



# DORCHESTER NEWS

## November 2015

FREE TO EVERY HOME IN  
THE PARISH

### Talking Point

The media seems to have been dominated over the summer by refugee issues. It's good that attention is being paid to the plight of the vulnerable and that attitudes seem to be gradually changing from 'how do we pull up the drawbridge' and 'how dare they invade "our" space', to concern for lives being lost and sympathy for people feeling constrained to leave homes and habitual livelihoods. I vividly recall a docudrama made by the BBC a decade or more ago about an 'invasion' across the Mediterranean and the difficulties the European authorities had handling what was happening. It made a connection for me at the time because I had been working among the people who seemed to be portrayed and could see how much research had gone into it. It seems so relevant again now that I am surprised there has been no reference to its prescience.

Before becoming a vicar I spent a number of years as an aid worker, including with Eritrean refugees sheltering in Sudan, and Cambodian refugees returning from the camps in Thailand after the Pol Pot years to try to recommence their former lives. It was illuminating and humbling to hear so many individual stories and to realise how much people had endured and how much they had to offer. Some Eritreans had been in exile for more than twenty years yet still yearned to return to their homelands in the dramatic highlands or the fertile plains. Many families would send a scout back to their former village to check whether homes were still standing and fields free of landmines so they could plant crops to sustain themselves on their return. There was an immense tension while families waited for the scout's return and from the faces of our local workers and their loved ones, we could tell whether good news or bad had arrived. It reminded me of Joshua being sent to check out the land of Canaan.

There are so many ethical principles involved in trying to understand what is happening and how to respond that it can be very confusing. An honourable part of us wants to treat others like ourselves, to follow Jesus' teaching, and open-heartedly invite refugees and migrants to share the benefits available here. A fearful part can want the 'problem to go away', often by averting our eyes or trying to classify migrants as somehow less deserving than the settled community. A practical perspective can point to the capacity of our small island as a long-term environmental constraint. An entrepreneurial spirit can welcome the talents and drive of those who have had the ingenuity to brave the journey and the skill to solve its problems. A compassionate spirit can just want to relieve their suffering however we can. There is so much that we are presented with by the arrival of people who appear as what philosophers call the Other: what we experience through our TV screens as a prostrate little figure on a beach or on the street as an outstretched hand asking and questioning our self-understanding.

It has been fascinating over the summer to hear so many people start a conversation by naming the refugees among their own parentage, which breaks down the sense of otherness. In my case the Huguenot lineage is still recalled with deep respect for those who permitted my forebears refuge from the conflicts of their time. I wonder what local Egyptians thought when Joseph and Mary arrived fleeing Herod (Matthew 3:14) with a little baby who would grow to share a hope-filled message with the world. The problems we face now are age-old; the yearning for peace, as St Augustine said over fifteen hundred years ago, is fundamental and perennial. Let us ask God to guide us deeper into his wisdom and peace in these difficult times.

**Rev. Paul Cawthorne**

### In this issue

Abbey Calendar	28
Abbey Christmas tree	7
Advent weekend	5
Allotment News	7
Are you sitting comfortably?	15
Band of Music	21
Benson Choral	9
Berinsfield library	11
Bonfire Night	7/8
Bus Services	27
CAB	23
Charity Coffee Morning	19
Chiropodist	11
Christingle	3
Christmas Services	3
Computer Confidence	23
Culham Horticultural	7
Didcot Gift Fair	23
Didcot Street Fair	23
DoT Tots	11
Earth Trust	13
Family Service Orchestra	3
Fishmonger	13
Focus on Historical Society	17
Getting ready for Christmas	3
Go Active	21
Historical Society	9
Host a student	19
Hurst Water Meadow	13
John Howell MP	green 2
Langtree Sinfonia	21
Lorraine Lindsey-Gale	green 2
Memorial Service	3
Mobile library	7
Nicholas Treadaway	3
OSJ Voices	15
Parish Council	green 1
Parish Registers	28
Pre School	11
Refuse Collections	27
Regular events	28
Remembrance Sunday	3
Royal British Legion	11
Singing workshop	3
Social Media Workshops	23
St Birinus School	11
Strauss Gala	13
Talking Point	1
Thank you from Lesotho	19
Vigil for Migrants	3
Village Hall draw	7
Wallingford Art Club	25
Wallingford Corn Exchange	27
Wallingford Flower Club	25
Wallingford Gardening Club	25
Wallingford Historical	25
Wallingford Museum	25
Wallingford U3A	25
WI	9

## Dorchester News

### Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Kathy Glass

**Copy Deadlines for Dorchester News**  
**Advert Deadlines for Dorchester News**  
One week before copy deadline

December/January 13 November  
February edition 8 January

Those items in electronic form may be sent via e-mail attachment to [dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

Looking back at my editorial for April, I see that I wrote about spring flowers and the clocks going forward. Now that seems to be all over as we look forward to the first frosts and the clocks resuming their winter time-keeping. But every season brings its own delights and the darkening of the leaves and their changing to yellows and browns is just as uplifting. I have smelt the first wood smoke from a neighbour's chimney, and know that it won't be long before we are hunkering down in front of our own log fire.

November brings other delights, too. For the first time in many years there will be a Village Firework Display on the recreation ground (page 8). As well as a bonfire and fireworks there is going to be food and drink to keep us warm, so let's make this a real occasion to remember.

Later in the month we have the pantomime that is Camelot, from DADS. This may not be a traditional panto but it sounds great fun with which to kick off the winter. I will certainly be there to enjoy it and I hope that most of the village will be too (page 6).

Equally non-traditional is the Advent Weekend at the Abbey with Captain Graham, magician and children's evangelist. Sunday School was not that kind of fun when I were a lad! (See page 3.)

From Megan Parry there is a wonderful story of generosity that has provided a new bench in the Cloister Garden (page 15).

So much heart-warming stuff as we enter the colder days.

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 903476**.

### A&E

The nearest A & E units are at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford (**01865 741166**) and the Royal Berkshire in Reading (**01183 225111**)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:southernarea@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

### BLOCKED DRAINS?

Ring Thames Water for blocked drains on **0800 316 9800**. Callers will be asked for the postcode of the address where the drains are blocked.

### REFUSE COLLECTION

Any residents whose household rubbish is not collected on the due date (see page xx) should contact the contractor direct. The number to call is **03000 610610** and the website [www.more recycling.co.uk](http://www.more recycling.co.uk)

### BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

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

### OPENING HOURS

Mon - closed  
Tues 2.00–7.00 pm  
Fri 2.00–5.00 pm  
Tues, Wed, Fri 10.00 am –12.30 pm  
Weds, Thurs 2.00–5.30 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](http://www.traveline.info), and **0871 200 2233**, which also provides information about trains, London Underground and Overground and ferries throughout the UK.

### OXFORDSHIRE DIAL-A-RIDE

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

### SHOPMOBILITY

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

### CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

## Memorial Service Sunday 1 November

The Sunday closest to All Saints' Day is a time to remember not only the famous saints like St Peter, St Paul and St Birinus, but also what I like to call the "saints in ordinary". The church calls this All Souls Tide. There are many people who have had an enormous impact on our lives and shaped and moulded the people we are. Very often these are relatives or close friends; in a village like Dorchester they are also the significant personalities who have contributed to the life of the community. In recent years we have lost from our community a large number of very special people. I hope that the Morning Service on **1 November** will be a good time to remember them with thanksgiving and reflect on what we have learned from them. In particular anyone for whom a funeral has been held in the Abbey is warmly invited to attend this service. It will be possible to ask for the names of people that have been important to you personally to be added to a list that will be read during the prayers. There will be lists at the back of the Abbey but you may also telephone the Rectory (**340007**) to ask for a name to be added.

## Remembrance Sunday 8 November

On 8 November we play our part as a village community in the National Act of Remembrance. We look forward to welcoming members of the British Legion and the wider village community in the Abbey at 10am (please note the earlier time) and sharing the ceremony at the War Memorial at 10.55am (in time for the 11am silence).

## Christingle 10.30am 15 November

Our November Family Service will celebrate the light of the world with a Christingle Service.  
Please arrive from 10am to make your Christingle.

## The Dorchester Abbey Family Service Orchestra

Once a month, a group of musicians get together to accompany the hymns at the Dorchester Abbey family service; this usually happens on the third Sunday of the month at 10.30am. At the moment we boast Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone, Bassoon, Violin, Viola and Cello. We rehearse before the service at 9.45am.

Would you like to join us? We are looking for players of orchestral and brass instruments any age from about grade two standard upwards. Music is available to look at a week before each service. If you think you might be interested, speak to Jeremy Boughton (Abbey Organist) on **01491 836310**, or contact via the parish office, or just come to a Family Service.

## Christmas Services

The Abbey Carol Service will be on **Sunday 20 December** at 6pm. All other services follow the pattern of previous years, and there will be an invitation for each household in next month's magazine.

## Nicholas Treadaway

We are sad to record the death of Nick Treadaway. Whether in the Abbey or the Tea Room, Carole Treadaway will be a familiar figure to many people and we offer Carole and her family our sincere condolences.

## A Vigil for Migrants Throughout the World Sunday 1 November

Dorchester Abbey  
from 6.30 - 9.30 pm.

Please join us for some or all of the time, in a candlelight evening of prayerful meditation, with spoken prayers on the hour and silence for your own reflections in between times.

Optional prayer sheets will be provided.

*We thank you Heavenly Father for opening the hearts of many to those who are fleeing for their lives.*

*Help us now to open our arms in welcome.*

## Getting Ready for Christmas!

Just before you open the first window of your Advent Calendar we will be welcoming a special visitor to the Dorchester Team for a whole weekend to help us get ready for Christmas!

**Captain Graham Nunn** started his working life as a Postman - now he works as a Church Army Evangelist mainly in schools around Kent but also talking to adults. He is a fantastic conjuror and links the tricks with his faith with a great sense of humour and a good line in jokes!

*And he is coming here* for the weekend of **Friday 27 to Sunday 29 November**. A special visitor to help us get ready for Christmas.

He will join children in our schools on Friday and Monday, be the host of a special 'Get Ready for Christmas Family Tea Party' with games, children's crafts, tea, sandwiches and cake - all mixed up with a touch of magic!

The Sunday will be Advent Sunday and in a Team service for all the family at Dorchester Abbey at 10.30am we will join in praise and prayer, be entertained and taught by Captain Graham and enjoy worshipping together.

If you want to know more about Graham's work you are invited to stay on (or arrive in time for) a Bring and Share lunch at about 12.15pm after the service.

In the Evening at 6pm our Advent Carol Service, led by a choir drawn from the Team Churches, will offer a chance to be quiet at the end of a busy weekend and the readings will give us an opportunity to pray for the plight of refugees and migrants.

## Young Person's Singing Workshop Are you between 7 and 13 years old?

**Do you like singing?**

Dorchester Abbey is holding a *free* workshop on **Sunday 17 January 2016**. Come along, learn some new songs and a bit about how to sing whilst having fun in a beautiful building!

Workshop starts: 2.30pm

Mini-concert for families of participants: 3.30pm

The workshop will be run by Elinor Carter, who will be directing the new Dorchester Song School from Wednesday 20 January (more details at the workshop), accompanied by Jeremy Boughton, director of music at the Abbey.

Put it in your diary. More details next month.

# A beautiful driveway leads to a beautiful home



"They care about the project and they are happy to discuss anything you may have a concern about. The aftercare and overall service is excellent."

*Chelsea Bidwell*

Block Paving

Patios

Artificial Grass

Walls & Steps

THE  
**NEW DRIVEWAY**  
COMPANY

[www.newdrivewaycompany.com](http://www.newdrivewaycompany.com)

Proud members of  
**Cheekatrade.com**  
Where reputation matters



Oxford 01235 854 071

South London 020 3292 0534

North London 020 3633 2743



## Local, Professional Vehicle Technicians

- MOT's
- Servicing
- Repairs
- Diagnostics
- Bodywork
- Welding

Free collection and delivery

T: 01865 890548

F: 01865 890198

E: [info@fourwindsgarage.com](mailto:info@fourwindsgarage.com)

# *Getting Ready for Christmas*



*Advent Weekend  
with Captain Graham  
- magician &  
children's evangelist*

**Saturday 28th November** - Marsh Baldon & Berinsfield  
9.30am Marsh Baldon village hall - Men's Breakfast  
2pm - 4pm Berinsfield Church Christmas Family Tea Party  
Tea party with games, children's crafts, tea,  
sandwiches and cake - all mixed up with a touch of magic!

**Sunday 29th November** - Dorchester Abbey  
10.30am Special Family Service with Captain Graham  
12.15pm Bring & Share Lunch  
6pm Advent Carol Service led by a Team choir  
- a chance to be quiet, sing Advent carols and pray for  
Refugees and Migrants

Any questions? Contact us on 01865 340007  
or [admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

# Camelot

## THE

# PANTOMIME

Boo

18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>

November  
Dorchester  
Village Hall

By

Ben Crocker

Behind you

Oh no it isn't

Show begins Wed, Thurs, Fri 7.30, Sat 6.30

Hiss

Be bold and brave

Oh yes it is

## DADS

Dorchester Amateur Dramatic Society

Tickets:

Adults £10, juniors (12 & under) £6

Family ticket (2 adults + 2 juniors) £25

Available from

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

Aisha Stores, Warborough,

Post Office, Clifton Hampden

Web [www.dads.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.dads.ticketsource.co.uk) (booking fee applies) Email [tickets@dads.org.uk](mailto:tickets@dads.org.uk) Phone 01865 340792



## Culham & District Horticultural Club

Meetings at the Abbey Guest House  
Dorchester-on-Thames at 7.30pm  
**Wednesday 18 November**

Tom Price will give a talk entitled *Oxford Botanic Garden: A plethora of plants.*  
Tom is Gardens Curator at the Oxford Botanic Garden.

Membership is open to all those who have a keen interest in horticulture (annual subscription £15) and visitors are welcome at the meeting (donation £2). For more details contact  
Judy White (01235 850381; [judy@tiggercat.me.uk](mailto:judy@tiggercat.me.uk)).



## Hempcroft Allotment News

The Dorchester Allotment Society Annual General Meeting was held on 22 September 2015 in the Village Hall. About 40 members paid their rent and subscriptions for the coming year and about 30 stayed for the AGM.

Edward Metcalfe continued as the Chairman, Mark Townson as the Treasurer, and William Downey as the Allotment Manager. Stuart Poole joined the Committee. Stuart and Hayley Poole are new to the village and in one season turned a derelict 10 pole plot into the winner of the Best Kept Allotment trophy presented at the Autumn Flower Show.

Mark Townson presented the accounts of the Society. These continue to be in a healthy state with over £760 held in the account or as cash. There had been expenditure of about £200 this year for filling in potholes at the main entrance to the allotments. Following the substantial rent increase last year there has been no need to increase the rent or the subscriptions this year. The rents are gathered on behalf of the Parish Council who pay for the water that is used on the allotments.

Seed catalogues were available for collection at the meeting and members were encouraged to order seeds from the catalogue because the Society derived some income from this. The Kings seed catalogue contains many colour photographs of the vegetables or flowers, which will be a great help in identifying which seeds one might wish to buy. Spare seed catalogues have been placed in a box on the wall of the Allotment Society shed.

A number of issues of common interest were discussed at the meeting. There is still a concern that some dog walkers are not behaving responsibly when they bring dogs across the allotment on the public rights of way.

This is the time of year, i.e. rent collection time, when some people decide to give up their allotment. We now have some good plots available ranging from small squares to half size (5 pole) plots. If anyone is interested then please contact me.

**Edward Metcalfe**  
340160

### mobile LIBRARY

Alternate Thursdays, 2.55–3.15pm  
Lay-by opposite the War Memorial

**12 November, 26 November**

## Your Parish Council



**Remember,  
Remember,  
the 5th of  
November...**



I hope you have spotted the poster in this month's Dorchester News, for our first village firework display in over twenty years. We are planning hard to make it a wonderful evening for everyone in the village, so please make sure the date is in your diary!

Come along at **5.30pm** to start the evening with some wonderful food. Locally sourced burgers and sausages with all the trimmings, home-made soup, warm Winter Pimms, beer, tea, coffee, soft drinks and home made cakes, will all be on sale. Take a seat in one of the marquees, or warm up at the bonfire, whilst waiting for a spectacular display given by a professional firework company.

One lucky person will have the opportunity to actually start the firework display! We will be selling lucky tickets for £1, on the night, and if yours is chosen you will be asked to press the button to start the display!

There will be no parking on the recreation ground (except for Disabled Badge holders) nor in Drayton Road but there is plenty of parking in the Dorchester Bridge car park. We also ask that you do not bring any fireworks or sparklers to the display. Don't worry, there will be glow sticks galore.

ALL THIS for just a voluntary donation at the entrance. Any profits made will be given to Footsteps, our chosen village charity.



## Dorchester Village Hall 200 Club Prize Draw

Congratulations to the winners of the September draw.

1st Prize	£75	No. 129	Mrs J Smith
2nd Prize	£45	No. 175	Mrs Parris-Doller
3rd Prize	£25	No. 30	Mr & Mrs Ireson

The next draw will be in December, with a first prize of **£100** so join now for a chance to win!

The 200 Club is a quarterly prize draw to raise funds for the village hall. There are only 200 tickets and some are still available at £12 for the year (4 draws from when you join). To join, contact Elaine Moore on **340441** or email [admin@dorchesteronthamesvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorchesteronthamesvillagehall.org.uk) for a form. Good luck!

## Dorchester Abbey Christmas Tree Event.

Please come to help to decorate the tree on Saturday 5 December between 9.30 and 11.30. There will be an all-age workshop, too, to make special tree decorations (please ensure that children are accompanied by adults). Refreshments will be available.

**For the first time in over 20 years...!**

# **Dorchester on Thames Village Firework Display**

**Thursday 5th November at the Recreation Ground**



**Food and drink served from 5.30pm**

**Locally sourced burgers and hot dogs, home made  
soup, Winter Pimms and tray bakes.**

**Bring the family for tea and buy a lucky ticket - will you  
be the one who starts the fireworks?**

**Entrance by voluntary  
donation with all profits  
going to FOOTSTEPS**



**(Please...NO SPARKLERS)**

## Dorchester on Thames Historical Society

Wednesday 25 November

7.30pm in Dorchester Village Hall (back room)

There will be a talk on 'Feasts and Feasting' by Jane McDonald. Jane McDonald is Head of Art at St Helen's School in Abingdon. Her interest in the history of food is underpinned by many years of looking at paintings and cooking.

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

Gail Thomas  
Chairman

## Benson Choral Society Dorchester Abbey, Saturday 28 November at 7.30 pm

Mozart – Requiem

Mozart – Piano Concert No 24 in C minor

Ola Gjeilo – Sunrise Mass

Of the programme, our conductor and Musical Director Chris Walker writes: 'I very much look forward to the coming season, and especially the November concert.'

Mozart's Requiem is a masterpiece of choral writing that surely needs no introduction. It is a great privilege for us to be able to perform this alongside one of Mozart's finest Piano Concertos played by our own exceptional pianist Anita D'Attellis and the Elgar Orchestra.

To round off the programme, will be the Sunrise Mass by Ola Gjeilo. Beginning with the mystery and minimalist static harmonies of *The Spheres*, (Kyrie), the music travels through *Sunrise*, (Gloria) and *The City* (Credo) to the earthly tune of *Identity & The Ground* (Sanctus).'

Tickets may be purchased from Stephanie Martin. Ring (evenings only) **01865 407395**, or email [tickets.bensonchoral@gmail.com](mailto:tickets.bensonchoral@gmail.com)

Tickets are £15, £12 and £10.



Mary and The Fat Boy  
"I say! How nice you look"

An illustration from *Pickwick Papers* used by Prof. Greg Stores to show Dickens's observations on maladies of the time—in this case obesity. See Focus on Dorchester Historical Society, page 17.

theWI | DORCHESTER-  
ON-THAMES WI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

We are very pleased to announce that we are now having new ladies join our numbers.

As mentioned before, DOT WI welcomes all ladies young, middle aged and the young at heart, so please join us.

### 'Peru, an insight', given by John Ingham in October.

John's talk introduced us to a part of Peru not usually on the tourist route, especially the ocean side of the Andes around Chachapoyas. Introducing us to spectacular scenery and an insight into archaeology prior to the Conquest by the Spanish. Burial sites set into sheer rock but with rock overhang to protect them for centuries. So much of this exploration done by John on foot, apparently a return after 25 years. Many thanks John for sharing some of this with us.

### Thursday, 12 November 7.30

by kind invitation of Susan Jupp  
13 Watling Lane DOT

Simple Exercises and a Quiz

A great opportunity to get to know one another better. It might be useful to let Susan know if you are attending, so that she has a better idea about seating.

**01865 341066**

### Operation Christmas Child Shoe Campaign

Please bring shoe boxes filled with gifts to the November meeting. For guidance regarding the filling of the box please phone

Linda Hender **01865 340032**

Last year 6,000 boxes were dispatched to needy children worldwide.

If anyone can offer help at the warehouse please also contact Linda

### Thursday 10 December at 7.30 Village Hall

Christmas Party with entertainment by Marguerite Osborne. Members will be asked to bring food etc, signing lists will be available at the meeting on 12th November

or phone :

Gill Haworth **340775**

Susan Jupp **341066**

Audrey Houlston **343331**

Please keep Thursday **28 January** free when we will be holding our annual New Year lunch.

In 2016 our meetings will be held at 2.30pm. This is with the agreement of the members. It is also hoped that this will help to increase membership.

We are very pleased to welcome a new member, Anne Parker to DOT WI Committee.

More members are still needed for the Committee with a willingness to take Office in 2016. This will enable some of the long serving Officers to step down.

As always, I should like to thank everyone for your continued friendship, enthusiasm and support which makes our Institute a success.

Ladies interested in joining please contact:-

**Pauline Kenway-Jackson (01865 340746)**

**President**

**Jill Love (01865 716557)**

**Vice President and Publicity Officer**

## Here to help you find and book the perfect holiday....



Arranging a holiday can be very frustrating and challenging. But with Full Circle Travel, it doesn't need to be.

- We are a local, independent travel agent with mature, professional and well-travelled consultants.
- You do not pay more for our service but get a lot more than booking direct.
- You can book with your favourite tour operator but book locally.
- We are ABTA and AITO members and ensure your money is safe in an uncertain world.
- We listen, we care and are passionate about finding you the perfect holiday.
- Search 'Full Circle Travel' at [www.trustpilot.co.uk](http://www.trustpilot.co.uk) to read what our clients say about us.

A selection of operators you can book with us at no extra cost to booking directly:

Club Med - Cox and Kings - Abercrombie and Kent - Mark Warner - Audley Travel - Explore - The Adventure Travel Company  
Royal Caribbean - Carrier - Western & Oriental - If Only - Beachcomber - Exodus - Kuoni - Viking River Cruises - Seabourn  
Riveria Travel - Silversea - Regent Seven Seas - Classic Collection - Prestige Holidays plus many more - please just ask.

Full Circle Travel, 59 St Marys Street, Wallingford, OX10 0EL

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

T: 01491 833227

E: [holiday@fullcircletravel.com](mailto:holiday@fullcircletravel.com)

## Would you like to know more about your local school?

Pupils at Dorchester St Birinus Primary School:

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



*Tapestry created by pupils for The Thames Heritage Tapestry Project.*

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

[www.st-birinus-primary.org.uk](http://www.st-birinus-primary.org.uk)



## Royal British Legion

**Sunday 8 November  
Remembrance Sunday.**

Service in the Abbey at 10am followed by service at the War Memorial with the Choir and Oxford Silver Band.

### Annual Christmas Draw.

The Annual Christmas Draw will take place in The George, Dorchester on Wednesday 16 December at 7pm.

Draw tickets will be £1 each or £5 per book. Prizes will include a £50 Tesco hamper, dinners for two at the George and White Hart, Spirits, Wine, Chocolates etc. Tickets available from committee members and retailers in the village. All proceeds to the Royal British Legion.

If you would like to donate a prize please contact me on the number below.

**Simon Madden  
Chairman  
07831 392343**



## St Birinus School News

At the end of September, 7 children and I had a fantastic time at Woodlands helped by the most amazing weather – this was a week's residential visit in Wales. Nat, Emilia, Sophia, Tom, Megan, Amber and Charlie pushed themselves to try all the activities with a great deal of excitement and determination, which has been great to see. They worked and played extremely well with the children from St Blaise in their activity groups and with William Fletcher School (schools we joined on the adventure) during the meal times and evening activities – I am so proud of them. We all tried caving, canoeing, the high ropes course, climbed up a mountain on a long walk, this with the evening activities certainly filled our days. They even kept their rooms clean – luckily my room was never checked!

Congratulations to Angelina Sirjajeva, Ryan Robinson, Carys Sadler, Theo Beaman, Charlie Talbot, Megan Sadler, who are our Writers of the Month for September – 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!

Each term, our Big Write is based around a particular topic. For term 2, we started with a Wild Animal visit in the first week of term and then built our writing around this visit. Therefore, we are always looking for new and exciting topics for each new term. So I am putting in a request for help - if you have a particular interest or skill that you would be able/willing to share with the children to help us develop their writing, please contact me at school (**01865 340081**) as it would be most appreciated.

**Russell Leigh  
Headteacher**

Dorchester St Birinus CE Primary School

### Chiropodist

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

**19 November**

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



## Pre-School

Just when we thought it wasn't possible, the cute-factor at Pre-School just got higher! - the eggs we've been monitoring in the incubator hatched and we now have four new fluffy little friends! To balance things up though, the children have also been collecting bugs from the garden and on our various nature walks around the village, so we're just hoping those creepy crawlies don't turn up anywhere unexpected!

Given the 'mass exodus' at the end of the last school year, it is with great pleasure that I can say our morning sessions are now nearly all full. Our new children are well and truly settled in and all the toddlers are enjoying our new cooking club.

A final mention goes to our day in the Tea Rooms - we had a fantastically successful day! Partly thanks to the weather, but mostly to the generosity and support of some parents and families. We raised a great amount of money which will go towards new equipment....possibly bug deterrents!

## DoT Tots.

After some wonderful years, Dot Tots is currently 'on hold' until the next round of babies take over! What started as coffee and a natter, our local toddler group progressed to an exciting mix of fun and activities for our little ones. We've had regular craft sessions, dancing, singing and games and I personally feel it was a truly valuable and constructive couple of hours for my children, right on our doorstep, every week. Although it is sad to think it will not be running on Thursdays anymore, with so many of the children now at big school there just aren't the numbers to make it viable. That said, there are plenty of local 'teenies' that will soon be at the perfect age for it to re-launch!

Until then, if anybody is new to the village, has a new baby or just would like to chat with other mums while their children make new friends, a spin-off toddler group can meet on Tuesday mornings in the Abbey, where there will be coffee and biscuits and plenty of toys. It will run alongside the usual Abbey coffee morning so there will always be a friendly face there, and I bet a regular who'd be easily convinced to read a story or two!

The coffee morning runs from 10.30am - 12 noon, everybody welcome.

If you are apprehensive but keen to meet other mums, then call **Amanda** on **07796 94207**

## Fun at Berinsfield Library

Children had great fun at Berinsfield Library over the summer. 175 children joined our Record Breakers Summer Reading Challenge with 104 children reading six books and gaining their Certificate and Medal. We held two craft afternoons with 40 children arriving for our face painting afternoon and 12 attending our 'Dress your teddy as a Record Breaker' day.

We hold regular Craft afternoons in the school holidays and weekly Story and Rhyme Times on a Wednesday at 3.45pm. All children are welcome. Why not call in at the Library or ring **01865 340771** for more details

We have started a monthly Junior Reading Group on a Saturday for children aged 8-10, who can attend on their own for this event. Come and talk about your favourite books, play games, do quizzes and have lots of fun.

We look forward to seeing you in Berinsfield Library very soon. Come and join in the fun.



# Beauty Essentials

Indulge yourself  
in a full range of  
Beauty Treatments  
& Therapies

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

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

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

Mobile Beauty Treatments available on request.

[www.beautyessentialsoxon.co.uk](http://www.beautyessentialsoxon.co.uk) | 07583 371198

## Logs for Sale

Martin Drew

01865 343378 or 07774 170727



## BODY CONTROL PILATES®

BCP level 3 certified teacher specialising in back & joint  
care, sports rehab, pre & post natal and  
Parkinsons Disease

Beginners and Mixed Ability Classes in Benson  
and Dorchester On Thames

121 sessions available for personalised  
programmes

To book contact Claire on 07801 298 978

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

[claire@millstreampilates.co.uk](mailto:claire@millstreampilates.co.uk)

## WREXRACING

**4X4 SERVICE AND REPAIR SPECIALISTS**  
7 STATION YARD, STEVENTON. OX13 6RX

[www.wrexracing.co.uk](http://www.wrexracing.co.uk) 4x4@wrexracing.co.uk

- Manufacturers service schedules or custom to suit your vehicle needs
- Latest diagnostic equipment for all makes and models of vehicle
- Electrical fault finding and repairs
- Vehicle modification specialists
- 4x4 parts supplier
- MOT and tyres

What ever your Service, Repair or Modification needs Wrex Racing can carry  
it out for you. FREE collection and delivery in your area.

01235 835112

## LB PLUMBING

Toilets, taps, immersions, showers,  
leaks and more,  
**no job too small**

Fully insured, free estimates,  
no call out charge

**Call Lee 01491 834484/  
07981642688**



## Earth Trust

Forthcoming November events

### Potions and Pumpkins

**Sunday 1 November, 10am-2pm**

Drop in to the Earth Trust Centre to taste our scarily delicious pumpkin soup by the fire and make some Halloween potions. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

### Heritage Experiences

**Sunday 8 November, 11am-3pm**

For the last 18 months Earth Trust volunteers have been learning traditional skills such as green woodworking, blacksmithing, basket weaving and hedge laying - come along and see what they have been doing and have a go yourself! Free.

### Star Walk

**Friday 13 November, 6pm-8pm**

Join the Earth Trust for a starlit countryside walk with Dr Russell Layberry from Oxford University. Appropriate for older children and adults. £5 adult, £2 child; booking essential: 01865 407792 or [admin@earthtrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@earthtrust.org.uk)

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



## Gardeners Required

Do you have green fingers? Do you have a little time to spare?

If the answer to these questions is "Yes!" then the Earth Trust would love to hear from you!

Around the Earth Trust Centre in Little Wittenham there are some gardens in need of attention. The area includes fruit bushes, five beds of shrubs and ground cover plants, low box hedges, two herb beds, and three climbing plants. There are also some less formal areas used by school groups: an orchard, wild play area, wildlife pond and living willow structures, plus native hedgerows.

"Whilst it's great to leave some areas of your garden to grow wild, to benefit local wildlife, some plants require a bit more care, so we're looking for green fingered volunteers to help us maintain and develop these gardens and other areas. We'll provide support, tools, gloves and other safety equipment when necessary, as well as the all important tea, coffee and biscuits. Ideas for new plantings and other improvements would be welcomed so there is a real opportunity for someone to put their own stamp on it," said Jez Elkin, Volunteer Engagement Officer at the Earth Trust.

Much of the work is dependent on the time of year but the Trust could easily accommodate a couple of volunteer gardeners one or two days a week. If you are interested please contact Jez on **01865 409413** or [volunteering@earthtrust.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@earthtrust.org.uk). For more information about the Earth Trust see [www.earthtrust.org.uk](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk)

### Fishmonger

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

**10.20 - 10.30am in High Street near War Memorial**

## Hurst Water Meadow Trust News

### Review of the summer months

Many of you have said how much you like the log seats in the Hurst, especially the 'classroom' under the oak tree which has been appreciated by groups from the school and the pre-school.

The hay has been cut on all our meadows and the foot-paths have been regularly mown by volunteer Richard Tilley. (Thank you Richard, it makes such a difference for walkers).

Other volunteers have joined us in starting to cut down nettles and widen paths in Old Bridge Meadow.

In Overy Mead Piece topographical, river and wildlife surveys have been completed and the first reports produced. These indicate that the site has high conservation value with a number of uncommon species present.

### Work programme for the winter

Essential tree surgery, hedge laying and coppicing of undergrowth will take place in the coming months. Some of this work is done by professionals, but there is much that can be undertaken by volunteers. At the end of October our volunteer numbers were swelled by members of Sonning Common Green Gym who worked with us, to great effect, in **Old Bridge Meadow**. Here our aim is to open up the wetland areas and stretches of the river bank downstream from Dorchester Bridge.

On **Overy Mead Piece** we intend to plant a selection of fruiting native shrubs on the land enclosed by the last meander of the river Thame. We hope that these will attract feeding birds which can be viewed from 'Blue Bridge' at the confluence. Also we have been given native black poplars to plant (these trees are becoming rare) and we shall be installing an interpretation board giving information about the meadow and river.

In **The Hurst** we shall be advancing our rolling programme of hedge laying, coppicing and pollarding which is essential to achieve vegetation of mixed maturity, which encourages species diversity.

If all this incites your interest, and you feel like some winter exercise, please contact us about volunteering. It need not be too demanding or too often!

Also, please contact us if you have any suggestions and opinions about how we are managing your meadows.

**Gillian Johnson**  
Honorary Secretary  
01865 340925

**Andrew Clements**  
Honorary Treasurer  
01865 340753

Website: [www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk](http://www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk)

## Coming up... New Year's Eve Strauss Gala

### Dorchester Abbey 7pm

Wonderful waltzes and polkas mostly by Johann Strauss Junior. Plus well-known songs from Strauss and Lehar, including arias from glorious 'Die Fledermaus', with brilliant young soprano Sophie Pullen.

**Orchestra of St John's**

Tickets £15 and £20.

# JEMINI



LET US DELIVER YOUR MESSAGE BY  
HELIUM BALLOON  
LUXURY CHOCOLATE DELIVERY  
SOFT TOY DELIVERY  
CHAMPAGNE & WINE DELIVERY  
FLOWER DELIVERY



RING OUR CREDIT CARD HOTLINE  
**OXFORD 01865 242726**

39-40 THE COVERED MARKET OXFORD

## VICTORIA DYDE

### Curtains and Soft Furnishings

*Challis Farm  
High Street  
Long Wittenham  
Abingdon  
Oxon, OX14 4QH  
01865 407197*

*mcknight574@btinternet.com*

## FOR A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN

Choose from our wide range of quality garden services: design and construction, plants and maintenance. We tailor-make our service for you.

For a free, no-obligation visit and written estimate from RHS qualified staff, call 01844 279430, or email [info@brannfordsgardens.co.uk](mailto:info@brannfordsgardens.co.uk)  
Full details at [www.brannfordsgardens.co.uk](http://www.brannfordsgardens.co.uk)



## STEVE WILKINSON PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

**Painting, Plastering, Stonework,  
Fencing, Patios, Repointing,  
Carpentry, Garden Tidying, Etc.**

*Telephone: 01865 891554  
Mobile: 07885 538514*

## BRYANS LOCK SERVICES

Phone: 01865 340138. 01491 520820.  
01235 420742

Locks Supplied-Fitted-Serviced-Opened-Replaced for  
Timber- Aluminium- Steel, PVCu doors & windows.  
Keys cut to pattern.  
Keys to number for office furniture.  
Supply Safes, Document & Media Cabinets & Files  
Locks to Insurance Company Specifications.

Master Locksmiths Association Approved Company. Reg.  
No. 002623

## JENKS OXFORD

Arboricultural Contractors

Jenks Oxford are based here in Dorchester and so are even more convenient for all your tree needs.

Ask for a free site consultation and quotation on our full range of general and specialist services from our qualified professional staff.

Tree felling & removal - Pruning - Tree surveys - Diseased or unstable trees—Stump removal... and much more, just ask!

£10 million public liability Insurance County Council approved contractor. Arboricultural Association Approved Contractor. NPTC & Lantra Qualified. EXOR Accredited. CHAS Accredited.



**FREEPHONE  
0800 458 3328**

[info@jenksgroup.co.uk](mailto:info@jenksgroup.co.uk) [www.jenksgroup.co.uk](http://www.jenksgroup.co.uk)



**JENKS**  
OXFORD  
Queenford Farm, Dorchester



TEL: 01235 516614 / 07850 474803



## PIPELINE DIRECT

PLUMBING & HEATING SPECIALIST  
SHOWERS & BATHROOMS  
POWER FLUSHING

JERALD

EMAIL: [pipelinedirect@gmail.com](mailto:pipelinedirect@gmail.com)

## Are you sitting comfortably?

It was the day of the Village Spring Show when I agreed to meet Kathy Glass in the Cloister Garden to see whether I could help with some volunteer gardening.



The bench arriving...

As we looked around, I noticed a very decrepit bench sitting rather forlornly under the yew tree by the entrance to the garden. A plaque on it said 'In memory of Doris and Edward Caster, Claremont California, USA'. I said to nobody in particular that it would be nice to get a replacement and wondered if anyone knew who the Casters were and whether they still had any family in California. I thought that if Claremont had a local paper I would write to them asking if their readers knew anything about the Casters and their connection to Dorchester.

It took less than a minute to find the *Claremont Courier* via Google and I wrote to the Editor asking whether she would be willing to put something in the paper about the bench to see if any family survived or anybody knew them. There was no date on the plaque so it wasn't clear when the bench had been donated to the Abbey but I guessed it was sometime in the 1960s.

The Editor agreed to put something in a future edition. This was followed by a long silence and I thought that was the end of it. Then, out of the blue, I got an email from Diane Devilbess a graduate of Scripps College in Claremont (Class of 1957), explaining that Edward Caster was a Professor of Biology and Psychology at Scripps and that his wife Doris was Director of Scripps Chorus.

It was a tradition at Scripps that staff and students were given a "Surprise Day" when they had the day off to go on a trip. The Casters took some students with them but tragically their car was hit by a truck and both were killed although the students survived. Diane thought this was in 1958. The Casters had no children but colleagues and friends were devastated by their loss and donated the bench in their memory.

It is not clear what their connection with the Abbey or Dorchester was but perhaps Edith Stedman was involved.

In the meantime a lady called Barbara Bergmann got in touch with me as a result of the piece in the *Courier* to say that she had no connection with the Casters but had visited Dorchester in 2009. In retirement, she was writing a novel based in a Thames-side village. She had been researching possible locations and wanted to look at Dorchester to see if it really was as good as her online research indicated. She writes, 'I subsequently spent a lovely afternoon visiting the Abbey, dining at The George and exploring the little museum'. Some of the local landmarks have been used in a chapter of her novel. Since her visit she has recognised Dorchester in several episodes of *Midsomer Murders*!

'I thought of Dorchester as my own little discovery' she writes 'so when I came across a brief article in the *Claremont Courier* in which your plea for assistance about the Abbey bench was outlined, it felt like a circle was being completed'. She generously offered to pay for a replacement bench.

The transfer of funds to the Abbey's bank account was a rather protracted saga and I am grateful to Nick Forman, the Abbey Treasurer, for his patience during this period. She ended up sending a cheque through the post. I also have to thank Helen Anderson for putting me in touch with a wonderful company called the '4memorialbench company'. The bench was finally delivered on Tuesday 15 September. It has a very fitting dedication from Barbara carved on the back rail, so do go and have a look at it. Barbara is thrilled with it and is promising to pay us a visit next Spring.



...and in situ.

I have urged her to finish her novel so that perhaps we can sell it in the Museum! I get the impression that she is enjoying the research more than the writing. Perhaps another visit to Dorchester will spur her on.

If anyone has any information as to how the Casters came to be connected to the village, it would be good to hear about it.

**Megan Parry**

### 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](mailto: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.

### 21st Anniversary of OSJ Voices

**12 December 2015**

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Dorchester Abbey

£37.50 / £30 / £20

Christmas music

OSJ Voices

Conducted by Jeremy Jackman

# BROWNING OVENS



**Wood Burning Pizza Ovens  
Supply and Installation**  
For further details  
Call 07771 924568 or visit  
[www.browningovens.com](http://www.browningovens.com)

**Anderson | Orr**  
Architects

We are a design led practice, dedicated to creating bespoke traditional and contemporary solutions of the highest quality. We offer a complete design service from feasibility through to completion, drawing on a wealth of experience in residential design, conservation areas and listed buildings.

Our practice is committed to the philosophy of good design, careful detailing and close personal attention to the requirements of our clients. As architects and designers we deliver exciting, creative and timeless solutions which are appropriate to the individual characteristics of each project.

Contact us for a free and informal discussion about your project.

01865 873936  
[info@andersonorr.com](mailto:info@andersonorr.com)  
The Studio, 70 Church Road, Wheatley, OX33 1LZ

[www.andersonorr.com](http://www.andersonorr.com)



## CHIMNEY SWEEPING COMPANY LTD

- ★ NO FUSS ★
- ★ NO MESS ★
- ★ NO PROBLEM ★

Oxford	01865 772 996
Stadhampton	01865 400244
Deddington	01869 337500
Mobile	07711 443050

**Berinsfield**   
**Community Business**

**GARDEN, GROUNDS & PROPERTY  
MAINTENANCE FROM A LOCAL  
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**

*'Quality & Value By and For The  
Community'*



01865 343715  
[enqs@bcomb.co.uk](mailto:enqs@bcomb.co.uk)  
[www.bcomb.co.uk](http://www.bcomb.co.uk)



In the Greet Hall, Warborough, by Chartered Physiotherapist, fully certified with the Australian Physiotherapy and Pilates Institute.

### Physiotherapy and Sports Injuries Clinic

**Matwork Pilates** class: Tuesdays 9am  
(£10 PAYG, £48 for block of 6 weeks)

**Reformer Pilates** studio equipment (1:1 up to 4 people).

Class: Mondays 6.15pm (£15, booking essential)

**Ante/Post Natal Pilates** classes:

Mondays 5.15pm/Tuesdays 12.45pm (subject to demand)

Please contact **Anna Jenkins**, email: [anna@oxfordsportspphysio.co.uk](mailto:anna@oxfordsportspphysio.co.uk)  
phone: 01865 858955 or 07825 269287.  
Website [www.oxfordsportspphysio.co.uk](http://www.oxfordsportspphysio.co.uk)

## HOWARD CHADWICK FUNERAL SERVICE



A caring family owned  
Independent Funeral Directors  
Offering 24 hour prompt personal attention  
Private Dedicated Chapel of Rest



Pre-Paid Funeral Plans



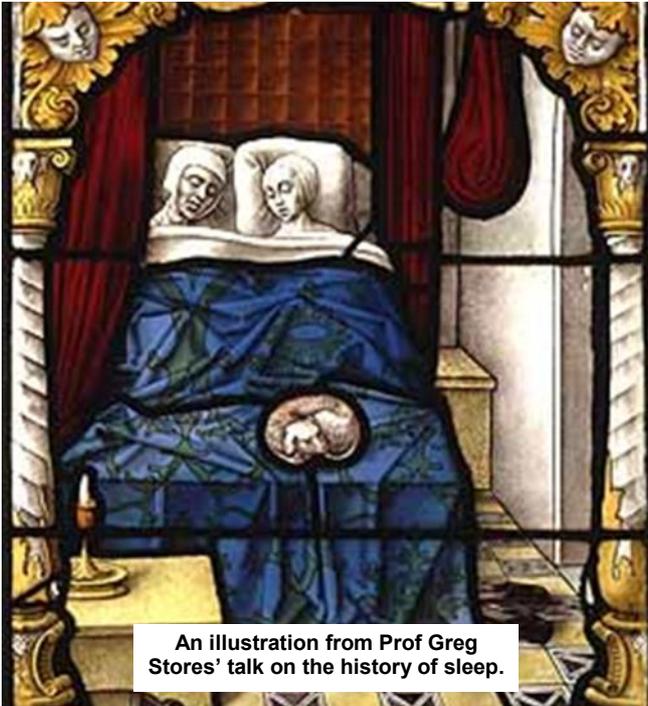
Quality Memorial Designs

Clockhouse Cottage Benson Lane Crowmarsh  
Wallingford Oxon OX10 8ED

**Tel: 01491 825222**

## Focus on ... Dorchester Historical Society

Eight times a year, usually on the last Wednesday of the month, around thirty to forty people gather in the Village Hall (back room). This is the monthly meeting of the Dorchester Historical Society, and they are there largely to learn from and be stimulated by the speaker of the month. The subjects of these talks are wide-ranging, from the history of Dorchester, its buildings and people, to topics of regional interest, such as migration from Oxfordshire, which featured recently, to subjects of general interest. In the last category there have been talks on the history of sleep and the art of railway posters.



An illustration from Prof Greg Stores' talk on the history of sleep.

Within Dorchester we are fortunate to have a number of excellent local speakers, such as Greg Stores and Malcolm Airs, who have both addressed the society. Other local speakers include Denise Line, who will be talking in January about Dorchester's history as illustrated by postcards and the people shown in them.

But like the subjects, the speakers are not confined to being local but are drawn from a range of sources and institutions.

One memorable speaker came dressed as an Anglo-Saxon and gradually discarded items as he described and explained them. Another memorable speaker was from the River Police, and described some of the more gruesome aspects of patrolling the Thames.

Currently there is a waiting list of speakers keen to come and talk to us, so we shall not run out anytime soon. This is all overseen by an enthusiastic committee which meets and plans the meetings and speakers for the coming year.

The talks are not the only role of the Historical Society. There is the annual outing, which this year was to historic house, Wrest Park, and the John Bunyan museum. But that is not all.

There have been two books published by the Society. *Mary's Book – Historical notes from Dorchester News 1989-2007* was published in 2008, and later updated to April 2009. This provides fascinating glimpses of Dorchester past through Mary Tame's regular pieces in *Dorchester News*. In 2010 the Society published *Lessons from history: 350 years of education in a small Oxfordshire village* again by Mary Tame. Both of these are still available from the Dorchester Abbey Museum.

The Society has accumulated a collection of documents about the village and its past, which, under the name of the Dorchester Historical Society Archive, now totals around 1,250. This archive includes books, pamphlets, research projects, oral histories and photographs and is now housed in the Dorchester Abbey Museum, with which the Society shares an obvious common interest. With this information and the parish records, the History Society can help trace your antecedents if they lived in the area.

The Society and the Museum have also worked together on displays such as 'Dorchester Women in World War I', which gave an insight into the life of the village 100 years ago, how war affected family life and the role that local women played in the war effort.

The archive is a living and growing thing, and anyone with letters, photographs or publications from Dorchester past may like to consider donating or loaning them. The material is currently in the process of being digitised so that documents will, hopefully, never be lost.

And don't forget, the 'past' is not necessarily that long ago. The way we live has changed so much in the last 50 years that documents from the 1960s and even 1970s would now be considered of historical interest. They may appear to be mundane and every day to those of us who were around then, but if they are not preserved now they will be lost to future generations. As Gail Thomas, Chairman of the Society since 2012, puts it, they are part of the 'Living History' of the village and tell Dorchester's on-going story.

So if we think of 50 years ago being 'history', that means



that the founding of the Historical Society is itself part of the history of Dorchester, having been founded in the 1960s. Unfortunately space precludes us going into this, but it is a topic to which we shall return in the near future with the help of Mary Tame and her recollections of how it was created and has evolved.

Meanwhile, if you have any interest in the history of Dorchester, the region or in history at all, come along to the Village Hall on the last Wednesday of the month.

In November there will be a talk on 'Feasts and Feasting' given by Jane McDonald, Head of Art at St Helen's School in Abingdon. We can expect her talk to be illustrated by food and meals as depicted in paintings and artworks over the years, and sounds mouth-wateringly good. You don't have to be a member to attend, although if you enjoy the meetings you will surely want to join. As John Lennon historically wrote, nearly 50 years ago, 'A splendid time is guaranteed for all'.



# The George Hotel

DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES

*A beautiful 15th century coaching inn set in an idyllic location*

We offer a variety of modern British dishes, exotic treats and a senior citizen menu  
Join us on Sundays for traditional roasts served with our signature Yorkshire puddings

Ala carte menu available 12-3pm and 6pm-9pm daily  
Senior citizen menu available daily from 12pm-3pm at £5.95 per head

*Enjoy four fine real ales in our olde worlde pub*



To reserve your table please call  
01865 340404  
[www.thegeorgedorchester.co.uk](http://www.thegeorgedorchester.co.uk)

# GYFT

where craft meets design...

Now open, craft workshops in the village, offering you the opportunity to design and make a wide range of items.

Come and make your own Christmas decorations and presents!

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



## Thank you from Lesotho

After the sudden death of my husband in February this year, my life became unbalanced. I did not know whether I would cope to run a family and carry on building 'Leselinyana' without him.

Each time I realized he was not there, tears would fall from my eyes like a heavy rain. I shared this problem with my children who would stare silently at me with eyes full of tears too. It was a difficult time for all of us. I shared this with family members and friends and they all tried their level best to console me but very little difference would show.

Once I had a long talk through the telephone with Kieke van der Zwaal, one of my best friends and colleague. We share a lot and she came with the suggestion that I could come to Europe, perhaps for two reasons: to be away from a world of grief for at least one month and to thank all those who supported our project "Leselinyana" through the years so generously and to update them about the progress we have made so far.

I was a bit sceptical because my friends Kieke and Klaas were getting ready to move from Dorchester back to Holland so that would cause inconvenience in their preparations. But because my children supported the idea I decided to do it.

I started to get visas for two countries, Holland and the UK. Coming to the UK these days is very difficult, especially for the citizens of Lesotho, which was not the case in the past because we did not need a visa to come to the UK. We now have to travel to Pretoria to apply for it, which is very expensive, both the travelling and the visa. Nevertheless it all came up positively.

In Europe: I arrived in Holland on 29 June, and I came to the UK on 6 July.

In Holland we worked hard to make space for the movers from the UK. I think that may not have been easy for them with a grieving African visitor. Therefore I was very happy to learn from Kieke's sister in law, Marjolein, that Thato, with the help of Teresa Manganon, was organizing a Surprise Party for their 70th birthdays as well as their Leaving Party. That sounded wonderful and I kept the secret from them.

They were offered a holiday trip to Ireland the week before by their eldest son and partner and I encouraged

## CHARITY COFFEE MORNING

Monday 16 November  
9.15am -12pm

Come and support CHECT (Childhood Eye Cancer Trust) at our Christmas coffee and shopping morning

Coffee and home-baking from Thermomix  
Christmas cards, wrapping and gifts from Phoenix Trading  
Organic skincare from Neal's Yard  
Christmas crafting from Gyft, a brand new craft workshop company based here in Dorchester

14 Watling Lane, Dorchester  
Please park on High Street and it is a short walk from the war memorial



## Host an international student

Room at the inn? Small charity HOST is seeking friendly people who would like to learn more about other countries and cultures and share their home life with adult international students at UK universities. Young adults from many countries would love to have a short homely break and discover the real life of this country.

Host Kit Millington-Hore wrote "Meeting students from around the world is hugely fulfilling and satisfying. Watching their pleasure as you introduce them to our ways of living,

particularly over Christmas, is extremely rewarding."

Visits can be for a day, weekend, or four days at Christmas. Offering a Christmas invitation to someone who would otherwise be alone on a University campus can make a big difference. Invitations are urgently needed from volunteer hosts, no matter their age, or how far they live from a university. To find out more, or to be put in touch with your local organiser, please visit [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org) or call **020 7739 6292**.

them to take the offer, for they needed a rest and I knew they had to be away so their daughter (adopted from Lesotho) Thato could prepare everything to make the party succeed. Her aunt, Marjolein, who came to the UK with us, did a wonderful job during their absence and I helped as much as I could.

From this party I learned how beautifully Kieke and Klaas lived with friends, neighbours and colleagues. It was wonderful.

Life in Dorchester on Thames: it was so thrilling to meet people I knew before; it was like I was back home. I visited Mary Tame in the home and had meals with families and friends. What motivated me most was meeting people and being able to talk with them.

### Tea Room Ladies:

During the last week of my stay in this historic place, (because of the Abbey Church), I had a chance of visiting the tearoom for four successful opening days. The ladies were so good to me, I loved their

work. I am inspired, motivated and touched by their dedication, to spare their time and resources for the sake of people they do not know. This is incredible.

I would like to thank all the ladies in their different groups especially the group leaders for allowing me to do the job with them and to be able to talk with different visitors about our project. I love you all ladies.

I thank Revd. Canon Sue Booy's who in her weak health troubled herself to come to Kieke's place and had a meal with us. I could not have enough time to talk our theological language unfortunately.

Sue, the family, and the members of the Abbey Parish, thank you for your hospitality I will always be with you in my prayers. I thank the family van der Zwaal for making it possible to come to the UK, meet and have contact with you.

May God Almighty be with you all.

**Rev Merriam M. Fotho**

# THE Revival COMPANY

## SPECIALISTS IN CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

Professional & Experienced Technicians - Providing The Very Best Service

- Commercial & Domestic Carpet Cleaning
- Carpet Stain Removal Specialists
- Upholstery, Curtain & Rug Cleaning
- Carpet & Upholstery Fabric Protection
- Furniture Repair & Restoration
- 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
- Competitive Prices
- 30 Years Experience
- Industry Leading Equipment & Techniques
- Rapid Drying System



Call for a Free Estimate 01865 892 350

The Revival Company | 46/47 Monument Park | Chalgrove | Oxford | OX44 7RW

Oxford@revivalco.co.uk



# Ringrose

Tree Services

**Tree care...we care**

Insured Qualified Experienced  
Telephone: 01865 735235  
simon@ringrosetrees.co.uk

“Your work has exceeded all our expectations and our beautiful old oak will now live on!”

Blagrove Lodge, Fox Lane  
Wootton, Nr Abingdon  
Oxfordshire OX13 6DE



# Larkmead

VETS



*Outstanding Care for Pets, Farm Animals & Horses throughout South Oxfordshire*

- Open 7 days a week
- Ample parking and spacious reception rooms
- Extensive modern hospitalisation facilities, including orthopaedic surgery
- Sunday surgeries at Larkmead Didcot
- Regular Cat only Clinics at our Sutton Courtenay and Benson practices
- Personal emergency cover by Larkmead Vets, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year

xlvets

CHOLSEY & BENSON 01491 651379  
DIDCOT & SUTTON COURTENAY 01235 814991  
HORSES & FARM ANIMALS 01491 651479

www.larkmead.co.uk



## Langtree Sinfonia Autumn Concert 2015

The Autumn concert of the Langtree Sinfonia will be held in St Mary's Church, Wallingford on **Saturday, November 7**, at 7.30pm.

The evening starts with the sparkling overture 'Tancredi' by Rossini, always a bright start to any concert. Set in Sicily in AD 1000, it tells of family betrayals, battles and, in the natural way of all such things, eventual triumph. Rossini's work sets the tone for the evening which continues with the Piano Concerto No 2 by Camille Saint-Saens.

Written in 1868, it was described as 'starting with Bach and ending with Offenbach' and was first performed by Saint-Saens himself, with the great Russian pianist Anton Rubenstein conducting. Some act to follow ...!

English pianist Simon Watterton has given recitals as soloist and chamber musician all across the world. In recent years he has performed in China, Canada, the USA, Sweden and Italy as well as extensively in the UK and Ireland.

Simon studied at the Purcell School of Music with Patsy Toh and the Royal College of Music with Yonty Solomon, where he won a range of prizes and awards.

Rounding off the evening will be Beethoven's Second Symphony. Written in 1802-3 at the same time that Beethoven realized that his deafness might be permanent, it nevertheless brims with confidence and shows him pushing the boundaries of what was possible in music.

The orchestra began as a music class in adult education in 1971 and went on to establish itself as an independent orchestra to further its development. When the orchestra celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary it combined with local choirs to perform Beethoven's Choral Fantasy, a work which combined vocal and instrumental soloists with the orchestra. Other works played have included Brahms's Academic Festival overture and Dvorak's 6<sup>th</sup> Symphony.

Paul Cox conducts.

Tickets available at the door or from **0118 9415498**

Adults	£10.00
Students	£5.00
Under 16s	free

---

## The Band of Music

Next concert in our series at St Mary-le-More, Wallingford **Saturday 14 November** at 1pm

The second of our three-part series in conjunction with St Mary-le-more will be on **14 November** at 1pm. It will be an hour's concert of classical quartets for oboe and strings, with music by Mozart, Haydn, JC Bach and Vanhal. Please come along with family and friends and combine it with lunch at one of Wallingford's many good eateries!

We are all professional players on eighteenth-century instruments, and most of us live in Cholsey; the aims of the concert series are to raise some money for St Mary's church tower, and to bring more high-quality live music to the town.

Tickets cost £10 (free for children), and are available from the Town Information Centre in Wallingford, or by emailing [thebandofmusic415@gmail.com](mailto:thebandofmusic415@gmail.com). For more information please visit [www.thebandofmusic.co.uk](http://www.thebandofmusic.co.uk).

## Go Active comes to South Oxfordshire

An exciting new scheme to help older people in rural areas become more active is to launch across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have been awarded £227,000 by Sport England for Go Active Gold, a three year project offering a range of sports and classes in rural areas for people aged 60 plus.

Go Active Gold will target different villages each year to encourage people to do 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity each week. Sessions start in January and will be delivered by Go Active Gold 'activators' and local sports and activity coaches.

Members of the local community will also be encouraged to volunteer to help spread the message about what's on offer and set up and deliver some sessions.

Activities will begin in January and will include dance, tai chi, table tennis, golf, bowls, pilates, yoga, Nordic walking and fitness

Dorchester is not included in the first wave of villages but more locations will be announced shortly, so keep watching out for them.

Further details from [www.southoxon.gov.uk/news](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/news)

THE SOBELL  
*Christmas*  
**GIFT FAIR**  
AT RADLEY COLLEGE

**Sat 21st November**  
10am - 5pm

**Sun 22nd November**  
10am - 4.30pm

- OVER 60 STALLS
- REFRESHMENTS
- UNIQUE GIFT IDEAS

Entry £6.00 Concessions £3.50

[www.sobellhospicecharity.org.uk](http://www.sobellhospicecharity.org.uk)  
Radley College, Abingdon  
Oxfordshire OX14 2HR

SOBELL  
HOUSE  
Charity Number 1118846



# The White Hart

DORCHESTER ON THAMES

01865 340074

The White Hart welcomes over 7000 hotel guests each year. See what they say on [www.tripadvisor.co.uk](http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk)

Our guests enjoy exploring the village and surrounding countryside of Dorchester on Thames. They really appreciate the welcome they receive from the people of Dorchester.

Thank you to all our customers for making our guests so welcome and a big thanks also for your custom in the real-ale bar and restaurant.

Don't forget to join our Restaurant Club on [www.oxfordshire-hotels-restaurantclub.co.uk](http://www.oxfordshire-hotels-restaurantclub.co.uk) for latest news and great savings on meals.

Sean Harris  
Manager – The White Hart



## DORCHESTER PROPERTY EXPERTS!

**Did you know that In House Sales & Lettings is owned and run by a Dorchester resident ?**

We thrive on local connections and are happy to offer preferred rates to fellow villagers. We have sold or let nearly all of our Dorchester properties, very quickly and often for the full asking price. This leaves us with a growing data base of buyers itching to live here.

So, even if you just want an up to date valuation on yours, pick up the phone and invite us round.



THE TEAM

We only charge a cup of coffee!

# 01491 839999

Keep it In House.



THE OFFICE

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

## Citizens Advice puts pension options in your hands

**Q.** I've heard that the new pension reforms say I will have full access to my pension pot when I turn 55. How do I work out what I should do with my pension savings?

**A.** The pension reforms that came in this April give people the freedom to access their defined contribution pension and do whatever they want with it. You can buy an annuity, or take your pension out in one go, or withdraw it bit by bit and leave some of it invested. Planning for your retirement can be complicated so it's important to get guidance on your options.



The good news is that the Government has introduced Pension Wise, a new free service offering guidance online, over the phone with The Pensions Advisory Service, or face to face with Citizens Advice.

Appointments are pre-booked 45-minute sessions tailored to your individual circumstances. Guidance is impartial, meaning that it will not recommend products or services, but the person you talk to will describe your options and help you consider their impact.

To get the most out of Pension Wise guidance, preparation is important. First, work out the value of your pension pots. Look at your most recent statement or contact your provider. Check and see if there are any restrictions attached. Next, get a state pension forecast, and gather the details of any benefits you receive.

The next step is to work out your likely expenditure. Include the cost of essentials like housing or utilities, and leisure activities. This should give you a rough budget.

Bring this information to your Pension Wise appointment. Citizens Advice staff will help you think through your circumstances and present the options available to you.

For further help: visit [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk), phone **03444 111444** or 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.caox.org.uk](http://www.caox.org.uk)

## Didcot Christmas Bake Off and Gift Fair 14/15 November Civic Hall Didcot

Didcot Christmas Bake Off and Gift Fair has seven categories for people to enter their bakes with great prizes for each category. The winners then will bake overnight and one will win the star prize of a day at Miele Cookery School in Abingdon.

Organised by Christine Wallace a Great British Bake off contestant three years ago, and visitor to Dorchester for the Dorchester Festival this year..

At the same time The Civic Hall will host 60 handmade food, drink, gift and craftspeople with presents for Christmas and other occasions, Catering is done by Didcot Scouts and the events profits go to Didcot's Annual Christmas Street Fair.

## Computer Confidence – Demystifying IT Drop-in sessions for older residents

If you....

- Are nervous about computer use and/or baffled by Information Technology (IT)
- Can't decide whether to take the plunge
- Have the kit (tablet, laptop, Mac, I-pad) but aren't confident about using it
- Are already a user, but want to share problems and find answers
- Need more skills

Come and join our friendly group of users and mentors

**When:** Thursday 26 November, 2.30-3.45

**Where:** Dorchester Village Hall, back room (wi-fi internet access). Tea/coffee provided

**Equipment:** some available, but please bring your own portable devices if you can, as you will feel more at home with them.

**Contact:** Margot Metcalfe, 340054, or email: [metcalfe.margot@btinternet.com](mailto:metcalfe.margot@btinternet.com)

## Social Media Workshops for Women

'Better Broadband for Oxfordshire' is offering workshops in using social media specifically aimed at women, from November 2015 to February 2016. These will be held at a variety of locations around the county including Benson, Abingdon and Didcot.

They are offering three separate types of 'free of charge' workshops:

[Workshops for businesses](#) – which focus on how social media can be effectively used by small businesses.

[Workshops for beginners in social media](#), who want to find out how the basic tools work and how to use them best.

These workshops are likely to be particularly useful for those looking to return to work after a break, or build a new flexible career or extend their skills for their own satisfaction.

[Intermediate and Master Class Workshops:](#) Workshops for improvers about individual social media platforms and how to use them. For these workshops you will either have to have some existing detailed experience in the relevant area, or attend one of the beginners workshops listed earlier.

For more details go to:

[www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk/social-media-workshops](http://www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk/social-media-workshops)

The workshops are run by Oxfordshire County Council with funding from the Government Equalities Office.

## Didcot Christmas Street Fair 26 November From 4pm

Didcot's Annual Christmas Street Fair takes place in the Broadway and Orchard Centre. There will be local stalls, crafts, food, entertainment, funfair and a grand parade at 7pm.

Father Christmas will be available to meet in the Methodist Hall.

# ALTOM TREE CARE LTD



Tree Felling  
Height Reductions  
Stump Grinding  
Landscaping • Fencing  
Grass/Hedge Cutting  
Patios • Turfing  
Maintenance Contracts  
**SEASONED LOGS  
FOR SALE**

For a reliable, professional service

Mob: 07958 759747

**01844 339 833**

FULLY INSURED & FREE QUOTATIONS

Email: altomtree@gmail.com

www.altomtrecare.co.uk

## T.W Hayden Heating Services

Tel: 01865340720

Mobile: 07813904055

E-mail: Twhayden@tiscali.co.uk

All plumbing and heating works undertaken.  
Free estimates.

15 Fane Drive, Berinsfield,  
Wallingford, Oxford, OX10 7NB



## Kes Furniture Specialists

Clearance • Dealers • Restorers

Mobile 07879 522511

Workshop 01865 340173

12 Oxford Road, Dorchester-on-thames,  
Oxfordshire OX10 7LX

## Bell Motors

Behind H Cafe at the Berinsfield roundabout

MOT's while you wait

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

On site MOT bay and Workshops.

All makes and models catered for

**Need a service give us a call.**

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

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

We supply and fit exhausts, brakes, batteries

We will carry out any MOT work required. (tyres and  
air con please call for quote)

**Free collection of your vehicle,  
or we will take you home and collect you upon  
completion.**

We will come out for breakdowns/recovery as needed.

Welding, you break it we will try and repair it, and  
not just your car!!

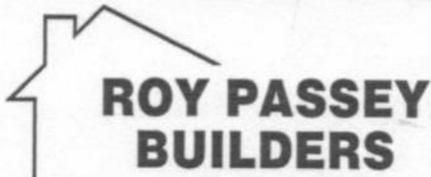
Garden machinery not starting we may be able to  
help?

All credit and debit cards welcome.

MOT`s 01865 341039

WORKSHOP 01865 341155

MOBILE 07931970392



## ROY PASSEY BUILDERS

Interior and Exterior Builders and Decorators

Ashcroft, High Street, Benson, Wallingford, Oxon. OX10 6RP

Tel: 01491 838797 • Mob: 07860 890925

Email: roypassey@btconnect.com

www.roypasseybuilders.co.uk

## Winterbrook Nursing Home

*Where Care comes first*

- Idyllic setting with picturesque gardens
- 24 hour professional nursing care
- Long & short term care • Convalescent care

Wallingford (01491) 833922

18 Winterbrook, Reading Road, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 9EF



*Truly a Home from Home*



## Fair Mile Hospital Cholsey

This month's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be by Ian Wheeler. He will present 'Fair Mile Hospital, Cholsey'.

In its 133-year life, Fair Mile Hospital had a significant influence on its surrounding area - notably the village of Cholsey and its inhabitants. Ian Wheeler represents the fourth generation of his family to work there. This talk explains the old asylum's origins and objectives and examines its buildings and daily operation as seen by family members, spanning a period of more than a century.

This talk will be held on **Friday 13 Nov**, 8 pm at Wallingford Town Hall.

Visitors (£3) are most welcome.

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



## Your very last chance to see.....

There is a last chance to see this year's special exhibition 'Wallingford's Royal Castle Revealed' at Wallingford Museum, as the Museum closes for the winter on the **28 November**, to prepare for new major presentations in 2016.

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

There is also the 'Midsomer Murders' display and the growing 'At home with the Queen of Crime: Agatha Christie' where information has been presented that has been learned from several people in the town who came into contact with the famous crime writer.

The Museum is open until 28 November on Tuesdays - Fridays 2.00pm-5.00pm, and Saturdays 10.30am- 5.00pm.

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

## Wallingford and District Art Club

Wallingford and District Art Club meets on Tuesdays, 7.30-9.30 pm at Centre 70, Goldsmiths Lane. On Tuesday **17 November**, artist John Heywood will demonstrate painting a landscape in acrylics and you are most welcome to join us for what is always an entertaining and interesting evening (visitors £5, members free). And why not come along to a FREE taster session at one of the untutored painting evenings 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](mailto:toole.stephanie@yahoo.co.uk)



## Wallingford Gardening Club Grow Organic

At the November meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, Christie Leary will make a presentation on "Grow Organic".

Christie lives locally in Goring, and was a founder member of the Village Greenfingers gardening club. She is a keen amateur photographer and a member of the Garden Organic (Henry Doubleday Research Association), The Hebe Society and the Reading & District Fuschia Society.

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

Visitors very welcome £2.

**Isabelle Darby**  
01491 836867

## Wallingford Flower Club Open Evening

A Floral Demonstration  
'What Christmas does to Me'  
by Bob Harris (National Demonstrator)

at  
Corn Exchange Theatre,  
Market Place,  
Wallingford  
OX10 0EG

**Wednesday 11 November 2015**

Doors open 7pm for 7.45pm

Bar and Coffee available

All Welcome

Tickets available £10 each

For more information phone **01491 834303**

**Fay Crabbe**

## Wallingford U3A

We are now taking bookings for our four day holiday in July, based in Harrogate. These holidays are very popular, so people need get their names down quickly.

**Nov 10:** Visit to RAF Museum Hendon. Phone Eileen **01491 825156**

Speakers:

**Nov. 4:** Tony King 'The Bright Lights of London'

**Dec 2:** Christmas Party: A Festive Celebration in Music and Song with 'Pandemonium'

2016

**Jan 6:** Not Joanna Lumley. The Trans-Siberian Express. Moscow to Vladivostok. Catherine and Deirdre

Our meetings are held in Crowmarsh Village Hall at 2.00 pm on the first Wednesday of the month. Visitors are always made welcome. For more info visit our website: [www.u3asites.org.uk/wallingford](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/wallingford), or phone Jill on **01491 835994**

## St Mary's Dental Practice

Chris Ballard, BDS (Lond). LDS.RCS (Eng)  
www.stmarysdental.co.uk

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

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

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

## AKT | Planning+Architecture

Chartered Town Planners and Architects

AKT is a small established local practice based in Dorchester with a wealth of experience in all aspects of planning and architecture. We pride ourselves in providing a personal and bespoke service and have experience with listed buildings and conservation areas.

Contact Sarah or Paul King for an informal chat to discuss your ideas or projects.  
Tel. 01865 340989



www.archkingtech.co.uk



A member of the Royal Town Planning Institute and Royal Institute of British Architects

## The Village Mechanic

- ✂ All makes and models seen
- ✂ Full servicing & repairs
- ✂ Prices estimated in advance
- ✂ Full bodywork & machine shop
- ✂ Recovery Service

*"An honest service with honest prices. No more dread about taking my car to the garage. They can even arrange my MOT!"*  
(A member of Dorchester Parish)



Call Anne or James now on  
**(01865) 341503**

J H. Pratt Automobile Engineer  
Willowfields  
No.1 Drayton Road,  
Dorchester-on-Thames Oxon OX10 7PJ

## PRINT-MART

Suppliers of business & personal stationery, overprinted envelopes, leaflets, manuals, NCR sets, price lists, menus, etc.

Full colour printing at competitive rates

TEL 01235 223185  
MOBILE 078 999 66 000

PRINT-MART are pleased to print the  
**Dorchester News**

ARBOCARE LTD  
TREE AND  
GARDEN  
SPECIALISTS



NATIONAL TRUST  
APPROVED ARBORIST

- Established 20 years
- Tree surgery & landscaping
- Tree survey / reports
- Grass & hedge cutting
- Fencing

Cert Arb RFS (Distinction)

Freephone 0808 155 5815  
Mobile 07778 811 136  
www.arbocare.co.uk



## DORCHESTER FIREPLACES INTERIORS

Visit our unique showroom, opposite the beautiful Dorchester Abbey in one of Oxfordshire's most picturesque villages, Dorchester on Thames.

- We offer a complete in house service from design to installation
- Our team of professional fitters are all fully qualified and HETAS registered
- Complimentary home or site visit
- Showroom open 10am to 4pm Tuesday – Saturday

Tel: 01865 341452 or E-mail  
enquiries@dorchesterfireplaces.co.uk

CLEARVIEW  
STOVES



WOODBURING STOVES FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY



## What's On November

**Cinema:** Performances start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. NB All cinema shows are now advertisement-free!

- Sun 1 **Spectre** (12A tbc)
- Mon 2 **Spectre** (12A tbc)
- Tues 3 **Spectre** (12A tbc)
- Wed 4 **Spectre** (12A tbc)
- Thurs 5 **Spectre** (12A tbc)
- Fri 6 **Spectre** (12A tbc) at 4pm
- Sat 7 NT Live: **Hamlet** at 7pm
- Sun 8 **Spectre** (12A tbc)
- Mon 9 **Spectre** (12A tbc)
- Tues 10 **Spectre** (12A tbc)
- Wed 11 **Spectre** (12A tbc) at 10.30am
- Thurs 12 **Spectre** (12A tbc)
- Sun 15 **Suffragette** (12A)
- Mon 16 **Suffragette** (12A)
- Tues 17 **Suffragette** (12A)
- Wed 18 **Suffragette** (12A)
- Thurs 19 NT Live: **Of Mice and Men** (12A) at 7pm
- Fri 20 **Everest** (12A)
- Sun 22 **Irrational Man** (12A)
- Mon 23 **Irrational Man** (12A)
- Fri 27 **Pan** (12A)
- Sat 28 **Pan** (12A) at 10.30am
- Sun 29 **Pan** (12A)

Tues 8 Dec NT Live: **Jane Eyre** at 7pm

### LIVE

Saturday **November 7** at 7.45pm 10th anniversary concert of the ever popular **Acoustic Ballroom**. Featuring Jackie Oates, Megan Henwood and many more.

Saturday **November 28** at 7.45pm. **Martin Daniels' Comedy Show**. Following in the footsteps of his successful magician dad Paul, Martin will present a show billed as a 'shining example of clean, clever comedy with a touch of magic'.

### COMING UP

**Rapunzel**, Sinodun Players' panto, **15 to 30 January 2016**. Filled to the brim with colourful characters: a wicked witch and a good witch, two silly garden gnomes, a bad cat, a dancing robin, more gnomes, ghosts, courtiers and fairies, a dashing prince, his mum and dad and, of course, the lovely Rapunzel and her mum and dad. Not to mention Matilda, the theatre cleaner, who ends up in a starring role! Tickets go on sale November 20. Adults £10/£12, children £6.

Tickets and further information available online [www.cornexchange.org.uk](http://www.cornexchange.org.uk) or from box office (01491 825000).



## Refuse Collections

**Fridays from 7.00 am.**

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

**Fortnightly:** garden waste, recycling; non-recyclable waste

Fri 6 Nov	<b>Black</b>
Fri 13 Nov	Green
Fri 20 Nov	<b>Black</b>
Fri 27 Nov	Green

**Green = recycling (loose in large green bin) and garden waste (brown bin, +£35 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	
114	Abingdon	07.30	08.09	School days
97	Wallingford	09.07	09.19	
97	Didcot	09.36	10.16	
97	Wallingford	10.57	11.09	
97	Didcot	11.26	12.06	
97	Wallingford	12.47	12.59	
97	Didcot	13.26	14.06	
97	Shillingford	14.47	14.51	NS
97	Wallingford	14.47	14.59	SO
114	Abingdon	14.56	15.16	
114	Wallingford	16.08	16.26	NS

### To Dorchester (War Memorial)

No.	From	Dep	Arrive	
114	Wallingford	07.15	07.30	School days
114	Abingdon	08.34	09.07	
97	Wallingford	09.25	09.36	
97	Didcot	10.20	10.57	
97	Wallingford	11.15	11.26	
97	Didcot	12.10	12.47	
97	Wallingford	13.15	13.26	
97	Didcot	14.10	14.47	
114	Shillingford	14.52	14.56	NS
114	Abingdon	15.38	16.08	NS

NS= Not Saturday. SO=Saturday only.

No services on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

**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](http://www.thames-travel.co.uk) or **01491 837988**.

Times checked with Thames Travel website 12 October..

**ANGLICAN PRIEST** Dorchester Rectory  
**Revd. Canon Sue Booy** 01865 340007

**EDUCATION OFFICER**  
**Margaret Craig** 01865 343164  
education@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

**ABBEY E-MAIL:** admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

Contact details for Church Wardens and other Abbey information are on the notice board in the Abbey.

**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

## Abbey Calendar November Sundays

**Nov 1 All Saints' Day**  
8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)  
(Revd. Anne Ilsley)  
10.30am Memorial Service

**Nov 8 Remembrance**  
8.00am Holy Communion (1662)  
(Revd. Michael Lakey)  
10.30am Remembrance Service

**Nov 15 2nd before Advent**  
8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)  
(Canon Sue Booy)  
10.30am Christingle  
6.00pm Evensong

**Nov 22 Christ the King**  
8.00am Holy Communion (1662)  
(Revd. Michael Lakey)  
10.30am Sung Eucharist  
12 noon Baptism  
7.00pm Taize@7

**Nov 29 Advent**  
8.00am Holy Communion (1662)  
(Canon Sue Booy)  
10.30am Team Family Service  
6.00pm Team Service

## Regular events

### Weekly:

Monday 10.00 am – 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm  
Abbey Guest House: **Watercolour Painting** [Full details from rebeccaahind.com]  
Tuesday 7.30 pm Abbey: **Belling Practice**  
**10.20-10.30am** by War Memorial  
**Fishmonger** (p.13)  
Thursday 9.30 am – 11.00am Village Hall: **Baby & Toddler Group** (term time only)  
Friday 7.00 pm Abbey: **Choir Practice**  
Alt Thurs 2.55 to 3.15pm War Memorial: **Mobile Library** (p.7)

### Monthly:

2nd Thursday 7.30 pm Village Hall: **WI**  
2nd Wednesday 7.30 pm Village Hall: **Parish Council** (green p.1)  
3rd Wednesday **Culham Horticultural** (Abbey Guest House) (p.7)  
3rd Thursday **Classic Car Show** George Hotel  
3rd Thursday Belcher Court: **Chiropodist** (p.11)  
4th Thursday 2.30 pm: Service at the **Cheshire Home**

See Village Notice Boards for details.  
Please send all entries and updates for the Dorchester Diary to Geoff Russell by email to:  
[parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk).

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

## Deadline for December/January Dorchester News

All items must be sent by  
**Friday 13 November**  
to

[dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk) by the 9th of the preceding month

## Weekdays

**Every Tuesday**  
10.30am – 12 noon Coffee in the Abbey

**Every Wednesday**  
9.30am Holy Communion at Berinsfield Church

Tue 3 6.45pm Visiting Choir singing Evensong

Tue 10 10.15am Short Communion

Thurs 12 7.45pm PCC Meeting

Sat 21 2.00pm Wedding of Paul Norris and Abbie Anns

Thurs 26 2.30pm Service at the Cheshire Home

Sat 28 7.30pm Benson Choral Society concert

## Parish Registers

### Holy Baptism

20 September Chiana Cordelia Hope Cleak  
Elena Maria Hancock

### Holy Matrimony

26 September Ashley James Tomlins and  
Amelie Elizabeth Quirke

3 October Andrejs Olehnovics and  
Charlotte Lindsey

Funeral at crematorium

28 September Nicholas Treadaway

# Parish Council Notices

## Monthly Meeting - November

The November meeting will take place in the back room of the Village Hall on Wednesday **11 November** commencing at 7.30 pm. All are welcome to attend for any part of the meeting.

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

## County Council Budget Cuts

On 21 September Cllrs Chris Hill and Val Howells, representing Dorchester Parish Council, attended a meeting at the Kassam Stadium entitled "Oxfordshire together". This report has been written by Val Howells.

A recent meeting chaired by Ian Hudspeth (leader of Oxfordshire County Council) saw members of the local communities brought together (at parish, town and district level) to discuss the financial challenge facing Oxfordshire County Council as a result of large cuts in their budget.

The council wants a thriving county but to do this they need to prioritise, to devolve work and help communities to help themselves. Ian Hudspeth spoke of ways in which communities are already helping themselves with community shops, libraries, grass cutting etc. He stated that this would give parishes and towns more local decision making, more responsibility and pride in their area. This is to be an entirely voluntary process and parishes are not compelled to take on more services. However if they are not taken on it seems likely we will see a drop in standard of how our towns and villages are maintained.

Owen Jenkins (service manager of highways, transport and waste) took over with discussions of how to engage the councils and to assess their interest in what the highways were offering. The jobs to devolve included grass cutting, sign cleaning, weed control, public rights of way and other smaller areas. The council will offer help, advice, some training, suggestion of where and how to obtain funding etc.

It was clear from the questions and answers that most Councillors present accepted the need to make savings. However despite many questions the speakers had no hard facts on the savings they would make by transfer of work. There were many searching questions but clearly the most important were:

- a) how much would taking over these jobs save the council?
- b) a question of liability and insurance and land ownership - the council will retain ownership of any land and remains the statutory authority with parishes acting as agents to fulfil the services and
- c) smaller parishes were simply worried that they would not have the money to meet the costs.

The county councillors reiterated there would be training, help with taking on the services, there could be some funding and some smaller communities could join together.

The county councillors in my view seemed to be putting out feelers but were ill prepared to take questions

## News from RAF Benson

On behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr Keith Russell was present at a meeting in Benson Parish Hall on Friday 2 October. This is his report.

I attended the Station Commander's briefing regarding the impact that having Chinook Helicopters based in Benson might have on local communities.

As expected, it was very reasonable. In fact, it suggested that apart from a different sound coming from these two-bladed helicopters we wouldn't notice any great changes. There will only be six of them based at Benson, but for operational reasons, only two of them would be flying at any one time. They require intensive maintenance and this is all to do with keeping them at peak (and safety) levels of performance.

Yes, there will be night training flights and these are unwelcomed, but during the summer months the window for operations is cut to just the hours of darkness, so they will continue. Very gently, the Group Captain pointed out that this isn't a commercial airfield it's a front-line RAF base for training young aircrew ready for combat activities. Every effort will be made to be 'good neighbours' but their work must go on.

Overall, I heard nothing I hadn't expected to hear, but I was reassured that our interests are known and efforts will be made to 'keep us happy', but this isn't a local matter. The base is an essential part of the UK's defence network and this is, whether we like it or not, a fact of life.

The very sensible RAF presentation was followed by a Q&A session.

## PAGE

### (Parishes against Gravel Extraction)

The following letter was sent by Cllr Chris Hill, Chairman of the Parish Council, on 28 September to the Department for Environment and Economy Planning Regulation (Mineral and Waste).

Dear Sirs,  
The Dorchester on Thames Parish Council is an active member of PAGE and I am writing as Chairman of the Parish Council regarding the Oxfordshire County Council Minerals and Waste Core Strategy consultation.

We have read the key elements of the report prepared by Gardner Planning on our behalf and are in possession of the pre-submission document. We share the concerns of PAGE who represent our interests and views on this matter.

We wholeheartedly support the submission to the current public consultation made by the PAGE chairman John Taylor.

Chris Hill, Chairman, Dorchester on Thames Parish Council

For further information please see <http://www.pagecampaign.org/>

## Contacting the Parish Council

The Parish Clerk is Geoffrey Russell of The Pigeons (next to The Fleur de Lys), 5-7 High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames OX10 7HH

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

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

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

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



## From your MP...

**John Howell**

**October 2015**

Over the past few weeks, while there has been a break in the parliamentary programme for the various Party Conferences, I have used the time to get out about in the constituency for a more intensive programme of meetings and visits than the diary usually permits. Indeed, this has become known as my 'September Recess Tour' as I have done this for the past few years.

This is the only parliamentary recess that doesn't coincide with school holidays and thus it is the one where I can find more people about. This year I took the opportunity to meet with representatives from some of the parish councils and parish meetings within the constituency, with many also opening the meeting to any residents wishing to come along. In the two week period I meet with 25 parish groups, and held 15 other meetings with community groups, companies and members of the community. All in all I met with a large number of people and listened to a wide range of concerns and views on issues.

Over the period lots of different issues were raised, some very individual, some more general affecting whole communities. Where parishes are in the Townlands Hospital catchment there was contentment with what has now been negotiated which, it was generally agreed, is substantially improved from the original proposal. They were also grateful for work put in to achieve this. Traffic issues were commonly raised as were questions on planning. There was much interest in Neighbourhood Development Plans and the opportunity to have a greater say in planning policy.

This year a highlight of the tour was a meeting on Broadband attended by the Minister in charge of broadband, Ed Vaizey. The meeting discussed the roll-out of broadband in the constituency which had been raised many times during the tour. It was well attended and the Minister agreed to take up a range of issues with BT and others and explained how the roll-out programme was being widened using new technologies to include more and more properties.

Although the media reports might suggest that Party Conferences are all about political statements from the

different parties, in fact much more goes on. Many special interest groups attend all of the Party Conferences to raise awareness of their issues. In the weeks running up to the conference I am often asked by constituents to make contact with particular groups. This year, in response to requests, I met with people from Guide Dogs who were seeking support for a Private Members' Bill soon to come before Parliament on Pavement Parking. I am aware that parking on pavements is an issue in many of our communities where pavements are narrow and inconsiderately parked cars make passage difficult for people of all ages. Among other groups that I met with were representatives of The Children's Society's to learn about their 'Seriously Awkward' campaign which seeks to close the gaps in the law which currently prevents some children from being protected from harm, abuse and neglect. I also had discussion with people on issues relating to cancer and heard about the concerns for those with incurable secondary breast cancer. It is a good opportunity for me to find out about a range of concerns that people have and an opportunity that I find very valuable.

During the recess tour time and again I was asked how people could keep up to date with what I am doing throughout the year. There are a number of ways that you can do this. In addition to this newsletter sent to parish magazine editors I also produce two electronic communications – a general update which is produced roughly monthly and a briefing series on specific issues as and when they arise. If you would like to subscribe to my e-newsletter please email me at [john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com](mailto:john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com) asking to be added to my mailing list.

You can also find information about my work both in Westminster and in the constituency on my website. This is regularly updated and the address is [www.johnhowellmp.com](http://www.johnhowellmp.com). You can also follow me on twitter @johnhowellmp or on Facebook [www.facebook.com/john.howellmp](http://www.facebook.com/john.howellmp)

Further details of the work of Parliament is available on the parliament website at [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk). As always I am interested to hear views on the proposals before the House.

I look forward to hearing from you!

---

## From your county councillor...

**Lorraine Lindsay-Gale**

**October 2015**

### **Budget**

The hard work of preparing a budget for 2016/17 is well under way. In late October OCC will have announced the areas that are being considered for making savings. There will be a series of road shows and a consultation to enable residents to express their views.

### **Children's Centre and Early Intervention Changes**

The council's Cabinet endorsed a proposal for a full public consultation to take place during the autumn on the future of children's centres and early intervention hubs. The proposals follow the findings of a cross-party review of the council's early intervention services, and children's centres, which was reported to Cabinet in June. That review recommended that a network of Children and Family Resource Centres for 0 to 19 year-olds be developed targeted to those areas of greatest need, with a good geographical spread of centres. The focus would be on supporting the most vulnerable children and families. Under the proposals £8m would be saved from the current overall £16m budget for children's centres and the Early Intervention Service. The remaining £8m budget for the current children's centres and early intervention services would be combined with the existing £4m budget for children's social care's Family Support Teams, creating a new £12m service. There will be extensive consultation throughout the autumn before any decision is taken.

### **Refugee crisis**

People in Oxfordshire have been shocked and saddened by the images they have seen of refugees fleeing brutal regimes such as that in Syria, where civil war is raging. After the Prime Minister announced that Britain would need to accept more refugees from Syria, the County Council has been talking to partner agencies to see what can be done. The County Council has a legal responsibility to protect young children known as Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers; the number in the care of OCC has doubled over the last year to around 50. Government is being asked for additional funding to minimise the impact on OCC services.

### **Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 1 Core Strategy**

The public consultation into the Core Strategy has closed. Our local action groups – PAGE and BACHPORT have submitted strong objections to the Plan on the grounds that it is unsound and not legally compliant. I support these views and have taken every opportunity available to me to challenge the plan at County Hall: as a member of the Cabinet Advisory Group, at our Cabinet meeting in November 2014, and at full Council on 24 March 2015 when I supported an amendment bringing these failures to the attention of all County Councillors. Sadly, we lost by only three votes. The Plan now proceeds to Public Inquiry. We will have to wait and see what the government Inspector decides.