

Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

April 2017





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Dorchester News April 2017 A DoT view

By the end of April the 2017 Dorchester Festival will be well and truly under way. Once again the team, led by Steph Forman, have put together a programme of more than 50 events over just 10 days for the enjoyment of all, and for the benefit, this year, of Sue Ryder Hospice at Nettlebed. With this number of events, I challenge anybody to not find something that they want to go to. There's lots of music, of course, and comedy and even a pub games evening.

For children there's a great afternoon of entertainment, a concert, the duck race, and the great success of last time, the Scarecrow Trail. For the cooks amongst us, there are cookery demonstrations, including one by TV chef Sophie Grigson (this came in too late for the brochure, so see the website), who will also open the Food and Gift Fair. Some events are free, but the objective, of course, is to make you part with your money in a very worthy cause at the same time as enjoying yourself. So join in, get your friends over and make a day or evening of it, and make it all worthwhile.

And if you want to join in and help, volunteers are always needed to shift things, clear up, set out chairs, wash up—stuff we can all do—so step up and do some of that as well. For me, the Festival is something really special that DoT has, so together let's make this one another fantastic success.

Ian Brace

Cover: The Jesse Window in Dorchester Abbey
From a photograph by Frank Blackwell ©



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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.

This notice was spotted in Coventry Cathedral and shared on Social Media. Its origin is unknown. It may have come from a Church in Wales though I think its origin goes back much further than that. In fact, I'd dare to say that the origin of this notice is in EASTER! We struggle a bit with 'The Easter Story' – so we opt for Egg Hunts and the Easter Bunny. After all this is less easy to see as a story – more as a thriller - 'watershed' material. If it were a film it would be less La La Land and more I Daniel Blake but still meant for the characters, and audiences, of both! In fact the Easter narrative translates quite well into film – think Ben Hur or Robert Powell's acclaimed Jesus of Nazareth. It has themes that cross centuries and it deals with issues that plague our society and frighten us when we dare think of them. The way fear makes people behave towards one another, the manner in which truth can be twisted to fit a government agenda, the power of the crowd. Read the story in the gospel of Mark (it's told in chapters 14-16) – you'll find some single Gospel copies in the Abbey.

For me the important thing about Easter is that these things, this story is for everyone. In the accounts of Jesus' life (for these you have to read a whole Gospel – try Mark or John) he is recorded as stopping and speaking with all kinds of people; the

Talking Point

Canon Sue Booy

ones that society ignored, the

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, straight, gay, confused, well-heeled or down-at-heel. We especially welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers. We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're just browsing, just woken up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury or haven't been to church since Christmas 10 years ago. We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet and to teenagers who are growing up too fast.

We welcome keep-fit moms, football dads, starving artists, tree huggers, latte sippers, vegetarians, junk food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like organized religion. We're not that keen on it either. We offer welcome to those who think the Earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because Granny is visiting and wanted to come to the cathedral. We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither.

We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throats as kids or got lost on the Ring Road and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters...and you.

ones who always felt themselves left out, the ones who didn't really want anything to do with him, the ones who argued with him, people who needed to be called to account and those who just needed to be loved and cared for. Jesus didn't require compliance, a particular kind of behaviour, didn't worry what people looked like or what they thought of him (all things the Church is quite good at, sadly). As a man Jesus wanted only to be true to himself and open to everyone he met. Consequently everyone he met wanted more – that is, everyone who didn't feel threatened by his revolutionary approach...

...and those people plotted against him, and in the end they charged him and, with the support of the masses and the weakness of one man ... they killed him. Those few words could be used about many men and women persecuted and tortured throughout history. But that's what is different – Jesus came back, raised from the dead – offering the possibility of new life and a new hope. So the eggs fit in after all - it's just that they are not the whole story, not even the best bit. The best bit is summed up in the Coventry Cathedral welcome: like it or not, accept it or not: this deal is for everyone!

Why not find out a bit more by joining us at the Abbey during the Easter season – or pop in quietly, pick up John or Mark's biographical novel and have a read! *God Bless You*

Keeping Holy Week and Easter

The whole week before Easter gives us a special opportunity to follow the Jesus Journey through the Cross to the Resurrection. Each morning we shall be saying Morning Prayer at 8.15am and this is balanced by 8pm Compline – the 'goodnight' service that is such a long part of our tradition that the brothers who lived here in Medieval times would have used much the same service. I'd love to see you some time...there are special celebrations for particular highlights...

Palm Sunday – 9 April

I'm delighted to report that we have a Donkey to lead our Palm Sunday procession. We leave the War Memorial at 10.15am following the distribution and Blessing of Palms, arriving at the Abbey for the usual service start time of 10.30am. I do hope you will come to meet the Donkey, receive a Palm Cross and join in with the procession and the Family friendly service that follows.

Maundy Thursday – 13 April

A time to recall the special meal that Jesus shared with his friends – perhaps have your feet washed – go out into the garden by candlelight – attend the moving stripping of the Altar. Meal at

6.30pm; Stripping of the Altar 8.00pm (approx.) Please let us know if you would like to come to the meal.

Good Friday – 14 April – Journey to the Cross

1.00pm – 3.00pm An opportunity to walk the final walk of Jesus's life to the Cross. Silence, hymns, short Addresses, you are welcome to enter and leave the Abbey quietly during the Vigil.

Easter Day – CELEBRATE together

...Jesus bursting from the tomb. We will light the Easter fire outside Church just before the service, process to the Easter garden with candles and join an Easter Egg hunt during the service. Service suitable for all ages.

Celebrating Christenings – 30 April 10.30am

The Dorchester Team Service falls within the Dorchester Festival this year and we are making a very special attempt to catch up with anyone Christened in the Abbey – and their parents and Godparents. Come from 10.30 for breakfast, meet Johnny the Clown and renew your vows. We'd love to see you.

Caring for Creation Lent 2017 in the Dorchester Team

- 2 April A Panel of local experts will gather to interact and respond to questions on the subject of Climate Change and our care of Creation
- 9 April Palm Sunday Service of Reflection

Lent Lunches 2017

All are welcome to share a simple lunch on the Fridays in Lent at the following addresses:

- **31 March** with Meg Fisher at 4 Drayton Rd., D.o.T.
- **7 April** with Julie Taylor at The Manor House, Overy
- **14 April** with Judy Parker at the Abbey Guest House, D.o.T.

All lunches are from 12.30pm-2pm except Good Friday 14 April which is at 12 noon -1.00pm.

Your contributions this year will be sent to Aspire Oxford a local charity that helps the disadvantaged and homeless in many ways. More information will be available at the lunches.

Meg Fisher

What is 'Message in a Bottle'?

Abbreviated to MIAB, it is a simple piece of paper asking pertinent questions about your vital information that is directed at the Emergency Services. It allows them to make quick and accurate decisions on what action to take at the point of contact – this could save your life in an emergency at home.

A white and green plastic bottle containing a form that gives vital information about you **which could save your life** due to the speed with which the Emergency Services could respond to your individual needs. The bottle is placed where the Emergency Services are trained to look – in the refrigerator door.

A green cross sticker is placed on the inside of the main house door and another sticker on the outside of the door to the fridge.

The information provided should include where you keep your medication and latest prescription, major medical conditions, personal doctor, contact details of relatives and friends and any other information that could be needed in those first critical moments.

These free bottles can be collected from:-

The Flower Show in the Village Hall on **Saturday 1 April** between 2.30pm and 4.00pm, and the Coffee Morning in the Abbey on **Tuesday 4 April** and **Tuesday 11 April** between 10.30am and 12.00 noon.

Alan Isherwood
Judy Parker
March 2017

Ambulances finding properties

At the demonstration of the MIAB facility an experienced Paramedic emphasised the importance of helping the ambulance driver to find where it is needed.

He said that clear names/numbers on properties are vital, especially where confusion could occur, e.g. because of the layout of a development.

Also, and particularly (but not only) in the dark, please turn on all the lights at the property.

Alan Isherwood

Hempcroft Allotment News



Between 28 April and 6 May the 2017 biennial Dorchester Festival will take place. There will be quite a few additional visitors to the village during this time. As part of the Festival there will be an Archaeology Trail and a Scarecrow Trail and both of these will take people along the public rights of way across the Hempcroft Allotments. This is an opportunity to show off the allotments in their best light and so can I urge people to do a little bit of 'spring cleaning' of their plots in preparation for the Festival.

Edward Metcalfe

EASTER LILIES 2017



As we look forward to celebrating one of the most important festivals of the church, the Abbey flower arranging team invite you to participate by making a contribution towards the cost of flowers which we will use to decorate the Abbey at this joyous season.

Perhaps you would consider making this a donation in memory of a loved one whose name would be displayed close to the Easter Lilies, the centrepiece arrangement.

Please complete the form below and send it to me:
Sandie Griffiths, 7 Castle Close, Benson OX10 6SN 01491 832598

or hand it to one of the flower arranging team - Kathy Glass, Helen Wigmore, Susan Jupp, Vera Baker

Name

Contact phone number

Amount of donation

Donation in memory of

Dear Readers,
We are a very social group of ladies that loves to chat over a cup of tea, go on an outing or have a summer tea party (see save the date below) but did you know that the WI provides women with educational opportunities and the chance to build new skills, to take part in a wide variety of activities and to campaign on issues that matter to them and their communities. Here is a snapshot of previous campaigns ...

- The SOS for Honey Bees campaign was launched after a resolution calling for increased funding for research into honey bee health was passed in **2009**: the National Pollinator Strategy was launched in November 2014.
- In the early **1990s** the WI joined with CAFOD, Christian Aid, Oxfam, Traidcraft and the World Development Movement to become a founding member of the Fairtrade Foundation.
- In **1986** the WI was one of the first organisations to talk about AIDS and used its unrivalled network of local organisations to educate the public and get people talking about the issue.
- In **1975** the WI started informing members about the importance of breast examination and lobbying the government to set up screening clinics. A national screening programme was eventually introduced in 1988.
- Members were among the first to debate the dangers of smoking when the WI passed a resolution to ban smoking in public places in **1964**.
- In **1954** a resolution led to the formation of the Keep Britain Tidy group and was influential in transforming litter policy following the introduction of the 1958 Litter Act.
- The WI passed a resolution calling for 'equal pay for equal work' in **1943** and was represented for many years on the Equal Pay Campaign Committee.
- Starting with a resolution in 1922, the WI campaigned throughout the **1930s** and 1940s to increase the number of women police, lobbying the home office and winning the support of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

- The WI first campaigned on jury service in **1921**, urging women to 'accept their full responsibilities as citizens in whatever way they may be called upon to serve their country' and later urging the government to open up jury service to all... Interesting isn't it?

This month (March) we had our annual meeting to decide, amongst other things, on the new committee and President for Dorchester on Thames WI 2017-2018.

Pauline Kenway-Jackson was voted in as President, making it her third year. The new committee are Susan Jupp (Treasurer), Hayley Poole (secretary), Gill Haworth, Diana Arthurs, Anne Parker & Irene Cadman. We look forward to an interesting year, thank you Ladies.

For general information ,
www.thewi.org.uk.

Interested? Call Pauline on **340746**, Susan on **341066** or Hayley on **340119**. New Members Welcome!

We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 2.30pm

Save the date: **13 July** our Summer Tea Party in Pauline's Garden, 2.30pm

10 August – Summer Outing to Waterperry Gardens

See page 9 for an item on the WI Open Meeting on **13 April**.

Were you Christened at Dorchester Abbey?

On **Sunday 30 April** we are having a very special Team Service in the Abbey as part of the Dorchester Festival to celebrate with everyone who was Baptised in a Christening service in any of our Team Churches

If you, your children or god-children were baptised in the Abbey we would love to hear from you so we can send you a special invitation.

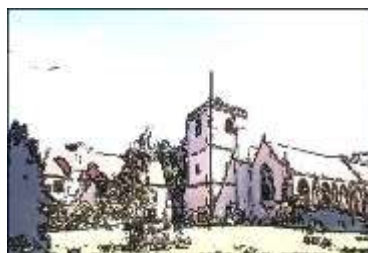
Anyone who would like to celebrate a Christening or bring their children or god-children to church do please come and join us for this special service – look out for details in the Dorchester Festival programme and in the March and April editions of the magazine.

There will be a list at the back of the Abbey for you to enter details of anyone who would like an invitation to the service.

We plan to have a small exhibition about Christenings during the Festival and if you have photographs, christening gowns, gifts or other memorabilia you would like to share please get in touch with Denise Line (denise.line@btinternet.com) or Helen Russell (**01865 340759**).

Dorchester May Morning Monday May 1

Two A Part will again welcome May by singing from the top of the Abbey tower and then give a free concert in the Abbey. Funds raised from breakfasts and donations will be shared between the Festival Charities and taking teenagers to help at the Nasio Trust centre for AIDS orphans and destitute children in Kenya.



Continental Breakfast
from 8.30am in the Abbey

Two A Part
sing from the Tower at 9.00am,
then in the Abbey
Breakfast tickets £5

Must be bought in advance
Available from Dorchester Co-op or
www.dorchesterfestival.com

£5 keeps a child in food for a month, £10 provides a teacher for a month

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Reformer Pilates class (up to 4 people).
Thursdays 9.15am, 4.30pm, 5.30pm (£15)

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subject to demand

Please contact **Anna Jenkins**, email: anna@oxfordsportsphysio.co.uk

phone: **01865 858955** or **07825 269287**.

Website www.oxfordsportsphysio.co.uk

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or we will take you home and collect you upon completion.**

We will come out for breakdowns/recovery as needed.

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

Garden machinery not starting we may be able to help?

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WORKSHOP 01865 341155

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Christmas bookings now being taken

To reserve your table please call
01865 340404

www.thegeorgedorchester.co.uk



St Birinus Primary School News

School News

On World Book Day, which was celebrating its 20th year this year, it is always very exciting to see the variety of characters that walk through our doors – I think this year was the best so far. A special thank you must go to parents and their helpers

who no doubt spent many a happy moment preparing the amazing costumes. It was also great to have Revd. Sue dressed as Mother Teresa during our worship thinking about Mother Teresa's courage in various stages in her life.



Tom S, Tabitha, Megan, Tom B, Cecily, Amelie, Annabelle, Carys and I have attended several practices to prepare for singing at the 75th Anniversary concert of the Oxfordshire Music Service at the Birmingham Symphony Hall on 25 March. We have been practicing on our own and it was great to hear the music come together with a larger group of children and we are now looking forward to the actual performance – how exciting!

For our Big Write theme of 'Animal Heroes', we had two special visitors in school, Nicola and her guide dog, Kimber – they came in to talk about the training of guide dogs and what the life of a guide dog is like day to day. There were certainly some interesting facts that I had not considered. The children also had an opportunity to stroke Kimber.



The Year 6 children visited the Oxford Fire Station this term to complete the challenging scenarios of Junior Citizen. This programme enables the children to experience real life situations and chances to make a 999 call. I would love to share some of the activities but I will not give away any of the details to avoid spoiling the day for the other year groups

As a special treat to help boost our library within school, we welcomed Mark from Mostly Books in Abingdon who led a book event in assembly. This was organised by the Governors to help us to kick-start our library refresh. Mark was able to bring a selection of books and the children were able to vote on the ones that they would like to read. Thank you to the Co-op who have donated £50 to our library refresh, which is great news.

Our annual Easter Fair is approaching on 5 April starting at 5.30pm, hopefully the weather will be kind to us and we can have some of the stalls out in the playground. I do hope that you will be able to join us for the evening.

Russell Leigh

Headteacher

Dorchester St Birinus CE Primary School



Pre School News

Spring has sprung and at Pre-School the children have been getting out and about looking at flowers and learning about fruit and vegetables. The book of the term is 'The Hungry Caterpillar' and the wall display about the book and favourite fruit and veg is coming on really well. The children have enjoyed playing outside more and have also been over to 'big school' for PE which they all enjoyed. World Book Day was a big success as always with some fantastic costumes and £25 raised for Crackerjack.

There are lots of events coming up. We will be taking part in the Dorchester Festival scarecrow trail - the theme is children's books so look out for our 'Room on the Broom' scarecrow. Easter is also approaching, the children will be doing lots of Easter themed activities in school and of course there will be the annual Easter Bonnet Parade which is always wonderful! The garden play area and Pre-School building will be getting a facelift over the Easter holidays with many thanks to the Pre-School Committee members, our administrator Hayley and the Pre-School Staff.

Louisa Margison

On behalf of Matthew Kestner - Pre School Chair



DoT Tots

The Dorchester baby and toddler group is up and running! We can be found at the Village Hall from 9.30-11.00am every Thursday in term time. We have a large hall so kids can run wild but also lots of toys to get stuck into, craft activities, music sessions, hot drinks for the grown ups and snacks for the small people. Children and their parent/grandparent/carer/nanny/childminder etc. are all welcome. £3 per family. We look forward to seeing you!

Louisa Margison

28th April—7th May

HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR TICKETS?

Just one month to go until an amazing set of events lands on your doorstep so buy now!

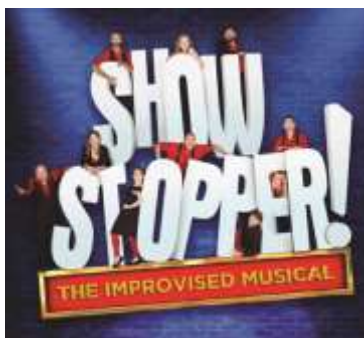
CAN YOU SPARE TIME TO HELP?

If you can find just a little time to pour tea, bake a cake or take ticket money please contact us. There is a job for everyone regardless of age or ability.

Email festival@dorchester-abbey.org.uk or call Steph on **01865 340434**.

People often ask what events we are looking forward to most, so our advice is below— if you miss these you may just regret it!

Hidden Festival Gems



Showstopper! The Improvised Musical

Sun 30 April

Nine years as an Edinburgh Fringe sellout must-see phenomenon, a BBC Radio 4 Series, a critically acclaimed West End run and now an Olivier Award! It is amazing that we have Showstopper! coming to Dorchester—you MUST come and see it!!



Vintage Pedal Cars

BH Mon 1 May (under 6's only—sorry!)

Come and drive around our Abbey on these amazing metal pedal and ride-on cars – Bugatii 1930s racers, emergency vehicles with flashing lights, sirens, bells and tow hooks, even a classic Ferguson tractor and trailer and Deauville touring car!

Mad Hatter's Tea Party

Sun 7 May from 2pm

A completely mad afternoon with amazing (drink me!) tea and (eat me!) cake! From the moment you walk through the rabbit hole you will be immersed in the rather incredible world of Alice in Wonderland. Prepare yourself for encounters with the White Rabbit and Alice, play croquet with the Queen of Hearts, and be surprised by a great tea in which everything may not quite be what it seems...

Workshops with amazing local experts Our village has some incredible residents who, it's easy to forget, are experts in their field. We're delighted that they are giving their time to entertain you!

Drama workshops with Caroline Seed—Sat 29 Apr

Local Artists Exhibition—Sat 29 Apr—Weds 3 May

Historic Houses from Gardens Tour with Malcolm Ains—Sun 30 Apr

Rebecca Hind: The Power of Water, The Colour of Place—Tues 2 May

Cookery Demos with Claire Andersson—Sun 7 May

Archaeology Tour with David Wilkinson—Sun 7 May (Sat 6 SOLD OUT!)

Festival Silent Auction

Great prizes, including holidays, dancing lessons, private tours and cake this is a great opportunity to support our Festival charities and buy a special gift for your friends or family at the same time. See the website for the auction lots and get bidding!

Book on line from the website

www.dorchesterfestival.com

or through the ticket hotline 0333 666 3366



Dorchester on Thames Historical Society

Wednesday 26 April at 7.30pm
Village Hall (back room)



Robert Kidner on: 'Art Nouveau and Art Deco: how do they differ?'

Robert Kidner has been an enthusiastic amateur artist for over 25 years and often exhibits locally. He has completed a course with the Open College of Arts on 'the history of western art'. Members may recall his fascinating talk on Railway Poster Art in November 2015.

Members free, visitors £3. Visitors and new members are always very welcome to our talks and outings.

Margot Metcalfe
Chairman

WI Open Meeting.

Any resident in Dorchester is welcome to attend,
Thursday 13th April at 2.30 in the Village Hall back room.

Elizabeth Brightwell will speak on:
**The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in
Palestine and Israel.**

The EAPPI sends international volunteers to Israel and occupied Palestine. The Ecumenical Accompaniers live with local communities, participate in daily activities and give voice to local groups working non-violently for peace.

Ecumenical Accompaniers help deter violence from Israeli military and armed settler groups. They monitor and document human rights abuses. They bring change on the ground.



British and Irish EAs monitor movement through a gate in the separation barrier to try to reduce the human rights abuses of Palestinian civilians.



'I am glad that the internationals are there. They can observe the truth and give some kind of protection. They make it possible for people to stay.' Fawri, Yanoun villager

Two EAs ensure Palestinian girls arrive safely at school. The girls are regularly harassed or attacked by extremist Israeli settlers who live opposite their school in Hebron.

Dorchester Historical Society Summer Visit

Saturday 24 June

Whitchurch Silk Mill and Winchester

The guided tour of Whitchurch Silk Mill will explain how silk is produced and made into beautiful silk fabrics. See the waterwheel and Victorian machinery, the beautiful garden on the banks of the River Test, and the shop which sells gifts made from the Mill's exclusive silks.



You will then have the opportunity to spend the afternoon in Winchester. Perhaps visiting the Cathedral, the Great Hall and King Arthur's Round Table, the Gurkha Museum or following the Winchester Tudor Trail.

9.00 Depart Bridge End Car Park
10.15 Whitchurch Silk Mill
12.30 Leave for Winchester Visitor Centre (The Cathedral Refectory is one suggestion for lunch)
Free afternoon in Winchester where there is plenty to see and do.
16.00 Depart Winchester
17.30 Arrive back in Dorchester

Come and join us for a fascinating day.

The Cost is £26 (includes the coach and the visit to the Hospital of St Cross only). Please make your cheque out to Dorchester Historical Society and send to Gail Thomas, 14 Herringcote, Martins Lane, Dorchester on Thames, Oxon. OX 10 7RD.

Dorchester Abbey Museum Opening Times 2017

The Abbey Museum will be welcoming visitors for the 2017 season from Easter Saturday until the end of September. Please note that the Opening Times have changed and are as follows:

Monday and Tuesday CLOSED

Wednesday and Thursday OPEN 11am – 5.00pm

Friday, Saturday and Sunday OPEN 2.00pm – 5.00pm

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAYS OPEN 2.00pm – 5.00pm

(Group visits will be by appointment only)

Anne-Marie Joffrin and the Museum volunteers look forward to seeing you during the season. If you would like to become a volunteer do come into the Museum when it is open and find out more about what we do.

Gail Thomas



- The Show is open to any person residing in Dorchester-on-Thames, Burcot, Drayton St Leonard and Berinsfield.
- No exhibitor may exhibit more than one exhibit in each class, excepting Classes 14 & 21, where three entries may be made.
- All entry forms, together with fees, to be submitted **not later than 7.00 pm on Thursday evening** before the show.
- Entries in Classes 16 & 17 must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least the previous 4 months. Other plant classes with the exception of Classes 23 & 24 must have been grown by the exhibitor. Classes 25 - 37 must be made by the exhibitor.
- Exhibitors must provide their own dishes, stands etc. Every care will be taken of the exhibits but the committee will not be held responsible for loss or damage.
- On the relative merits of the exhibits, the opinion of the judges shall be final, but the committee reserves to itself the decision on any other points in dispute.
- The Committee reserves the right to inspect any competitor's garden or allotment before or after the day of the show.
- All exhibits for competition must be staged between 9.00 am and 10.30 am on the day of the show.**
- All competitors must leave their exhibits on show until after the Prize giving and raffle and clear immediately afterwards.
- Any protests must be made in writing before 3.00 pm on the day of the Show, accompanied by 50p. deposit which shall be forfeited to the Committee if the protest is not upheld and found to be groundless.
- Any exhibitor infringing any of these rules shall forfeit all claims to any prize.

Definitions

Class 1: Long trumpet: one flower on a stem; trumpet as long or longer than petals.

Class 2: Short trumpet or cup: one flower on a stem; trumpet shorter than petals.

Classes 23 & 24: Any natural material may be used.

Please label varieties whenever possible
Please note Rule 4

DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES SPRING FLOWER SHOW and Plant Sale/Raffle

DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL
on
Saturday 1st April 2017

Staging 9.00 am – 10.30 am
Viewing 2.30 pm– 4.00 pm

Prizes will be presented at 3.40 pm
followed by Raffle Draw

Exhibitors will be competing for:

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

Class

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

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

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

- An arrangement in a basket (forward facing, 18" x 18" x 12")
- An arrangement in a coffee cup (space 6" x 6" x 6")

COOKERY

- Chocolate log
- Simmnel cake
- Tea bread
- Savoury pasty
- Jammy dodgers - 3
- Pot of marmalade

PHOTOGRAPHS - all unmounted and not exhibited previously.

- Conventional or digital camera
- Must not be manipulated or enhanced in any way. Max 8" x 6"
- A sporting theme
- Subject beginning with 'W'

Image manipulation - up to A4
33) Any subject

HANDICRAFTS

- Any item of needlecraft, incl knitting
- Any other handcrafted item

CHILDREN (Please state age on exhibit)

Aged 9 and over:
36) Miniature garden (not to exceed 12" x 12")

Aged 8 and under:
37) Miniature garden (not to exceed 12" x 12")

ENTRY FORM

Please return no later than **7.00 p.m. Thursday, 30th March** to: Christina Stores, 55 High Street

Class Nos

Full name of Exhibitor

Address.....

Telephone No

Entry Fee 5p. per Class

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

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Sat 6th & Sun 7th May



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Bridge End

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thal, now operating the
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ing, cooks at Willoughby
House



Christine Wallace,
Bake Off quarter finalist,
bakes at The Manor House

Claire Andersson
local chef, renowned for
Guest House Supper Clubs
and Swedish Julbord, cooks
at 14 Watling Lane



...and then enjoy lunch, shopping and live music at the Food & Gift Fair!

Friends of Dorchester Abbey Visit to Salisbury Monday 15 May 2017

Cost: £25.00 per person for Friends of the Abbey.
This includes coach travel and guided tour of Salisbury Cathedral.
£27.00 per person for non-Friends of the Abbey

The coach will leave from the Bridge End car park in Dorchester at 9.00am. We should arrive in Salisbury about 10.30am. **Guided tour of Salisbury Cathedral at 2.30pm.**
The coach will leave Salisbury at 5.00pm.

Traffic permitting, we should arrive back in Dorchester by 6.30pm.

The Cathedral has the tallest spire, the largest Close and Cloisters and its Quire stalls are the largest and earliest complete set in Britain. It also has the best preserved of only four surviving original copies of Magna Carta and the world's oldest working mechanical clock.

There is a cafe/restaurant and a shop.

Friends of Dorchester Abbey will receive this information in the Spring Newsletter.

If anyone else would like to come, please send a cheque for £27.00 per person, payable to 'The Friends of Dorchester Abbey' Your name, address and phone number to:

Mrs Yvonne Lawden, 9 Queens Close, Dorchester-on-Thames, Wallingford, OX10 7LR by Friday 14 April.

Please note: you will not be sent tickets or a receipt, if you have any queries please phone Yvonne Lawden on **01865 340465** or email: y.m.lawden@gmail.com

Further information will be sent to participants before the visit.





Football Results North Berks League

Division 2

| | | | | |
|------------|-----------------------|---|---|------------|
| 11/02/2017 | Harwell Village | 2 | 1 | Dorchester |
| 18/02/2017 | Westminster | 2 | 4 | Dorchester |
| 25/02/2017 | Dorchester | 0 | 6 | Steventon |
| 04/03/2017 | Faringdon Town Res | 1 | 4 | Dorchester |
| 11/03/2017 | Sutton Courtenay | 1 | 0 | Dorchester |

Division 4

| | | | | |
|------------|----------------|---|---|------------------|
| 11/02/2017 | Dorchester Res | 0 | 6 | Blewbury |
| 18/02/2017 | Dorchester Res | 0 | 3 | North Oxford Res |
| 04/03/2017 | Dorchester Res | 2 | 6 | Coleshill United |

North Berks League Cup Quarter Final

| | | | | |
|------------|---------------|---|---|----------------|
| 25/02/2017 | Steventon Res | 2 | 0 | Dorchester Res |
|------------|---------------|---|---|----------------|

Naime Paul Cup Semi Final

| | | | | |
|------------|----------------|---|---|------------------------|
| 11/03/2017 | Dorchester Res | 0 | 2 | Lambourn Sports Res |
|------------|----------------|---|---|------------------------|

Dorchester Cricket Club

Dorchester Cricket Club are seeking an umpire to represent them in the Oxfordshire Cricket Association for the 2017 season. Games are played between May and September on Saturdays throughout the summer. Payment of £50.00 per game and tea provided.

Please contact Adrian Redhead on **07798 887499** or email adrianredhead@hotmail.com for more details.

GO Active GOLD



South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are bringing GO Active Gold activities to many more rural communities in 2017 following overwhelming success in 2016.

GO Active Gold aims to help those aged 60 and over to live more active lifestyles by setting up physical activities in rural areas that cater for all abilities.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have been awarded £227,269 by Sport England for this three year project which runs until 2019.

In 2016 more than 1,000 residents from 20 different communities took part in over 70 GO Active Gold activities.

The following new sessions will be starting in Dorchester village:

Senior Circuits

Wednesdays: 10.00-11.00am

Dorchester Village Hall

Cost: £4 per session.

Wear comfortable clothing

To book your place on the course or for more information please contact: Annalie Thomasson

Annalie.thomasson@southandvale.gov.uk

07766 991487



Tennis News

The new season approaches and we look forward to some great tennis weather this year. We will kick off with the Spring Tournament on **Sunday 23 April** at 2.00pm.

If you haven't been to one of our tournaments before, what can you expect? Well, tennis at all standards of play, afternoon tea and a friendly welcome. We play mixed doubles format, but don't worry if you don't have a partner as we can fix you up on the day.

The junior coaching programme for children 4 years and over will commence after the Easter holidays every Thursday from 4.00pm. Please contact Claire if you would like your child to join in. Claire@claireandersson.co.uk

Adult coaching continues every Thursday morning at 11.00am and we will start evening sessions on Thursday at 7.00pm after Easter. These are drop-in sessions and are open to all abilities.

Open Club sessions are on Sunday mornings 10.30 am to 1.00pm and, after Easter, we will start an open club session on Wednesday evenings from 7.00pm-9.00pm. Please come along if you would like a game or two.

If you would like to join our friendly little club, we are accepting new members! Membership gives you access to tournaments and club sessions, coaching and great odds at winning a pair of Wimbledon tickets through our club ballot. The membership fees go towards the court and hitting wall maintenance and improvement. This year we will be trying out some portable floodlights!

For membership and other enquiries, contact me on chrisccsmith@btinternet.com or **01865 341947**

Chris Smith
Tennis Club Chair



Dorchester Tennis Club

Spring Mixed Doubles Tournament

Sunday 23 April

2.00pm at the courts

**£6 entry fee including
afternoon teas**

**Open to members
and non-members**

Following the report in the last edition of Dorchester News we've had a number of people who say they might be interested in becoming involved. However, they express concerns regarding the way this works and how they might fit in. So we've pulled together a FAQ section.

Q. What is 'DOGS'? Dorchester Golf Society. It's a village society that organises golfing outings, but essentially remains a social gathering that includes many non-golfing members. We also organise non-golfing events such as 'Aunt Sally' evenings, BBQs and theatre outings.

Q. How does this work in practice? Each year we organise a calendar that combines golfing outings and non-golfing events. Attendance is optional and by individual choice. You decide what, when and where you join in.

Q. But I'm not a strong golfer? Join the club! We do have some excellent players, but we tend to put these out together. The rest of us do our best in a spirit of friendly rivalry, never letting the scorecard become our sole measure of enjoyment.

DOGS welcomes newcomers



Q. Golf is an expensive, time consuming and elitist sport. For sure this was the case for generations past, but this has changed beyond recognition. We select good value rates and off-peak tee times to gain entry to prestige golf clubs. These usually cost a great deal more if booked individually. We are also introducing a special 'reduced holes' competition in three of our 2017 summer outings. These start late afternoon, 1700h, and cost £10 to £15 for 9 holes, thus allowing time and budget savings to be made during the best of mid-summer evenings.

Q. So what about our 'other halves'? Enough to say that we have more than double attendees at our social events and

after-event meals. What's more, a number of our members are 'singles' and they confirm that DOGS is open to everyone who wants to join in and enjoy our events.

Q. You say DOGS is a social society?

Exactly this. We have regular informal social gatherings, along with a few drinks, in the bar of The White Hart Hotel, 8.00pm every first Monday of the month (including the winter break). We rarely discuss golf as there's so much else going on in the village and elsewhere. We also try to follow our summer outings by meeting up for an optional meal in one of the village hotels and pub.

Q. Will I fit in? Forget out-dated conceptions of golf being a semi-closed sporting activity. DOGS is very much of today's thinking. We are there to have fun and meet friends. Why not simply drop in to one of our monthly White Hart get-togethers and see if it appeals to you? Or better still try to come to our next event.

Next event. Golf, 18 holes at Mapledurham GC. **Thursday 20 April.** 11.45am Sandwich lunch, tee 12.45. £28

For more information call Jan and Mike Rimmer 01865 343719

Agatha Crusty



AND THE VILLAGE HALL MURDERS by Derek Webb

21st - 24th June 7.45pm
Dorchester Village Hall

Wednesday £8 | Thursday - Saturday £10

Tickets available from:

Dorchester Co-op | dads.org.uk
tickets@dads.org.uk | 01865 340792

DADS
Dorchester Amateur Dramatic Society

Hurst Water Meadow Trust News

All change at the Trust

Long serving Trustees Richard Douglas and Andrew Clements, and Administrator Lisbet Clements have relinquished their positions in the Trust from 31 March 2017.

Richard became a trustee in November 1995 and has been Chairman of the Trust since 2006. In that position he has been instrumental in seeing through the purchase of Old Bridge Meadow and Overy Mead Piece. He brought good business sense and a calm influence to our meetings and activities as well as being a most generous supporter.

Andrew was one of the original trustees when the Trust was established in April 1995 at the time of the purchase of the Hurst. He has been Honorary Treasurer throughout and managed Trust finances with skill and precision. In his retirement Andrew became an enthusiastic volunteer worker on the meadows and found a new interest in farming and wildlife conservation, reading extensively to further his knowledge. He intends to continue to support the Trust as a volunteer so we hope to still see him swinging a scythe or a billhook.

Lisbet was also in at the beginning of the Trust's life, taking the role of Administrator. She has kept trustees on their toes and regularly assailed their inboxes with copies of documents and instructions about meetings. She has also been chief photographer and has built up a remarkable gallery of photos of the meadows and their wildlife. Like Andrew, she joined volunteer work parties on the meadows (often bringing coffee and cakes) and she hopes to continue her involvement with the Trust in a voluntary capacity.

All three have personally committed time, energy and enthusiasm to the development of the Trust and the remaining trustees thank them most warmly.

Reorganisation

Richard Farrant, an existing trustee, is the new Chairman of the Trust. We hope to appoint a new Hon. Treasurer as soon as possible and Gillian Johnson (Hon. Secretary) will try to manage many of the administration tasks. All other trustees have stepped up to the mark admirably and are taking responsibility for specific aspects, notably land management and education.

Consultation on the management of the meadows

During the winter the trustees commissioned an ecological appraisal of our meadows, including an outline for a ten year management plan of the varying habitats.

The resulting report and plan has been approved by trustees and will be set in operation this spring. You probably won't notice much change as we had already been pollarding and coppicing in rotation but you may notice some areas being deliberately left untouched for a period to benefit wildlife.

As the weather improves we hope that residents and visitors will enjoy walking in the meadows.

Please let us know if you have any concerns, please pick up litter and dog mess, and do get in touch if you would like to help the Trust in a voluntary capacity.

Gillian Johnson
Hon. Secretary
01865 340925

Website: www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk

Bishops Court Farm Dorchester on Thames Lambing Open Day

Bishops Court Farm would like to invite you to a true 'lambing live' open day in April 2017 (date to be confirmed) where you will have the chance to meet our flocks of Suffolk, Kerry Hill and Zwartble sheep.

We are not an 'open farm' but would like to open our lambing shed to the residents of Dorchester to educate and inform visitors how lambs are produced and how the farm works during this very busy period. You may be able to hold a lamb, feed them and even get to see one being born! A fun and enlightening afternoon for all the family!

For more updates over the coming weeks see our Facebook page '**Bishops Court Farm**'.

Please note pregnant women are strongly advised to avoid the lambing yards and barns. For more information please see government recommendations.

John Masfield House Easter Egg Hunt

John Masfield house are hosting an Easter egg hunt on Saturday **15 April 2017**, to help raise funds for a sensory room.

It starts at 11.00am and everyone is welcome: come as a team or come on your own, there are prizes to be won! £5 per adult and £3 per child (all children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult).

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Friday, 28 April '17

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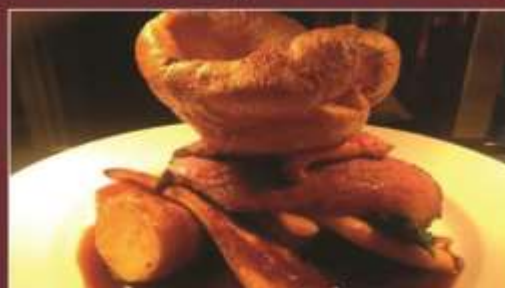
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The WVC Volunteers provide services that could be useful to Dorchester residents. The services are for people who are unable to do things for themselves and sometimes need help, i.e. for those who are elderly, disabled or vulnerable.

The most important service is driving individuals to medical appointments at hospitals in Oxford, Abingdon and Reading. They also help with visits to patients in hospital and to local doctors, dentists, chiropodists etc.

In most cases, the driver will wait with the client but - for a very long wait they might leave and return later - or maybe a different driver will provide the return service. The driver will probably have a pass for parking at hospitals and the "reserved" spaces are usually close to the entrance door.

If you have a 'walking frame' this can be accommodated. If you need a wheel chair, this can be provided at the hospital, but not all the drivers have been trained to use them. Your own wheelchair, how-

Wallingford Volunteer Centre Do you need help?

ever, cannot be accommodated. Other services include shopping trips, visits to a library or 'local friends and relatives'.

Naturally, this cannot be a 'free service' but the maximum charge is £13 - below this it is calculated at 45p per mile, measured from Wallingford (town centre). The client should also pay for any parking charge.

Need further information or to register as a client?

The office is open from 9.30 to 11.30am Monday to Friday.

The telephone number is: **01491 836345**
The email address is: wallingford.volunteer.centre@gmail.com

The postal address is: St Leonard's Square, Wallingford, OX10 0AS



Can You Help Them?

Although this item is mainly for potential clients, if you think that you could be a **Volunteer**, please use any of the ways, above, to contact the Centre.

If you decide to continue and are accepted, you will be provided with training and a comprehensive handbook.

Alan Isherwood
Judy Parker
March 2017

Do something amazing with your evenings or weekends



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:

Avril Shead, volunteer & fundraising coordinator
John Masfield House
Burcot Brook, Burcot, Oxfordshire, OX14 3DP
@ avril.shead@leonardcheshire.org
07711 848 883



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**citizens
advice**

Struggling with debts? Citizens Advice can help

More people saddled with unmanageable debts are turning to Citizens Advice, leading the charity to call for people to seek help before they reach crisis point.

Nationally, a rising number of people have resorted to a debt relief order (DRO) since the amount of debt covered by a DRO rose from £15,000 to £20,000 last October.

DROs are a last resort for people who have exhausted all options for repaying their debts and won't be able to pay in the near future. They work by 'pausing' most of your debts for a year so that your creditors can't chase you for repayment. At the end of the year, unless your circumstances change, your debts will be written off.

Debt write-offs can have a serious impact on people's credit rating, which makes it more difficult to take out more credit agreements or even open a new bank account.

Citizens Advice is now urging people who are failing to keep on top of their debts to seek advice early, so that they have the best chance of managing their debts. An adviser stressed: 'We will discuss your individual situation and look at the options available to you, so that you can make an informed decision about the best debt management for you.'

For further help visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk, phone 03444 111 444 or drop into your nearest Citizens Advice. For locations and opening hours see

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale
Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale is an independent charity that provides the local Citizens Advice service.

Focus on...The Abbey Bell Ringers

If you were in Dorchester on Saturday 25 February, you would have heard the Abbey bells ringing on and off for an hour in the middle of the afternoon. But there was no wedding that day, which would, anyway, have been no more than 30 minutes. No, that afternoon Dorchester Abbey was hosting the AGM of the South Oxfordshire Branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers. Many of the most skilled ringers of South Oxfordshire had gathered for the meeting, and, of course, to ring the Abbey bells.

The Abbey has a fine set of bells, and its own fine set of bell ringers. It's these bells and the Dorchester ringers that this article is about.

Bells and their association with churches goes back a long way. The oldest of the Dorchester Abbey bells was cast in 1375, with the second one following in 1380. It is quite possible that these bells were cast from earlier bells that were melted down, so the metal in the bells could be even older. Nevertheless, to have two bells, known to be more than 600 years old is quite something. The oldest known church bell in England is at Hadham, Sussex, and dates from 1100AD according to the Guinness Book of Records, so the Dorchester bells are a little bit younger than that but, in the scheme of things, not by much.

It was following the reformation in the 16th century that bell ringing as we know it with a series of bells ringing in order, became widespread, and Dorchester added four more bells between 1591 and 1651. The final two bells were added in the nineteenth century, in 1867.

They would almost certainly have been rung in rounds and sequences known as 'changes' from the 17th century, so today's bell ringers are continuing a tradition that is more than 300 years old.

For many years during the 18th and early 19th century, bell ringing, despite being located in church towers, was seen as a sport that had only a vague connection

with the church. But in the mid 19th century, the church made a successful effort to claim it back and associate bell ringing with church services. So the bell ringing we hear today, on Sundays or for weddings and funerals, is largely a Victorian idea of how and when bells should be rung.

In Dorchester, the final two bells of the eight now hanging, were added in 1867 and, together with a new oak frame installed at the same time, ushered in a new era of ringing here.

In the Abbey tower, there is a large wooden plaque with the rules inscribed and dated January 1868, installed as this new era opened, and appears to be an attempt by the Revd. W. C. MacFarlane to keep the ringers in order. Under these rules 'No drinking, swearing, quarrelling or smoking' is permitted in the belfry, with a fine of one shilling for each transgression. Together with 'Every ringer to be a well conducted respectable man' and 'No one will be eligible who is connected with a public house', this suggests a real effort to try to change the character of the bell ringing team.

These new bells were launched with a peal rung in May 1868, mostly by members of the White family. (The bells are still serviced by their descendants, Whites of Appleton, to this day.) One hundred years later an anniversary peal was rung in 1968, organised by Frank White of the same family. Dorchester's bells were also the subject of an article in The Oxford Times in February 1968.

The tower captain at the time was Douglas Exon, Dorchester's village baker, who had taken over this role in 1957, and con-

tinued in it until 1987. His father, Charles Exon, had been a well known ringer, who had started at St Giles', Oxford, in 1893 and had taken part in a world record peal at Drayton in 1896.

A photograph in The Oxford Times shows some of the Dorchester ringers, including Doug Exon, Lettice Godfrey and several teenage girls, who, it is suggested, had been recruited by Lettice Godfrey. Doug Exon had said that they needed more boys.



Above: From The Oxford Times, 1968, the ringers are, from left, Douglas Exon, Jane Bowles, Caroline Born, Rosemary Best, Noreen Smith, Elizabeth Day and Lettice Godfrey.

Below: Chris Norman and Doreen Stoneham with the bells in 1987.



Doug Exon died in 1987, at which point Doreen Stoneham became Tower Captain. She was succeeded by David Parker in 1997. David's complaint today would be that the bell-ringers need more young people, whether boys or girls. There have been a number of teenage ringers in the tower in recent years, but they tend to move away, often to university. Many continue ringing elsewhere, sometimes very successfully. Recently the Dorchester team was enhanced for a day by Joshua Eldridge who had learned here, had gone on to be Tower Captain at Durham University, and who came back to Dorchester to visit and to ring.

Nevertheless, there is currently a good-sized team of fourteen ringers, all bar two of whom have learnt at Dorchester, with four new people starting in the last three years. But new ringers are always required, as others move towards retirement.

Learning the art of bell ringing takes practice and time. First the new ringer



Douglas Exon with some of the bells when they were down in 1987

has to learn to handle and control the bell so that it rings at the precise moment that you want it to, and to be able to do that safely. Many people will have seen pictures in newspapers recently of a ringer in Worcester Cathedral who had caught the rope round his leg and was hauled 8 feet into the air. Simple good practice should avoid accidents like that and safety is the first thing that a new ringer learns. Once you can control the bell - and that might take several months of practice - then you start to learn the

sequences, called changes or methods, that tell you when to make your bell ring. You can then join with the rest of the band in making the wonderful sound that is bell-ringing. On the way there are often some less wonderful sounds. As practising is very public, the bell-ringers crave the indulgence of the village on Tuesday evenings when they push themselves to try new things, which they don't always get right!

Bell ringers always welcome bell-ringing visitors and members of the Dorchester band have recently rung at many of the churches in South Oxfordshire, including Chalgrove, Benson, Chinnor, Aston Rowant and Marsh Baldon, with ringers from these towers and others coming to ring at Dorchester. It is not unknown for ringers from elsewhere who happen to be staying at The George or The White Hart coming to the Abbey on a Tuesday evening because they had heard the band ringing up for a practice, and have come along to join in.

Dorchester's bells are well known for the quality of their sound. The Oxford Mail of 1968 quoted the '*Church Bells of Oxfordshire*' in saying that they are 'far famed for their tone and in many ways unique'. Hence the keenness with which visiting ringers come to Dorchester to ring the bells, such as at the Branch AGM with which we started.

But the bells do need maintenance. Each year they are inspected and minor work done, but every so often a more major overhaul and re-tuning is required. This was last done in 1987 when all the bells were taken away to Whitechapel Bell Foundry for work. Given that each bell weighs up to 16½ cwt (843 kilograms) getting them in and out of the tower is no mean feat. All of the floors in the tower open up for this purpose, but it

April 1999: Dorchester ringers pose for a photograph.



is still a skilled job to remove them safely and then to re-install them. In 1987 it took four days to lower them and then, six months later, nine days to get them back into position and working.

For some ringers, ringing is a family tradition. The White family mainly made up the team to ring the first peal on the new bells in 1868, and in 1987, they were lowered by Brian White, great-grandson of one the Whites of 1868, and still working in the firm. For the silver wedding anniversary of David and Judy Parker, the bells were rung by a band made up entirely of members of the Parker family, two of whom are, or have been, tower captains elsewhere. Doug Exon followed in the footsteps of his father, and other members of the Exon family were also ringers. They not only rang church bells but they also owned a fine set of hand bells. These the family had refurbished by Whitechapel Foundry and donated them to Dorchester Abbey in 2011 in memory of Doug. They are much admired by other hand bell ringers, and it is hoped that a team of hand bell ringers can be organised in the village. They will be demonstrated with a chance for you to try them in this year's Dorchester Festival, as one of the *20 things you must do...*, so come along and give them a try. You will also be able to visit the ringing chamber and get a feel for how the Abbey bells are rung. You might find it as much fun as the current band of ringers do.

Below: Some of the current band of ringers in the ringing chamber

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Thomas Quick 1987-2017

Tom lived as many only dream of living.

He was part of an incredibly close family, a bond which remained strong throughout his life. He was almost effortlessly clever, winning prizes throughout his education – from the European School at Culham to his Masters in Environmental Technology at Imperial College.

Tom began his working life as an environmental consultant but after a few years he was itching for a new challenge and joined DFID as a trainee climate change adviser. Despite being one of the youngest of his cohort, he was highly regarded and after only a year in the UK he was posted to South Africa. There he worked on projects seeking to improve water management and to ease tensions over water resources. He was beginning to make a real difference.

He had boundless energy and a life-affirming enjoyment of both work and play. Based in Pretoria, he and his fiancée, Sarah, travelled widely during their time there. Friends and family came to visit. No weekend was wasted, making the most of every moment to hike, bike and



run amongst some of what Tom regarded as the most beautiful and diverse scenery in the world. Sometimes exhausting but always incredible, every activity with Tom became a lifetime experience. Two years on, he was made a fully-fledged government climate and environment adviser and was posted to Botswana.

It was in October 2016 that Tom and Sarah took their last trip together - a short, but memorable break to northern Botswana and Victoria Falls. It was done in true Tom style: adrenaline packed, with gorge

hikes, zip wires, incredible wildlife safaris and a grade 5 white water rafting expedition in an extremely flappable raft on the crocodile-infested Zambezi river!

And it was also in Botswana that Tom became very unwell. After further tests in Pretoria he was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 29. It was a devastating diagnosis – to his family, to Sarah and to his friends. Their worlds simply imploded. Tom fought it with everything he had, drawing on the immense support of everyone around him - but just after Christmas he learnt that his cancer could not be treated.

He returned home, aiming to spend as much time as possible with Sarah and his close family.

Tom died on 7 January 2017.

He not only showed incredible strength and courage throughout his illness – but also such amazing compassion and concern for everyone he was leaving behind. It was exactly as he lived his life.

Let memories of your joy in living

Be our compass in the mist

And let us share your boundless courage

To reach a place where joy persist



Sat 29th April—Wed 3rd May
Dorchester Abbey Guest House
10.30am-6pm
Free Entry!



An exhibition of amazing work by artists living in and around Dorchester.

Artists include Rebecca Hind, Adrian Brookes, Puff Drew, Bill Maish, Sophia Stewart-Liberty, Mari Metcalfe and Vicky Nolan.

20% of all sales will go to the Festival Charities.



Rosemary Januszewski 1952-2017

Rosi Januszewski the daughter of the Reverend Harold Best – Vicar of Dorchester—was born in Aug 1952, when the family lived in Stadhampton. She moved to Dorchester when she was very young. Rosi went to St. Helens School and left home after marrying in the Abbey in 1972. During her final illness she visited several times and it was her great wish to have a funeral service at the Abbey. Her daughter Joanna gave the tribute below.

How do I sum up my mum in a few short minutes? Luckily, everyone here will know how unique she was and will appreciate what a difficult job this is.

Mum was pretty young when she had children. She was just 23 when I was born, by the time she was 27 she had 3 kids under 5. She was often alone at home with all of us, and she didn't drive, we went everywhere on the bus. I'm not sure how she coped, but she just did – that's Mum all over. She never complained about how difficult things must have been, she just got on with things in her cheerful way.

I'm not sure how I can convey to you what she was like as a mum when I was young. I remember vividly sitting on the sofa with her when I was probably around 8 or 9. She put her arm around me, and I snuggled up to her. This wasn't anything unusual, but this particular time, I remember thinking to myself that this was my favourite place in the world and consciously realising how safe I felt. That was how she made me feel – safe and protected. At the time, in the early and mid 80's, there was some pretty weird stuff going on in the world, but nothing bad could ever happen to us when she was around.

As I got older, I started to realise that she wasn't like other mums, I began to realise that she was actually a bit bonkers. Amongst other things she did, she used to sing in French to find the hairbrush in the mornings, and she kept up a commentary on the activities of the little red floating bead which indicated the depth of water in the kettle (I have my diary from age 12 to thank for that recollection – I noted the day that the red dot drowned). The most extreme example of this came when I was about 17. My bedroom wasn't up to standard and she had been telling (nagging) me to tidy it for a while, weeks if I'm honest, but I'd done nothing and Mum's patience had run out. So far, so typical teenager and mum stuff. Now most people can think of a couple of different ways of handling that situation, but I'm pretty sure nobody would come up with



Mum's solution. When I came home from being 'out', there was homemade crime scene tape across my bedroom door. When I opened the door, I found all my soft toys hanging by nooses around their necks. They all had suicide notes attached to them along the lines of 'I'm sorry, I couldn't stand living in this mess for a minute longer'.

She wasn't a soppy sentimental type, she didn't wear her heart on her sleeve, but I never doubted that she loved us all. I read something the other day (on Facebook of all places) along the lines of there being many different ways to say I love you, you just have to listen for it. I used to call Mum's way nagging

(drive carefully, eat properly, tell me when you get there safely, where's your coat are just some I can think of), but it was her way of telling us she loved us. Whenever I accused her of nagging, she would always say 'I'm your mother, it's my job'.

So, as a mum, she was the best, but as a Granny she excelled herself. I've never heard her as excited as she was when I told her that we were expecting a baby. When Adam was on his way, she got herself on a coach and bus for the journey to Mansfield so she could be there and she was the third person to ever hold him. From day one, she used to give Adam 'granny kisses' and she loved him so much.

If we fell out or disagreed about anything, she would always say 'you'll be sorry when I'm dead' – and she was right. She also used to threaten me that she would come and live with me when she was very old, she would make my house smell of cabbage, wet the bed and run down the road in her nightie. In a strange way, I feel cheated that that won't happen.

I'm proud to have had her as my mum and as Adam's granny. Her not being with us now is somehow beyond reality and we will miss her every day.



Calling all walkers or would-be walkers. Do you fancy a fundraising CHALLENGE IN 2017? If so, come and join us for **WalkWithMe**, a fundraising 26 mile 'marathon' walk being held on **Sunday 14th May 2017**. We start and finish in the beautiful grounds of Moulsoford School, Moulsoford-on-Thames. The route winds through some stunning South Oxfordshire

countryside, including the banks of the River Thames and a section of the historic Ridgeway. And you can take part for a suggested donation of £45. For the 2017 event we are once again donating to **Action Against Cancer**, a charity which supports pioneering cancer treatments and therapies which aim to make cancer a disease we die with and not from. And for the first time this year we are also supporting the **Sue Ryder Hospice in Nettlebed**. For all the information you need and to register visit **www.walkwithme2017.com**. If you need to get in touch, email us at **team@walkwithme2017.com**. Come on, let's

GET TOGETHER, GET FIT, MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Sue Ryder

Ron Hawes 1929-2017

Ron was born in Stoke Newington 1929 October 29th and like many children of his generation was affected by the War which started when he was nine. Ron was evacuated with his parents to Eastbourne but soon realised that this was just as dangerous as London and so the family moved to Wales! He attended Carmarthen Grammar School and later studied Rubber and Plastics technology then Chemistry to degree level.

Ron and Enid met working on a fruit farm; the three years of their courtship mirrored the time when London was recovering from the war and they felt they were part of London's history attending all kinds of wonderful events including the Festival of Britain. They married in July 1954 and Ron got a job at Harwell so their lives moved from London to Oxfordshire. Initially they lived in a caravan at Harwell where Diana and Mark were born then moved to Wallingford with two small children, two deckchairs and a borrowed bed! Whilst there they acquired more furniture and three more children – Nicholas, Caroline and Patrick.

Enid returned to teaching whilst the children were small and Ron remained at Harwell where he worked for 36 years – these were very happy times for the family during which they moved to a bigger house in Wantage where they continued to enjoy family life and home-making alongside careers at Harwell and in teaching. Diana remembers 'helping' in the garden. Ron planted some seedlings, Diana pulled them up. Enid found and hurriedly replanted them – but Ron noticed that something was wrong: "they're growing upside down!"

Ron qualified as a chemist and earned his living as a research scientist for all of his working life. This was fulfilling but he had an incredibly enquiring and inquisitive mind which, along with an appreciation of the arts, encouraged by his father, fuelled interest in a broad range of spheres across both science and the arts. This included, but was not limited to, Music, Art,



Sculpture, Dance, Film, Theatre, Natural History, Local History, Architecture, Geology. He enjoyed and appreciated all of these as an end user but also wanted to participate either creatively – painting, drawing, filming, editing or through investigation, experimentation and research.

Ron loved the outdoors – and each of his children and his grandchildren recall specific memories of things they learned from him. Nicholas learned to fish in Lake Bala and learned to use a map and compass on the Fells. Everyone learned to sail on Dorchester Lake and Mark recalled the beginning of his enthusiasm for boats with his father's gift of

"Swallows and Amazons" and his delight at being able to repay a small part of the debt by taking Dad and Mum on a sailing holiday to the Gippisland Lakes in Victoria. Patrick recalls Ron "allowing us to learn through experience. On a Broad's sailing holiday I was following the main yacht, in a one man sailing dingy and became stuck in a mud bank. I called for assistance. He turned, looked at the situation for 5 seconds and shouted 'you'll work it out' and disappeared around the bend – of course I did work it out."

Ron simply loved to be outdoors feeling the sun on his skin, swimming in river or lake – simply 'being' in the natural world as nature intended.

Towards the end of February, after fighting a double pneumonia for seven days, Ron and his family had to confront the inevitable. 'We were extremely fortunate to have those last few hours to say what needed to be said, for him and for us. He was fully cognisant of the situation, understood and accepted it, and even then in his last hour his curiosity burned brightly.'

Edited from Tributes given at the Funeral by the Rector .

Both the Historical Society and the Museum will remember Ron Hawes with gratitude as one of their most dedicated and innovative members, who played a crucial role in generating and sustaining serious interest in Dorchester's local history and its preservation. Ron was part of a very active research group, served on the Historical Society and Museum committees for many years, as well as being a regular volunteer in the Museum. His activities epitomise the close links between the Historical Society and Museum over many decades.

Ron also set standards for doing oral history and created invaluable tapes of

Dorchester Historical Society Ron Hawes – An Appreciation

interviews with long-term residents; recorded talks at Historical Society meetings; attended numerous classes and courses; and encouraged others to undertake projects, such as transcribing baptism, marriage and burial registers.

His most lasting legacy is the 'Millennium Archive', an eclectic mix of material relating to Dorchester's local history: old parish magazines, the collections of past researchers (such as Percy Beak, Geoff Perks, Rosalie Bloxham, and others),

donations from village families, photographs, letters, and selected reference material. Ron recognised the need to make the archive

accessible and searchable; his simple classification system enables us to sort documents into broad categories (such as families, archaeology, education, buildings), while ongoing work to establish a digital database, a project close to Ron's heart, will enable access not only to the archive, but the entire Museum collection.

Margot Metcalfe
Chairman

Chiropodist

Third Thursday of each month,
1.00–4.00pm
Village Hall (back room)
20 April
For an appointment, Jo Bennett,
07903 133469
Cost £15

Fishmonger

The travelling fishmonger comes to Dorchester every Tuesday and will stop between 9.30 and 9.50 (9.40 in winter months when weather bad, but 9.30 in summer months) in High Street near War Memorial



Earth Trust April events



Lambing Weekend

Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 April, 11.00am-4.00pm

Come and see us down on the farm during our annual Lambing Weekends! Meet lambs, piglets, goats and more. Craft activities and refreshments available. £7 adult, £3 child, £17 family (discount for online bookings), FREE for Earth Trust Friends.

Newts, Frogs and Toads

Friday 7 April, 7.45pm-9.30pm

A guided walk to Little Wittenham Wood to find out all about the amphibians that live there. £6 adult, £3 child; booking essential: **01865 407792** or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Beginners Wildlife Photography

Saturday 8 April, 10.00am-3.00pm

Professional photographer Andrew Walmsley will help you get to grips with your camera and provide guidance on capturing images of wildlife. There are a series of workshops running throughout the next few months – book one or more as a course: first workshop £80 per adult, £70 per child (14-16 yrs), subsequent workshops 15% off. Booking essential: **01865 407792** or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee). This workshop was originally advertised as taking place on Saturday 18 March.

Intermediate Wildlife Photography

Sunday 9 April, 10.00am-3.00pm

In each of these workshops professional photographer Andrew Walmsley will cover a different aspect of photography so you can build up a more in-depth knowledge. Future intermediate workshops: 22 April, 14 May and 18 June; book one or more as a course: first workshop £80 per adult, £70 per child (14-16 yrs), subsequent workshops 15% off. Booking essential: **01865 407792** or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee). This workshop was originally advertised as taking place on Sunday 19 March.

Creepy Crawly Comics

Monday 10 April, 10.00am-3.00pm

Explore the nature reserve to find a natural hero then create a comic with popular cartoonist Neill Cameron. For 7-11 year olds; parents welcome to stay. £30 (ask about our discount for siblings); booking essential: **01865 407792** or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Clumps Club

Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 April, 9.00am-5.00pm

School holiday club for 7-11 year olds! Different outdoor activities each day, please see website for details. £30 per day; booking essential: **01865 407792** or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Little Explorers

Thursday 13 April, 10.00am-11.30am

Buggies and slings welcome for a ramble around our nature reserve. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

Night Safari

Tuesday 18 April, 7.30pm-9.00pm

Discover Wallingford Castle Meadow's wildlife by night and set up live traps ready for tomorrow's event. **Free** thanks to Whittard, through TOE2, with funds raised by the 5p plastic bag charge.

Wildlife Wednesday at Wallingford Castle Meadows

Wednesday 19 April, 10.00am-2.00pm

Our roving Wildlife Wednesday visits a different Earth Trust community nature reserve each school holiday. Come out and play and learn about your local wildlife! **FREE** thanks to Whittard, through TOE2, with funds raised by the 5p plastic bag charge.

Woodland Adventure

Wednesday 19 April, 10.00am-12.00pm

An expedition for 5-8 year olds. Use your detective skills to explore, build and play in the woods! £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adults free.

Family Bushcraft

Thursday 20 April, 10.00am-4.00pm

Bring the whole family and go wild in the great outdoors! Learn to make shelters and light a fire. £20 per adult, £15 per child; booking essential: **01865 407792** or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Discover and Play

Friday 21 April, 10.00am-12.00pm

Forest School fun for the under 5s. Join us for a morning of play and discovery in our woodlands. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adults free.

Intermediate Wildlife Photography

Saturday 22 April, 10.00am-3.00pm

In each of these workshops professional photographer Andrew Walmsley will cover a different aspect of photography so you can build up a more in-depth knowledge. This workshop will cover long lens technique. Future intermediate workshops: 14 May and 18 June; book one or more as a course: first workshop £80, subsequent workshops 15% off. Booking essential: **01865 407792** or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Basket Weaving

Sunday 30 April, 9.30am-4.30pm

A practical workshop with Catherine Tregaskes from Crafts for a Sustainable Future. £45; 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.

JEM

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Hallidays Hydropower brings Pear Mill, an 18th Century Cotton Mill, into the 21st Century.

On 7 March 2017, Hallidays Hydropower Ltd, based in Queen Street, Dorchester on Thames, successfully installed a vast water turbine on the River Goyt at Stringer's Weir, Stockport. Once finished, the turbine will power the impressive Pear Mill, a Grade II Listed, 18th Century Cotton Spinning Mill built in 1913.

The turbine is 3.5m wide and over 8m in length. It will produce 281Mwh of electricity each year, which would be enough electricity to run 75 standard UK homes. The turbine will save well over 150,000 tonnes of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere each year.



The turbine is lifted into place

Hallidays Hydropower Ltd have worked extremely closely with the Environment Agency, Council and Local stakeholders such as the Angling fraternity on this installation and have used a fish friendly turbine whilst also installing a Lariniar Fish Pass alongside it, providing safe upstream and downstream migration for fish for the first time since 1791.

Henry Reily-Collins of Hallidays Hydropower said: 'This has been our most challenging project yet. Prior to our involvement, this hydro scheme had a long history of development attempts by other companies. Getting the Engineering to work and the finances to stack up was no mean feat, however Hallidays Hydropower excel at value engineering and efficient design and have managed to deliver another renewable energy generator, to time and within budget and as sympathetic to the local environment as possible'.

Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

Reducing flood risk - enabling a thriving economy - connecting people and the environment

The Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme project team will be at the

Abingdon Community Free Space,
Bury Street, Abingdon, OX14 3QT.
Saturday 1 April 2017,
10am to 3pm.

Why not come and talk to us about the scheme?

Information on the scheme will be on display in the windows from 27 March

This is one of a series of events we are attending in Oxfordshire. For more information, please contact us or check our events on Facebook.

www.gov.uk/government/collections/reducing-flood-risk-in-oxford-and-abingdon

Contact us at oxfordscheme@environment-agency.gov.uk

Find us on Facebook

Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

Follow us on Twitter

@OxfordFAS

April £5 Swim Offer

Only available to people age 60+ living in rural villages

Register before 1 April 2017

Call 01235 422226 or do it online

www.getoxfordshireactive.org/go-active-gold

Perhaps we are being made the swimming offer in case the Flood Alleviation Scheme doesn't work! - Ed

Dorchester Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Steering group have met our new SODC Planning Policy Officer for the first time early in March and appraised him of the key elements of our Draft NDP. Since then he has read and evaluated it and over a 3 hour meeting with us made detailed comments on many aspects of the Policies and overall document. At the end of the meeting his key remark was that there were, in his view, no 'showstoppers' and in general the plan is of a very high standard.

He did provide us with some fresh insight and emphasised the value of the Green Belt status that the whole of Dorchester enjoys as 'a village washed over by the Green Belt' and the restrictions that places on development. This has led us to make some important changes in the Housing section that will strengthen this aspect of the document. These changes will be apparent when we are advised that we can make the document available for public inspection. Meanwhile, the document has been amended and compiled into a professional format and sent to SODC for their comments. Following this there will be a 6 week consultation period when SODC have to publicise the NDP to statutory consultees and the general public.

Some good news is that there are now specific nationally published timescales for the NDP process though these are somewhat lengthy. However, we were reassured that where SODC are concerned they can process our NDP faster than the national timescales.

Chris Hill - Dorchester NDP steering group



Found in the village Do you know what this is?

This is a picture of something that you can see every day somewhere in Dorchester. But what is it? Have you noticed it?

Answer on page 33.

Parish Council

Monthly Meeting - April

The March meeting will take place in the back room of the Village Hall on **Wednesday 12 April** commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Agenda will be posted on Village notice boards and on the Parish Council section of the Village website – www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk - three clear days in advance of the meeting. All Parish Council Meetings are open to the public; a resident who wishes to raise any matter of concern is welcome to do so at the start of the meeting.

Riverside Paths

At the time of writing these notes (11 March), the Parish Council is still encouraging the landowner, the County Council and the Environment Agency to work jointly to carry out the actions which have been recommended by RoSPA. The Parish Council by itself has no power in this matter but hopes that its intervention will achieve the best possible safety outcome for all. The RoSPA report will be published for the interest of third parties when the results of these discussions are known.

Parish Council Vacancy

The Council regrets to announce the resignation of Val Howells due to the pressure of her other commitments. The Parish Council Chairman, Chris Hill, and all the Councillors wish to thank Val for everything that she has contributed during her time in office. They are pleased by her willingness to continue to be involved with special projects on an ad hoc basis.

Notice of a Casual Vacancy on the Parish Council has been displayed on Village Notice boards. Further information is available from the Clerk.

Annual Firework Display

The Parish Council has been unable to find anyone willing to take overall responsibility for organising the Fireworks this year and so the display will not take place. The Council is extremely grateful to Sue Graney for her initiative in leading this project over the past two years and acknowledges the contributions which have been made by all the members of the team who have assisted Sue in making both events such a success.

It is hoped that it will be possible to find a new team leader for 2018, especially since so many of the experienced helpers are willing to continue to take part. The Council has made a provisional booking for Saturday 3 November 2018

Annual Parish Meeting 2017

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on **Wednesday 31 May**. This meeting is open to all residents. Any suggestions for agenda items should be sent to the Clerk in advance and no later than 9 May.

Contacting the Parish Council

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

Telephone (during normal office hours, please, unless an emergency) 07745 311439. Texts are always welcome.

e –mail: parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Cllr Chris Hill, the Chairman of the Council, can be contacted via chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

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

Councils agree proposal for a new council for Oxfordshire

Local Government

A new proposal for better local government for Oxfordshire has been published.

The joint proposal: 'A new council for a Better Oxfordshire', makes the case for abolishing the existing two-tier structure of six councils - replacing them with one single council for Oxfordshire.

The detailed plans are the result of joint working on a revised proposal, following engagement with thousands of residents and community groups across the county - who support a new council, providing it is more local and offers better joined up services.

Seventy per cent of Oxfordshire residents agree with the draft proposal to abolish all six councils and replace them with one unitary council for the whole of Oxfordshire. This result is based on an independent representative household survey commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council.

With the local communities of Oxfordshire at its heart - the Better Oxfordshire proposal sets out how parish and town councils will play a bigger role under a new single council.

Once established, the council will set up between 15 and 20 local area boards covering market towns and surrounding areas across Oxfordshire - giving communities a strong voice and ensuring local matters are heard. They will have significant budgets and the ability to make important local decisions such as prioritising investment in local transport and tackling anti-social behaviour.

There will be fewer councillors, with each unitary councillor representing their community as a local area board member and as a councillor for the new council, giving

them a much greater say in their services than under the current two-tier system.

Parish and town councillors will also have a place on their local area board, along with other public service representatives, such as the police - to enhance community safety.

The revised proposals also recognise that the city of Oxford is central to Oxfordshire's economic and cultural success, and under the new council will become a local council in its own right, with area boards embedded across the city - taking responsibility for community and environmental issues.

Most significantly, the local Oxford council will be able to raise a separate city-wide council tax (or 'precept'), with funding going directly to community based services such as community centres. To reflect the level of interest in this issue, the revised proposal includes the creation of an 'Oxford City Convention' of residents and other stakeholders to agree detailed plans for local government in Oxford.

Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Leader of Oxfordshire County Council said:

'We have responded to issues raised during the nine month public engagement exercise in the new proposal, particularly in improving local involvement in Oxford. There is an opportunity to create a new local government for Oxford that reflects the city's economic and cultural importance to the whole county.'

The survey results show that despite the noisy opposition whipped up by opponents of change, there is a silent majority who support the idea of a new council for a better Oxfordshire.'

Cllr John Cotton, Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council said:

'A single council for Oxfordshire will be simpler, more local and will deliver better services at a lower cost. We have ensured that these revised proposals provide for more local area boards, so that communities across Oxfordshire can have their say on important local issues, from setting car parking charges and tackling anti-social behaviour.'

The survey results show that overall 70% of people surveyed agreed with abolishing the six councils and setting up a unitary council, and 20% disagreed. The majority agreed with abolishing the six councils and setting up a unitary council in all district and city council areas, including those districts which are actively campaigning who disagreed:

- 78% in West Oxfordshire
- 75% in South Oxfordshire
- 69% in Oxford
- 67% in Vale of White Horse
- 63% in Cherwell.

502 face-to-face doorstep interviews were carried out between 5 and 19 February 2017 by independent social research firm, Opinion Research Services, who also designed the research methodology and ensured that the survey was representative of the county's residents.

You can read the full proposal: 'A new council for a Better Oxfordshire' at:

www.betteroxfordshire.org



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Truly a Home from Home

Extra funding secured in addition to 2017/18 budget proposals

The County Council set its budget for 2017/18 on Tuesday 14th February. Ahead of the meeting, it was announced the Council had £1,957,000 extra, over and above the position reported to the Cabinet in January, as a result of better than expected business rate collections, council tax collection fund surpluses and a higher than expected grant. The County is proposing to hold £926,000 of this until the 2018/19 financial year, to deal with future pressures. Cabinet proposes to spend the rest of the money (£1.03m) in this financial year in the following ways:

- £170,000 to be spent on additional grass-cutting work on highway verges. This is an area of spend that has been reduced in recent years.
- £250,000 one-off funding initially for a pilot Communities Fund for parishes and towns to bid for matched funding schemes following changes/reductions for funding for services.
- £600,000 additional funding for children's social care – a part of the council that has been exempted from cuts since 2010 but has continued to experience significant rising demand on services in common with children's social care departments across England.
- £11,000 increase on the Council's Flood Defence Levy.

Berinsfield Children's Centre awarded £30,000 funding to continue under new management

Start-up funding for 12 more community schemes to run open access services at children's centres has been approved by OCC, including at Berinsfield which will receive £30,000 over 3 years. The new centre, which will be known as the Berin Centre will be run by Employment Action Group who have taken a leading role in putting together a winning business plan to OCC. The new Centre will occupy the existing OCC buildings for now, with a rent free period for the first 12 months, but will obviously be

part of any redevelopment plans that come forward in the future. Congratulations to all those involved.

The 12 proposals, which will receive a total of £305,883, are among the latest to be considered as part of the transition from council-funded to community-led services at children's centre locations. Community services will complement the council's new service for 0-19 year-olds, which will meet the needs and aspirations of children at risk of abuse and neglect in Oxfordshire, and ensure that families who need extra help are identified at an early stage. When added to previously considered applications, the approval of these 12 schemes means funded plans are now in place for services such as 'stay and play' to continue at 18 children's centres, with business cases at a further six centres supported in principle but deferred to the final round of the Transition Fund for more work. Added to this, open access sessions will also continue at the eight Children and Family Centres and two satellite centres at the heart of the council's new Children's Service. In total, it means a combination of council-funded and community-led solutions for open access services are now confirmed or supported in principle at 34 buildings across the county – with more to come when applications for the final round of transition funding are considered.

'Fix My Street' website upgrade

Over the last six months OCC has been working hard to make Fix My Street work more effectively. The new service will launch this month. It will improve the quality and consistency of public reports, as well as OCC internal processes for closing down reports, making it easier to reliably see what's going on in a given area. Members of the public who consistently give good information can be rewarded with 'trusted reporter' status, meaning OCC will fast track future reports to the con-

tractor, resulting in quicker resolution for the resident and reduced effort for the inspectors. Before the new system launches, OCC needs to deal with reports that are still marked as 'open' in the current version. This means: 1) Leave open anything which has been active within the last 12 months; 2) Close anything older than 2 years; 3) For reports between 1 and 2 years old, notify the reporter by email that OCC intends to close their report, but give them the option to 're-open' the issue if they believe it is still a problem.

Extension of fire & ambulance service co-responding

OCC Fire and Rescue Service has been working in partnership with South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) co-responding in the community for over 12 years. More recently OCC has also been working with Thames Valley Fire and Rescue partners to undertake a collaborative co-responding trial. (Co-Responders are firefighters trained by SCAS to provide a 'first response' to specific medical emergencies where there is an immediate threat to life prior to an emergency ambulance arriving on scene.) The trial has been a success with crews attending approximately 1500 medical emergency calls per year. To further support communities Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service are working in partnership with SCAS towards all fire engines within communities being available for cardiac arrests, so that

casualties across Oxfordshire can receive the quickest available defibrillator and casualty support.

Caddy campaign to reduce Oxfordshire's food waste

Residents are being urged to do their bit to make sure food waste doesn't end up on the scrap heap. At the moment it is thought that around 30% of the county's food waste is put in waste bins rather than the food caddy – a figure all Oxfordshire's councils hope to cut significantly. To do this, the councils have launched a campaign with Agri-vert, the company who process the county's food waste, to encourage residents to recycle more of the food they would otherwise throw away. It is two and a half times cheaper to process food waste if it is put into a food waste caddy for recycling or composting than if the same waste is put in the general rubbish bin. There's lots of advice on how to reduce food waste and information on how it is recycled at

www.recycleforoxfordshire.org.uk/lovefoodhatewaste

Food waste collected for recycling is treated at Agrivert's anaerobic digestion plants in Oxfordshire, (the closest is at Benson) and used to generate enough electricity for over 9,000 homes, as well as making fertiliser for use on local farms.

County Council elections**4 May 2017**

All county divisions are up for re-election on 4 May. If you wish to vote but will be away on the day please don't forget to get a postal vote organised. It's very simple. You can do it online.



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24 HOUR SERVICE

Santa Monica High School Choir

**Dorchester Abbey
2.00pm Sunday 2 April**

Starting off their 2017 Performance Tour in England, **The Madrigal Ensemble and Chamber Singers** of Santa Monica High School, California, will be performing on **Sunday 2 April, 2017** at 2.00pm at Dorchester Abbey.

Most singers are between the ages of sixteen to eighteen years old, and come from a variety of cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. Each student is required to go through a lengthy audition that tests individual abilities in music literacy, beauty of tone, dedication, and citizenship. This ensures that only the best students are selected. They rehearse five hours per week and also meet in small groups once per week for another rehearsal. The choir performs frequently throughout Southern California and tours every two years. Previous tours have taken the group to Boston, New York, Mexico, and Italy. Both groups specialize in music from the Renaissance to Contemporary compositions with an emphasis on a cappella music.

The choir is under the direction of Mr. Jeffe Huls. Mr. Huls has been the Director of Vocal Music at Santa Monica High School for six years. There he conducts seven ensembles and oversees three other student-led ensembles. Mr. Huls received his Bachelor's of Music Education from the California State University

at Long Beach where he graduated with honors. There he studied voice with acclaimed tenor Jonathan Mack and conducting with Dr. Lynn Bielefeld. Huls received a Masters in Choral Music Conducting from Western Michigan University.

Highlights for the tour include:

At the Round Earth's Imagined Corners - Williametta Spencer

Sitivit Anima Mea Richard Burchard

Miserer Eva Ugalde

The Battle of Jericho Moses Hogan

Hear my Prayer, O Lord Henry Purcell

Even When He Is Silent ... Kim Andre Arnessen

Beautiful River arr. Hawley



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For further information contact Festival Director Em Marshall-Luck at
English Music Festival, Suite M0222, 265-269 Kingston Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 3NW
or by email to: em.marshall-luck@englishmusicfestival.org.uk.

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Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme project team will be visiting locations within the scheme area and in communities downstream of Oxford over the coming months, to answer your questions. We will be in Abingdon Community Free Space on 1 April and Sutton Courtenay village hall on 11 April.

For more details, ask to be put on our mailing list, follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/OxfordFAS>, check out our events on Facebook: www.facebook.com/oxfordscheme, and keep an eye out for notices in local print and online newsletters.

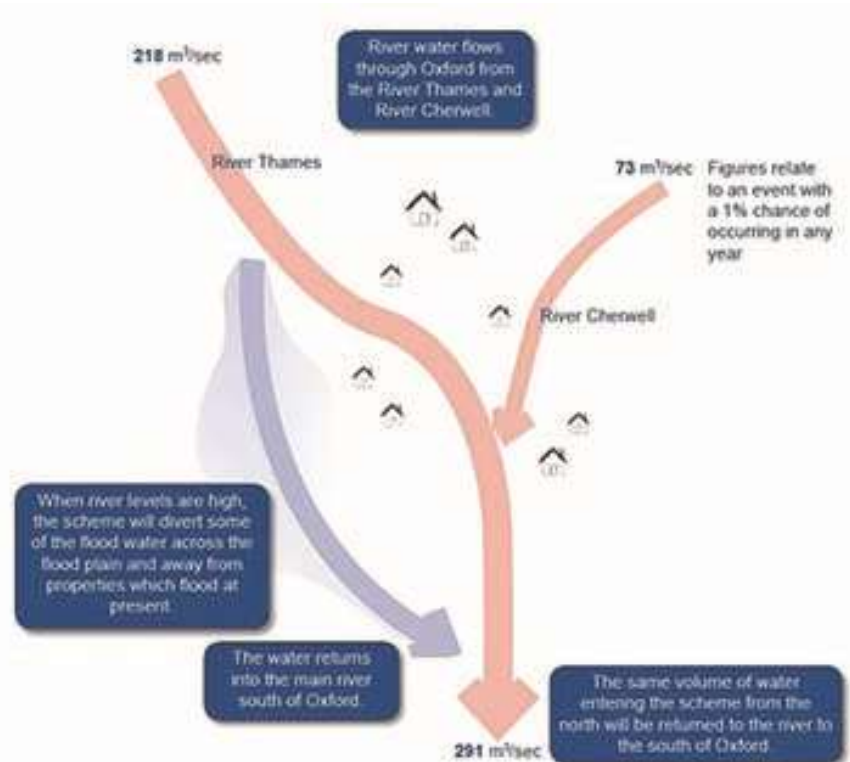
The scheme has been developed using evidence about past floods and modelling and exploring various options to come up with the best solution to reduce the impact of flooding in Oxford.

At the moment, although the Oxford floodplain takes some water during river flooding, many houses, businesses and transport links are impacted. The planned scheme will increase capacity in the floodplain by lowering areas of the floodplain and widening some of the existing rivers and streams that run through it. This will divert flood water across the floodplain and away from properties that flood at present. The same volume of water entering the scheme from the north will be returned to the Thames to the south of Oxford. We always work to reduce flood risk, not to transfer it, and we will not increase flood risk to any other communities.

How else can you engage with us?

We are holding a 6 week public consultation on the detailed design of the scheme in May 2017 and we would like to get as many people involved as possible. The consultation can be filled out online, or you can come and speak to the team in person. We will be holding 4 events in Oxford from 2-8pm:

- 11 May, West Oxford Community Centre
- 12 May, South Oxford Community Centre
- 15 May, Oxford Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre
- 18 May, St Luke's Church



The Meandering Thames by James Pratt

So many times I think of you
As ages have gone by
The memories so abundant
They fill the inner eye.

From paddling and picnicking
With lovers long ago
Your serenity and beauty
We've all been blessed to know.

The changing seasons adorn you
As your gentle waters flow
Past grand palaces and dreaming spires:
True beauty all on show.

Feeding ducks or watching dragonflies
On long dreamy summers days,
The steamer gently passing by
Can take our breath away.

The meadow full of buttercups,
Willow swaying on the breeze;
The fishermen enjoy your solitude:
For all you seem to please.

And at evening's close, by fireside glow,
Burning embers flicker still.
And, as you gracefully meander on,
Return again I will!



Found in the village: The coat of arms pictured is from the tomb of Mary Granger, in the People's Chapel in Dorchester Abbey. She died on 11 June 1751. Her husband, Jonathan Grainger (sic) was entombed next to her in 1774. The coat of

arms contains a wide array of symbols including a chevron to denote participation in a noble enterprise such as the construction of a church, and a griffin to denote bravery.

Wallingford Corn Exchange Roof Appeal



CORN
EXCHANGE
WALLINGFORD

Fund raising to replace the roof on Wallingford's historic Corn Exchange had at the end of February reached around £250,000, well on course to hit the target of £500,000.

Included in the amount is £150,000 already set aside from Corn Exchange reserves, £5,000 Gift Aid and profits from fund raising events. Donations have also flowed in from members of the public, including £100 from someone in Australia, and from various charitable trusts, some of which have been substantial. A number of grant applications have been made with around 40 currently awaiting a decision.

Head of the fundraising sub committee John Warburton, said: *'Our thanks to everyone who has donated so far. We still have a way to go but we are confident we will be able to raise the total amount for this major project. We have a team of highly motivated people, all volunteers, who are spending an incredible amount of time identifying ways to raise the cash*

and writing applications. The Corn Exchange is a vital community asset and what we are doing will ensure its long-term future.'

Located in Wallingford's Market Place, the Corn Exchange incorporates a cinema and stage for live theatre. This includes resident amdram group Sinodun Players' productions, professional touring companies and incoming comedy and music shows. It is an important amenity not just for the town but for the surrounding villages too. The business is owned by Corn Exchange Wallingford Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Sinodun Players, a registered charity. It is run entirely by volunteers.

Replacement of the 160-year-old roof, which is leaking, together with other important infrastructure will begin in June. Cracked glass roof panels will be replaced with coated aluminium roof sheets. While this is being done, the roof itself will be raised a few inches to allow extra insulation and which, in turn, will reveal more of the attractive cast iron arches and the currently hidden wooden glazing bars.



Work will also take place to replace or improve on-stage facilities, lighting structures, gantries, auditorium heating and ventilation.

Donations can be made at www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/sinodun-players/rooffund, by cash at the Corn Exchange box office or by sending a cheque (payable to Sinodun Players) to John Warburton, Corn Exchange, Market Place, Wallingford OX10 0EG.



Robin Marriott of Oxford Road caught on camera this double rainbow over the Abbey, from which this picture is taken.



Wallingford Museum Wallingford Castle and Town History walks

By popular demand on **Saturday 8 April**, two historic guided walks have been arranged, which will be led by Judy Dewey (local historian and Museum curator).

At 11.00am there will be a Castle history walk, followed by a Town history walk at 2.30pm. Each walk lasts about 2 hours, and starts at the Museum. There is a charge of £6 for each walk, or do both walks for a bargain £10 (unsuitable for dogs!) So, why not immerse yourself in the town's fascinating local history for the whole day and also visit the new 'Wallingford Castle - the Inside Story', 'Pettits: past to present' and 'Ways to Wallingford' exhibitions at the Museum.

Just come along or contact Judy Dewey for details tel. **01491 651127**

Further details at www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Regular Guided Wallingford History Walks now on offer!

By popular demand, you can now join a Guided Historic Town Walk on any Saturday morning, from mid-April until the end-September starting from beneath the Town Hall at 11.00am. Walks last 1 - 2 hours and cost £5 per head, money which will be donated to support Wallingford Museum.

These are general walks covering the rich history of our town, but also touching on the links with Agatha Christie and 'Midsomer Murders'. They will appeal to residents and visitors alike.

There's no need to book, just turn up at the Town Hall at 11.00am on any Saturday from 15 April until 30 Sept.

If you'd like to organise a Town Walk like this for your group / society / school at a different time, then please contact Philip Burton on **01491 836200** or pburton6@talktalk.net

Alternatively, more specialist history walks can be offered by arrangement - an in-depth view of the Town or Castle, or of Agatha Christie's 42 years in the town, etc - tailored to your group's interests. (These walks can also be combined with a visit to Wallingford Museum). To pursue this option, please contact Judy Dewey on **01491 651127** or judy@piepowder.co.uk

Wallingford Flower Club Wednesday 8 April 2017 7pm for 7.45pm

Crowmarsh Village Hall, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh OX10 8ED.
A Floral Demonstration
'Natures Spring Palette'

By Coral Gardiner (NAFAS National Demonstrator)

Visitors Tickets available £5 each

For tickets and information Tel: **01491 834303**

All Welcome

Fay Crabbe
Programme Secretary

What's on in Wallingford



Wallingford Historical & Archæological Society Excavations at St Brieuc, Brittany - an Iron Age town?

Tim Allen will talk at the Wallingford Historical & Archaeological Society (TWHAS) about the archaeological excavations at St Brieuc, Brittany.

Tim is Senior Project Manager at Oxford Archaeology Limited and has directed and written up archaeological excavations for OA for over 30 years. He has also directed research excavations and surveys built around public participation for the Earth Trust at Little Wittenham.

In 2009-10 Oxford Archaeology excavated a major late Iron Age settlement at Tregueux, near to St Brieuc Brittany in advance of road construction. Stretching over nearly 1km, this consisted of a defensive enclosure, an unique monumental timber courtyard building, a series of metalled roads and a very large settlement parcelled up by drainage ditches and with a series of wells along its line. This is one of very few such 'agglomerated settlements', as the French describe them, in NW France, and marks the start of the emergence of towns in Brittany. It also provides an important contrast to late Iron Age settlement in Southern England.

This talk will be held on **Wednesday 12 April**, 7.45 for 8.00pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford.

Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

Further details at www.twhas.org.uk



Wallingford Gardening Club Bordering on Insanity - creating an all-year- round border

At the April meeting Timothy Walker will talk about 'Bordering on Insanity - creating an all-year-round border'. This is the Club's prestigious annual 'Bill Baker Memorial Lecture'.

This talk looks exclusively at the herbaceous border in Timothy's wife's garden and covers the principles and practicalities to be adopted when trying to create a border that is interesting all-year-round. It concludes with a look at a collection of must-have plants for such a border.

From 1986 to 2014 Timothy worked at the University of Oxford Botanic Garden & Harcourt Arboretum (OBGHA), firstly as General Foreman, and finally as Director.

The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm on **Thursday 13 April**.

Visitors very welcome £3.

Isabelle Darby
01491 836867



What's On April

Cinema: Performances start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated

April

- Sun 2 **Patriot's Day** (15)
 Mon 3 **Patriot's Day** (15)
 Tues 4 **Madame Butterfly** live from Royal Opera House
 7.15pm
 Wed 5 **The Founder** (12A)
 Thurs 6 **Twelfth Night** NT Live 7.00pm
 Fri 7 **The Time of Their Lives** (12A)
 Sun 9 **Viceroy's House** (12A)
 Mon 10 **Viceroy's House** (12A)
 Tues 11 **20th Century Women** (15)
 Sat 15 **The Lego Batman Movie** (U), 10.30am and 2.30pm
 Tues 18 **A Quiet Passion** (12A)
 Wed 19 **A Quiet Passion** (12A)
 Thurs 20 **Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead**. NT Live
 7.00pm
 Thurs 27 **Bahubali 2: The Conclusion** (15)
 Fri 28 **Beauty and the Beast** (PG)
 Sat 29 **Beauty and the Beast** (PG) 10.30am
 Sat 29 **Peppa Pig** (U) 2.30pm
 Sun 30 **Peppa Pig** (U) 2.30pm

LIVE

Saturday 1 April. Final night of Sinodun Players' **Outside Edge**, classic cricketing comedy by Richard Harris. 7.45pm. £10.

Saturday 22 April. Wallingford Photographic Club is pleased to present **An Audience with Melvin Nicholson**. Come and hear the renowned landscape photographer talk about his craft and get pointers on how to improve your technique. 10am-5pm. Five sessions of about one hour throughout the day. £15 admits to any or all sessions.

COMING SOON

May 4: Wallingford writer **Peter Flannery**, winner of BAFTA award winning TV serial *Our Friends in the North*, will talk about his writing career in theatre, tv and film. This includes long-running police drama series *Inspector George Gently*. He will be accompanied by the series' producer Faye Dorn, who was born in Wallingford and was educated at Wallingford School. 8pm. Tickets £12. **In aid of the Corn Exchange Roof Aooeal.**

May 17-20. Sinodun Players present **Return to the Forbidden Planet**. Thrilling, energetic, high-octane, jukebox rock musical, based on *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare. Features rock classics that include *Great Balls of Fire*, *Good Vibrations* and *Shake, Rattle and Roll*. Baby boomers come and re-live the days of your youth. Thatcher's children and new-kids-on-the-block Millenials, come and see what it was all about. 7.30pm.

Tickets and further information, including late additions to cinema programme are available online
www.cornexchange.org.uk or box office **01491 825000**.

Wallingford Country Market

Have you paid us a visit recently?

Open each Friday morning in the Regal Centre between 8.30 am – 12 noon.

Our Gardening Table is looking great at the moment with the arrival of pots of spring bulbs, colourful primroses and polyanthus and delightful small posies of spring flowers. These will give way to the ever popular plants for bedding, baskets and borders during May/June – and some unusual ones too!

Bakers are busy producing freshly cooked items each week. Why not treat yourself to a delicious cake this Easter? Orders can be placed for most items we sell. Our Easter Market will take place on **Maundy Thursday, 13 April, 2017**, replacing our Friday Market.

All enquiries – please phone the Market Manager: 01491-681596, or pop in and see her one Friday morning. New producers are always welcome

Wallingford U3A

On 1 March the inimitable Ken Fitt gave us '*Treatment for the Funny Bone*'. Using film and video recordings he guided us hilariously through some of the changes in the style and content of modern comedy.

April 5 Dr. Jill Eysers: '*The Grave Trade archaeology of burial.*'

May 3 Robin Oakley: '*How personality has taken over politics*'.

Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 2.00pm in Crowmarsh Village Hall. Visitors are always made welcome for the talk, tea and conversation.

We are a small U3A, very relaxed and friendly. We have 10 'Interest Groups' and are always delighted when someone suggests a new one. Our "Local Churches of Interest" group starts again as the daffodils come out.

Outings:

Thursday 29 April: Hatfield House

Theatre Visit: **17 June:** '*Don't Dress for Dinner*'
 Sonning Mill. Lunch and Matinee

To see more of what we do please visit our Website Google u3awallingford. Or phone Hermione on **01865 858024**, or Jill on **01491 835994**

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claire@millstreampilates.co.uk

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Day by day

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Sat 1 April | Spring Flower Show Setting up 9.00am to 10.30am Viewing 2.30pm to 4.00pm Village Hall Dorchester Football Club Dorchester Reserves v Long Wittenham Athletic Reserves 2.30pm Recreation Ground |
| Sun 2 April | Lent 5 8.00am Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booy's) 10.30am Morning Service 6.00pm Lent Course Santa Monica High School Concert 2.00pm Dorchester Abbey |
| Fri 7 April | Lent lunch 12.30pm Manor House Overy |
| Sun 9 April | Palm Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662) (Rev'd Jon Roberts) 10.15am Start at the War Memorial for Procession and Sung Eucharist followed by APCM 6.00pm Lent Course |
| Wed 12 April | Parish Council Monthly meeting 7.30pm Village Hall |
| Thurs 13 April | Maundy Thursday 6.30pm Meal and service WI Open Meeting Elizabeth Brightwell 'The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel' 2.30pm Village Hall (Back room) |

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



| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Fri 14 April | Good Friday 1.00pm Devotion Lent lunch 12.00noon Abbey Guest House St John Passion 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey |
| Sat 15 April | John Masefield House Easter Egg Hunt 11.00am Dorchester Football Club Dorchester Reserves v Lambourn Sports Reserves 2.30pm Recreation Ground |
| Sun 16 April | Easter Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booy's) 10.30am Family Communion 6.00pm Songs of Praise |
| Thurs 20 April | DOGS 18 holes at Mapledurham GC 11.45am Classic Car Show, George Hotel 1.00-4.00pm Chiropodist Village Hall (see p23) |
| Fri 21 April | Cranford House Founders Day Service 11.00am |
| Sat 22 April | Dorchester Football Club Dorchester v North Oxford 2.30pm Recreation Ground |

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

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Sun 23 April | Easter 2 8.00am Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booy's) 10.30am Sung Eucharist 2.30pm Scouts' Service |
|-----------------|--|

Dorchester Tennis Club
Spring Mixed Doubles
Tournament
2.00pm
Recreation Ground

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Wed 26 April | Dorchester Historical Society Robert Kidner 'Art Nouveau and Art Deco—how do they differ?' 7.30pm Village Hall |
| Thurs 30 Mar | Service at Cheshire Home 11.30am |
| Fri 28 April | Dorchester Festival Opening Event Masquerade Bash 7.00pm Marquee |

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Sun 30 April | Easter 3 10.30am Team Service |
|-----------------|--|

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.25) |
| Wednesday | Holy Communion at Berinsfield Church 9.30am Lunch Club Village Hall 12.30pm Song School Dorchester Abbey 5.00pm |
| 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

Funerals

| | |
|---------|----------------------|
| 28 Feb | Ronald Hawes |
| 6 March | Rosemary Januszewski |

Memorial Service

| | |
|--------|--------------|
| 18 Feb | Thomas Quick |
|--------|--------------|

Baptism

| | |
|-------|----------------------|
| 5 Mar | Rogue-Angel Mitchell |
|-------|----------------------|



CONTACTING THE POLICE

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

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 Tracey Francis; bookings@dorchesteronthamesvillagehall.org.uk or telephone **01865 340352**.

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

FAULTS AND COMPLAINTS

STREET LIGHTING

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.more recycling.co.uk

BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

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

OPENING HOURS

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

Useful Information

ANIMAL WELFARE

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

TRANSPORT

DORCHESTER FLYER

The Dorchester Flyer runs every Friday from Dorchester to Wallingford at 10.15am and 12.00noon, returning at 11.40am and 1.00pm. Tickets must be bought from Lily's in advance.

OTHER BUS SERVICES

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

OXFORDSHIRE TRAVEL ADVISE LINE

Free journey planning and advice for people over 65 and those needing a high level of support whilst travelling. **01865 323738**

SHOPMOBILITY

A scheme which lends manual wheelchairs, powered wheelchairs and powered scooters to members of the public who have limited mobility. www.shopmobility.org.uk

AGE UK

The UK's largest charity working with older people For help and advice etc. go to www.ageuk.org.uk

WALLINGFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE

01491 836345
www.wallingfordvolunteercentre@gmail.com

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.

USEFUL CONTACTS

ANGLICAN PRIEST

Dorchester Rectory
Rev. 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.stbirtinus.co.uk

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



REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Fri 7 April **Black**
Sat 15 April **Green**
Sat 22 April **Black**
Fri 29 April **Green**

Weekdays from 7.00am.
Saturdays from 6.00am.

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

The recycling centre at Oakley Wood (off the A4130) is open 8.00am - 5.00pm seven days a week.

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