

Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

May 2017





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Dorchester News

May 2017

A DoT view

May is going to be one of those months where you will not need to leave the village in search of interest and entertainment.

Up until the 7 May, The Dorchester Festival will be in full swing, with a host of events that will include something for everybody. There will be shows and entertainment for adults and children, specialist sessions for those interested in pub games or in cooking— and there will be some brilliant cookery demonstrations on 6 and 7 May from national and local cooks. If you have not yet checked this out and got your tickets, go to www.dorchesterfestival.com straight away.

The Festival will overlap with the Oxfordshire Art Weeks, in which Dorchester is represented by Emma Louise Corry and Sophia Stewart-Liberty, both in the High Street.

Later in the month the English Music Festival returns once again to Dorchester, giving us an opportunity to hear some marvellous works by English composers including Vaughan Williams, Holst, Delius, Tallis and many more. This is something that I look forward to every year, hoping to hear something that is new to me, and am never disappointed.

<http://englishmusicfestival.org.uk> for the full programme.

After that I shall need a long rest before June hits us with yet more.

Ian Brace

Cover: Cricket returns to the Recreation Ground



**Deadline for
June
Dorchester
News**

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Steph Cook

Distribution Co-ordinator

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Copy Deadlines for Dorchester News

June edition 12 May

July/Aug edition 9 June

Sept. edition 11 Aug

Advert Deadlines for Dorchester News

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

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

Advertising in Dorchester News

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

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

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

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

Printed by Higgs of Henley.

I wonder what you love about the month of May

– it's a month full of ancient traditions especially around the beginning of the month. In pre-Christian times flowers, dancing and celebration were all important. So at this time of year we feel a real association with our Anglo Saxon ancestors as we celebrate the warming of the seasons and the richness promised in field and garden which we celebrate with flower shows and festivals, school and village fetes and plant shows – and of course, Barbeques!

A May Day tradition that has gone out of fashion was to leave a May Basket – a secret gift of sweet things anonymously on someone's doorstep. A kind of reversal of 'trick or treat', I suppose, but one that has gone out of fashion! In parts of the Church St. Mary the mother of Jesus is remembered on May Day – and more recently Joseph as well! Unless we have a later Easter two other important Christian festivals often fall in May Ascension Day and Pentecost or Whitsun!

Many of our local schools continue the tradition of May Dancing and still teach

the skills of dancing around a Maypole and the steps required for English country dances (more often known today as 'Barn' dances and Ceildhs). However the beginning of May is not all good news in places of education as it brings with it the season of examination as well as celebration – though there were not nearly so many of them, exams have been held in May and June for centuries in our country (and elsewhere in western Europe) in order for them to be out of the way before Harvest when the young men who took them often needed to return home to help.

So many of the things we celebrate throughout the year are given to us by the seasons and the traditions associated with them. Though I guess that our ancestors would not always recognise the things we do thinking that we are re-enacting the past!! That's good!! Tradition is a living breathing thing that happens when people take the things they value and interpret them for their own time and in their own way. Sometimes that ogre 'the Church' is accused of 'taking over' ancient traditions

and making them 'religious'

when really they are 'just' ancient. Then, of course, there's the question of Easter Eggs and bunnies and how that has grown out of the Christian teaching about Easter which, in turn, overlays earlier and more ancient origins.

Amongst any group of people there will be those who continually reinterpret the past – in order to value tradition and make it real in their own time and culture. This happens in families, in villages and local communities – as well as across the world. Perhaps it doesn't matter 'who started what?' or even 'whose tradition is the most authentic' – more important I suspect is the fact that we value our past enough to want to make it part of our present. That we value one another enough to share what's important to us and that we value what we believe enough to be confident about our own beliefs without feeling they have to be imposed – because sharing is enough. Maybe that tradition of secret generosity exemplified by the 'May Basket' could do with a revival!

EMF Service 28 May

Many people will know that the English Music Festival (now in its 11th year) brings a feast of music by English composers to the Abbey every Spring Bank Holiday weekend. This year a special Festival Eucharist will be sung by the Dorchester Abbey Choir with EMF visiting singers. We are looking forward to this innovation and hope that you will join EMF supporters and the Abbey congregation for this very special service.

The Creation and Narnia Wed 17 May 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey

The Creation and Narnia, C.S. Lewis on God, humanity and the animal world. A talk by Revd Prof Alister McGrath, Andreos Idreos Professor of Science and Religion, Oxford University. Free admission. All welcome.

Team Events

Ascension Day service, 25 May: Bishop Colin will be leading a communion at the top of the Wittenham clumps with a service in Little Wittenham church for those not able to walk the clumps, to launch Thy Kingdom Come and celebrate Ascension Day

Thy Kingdom Come: A devoted time of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost, where we as a Team pray for our mission and evangelism in our own Parishes

Pentecost Sunday, 4 June: Dorchester Abbey will be hosting a 'Beacon event' aimed at families to close Thy Kingdom Come, with a picnic, Messy Church, and Christchurch Abingdon leading our worship

Festival Service 7 May

I am looking forward to welcoming Mike Wooldridge OBE to speak at the Festival Service on Sunday 7 May.

Mike Wooldridge is one of those names that 'rings a bell'!

That's because he has been a world affairs correspondent for the BBC since 2001 having joined the Corporation in 1970. Amongst other major world events he covered the 1972 United Nations General Assembly and General Franco's death, the earthquake in Tabas, Iran, and the Bali nightclub bombing. Mike has spent lengthy periods in Afghanistan and Pakistan, travelled to Guantanamo Bay with the United States military and been the BBC's correspondent in both East Africa and South Africa. At the end of 1990 he became religious affairs correspondent reporting on the influence of religion in modern society, in particular exploring religion and conflict.

Do come and hear what Mike has to say about a fascinating career!

Evensong times

Following the recent experiment during which we brought the time of Evensong forward to 5.00pm during the winter months the PCC invited feedback from the choir, bell-ringers, sides-people and members of the congregation. At its meeting on April 4 the Council agreed that the 5pm start time was appropriate in the winter months. It was also agreed that there should be a further trial period throughout the summer months continuing the 5.00pm start time. The primary reason for this is to see whether visitors to the Abbey and Tea Room are encouraged to stay for Evensong that starts at the earlier time.



American Garden Update

Having cleared a large area of overgrown trees, shrubs and weeds last Autumn, several of us have been working to improve this area of the Cloister Garden. Gerry Wells and Bill Maish arranged for the remaining stumps to be removed and on Saturday 26 March another working party was able to complete levelling and raking the area ready for seeding with grass, which was completed shortly after. However, because of the lack of rain it has required a lot of watering by hand. Signs up to ask you to keep off the grass really do mean it, as otherwise it will not germinate. .

Huge thanks to our volunteer gardeners last Saturday: Gerry Wells, Richard Farrant, Megan Parry, David Parker.

Kathy Glass
Gardens Co-ordinator

There seems to me to be quite a lot of standing around and tea drinking going on, judging by the pictures—Ed.



May Queen

There is a photograph in various publications of Dorchester children celebrating May Day in the Rectory Garden. Children were chosen as the May Queen and her attendants. There was a procession, Maypole dancing and tea – and a photograph with the Vicar. With the help of Mr Leigh and children from the St Birinus Primary we will be recreating this historic afternoon in the Rectory Garden (and there will be tea!) Please come and join us!

Christian Aid Week

There will not be a Christian Aid Week collection in Dorchester this year instead we would like to invite you to **breakfast** on **14 May** between 8.45am and 10.15am in the Abbey. Excellent coffee, tea to suit every taste, croissants, pain au chocolat... and the opportunity to help others whilst enjoying one another's company! See you there!

And to a Pop Up Café on **Tuesday 16 May**, 10.30-12noon



A Host of Angels!!

Angels will be flocking to the Abbey in late October in preparation for celebrating Christmas and Epiphany! Do you have any angel 'ornaments'/sculptures/decorations/posters that you might wish to lend and/or donate to us so they too can join our heavenly host? Angels of any size and/or type are welcome to join us! If you would like to support this venture and/or donate/loan any angels, or if you would like further details, please contact the Abbey Education Officer, Margaret Craig, via email: education@dorchester-abbey.org.uk or call (Mon/Tue only) on Oxford 343164.

This month we heard from Elizabeth Brightwell who works for the EAPP in Palestine. It was a very informative talk about the people they help and who affectionately call them the 'Jackets'.

Next month we will be listening to Julia Miles on the **11 May**, Julia has been married to a diplomat for 28 years and will talk about all the delights and horrors of living abroad, the talk is entitled '*Rags, Bags and Cocktails*'.

On **8 June**, the speaker will be Mary Reaugh with *It All Started on the Fourth of July*. More details to follow next time.

Please remember the WI will be running the Abbey Tearoom on **2 July** so lots of cakes and scones will be needed.

On a personal note, I visited the W.I Fair at Alexandra Palace in London, (which by the way has an amazing view of London) I had a wonderful time, met WI members from all over the country, joined a craft session and watched some demonstrations. I hope more members will join me next time.

Hayley Poole.

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

Free Books

Marcus Braybrooke's books *Meeting Jews* and *1,000 World Prayers* are available free from Amazon Kindle from May 8 to 13.

Don't miss this special offer

Rev Dr Marcus Braybrooke,
www.marcusbraybrooke.com



Hempcroft Allotment News

From window boxes and growbags to greenhouses and allotments, scientists need your help to measure the amount of own-grown fruit and vegetables across the UK in the first national estimate of the 21st century. The MYHarvest survey, which will be the first since the famous Dig for Victory campaign during the Second World War, will assess the important contribution green-fingered fruit and vegetable growers make to national food security and also reveal how much allotment and garden space we need in the future for the growing number of people living in our cities and towns. Anyone who grows their own produce is invited to take part in the innovative citizen science project led by the University of Sheffield to help determine the yield of typical UK staple fruit and vegetable crops.

We currently have a poor understanding of how much own-grown food is produced so the research is key to providing an

evidence base to support the use of land for growing spaces within our towns and cities. In this way, allotment holders and gardeners can help to determine the extent to which own-grown food contributes to UK food security and sustainability. Urban greenspaces, for example, parks, allotments, gardens, wasteland, provide a multitude of options for areas where food crops can be grown.

Scientists will use the data gathered from people's allotments, gardens and other spaces to produce estimates of the yields own-growers are able to achieve for typical UK fruit and vegetable crops. The scientists will use this data to produce the first 21st century estimate of the amount of food grown in UK allotments as they are currently the largest areas of land used for own-growing in our cities and towns.

If you want to find out more and how to participate go to the website MyHarvest.org.uk

Edward Metcalfe

Berinsfield Surgery Car

If you need help to visit **Berinsfield Surgery**, make an appointment for a forthcoming Wednesday morning. Mention that you will be using the Dorchester Surgery Car Service. **You will be given an appointment for 10.00 o'clock.** Then call Dorchester Fireplaces on **01865 341452** before 2pm on the Tuesday before the appointment. Give them your address and phone number. **A volunteer driver will collect you from your home shortly after 09.30 and take you to the Surgery in good time for your appointment.**

Dorchester Fireplaces Showroom is open 10.00am to 4.00pm Tuesday to Saturday.

Email: enquiries@dorchesterfireplaces.co.uk

Berinsfield Pharmacy Repeat Prescriptions

If your medicines are dispensed by the Pharmacy at **Berinsfield** you can arrange with them for your repeat prescription medicines to be brought to Dorchester on a **Tuesday** morning, by a volunteer driver. You can then collect them from the Abbey between 10.30am and 11.55am.

If you want to your medicines brought to Dorchester in this way please write this clearly on your repeat prescription form or tell the staff at the pharmacy. Their telephone number is: **01865 341114** but you cannot order a repeat prescription by phone.

They also have a useful website: berinsfieldpharmacy@nhs.net

Age UK Oxfordshire and Action for Carers Oxfordshire have moved.

Age UK Oxfordshire has moved from, West Saint Helen Street, in the centre of Abingdon, to Unit 9/10 Napier Court, Barton Lane, Abingdon, OX14 3YT during the week of the 10 April. They have been joined by their sister charity, Action for Carers Oxfordshire, who have moved from The Charter, Abingdon.



St Birinus Primary School News

School News

Last term was a busy term – here are a few highlights.

- All classes had the chance to help plant trees as part of the Sylva Foundation's Future Forest. It was a great opportunity for the children to be a part of this big project, which promotes learning and taking responsibility for our environment. Well done to the children for their good planting and behaviour and thank you to all the parents who were able to join us – it was greatly appreciated.

- In March, we had our Statutory Inspections of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS) inspection, which is a legal requirement for Church schools, I am pleased to share with you that we have

been graded 'Good' in all areas', which is fantastic news – a copy of the report is on our website.

- On Saturday 25 March Megan, Tom S, Amelie, Tabitha, Tom B, Annabelle, Carys, Cecily and I headed off to Birmingham Symphony Hall to take part in the 75th Anniversary concert of the Oxfordshire Music Service. It was a great experience to be able to sing with the massed choirs a newly commissioned piece of music – Apollo's Lyre by Debbie Carter-Rose, but also to witness the amazing talents of the children in Oxfordshire in the various orchestras and groups the music service provide and to see some of our former pupils taking part in other groups. We all had a great time despite our rather late night (especially with the clocks going forward)

- Our Easter celebrations started with our Easter Card competition, as always the quality of the children's designs were very impressive and certainly made it a challenge to judge. There was then a hive of activity as we prepared to hold our Easter Fair, it was great to see so many people in school and thank you if you were able to attend. Thank you to the PTA who organised and helped on the day and to the teachers and children for preparing and running their games.

Don't forget our May Dancing on the **28 April** at 1:30pm - please come and join us!

Russell Leigh
Headteacher

Dorchester St Birinus CE Primary School

Dorchester St Birinus School PTA invites the community to join us

The Dorchester School PTA (Parents and Teachers Association) is a parent led group that supports our school with fund-raising events and activities that the children can get involved in. Our 2017 target is an ambitious £3000! We are fund-raising for new playground equipment to keep the children active and stimulated during their outdoor breaks.

It has been suggested that there may be other people in Dorchester who may be interested in supporting our objectives and we are opening the membership to become a Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (the PTFA!). We would like to invite any resident of Dorchester and surrounding villages who have an interest in the school to become a member. You may have had a child who attended the school in the past or simply wish to offer your support to help our small school continue to thrive.

Membership is FREE and we will keep you up to date with our activities via email and Facebook. You can help by supporting the events, spreading the word, or perhaps volunteering your time.

If you wished to make a small donation, we would love to buy some new books for the School Library, as part of the library improvement project. Sponsoring a book or even a book-shelf would be a great help towards this.

Many thanks

Claire Andersson
Dorchester PTFA Chair

Please fill in the attached form if you would like to join the PTFA and return to Laura Bristow, Secretary, School Cottage, 9A Queens Street.

Name: _____

Email: _____

I would like to make an optional donation of _____

I would like to make an optional regular donation of _____

Please make cheques payable to Dorchester St Birinus PTA.

Pre School News

The Pre-School children have been enjoying playing outside in the spring sunshine. Over the Easter holidays the staff and committee worked hard to spruce up the garden and outside play areas ready for the summer. The play-house has been painted, the fence moved to make a larger area and play equipment cleaned.

The children continued learning about fruit and vegetables with their 'Hungry Caterpillar' theme before Easter, planting their own broad beans and cress in eggshells decorated with faces. They worked hard making their scarecrow for the Dorchester Festival - did you guess who it was?

The theme for this term is 'People who help us'. There will be visits from family members and friends to talk to the children about their helping professions.

Planning is already afoot for the new school year in September. If you would like any information about availability for places from September and the new 30hrs government funding for working parents then please contact Helen Morris at the Pre-School.

Louisa Margison
Pre School Secretary



Dorchester Abbey Education Newsletter

Dorchester Abbey
Education



We continue to see local schools booking visits to the Abbey, in particular, one of our most popular visits is the Anglo-Saxon Experience Day! We had three visits on this theme recently and the schools absolutely loved it! The children get an opportunity to see, taste, touch,

dress up as an Anglo-Saxon (the Thanes being the most popular!) and role playing the arrival of St. Birinus (as seen here) and his baptism of King Cynegils, the 7th C King of Wessex. Luckily they also enjoy Morwenna (aka me!) guiding

If you ever fancy finding out more about our visits and what is involved come and have a chat or drop me an email.



and interact with a wide range of Anglo-Saxon replica and original artefacts from our display.

They enjoy seeing our table all set up with a wide range of items that reflect the Anglo-Saxon period, such as textiles, jewellery, games and foods. They particularly like it when they get to have a taste of the Anglo-Saxon bread and hear how to make soft cheese!

The children also get to re-enact some activities from the past, such as weaving, combing wool with teasels (seen above right) and a pagan spring-themed ritual. They also love coming into the Abbey and

them through the day and providing them with a wide range of Anglo-Saxon knowledge.

During this period I have also been working on some ideas (initiated by Rebecca Hind) for an Angels Festival in the Autumn, with a spiritual component for school visits and fun half term activities for families, including an angel colouring page based on our Gloria angel (seen to the right). However, it has been said that I might be being a bit ambitious time-wise, coming on the tail of Narnia, so we shall see how it progresses with funding, volunteer recruitment and time development!

I'm also in the process of planning to send out to schools information about some Maths & Science KS2 study days for the early autumn term. The days aim to introduce maths and science in a fun and interactive way, such as using helium balloons to measure the height of the Abbey roof!

Another exciting plan is to have a model of the abbey for schools to use – but as this is only in the early planning stages, where we're getting quotations and lining up funding and permission, you'll have to wait a bit longer to hear more about that development! Perhaps you'll hear more about this after the end of the summer term!



28th April—7th May

As you read this the Festival will just be starting—55 brilliant events right on your doorstep in Dorchester. Please do come along and enjoy the fun—there really is something for everyone and some events are completely free! Depending on when your news gets delivered you may have already missed the first weekend's fun—the Dog Show, the Duck Race, the Fun Run and even the 20 Dorchester Things to Do before you're 99% - but there is still plenty left so do join in!

The Online Auction is open for business

Solve all your present problems or simply treat yourself, all at great value. 28 brilliant prizes, including holidays, flying (light aircraft, helicopter or on top of a biplane!), VIP tickets to Chelsea or cake, meals, pilates, massage and mindfulness. See the website for details on auction lots. PLEASE take a look and support us if you can.



Dorchester Duck Race Sun 30 April

Ducks available from the Coop or tent.

Food & Gift Fair 6 & 7 May

Come along, eat fantastic street food for lunch and browse at our best fair yet! Completely packed with stallholders and live entertainment.

Cookery Demos 6 & 7 May

Sophie Grigson, Nick Galer, Christine Wallace (BakeOff) & our very own Claire Andersson (Swedish curing and Midsommarfest) in lovely Dorchester private kitchens.



Scarecrow trail

Fri 28 April—Sun 7 May
Scarecrows should already be in position around the village! Buy a trail map from Lily's or the tent, see how many you can guess and vote on the best scarecrow.



5k Fun Run (/walk)

BH Mon 1 May 11.00am

Take part in the hugely popular 5k Fun Run (or walk) through the historic water meadow. Bring the whole family – you can even bring the dog.

Canon Custard Walk

BH Mon 1 May 5.00pm

Revd Sue walks on custard at the end of the kids science afternoon—yes really!

Festival Film Night

Thurs 4 May 7.30pm

Retro classics Casablanca and Some Like it Hot (winners of the film vote) on the big Abbey film screen with retro refreshments—perfect!



Mad Hatters Tea Party 7 May 2.00-5.00pm

Book yourself in for a top quality cream tea full of surprises including many familiar characters!

Local Artists Exhibition & Sale 29 April—3 May 10.30am—6.00pm



Support this amazing exhibition of work by artists living in and around Dorchester. Free entry.

Rebecca Hind: The Power of Water the Colour of Place Tues 2 May 7.45pm

Rebecca talks about her paintings, vision and inspiration given and taken from sacred places and dramatic nature.

**Book on line from the website www.dorchesterfestival.com
or through the ticket hotline 0333 666 3366**

Dorchester on Thames Historical Society

Wednesday 24 May at 7.30pm
Village Hall (back room)

Edward Peveler on: *Discovering Dorchester: an update on recent progress during the excavation.*

Ed is one of the Assistant Directors of the Discovering Dorchester Project, which has been run jointly by the University of Oxford, Oxford Archaeology and the community of Dorchester on-Thames since 2007. Ed has been involved since 2012. He is currently finishing his DPhil at the University of Oxford's School of Archaeology, and his thesis explores the social, economic and cultural factors which impacted the creation and use of building materials in the Roman period in Britain, taking material from the Dorchester dig as a case study. He completed his BA in Classical Archaeology and Ancient History, and MSc in Archaeological Science, at the university as well. He has worked on excavations in a number of regions, including Britain, Italy, Albania, Tunisia, and India.



See www.discoveringdorchester.blogspot.co.uk for information on the project so far. Residents of the village are particularly invited to come and take an active part in the exploration of its history. Dates for the 2017 season:

Undergraduate field school: **Sunday 25 June - Friday 7 July**
Public field schools: **Sunday 9 July to Friday 14 July, and Sunday 16 July to Friday 21 July.**

For more information please email edward.peveler@arch.ox.ac.uk

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

Margot Metcalfe
Chairman

The Dorchester Flyer Minibus Service to Wallingford Every Friday

Departs Dorchester (Herringcote):	10.15	12.00
Departs Wallingford (Corn Exchange):	11.40	13.00

Tickets must be bought in advance from
Lily's

28 High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire OX10 7HN
Tel: 01865 340900
Monday-Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm, Sunday 10:30am-5:00pm Closed Tuesdays



Village News

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. Please make your cheque out to Dorchester Historical Society and send to Gail Thomas, 14 Herringcote, Martins Lane, Dorchester on Thames, Oxon. OX10 7RD.



Come and join us to fill your box, bag or container with locally produced compost for free – and don't forget your shovel.*

*10 maximum of 4 containers per person will be applied.

Saturday 13 May 9.00am – 11.00am

Old South Oxfordshire District Council Car Park, Benson Lane,
Crownmarsh Gill Road OX10 8ED

Sunday 14 May 9.00am – 11.00am

Rye Farm Car Park, Culham Road, Abingdon OX14 1NN



Free recycling goodies

All while stocks last



Pick up kitchen caddies and liners



50% off compost bins, now only £10 (cash)



Dorchester WW2 Evacuee Project



The WW2 Evacuation Tea Party

Above: Many of the attendees taking tea;

Left: Jeremy Knight talking to Anne-Marie Joffrin—see him talking to Bing Crosby opposite

Right John Pratt and Vivien Arnold



Emma Louise Corry MA(RCA) BA(Hons)
Contemporary Textile Artist

Venue 80

Carrick Cottage
54 High Street
Dorchester on Thames
Oxfordshire OX10 7HN

OXFORDSHIRE

art
WEEKS

Open: 6-7 May & 13-14 May 2017 11am-5pm

Wheelchair Friendly - Family Friendly
Refreshments - On Street Parking

Open for Artweeks Christmas Exhibition

On Thursday March 23 the project team organised a tea party for former

Dorchester WW2 Evacuee Project – update

'What a swell party it was!'

evacuees and their families, and for members of Dorchester families which hosted or had memories of evacuees. As well as tea, scones and cakes, guests could look at the evacuee poster, watch a running slide show of photographs collected for the project, check names of evacuees and local children who attended Christmas tea parties in 1939-41, as well as sharing their own stories, photographs (scanned and added to the collection) and other memorabilia. They also completed a short questionnaire.

Former evacuee guests included: Jeremy Knight, who lived in Lavington House in the High Street during the war, came from Christchurch, Dorset, with his wife Paule and daughter Dominique. Ron Arnold, now living in Hornchurch, Essex, came with his wife, Vivien. He was evacuated with his entire family to Dorchester, living first in the Castle pub, then at the Farmer's Man. One evacuated family, the Coveleys, have stayed in Oxfordshire. Desmond, Pauline and Doreen came from London and stayed with Minnie James in Meadside. Pauline and Desmond's widow, Joyce, both came to the party.

Other Dorchester residents or former residents at the party included Pat Atkins, who came to Dorchester during the war to



A photograph of young evacuee Jeremy Knight talking to Bing Crosby at Mount Farm.

visit friends (the Fentons) who had been evacuated, and met and married

Fred Atkins, Margaret Belson, nee Atkins, lived in Queen Street, where her mother hosted evacuees, Marilyn Lines (née Bumpass), Roy Holliday and his brother Billy, Jackie Trinder, and Sandra Crawshaw, current owner of Lavington House. Sadly some other expected guests were not well enough to attend on the day.

We have yet to make contact with any surviving Thomas Road school evacuees, although Jenny Nudds has kindly provided a photograph of headmaster Mr and Mrs Hook who lodged at Willoughby House. This is ongoing research, so any information or contact details would be gratefully accepted! And we have spare copies of the questionnaire!

Finally, many, many thanks to all who provided cakes and scones, or who helped on the day.

**Margot Metcalfe
Denise Line
Megan Parry
Gail Thomas**

Dorchester Window Cleaning Service

We provide a friendly reliable service every 5-6 weeks.
Free quote—no obligation. Est 1990

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Football Results North Berks League

Division 2

25/03/2017	Hungerford Town FC Swifts	4	2	Dorchester
08/04/2017	Dorchester	4	0	North Oxford

Division 4

18/03/2017	Dorchester Res	2	8	Drayton
01/04/2017	Dorchester Res	1	4	Long Wittenham Athletic Reserves
08/04/2017	Blewbury	H	W	Dorchester Res
11/04/2017	Berinsfield Res	4	4	Dorchester Res
15/04/2017	Dorchester Res	1	2	Lambourn Sports Res



Tennis News

Weekly events at Dorchester Tennis Club:

Wednesday, 7.00pm to 9.00 pm - Open
Club session

Thursday, 11.00am to 12noon - Adult
coaching

Friday, 10.30 am to 12.30 - Ladies morning

Sunday, 10.30 am to 1.00pm - Open Club session

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

Chris Smith
Tennis Club Chair

Dorchester Golf Society is much more than a group of people whose only interest is playing golf. We have an Aunt Sally evening at the Fleur booked for **Tuesday 7 June**, an outing to Giffords Circus is being organised in June and a BBQ organised for **Saturday 12 August**.

These are purely social events and no golfing link is required or requested. Have a night out with nice people and no strings attached. All will be made very welcome and that's that.

And yes, we do get to play golf from time to time.

Our next outing is to Drayton Golf Club on **Tuesday 23 May**. 12.00 noon Sandwich

*Giffords
Circus in
June*



DOGS Summer Madness



lunch. 1.00pm first tee-off. £26.00

But new for 2017 we have **three early evening outings** that fit into busy working lives and don't break the budget. Starting at around 5.00pm for 9 holes or so, they cost about £15, at Oxford GC (**13 June**), Huntercombe GC (**18 July**) and The Springs GC (**3 August**).

WHAT'S MORE. Come along to any one of these three events as your first DOGS outing and then say you didn't enjoy it – **we'll refund your green fee in full.**

We're so sure you'll be pleased to play with us that we'll foot the bill if you think otherwise. No questions asked.

Why are we doing this? Dorchester is a small and vibrant community, but it needs to attract new support for its many activities. DOGS has a great membership and we want to ensure this continues into the future, hence our 'try before you buy' initiative. Come along and if afterwards you walk away then that's fine.

Or why not simply come along to one of our regular bar get-togethers in the White Hart Hotel at 8.00pm on the first Monday of each month? Have a drink and see if you'd like to know more.

Contact: Mike
and Jan Rimmer
01865 343719.



BBQ in August



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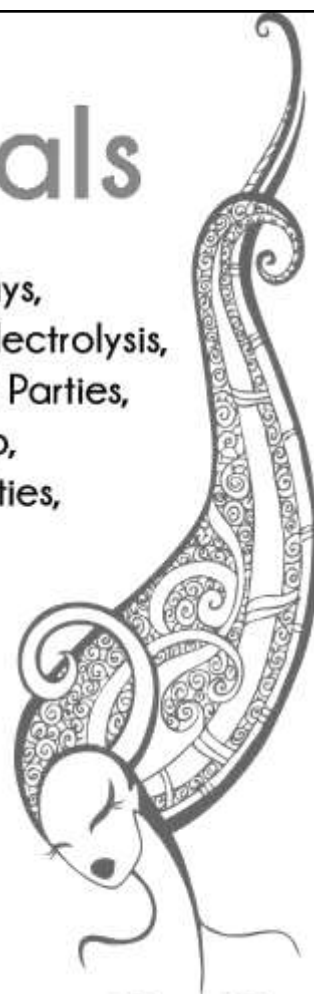
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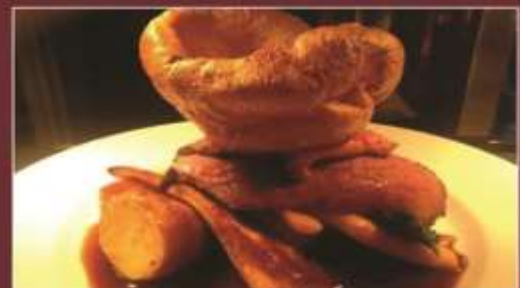
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Spring Flower Show—1 April 2017

A great spring show on a beautiful spring day – it really doesn't get much better than that. At the last few shows we had been asking everyone just to enter a few more classes, or get one more person to enter the show, and you were listening, so thank you. Entries this year nearly doubled from 2016, and it really showed. Our long-serving flower and vegetable judge John Alcock retired this year (thanks John, for everything) and it was a pleasure to hear the new judge say that he was bowled over by the quality and quantity of our entries.

Huge thanks to the committee for all their hard work in making the show run so smoothly. Jenny Nudds retired this year after more than thirty years of service; it was very sad to see her go but we're so grateful for everything she did. This leaves a small and very experienced committee but we could still do with a bit more assistance, especially on the day of the show – do contact me if you could help.

And see you all on the 2 September for the Autumn Show.

David Wilkinson



Above, Fern Andersson with her winning miniature garden (under 8s), whilst below, Steve Woods contemplates whether he could ever take as good a photo as Richard Juniper's, for which see page 29.



Roll of honour

Miniature Garden	Age 8 and under	1st Fern Andersson 2nd Alastair Mucklow 3rd Joe Ribeiro-Beaman
Miniature Garden	Age 9 and over	1st Theo Ribeiro-Beaman 2nd Megan Sadler 3rd= Tabitha Gauden Carys Sadler
Robert Soffe Cup (Long Trumpet Daffodils)		Maggie Martin
Short Trumpet Daffodil Cup		Steph Forman
Spring Flowers Cup (best flower exhibit other than daffodils)		Janet DeLaine
Vegetable Cup (best veg in show)		Malcom Airs
Britain in Bloom Cup (most points in all flower classes including flower arranging)		Janet DeLaine
Mary Tame Handicraft Plate (best piece of handicraft)		Richard Juniper
Domestic Classes Cup (most points in domestic classes)		Nick Forman
Blackwell Photography Cup (best photo in the show)		Richard Juniper
Helen Belcher Cup (best pot plant)		Sue Booyes



Anyone who entered Dorchester Abbey over Easter cannot fail to have seen and been impressed by the wonderful flowers that once again graced the interior. For this is one of the big three occasions in the calendar for Sandie Griffith and her team, the Abbey Flower Ladies, the others being, of course, Christmas and Harvest. But flowers in the Abbey are not just for the big occasions, and throughout the year this team of skilled people, currently all ladies but not necessarily so, keep up regular displays.

There are eleven people in the current team. Sandie is the team leader, organises all the acquisition of the flowers and over- sees the displays and their maintenance.

The Team

Sandie Griffith

Vera Baker

Kathy Glass

Susan Jupp

Alison Myres

Megan Parry

Hayley Poole

Jan Rimmer

Julie Taylor

Hilary Warburton

Helen Wigmore

She is perfectly placed to do this, being the owner of Jemini, the flower shop in Oxford's Covered Market. So she is an expert in what flowers are available at any time and where to source them. And they come from all over. Once upon a time they came mostly from around the village, from people's gardens. Some of the foliage still does, but these days the flowers come from anywhere from Covent Garden to Colombia. This may sound like a recipe for generating a lot of carbon miles, but Sandie is well aware that flowers grown in hot houses in the UK generate

far more carbon emissions and have a bigger carbon footprint than their equivalents from Kenya or Colombia, which also provide much-needed employment in several poorer countries.

Dressing the Abbey is an art and, after 17 years leading the team, Sandie knows exactly what does and does not work. And it is not just her experience in the Abbey that she draws on. She is Training and Educational Director for the British Florist Association, so clearly knows her onions (so to speak). The Abbey, she says, needs to be enhanced, not dominated. All of the flower arrangers understand this and work with this in mind when creating the displays.

Occasionally arrangers from outside the team get to dress the Abbey, such as for a wedding where they wish to use their own people. Sandie tries to discourage this because she is concerned that people not familiar with the Abbey will not understand the ways in which it responds to arrangements. They may be experienced arrangers, but the Abbey is likely to be a bigger church than most will have worked in before, and that is where issues can sometimes arise.

For the team there is a constant flow of work. Arrangements are usually renewed about every two weeks, and that can take many hours of sorting, selecting and snipping to size the flowers to go into each arrangement. But the work does not end there. For the next two weeks the arrangements need to be kept fresh by watering, removing any wilting stems and replacing them with fresh ones, and clearing up around the arrangements where leaves may have dropped.





The number of locations is increased for the big occasions, venturing outside of the Abbey to the porch and even the Lych Gate at Christmas, and the ledge on the screen in the People's Chapel, which is a favourite place for Sandie to experiment with new ideas.

The flowers are an important part of creating an ambience in the Abbey that is appropriate for worship and celebration, and which helps to say to visitors that this is not just a historic building, but is much loved and much used. Consequently the Parochial Church Council allocates a budget for them as part of the regular Abbey expenditure. This is enhanced by income from weddings, when the arranging team can charge for their skill and expertise. Frequently flowers used in weddings are not removed by the bridal party, and can then be

of remembering and honouring that special person, on their birthday or an anniversary perhaps, and giving something to the community at the same time.

The big three occasions will again be the highlights that Sandie and the team will pull out all the stops for; each with its own colour theme. Of the three, Easter is Sandie's favourite when not only is the greatest variety of flowers to be had, but their symbolism is at its most potent. Some years the team have constructed a cross of flowers for Easter, making a very direct and clear link, but there is always a strong relationship between the flowers and the Message of Easter.

This year is no exception. The flowers have been, as usual, magnificent. All who use the Abbey, for worship or any other purpose, have cause to be very grateful to Sandie and the team for all they do.

There is no better way to pay tribute to Sandie and the team than to show their handiwork. So here are some pictures which feature the big three occasions of this and recent years. With thanks to Nick Forman for the pictures on this page.

For a building the size of the Abbey, the team of eleven is none too large.

There are a number of key areas where the arrangements always go: the High Altar, the Madonna Shelf, the font, People's Chapel and Bishop's Table. Each of these has different needs because the context and function of the arrangements are different for each. Tastes have changed over the years and the arrangements are more likely to be integrated with their surroundings, whereas previously they might have stood on pedestals in front of the location. The arrangers also need to be aware of safety issues and ensure that no arrangement, nor part of one, can fall and injure anyone.

used as part of the Abbey display for the next couple of weeks, so saving further expenditure. There are already more weddings booked for this year than last, and Sandie is hopeful that she will get through much of the summer without having to buy in too many more for the regular fortnightly use. Support for funding the flowers can also come from individuals donating flowers in memory of a loved one. Sandie and Bryan donate the flowers for Mothering Sunday in memory of their mothers. This can be a lovely way





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The more competitive can take part in our pub game challenge for just £5. Can you beat your friends and family to be the champion of Aunt Sally, Quoits, Bar Skittles, Darts, Shove Halfpenny and Putting or our overall champion of champions? Can your team make it to the top of our leader board?

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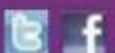
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Bishops Court Farm Lambing Open Day An Appreciation

Many thanks to everyone at Bishops Court Farm for making the Lambing Open Day on 2 April 2017 a very special occasion. It was wonderful to see and hold some of the new born lambs up close, and even to have the opportunity to bottle-feed them. It makes you realise just how much the mothers have to put up with! It was also fascinating to learn about the different rare breeds and their history, and to see how the farm is being run. Even the weather remained perfect. The sheep and lambs all seem to be wonderfully looked after by the very knowledgeable staff, and their day and night commitment to the welfare of the animals is to be highly commended. Having a working farm in our midst must surely be fairly unique in this part of the country, and should be highly prized and protected. Thanks again to everyone involved in the Lambing Open Day, and it is reassuring to know that the livestock are in such good hands!

Dr A.J. Sephton
82 High St
Dorchester on Thames



Dorchester Fireworks Display is back on! 5 November

The Fireworks are back on this year! Put the date in your diary, **Sunday 5 November** at Dorchester Recreation Ground. This is a fantastic event enjoyed by all. It will be the same format as last year, with great stalls and delicious food and drink and most importantly with the same fabulous firework display again. The event is becoming a regular fixture and is great fun for all the family.

We are really grateful for the support of the village and all the volunteers that make this fantastic event possible. Again profits from this event will go to Footsteps Foundation in Dorchester. We really value your support helping children with neurological disorders to access much-needed intensive physiotherapy.

All this will help children like Sohail, Sienna and Lucia:

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Bike Sale for Treehouse School

Massive Secondhand Bike Sale returns on **Sunday May 7** as part of Wallingford Car Rally. Last year we had over 100 bikes from balance bikes up to very expensive road bikes. We also sell scooters, ride-on toys, bike seats, tag-a-longs, bike accessories etc.

If you have a bike that you would like to donate then please contact me and I will arrange to have it collected from you. If you have a bike you would like to sell then bring it along to the Kincroft on the morning between 9.00am and 10.30am. You will get 75% of the selling price and The Treehouse School will get 25% if it sells. If it doesn't sell it costs you nothing. If you are looking to buy a bike put the date in your diary! For more details email

sally@eccleston.me.uk

Thanks from James

I would like to thank the many people who sponsored me on the British Heart Foundation Sponsored Bike Ride of 18 March. It started at Kempton Park, London, and finished at Faversham, near Reading. With local support, I managed to raise over £300 for this good cause.

It took just over 4 hours to cover the course of over 40 miles.

James Pratt

Derek North 1930-2017

Mr Derek North of Herringcote was a Derbyshire man. Born on 15 July 1930 he had a long career in financial services from which he retired in 2000. After completing his National Service in the RAF, he was lucky enough to be recruited to the Dam Busters Squadron after the war. He was always so proud of this.

His great passion was cricket and he was lucky enough to become a member of the MCC, and he took great pleasure in going to Lord's Cricket Ground to watch the Test Match during the summer.

His step-daughter, Elizabeth paid tribute to him in the funeral service with the following words...

Although Derek was our stepfather he always treated Kate, Martin and myself as his own, and Clare, Jenna, Verity and Georgina as his grandchildren. He loved a family party and being surrounded by 'his girls', although he would often complain there weren't enough men around!

Only recently Mummy told me that when Michael and I had our accident which meant us spending many months in hospital, it was Derek who suggested that Clare and Jenna go and live with them. Considering he and Mummy had only been married for 6 months taking on two little girls of 5 and 2 was quite an undertaking!

But this they did. It formed a bond between them and the girls that would never be broken. They remember trips to Bournemouth



beach and being taught to play cricket on the way home in the New Forest. Later, when the girls were older he and Mummy would be drafted in to help me escort each of them to University. Then occasionally they would take trips to visit them, taking them and their friends out for lunch to feed them up as they were starving students!

Cricket of course was Derek's passion and he was understandably proud to become a member of the MCC. He and Mummy would enjoy days at Lords watching the Test Matches, and occasionally Martin would join them too. When this became too much of an effort for them as they got older

Derek would sit during the summer months never far from a radio listening to the Test Match commentary.

He and Mummy would come over to me every week and while Mummy and I went shopping he would mow my lawn. Leaving it with neat stripes and trimmed edges, he would then sit in the sun with a beer and the radio listening to the cricket.

We were so lucky to have this warm and loving man in our lives who looked after Mummy so well, the two of them never far apart for the past forty years.

I like to think that now he and Martin will be sitting together waiting for the Test Match season to start.

John Lee 1938-2017

John was born and brought up in Marston and after John left technical school he started a five year apprenticeship at the Pressed Steel Company, eventually becoming a Jig Draughtsman. Here he met his wife Marguerite and they married in Dorchester Abbey in 1968. They set up home in Marsh Baldon where they lived for 38 years.

They had three children, Jenny, Simon and Katherine, and they soon became involved in village life. John was clerk to the Baldons Parish Council for a short while and then appointed to become Vicar's Warden to the late Revd John Strong and Revd Tony Moore. His time in the village included treasurer to the PCC, church bell ringer (taught by the late Jack Greenaway),



school governor of both Marsh Baldon Primary School and the Abbey School at Berinsfield as well as numerous maintenance activities across the churches and village green. On retirement in 2006, John and Marguerite moved to Devon to fulfil their long-held dream to live in a thatched cottage.

Sadly, in 2014, John was diagnosed with dementia. Marguerite looked after him at home until he was admitted to a specialist nursing home a few months ago where he was well cared for until he passed away. John was a loving husband, proud father and grandfather to baby Henry and will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. His funeral was held in the Abbey on 7 April.

Urgent Village Notices

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

Dorchester News online

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

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

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Earth Trust May events

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Saturday 6 May, 8.00pm-10.00pm

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Sunday Drop-in: Go Wild!

Sunday 7 May, 10.00am-2.00pm

Discover what wildlife lives on the nature reserve, including looking at what's been caught in the moth traps that were set up at yesterday's Moth Night. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free.

Dawn Chorus Walk

Sunday 7 May, 4.30am-6.30am

Join us on the Clumps to hear the dawn birdsong. £6 per adult, £3 per child; booking essential: **01865 407792** or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Green Woodworking Course

Tuesday 9 May, 6.30pm-9.00pm

A 6 week course (Tuesday evenings 9 May to 13 June) where you'll make your own stool to take home. £75 for 6 sessions; booking essential: **01865 407792** or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Tree Climbing

Saturday 13 May, 10.00am-5.00pm

Use ropes and harnesses to access the treetops! 1hr sessions with The Great Big Tree Climbing Company. £20; booking essential: online only at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Scything

Sunday 14 May, 9.30am-4.00pm

Learn the traditional way to tackle tall grass and long weeds, with expert Clive Leeke. £50; booking essential: **01865 407792** or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Intermediate Wildlife Photography

Sunday 14 May, 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 wide angle tricks. Future intermediate workshops: 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).

Bat Walk

Saturday 20 May, 8.30pm-10.00pm

A guided walk with the addition of bat detectors to find out more about these marvellous mammals. £6 per adult, £3 per child; booking essential: **01865 407792** or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Drawing from Nature

Sunday 21 May, 2.00pm-4.00pm

Explore Little Wittenham Wood with your sketchbook and get top tips from artist Gareth Lloyd. £20; booking essential: **01865 407792** or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Natural Dyeing for Families

Tuesday 30 May, 11.00am-4.00pm

Forage for natural dyes to colour wool, then make colourful felt. Suitable for ages 10 years+, £20 per adult, £15 per child; booking essential: **01865 407792** or online at www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee).

Continued....

Hurst Water Meadow Trust News

Trustee appointment

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed a new trustee: Roger Seabrook. Roger has been living in Dorchester since 2002 and is a regular visitor to the Hurst and our other meadows. He is a keen bird watcher, a member of the British Trust for Ornithology, and takes part in many local bird surveys. Roger also supports work on local habitats including bat and bird boxes in Dorchester. Roger works in finance for a large company and part of his current role involves him in sustainability projects, to which he deeply committed. He assumes the role of Hon. Treasurer for the Trust, aiming to carry on the work and significant contribution made by Andrew Clements who has recently retired.

Meadow flora

Last month approximately 40 snakeshead fritillary flowers were counted on the Hurst. This is almost double last year's number, which is very encouraging. Cowslips also seem to be increasing in number and becoming more widespread across the Hurst, while the clumps of Lodden lily beside the river near the 'outdoor classroom' have flowered well this year. By now we should be enjoying a yellow carpet of buttercups interspersed with a variety of other wild flowers.

If a walk through the meadows, seeing the flowers and trees and hearing the birds, lifts your spirits do think about joining the volunteers who work on the meadows one morning a week – a sociable and healthy occupation. If you would like to contribute financially to help maintain the meadows for everyone's enjoyment please get in touch; Gift Aid is applicable.

Gillian Johnson

Hon. Secretary

01865 340925

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



...continued

Woodland Adventure

Wednesday 31 May, 10.00am-12.00pm

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

Wildlife Wednesday at Thrupp Lake

Wednesday 31 May, 2.00pm-4.00pm

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

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.

Chiropodist

Third Thursday of each month,
1.00–4.00pm

Village Hall (back room)

18 May

For an appointment, Jo Bennett,

07903 133469

Cost £15

Parish Council

Monthly Meeting - May

The May meeting will take place in the back room of the Village Hall on **Wednesday 10 May** commencing at 7.30pm. 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

The Parish Council has been encouraging Mr Andrew Reid, the owner of Bishops Court Farm, the County Council and the Environment Agency to work jointly to carry out the actions which have been recommended by RoSPA. The Council hopes that this will achieve the best possible safety outcome for all. By the time this edition of Dorchester News appears, the Council expects that significant improvements will have been achieved, particularly at Day's Lock.

Countryside Code

'The Countryside Code' published by Natural England is available on-line through the Parish website and also via <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code>. The Parish Council has obtained paper

copies which can be obtained via the Abbey, the Museum and local hotels. The publication is full of good, practical advice both for visitors and land managers and has been endorsed by Thames Valley Police.

Parish Council Vacancy

The Council has received permission to fill its Casual Vacancy by co-option and it would like to do this at its meeting on Wednesday 10 May. Anyone wishing to offer themselves for election to fill this vacancy should contact the Clerk, who will be pleased to supply details of what is involved.

Firework Display

Sunday 5 November 2017

The Parish Council is delighted that Footsteps Foundation has come forward to head up the organisation for the Village Fireworks. The Display will take place on **Sunday 5 November**.

For further information contact Maggie Davies
maggie@footstepsfoundation.com

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm 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.

Local Plan: South Oxfordshire District Council

Consultation about Second Preferred Options runs until 17 May. Interested in where new houses and employment should be located in South Oxfordshire or how SODC should raise money for roads, schools, leisure centres, parks and shops?

You can find out more by visiting the website:
www.southoxon.gov.uk/newlocalplan and take part in an online survey where you can provide your feedback.

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



From your MP... John Howell April 2017

In opening this month I would like to pay tribute to those who helped us in the terrorist attack at Westminster and especially to add my condolences at the untimely death of PC Keith Palmer. I also send my deepest sympathies to the families of the others who died or were injured as a result of this attack; all innocent people simply living life. I join the Prime Minister in paying tribute to our emergency services who dealt so bravely and professionally with the situation. Of course we have since seen a series of attacks in different countries and each brings huge sadness. These attacks are attacks on freedom, human rights, the rule of law and democracy. In protection of our values and in honour of those who have died in these attacks we will continue to defend these values - not giving in to terror or allowing voices of hate and evil to rule. We must echo mutual respect and understanding as best we can in our own dealings at home and abroad, in matters large and small.

In the context of this I have been pleased to spend the Easter Parliamentary Recess,

which is now coming to an end, meeting with people around the constituency to discuss a range of issues. In this two week break from the usual Parliamentary activities in Westminster there is an opportunity to meet with groups within the constituency especially some that meet mid-week when I am unable to join them.

One issue that is often raised with me is that of litter around the area, especially on the roadsides. The Government has announced a new Litter Strategy which sets out plans to help to tackle this anti-social behaviour. As part of the first national Litter Strategy litter louts could be hit with £150 fines. I am sure that this will be welcome across the constituency and trust that our local councils will engage fully with the initiative.

Another hot topic is broadband. Despite good progress with the roll out there are still rural areas without provision. I am

delighted at self-help local initiatives which seek to address this. Working with Village Networks, a group in the middle of the constituency has been using wireless technology to connect communities. They are being helped by Thames Valley Police who have given permission to use some of their masts for the necessary equipment. A huge thanks to all involved with this innovative scheme.

If you would like to know more about my work you may like to be on the circulation list for my regular e-newsletter and special briefings sent on an occasional basis on specific issues. To be added to the list please email me at john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com. For more information about my work both in Westminster and in the constituency please do visit my website which is regularly updated. The address is www.johnhowellmp.com. You can also follow me on twitter @johnhowellmp or on Facebook

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Following the performance of Bach's inspiring *St John Passion* in March, our next concert is entitled 'Byways of Beethoven' and will include:

Mass in C (Op 86)

Choral Fantasia (Op 80) - Solo Piano

Anita D'Attellis

Halleluia (Op 85) from Christ on the Mount of Olives

The great Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827) embraced, developed and sometimes transformed all the musical categories of his time. In choral music, we think immediately of the epic *Missa Solemnis* and the *Choral Symphony* – but after that? He did write a number of smaller scale choral works and we explore some of these in this concert.

The *Mass in C* has been likened to Haydn's late masses, as it was for Prince Nicolaus II of Esterházy. Following Haydn's model, Beethoven abandoned the sectional treatment of the 18th century mass, integrating the soloists into almost symphonic extended movements. It has many attractive moments, and is altogether a well-crafted and enjoyable work.

The *Choral Fantasia* for choir, solo piano

Benson Choral Society Concert 10 June



and orchestra was composed at speed, to be performed at a famous concert in Vienna in December 1808, a concert which also featured the first performances of his *Symphonies Nos 5 and 6*, his *4th Piano Concerto*, and extracts from the *Mass in C*. Its glittering piano introduction sets the mood for a pleasant, light-hearted work with a final chorus extolling harmony, peace and love, with clear hints of the last movement of the *Choral Symphony* yet to come.

Beethoven's only oratorio is on the theme of Christ's Passion. It has fallen out of favour in more recent times, but its biggest chorus, *Hallelujah*, has acquired a life of its own, and well deserves an outing.

Christopher Walker will be the conductor, the Elgar Orchestra will be adding their usual sparkle to the concert, and distinguished soloists include: Helen Withers – Soprano, Serenna Wagner - Mezzo Soprano, Philip Tebb – Bass and Paul Smy Tenor.

'There is much to enjoy in this programme, and it is always a particular musical treat to include the wonderful playing of our accompanist Anita D'Attellis as soloist in our concerts.'

The concert takes place at Dorchester Abbey on **June 10** and commences at 7.30 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased from Stephanie Martin. Ring her (evenings only) on **01865 407395** or email her on bensonchoral@gmail.com. Tickets are also available on the door or from choir members. Prices are as usual, £15, £12 (reserved) and £10 (unreserved).



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Where have all the roses gone?

If you are one of the many people who walk the Abbey footpaths, you may wonder what's been happening to the roses.

We were approached by Churchwarden Gerry Wells on behalf of the PCC to help improve the condition of the planting alongside the footpaths. This account explains what we have been doing.

The good news or the bad news first?

The good news is that the climbing roses on the Porch and Museum paths on the whole are in good condition. They have now been formally pruned and re-tied to horizontal wires. Grass and weeds have been cleared from around the base and they have been fed and mulched. We can expect a good flowering display come the summer. We will be checking them over a couple more times during the summer and early autumn. They will be fed again and tied in where necessary. They will be pruned again during their winter dormancy. The rustic poles all appear to be in good condition, although they are not all precisely vertical. (This slight informality will not affect how the roses perform however.)

It is, alas, a different story for the shrub roses that until recently lined the path to the Porch, which were for the most part in poor condition. Over time, roses have been added and replaced and their increasingly sad appearance can be attributed to rose replant sickness. This is a poorly understood phenomenon, which affects young plants when replacing previously planted ones. A build up of pathogens such as nematodes and fungi is suspected as the cause. There is no known biological or chemical control and the effect can persist for up to a decade or more.

The traditional method of replanting old rose beds has been to replace all the soil to a depth exceeding the root system (600-800mm), which in this case would have been a major and expensive exercise. We could have



tried a 'last ditch' alternative, which might save at least a proportion of them. This is to cut them to the ground, then feed and mulch them three times over the course of the spring/summer months. After talking to our regular contact at David Austin Roses, we advised that the best course of action was to remove the borders entirely. This is what we have done, replacing them with new turf.

A few at least of the roses were still in fair condition and we 'rescued' them. These we replanted in the bed at the top of the path to the left of the Porch. These were first sprinkled with mycorrhizal fungi, which associate with the roots and help the plants to establish better. We added good planting compost and mulched once planted.

I trust you will enjoy the results as the summer progresses.

Andrew White.

Brannfords Garden Makers.

March 2017

Watercolours by Sophia Stewart – Liberty



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Friday 2nd June

7.30pm

Dorchester Village Hall

Contact Liz Jones to book a team table
340762 or email marklizjones@gmail.com



5 Dorchester ladies (the DOTs) are raising money for breast cancer by competing in the Great North Run (or Walk!)



7.30pm
Casablanca

Film Night
Thurs 4th May
Dorchester Abbey



Enjoy these two classic films, which won the village vote, on the newly installed big screen in the Abbey.
Bar & classic interval refreshments available



9.30pm
Some Like it Hot



www.dorchesterfestival.com

Spring Flower Show
Winner of the Blackwell Photography Cup, by Richard Juniper



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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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Agatha Christie Weekend

The fourth Agatha Christie Weekend will be held throughout Wallingford and Cholsey from **Friday 8 to Sunday 10 September 2017**.

This is an event which is growing each year and attracts tourists from afar as well as being of interest to local residents. Volunteers are now planning the events, and anyone will be welcome to support the organising group in making this another successful occasion.

Last year's programme can still be viewed online at: www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk/agatha-christie-weekend

If you would like to be involved, please contact Judy Dewey on **01491 651127** or judy@piepowder.co.uk

Judy Dewey



Wallingford Museum A Night at the Museum

Wallingford Museum will have a special one-off evening opening at half price (Adults £2.50, children free as usual), on **Friday 19 May** (6.00pm to 9.00pm) offering a chance to see our current exhibitions and also take a look 'behind the scenes' at a time when we are usually closed. You can also find out more about how the museum is run and what opportunities there are to join the team of volunteers!

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk



Wallingford Gardening Club 'The Lavender Story'.

Thurs 11 May

Tim Butler's talk *The Lavender Story* will take you through the history of Lavender cultivation, along with the various varieties of flower. The harvesting and distilling process will be explained, together with making and selling of the end products, which will be available for purchase after the talk.

The Lavender Fields are at Hartley Park Farm, in the heart of the Hampshire countryside. Tim is the third generation to farm this land, having introduced English lavender to the farm ten years ago. He values the landscape, making the fields a local landmark - being set against the ancient trees of the Selborne Hanger, the vibrant fields of English lavender perfectly complement the dense, dark woodland.

The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm on **Thursday 11 May**.

Visitors very welcome £3.

Isabelle Darby
01491 836867

PS. Don't forget Wallingford Gardening Club's Annual Plant Sale in Wallingford Market Place on Sat 13 May, 9am to noon.

What's on in Wallingford



Wallingford Historical & Archaeological Society 'The Round Mounds project: from Medieval Mottes to Prehistoric Round Mounds'

Dr Jim Leary will talk at the Wallingford Historical & Archaeological Society (TWHAS) about the project *Extending Histories: From Medieval Mottes to Prehistoric Round Mounds* which is funded by the Leverhulme Trust.

His talk will discuss the results from this project, which aims to discover the history of monumental mounds in the English landscape. The project brings together evidence from detailed analytical earthwork survey, geoarchaeological techniques and a comprehensive dating programme to determine the date of construction, sequence of development and environmental context of 20 castle mottes from across England.

Late Neolithic round mounds, such as Silbury Hill near Avebury, are among the rarest and least well understood monuments in Britain. Recent archaeological work at the medieval Marlborough Castle motte, Wiltshire, however, has shown it to be a reused Neolithic round mound, comparable in date to Silbury Hill. Could prehistoric round mounds therefore be more numerous and widespread than previously thought? Have many been hidden in plain sight for the past thousand years - incorporated into the fabric of later medieval castles? Such a link has not been drawn before, and yet, if true, could have considerable implications for the way we understand both late Neolithic round mounds and medieval castles.

We should learn more about the Wallingford Castle motte which has been dated between 1050 and 1150.

This talk will be held on **Wednesday 10 May**, 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford. Visitors (£4) are most welcome.
www.twhas.org.uk

Wallingford Flower Club Wednesday 10 May 2017

7.15pm for 7.45pm

Davina Wynne Jones

Talk on *Herbs for Healing*

At Crowmarsh Village Hall, OX10 8ED

Visitors Welcome £5

For further information Phone **01491 834303**

Crowmarsh Village Hall, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh OX10 8ED.

Fay Crabbe
Programme Secretary



What's On May

Cinema: Performances start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated

May

- Mon 1 **Ghost in the Shell** (12A)
 Tues 2 **Ghost in the Shell** (12A)
 Wed 3 **Graduation** (15) (in Romanian with subtitles)
 Sun 21 **Their Finest** (12A)
 Mon 22 **Their Finest** (12A)
 Tues 23 **Rules Don't Apply** (12A)
 Wed 24 **Rules Don't Apply** (12A)
 Thurs 25 **NT LIVE Obsession** 7.00pm
 Fri 26 **Whisky Galore** (12A)
 Sat 27 **The Boss Baby** (U) 10.30am
 Sat 27 **Going in Style** (12A) 7.30pm
 Tues 30 **NT LIVE Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?**

FILM CLUB in Upstairs Club Room (entrance in Mousey Lane, directions in foyer box office)

Friday 12: On the Waterfront

(Check website for any additions to our film programme being shown on our new second screen in the Club Room)

LIVE

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*. The evening will be illustrated with clips from the series. He will be accompanied by the series' producer Faye Dorn, who was born in Wallingford and was educated at Wallingford School. Followed by Q&A. Tickets £12. **In aid of The Corn Exchange Roof Appeal.** 8.00pm

May 17 to 20. Fasten your seat belts, Sinodun Players will be blasting off into space with ***Return to the Forbidden Planet***. Loosely based on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, this thrilling sci-fi jukebox musical features rock classics that include Shake, Rattle & Roll, Good Vibrations, Born to be Wild...and many more smash hits from the 1950s and 1960s. Ric Harley directs a truly spectacular and experienced cast who will be performing with a live band on stage. Evening shows at 7.30, Saturday matinee 2.30pm. Tickets £15 (under-18s £12 on Weds, Thurs and matinee)

Tickets and information, including any late additions to programme after going to press, from

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

Please note that The Corn Exchange will be closed from Sunday June 11 for roof replacement work.

Wallingford U3A

Our April speaker, Dr Jill Evers, talked about *The Grave Trade* changing and recurring fashions in Burial Practices through the ages.

Holiday: 5 days from **13 July**. A cancellation means there is space on this holiday to Shropshire. We are staying at a 4 star Telford Hotel and have a varied programme of visits planned. Our holidays are very cheerful and friendly, with a good mix of couples and singles.

Outings: Tuesday, 16 May to the RHS garden at Wisley. May has to be the best time to go to one of the World's great gardens. The cafes are good too!

For more details about outings and about the holiday please phone Eileen on 01491 825156

Speakers:

May 3: Robin Oakley, the well known Political Editor at the BBC, and European Editor at CNN will speak on *How Personality has taken over politics*.

June 7: Tony Hadland. *The Turbulent Lifetime of Thomas Vachell*.

Our meetings are held at 2.00pm on the first Wednesday of each month at Crowmarsh Village Hall. Visitors are always made welcome. Talk, Tea and Company. Come and join us. 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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Day by day

Sat 6 May	Oxfordshire Art Weeks 66 High Street 54 High Street 2.00pm-5.00pm
Sun 7 May	Easter 4 8.00am Holy Communion (1662) (Revd Michael Lakey) 10.30am Festival Eucharist Oxfordshire Art Weeks 66 High Street 54 High Street 2.00pm-5.00pm
Tues 9 May	10.15am Short Communion in the Abbey
Wed 10 May	Parish Council Monthly meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
Thurs 11 May	WI Julia Miles 'Rags, Bags and Cocktails' 2.30pm Village Hall (Back room)
Sat 13 May	Oxfordshire Art Weeks 66 High Street 54 High Street 2.00pm-5.00pm
Sun 14 May	Easter 5 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booy's) 8.45am -10.15am Christian Aid Week Breakfast Dorchester Abbey 10.30 am Sung Eucharist Oxfordshire Art Weeks 66 High Street 54 High Street 2.00pm-5.00pm
Mon 15 May	2.30pm Service at The Close
Tue 16 May	Pop-up Christian Aid Week Café 10.30am Dorchester Abbey



Wed 17 May	Talk Revd Prof Alister McGrath <i>The Creation and Narnia, C.S. Lewis on God, humanity and the animal world</i> 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Thurs 18 May	Classic Car Show, George Hotel 1.00-4.00pm Chiropodist Village Hall (see p24)
Sun 21 May	Easter 6 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662) (Revd Jon Roberts) 10.30am Family Service 5.00pm Evensong
Tues 23 May	DOGS Drayton Golf Club 12noon
Wed 24 May	Dorchester Historical Society Edward Peveler <i>'Discovering Dorchester: an update on recent progress during the excavation.'</i> 7.30pm Village Hall
Thurs 25 May	Service at the Cheshire Home 11.30am 7.30pm Ascension Day Service The Clumps
Fri 26 May	English Music Festival 4.45pm Village Hall 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey

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

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

Sat 27 May	English Music Festival 10.45am Dorchester Abbey 5.00pm Village Hall 7.00pm and 9.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 28 May	Sunday after Ascension 8.00am Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booy's) 10.30am Sung Eucharist English Music Festival 5.00pm Village Hall 7.00pm and 9.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Mon 29 May	English Music Festival 10.45am Dorchester Abbey 5.00pm Village Hall 7.00pm Dorchester Abbey
Wed 31 May	Annual Parish Meeting 2017 7.30pm Village Hall

Weekly events

Tuesday	Coffee in the Abbey 10.30am-12noon Bellringing Practice 7.30 pm Abbey Fishmonger 9.30am to 9.50am by War Memorial (p.11)
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

21 March	Derek North
7 April	John Lee
11 April	Betty Dyson

Holy Matrimony

18 March	Michael Dell and Emily Cotter
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Baptism

19 Mar	Alexei James Olehnovics Zuri Geddes
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Running until **Sunday 7 May**, there are so many events happening at the **Dorchester Festival** that it is impossible to include them in the Dorchester Diary. Find out all about them at:

www.dorchesterfestival.com

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 ADVICE LINE

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

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

WVC Volunteers provide help for the elderly, disabled or vulnerable, especially by giving lifts to medical appointments at hospitals in Oxford, Abingdon and Reading. You need to register as a client. Contact the Centre for more information. **01491 836345**

www.wallingford.volunteercentre@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.stbirinus.co.uk

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



REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Sat 6 May **Black**
Fri 12 May **Green**
Fri 19 May **Black**
Fri 26 May* **Green**

Weekdays from 7.00am.
Saturdays from 6.00am.

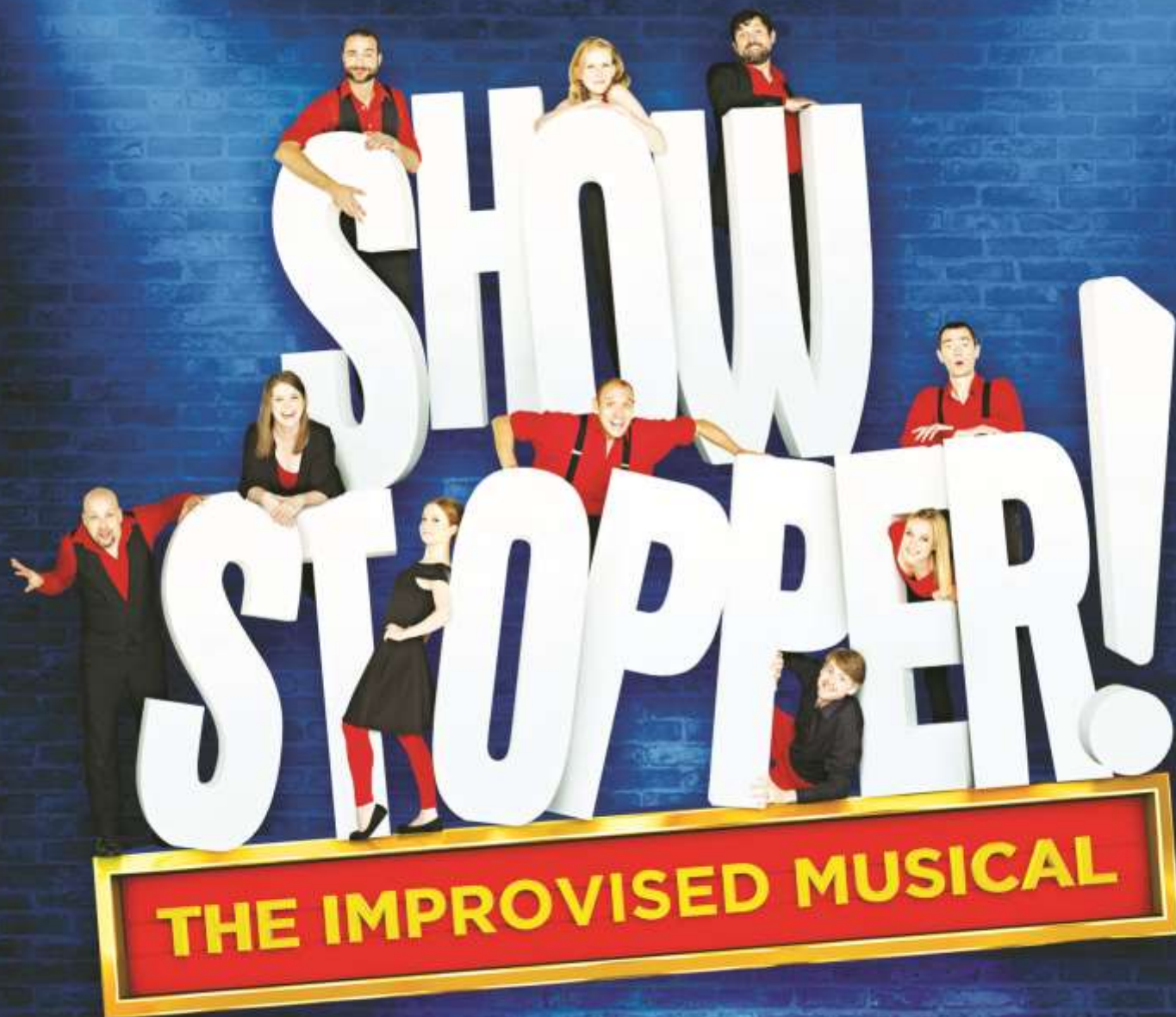
* Additional garden waste for brown bin users.

Weekly: food waste (in bio-degradable 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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'Had me weeping with laughter...
you absolutely have to go.'

Mail on Sunday



'So polished
it defies belief.'

Daily Telegraph



Sunday 30th April

7.30pm

Dorchester Abbey

Tickets: £18/£15/£10 (under 16 half price)

www.dorchesterfestival.com