pm

Discover some weird, wonderful and wacky records from around the world by joining in with this year's Summer Reading Challenge Record Breakers 2015!

The adventure begins on Saturday 11 July and finishes on Saturday 12 September.

The challenge is to read 6 library books, and as you read you can collect rewards working your way around the different categories discovering astonishing real-life achievements and world records.

Ask at your local library to get your Record Breakers poster to start this thrilling journey!

Check out the fantastic collection of new books.

Look out for exciting puzzles and fun activities at your local library throughout the summer holidays.

Visit the brilliant interactive website:

www.recordbreakers.org.uk

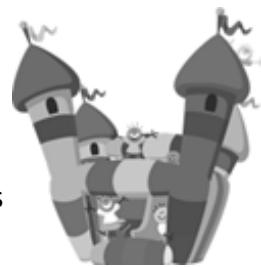
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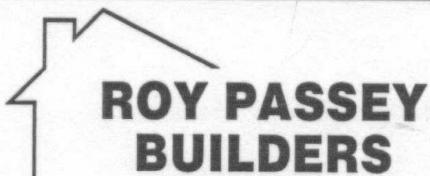
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Corn Exchange Wallingford What's On July/August

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

Wed 1 July	Spy (15)
Thurs 2	Spy (15)
Fri 3	London Road (15)
Sun 19	Queen and Country (15)
Mon 20	Queen and Country (15)
Tues 21	Man Up (15)
Wed 22	Man Up (15)
Thurs 23	NT Live Everyman starring Chiwetel Ejiofor. 7pm
Fri 24	Jurassic World (12A)
Sun 26	Jurassic World (12A)
Mon 27	The Longest Ride (12A)
Tues 28	The New Girlfriend (15)
Wed 29	The Choir (PG)
Thurs 30	The Choir (PG)
Fri 31	Mr Holmes (PG)
Sat Aug 1	Amy, The Girl Behind the Name (U). Amy Winehouse documentary

Live

Tues 14 to Sat 18 at 7.45pm. Sinodun Players present **Plaza Suite**. Neil Simon's very funny, very poignant and very accurate trilogy from the 1960s is bang up to date with its attitudes and language. The three short plays are united by one hotel suite at The Plaza in New York. We see a fading marriage, a celebrity seducer pushing at an open door and a reluctant bride driving her parents mad.

It will make you laugh and cry and then wonder if we ever learn anything...and maybe be glad that we don't. Tickets £10

Coming up

September 19. **Paul Daniels and the Lovely Debbie McGee's Intimate Magic Show** at 7.45pm. Unique night of bafflement, wonder, illusion and laughter. Not to be missed. All tickets £15.

October 14-17. Sinodun Players present Anton Chekhov's **The Cherry Orchard**, directed by Ric Harley.

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 updates and additions.

August closure. The Corn Exchange will close for annual maintenance from 2 to 27 August inclusive with the box office reopening on Friday 28.August

Free films at the Corn Exchange

Since the Corn Exchange in Wallingford converted to digital project over two years ago, its traditional (and now outmoded) 35m projector is now no longer needed.

As a final tribute to the good old days, some of the cinema's former projectionists felt they would like to run some run some 'reel films' for one last time.

Therefore, on Saturday, **July 25**, the Corn Exchange will be running three classic films, cartoons, old trailers, a newsreel and, if a print can be found, a classic 'B' movie – *absolutely free of charge*.

At 10.30am, parents and kids can enjoy some classic cartoons followed by *The Wizard of Oz* from 1939 starring the young Judy Garland. At 2.30pm, the 1956 musical *High Society* starring Grace Kelly, Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra lights up the screen. At 7.30pm, preceded by a typical 'B' movie, Elvis Presley will wiggle those hips in his third film, the 1956 musical *Jailhouse Rock*.

All showings are free but booking is advisable on the Corn Exchange website www.cornexchange.org.uk.



Wallingford Museum Family Archaeology Day

On Saturday 18 July from 11am – 4pm Wallingford Museum has organised another exciting Family Archaeology Day at the Museum.

An actual archaeological excavation will be taking place in the Museum courtyard and you'll be able learn all about how archaeology is done from the experts. You'll also be able to take part in some 'hands-on' work - pot-washing, sieving, and much more. Then you can find out how to begin to identify the sort of pottery that helps to date the finds from archaeology and even try making your own pots for fun!

Also explore the delights of the Museum - find the Roman skeleton, the woolly mammoth bones, spearheads, stones from the lost Priory; handle the cannon ball and search the 'smelly-feely' drawers.

Of course, you can also have a good look at this year's special museum exhibitions including 'Wallingford's Royal Castle Revealed' (where children can do their own quiz!), 'At home with the Queen of Crime: Agatha Christie', and displays about Magna Carta (Wallingford is one of only four towns mentioned in this important document), and Midsomer Murders (Wallingford is Causton in the TV series).

So there's plenty of family entertainment for this special archaeology day!

Entry is by Museum ticket at the door - £4 per adult (which gives unlimited entry until 28 November) but accompanied children are **free**.

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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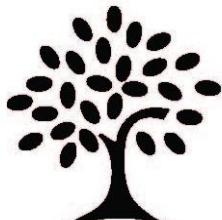
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Dorchester News online

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.



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**

Wallingford Flower Club Meeting

8 July 2015

Keri Harvey demonstrating "Celebrations"
At Crowmarsh Village Hall OX10 8ED
Wednesday 8 July 2015
7pm for 7.45pm
All Welcome
Visitors £4 each

For further information phone **01491 834303**

Wallingford & District Art Club

Wallingford and District Art Club meets on Tuesdays, 7.30-9.30 pm at Centre 70, Goldsmiths Lane. On Tuesday 21 July, artist Joel Wareing will demonstrate how to paint light and shade in an urban scene using soft pastels 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 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 the other exciting demonstrations we shall be having each month.

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



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 3 July	Black
Fri 10 July	Green
Fri 17 July	Black
Fri 24 July	Green
Fri 31 July	Black
Fri 7 Aug	Green
Fri 14 Aug	Black
Fri 21 Aug	Green
Fri 28 Aug	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 8.00am – 5.00pm seven days a week.

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 rebeccahind.com]

Tuesday 7.30 pm Abbey: **Bellringing Practice**
10.20-10.30am by War Memorial Fishmonger (p.25)

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.9)

Monthly:

2nd Thursday 7.30 pm Village Hall: **WI** (p.5)
2nd 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.9)

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

ANGLICAN PRIEST Dorchester Rectory
Rev'd. Canon Sue Booys 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

ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST The Presbytery
Fr. John Osman Bridge End
01865 340417
www.stbirinus.co.uk

Weekdays

Every Tuesday

10.30am – 12 noon Coffee in the Abbey

Every Wednesday

9.30 am Holy Communion at Berinsfield Church

July

Fri 3, Sat 4	7.30pm	County Music Concerts
Tue 14	10.15am	Short Communion
Thu 16	7.45pm	PCC in Guest House
Sat 18	3pm	Wedding of Michael Bosher and Charlotte Rogers
Sun 19	2pm, 3pm, 4pm	Guitar Duo Busking
Thu 23	2.30pm	Service at the Cheshire Home

August

Sat 1	2.30pm	Wedding of Peter Whittle and Sarah Davis
Tue 11	10.15am	Short Communion
Thu 27	2.30pm	Service at the Cheshire Home
Sat 29	2pm	Wedding of Danny Geddes and Michaela Burns

Abbey Calendar Sundays July

July 5	Trinity 5
8.00 am	Holy Communion (1662) (Rev'd Michael Lakey)
10.30am	Morning Service
12 noon	Baptism
July 12	Trinity 6
8.00 am	Holy Communion (1662) (Rev'd Marcus Braybrooke)
10.30 am	Sung Eucharist
July 19	Trinity 7
8.00 am	Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booys)
10.30am	Family Service
12 noon	Baptism
6.00pm	Evensong
July 26	Trinity 8
8.00 am	Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booys)
10.30am	Sung Eucharist
7.00pm	Taize@7

August

Aug 2	Trinity 9
8.00 am	Holy Communion (1662) (Rev'd Michael Lakey)
10.30am	Morning Service
Aug 9	Trinity 10
8.00 am	Holy Communion (1662) (Rev'd Marcus Braybrooke)
10.30 am	Sung Eucharist
Aug 16	Trinity 11
8.00 am	Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booys and Jennifer Morton)
10.30am	Family Service and Baptism
Aug 23	Trinity 12
8.00 am	Holy Communion (1662) (Rev'd Michael Lakey)
10.30am	Sung Eucharist
7.00pm	Taize@7
Aug 30	Trinity 13
8.00am	Holy Communion (Rev'd Dr Marcus Braybrooke)
10.30am	Team Service at Long Wittenham

Deadline for September Dorchester News

All items must be sent by
Friday 14 August

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 Registers

Holy Matrimony

15 May Charles James Finnie and Sharon Chloe Warnes

6 June

David Jonathan Treadwell and Nicola Elizabeth Forbes-Leith

Funeral

1 June Donald Pearce (Godfrey) John Burrell
11 June

Parish Council Notices

Monthly Meetings July and August

The July meeting will take place on Wednesday **8 July** and the August meeting will take place on Wednesday **12 August**. The full agenda will be posted on Village notice boards three clear days in advance of these meetings.

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.

Dog Mess

The Parish Council has just received this letter: *I had the terribly unpleasant experience of having to clear up a huge canine faecal mess, in the middle of Queens Close, first thing this morning. This had been created by an early dog walk (or very late night). This is where the parents of children for the School and Pre School park to walk them to school. I do not own a dog nor do I intend cleaning up after them. I did feel this morning that I had no choice but to do so in order to keep the children in the village safe. I have two small boys and would be both devastated and disgusted if they had trodden upon such a mess. It could also be very dangerous to their health. Would you please remind all dog owners to clean up after them?*

In recent weeks similar complaints have been received. Please be more good-neighbourly.

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

Parish Council

Chairman's Report

Annual Village Meeting

19 May 2015

Chris Hill introduced himself as the new Chairman of the Dorchester on Thames Parish Council. He thanked the retiring members, Margot Metcalfe, the Chairman for the past five years, Maurice Day, Ken Bryan, Mark Stevenson and Mike Hill.

We cannot allow this moment to pass without paying tribute and our thanks to all of them for their work, dedication and determination over the years. Each was thanked for their particular contributions.

Six new councillors had been elected on 7 May. These were Susie Graney, and Val Howells, both of whom had been co-opted members of the previous council, together with Claire Andersson, Mike Rimmer, Keith Russell and Mark Williams. There remains one post unfilled to which someone would be co-opted in the coming months.

The chairman then proceeded to the business of the council.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Neighbourhood Development Plan is progressing well and following the consultation last year the results are being analysed and modifications are being included in the plan to incorporate the comments made by residents.

Gravel

Since Margot has retired from the council I will become the Dorchester representative on PAGE, though Margot has kindly offered to play a continuing role if I am not available for any reason.

A presentation was later made by Margot Metcalfe on behalf of John Taylor about PAGE.

Finance

Your council set the precept for the current year back in January at £42,280. This represented an increase of 1.99% from last year. This included a contingency of £2000 which would have been needed to pay for a contested election. In the event this was not needed. Much of the precept, about a third, is simply for maintenance in the form of tree work, grass cutting and emptying of litter bins. Other costs are for wages for Geoff Russell, our parish clerk, Geoff Willis and his son for litter picking, salt spreading, path weeding and strimming of footpaths. With the cutbacks imposed by central government on county and district councils, we as a council are increasingly having to provide funding for some of the services traditionally provided by the county and district councils to plug some of the smaller gaps

Recent examples of this were the relaying of the footpath by the cemetery, the Malthouse Lane footpath and clearing the Watling Lane footpath.

In the coming year our funding will be assisted, to a degree, by a new levy on house builders and developers called the Community Infrastructure levy. This is intended to provide district and parish councils with a levy on every square metre of new development in a village and the money can be used on any project chosen by that village.

Sport and Recreation

The official opening of the Multi-User Games Area took place in June in conjunction with the fete. It was formally opened by Tim Henman who kindly gave his time for free. The event was well attended and the weather was kind. Tim Henman amused many young enthusiastic potential tennis players in the new courts.

Pavilion. You may remember that we were unable to attract funding for a new sports pavilion because the facility currently caters for a narrow group of sports, namely football and cricket. It was therefore put on hold for the time being. Meanwhile, in order to remedy this weakness the sports club have pro-

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posed an extension be built at the rear of the existing pavilion to accommodate additional male, female and disabled toilets with wheelchair access, a small lobby with baby changing facilities and a larger kitchen area. The estimated cost of this is in the region of £20k. Plans for this are currently with SODC for approval and we hope that this will progress in the near future so that we can attract a broader range of sports and participants than currently use the pavilion. In any case there is an urgent need to renew the flat roof at the rear of the building which is in a poor state of repair and is essential work to avoid further serious damage which could result from leaks. The ideal case would be to go out to tender for both the extension and the repair work at the same time.

Planning

As each year passes the number of planning applications seems to increase. While it is flattering that so many people want to move to Dorchester, we are seeing a trend for more smaller houses being developed into larger properties each year. Last year your council processed 36 applications (one of which was presented 6 times in total) compared with 30 the previous year. Each of these applications can take many hours of each councillor's time to scrutinise and then debate at a meeting.

Over the past year one notable success has been the opposition to the Overy Court plans for change of use from business to a residential home. This view was supported by SODC Planning committee in a case that was presented by Mark Stevenson and, following a Planning Appeal, was also finally supported by a Planning Inspector who commented on how well the arguments had been presented. Less successful was the planning application for a new house in Manor Farm Road where your council voted to refuse the plan but was over-ruled by SODC planning officers.

Parking Transport Roads and Footpaths

Parking continues to be a problem in the village at certain times of the day and during certain events. A questionnaire I distributed to residents most affected in the centre of the village was inconclusive. The responses varied, even between next door neighbours, from the robust end of the scale with signs and double yellow lines to the "light touch" measures of continuing to use cones when events are on. There were concerns that the robust measures would damage the character of the village whereas others say the light touch does not always work as visitors may move the cones and park anyway. There is, however, a general feeling that the situation will get worse and that a fresh look needs to be taken by the community – and not just the PC—at this whole area.

Bus services through the village have been reviewed for passenger usage and cost on a regular basis and with each one there has often been a reduction in the service. We now have 4 buses in each direction every week day so more people have to either drive or walk to the by-pass for the X39 and X40 service.

Speeding instances, particularly on the approaches to the village from the Abingdon Road and the Henley Road, continue to be a concern. The council have access to speed monitoring equipment, SID, from the police and we would welcome any volunteers who are prepared to be trained in its use to come forward – so please apply now if you are interested.

Watling Lane After many years of struggle and campaigning the lane has now been designated as a Byway Open to All Traffic, or BOAT for short. The acceptance of this change of classification means that Oxfordshire County Council are now taking responsibility for its maintenance and especially repair of the potholes. Many thanks to Richard Juniper, a resident of the lane, for his determination in persuading OCC of this new status.

Footpaths While on the subject of Watling Lane I should mention that we have had success in reopening part of the footpath that had become overgrown over several years.

Thanks in part for the help of the Young Offenders Payback Team who as community service, and under supervision, undertook this and several other clearance jobs in the village, including the path to the bus stop along Drayton Road.

In addition, the Malthouse Lane footpath has been completely replaced in the same way as the footpath past the cemetery to be more suitable for wheelchairs, push chairs and prams.

We as a council have also cleared wind-damaged areas of the Waterloo slipway at Bridge End and a large area surrounding the notice board at the Drayton Road junction with the Demesne field footpath

The Allotments

There has been an increase in the number of plots in use this year in spite of the recent small increase in rental fees. A large puddle near the entrance has been filled and two skips have been used to clear both general allotment debris and the scrub arising from the Watling Lane footpath clearance. The archaeology group from the Discover Dorchester Oxford University project will be back in July to delve even further into the history of Dorchester.

Other Activities

The Faster Rural Broadband project funded by OCC has in the last few months provided over 90% of the village with access speeds of up to 78 megabits per second from previous speeds of 2 or less, making it possible to run applications like BT Sport, streaming services such as Films on Demand and for the younger users to be able to play interactive games. The only areas of the village not yet covered are the furthest end of the Abingdon Road past Allens Pit, which we hope will be available in a matter of weeks, and Meadside which, because it is fed from Shillingford and Warborough telephone exchange, will need to wait until further funding is made available by SODC.

Land Registration of the Village Green in Bridge End, the slipway at Waterloo and the war memorial are planned to be completed over the next few months. Other small parcels of "common" land around the village in general use and maintained by the parish council over many years will follow to secure them for the benefit of the village.

War Memorial For many years Cathy Pepper and Sally Greenaway did an excellent job of planting and weeding the war memorial. When they decided they could not continue to do so we appealed for volunteers to come forward to help as we were approaching the First World War centenary year. Fortunately, it was a great relief when Phil Greenaway came forward and he has taken on this important role. Many thanks to both Phil and Sally for their ongoing support.

Support For the Elderly A project that Margot started, and has kindly offered to continue, is to assemble a small team of volunteers to provide basic IT familiarisation to some of the older residents who may wish to make a start at using computers. Equipment for this will be purchased with a grant kindly made available from our County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay Gale.

The Future

As always, there will be much of the same in the coming year as there was last year. But also there are often new problems and situations to deal with which make life both challenging and interesting.

With a new council, who are yet to meet with all its members present, I am expecting a wealth of new ideas. With this new council we have an opportunity to review what we do and how we do it, take stock of our current position and set some objectives, prioritise them for the coming year and set the direction we would like to take to get there.

That concludes the chairman's annual report for this year.