

Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

December 2016/January 2017





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Dorchester News
December 2016
A DoT view

And so we turn another year. As Sue Booys elsewhere, not just any year but one where, on the national and global stages, we have seen decisions made that will affect our lives and those of our children for years to come. Whether you think that those changes are likely to be positive or negative, they are with us now.

At a parochial level, and this publication is, after all, about the village, we have also seen some changes. Subsidised bus services through the village have finally disappeared, apart from school buses. But the parish council has responded well and the Dorchester Flyer every Friday gives us all an easy way to get to and from Wallingford for shopping on market day. I've used it. Have you?

This time last year we were concerned about the Demesne Field potentially going for housing. But our local councillor, and leader of SODC, reassured us that this was unlikely—not impossible, but not on their agenda.

Bishops Court Farm has changed hands following the death of Miss Bowditch. It looks like some changes are going to occur there, but we wait and see how substantial.

And, amongst the many other residents we lost this year, was Mary Tame. She was so knowledgeable about Dorchester, and yet sufficiently self-effacing that she forbade Dorchester News to carry a tribute.

A new year beckons. Will it be as interesting as this one? It might just be, at a number of levels.

Merry Christmas

Ian Brace

Cover: Pyrocantha in Beechcroft by Frank Blackwell©



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Ian Brace, Steph Cook

Distribution Co-ordinator

Maurice Day

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

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

Advertising in
Dorchester News

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

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

To incorporate a logo or artwork, please supply a copy, preferably via e-mail: to address at foot of page or contact the editor.

One-time adverts, please send a cheque, payable to 'Dorchester Abbey PCC', to Nick Forman, Willoughby House, 73 High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames, OX10 7HN.

Printed by Higgs of Henley.

What a year this has been in terms

Talking Point

Canon Sue Booy

'She would have wanted...

of global politics and achievements! As well as things that spring to mind instantly this year also saw the opening of the Gotthard base – the longest tunnel in the world; the continuation of North Korea's rocket launches and nuclear tests and NASA sending a spaceship to orbit Jupiter. The USA and China ratified the Paris climate agreement but Global CO₂ levels hit a new high. The Queen celebrated her 90th Birthday and Great Britain won more gold medals in the Olympics than ever before – and many people came together to celebrate.

Terry Wogan, David Bowie, Victoria Wood, Jimmy Young, Leonard Cohen and Mary Tame along with many loved ones have died. Countless mothers, fathers and children have died in Syrian towns and as they tried to migrate to a more secure life in Europe.

Yet life in the West has not seemed so secure this year. On 16 June the Labour MP Jo Cox was killed and whilst the man who killed her was mentally unstable his actions appear to have been fuelled by extreme nationalist and racist ideas and his action widely believed to have been connected to the Brexit vote which happened a week later. The British electorate voted to leave the European Union and in the weeks that followed we saw real divisions in this country and witnessed a huge sense of disorientation as people felt rejected

and families were divided. Whatever you or I voted, the divisions and inequalities that are being revealed in our society are in need of healing.

Donald Trump referred to the upset of Brexit in his campaign speeches; promising - and delivering - a similar upset in the recent American Presidential elections. This victory has been celebrated in the United States by the white nationalist movement the Ku Klux Klan – and much of the President elect's rhetoric in the election has left different communities including non-whites and LGBTI people feeling at best anxious – at worst threatened.

At this time of year our hearts and minds trend towards the celebration of Christmas: good cheer and relaxation, good food and the company of friends. Have we always known that this was something of a cover up? That whilst we manage to hit a 'pause button' over Christmas and the New Year the problems do not go away?

Ironic that in celebrating the birth of Jesus, born into poverty, his life threatened by a tyrant, forced to flee his homeland and finally killed by a fearful regime we should seek to flee from these same things in a few days of sometimes forced, often alcohol-fuelled jollity (and I am no exception here!). Speaking immediately after her death, Jo Cox's husband said

above all else ... that we all unite to fight against the hatred that killed her. Hate doesn't have a creed, race or religion, it is poisonous.'

Often in times of great trouble, people and nations have found that their hearts and minds focus more clearly on the things that matter. In this year that has raised many big questions for society and in a context where many people fear for their safety perhaps we can hit the pause button in a different way and consider the healing that is needed for the nations and what our small part might be in that. To pray for the Peace of the World as we celebrate the Prince of Peace and to wonder, as we sing the carol Hark the Herald with its line 'risen with healing in His wings' what it is we need to do for the healing of our families, friends and neighbours, our towns and cities and our world.

May God Bless you and yours this Christmas – enjoy your parties and one another's company and also remember these words spoken by the grown-up Jesus 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.'

May we all aim for that inner peace which casts our fear and makes for a safer, more peaceful world.

December Family Service (Posada Party)

The final family service before Christmas is always a good opportunity for a Party! Mary and Joseph will have been journeying around the village since the beginning of the month and we welcome them to the Abbey with Christmas carols and songs, Christmas crafts and Christmassy refreshments. Come and join in the fun! *(More on page .4)*

Christmas Tree workshop Saturday 10 December

From 9.30 until 11.30 there will be a tree decorations workshop on offer for all ages. You will be able to make one decoration for the tree, and one to take home if you wish. Children should be accompanied by adults throughout the tree dressing and setting up period, please. *(More on page .4)*

PACT Carol Service Sunday 11 December

A tea party for families will be held at 4pm to which everyone is invited. The carol concert starts at 5pm. There will be brilliant performances from The Dorchester Abbey Choir, Benson Military Wives Choir and young soprano Erin Hughes. Tickets are free but we do encourage donations towards PACT's work. Places are limited so booking is essential.

www.pactcharity.org

Team Service 29 January

This will be at St Mary and St Berin, Berinsfield at 11 am.

Christmas Morning Service in the Abbey

Everyone is welcome to join us to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas morning at 10.30am in the Abbey. Families are particularly welcome to come 'as they are' – we hope that the service will be both relaxed and dignified – an opportunity to celebrate together and to sing well known carols. Children are invited to bring a present to show to Reverend Sue and if a whole service seems too much you're welcome to come and go as you please!!

Service for the Team 1 January

The post-Christmas Service for the Dorchester Team will be a Book of Common Prayer service of Holy Communion with hymns at 9.30am in Dorchester Abbey. Everyone most welcome.

Change of time for Evensong

Evensong is one of the 'jewels in the crown' of the Church of England – and of the excellent Dorchester Abbey Choir! Every third Sunday of the month in the Abbey the choir sings a setting of Cranmer's timeless prayers as well as singing an anthem. In order to make it easier for people to attend in the darker winter months Evensong will be at 5pm rather than 6pm from January to March. We look forward to seeing you and would welcome hearing any comments about this change.

Team Lecture

25 January, 7.30pm, Dorchester Abbey

The next in the excellent series of lectures arranged by the Dorchester Team, Ripon College Cuddesdon, and the Churn Benefice. This one will be in Dorchester Abbey. Keep the day free and look out for details

Village Carol Singing Wednesday 14 December 6.00pm



Come and have great fun singing carols around the village with the Abbey choir to raise money for ABCD - Action Around Bethlehem Children with Disability.

We will meet outside The Fleur at 6.00pm and finish with mulled wine and mince pies

All ages and talents welcome. Even if you can't sing you can help by collecting money! Bring a torch and dress warmly. Please email/phone if you intend to come—occasionally we call it off if the weather is dreadful!

Steph Forman
steph@forman.org.uk
01865 340434

Posada



Posada is an old Mexican tradition where young people dressed as Mary and Joseph travelled from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling people about the imminent arrival of Jesus in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Modern day Posada uses nativity figures of Mary and Joseph who travel from place to place. This gives each 'host' the chance to create their own celebration reaching out to others with the real message of Christmas, making room for Jesus in their lives.

Look out for Dorchester's Mary and Joseph through advent, travelling to school and pre-school, and from window to window towards the Abbey where they will finally arrive at the 4.30pm Crib Service on Christmas Eve, enjoying a Posada Party at our 10.30am family service on **Sunday 18 December** along the way.

Steph Forman

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Decorating the Abbey Christmas Tree Saturday 10 Dec 9.30am till 12noon.



Please do come to help with setting up the Abbey Christmas tree. We need lots of help both with decorating and setting up the tree.

From 9.30 until 11.30 there will be a tree decorations workshop on offer for all ages (e.g. one for the tree, and one to take home if wished).



Children should be accompanied by adults throughout the tree dressing and setting up period, please.

From Rebecca Hind

Many, many thanks from me to all of you who have helped me over the course of this year.

I can't describe how wonderful it feels to have the life-affirming love and support generated by your kindness.

So to all of you who I know, don't know and to the many anonymous out there, heartfelt thanks and love.

Rebecca

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St Birinus Primary School News

Our second half term started with an exciting visit to the Abbey to be transported to the land of Narnia through the wardrobe. The children were able to explore the exhibition, which some of the children had helped to create, and then had a literacy workshop. I

know they had a great time and really enjoyed the experience. I also know the staff were really proud of the children and their behaviour in the Abbey.

In the previous half term, we were lucky to be a part of several different projects and events, which was great for the children to experience:

- A small group of children were able to sing for the special welcome service for the new Bishop of Oxford. The children were brilliant as they had to adapt very quickly to sing a different song from the one we were expecting (and without the words written down!) I thought they were amazing!
- Owl Class went to the Abbey to see the Narnia Exhibition as the Bishop of Dorchester was visiting as well as 'That's

Oxfordshire'. The children and Mrs Eacopo were featured in the clip on That's Oxfordshire:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQ8uPjAKTqw>

Well done to them.

- Last year, 'Blue Class' had a Passover workshop in the Abbey, which was used as part of a Major Parish Churches Research project. I have included a link to the project here as it is worth taking a look at the video clips and seeing some of our children in action.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/majorparishchurches>

As you read this, we will have started to think about Christmas with our Nativity play, Christmas meal etc. As usual we have our Christmas Service at 1pm on **16 December 2016** in the Abbey. This is open to anyone who would like to join us and it will be great to see you as we sing our carols and read the Christmas story together.

Russell Leigh
Headteacher

Dorchester St Birinus CE Primary School



Pre School News

This half term the children have been learning about letters G to M and numbers 10 to 1. The colours are red and gold, and the shape of the term is the star.

The children had fun over Halloween with a fancy-dress party and lots of Halloween-themed activities. They have learnt about Diwali, and talked about bonfire and firework safety for bonfire night. They made their own edible sparklers and fireworks with breadsticks, biscuits and sprinkles - yummy!

As Christmas draws closer, we look forward to visiting the primary school to watch their nativity play, and then having our own 'Wriggly Nativity', our Christmas party and a visit from Santa before the Christmas holiday.

Louisa Margison
On behalf of **Matthew Kestner - Pre School Chair**



We have been busy filling our shoeboxes for the 'Love in a Box- Shoebox Charity'. This wonderful charity often called Operation Christmas Child organises shoeboxes of gifts and essentials for children overseas from age 2 to 14 years. We should like to thank Linda Hender who kindly co-ordinates our boxes for us.

Our speaker this month was from Sulgrave Manor, the home of George Washington's English ancestors. We were delighted to see our speaker, Martin Sirots-Smith, who had dressed up for the talk in Tudor costume. It was a very interesting talk about the Manor and the Washington family, as well as the connection with George Washington and Virginia. He brought to life the people of this Tudor home built in the 1500s, which was completely restored after the First World War to commemorate 100 years of peace between Britain

and America.
(www.sulgravemanor.org.uk)

Some of our members helped at the village bonfire on fireworks night, selling cakes and drinks. Our thanks go to Anne Parker for organising it and to everyone who helped and made delicious cakes. (Many customers commented on the vast array of different cakes on offer). All funds raised went to Footsteps.

On **Thursday 8 December** at 2.30pm in the village hall, we will have our Christmas Tea Party with 'Christmas Crackers'. Finger foods are needed, if you did not sign the list at the last meeting please call Susan Jupp (**341066**).

On **26 January**, we will have our New Year's Lunch at the Fleur de Lys. Menus to follow next month. 12.15 for 12.30pm.

Subscriptions for 2017 will be due in January. Cheques for £39 payable to 'Dorchester on Thames WI'.

Dorchester on Thames Historical Society Wednesday 25 January at 7.30pm Village Hall (back room)

Hear Liz Woolley talk on 'Children's experiences of the 2nd World War in Oxfordshire'. When we asked Liz to speak on this subject we had no idea that a 'Pandora's Box' of material would turn up on evacuees in Dorchester and this talk will enable us to enlarge our knowledge of a very important part of our history.

The talk will be followed by a short AGM.

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

Gail Thomas
Chairman

Interested? Did you know that the W.I. is the largest and most dynamic voluntary women's organisation in the country with more than 219,000 members. General information on the whole organisation can be found on www.theWI.org.uk or look us up on Facebook www.facebook.com/thewi

We welcome women of all ages and backgrounds. For more information do call Pauline Kenway-Jackson on **01865 340746**, Gill Haworth on **01865 340775** or Susan Jupp on **01865 341066**.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and wonderful New Year.



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Narnia: A Journey of Discovery

Dorchester Abbey, 22 October to 22 November
A triumphant focus for community participation and interaction

I hope you had a chance to see the Narnia exhibition at the Abbey! It has been a superb hit, with families, groups, schools and adults of all ages flocking to the Abbey to see the exhibition.

Families flooded in over the half term week and continued to come every day it was open! Not only did they enjoy the exhibition itself, with its opportunities to explore, dress up and pretend to be a character from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* story, they also had fun in our art and craft workshops too. People of all ages came: parents of young children and teens, grandparents bringing their grandchildren, with adults and couples without any children visiting too!

Many came for repeat visits, I often found the same young families in the Abbey just after school had finished! Not only did families get an opportunity to appreciate all the Narnia exhibition had to offer, but local schools were eager to take advantage of the special curriculum-themed exhibition visits. Both teachers and pupils loved their visits, with children's comments such as, 'Being dressed as Mr. Tumnus was the best!' and teachers saying, 'The children enjoyed all aspects, the tour was most popular and the children were inspired and keen to share their ideas.' We even

had visitors who took the trouble to email us about what a great experience they'd had, even when a school visit was on!! The local media did a series of presentations on the Narnia exhibition, craft workshops and schools visits, including filming by That's Oxfordshire TV and BBC Oxford.

One of the best things about this exhibition was the fact that it was a focus for the wider community, particularly the way people came together to research the information about local evacuees during WWII, many others provided props and donations for the scenes, not to mention the fantastic support of all the volunteers during opening hours, craft workshops and schools visits. The preliminary craft workshops in the lead up to the exhibition also brought children and parents in to enjoy making our Aslan 'sculpture' and the beautiful sparkly snowflakes that decorated the

White Witch's sleigh and wintery area.

A particular focal point of the exhibition was the 'Always Winter and Never Christmas' scene in the Cloister Gallery with its amazing wintery trees provided by the Hurst Water Meadow Trust. But the main focal point of this space was the fantastic artwork by local Dorchester artist Adrian Brooks. This proved particularly popular with young and old alike! Many loved the way they could illuminate it with the torch as they opened all the small doors to reveal Narnia characters in recognizable scenes from the story.

We were lucky to have local thespians dressing as characters from the story including Mrs. Beaver and the White Witch, as well as a few other



Margaret leaves Narnia via the wardrobe.

Photo by Nick Forman

'extras!' We were also lucky to have a range of volunteers who organised a 'Pop-Up' tea room in the Abbey at the weekends, which proved to be a universally popular decision, particularly with the parents of children engaged in the craft workshops! The end of the exhibition was marked with a concert-drama event, with singing from children of local schools, drama scenes provided by Caroline Seed of 'Boost!' and bell ringing, courtesy of our own Dorchester team! A huge thank you to everyone who contributed in whatever way to this wonderful event. It would not have been possible or been the success it has been without your generous support!

If you missed the main exhibition, you can still see the 'Always Winter and Never Christmas' scene in the Cloister Gallery until Epiphany and if you fancy owning Adrian Brooks's fabulous Narnia-themed Wardrobe artwork, it is due to be auctioned off just before the exhibition closes!

Margaret Craig

Dorchester Abbey Education Officer

We are fortunate to have more pictures of Narnia on the back page.



Adrian Brooks's wardrobe captivates a young visitor.

Photo by Nick Forman

Below is the sermon given by Canon Sue Booy at the Remembrance Day service in Dorchester Abbey. Members of the congregation found it so moving that they have asked for it be printed. The photographs were taken by Gordon Roberts at the service at the War Memorial.

Since we met on Remembrance Sunday last year it feels as if the world has experienced a significant change of direction. In June this country voted Brexit and this week the United States voted for Donald Trump. Neither outcome was widely predicted and their significance, though not yet realised, will be immense. An immediate outcome of each of these votes has been that some groups of people who feel on the edge of society and whose place in that society is dear to them have begun to feel fragile, even outcast, because that valued place has become even more insecure.

What is our responsibility as humans, as Christians, when someone else feels insecure? That seems a good question for Remembrance Sunday at any time and is especially significant for us, now, in November 2016. In wartime everyone's security is threatened. In November 1916 it was clear to anyone who had believed in 1914 that the war would be over by Christmas, that even two years later there was still a long haul and that the cost of any victory would be immense. I haven't listened to very many of the *Home Front* broadcasts on Radio 4 but I was struck by one I heard whilst driving in the late summer in which a single family heard of three deaths in the space of half an hour. When we gather at the war memorial we will be remembering and honouring the names of the men who died and the families who suffered their loss.

In the Second World War many families felt that same insecurity because they were split apart; sons and fathers at war and many children evacuated from London to places of safety in the countryside. In the main these children received a warm welcome and were well cared for - but that was not universally the case and, however much effort was poured into that care, the insecurity that comes with being uprooted and taken to somewhere unknown to be cared for by strangers is huge.

As you can see from the displays in the Abbey associated with our Namia exhibition this community - rich and poor, old and young, village and church worked together to make the evacuees welcome. And this is an example from our own community history that demonstrates our calling, our responsibility, in times of uncertainty and insecurity.

We always have the same gospel reading on Remembrance Sunday and it speaks directly to this question that I am asking on this particular Remembrance Sunday.

'This is my commandment' John reports Jesus's words... 'That you love one another as I have loved you.' This is a high calling for Christian people and at the same time an ordinary calling - a calling that begins with small acts of kindness, the person who made and gave me this poppy as their own offering, the people who, years ago, planned a Christmas party for the evacuee children in the village, the people who send gifts and money to refugee and migrant camps. The way we respond to human suffering and uncertainty with words and actions that make love tangible is what makes us human. In times of uncertainty and change, God calls us to be the poem that he is making with and for humankind. We are called to be the song of love and redemption that God is singing in the world. This call is practical and it springs from these words of Jesus 'love one another as I have loved you.' Jesus's love ultimately meant that he gave his life - and it is the echo in the

sacrifices that were made by all kinds of people in wartime that makes this reading particularly poignant, and it is this that we must focus upon as we meet both here and shortly at the Memorial.

Woe betide us if we allow ourselves to believe that this morning we are celebrating victory - for it is no victory when men, women and children die. Woe betide us if we allow ourselves to believe that this celebration in any way demonstrates our greatness - for the lesson of history is that when one man promises to make a country great there are many casualties along the way. Bonhoeffer, a profound German Christian thinker imprisoned and martyred, knew that so-called greatness was a dangerous illusion that can, at its most extreme, demonise the stranger in our midst, the very stranger whom Scripture teaches us not just to tolerate but to love.

To be true to our Christian heritage means understanding greatness in a different way, treating those who are different and feel misunderstood and misrepresented not with tolerance, or sympathy nor even with an academic sense of justice but with ordinary acts of kindness that spring from the heart - with godly love.

The best war stories demonstrate this true greatness time and time again, whether they be about Christmas parties for refugees, about risking one's life to bring an injured comrade from the brink, or to work all night in the hope of finding a living person in a blitzed building. These are acts of love. These are the actions we celebrate today as we honour the people who made them.

We celebrate them because they are true for all time, just as true in the uncertainty we experience today as they were in the great fear and uncertainty of wartime.

What we do in this service is a reaffirmation of the value of our fellow human beings, the love that we hold for them and the commitment to sing God's song of love and peace loud enough in our own time to make a difference and to be picked up and echoed louder and stronger by our children and our grandchildren in the years to come.



The Dorchester Abbey Christmas Card

Sold in aid of Dorchester Abbey

© Nick Forman



These beautiful 21 x 9.7cm cards show angels from the Nativity scene in the Shrine Chapel window. Colour printed on glossy quality card with 'Happy Christmas' inside they cost £4.50 for 10. To buy your cards complete the attached form and send it with payment to:

Steph Forman, 73 High St, Dorchester on Thames, OX10 7HN (01865 340434).

Cards can also be bought from the back of the Abbey from early November.

I would like to order packs of 10 Dorchester Abbey Christmas cards and envelopes @ £4.50 + p&p*.

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Could you spare a few hours a month to volunteer?

Many of the adults with disabilities that we support can't access leisure and social activities in the evening and at weekends without the help of volunteers. By volunteering as a driver or buddy you could make all the difference to someone's life.

Things you might do include visiting museums, the theatre or cinema, pub lunches, trips to garden centres, watching and taking part in sporting activities or just meeting up for a coffee and a chat.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a volunteer please contact:

David Williams
Volunteer & fundraising coordinator, John Masefield House
@ david.williams@leonardcheshire.org
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Dorchester-on-Thames Village Hall Vacancies Bookings Officer, Caretaker, Cleaner



Dorchester village hall is a unique historic and attractive centre for many events, celebrations and social activities. It is run as a charitable trust and its only sources of income are booking fees and occasional fund raising initiatives. It is widely admired for its facilities

and appearance, much of which is down to the efforts of a small team of supporters.

However, after years of excellent work Brenda Edwards, Bookings Officer, Allan Smith, Caretaker, and Jan Smith, Cleaner, have declared an intention to step down at our next AGM scheduled for March 2017.

These roles are vital for the smooth running of such an important feature of Dorchester and we are hoping to fill them early in the New Year.

The hall is running smoothly as much of the work to set it up has been successfully completed and it now requires people who have some spare time and are interested in becoming involved in so many aspects of life in a vibrant village.

If this appeals to you then please contact **Keith Russell 340838**, Chairman, or **Mark Williams, 340441**, Treasurer, and we'll be delighted to discuss how this might work.



Here at Footsteps Foundation we would like to wish all readers a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. We are counting our blessings to be situated in a village with so many kind well-wishers.

The second Dorchester Fireworks Display on November 5 was a fantastic show of support for Footsteps, with everyone pulling together to organise a spectacular community event.

In addition to the success of the evening itself, the event raised over £6,000! This is an incredible achievement and a really important fundraiser for our small charity. With this money, we can fund 120 hours of intensive therapy. To put this into perspective, this could provide a whole year and a half of life-changing therapy for a disabled child in need.

Footsteps Foundation would like to say a huge thank you to Sue Graney, who took on the mammoth task of organising this event; hosting committee meetings, keeping minutes and working solidly in

the run-up and aftermath with good humour and an unflappable manner! She could not have done it without the help of the indomitable committee team; Val Howells, Rachel Marriott, Linda Hender, Carol Anne Tilley, Maggie Martin and Catharine FitzGerald and without the support and financial backing of Dorchester Parish Council.

The Fireworks Committee and the parents and disabled children whom this money will help, want to thank and acknowledge the support of all those who made this fantastic event possible:

All the members of the Dorchester Parish Council, Geoff Russell, Ian Graney, Robin Marriott, Nick Clarke, Claire Andersson, Graham Beland, Fraser Beland, Mike Southon, Richard Farrant, Nigel Evans, Dave Cutler, Nick Quirke, Liz Lochhead, Judith Wilkinson, David Youngman, Taz Evans, Jackie and Richard Lynch-Blosse, Gabriella and Mike Putnam, Paul King, Duncan Lochhead, Andy Walton, Antony Jennings, Tim and Steph Cook, Nick and Steph Forman, Mike and Jill Corran, John Corran, Anne Parker, Susan Jupp, Hayley and Stuart Poole, Kate Watson, Melissa Denning, Emily Stewart, Chloe Graney, Ursula

Watson, Rose Noordujin, Viv Garnham, Ella Forman, Sue and Richard Booyes, Dan Haines, Beth Allmark, Kathy Glass, Harry Driscoll, Margot Metcalfe, Charlotte and Andy Bennett, Kieran Lynch of Oxford Event Hire, Stuart Gibbons, RAF Benson, Jackie Trinder and Emma of St John Ambulance, the WI, all those who baked cakes, the Guy makers at St Birinus primary school and Dorchester Co-op.



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December 3rd 10.30am

Reading Group December 8th + January 12th 2.00pm

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The Festival Arms

A new Dorchester Festival innovation: The Festival Arms

During the festival, for one evening only, the marquee will be turned into *The Festival Arms*, our very own pub. Why? So we can play pub games such as Aunt Sally, bar skittles, shove-halfpenny, table football, dominoes, backgammon, bagatelle, and many more. You name it, we aim to have it there. And we will have a good pub atmosphere with a piano playing and drinks, nibbles and much more. And a bit of healthy competition to boot. Bring your partners, children and friends on the Bank Holiday Sunday of the festival.

In the meantime we need your help. We have already had kind offers of games but we are after any others that villagers are willing to lend. If you do have anything you can offer to us, please e-mail Mike Corran on

Michaelcorran696@btinternet.com or call or **01865 341696**. We can promise you gratitude and a pint or a Babycham and some pork scratchings as your reward!

**Mike Atkinson
Mike Corran**



Vote for the Festival Film!

There will be a Film Night at next year's Festival and you can vote for what it is! Go to www.dorchesterfestival.com or, if you prefer not to use the internet, you can let me know your favourite three films from the list below by post or phone

- *Casablanca*
- *Local Hero*
- *Mamma Mia*
- *Some Like it Hot*
- *Singin in the Rain*
- *Four Weddings and a Funeral*
- *Hot Fuzz*
- *The Kite Runner*
- *The Italian Job (1969)*
- *Raiders of the Lost Ark*

Steph Forman
73 High St
340434

Proposed Dorchester Festival Art Exhibition



There is a proposal to include an Exhibition of Art by Dorchester artists to be included in the **2017 Dorchester Festival** early in May, with the aim of showcasing the talents of the many artistic residents of Dorchester. At the present we are in the planning stage and it would be helpful to know how many would like to participate by exhibiting or helping to organise the event. So please don't be shy and email Bill Maish

at w.maish@btinternet.com or phone on **01865 341580** to find out more and commit to participating.

Ride and Stride

James Pratt would like to express grateful thanks to all who kindly sponsored him on this year's Historic Churches Trust event. He managed to visit 41 churches, and with your help, managed to collect over £400. A very wet day, yet well worth the effort, thanks everyone!

Also grateful thanks to our local event organiser, Rosemary Byrde from Crowmarsh, whose sterling effort keeps this very worthwhile event going.

**Thank you.
James Pratt**

Abbey Events Marketing Manager

Dorchester Abbey is looking for a new Events Marketing Manager to start work in January.

This is a part-time (7hrs a week) paid role responsible for marketing the Abbey as a venue and contracting with hirers. It is supported by an administrator, who then works with hirers until the event has taken place.

Some marketing and/or contracting experience would be welcome but not necessary. Applicants should be good communicators and good at working as part of a team.

If you are interested in applying for this role, please contact admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk for more details.

The deadline for applications is **16 December 2016**



Hempcroft Allotment News

The year is *pole a measurement of length?* Allotment plots are coming to an end and winter has approached and so it is time to prepare for next season and reflect on this year's efforts on your allotment. Remember that there are no failures; it is always down to the weather, the pigeons, slugs, or various Acts of God. It is now time to tidy up your plot for the winter and if you have a fruit cage do not forget to remove the top netting. Some people are even predicting that there could be snow!

Our full size plots are 10 poles and half size plots are 5 poles. There are quite a few new allotment holders this year and I have often been asked 'How big is a pole?' or 'Isn't a

Basically 10 poles is the size of the penalty area on a football pitch or a doubles tennis court. I hope that this is not too confusing...

Edward Metcalfe
340160

Fishmonger

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

10.00-10.05 am in High Street near War Memorial



Neosporosis

Never heard of it – neither had I until I looked into what harm dog faeces could do to cattle. Neosporosis is a parasitic disease which can cause cattle to abort. It can be transmitted to dogs through the ingestion of contaminated livestock material, such as placentas from newly calved cows, or being fed contaminated raw meat. The parasite is passed on through the faeces of an infected dog. Evidence suggests that only a small number of infected dogs develop symptoms of the disease, which include progressive lameness and paralysis in pups less than six months of age. If dogs do develop symptoms, most of these cases are fatal or require euthanasia. The disease becomes a cycle between cattle and dogs.

So why am I highlighting this disease? We have many walks near cattle grazing areas. Each year, after Wallingford's

Annual Litter Pick, I put out a plea for dog walkers (of which I am one) to 'scoop their poop', and to put the bags of faeces into the dog bins provided – even if you have to carry it a mile to the nearest bin. Not every walker does this – as is evident along every path and field. The 'poop' bags are not a sufficient safety net as cows can ingest them, even leaning over fencing to access them.

We must also not forget toxocarosis of course – this is a worm infection of dogs (and also cats and foxes) which is spread to humans through contact with soil which has been contaminated with faeces from infected animals and usually affects young children.

You can read more on Neosporosis, Sarcocystosis (dog faeces and neurological disease and death in sheep) and Toxocarosis on the internet.

Theresa Jordan
Wallingford



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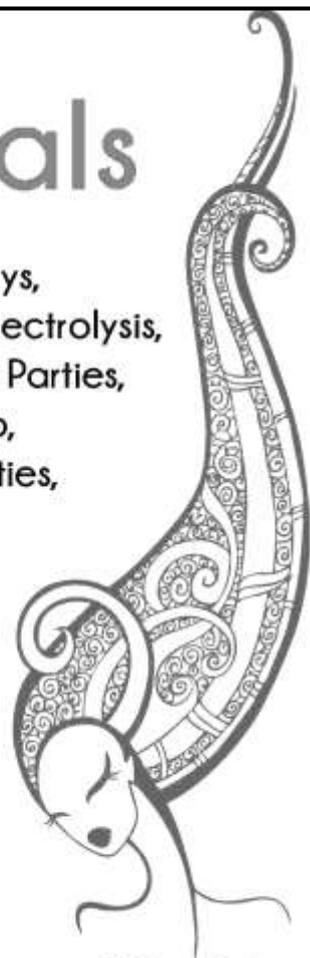
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Earth Trust December events

Natural Christmas

Sunday 4 December, 11am-3pm.

Get into the festive spirit by making decorations and gifts from natural and recycled materials. Plus, meet Father Christmas. Price by activity, no need to book.

Winter Wetland Birds

Sunday 11 December, 9.30am-11am.

Come and explore Thrupp Lake in Radley (OX14 3NG) and find out about some of the wetland birds that call it home over the winter. With Ben Carpenter. £5 adult, £2 child; booking essential: **01865 407792** or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee)

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

Home Library Service

Are you unable to get to a library?

Apply for the Home Library Service

The Home Library Service is a free service from Oxfordshire County Council working with Age UK Oxfordshire and Royal Voluntary Service that brings books, DVD, music CDs and audio books and information about other library services on a regular basis to you at home.



The service is offered to people of any age who are housebound and can't get to the library due to disability, illness or full time caring responsibilities. This includes people who might need the service on a short term basis following debilitating illness or hospitalisation.

Through the help of volunteers we bring our library service to you at home.

How it works

As part of the registration process we will discuss the kind of books, DVDs, music CDs or audio books that you like to read or enjoy. We then arrange for a library volunteer to deliver these to you.

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

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

How to apply

To register for this service or for further information, call Berinsfield Library on **01865 340771** or e-mail berinsfield.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk



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Japanese student, Mamiko Moda, wrote 'Thanks to my hosts and their kindness, I could spend a nice Christmas here instead of staying at home alone. I am grateful to you all.'

Hosting is a voluntary position suitable for all ages and is also available throughout the year with HOST, a charity set up in 1987. To find out more or be put in touch with your local organiser, please visit www.hostuk.org, or call **020 7739 6292**.

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



Tapestry created by pupils for The Thames Heritage Tapestry Project.

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

www.st-birinus-primary.org.uk



Football Results North Berks League

Division 2

05/11/2016 Steventon 5 2 Dorchester

Division 4

22/10/2016 Dorchester Res 2 0 Berinsfield Res

29/10/2016 Long Wittenham
Athletic Res 5 1 Dorchester Res

05/11/2016 North Oxford
Res 3 1 Dorchester Res

North Berks War Memorial Cup

29/10/2016 Dorchester 8 0 Coleshill Utd

North Berks Cup

12/11/2016 Dorchester 1 2 Sutton Courtenay

Berinsfield Surgery Car

If you need help to visit **Berinsfield Surgery**, make an appointment for a forthcoming Wednesday morning. Mention that you will be using the Dorchester Surgery Car service. Then call Dorchester Fireplaces on **01865 341452** before 2pm on the Tuesday before the appointment. Give them your address and phone number. Dorchester Fireplaces will notify the volunteer who will collect you at 10.00am from your home and take you to the surgery.

Dorchester Fireplaces Showroom is open 10am to 4pm Tuesday to Saturday.

Email: enquiries@dorchesterfireplaces.co.uk

Clifton Hampden Surgery Patient Participation Group November 2016 News

For the information of Dorchester residents who are registered at the Clifton Hampden Surgery the 24 hour ECG monitor, which avoids patients having to wait for a hospital referral, is now in full use.

New furniture and equipment has been installed in the nurse's room in accordance with clinical assessment compliance requirements. A defibrillator has been installed at Burcot at the Close Home.

Any Dorchester patient who would like to receive the Patients' Group Newsletter and notice of forthcoming meetings should please register with the secretary at rogermmit@aol.com. We would like to have more Dorchester residents on our committee.

Thames Consort 5 Feb Dorchester Abbey

The Thames Consort directed by Jeremy Boughton will be performing at Dorchester Abbey on **Sunday 5 February** at 7.00pm. The programme includes vocal and instrumental music by members of the Bach family, including the great Johann Sebastian and also by Handel and Schütz. The singers of the Thames consort are joined by Sharon Warnes and Claire Parkin – violins, Judith Dallosso – 'cello and Glynne Stackhouse – organ continuo.

There will be a collection at the end of the concert given (after expenses) to the Friends of Dorchester Abbey.

New Kit for Dorchester

Dorchester Football Club are delighted that Jenks, the local Aboricultural Contractors, have sponsored the Under 10s team for the next three seasons. Below are the team, proudly wearing their new kit. We would like to say a massive thankyou to Jenks for their sponsorship and support.

The Under 10s are always looking for additional players to join the team. If your child is interested, then please call Gary Brind, the manager, on **07976 936438**.

Donna Brind



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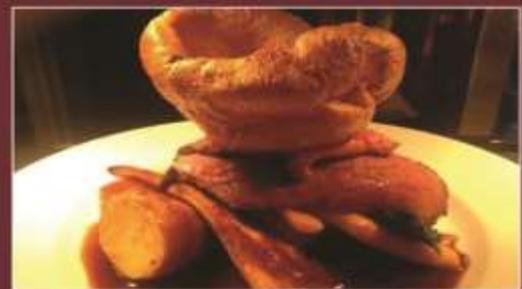


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Caught in Rehearsal

Dorchester News was invited to see the DADS cast rehearse the pantomime, Aladdin, at the Village Hall recently.

It is clearly going to be a show full of energy and fun, great for the children and just as much fun for the adults too.

Director Ann Winslet said 'We have had so much fun in rehearsals, it will be infectious.'

If you've not yet got your tickets, get them from the Co-op or one of the other sources given in the ad.



A Pantomime by Ben Crocker

Aladdin

The DADS Panto

Dorchester Village Hall
7 Queen Street
OX10 7HR

Wednesday 7pm - Children (under 12) £5 / Adults £ 8
Thurs & Fri 7pm - Children (under 12) £7 / Adults £10
Saturday 4.30pm - Children (under 12) £7 / Adults £10

Tickets available from:
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Derry's Dan, Benson
Email - tickets@dads.org.uk
Phone 01865 340792
Web - www.ticketsource.co.uk/dads (booking fee applies)

30th Nov - 3rd Dec 2016

DADS

www.dads.org.uk

Dorchester Amateur Dramatic Society



Focus on... Village Firework Display

Were you there? Were you at the Village Fireworks on November 5th? If you missed it, you missed a spectacular event, even bigger and better than last year.

For the second year in a row, the Recreation Ground was turned into a night-time festival arena and hundreds of people turned up to enjoy the food, the bonfire, and, of course, the firework display. The display in 2015 was the first for some 15 or 20 years and there had been nervousness amongst the organisers as to how many people would turn up. In the event, it was estimated that around 1,100 came. This year, if there was any nervousness, it was that November 5th fell on a Saturday, so there was more competition from other displays on the same night. Word must have spread, though, as around 1,400 people were counted in at the main gates this year and it is estimated that the total figure from all entrances was closer to 1,600. A terrific result once again.

£2,500 spent on burgers and hot dogs in 90 minutes

The Dorchester Village Fireworks officially opened at 5.30pm, but the queues for food started even before then. There were burgers and hot dogs, cooked on barbeques at the rear of the tent, cakes and popcorn to keep away the hunger, and a bar and a Winter Pimms tent to slake the thirst. To keep the children entertained until the lighting of the bonfire and the start of the fireworks, there was bobbing for donuts on a string, and glows-ticks, and for the adults winning bottles of

wine on a tombola stall. And the buying of food. And buy they did. In the 90 minutes before the start of the fireworks at 7.00pm, around £2,500 was spent on burgers and hot dogs alone; the Winter Pimms team didn't get to taste their own product because it was all sold, as was the popcorn; and cakes and the bar came close to being emptied, (which would never have done!).

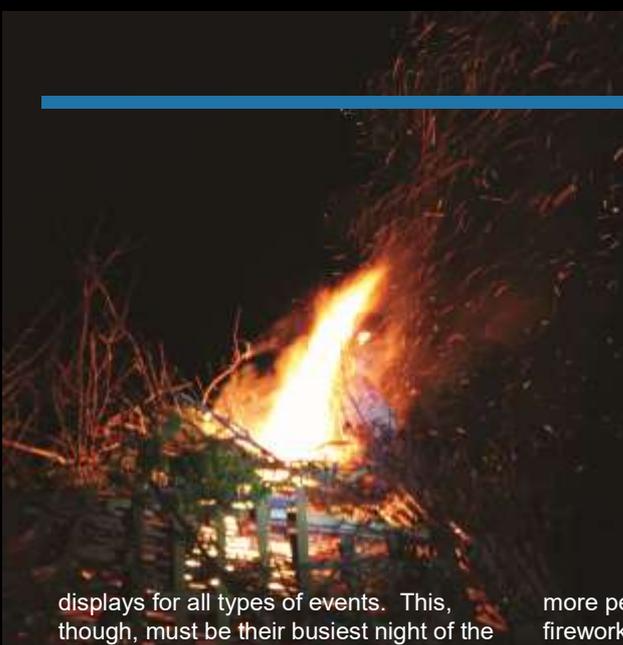


The guy had been made by children from St Birinus School, and at 6.00pm was mounted onto the fire which was then lit. Many of the children were there to see their handiwork go up in flames. A vivid lesson from history that hopefully teaches children about some of the horrors of times past.

And then at 7.00, the fireworks started. As last year, they were the responsibility of the UK Firework Company, who organise



Photo by Gordon Roberts



displays for all types of events. This, though, must be their busiest night of the year, and, again as last year, the organiser from the company had travelled from Staffordshire to be in charge of our Dorchester fireworks. And what an amazing display. Twenty minutes of awe and wonder as rocket after rocket burst over the Recreation Ground, releasing their colours and lighting up the night sky.

And then it was all over. The crowd dispersed and the clearing up and counting up began. More work for the volunteers who had put this event together.

Although underwritten by the Parish Council, in case it made a loss (no danger of that this year) the whole event was organised by a seven-strong team of volunteers led by Sue Graney, with her lieutenants, Val Howells and Rachel Marriott. But many

more people than that were involved. The fireworks themselves are contracted out for safety reasons, but there is the organising and building of the fire; organising and running the food and drink stands; manning the other stands; putting up and taking down the tents (most kindly lent by RAF Benson); publicity; the marshals to keep us safe; electricity supply and lighting, the list goes on. (See the article from Footsteps on page 10 for an extended list of thanks.)

All of these people give their time not just to give the village a great event, but to support Footsteps, the charity based in the heart of Dorchester. And this year, over £6,000 has gone to Footsteps as the proceeds of the evening. Much of that came from the donations made in the buckets at the entry to the Recreation Ground. This year a suggested donation of £5 was introduced,

which, with the increase in numbers attending, raised nearly £4,000, more than twice last year's sum.

Will it happen again next year? It is a wonderful event, and may well be the best attended single event in the village. Having master-minded it twice, though, Sue Graney is not sure that she wants to do it again. But she has set up all the systems for someone else to take over. Let's hope that someone will. It would be a great shame for the Village Fireworks, having been found again, to once more be lost.

And don't worry football and cricket fans, or dog walkers, the organising committee made provision for the re-turfing of the patch where the fire was, so you'd never know that a bonfire had been there.



OXFORDSHIRE
art
WEEKS

Christmas Art Weeks

Earlier this year we featured the Oxfordshire Art Weeks, which were held in May, and in which several local artists participated.

This year, for the first time, the Art Weeks concept has been given a Christmas makeover and is giving us another chance to view and buy during November and December.

Local artist Emma Louise Corry has been taking part, along with around 70 other Oxfordshire artists. Unfortunately her show dates were in November but you can still see and buy her work at <https://folksy.com/shops/EmmaLouiseBlanch>

The Oxford Times spotted Emma's work and featured her in an article in *Oxfordshire Limited Edition*. In case you missed it, we reproduce the article here with kind permission of The Oxford Times and Oxfordshire Art Weeks, together with some pictures of her work.

Many artists will still be showing in Oxfordshire during December. To find out who, where and when go to: www.artweeks.org

You might yet be able to pick up a unique Christmas present.



Examples of Emma Louise's work.
Photographs courtesy of The Oxford Times

Drawing in Thread
Emma Louise Corry
Carrick Cottage,
54 High Street,
Dorchester-on-Thames
November 19th and 20th.

Emma Louise Corry is an enthusiastic, contemporary textile artist from Marcham, near Abingdon, Oxfordshire whose handmade creations have an instant appeal.

Emma has an MA (RCA) in Woven Textiles and creates beautiful flowers, birds, animals, houses and scenes, 'drawing' them with her Elna sewing machine, black thread and appliqued fabric on fabric.

'I've always used black thread, ever since I started sewing although funnily enough when I'm teaching other people I always encourage them to use every colour under the sun,' she says.

'Then, when I was fifteen, I inherited a little bit of money from my granny 'Gum' and used it to buy my own Elna machine, and that's what I still use, over thirty years later. I like to think she'd love that. 'Now I use whatever material catches my eye, and I can't walk past a haberdashery shop without popping in.

'I pick up vintage clothes too when they're made from interesting or unusual cloth. I love creating decorations, bunting or pictures that take fabric from a piece of clothing that's been loved but is no longer wearable – a favourite party dress or something special a child has grown out of, for example.

'I recently picked up some very thin, recycled American leather with a gold backing which I'm enjoying using for the centres of flowers, birds' beaks and other glitzy touches.

'In my November Artweeks exhibition, expect a Christmas feel with glitter and sparkle as I'm showing lots of decorations as well as pictures and bags and I've recently started making beautiful noticeboards which are three dimensional and decorated with quirky houses or flowers and are designed to keep the sparkle in the mundane. The idea is that they hold all those scraps of paper, invites and leaflets that you want to keep safe yet can be so scruffy in a pile on the kitchen worktop!

'I started sewing when I was seven – from the time I was tiny I was desperate to be allowed to use my mother's Elna sewing machine, and when I was finally allowed, I taught myself.

'My first real project was a purple shirt. Looking back, it was probably dreadful but I was so proud of it.

And what would Emma like for Christmas? 'A thimble that fits! It seems ridiculous, but they always seem to slide off.'

Esther Lafferty

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"No job to big or too small"

David Hall 1942-2016

David Hall of Watling Lane, Dorchester on Thames, died in hospital on September 30 from pneumonia.

David was a diplomat with postings in Beirut, Dubai, Bahrain, Bonn and Washington. In 1975 he was on the government's campaign team fighting for a Yes vote on the referendum to stay in the European Community. He was then a senior official at the Department for Trade and Industry, spending several years promoting UK trade with China and India.

Before he retired he served as deputy chief executive of UK Trade & Investment, the government's trade promotion body. He leaves a wife Lizzie, three children and five grandchildren.

David and Lizzie were married in 1965. They first met as neighbours in London. David, who was living in the flat downstairs, came to Lizzie's door with two well hung, slightly rancid pheasants.

He asked her to pluck the two birds. She set to work gladly, hoping a dinner invitation would follow from the handsome young man. But she was disappointed. David invited other people to supper instead. Nonetheless, the two eventually got together and together enjoyed 50 years of love, companionship, and the odd pheasant.

David was a dashing young man. His school friend Stuart recalls how he turned up uninvited one summer to a villa near Montpellier and took on a bunch of French students in a pastis drinking competition. David and his British friends won.

David's first diplomatic posting was to Beirut in the 1960s, then known as the



Nice of the East, where he cruised around the hills above the city in a convertible.

Life in East Hagbourne, where he lived for more than three decades, was pleasant but not so glamorous. His daughter Kate remembers the frantic morning drive to Didcot station, David peering through a small hole in the iced up windscreen of his rusty car, she gripping the seat in terror. Still his children can point to the occasional drama: for example, the hilarious moment when their mother set her hair on fire trying to light the old gas cooker with a taper. David chased after her, ineffectively waving a tea towel at her smoking head.

Or the time when David was staying with Kate in Warborough and woke up everyone before dawn saying the house was being burgled gesticulating to the alleged thief who was in fact the milkman delivering his daily pint.

David was witty and erudite. He was also reserved. He liked his own space. He was particularly fond of his country walks, whether it was up Ben Nevis as a youth, the hills of Exmoor where he first retired, or more recently Days Lock and the

Clumps. It was the moment to switch off. Or perhaps to chew over affairs of state.

He loved walking his dogs, especially Joshua, a bonkers cross-breed border collie who took to biting the wheels of passing bicycles, and of the odd passing car. He found it amusing to take Joshua into the British embassy on Massachusetts Avenue,

corralling his boisterous hound through the double front doors.

David devoured books and was always happy to cite a historical allusion or literary reference. He read avidly until his final days, whether airport thrillers or learned historical tomes.

He was much stronger at intellectual matters than practical things. His family remember the furious weekend afternoons when it took him hours to put up a bookshelf, his drill gouging mammoth holes in the wall which he could not then plug.

Although he did not suffer fools, David was down-to-earth and unflashy. One of his most memorable trade missions was with John Major, which involved a trip up the Khyber pass. There is a photo of him arriving in Pakistan to a warm welcome from local school children. But there is no sign of him with John Major. He was not the type to display photos of himself with prime ministers and presidents.

Son Ben remembers vividly visiting his father's office on Victoria Street one day. One of his junior colleagues took him to one side and told him what a fantastic boss David was and how officials loved working for him.

David was given an honour by the Queen for his service, becoming a Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George, or 'CMG'. Letters of congratulation, which he kept in a file, paid tribute to his quiet dedication and modesty as much as to his achievements over a lifetime of service.

David was understated. He did not like self-promotion or glad-handing. He did not enjoy the cocktail and dinner party scene that is part and parcel of diplomatic life. But he was fascinated by politics and history. He liked working for big political beasts such as Michael Heseltine and Peter Mandelson, and they liked him.

The day before he died he summoned a few breaths to pour scorn on Donald Trump. He disliked political correctness but was always open-minded and would have been horrified by recent events.

David was a kind, gentle and warm man. He was a loving husband, proud father and warm grandfather and will be greatly missed.

Ben Hall



The British Embassy in Washington where David worked for some years.

George Hall 1921-2016

Aubrey George Lovelock Hall was born on the 9th of June 1921 in Abingdon to proud parents, Frank and Mary-Eliza. George had 3 Siblings Reg, Norman and Connie and they lived together in Spring Road, Abingdon.

George had an inquisitive mind and after being educated at local schools he joined 'The Board', sometimes known as the Southern Electricity Board, as a Way-Leave Officer at the ripe old age of 14. He worked in the Electricity and Land Management unit from 1935-1965, becoming a senior in his post.

His service with the Board was interrupted by the war years where he put his love of 'all things electrical' to good use. He served in the RAF from May 1941 until September 1946, designated Leading Aircraftman Hall, Wireless Mechanic 123695. During the war years George undertook his basic training at Great Yarmouth and received his specialist Radio and Radar training at Cranwell and Harwell before being posted to Egypt to provide essential electrical maintenance to Wellington and Liberator Bombers. He spoke little of his war years, though he had fond memories of comradeship and companionship, two areas he enjoyed throughout his long life.

After returning to the Board, he met and fell in love with the love of his life, Gwen. She worked in the Abingdon Office as an Electrical Demonstrator, and after a ten year courtship, George was always a cautious man with big decisions, they married and began a happy life enjoying their many common interests including tennis, antiques and travelling. I remember one of their often talked of trips involved a



pilgrimage around France. Each traveller had to take turns in holding a service for the coach trip. George's turn came one rainy morning at Watford Gap Motorway Services.

In 1965 he went back to school, supported by Gwen, to obtain the qualifications he required to teach. He studied at Culham College and qualified in 1968 to embark on a new career as a teacher of technical drawings, engineering, maths and metalwork. George taught at several local schools, where he was remembered for his ability to detect mains current by touching live wires and an enthusiasm to construct a variety of large valve hi fi components. This new profession enabled Gwen and George to globe trot around Europe in those long balmy school holidays.

George retired from education in 1981 and embarked on yet another career direction. He had always enjoyed meeting new people and socializing so he began

working for a local estate agent selling both commercial and domestic property.

George eventually hung up his working hat at the age of 72 years.

He and Gwen travelled widely in Europe, George developed an expertise (and taste) for fine French wines and was memorably generous to friends and family alike.

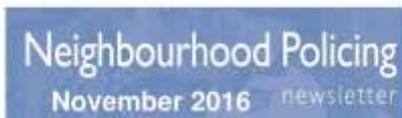
George drove everywhere, passing his driving test in 1949, and was renowned for the many Volkswagen GTi's he possessed, all of which he drove with the verve of a man aged under 20. Always a speed king, at the age of 94 he received a speeding ticket, a feat many of us would aspire to at such an age.

George led an exemplary life and has often been described to me as such by his wide range of friends. His work colleagues always described him as a conscientious, diligent and a hardworking man.

Towards the end I remember George saying he was 'packed and ready to go'.

George slipped restfully into Eternity, as ever with dignity and grace, supported in his final earthly moments by the family he loved.

Gwen and George were always together and he made a particular request shortly before his death to have his ashes placed with those of his dear wife in her resting place and not in his reserved area to her side. Gwen and George will truly rest together in death as they lived together in life. Together as one.



clothing. Even the ride home from school will be getting dark soon.

bike with Bike Register (www.bikeregister.co.uk).

Contact us if you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non-emergency number 101 or if it is an emergency then dial 999. You can also contact us via email WallingfordBerinsfieldCholseyNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. To view information on your neighbourhood team visit the Thames Valley Police website at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk. Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by registering at www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk today. This allows anyone who signs up to choose what updates they receive and how they would like to receive it.

- Crime prevention advice. As the clocks have gone back and the evenings are closing in, it is a good idea to look at your home security. Lighting is very important and having a timer switch for a table lamp can light up your home even when you're not at home. Also ensure all your security lights are working and you have a good solid padlock fitted to outside buildings such as sheds and garages. If you would like any crime reduction advice, please make contact by emailing the Wallingford neighbourhood team.
- Safe cycling Please also think about safe cycling now the evenings are dark. Make sure you and your children have bike lights, helmets and high visibility
- Land Rover Defender thefts Since Land Rover stopped making the Defender, thefts of these vehicles have increased, especially for parts. Thames Valley Police have joined forces with security marking specialists Datatag to offer farmers and landowners an opportunity to have their 4x4s protected at a discounted price of £60 including VAT. For more information please call **01784 778310** and quote code TVPDef2016.
- Cycle thefts There has been a spate of bicycle thefts across the area; please keep your bikes secure by using heavy duty locks and keep them in a locked shed or garage and make note of the frame numbers. You can register your

Anne Vernon Harcourt 1925-2016

Anne was born on the 11 July 1925 and raised as a young child by a governess called Miss Short, whom she adored and looked on as a mother figure. Miss Short had been governess to Anne's brothers Robert and Simon. Due to Anne's addiction to the 'Winnie the Pooh' stories, she was known by all the family as 'Pooh.'

Her childhood was quite lonely, but she spent an idyllic but short time living with her brother Simon, who had an apple farm. Sadly, he died in a motor accident, so that once again Anne felt lonely.

Anne's father worked in railway administration and she loved the train travel that his job made possible. Her father had seven very academic sisters. Anne was sent to a boarding school where one of her aunts was the headmistress. At first other pupils thought that Anne would be favoured, but, in fact, she was given a tough time by her aunt. Nevertheless, she loved school.

It is believed that Anne's mother persuaded her to join the Wrens and she loved her time in the Navy – mostly spent in Gibraltar. Lifelong friends were made while a Wren

Anne had developed an interest in travel and the next part of her life was spent as a Pan American World Airways employee. Her Pitmans' College qualifications were useful and eventually she held a senior position. She was a strict, but totally fair boss, who never asked anyone to do a job which she would not do herself. She went out of her way, often out of work hours, to help passengers who had missed flights or lost baggage. On occasions, she took people home to spend the night with her and travelled miles to deliver a bag to someone in distress. Through all this kindness more friends were made for life. Anne's love of travel was well known and she seized every opportunity that

working for an airline provided. She was great fun socially and went on skiing trips with other staff members and also took girls to the coast on 'rest days' to stay at her father's home by the sea.

Anne was never a good time keeper – in fact she was awful. So hardly anyone was reprimanded for being late. She always referred to herself as lazy, but was far from it and when she had a problem to solve at work, no stone was left unturned either by her or her staff. 'Laid back' is a good description – indeed 'very laid back' in her retirement. Anne did not let much bother or upset her and was able to laugh matters off.

After retiring Anne met up with Allen Mockford – known as Jock. They laughed that they had met in the dole queue. Jock had also worked for Pan Am for many years but their friendship developed in retirement when they spent hours walking other people's dogs around Bourne End in Buckinghamshire where they both lived.

After Anne saw an advertisement in The Times she and Jock decided to view 16, Herringcote, whilst it was still being built. They decided to sell their homes and move together to Dorchester on Thames, where they were so very happy. Anne never stopped saying how it was the best thing that ever happened because they loved village life, the people, animals, birds, the surrounding countryside and each other. She said they were an 'unlikely couple', but that they were good companions through the years that they were together. They made many friends and joined in local activities

Jock was an engineer by profession and was excellent at carpentry and they both had fun inventing gadgets, models and

bookcases for the home. Both Anne and Jock delivered 'meals on wheels.' Until a few years ago, Anne helped in the Abbey tea-room and made many friends. She was often called 'Teapot Annie.' I get the impression that she spent more time in the tearoom than in the Abbey itself. More recently, with advancing age and increasing deafness, she withdrew from some of these activities but continued to enjoy her many friendships.

Although Jock had travelled while he was in the Airforce, he had not used the Pan Am benefits, but Anne soon took care of this. They travelled far and wide visiting friends all over the world.

AVH, as Anne was often referred to in Pan Am days, was a lady with a wonderful sense of humour. She was kind, tolerant and generous beyond belief to many charities. She was an avid reader – but did not like cooking, was not interested in fashion and was a wonderful character who never complained. As she said, she enjoyed a good and full life and will be sorely missed by so many people who had the privilege of knowing her.



Pan Am played a big part in Anne's life

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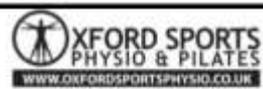


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Minerals and Waste examination in public

The Minerals and Waste Core Strategy was the subject of an Examination in Public in September. The Inspector has published his Interim Report. This is a short document giving interested parties the opportunity to see the overall direction that he wants the County Council to adopt. To the deep disappointment of all the community groups across the county the Inspector did not accept our proposal that the Local Area Assessment (the amount of gravel that the county must provide per year) was far too high. This means that the applications for widespread gravel extraction at Wallingford/Cholsey and Clifton Hampden/Culham are more vulnerable than had been hoped. He did, however, support the submission that the case for extracting gravel from the South of the county rather than the West had not been proved by OCC and has asked for a considerable amount of further work to be done on this. The modifications to the plan will take some time. The new timetable for the progress of the Core Strategy is:

Cabinet to consider modifications 24.01.2017.

Public Consultation 3.02.2017 to 20.03.2017.

Receipt of Inspector's final report May 2017.

Final Report presented to Cabinet 20.06.2017.

Adoption of Core Strategy 11.07.2017.

Of course this may slip, depending upon how the modifications progress. In the meantime the community groups PAGE and BACHPort will continue the fight to protect our local environment with my support.

Public Health annual report

The Annual Report by OCC's Director of Public Health has been published and it summarises key issues associated with the Public Health in Oxfordshire. It includes details of progress over the past year as well as information on future

Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

November 2016

work. It is an independent report for all organisations and individuals. The report covers the following areas: Chapter 1, The Demographic Challenge; Chapter 2, Building Healthy Communities; Chapter 3, Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage; Chapter 4, Lifestyles and Preventing Disease Before it Starts; Chapter 5, Mental Health; Chapter 6, Fighting Killer Diseases. The report can be found by following the link:

<http://ow.ly/Fsok305C9RS>

Securing the future for Oxfordshire's daytime support services

OCC is proposing a new daytime support system that will enable older people and people with disabilities to live independently in their community. The new proposals include a guaranteed core service for people who require daytime support, alongside financial support to enable community-based services to continue to flourish. People with assessed needs who receive help from OCC's adult social services would continue to receive support under a new proposed structure for daytime support in the county. The council values day time support services run by volunteers and will continue to support these services while encouraging new community initiatives to be launched. Three-quarters of all community-based services do not receive funding from OCC so would be unaffected by the changes. OCC has listened to more than 600 people who use services and carers to understand their priorities and develop a new approach. More details can be found here:

<http://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/dayservices/>

Apply online for primary and secondary school places

Applications for children due to start primary or secondary school in September 2017 can now be made online. Families with

children born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013 are urged to visit the **primary school admissions pages** on OCC's website to find out how to apply for places for next year. Applications for primary or junior schools also need to be made for children currently attending an infant school who were born between 1 September 2009 and 31 August 2010. Families with children due to move up to secondary school next September should visit the **secondary school admissions pages**. (There is also information for anyone interested in applying for a Year 10 transfer to a **University Technical College (UTC) or Studio School**.) When applying, parents are strongly advised to state three preferences and include their catchment school as one of these – even if it is their third preference school. This does not in any way affect families' chances of securing a place at their first-preference school. OCC still accepts postal applications but recommends families apply online where possible, as this helps speed up the applications process. It also means families receive an automatic response confirming their application has been received and can be quickly notified if further information is needed.

Unitary debate

OCC is continuing to develop a model for a single unitary council with some decision making devolved to different parts of the county based on the current boundaries of the five District and City councils. There is no agreement with District Councils about this and there needs to be a lot of detailed negotiation in the weeks and months ahead. The only way to unlock this situation is for central government to either legislate or incentivise Councils to come together. It has been proved that to do so would save £100million in Oxfordshire over five years, money which could be spent on front line services.

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Parish Council

December and January Meetings of the Parish Council

The next two monthly meetings of the Parish Council will be held on **Wednesday 14 December** and **Wednesday 11 January**. They will both take place in the back room of the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. The agenda for each meeting will be displayed on Village notice boards and on the village website - www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk - at least three clear days in advance. All are welcome to attend and, at the beginning of the meeting, may raise any matter of concern.

New Parish Council eMailing List – Footpaths and Rights of Way

The Parish Council maintains an emailing list of residents who wish to receive Urgent Village Notices as and when the need arises and it has proved its worth on many occasions (especially when pets go missing!). The email addresses of subscribers are not displayed and therefore remain confidential.

The Council has recently identified the need to create an emailing list to specialise in matters to do with Footpaths and Rights of Way. This will include updates about path closures due to flooding, for example. Subscribers will also be supplied with a list of useful websites where maps and guides can be obtained.

Please contact the Clerk –

parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk – if you would like to join either or both of these lists. You will be able to unsubscribe at any time.

Neighbourhood Development Plan Update

The past month has been spent refining the script of the draft document ready for maps, plans and photographs to be incorporated and then for the whole package to be professionally assembled and proof-read. Residents will then have an opportunity to consider and comment on what we hope will be by that stage something approaching a final draft. The document, amended as necessary, will then be submitted to SODC for approval by a Planning Inspector. We are aiming to have this whole process complete and ready for final presentation to residents for formal adoption in the late Spring of next year.

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 Please note new direct line for calls and texting **07745 311439** The e-mail is parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk Cllr Chris Hill, Chairman of the Council, can be contacted via chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

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

PAGE

**NO
TO GRAVEL
EXTRACTION**

PAGE—Parishes Against Gravel Extraction has a new website:

www.pagecampaign.org.uk

The following report has recently been issued on the website.

**2016 November
PAGE Report
Re. the Government
Inspector's interim**

report on gravel extraction

All our areas are back under threat as the Phase 2 planning is being prepared by OCC – which means the quantities of gravel extraction for the county are now beyond debate, but WHERE (the Phase 2 decision) this is extracted is the next big issue.

There is no doubt that PAGE will need the continued support of the parishes - Dorchester, Warborough, Drayton St Leonard, Benson, Berinsfield, Stadhampton, Newton and Berrick Salome.

As we move into the next phase of response, PAGE with the support of Mineral Consultants, will revisit all the documentation and rationale before preparing a new document detailing why there should be no allocation of a new gravel pit in any of our parishes.

In the meantime we continue to face the potential challenge of an operator submitting a planning application in the PAGE area.

A more detailed summary of events leading to this point are as follows:

- Local Aggregate Assessment (ie how

much was needed)

- The case put forward by PAGE, OX-AGE (Oxfordshire Against Gravel Extraction) and others to use the 10 year average (0.628 mpta) was considered by the Inspector but rejected in favour of the OCC and South East England Aggregate Working Party view that Oxfordshire alone should have a higher than average figure (1.015 mtpa). This is critical as it means that new sites for gravel extraction will be required in Oxfordshire in the period to 2031.
- How will they decide where to extract gravel from? The report seems very supportive of a single plan approach (upfront agreement on how much and where) but says that there is no legal requirement so accepts OCC's justification for having a two part plan to first decide how much (now almost complete) and later decide where. This means that OCC will develop a plan to agree where new gravel extraction is to take place starting next year
- Rebalancing Production from Western to Southern Oxfordshire Sites The report accepts that the case has not yet been made and that this pro-

posal by OCC should be reviewed and a new timetable will be published in the next month. This is a concern for PAGE and all communities on the list.

- SCI Compliance (Statement of Community Involvement) – how has this matter of procedural short coming been resolved?

The report accepts that the spirit of the SCI has been broken but the Inspector agreed that it would have been unacceptable to halt the Examination because of non-compliance.

Next Steps

- OCC to publish a timetable
- OCC to produce main modifications and consult the Inspector before final publication (probably next Spring)
- Consultation on this material
- Planning has already been submitted for gravel extraction in Cholsey and Fullamoor and the local campaign groups are employing Experts, Barristers and QC's to fight the plans
- PAGE to ensure that all supporting documentation and research is up to date and appropriately structured

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Dorchester News online

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

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

PACT Carol Concert

Back by popular demand, PACT's annual carol concert is being held once again at Dorchester Abbey on **Sunday 11 December**.

There will be a children's tea party from 4pm-5pm with fun activities for the children and refreshments for all. This will be followed by the carol concert at 5.00 to 6.30pm with performances from the Abbey Choir, Benson Military Wives Choir and professional soprano Erin Hughes, as well as lots of opportunities for the congregation to join in for classic Christmas carols.

The carol concert is free to attend but there will be a retiring collection to raise funds for PACT's award-winning therapeutic support services for adopted children.

We look forward to seeing you there and encourage you to bring friends and the whole family to join in the festivities and support PACT's vital work.

Tickets are free but must be booked in advance via PACT's website: www.pactcharity.org/carols

Tickets are limited so please don't delay and register for tickets today.



PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER



Hft Christmas Concert

7.30pm Thursday 8 December

Join the charity Hft on **8 December** in the historic Dorchester Abbey for their much loved Christmas Concert. The beautiful Abbey will be bathed in the glow of over 1,000 tea lights, as we enjoy festive music performed by the internationally renowned Magdalen College Choir and some wonderful readings. This year we are delighted to announce that our readers will be the actor Martin Clunes, OBE and actress Caroline Catz*. Martin is a Patron of Hft and is best known for portraying Martin Ellingham in the ITV drama series Doc Martin and Gary Strang in Men Behaving Badly. Caroline is best known for her role as Louisa Glasson in Doc Martin, starring alongside Martin Clunes and for her role as Detective Inspector Helen Morton in DCI Banks.

Tickets will include a programme and we would be delighted to invite you to join us for some festive mulled wine and mince pies in the Abbey after the concert.

All proceeds raised from this concert will go towards supporting our 'Bytes Size Learning Project' at our service in Milton Heights, Oxfordshire. This course provides individually designed training, in 'bite size' modules, in catering and hospitality; enabling people with learning disabilities to develop skills and qualifications so they can find supported employment within the catering sector.

*work commitments permitting.

Tickets are available at: <http://bit.ly/Hft-Christmas>
or : **0117 906 1767**

Dorchester Abbey Christmas Concert for the Oxford Children's Hospital

Thursday 1 December, 7.00pm

The Dorchester Abbey Christmas Concert is a fabulous evening of song and readings. This popular event has become the perfect way to commence the Christmas season.

The Choir of Winchester Cathedral will be performing once more, joined by a number of high profile readers including award winning actor, Toby Jones; star of Miranda, Patricia Hodge and BBC's World Affairs Editor, John Simpson CBE.

Since the first event in 2006, the concerts have raised over £250,000 for the Oxford Children's Hospital, helping to provide additional specialist medical equipment and new facilities for young patients from across the region.

This very special event will also mark the 10th anniversary of the Children's Hospital and launch a series of events and fund-raising activities to celebrate this important milestone.

Tickets - which include wine and food - cost from £25 to £70 each.

For more information, or to book tickets, please call **01865 743444** or visit www.hospitalcharity.co.uk/dorchesterconcert

We do hope you will join us.





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December 2016



Saturday 10 December 7.30pm

Handel's Messiah

Hannah Davey soprano

Roderick Morris countertenor

Christopher Turner tenor

Julien van Mellaerts baritone

Saturday 31 December 7.00pm

Strauss Gala

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What's On December/January

Cinema: Performances start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

December

- Thurs 1 **Ethel and Ernest** (PG)
 Fri 2 **Ethel and Ernest** (PG)
 Thurs 8 **The Nutcracker**, Live from Royal Opera House.
 7.00pm
 Fri 9 **A Streetcat Named Bob** (12A)
 Sun 11 **The Light Between Oceans** (12A)
 Mon 12 **The Light Between Oceans** (12A)
 Thurs 15 **NT Live No Man's Land**. 7.00pm
 Fri 16 **Arrival** (12A)
 Sat 17 **Arrival** (12A)

LIVE

December 3: **Dillie Keane**, music and comedy, highly-acclaimed one-woman show from founder member of Fascinating Aida. 7.45pm. £15

December 10 and 11: **Performing Angels** of South Oxfordshire presents their 5th Annual Christmas Showcase, with a fabulous selection of dance, singing and musical theatre showpieces with a modern twist, from some of the greatest artists, musicals and theatre productions. Matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 2.30pm. Saturday evening show at 7pm. Adults £12, seniors and under 16s £10.

PANTO TIME

January 13-28. Booking has now opened for Sinodun Players' panto, **The Pied Piper**. Loads of comedy, magic, music and colourful fun in Alan P Frayn's version of the traditional tale. The panto journey starts in Hamelin, then through the sewers to the Pied Piper's Magic Mountain. Along the way meet Helga the German Sausage Maker, rat catchers Blatter and Splatter, baddies Sour-Kraut and Rat-Worst, good fairy Strudel, Pippin the Pied Piper...and many more. Adults £10 (Tues-Thurs), £12 (Fri, Sat), under 16s £6. No performances Sunday or Monday.

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

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

Wallingford U3A

Christmas seems to be coming early to our U3A. It's just the way the dates fall this year. The Lunch Club's Sunday Lunch will be a Christmas special at Goring and Streatley Golf Club on **4 December**, and the Annual Christmas Party will be on **7 December**.

Most of our groups are still thriving, although the very popular Local Churches of Interest group will not meet again until the spring: Churches can be chilly and churchyards wet at this time of year.

Next public lecture: **January 4** David Day will speak on 'Pendon Museum *Modelling the Past for the Future*'.

Our Meetings are held in Crowmarsh Village Hall at 2.00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Visitors are always welcome. To see more of what we do please visit our Website Google u3awallingford. Or phone Hermione on **01865 858024**, or Jill on **01491 835994**

What's on in Wallingford



Wallingford Museum Wallingford Museum Bookshop

As usual, Wallingford Museum will close for its winter break (Dec, Jan and Feb) to carry out refurbishment and prepare exciting new exhibitions for next year. These will feature 'Pettits: past to present', 'Wallingford Castle' and 'The Way to Wallingford'.

The Museum will re-open on **1 March 2017**.

Please remember that the highly successful Museum bookshop, with its constantly changing stock of good second-hand books (both fiction and non-fiction) will remain open during December, January and February.

You might just spot that perfect Christmas present!

The bookshop will be open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10.30am to 1.00pm.

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk



'Treasures Beneath our Feet'

James Mather will talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) about local metal detecting finds from Oxfordshire and Berkshire dating from modern times to the Bronze Age. His most significant find, "The Watlington Viking Hoard", with its amazing selection of King Alfred the Great coins, is covered comprehensively from its discovery to display at the Ashmolean.

By the end of James's presentation, attendees will have seen many beautiful images and have a clear idea of the contribution responsible metal detecting can make to the nation's heritage. James has been detecting for over 25 years, and is a member of the 'Archaeology in Marlow' local society.

This talk will be held on **Wednesday 11 January, 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford**.

Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

www.twhas.org.uk



Wallingford Gardening Club Wine, Mince Pies and Quiz

Thurs 8 Dec

At the December meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, our members will test their gardening know-how with a short quiz.

Following a very brief Annual General Meeting, they will all enjoy wine and mince pies!

This event will be held in the Ridgeway Community Centre, Wallingford at 7.30pm on Thursday 8 December.

Visitors very welcome £2.

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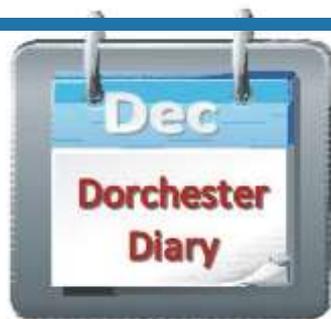
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Day by day

Thurs 1 Dec	Oxford Children's Hospital Christmas Concert 7.00pm Dorchester Abbey
	DADS Aladdin 7.00pm Village Hall
Fri 2 Dec	DADS Aladdin 7.00pm Village Hall
Sat 3 Dec	Dorchester Res v Hagbourne United North Berks League Div.4 2.00pm Recreation Ground
	DADS Aladdin 4.30pm Village Hall
Sun 4 Dec	Advent 2 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662) (Revd Michael Lakey)
	10.30am Morning Service
	St John Ambulance Christingle Service 4.00pm Dorchester Abbey
Thurs 8 Dec	WI Christmas Tea Party 2.30pm Village Hall
	HFT Christmas Concert 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Sat 10 Dec	Christmas Tree Workshop 9.30am Dorchester Abbey (p3,4)
	Dorchester v Westminster North Berks League Div.2 2.00pm Recreation Ground
	Orchestra of St John's Messiah Concert 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 11 Dec	Advent 3 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662) (Revd David Haylett)
	10.30am Sung Eucharist
	FACT Childrens Tea Party 4.00pm Carol Concert 5.00pm Dorchester Abbey



Mon 12 Dec	Cranford House Carol Service 7.00pm Dorchester Abbey
Tues 13 Dec	Short Communion 10.15am
	Chandling's School Carol Service 4.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Wed 14 Dec	Village Carol Singing 6.00pm Outside Fleur de Lys
	Parish Council Monthly meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
Thurs 15 Dec	Classic Car Show, George Hotel 1.00-4.00pm
	Chiropodist Village Hall (see p13)
	Queen Anne's School Carol Service 3.00pm Dorchester Abbey
Fri 16 Dec	St Birinus Primary School End of term service 1.00pm Dorchester Abbey
	RAF Benevolent Fund Concert 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Sat 17 Dec	Orchestra of St John's Carol Concert 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 18 Nov	Advent 4 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booyes)
	10.30am Family Service—Posada Party
	6.00pm Service of Lessons and Carols
Mon 19 Dec	Service at The Close 2.30pm

Church services in the Abbey appear in red.
More details can be found at :
www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

For details of services at St Birinus RC
Church go to:
www.stbirinus.co.uk

Sat
24 Dec **Christmas Eve**
4.30 pm
Crib Service

11.30pm
Midnight Communion



Sun
25 Dec **Christmas Day**
8.00am
Holy Communion (1662)
(Canon Sue Booyes)

10.30am
Family Communion

Sat
31 Dec **Orchestra of St John's**
Strauss Gala Concert
7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Weekly events

Tuesday	Coffee in the Abbey 10.30am-12noon Bellringing Practice 7.30 pm Abbey Fishmonger 9.30am to 9.40am by War Memorial (p.12)
Wednesday	Holy Communion at Berinsfield Church 9.30am Lunch Club Village Hall 12.30pm
Thursday	Baby & Toddler Group 9.30am – 11.00am Village Hall: (term time only)
Friday	Choir Practice 7.00pm Abbey

Regular events also appear in the Parish
Council's website:
www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Parish Registers

Funeral

19 Oct	David Hall
20 Oct	Anne Vernon Harcourt
10 Nov	George Hall



Day by day

Sun
1 Jan **Sunday after Christmas**
9.30 am
Holy Communion (BCP) for
the Team

Sun
8 Jan **Baptism of Christ**
8.00 am
Holy Communion (1662)
(Revd David Haylett)

10.30am
Sung Eucharist

Tues
10 Jan **Short Communion**
10.15am

Wed
11 Jan **Parish Council**
Monthly meeting
7.30pm
Village Hall

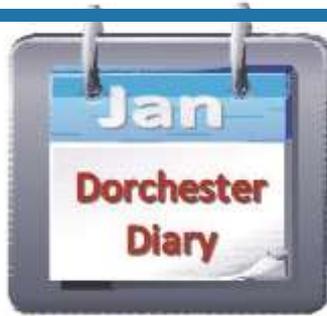
Sun
15 Jan **Epiphany 2**
8.00 am
Holy Communion (1662)
(Canon Sue Booyss)

10.30am
Family Service

5.00pm
Evensong

Thurs
19 Jan **Classic Car Show,**
George Hotel
1.00-4.00pm

Chiropodist
Village Hall (see p13)



Sun
22 Jan **Epiphany 3**
8.00 am
Holy Communion (1662)
(Revd Jon Roberts)

10.30am
Sung Eucharist

Wed
25 Jan **Dorchester Historical Society**
*Children's experiences of the
Second World War in
Oxfordshire.* Liz Woolley
7.30pm
Village Hall

Team Lecture
7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Thurs
26 Jan **W.I.**
New Year's Lunch
12.15pm
Fleur de Lys

Service at Cheshire Home
11.30am

Sun
29 Jan **Epiphany 4**
8.00 am
Holy Communion (1662)
(Revd Michael Lakey)

11.00am
Team Service at Berinsfield

Weekly events

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

Wednesday **Holy Communion at
Berinsfield Church**
9.30am
Lunch Club
Village Hall 12.30pm

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

Friday **Choir Practice**
7.00pm Abbey

Regular events also appear in the Parish
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HEALTH SERVICES

DIRECT LINE TO URGENT LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

Dial **111** to access urgent local NHS health care services. Where possible, they will book you an appointment or transfer you to the people you need to speak to or send an ambulance if they think you need one. For non-urgent health needs you should contact your GP in the usual way.

MINOR INJURIES

The Minor Injuries Unit at Abingdon Hospital, Marcham Road, daily from 10.00 am to 10.30 pm: **01865 903476**.

A&E

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

SURGERIES

Berinsfield Health Centre: **01865 340558**
Clifton Hampden: **01865 407888**
Millstream Benson: **01491 838286**

ROOM HIRE

ABBEY GUEST HOUSE BOOKINGS

To hire the Abbey Guest House for private functions, meetings, exhibitions, etc, contact Hilarie Rogers on **01865 340007**.

HIRE OF DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL

To hire our Village Hall, contact Brenda Edwards; edwardsbrenda148@gmail.com or telephone **01865 343062**.

Please telephone at least 24 hours in advance to arrange collection of the key.

FAULTS AND COMPLAINTS

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

HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

Ring Oxfordshire Highways on **0845 3101111**, available five days a week, with a 24-hour answering facility. Complaints can also be sent via e-mail to southernarea@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

BLOCKED DRAINS

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

REFUSE COLLECTION

If your rubbish is not collected on the due date contact the contractor direct. Call **03000 610610** and the website: www.morerecycling.co.uk

ANIMAL WELFARE

RSPCA (wildlife): **0300 123 0206**
St Tiggywinkles animal rescue: **01844 292292**
Swan Lifeline: **01753 859397**

Useful Information

BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

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

OPENING HOURS

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

TRANSPORT

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

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CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Clerk is Geoffrey Russell of The Pigeons (next to The Fleur de Lys), High Street, Dorchester on Thames OX10 7HH; **07745 311439** (during normal office hours, please, unless an emergency); parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk.

More information about the village is available at:

www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

USEFUL CONTACTS

ANGLICAN PRIEST

Dorchester Rectory
Revd. Canon Sue Booy
01865 340007

EDUCATION OFFICER

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

ABBEY E-MAIL:

admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk
Contact details for Church Wardens and other Abbey information are on the notice board in the Abbey.

ABBEY WEBSITE

www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

VILLAGE WEBSITE

www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST

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

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



REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Fri 2 Dec **Black**
Fri 9 Dec **Green**
Fri 16 Dec **Black**
Fri 23 Dec **Green**
Tues 3 Jan **Black**
Mon 9 Jan **Green***
Sat 14 Jan **Black**
Fri 20 Jan **Green**
Fri 27 Jan **Black**

* No garden waste collection

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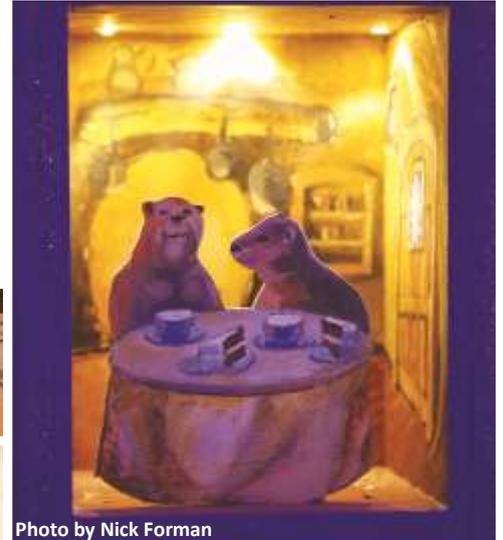


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