# Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish
February 2018





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Cover picture: Dorchester Abbey from Malthouse Lane (Cat's name not known.)

# Deadline for March Dorchester News



# email:

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

# A DoT view

A new year usually brings some improving resolutions, now, in February, mostly forgotten.

One of my resolutions has been to try to make it easier to find what you are looking in Dorchester News. So in place of the cramped single list that I found difficult to read, so I am sure other people also did, we have grouped items by various themes. Let's see if this resolution lasts.

And if you want to know how much it costs to advertise in Dorchester news, you'll now have to turn to page 34, instead of it being on this page.

We have our second crossword, thanks to 'Slider', on page 11. After practicing on the previous crossword, you can win a prize of a bottle of Prosecco for completing this one. Don't miss the entry date, though.

Don't miss two concerts coming up in the Abbey this month. The first is the Chiltern Arts Festival, playing Mendelssohn and Mozart on the 11th and then on the 25th, Stepping into Song, when a number of local schools and rock choirs will be performing in aid of Footsteps Foundation and to help Grace Roscoe to tour China with the National Children's Choir later this year. They sound like two great evenings.

Ian Brace

# Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Gail Thomas

# Distribution Co-ordinator Maurice Day

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# **Talking Point**

# **Revd Caroline King**

February is a short but pivotal month; in the church, we transition from the season of Christmas and look towards Lent, Holy Week and Easter. February begins with the Feast of Candlemas on 2 February, which is forty days after Christmas. It is the last of the church's Christmas celebrations and the final mention of the infant Jesus in the bible.

The date for Candlemas is significant; 2 February is forty days after Christmas and lies exactly half way between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, so it marks the day upon which winter is half over. On 2 February, winter is half over and we can truly look forward to signs of spring.

The passage in Luke 2:22-40 is one of the most beautiful and haunting passages in the bible. In it God speaks through Anna and Simeon. Sometimes God speaks to us through surprising people. Anna was an 84-year-old widow, yet she could see the potential wrapped up in the tiny helpless child. She could see the man he would become. Simeon could see too that this

child was a light to lighten the world. Simeon took Jesus into his arms and said the words which are well known because they have come down to us as the Nunc dimittis. He was saying to God that he could now die happily because he had seen the Sayiour.

These are the words as found in the *Book* of Common Prayer. 1662):

'Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.'

It is better to light a candle than to stumble in the dark. Candles are an important part of our worship especially during the Christmas season but we must remember that Jesus the light of the world is for all times and all places, not just this time of year. We are called to see that the light of the love of God shining in our parishes throughout the year.

For me one of the most hopeful signs of spring are the snowdrops which even now are just beginning to poke through. They are so delicate, so simple, so pure, a little sign that lighter days and the colours and blossom of spring is on the way. As we move from the celebrations of Christmas to observing Lent I find the poem below speaks to me in many ways.

'Into a dark world

a snowdrop comes,

a benison of hope and peace, carrying within it

a green heart,

symbol of God's renewing love.

Come to inhabit our darkness

Lord Christ.

for dark and light

are alike to you.

May nature's white candles of hope remind us of your radiance

and light our journey

through Spring, and beyond.'

(Kate McIlhagga, Iona Community)

With best wishes Caroline

# **Angelos**

We would like to thank everyone who helped in any way with the recent Realms of Glory exhibition and the concluding Angelos event. The opportunity to see the exhibition and the Abbey by candlelight was greatly appreciated by everyone who came. It was wonderful to have Holly Slingsby and Chris and Helen Baines (friends of Rebecca) with us. A number of people have expressed an interest in another candlelit evening – the Rector would be delighted to hear from anyone else interested – especially if they would be interested in helping with the candles!

# Lent

During Advent a number of us followed Bishop Steven's Advent Course. The Bishop has written a new course for Lent based around the compelling Gospel story of the Raising of Lazarus about which he gave some excellent talks at a conference last year. I plan to repeat the Monday afternoon groups at the Rectory and also hope to organize an evening group at a time that suits interested parishioners.

Ash Wednesday – As usual there are services for the team at 11.00am at Berinsfield and this year at 7.30pm at Warborough.

Late as this will seem Richard and Sue would like to thank the many people who sent Christmas greetings of one kind and another. We enjoy being amongst you in Dorchester.

# **Guest House Consultation**

.....

The Guest House working group would like to thank all those who came to the consultation and completed a feedback form. At the time of writing, those comments are being considered and fed into decisions regarding the future of the project.

# Sun 4 Feb 10.30am Morning Service

Mrs Penny Faust from the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust will be coming to speak. The title of her talk will be Holocaust Memorial Day: from 2001 to our post Brexit era; 'Why a journey of hope and good intentions has had to become a leap of faith.'

Penny attended a Church of England boarding school for seen years before university in London. She came to Oxford in 1966. Penny has four children and 12 grandchildren.

Penny worked freelance for the BBC for 20 years, including 10 years as a contributor to R4's *Thought for the Day*, and also worked in education.

Penny has been actively involved in interfaith activities for more than 40 years. She is the former Chair of Oxford Council of Faiths and currently co-Chair of the annual Interfaith Friendship Walk. In 2017, Penny received a High Sheriff's Award for her interfaith work in Oxford.

Penny has delivered the reflection at the Holocaust Memorial Day Service in Oxford since its inception in 2002.

# **Thank You**

A big 'Thank You' from Frank and Joan Blackwell for all the support received during their past rather difficult year, particularly appreciated were the many offers of transport for Joan to visit hospitals which was such a great help to us both.

Frank and Joan Blackwell



# **Heavenly Host Thank You**

Thank you to all those who crafted the little angels of the Heavenly Host that appeared around the village between 4 and 24 December 2017. What a labour of love, and those who were lucky enough to find an angel were delighted, and some of them posted pictures and stories on the Heavenly Host Dorchester Facebook page. Over one hundred angels were placed all around the village over the period. Thank you to everybody who participated and, just to clarify, Heavenly Host Angels are not just for children, they are for everybody. Maybe there will be a further visitation in 2018...

**Denise Line** 

# Village Carol Singing—Thank you!

Thank you to all those who came along to carol sing just before Christmas and to those who dug deep into their pockets to support us.

We raised £200 for Action around Bethlehem Children with Disability (ABCD), who are dedicated to improving the quality of life for those children in Palestine suffering from physical, mental and psychological disabilities.

**Steph Forman** 



# 

# The Lunch Club

We said goodbye to 2017 with a magnificent Christmas Lunch on 13 December when 30 of us sat down to eat a beautifully succulent turkey with all the trimmings, cooked by Claire Andersson and our team of cooks, who also joined us for the lunch to make 40 seated in all. Our pudding was pancakes stuffed with mincemeat cooked by Vera Baker and the team, absolutely delicious. We finished the meal with mint chocolates and coffee and of course we had crackers with the usual jokes and hats to keep us entertained as well as lots of chatter enjoying each others company.

The Lunch Club is a very sociable event and is continuing on the second and fourth Wednesday in the month until Wednesday 28 March at which we plan to have a special Easter Lunch to finish the season until we start again in October.

If you are new to the village and retired, please consider joining us, as it is a wonderful way of getting to know lots of Dorchester residents, and the 'ins and out' of Dorchester; just give me a call first to let me know you would like to come. The lunch costs £5 for a home cooked main course and pudding, coffee and a chocolate; it is always delicious.

Susan Jupp Phone: 341066

# **Fishmonger**

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

# Lent lunches

16 Feb Revd Sue Booys The Rectory, Manor Farm Road

23 Feb Meg Fisher 4 Drayton Road

Lent lunches in February will be 12.30pm to 2.00pm with: All are welcome to share a simple lunch Proceeds to charity. Lent lunches will continue in March.

# **Village News**

# Hempcroft Allotment News



January is generally a very cold month with hard frosts freezing the ground although there are no guarantees with British

weather, in an ideal world, you'll have your plot dug over, limed or manured if needed, and preparation now will pay dividends in the spring, continue with your plot tidying, This is a good move to help with any vermin problems, as the lack of food means they start to forage.

There is generally nothing to sow or plant outside except maybe garlic or shallots if the weather is mild.

There is something you can start off under glass or on south facing window sill, Tomatoes and Aubergines can be sown (inside). Onions from seed can also be sown in January.

Remember to get your orders in for seed potatoes.

# **January Pests and Diseases:**

Grey mould and Downey mildew can be a big problem when the weather is damp and cold. Whitefly can still be a problem over wintering.

Pigeons get hungry at this time of year, so make sure you net your brassica's.

An important note: Please do not put eggshells/household waste on your compost heap It attracts vermin.

# **New Signs and Rules**

By the time you read this official foot path signs will be installed, supplied by the Oxfordshire County Council,

You will also see other signs in the next month which will reference 'allotment holders parking only'. We will also have available the amended allotment rules which will be emailed to members, and uploaded to the Allotments website (http://hempcroftallotments.org) shortly, and in the newsletter due to be emailed to members this month. If you have not supplied/updated your email address please send it to me (see below).

We have professional grade weed mat which is available 4m wide and sold by the linear meter at £2.50 per linear meter

(Example 4m x 10m = £25.00)

Happy New Year and Keep Digging!

Plots available full and half size.
Please call:

Tel: 01865 340119 Email: stu@horted.co.uk

Stuart Poole.

# theW

# **Dorchester on Thames**

Dear Readers, ISPIRING WOMEN Our Christmas

Meeting was fantastic with a very interesting speaker, Martin Sirot-Smith who told us about Tudor Celebrations at Christmas and how it would have been celebrated at Sulgrave Manor, where he been a guide for about 40 years. We then celebrated in modern fashion with delicious canapés, sandwiches and prosecco, a most enjoyable meeting.

At our January meeting we heard about 'Intriguing Oxford' a talk given by Brian Lowe.

Our February meeting will be on gardening: 'Spring in the Garden' given by a representative from Nottcuts Garden Centre. This will be held in the back room of the Village Hall at 2.30. Visitors always welcome and a donation to cover costs would be appreciated.

Our March meeting will be our AGM in which we have to appoint a new committee to continue until 2019 and we will be voting on WI resolutions. The WI resolutions are an important aspect of the work of the WI, they are subjects which the WI would like to bring to the attention of the government and general public to try to abolish or improve aspects of our lives, for example: raise awareness of modern slavery; raise awareness that poor oral health can

increase likelihood of a variety of general health problems; raise awareness that digital manipulation of photographs of women in magazines and advertisements can lead to mental health problems in children trying to emulate these unrealistic images. In past years the WI have successfully caused changes to legislation to improve the quality of all our lives.

Unfortunately the Dorchester WI is finding it difficult to attract new young members and people willing to make up the committee and so it is highly likely that this will be the last year that we can remain open, but we would love it not to close but to hand it over to a completely new membership! What we need is bright, enthusiastic young people to come and completely take over and transform the Dorchester WI, to run it how you would like, do activities and have speakers that you want, choose the day and time of day/evening that suits you. This is certainly happening in towns where membership is thriving. So calling all 20 to 50 year old in the village, come and save the Dorchester WI, kick out the old and bring in the new!

Susan Jupp (secretary)
Tel:341066

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

# Dorchester on Thames Historical Society

Wednesday 28 February 2018,

7.30pm, Village Hall Members free, Visitors welcome (£3)

Dr Katherine Clarke will talk about:

Pandora, poets and party-animals: Representations of Women in the Ancient World Dr Katherine Clarke lives in Dorchester. and is in her twentieth year as Fellow and Tutor in Ancient History at St Hilda's College, Oxford. In that time she has published many articles and two major books with a third in proof and about to appear in the next few months! [The previous two were called Between Geography and History: Hellenistic Constructions of the Roman World and Making Time for the Past: Local History and the Polis. The new one is going to be Shaping the Geography of Empire: Man and Nature in Herodotus' Histories.] Most of her own research is on the Greek historians (especially their geographical ideas), but she teaches



mostly Roman History.



# St Birinus Primary School News

We completed the last week of the Autumn Term 2 with all the annual Christmas festivities

- Due to the snow, the school was closed on the Monday of that week, which prevented the KS1 children from having their dress rehearsal for their play. Thank you to some of the Pre-School committee, who were able to clear some of the snow from the school paths – it made my job much easier the next day.
- KS1 performed their play Prickly Hay. The children sang and acted beautifully, which made it a magical performance. They were certainly tired at the end of the day after performing three times throughout the day.
- Our Christmas Parties was very exciting especially with the visit of a very special person, with a sack of presents for the younger children.
- Finally, on the last day of term we all dressed in our Christmas
  Jumpers to raise money for the Save the Children charity
  before heading to the Abbey for our Christmas Service.

It certainly was a busy week.

The Spring Term started with day of dressing up as Fantasy characters to launch our Big Write topic, there was such a variety of costumes in the assembly even one unicorn. This, I know, will inspire the children with their writing over the coming month. I shall look forward to reading their writing.

Russell Leigh Headteacher Dorchester St Birinus CE Primary School

# O

# **Pre School News**

Christmas holidays are over and we are back to Pre-School. This term we will be looking at Space and Planets, practising our counting with numbers from 1 to 10; our main colour will be

White and shape to discover is the Snowflake. For our Space theme we have been making rocket names and alien space ship collages, fruit kebab rockets and play doh aliens! This term we will also be doing PE over at big school, cooking and music.

We are very pleased to welcome two new children who started with us this term. We also welcome our new member of staff, Megan, who the children are really enjoying spending time with.

> Kristina Palm Pre School Secretary

# **Carol singing**

The Pre-school was off during the week of the village carol singing. We decided to do our own carol singing and below are some pictures!

The children wanted to raise money for Footsteps and at the end of the evening there was a fantastic £159.75 in the collection pot.

After just a couple of rehearsals the children were making a beautiful sound and they even had solos and instruments. We were so proud of them and grateful to everyone who donated.







# BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

Visit your Local Library and see what we have on offer Half Term craft Afternoon Wednesday February 14th 3.45pm

Rhymes for the Under 5's Wednesdays 10.30am

Storytime Wednesdays 3.45pm

I.T Help Thursdays 2.00pm

Knit and Natter 6th February 2.30pm

Reading Group 8th February 2.00pm

Coffee Morning 20<sup>th</sup> February 10.30am All Welcome



or pop into our ProShop





# Forthcoming attractions at The Springs Sunday 11th February 2018

2 or 3 Course Carvery



# Wednesday 14th February 2018

3 Course Valentines Dinner

Friday 2nd March 2018 The Springs Quiz

Thursday 8th March 2018 Ladies Prosecco Afternoon Tea

Sunday 11th March 2018 Mothers' Day Carvery



# Sunday 1st April 2018

2 or 3 Course Easter Carvery & Egg Hunt

Friday 6th April 2018 Steak & Jazz Night

> Friday 13th April 2018 The Springs Quiz



Sunday 15th April 2018 2 or 3 Course Carvery

Please like us on Facebook... https://www.facebook.com/TheSpringsGolfClub/

# Culham & District Horticultural Club



Meetings are held at the Abbey Guest House, Dorchester-on-Thames at 7.30pm

Wednesday 21 February 2018 Making the Most of Your Garden's Microclimates by Nick Wray, Curator, Bristol Botanic Garden

This illustrated lecture will explore microclimates within a garden and suggest how these can be manipulated to create better growing conditions for a wider, more diverse range of plants.

Membership is open to all those who have a keen interest in horticulture (annual subscription £15) and visitors are welcome at the meeting (suggested donation £2). For more details telephone 01235 850381 or email judy@tiggercat.me.uk



# **Dorchester Village Hall 200 Club Prize Draw**

Congratulations to the winners of the December draw.

£100 No62 Mrs G Whitten 1st Prize 2nd Prize £45 No22 Mrs M Badley 3rd Prize £25 No94 Mrs J Rimmer

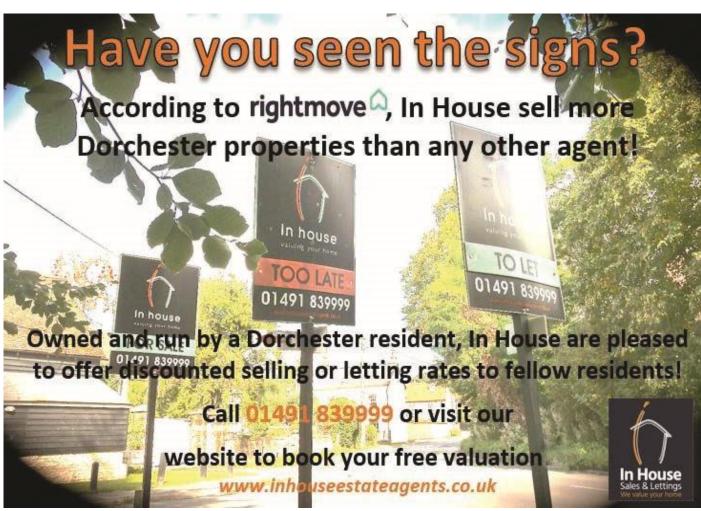
The next draw will be in March, with the first prize reverting to £75 so join now for a chance to win!

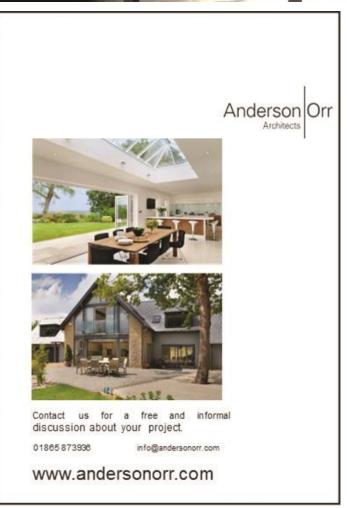
The 200 Club is a quarterly prize draw to raise funds for the village hall. There are only 200 tickets and some are still available at £12 for the year (four draws from when you join). To join, contact Elaine Moore on 340441 or email

admin@dotvh.org.uk for a form. Good luck! .....

# Chiropodist

Third Wednesday of each month, 1.00-4.00pm Village Hall (back room) 21 February







The Shepherds' Landscape – a reflection for Angelos, arts event for the Feast of Epiphany to savour the Realms of Glory angels exhibition and celebrate the contribution of Rebecca Slingsby to the life of Dorchester Abbey.

## Reading

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

#### Reflection

In reflecting on the landscape of the shepherds we will consider biblical, pastoral life and the work of Rebecca Slingsby.

The shepherds were living in the fields. This was their place of work. Familiar territory. Their landscape.

Rebecca said: 1'The way I make my art is to sit in the landscape, looking at my subject, trying to understand all that energy that's coming towards me.'

How did the shepherds do their work – the art of shepherding?

A tended fire - essential for safety from wolves, a source of light and heat. See sparks from a smoldering branch stirred by the shepherd boy's staff. Plenty of time to learn, by watching carefully, how fire behaves. Sparks. <sup>2</sup>Scintilla: the glittering speck.

They sleep with the sheep in a simple improvised sheepfold, a temporary affair, which can easily be moved to another location. A fence is built of tangled thorn bushes. Thorns.

It can be taken down easily when time to move on to another location.

'I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be' (Ezekiel 34:14.15)

A more secure fold may be built from stones, collected from the land around. Thorn bushes are put on the top of the wall. Stones. And Thorns.

There is a gate guarded by a watchman.

'He that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the watchman openeth.' (John 10:1-3).

# The Shepherds' Reflection

And into the shepherds' landscape - into the gate of the sheepfold - steps the annunciating angel. Standing before them. Giving them the amazing news of the Messiah's birth.

And then a whole host of angels, too many to count. And the glory of the Lord shone around them.

Like Rebecca's <sup>3</sup>'minute particles of pigment which individually are so minute you cannot see them but collectively they form this great array of colour'.

And the shepherds are terrified. But they recognise what they must do.

They recognise His voice. The Angel is the Messenger from their Shepherd.

Like sheep, they are thoroughly familiar with their own shepherd's tone of voice. 'The sheep follow him, for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers' (John 10:4,5).

They follow him. He leads them to Himself.

They must pass through the landscape to find the child.

The moon's light will help them now that they are away from the firelight.

Rebecca said of the moon: <sup>4</sup>'Its secrets and the way it paints the space around itself have long inspired me and lit my inner vistas'.

The energy coming towards the shepherds is from the Christ child.

Here, in the People's Chapel of Dorchester Abbey, He is placed in the landscape of his birth – a humble place, angels, his loving parents, visitors – all set against the backdrop of the future. Sun, moon, stars, the cross, and a human tragedy that brings hope.

Rebecca. We have been able to watch with you. You have explored and shared the message of light and energy. You have seen all of this, <sup>5</sup> with the eyes of our ancestors, and hopefully with the eyes of our descendants'. Thank you.

**Denise Line** 

Rebecca Hind: video, Leaves from a Book of Hours.

youtube.com/watch?v=BcffzDkmWrQ

- 2. rebeccahind.com/scintilla
- See 1
- moonscope 2007 Exhibition Booklet. Rebecca Hind
- moonscope Exhibition Booklet. Professor
   B Catling, The Ruskin School of Drawing &
   Fine Art





# Could you help a child to read and change their life forever?

# Volunteers needed

ARCh (Assisted Reading for Children) is a local registered charity which operates in Oxfordshire primary schools to help children who are struggling with reading.

All it takes is one and a half hours twice a week during the school day as an ARCh volunteer in a primary school near you.

Full training is given and we provide ongoing support and reimburse travel expenses.

To find out more, visit our website www.archoxfordshire.org.uk

Or telephone us on 01869 320380

The charity obtains enhanced DBS checks on all volunteers before placement Registered Charity Number 1146276

Volunteers are currently required for Dorchester and Berinsfield schools as well as elsewhere.



# STEPPING INTO SONG

SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018 • 5<sub>PM</sub>
DORCHESTER ABBEY, DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES, OXFORDSHIRE

Join members of Rock Choir, Didcot Girls' School Choral Group, and All Saints C of E Primary School, Didcot, in a fantastic evening of music

Tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes will be available as you listen in the beautiful Abbey.

Adults £9
Children/Concessions £7

Please help us by supporting this event.

# Tickets can be purchased at:

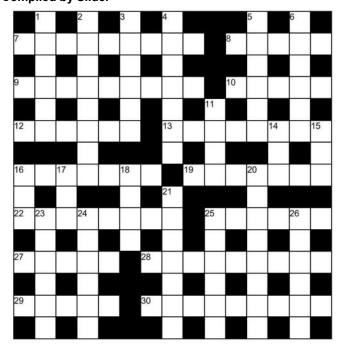
Online at **buytickets.at/steppingintosong/121699** • The Co-Op Store, Dorchester-on-Thames Footsteps Foundation, Dorchester-on-Thames • Pupil Services, Didcot Girls' School







# The Dorchester News Crossword No2 Compiled by Slider



#### **Across**

- 7 Get into debt? Not interested. (9)
- 8 Sailor comes before the governor in our church. (5)
- 9 Colourless organ recital and it's local. (5,4)
- 10 Notice the old politician making it up. (2,3)
- 12 Buyer gets space and exercises soldiers. (6)
- 13 Revealing that the sitter is no longer working. (8)
- 16 Worker with cheek upfront that's brave! (7)
- 19 Put a tattoo on the queen? A holy man takes the lead but he's high! (7)
- 22 Book by Doris gets an endorsement. (8)
- 25 Pays attention to legal hearings. (6)
- 27 She is in charge and she gets your goat. (5)
- 28 Wrongly cased, this was punished. (9)
- 29 Small and smooth, a number of little people (6)
- 30 Five kids are after big hair, what posers! (9)

# Down

- 1 Significant music worker is on edge. (6)
- 2 Part of the cost of a shipwreck. (8)
- 3 Whack that woman here! (6)
- 4 Argue and bolt. (7)

- 5 An offer with points stays on. (6)
- 6 Plan of the French indication. (6)
- 11 To impale is an unpleasant thing to do. (4)
- 14 Could be Indian home to a monarch. (3)
- 15 This slender swimmer is only half of the plot. (3)
- 16 Get up and talk. (3)
- 17 Get down to a mendacious act. (3)
- 18 Solve the problem on tiptoe. (4)
- 20 Nothing bad on the radio and we find a literary craft. (8)
- 21 Urge 23, there's a clever fellow. (7)
- 23 The tree with a food additive is a mess but it's a front runner. (6)
- 24 This performer can do the hot stuff. (6)
- 25 The fisherman who throws out a type of sugar. (6)
- 26 The old maid is rather too sweet on the big city. (6)

# **Crossword Prize!**

A bottle of Prosecco to the first correct grid out of the hat. Send your completed grid to Dorchester News at dorchesternews@dorchesteronthamses.co.uk before 21 February to be entered in the draw.

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www.fullcircletravel.co.uk

T: 01491 833227

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> Beauty Essentials, Rear of 81 High Street, Wallingford, OX10 0BX

www.beautyessentialsoxon.co.uk 07583 371198





# Mud Pie Monday! Monday 12 February, 10.00am-11.30am

Come and get messy in the mud kitchen - buckets of mud and buckets of fun! Wellies and waterproofs advisable. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.





# **Winter Activity Trail** Tuesday 13 February, 10.00am-4.00pm

Pick up your map and explorer backpack from the Earth Trust Centre and head out for a self-led adventure in the woods! Can you complete all the winter-themed activities along the trail? Bookable slots to collect your

map/backpack, last slot 3pm. £4 per child (plus refundable deposit required for backpacks); booking essential: book online (incurs a fee) or call 01865 407792 during office hours.

# Wildlife Wednesday at Mowbray Fields Wednesday 14 February , 10.00am-12.00pm

Our roving Wildlife Wednesday visits a different Earth Trust community nature reserve during each school holiday; this half term, come





# **Football Result Oxford City** League **First Division**



02/12/2017	Dorchester First	5	0	Chinnor A
09/12/2017	Dorchester First	8	4	Masons Arms First
16/12/2017	Dorchester First	5	1	Oxford Brookes University Fourths
06/01/2018	Dorchester First	10	1	Headington Butchers First
13/01/2018	Union Street First	0	1	Dorchester First

# CJL Cup

18/11/2017 Union Street First 4 2 Dorchester First

# **Premier Challenge Cup**

**Great Milton** 25/11/2017 6 Dorchester First Reserves

# **Earth Trust** February events

out and play at Mowbray Fields in Didcot (OX11 8SU). Explore the reserve and learn about local wildlife. £2 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

# **Build a Bird Feeder** Thursday 15 February 10.00am-11.30am and 1.00pm-2.30pm

Make three different bird feeders to take home for your garden. £5 per family; booking essential: book online (incurs a fee) or call 01865 407792 during office hours.





# Discover and Play Friday 16 February, 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 adult(s) free. No need to book.

# River of Life Walk Thursday 22 February, 1.00pm-3.30pm

Come and see how the River of Life wetland has progressed, four years after it was created. £8; booking essential: book online (incurs a fee) or call 01865 407792 during office hours



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. There are lots of exciting events coming up 2018, including some that are exclusively for Earth Trust Friends - find out more about becoming a Friend at

www.earthtrust.org.uk/joinus

# Wanted to purchase **House in Dorchester**

If you are thinking of selling your house in 2018, and would like to save on Estate Agent fees, then I would like to hear from you! I am a Dorchester resident who is moving due to a change in family circumstances. I am looking for a 3 or 4 bed property in the village with a good-sized garden and off-street parking. I have sold my property, and have a complete chain ready to go as soon as I find something suitable. If interested, please email me with your contact details and we can discuss suitability of your property in confidence. I look forward to hearing from you, Dr Tracy Lester (Tracy.lester@sky.com).

# The Revd William Charles Macfarlane

mation of the area around the preaching cross mentioned the a basis for the true religion. In 1869 he funded the building of a importance of the Revd William Macfarlane. His legacy is all new joint school and church at Burcot and in 1871 he provided around us in the Abbey, the Rectory, the Village Hall and in the buildings at the High Street end of Queen Street. Readers might the Village Hall. In the neighbouring parish of Marsh Baldon he like to know more about this remarkable man

He was born in Feltham, Middlesex on 16 April 1817. His father, James Macfarlane, was a Scottish merchant who was a major in the Honourable East India Company. It was clearly a tightknit and devout family. His elder brother, James Duncan, born in 1815, was rector of Staveley in Derbyshire for over forty years before his death in July 1886, and our Macfarlane's twin brother, Edward, also took holy orders although he died childless in the household of James at Staveley in 1874. His younger sister. Jessie, never married and acted as William's housekeeper in Dorchester.

William himself seems to have come to the church at a rather late stage in his life. He graduated from Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1852 when he was 35 years old and was ordained by Samuel Wilberforce two years later. He was appointed perpetual curate to Dorchester in 1856 and this was his only living. He was strongly influenced by the Oxford High Church movement and embarked on a campaign to make his parish a model for its beliefs and rituals. He was the first resident parson for 70 years and his first act was to oversee the building of a new vicarage of an appropriate size and gothic form for the dignity of his new parish. He took up residence in April 1857 and embarked on the completion of the restoration of the Abbey which had begun in 1845 under the impetus of the Oxford Society for the promotion of Gothic Architecture but which had stalled due to lack of funds.

Macfarlane used part of his large personal wealth to fund the work which recommenced in 1859 with the appointment of George Gilbert Scott as architect. The work was completed in 1872 with the restoration of the churchyard cross as the final act. The restored abbey was re-ordered to provide a perfect setting for Tractarian ritual with daily services timed to be convenient for the working parishioners and a newly-formed choir to sing the psalms.

The brief report in the last Dorchester News about the transfor- Macfarlane believed strongly in the importance of education as Dorchester with a new National School for girls and infants now helped to acquire the land for a new school built in 1873.



In 1877 he bought a group of buildings in the High Street which were converted into a Missionary College to train young men for ordination and missionary work abroad. When it opened in 1878 it completed Macfarlane's driving ambition to make Dorchester an ideal Christian community.

Macfarlane died in 1885 and was buried at his request next to the preaching cross in the Abbey churchyard. He is commemorated in the stained glass window on the north side of the nave given by his parishioners in 1887.

We have just missed the bi-centenary of his birth but we intend to recognise his enormous contribution to the village with a Celebration Evensong at 5.00pm on Easter Day, 1 April, followed by prayers of thanksgiving and re-dedication of his grave. There will be drinks and nibbles afterwards. Everyone is warmly invited to attend and we hope that this will be a very special occasion where we can express our gratitude for a life devoted to Dorchester.

Malcolm Airs







# Dr Peter Pritchard - an appreciation

Peter died on 6 January in his 100<sup>th</sup> year. He was a leading figure in the initiative to purchase the Hurst in 1995 and it is largely thanks to him that we can enjoy the meadow today.

The Hurst was owned by a company called Dorchester Lakes Ltd, which tried to restrict access to the land, but when they went into receivership this was seen as an opportunity for the village to step in. The Parish Council, led by Cllr Maurice Day, called a meeting which was addressed by Peter, in a packed St. Birinus Primary School. Peter set up the Hurst Water Meadow Trust and led the initiative to raise funds, delivering a letter to every household in the village and receiving donations or loan promises totalling some £34,000. The sale was to be by sealed bid and the prospect of success was thought to be slim until South Oxfordshire District Council moved to make a Compulsory Purchase Order in the event that the Trust was outbid. Peter said that the receiver's fury on learning of the CPO was enough to 'melt the telephone line'. Driven by Peter's tenaciousness and energy the Trust acquired the 18 acre meadow for £31,000 and the fishing rights for a further £2,000.

Peter was a founder trustee and hon. secretary, steering the Trust through its early days and starting to develop the Hurst meadow into a haven for wildlife and an important area of recreation for Dorchester residents and visitors. Even when he had retired as a trustee Peter maintained an active interest in the work of the Trust and the management of the meadows, applauding the purchase of further land along the lower Thame in 2009 (Old Bridge Meadow) and 2015 (Overy Mead Piece). He was often in the meadows inspecting our efforts from the seat of his 'all terrain' buggy and on at least one occasion this vehicle, with him still on it, had to be extricated from the mud when he was too ambitious in his site inspection! It was always a pleasure to see him when he joined us during our working party coffee breaks.

We feel that we have lost the 'grandfather' of the Hurst Water Meadow Trust but it is good to recognise that generations of future Dorchester residents will appreciate and benefit from the Hurst which Peter helped to secure for their enjoyment.



# Tree planting

In early December members of Sonning Common Green Gym joined us for the last working party of 2017 when we planted 120 small bare-root hedging plants on Overy Mead Piece. They are planted in two short sections alongside the post and wire fence which separates our meadow from Shillingford Farm land. The species we have used include hawthorn, common dogwood, guelder rose, wayfaring tree, spindle, field maple, hazel and dog rose. These should grow to provide shelter and food for wildlife and to relieve the visual monotony of the long wire fence. A further two short sections towards the Thames will be planted at a future date.

The plants were purchased with money donated to the Trust to mark the wedding, in September, of Matt Kirk and Tanya Morris. We hope that Matt, Tanya and their generous friends will visit the meadows to see the growing hedge.

Gillian Johnson (Hon. Secretary) on behalf of the Trustees 01865 340925

admin@hurst-water-meadow.org.uk www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk

There will undoubtedly be more articles celebrating the life of Dr Peter Pritchard in future editions of Dorchester News—Ed

# Allotment



Allotment is collaboration between villager and theatre maker Adrian Brooks and author Jan Harvey based on the Hempcroft Allotment.

Allotment will comprise an exhibition of wall-mounted theatres, a reading of short stories and a booklet sale. Allotment will be a one off presentation and exhibition in the Guest House on Thursday 26th April. Booking details to follow.







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race Sheila Stevenson was born on 13 January
1922 in Lagg, Ayrshire. It was a Friday but she always said
Friday 13th was a lucky day for her.
She came from a farming family and they moved to Saltcoats Farm,
Gullane near Edinburgh when she was 6 years old. She loved living by the sea and missed the sound of the sea when she moved down south.

She attended the Edinburgh College of Domestic Science on Atholl Crescent. She was very proud to have been a student at the Edinburgh Cookery School. It was very prestigious, and you were expected to learn to do things properly. Cookery was an art. The college was dedicated to turning out young ladies with vital domestic skills to last them all their lives.

She was billeted down south to Dorchester in 1943. It was war time and she taught cookery to 11-15 year olds at Dorchester Senior School which was then in Queen Street. She had digs in the High Street in what is now Lily's Cafe. She was involved with the Dorchester Brownies and was Brown Owl for two years.

In 1945 she married, Don Hawken, a local farmer, whose family farmed at Queenford Farm. They met during the war at an evening class in the school and also performed in the village amateur dramatic group, staging a production of 'Gas Light'. Mary Tame, a well-known Dorchester resident, was also part of this production and Mary and Sheila remained lifelong friends.

Don and Sheila lived at Queenford Farm and then farmed at Mount Farm in the fifties (before Berinsfield was built) in partnership with Don's father, Gerald. They had three children, Elizabeth, Fiona and John.

# Grace Sheila Webb 13 January 1922 – 30 November 2017



Sadly, they parted company in the sixties and Sheila moved to Marcham. It was during this time that she taught domestic science at John Mason School. She also taught cordon bleu cookery at evening classes at the Abingdon College of Further Education. She retired in 1975, when she remarried and came back to live in Dorchester with her second husband, Bob, where they lived in Monks Close for over 30 years.

She managed to live independently for a few years after Bob passed away but when she needed more help, two lovely carers, Carmel and Anna, looked after her. Carmel and Sheila became great friends and there was always laughter and mischief in the house when the family called by to visit.

When Sheila became too frail to stay on at Monks Close, she moved to Rush Court Nursing Home. She could not have been better cared for by all the wonderful staff. She loved the garden there and often sat having morning coffee under the magnolia tree on warmer days, watching the red kites soaring high above. Her catch cry was always, 'There are a lot of kites about'.

She loved her family and doted on her eight grandchildren. She used to play

football with them and badminton, using her washing line as a net. She enjoyed taking them to Days Lock to throw Pooh

Sticks off the bridge and taking them to feed the donkeys. In more recent years she became a great grandmother to 12 children.

She loved gardening and weather forecasting. Quietly intelligent, her crossword skills were legendary.

She was very much part of the Dorchester community and a keen supporter of village life, including the WI and the Village Produce Shows. She made the most wonderful marmalade and one old gentleman knocked on her door with two empty jars and, like Oliver Twist, said, 'Please Sheila, I want some more'.

She helped run the Lunch Club in the Guest House over many years with her band of cooks, catering for the 'Live Alone' Dorchester residents over 60. As well as providing delicious meals, they also offered companionship. She was also active in supporting the Abbey Tea Room, baking hundreds of cakes over the years.

Amongst the family, she was known both as the 'Cake Auntie', and the 'Cake Granny', as nieces and grandchildren, when visiting, always went home with a cake.

The family has been touched by the number of tributes paid to Sheila and the recurring theme is her great kindness.

She had a gentle Scottish accent and often came out with funny Scottish words, like 'clootie' for a dishcloth, and 'pelly wally', when you were poorly.

She was proud of her Scottish heritage and, very appropriately, the day she died was St. Andrew's Day.

Fiona Hooper



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This latest DADS production was full of surprises. In the build up to Christmas most theatrical productions rely on ever-more complex technical effects and outrageous story-lines to entertain audiences. In fact, DADS has itself presented traditional pantomimes for the past two years, but this time they took a different approach. The first surprise was - there were no production surprises. No stunning set changes, exotic costumes, special effects, pyrotechnics or musical numbers, just a conventional play with a small cast on an open stage with very few props.

This puts the players firmly in the spotlight and acting skills are clearly apparent. It's a surprising route for an amateur company, but DADS pulled it off triumphantly. Casting was all-important and Director, Rachel Winslet-Morris, got it spot-on. There were no weak links and the action was fast and slick, everyone delivering excellent performances with seemingly effortless authority.

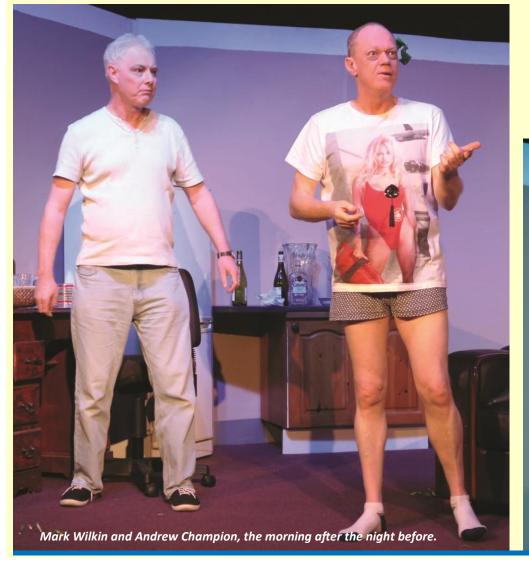
The play was billed as a comedy by Robert Scott, a playwright I hadn't previously heard of, but elements of it were closer to the hallowed traditions of farce. There was a central storyline of

£50,000 in cash, the proceeds of a robbery, being hidden in a refrigerator and the efforts of an assortment of characters to make off with it. Needless to say, things were not that simple. The central character, Carter, expertly played by Mark Wilkin, sleeping on his sofa was woken by a telephone call letting him know that formidable family members were on their way to see him. Problem was he'd hosted a drunken party the night before, couldn't remember much about it and the place was trashed. Worse was to follow. Rushing to clean-up the place he was horrified to find his fridge full of money he couldn't explain along with a naked lady in his bedroom. Trying to detail the events that followed is not possible in a short review, but it was a hugely enjoyable sequence of arrivals, misunderstandings, intrigues, doublecrossings and all the usual twists and turns we expect from a comedy farce like this.

The cast included many well-known DADS actors including Rosemary Mills as the unclothed blonde (wearing a dressing gown on-stage), the ever-excellent and entertaining Mark Williams as a 'bent' policeman, Louise Aukland doing a great job of looking surprised, confused and outraged, Ann

# According 'DADS' g







# j To Rumour reat show'





Winslet, taking time off from directing other DADS productions to show-case her undoubted talents on-stage, and a newcomer to DADS, Andrew Champion, who last trod the boards 30 years ago, but came back with a bang as Carter's friend and foil for the outrageous goings-on. Identical twins, Maxine and Martine, family helpers from a lesser-known part of Europe, both delightfully played by Christine Jones, squeezed every ounce of comedy from their female 'Manuel' appearances, but the real surprise of the night came from Dorchester News' editor-in-chief, lan Brace, as a wonderfully nerdish postman with no social skills or redeeming features. This is the joy of live theatre in Dorchester.

Bundle this together, inspirationally directed by Rachel, supported by DADS usual band of dedicated back-stage experts, and the result was an evening of hilarious fun and high spirits.

Did this come as a surprise? Of course, it didn't. DADS never fails to put on a great show and long may it continue to do so.

**Keith Russell** 

Photographs by Richard Winslet.

With thanks to The White Hart for the loan of the sofa. Sorry about the legs on the other one, Shaun!







Minibus Service to Wallingford

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# **Dorchester News online**

Remember that Dorchester News is available to download from the Abbey website each month (go to the homepage at: <a href="https://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk">www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk</a> 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.





# **O** YoCO Charity Dinner

Saturday 10 March 2018
7:00pm Dorchester Abbey
£25 per person

Come and enjoy a two course meal and wine with table service whilst being entertained with songs from Two-a-Part in support of YoCO. A chicken, beef and vegetarian dish available with a selection of desserts.

YoCO is a local charity established to support young people aged 14 to 21 in youth groups following a guided 18 month programme designed to help them to overcome the problems that they face during teenage years by developing resilience and confidence. The young people then have the opportunity to visit Western Kenya and assist with the endeavours of the Nasio Trust by helping local teachers and charity workers in the day care centres supported by the Trust.

As well as providing the table service, the Berinsfield youth group will also be performing a song or two to say farewell before heading off to Kenya at Easter.

Tickets are available from the Co-op in Dorchester or by calling John Cornelius (07912 351018).

# Stepping into Song Dorchester Abbey Sunday 25 February

Stepping into Song is a concert taking place in Dorchester Abbey on **Sunday 25 February 2018**. I have been lucky enough to be invited to attend a tour to China with the National Children's Choir of Great Britain this summer. This will include performances in Beijing and Shanghai Concert Halls. I am running the concert to sponsor myself to go on the tour and to benefit the Footsteps Foundation.

Footsteps in the village assists children to walk and they do an incredible job, which is why I decided to support them through my concert. Money raised from the concert will be going towards Footsteps in support of their fantastic work!

Members of Didcot Girls' School's Choral Group, Accidentals; All Saints' Primary School, Didcot; and members of Abingdon, Oxford, and Didcot Rock Choirs will be performing on the evening with a raffle and lovely homemade cakes available. A Facebook page named 'Stepping into Song' will have regular updates, and ticket information is on the advert in this issue of Dorchester News. Please help to support Footsteps Foundation and come along to an evening of music in the beautiful Abbey!

Tickets can be bought at

buytickets.at/steppingintosong/121699

The Co-op, Dorchester, Footsteps Foundation, Queen Street.

Thank you. Grace Roscoe

See advert on page 10 for more about Stepping into Song.



# Flo Broughton honoured



Burcot resident Florence Broughton (Flo) was presented with the British Empire Medal on Tuesday 18 December for outstanding service to her local community. Flo, who will be 92 next February, has been a volunteer befriender at **Leonard Cheshire Disability's John Masefield House** in Burcot for the last 27 years, visiting the care home 6 days a week to provide support and companionship to residents and helping to raise funds for projects and activities.

Flo had been due to receive her prestigious award at a ceremony held in Oxford last June, but she was unable to travel so her niece Gill and her husband Bob arranged for Flo to receive the award this week at her home in the presence of family and close friends.





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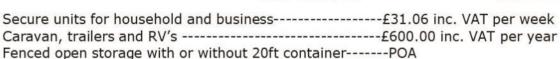






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# The Chiltern Arts Festival

classical music and arts festival in the Chilterns

The Chiltern Arts Festival has unveiled the programme for its brand new festival, bringing the finest in classical music and arts to the Chilterns region between the 3 and 11 February 2018.

delighted to announce the full list of events for the 2018 Chiltern Arts Festival. Some of the finest names in the Classical music scene will be coming to this beautiful area which we hope will thrill and inspire people.'

This vibrant winter festival consists of 18 different events taking place in venues across the Chiltern Hills. Venue locations include Dorchester-on-Thames, Marlow, Hughenden, Henleyon-Thames, Great Missenden, Berkhamsted, High Wycombe, Wendover and Tring.

The programme was created by Naomi Taylor with Chiltern Arts' Artistic Partner, Grammy award-winning pianist, Christopher Glynn.

Chiltern Arts The festival opens with one of the world's finest choirs -Tenebrae, described by The Times as 'phenomenal' performing a programme of much-loved Russian music including parts of Rachmaninov's All-Night Vigil. Other highlights include a new English translation of a sparkling early opera by Mozart, The Garden of Disguises (La Finta Giardiniera); Tasmin Little, leading international violinist, joining forces with Martin Roscoe, one of the country's best-known pianists; and two concerts featuring the Brodsky String Quartet including the 'Wheel of 4Tunes' where the programme is decided live in front of the audience by the spin of a wheel. Other well-known names include the Academy of Ancient Music, who wowed Marlow just last month at Chiltern Arts' first launch event; and the City of London Sinfonia with BBC Young Musician of the Year Naomi Taylor, Founder and Creative Director said 'We are Finalist, Ben Goldscheider, closing the festival with a programme of Mozart and Mendelssohn.

> Chiltern Arts also takes pride in presenting a series of young artists, with concerts featuring the winners of its new Young Artists' competition. Take Note: choir Echo and the A4 Brass Quartet.

> The Chiltern Arts Festival will bring some much-needed warmth and joy to the cold winter months. Full details can be found in our free brochure, on the websites and social media links listed below.

Web: https://chilternarts.com/festival

# City of London Sinfonia

Michael Collins (conductor) Ben Goldscheider (French horn)

# Mozart and Mendelssohn

# Sunday 11 February 2018, 7.30pm **Dorchester Abbey**

Tickets £20-£25 (plus £5 discount for Under 25s)

Mendelssohn - Hebrides Overture Mozart - Horn Concerto no. 4 in Eb Major Mendelssohn – Italian Symphony













The stellar players of the City of London Sinfonia perform a programme bringing together two of the greatest child prodigies who ever lived: Mozart and Mendelssohn. After the evergreen Hebrides Overture (which, as the name suggests, was inspired by a trip to Scotland), Ben Goldscheider (recent finalist in BBC Young Musician of the Year) is the soloist in Mozart's effervescent fourth horn concerto. The concert, and indeed the Chiltern Arts Festival, culminate in a performance of another holiday-inspired work by Mendelssohn: the joyous symphony named after his travels in Italy.

This event is part of the Chiltern Arts Festival running 3-11 February, see above. Full programme details can be found at chilternarts.com/festival

For tickets visit chilternarts.com/festival or call 01442 920303.

# Snow clearing

Communities and property owners can help themselves and improve the safety of their area by undertaking simple snow clearance activities as soon as snow falls.



#### Will I get sued?

NO! There is no law to prevent the clearing of snow outside your house or on the pavement. Occupiers of properties have a legal responsibility to ensure their paths are safe to prevent visitor injuries.



# xfordshire Be Ready...



# **SNOW GUIDE**

A simple guide to snow clearance



## The snow code

Be Careful! Don't be afraid to clear paths in fear someone will get injured. People walking on snow and ice have the responsibility to be careful. Don't make the pathways more dangerous by causing them to refreeze.

Gritting and clearing pavements and residential areas: What can I use?

- O Grit and sharp sand
- O Dishwasher salt
- O Table salt
- Soda crystals

#### Suitable tools

- Plastic lightweight shovel
- Regular shovel (however the snow will stick and be less efficient)
- O Domestic grass seed spreader
- O Scoop or trowel
- O Wheelbarrow to move tools or snow

#### How much salt?

Less than you think! A small handful should clear and protect 1m (3ft) of surface. Therefore to treat 400m (1320ft) of pavement, a 20kg bag of salt will be sufficient.



# How to grit your path

- Clearing snow enables the sun to aid the melting and evaporation process throughout the day.
   Salt helps prevent the re-freezing of water that can create black ice.
- Clear a path using a shovel and remove the snow.
   Place salt on a small trowel and shake some off as you walk along, alternatively, use a seed spreader for quicker, more efficient spreading.

Remember: salt <u>DOES NOT</u> remove snow or compacted ice. Using lots of salt is unnecessary, wasteful, and harmful to the environment.

# Tackling compacted snow

- Provide traction for people walking over compacted snow by spreading sand that will become embedded and provide grip.
- Use a coarse cheap sand, such as builder's sand, cat litter, or cinders. Remember to sweep the pavement after the thaw has occurred.

# Look after yourself

Clearing snow is hard work, so ensure you take plenty of breaks and know when to stop. Wear suitable clothing, including boots and warm waterproof clothing.

# Snow clearing guide

# 1 - Prepare your pavement

If you know it is likely to snow: Pretreat your pavement. Keep the salt and clearing materials in a location that will remain accessible during snow.

# 2 - Prepare yourself

- Wear warm clothing and suitable footwear.
- Wear a reflective vest/jacket if working near a road.
- Inform someone how long you intend to be and take a mobile phone with you.
- Inform friends and family of any changes in location or return time.

## 3 - Clear a path

- Clear the snow in the morning before people start walking and compacting the snow.
- O Do NOT use water! Take care when moving snow
- Deposit snow in verges or front gardens, NOT in drainage gullies.
- Be a good neighbour, offer to clear neighbours' paths.



# Quick guide

- Pre-salt the pathways before the snow.
- O Clear the snow and ice early in the day.
- O Use salt or sand not water.
- Take care when you move the snow.
- Offer to clear neighbour's paths.

For information on gritted roads: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/winter-maintenance

For live updates follow us on Twitter: @OxfordshireCC







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south and the edge of Bicester to the north, and from the River include Milton Keynes in the link. I have made my views known Thames to the West and the Buckinghamshire border to the to the Secretary of State for Transport and have also called for east there are often relatively local issues that do not immediately full public consultation on this project. affect the whole constituency - although there may be implications on a wider scale.

One such issue is that of an additional bridge over the River Thames in Reading. There has been a recent round of concern on this as a Strategic Outline Business Case was published by Wokingham Borough Council in the Autumn of last year. This is south to Reading and beyond and would welcome improved access but others fear that a new bridge will put strain on the road network in South Oxfordshire. I have made it very clear that robust assessment of the implications on the road network to the north of the bridge must be made and appropriate mitigation of any negative impact be included as part of the project. We must be alert to the potential for additional traffic moving north from Reading to the M40 at junctions 6 and 8 and also across to the west to join the A34.

In the middle of the constituency concern has been raised over the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, as there has been suggestion of a route which cuts through the Green Belt around Oxford. In my view such a route is entirely unnecessary and not the most practical. A key area for growth is the Oxford -

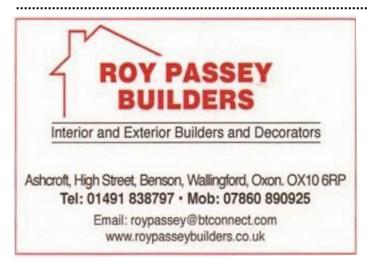
In a constituency that stretches from the edge of Reading to the Milton Keynes - Cambridge arc and such a road would need to

An issue which affects many pockets across the whole constituency is the provision of broadband. Some communities are still struggling with speeds too slow to access even the most basic websites. With so much dependency on the internet today broadband is fast becoming a basic utility. I am delighted that the Culture Secretary announced a Universal Service Obligation a hot topic in the south of the constituency. Many people commute that will give everyone in the UK access to high speed broadband of a minimum of 10 mbps by 2020. For some this is still some way off and in the meantime improvements are continually being made through the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire programme. Information is readily available on progress by postcode and is updated every two weeks.

(www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk)

If you would like to know more about my work in Westminster, on behalf of the Government and the Constituency please do look at my website which is regularly updated. The address is www.johnhowellmp.com. I also produce a periodic electronic newsletter and briefings on specific issues as well as writing in these parish magazines. If you would like to subscribe to these please email me at

iohn.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com







# position

choices in previous years to manage a combination of tonne of residual waste received at Ardley during December. squeezed budgets and the fact that more people need council services - especially in children's social care and adult social care. At the same time the council has been involving communities in services for their locality - ranging from support for older people and those with learning disabilities to library volunteers. The net result is that the council's finances are in a resilient position looking ahead to the 2018/19 financial year and planning for years up to 2022. Although proposed budget changes are not as extensive as in many previous years, like any organisation the council still has rising financial pressures that need to be matched by new savings so that a balanced budget can be proposed. At the time of writing, plans are based on a Council Tax rise of 4.99% (1.99% referendum limit plus 3% social care precept). However, in December, Central Government announced councils could add an additional 1%, should they so choose. This is currently under consideration. The Budget has to be approved by Cabinet, then Full Council on February 13. The Budget consultation can be found here:

https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/Budget 1819/ **consultationHome** 

# Criminals target pubs and clubs to peddle illegal tobacco

Trading Standards are warning licensees and pub-goers to be on-the-look-out for criminals selling smuggled and counterfeit cigarettes and hand-rolling tobacco. The call for vigilance follows recent research revealing that nearly half (43%) of illegal tobacco customers use pubs and clubs as their main source of supply. Cheap illegal tobacco is attractive to some smokers because it is often sold at half the price of the legal equivalent but its availability helps children to start smoking, brings communities into contact with organised criminals and undermines legitimate local businesses. In October HMRC released figures showing illegal tobacco made up 15% of all cigarettes and 28% of handrolling tobacco smoked in the UK. Taxpayers lost around £2.5 billion from the illicit trade in 2016-17. This money, for example, could be used to fund over 50,000 new NHS nurses for a year. Anvone with information relating to illegal tobacco being bought or sold, can report this to Trading Standards by anonymously via the Illegal Tobacco Hotline, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on 0300 999 6 999 or online at

http://www.stop-illegal-tobacco.co.uk/

# Council proposes future budget from a resilient One million tonnes of rubbish transformed into energy at OCC's Ardley plant

OCC is planning to set a new budget having made difficult OCC and its partner Viridor have marked the one millionth The Ardley plant converts waste into electricity, rather than burying it in landfill. It produces enough energy to power 38,000 homes and can export up to 27MW per hour of electricity to the grid.

# Fibre broadband update

This update covers the following areas: Toot Baldon, Marsh Baldon, Garsington, Stadhampton, Nuneham Courtenay, Clifton Hampden, Culham and Dorchester.

The superfast broadband infrastructure upgrade scheduled for your location has moved from being expected to complete this December, to the first half of 2018. OCC understands this is likely to be very disappointing, and the council wishes to reassure everyone affected that all effort is being made to have this work completed as soon as possible. For context, the programme has achieved it's 95% coverage target on time, but as part of a major infrastructure project which has delivered over 73,000 premises with access to superfast broadband, there are some instances where mostly engineering related challenges have not been overcome in time for completion by December. These instances are normally related to gaining access wayleaves, high cost structures needing re-planning, collapsed ducts requiring new track (with commensurate traffic management notice periods), or in some cases a technology change where we are not confident the proposed new technologies such as Fibre to the Remote Node, will be properly deployed.

If you would like to have further specific information in respect of your location, please see our website map http:// www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk/cms/content/postcodechecker-map or contact us and we will provide you with all the information we have, and if necessary we can arrange a call to discuss this with you.

# Snow guide

December saw substantial snowfall across the county. OCC has produced a useful guide for snow clearance

See the OCC Snow Guide on page 24. It might still be useful this

# The whole reason for the NDP process can be summarised in one simple question 'Would you prefer that property development proposal

decisions in Dorchester are based on what we want to happen in our village or are you happy to leave it to the more general National and SODC Local Plan policies as has happened in other neighbouring villages without an NDP? You will hear this theme again leading up to the Referendum.

There will be a great deal of publicity and activity during late January and in February to try to ensure we have the maximum support for a positive vote at the Referendum. We need a simple majority of over 50% in favour of the NDP but we are aiming for as high a percentage as possible. To that end we have some good news as significant progress has been made since my last report in the December issue of Dorchester News.

Mr Andrew Ashcroft - the Planning Inspector, was appointed as the official Examiner of the Dorchester NDP at the end of November. Following a visit to the village and analysis of our NDP documents their were a number of queries. Once these

# Neighbourhood Development Plan Update

had been answered we received his official report and recommenda-

tion early in December. One highlight contained in his report stated:

'The presentation of the Plan as a whole has been prepared to an exceptionally-high standard... The Plan would be an excellent template for any group about to embark on its own plan-making process.'

The Parish Council accepted these recommendations at the December meeting and our plan along with the Inspector's recommendations were endorsed by SODC just two days before Christmas on 23rd December, a great boost for all who have been involved. The next step was to incorporate these into the 'Referendum' version of the NDP and for SODC to arrange a date and make arrangements for the Referendum to take place. As far as we know at the moment this will be in the first week of March. More details will be available over the coming weeks.

Chris Hill NDP Steering Group

# **Parish Council Notices**

# Parish Precept for 2018/19

For the fourth successive year the Parish Council has decided to maintain the Precept at the current level of £42,280.

# **Speedwatch Campaign**

There is still time to volunteer to take part in this year's Speedwatch Campaign. If you feel that you would like to take an active part in encouraging all drivers to observe the village speed limit, please contact the Parish Clerk as soon as possible - and no later than **Monday 12 February** - to receive more information about what is involved.

Full training will be given.

# **February Meeting of the Parish Council**

......

The next monthly meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Wednesday 14 February** in the back room of the Village Hall starting at 7.30 p.m. The agenda for the meeting will be displayed on Village notice boards and on the village website - <a href="https://www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk">www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk</a> - at least three clear days in advance. All are welcome to attend and, at the beginning of the meeting, may raise any matter of concern.

# **Contacting the Parish Council**

The Parish Clerk is Geoffrey Russell of The Pigeons (next to The Fleur de Lys), 5-7 High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames OX10 7HH Please note new direct line for calls and texting

**07745 311439** The e –mail is parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Cllr Chris Hill, Chairman of the Council, can be contacted via <a href="mailto:chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk">chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk</a>

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

You may have noticed over the past few years that the village has been evolving its online presence by using social media. We hope to get a full article written in the coming months to help explain what we have, and how you can use it. But in the meantime, here are a few popular things you might want to consider doing to get involved in our village's digital future:

Visit the website (for detailed information on events/history): <a href="https://www.dorchester-on-thames.co.uk/">https://www.dorchester-on-thames.co.uk/</a>

Follow the Facebook page (for news as it is announced): <a href="https://www.facebook.com/dorchesteronthames/">https://www.facebook.com/dorchesteronthames/</a>

Join our Facebook group (to share events/news/queries of your own):

https://www.facebook.com/groups/791890544326152



Contact the website team:

website@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Sign up to our email newsletter (the Dorchester Bulletin): https://www.dorchester-on-thames.co.uk/dorchester-bulletin/

We look forward to seeing and/or hearing from you online soon.

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# Rural crime update from Assistant Chief Constable Nikki Ross

Reports of rural crime in the Thames Valley have increased by five percent between October 2016 and September 2017.

I would like to reassure members of our rural communities of my commitment to investigating reports of rural crime. We rely on information from our local communities and take such reports very seriously. Incidents are robustly investigated by our local policing teams who have dedicated Rural Crime and Wildlife Officers based across the Thames Valley.

Rural crime can take many different forms including burglary, robbery, theft, criminal damage, fly tipping, poaching and hare coursing. We are continuing to work with local residents, businesses and partners to raise awareness of crime prevention techniques while developing problem solving solutions to tackle rural crime.

There are often fewer witnesses to rural crimes and greater opportunities for criminals to target isolated properties and businesses. The impact of these crimes can also be greater, with people feeling more vulnerable due to their remote location.

You can reduce the risk of becoming a victim of rural crime by taking a few simple steps including:

- Keeping the boundaries of your land and property wellmaintained and secure
- Fitting strong locks to sheds, garages and outbuildings
- Checking security equipment regularly to ensure it is working properly
- Locking equipment away in a secure building when it's not in use
- · Security marking your tools and equipment
- For more crime prevention advice, and to see details of your local Rural Crime Officers, visit the Rural Crime page on the Thames Valley Police website at:

https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/advice/protecting-your-business/rural-crime/



If you become a victim of rural crime or suspect that a crime has taken place, you should always report it to police by calling the non-emergency number, 101. If an incident is in progress, or there is an immediate threat to life, you should call 999.

# A Cotswold Wall. By John Pickard



Can the builder of that wall have known of pleasure given free to me

Its curve, its beckoning curve but not so free Limestone bought with myriad lives, and cost of workscabbed hands

For it was in simple years he laid his wall unhurried
Each slab on chosen slab, to an artful taper
Lasting through seasons, and eventually, past the layer's
time

Seducing the eye to a distant, feathered wood

Can the crafter of a Saxon jewel, exquisite in his skill
Have claimed so small a simple gift
His ancient work lives in our wonder
Its golden intricacy made intense for lavish princes
But cannot lead and draw us with such innate artistry
As a low wall of timeless stones, simply made for division,

A draughtsman's charcoal stroke, uncalculated, pure

Can the sculptor making flesh, static flesh, cunning in perfect marble

Called living by the critic connoisseur

now a line of landscape

Have known that once thought matchless his work may fall from fashion's admiration

Unlike those other stones, untrammelled by opinion, Existing for function but beautifully, rudely right

As the walker of hills, breasting the rise into a distance of fields and sky

Sees his marked way put there, curved there, its perspective entirely to his quiet delight

You can receive the latest rural crime news from Thames Valley Police and their partners directly to your phone or inbox by signing up to CountryWatch at:

http://www.thamesvalleycountrywatch.co.uk/









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# **February**

Its been all hands to the pump and now Wallingford's newly refurbished Corn Exchange is open again. The annual Sinodun Players' panto Cinderella looks to have been a roaring success as tickets were few and far between at the time of this report.

The first cinema show will be an NT Live recording of Follies. If you haven't seen this yet, you must. And if you have seen it you'll want to see it again I'm sure. Relax in the newly refurbished seats and enjoy the wonderful Imelda in Staunton Stephen Sondheim's legendary musical staged for the first time at the National Theatre. Thirty years after their final performance, the Follies girls gather to have a few drinks, sing a few songs and lie about themselves.

Thursday February 1 at 7.00pm. No interval. Tickets £10 and £8 for child concessions.

Another NT Live production features Rory Kinnear as the Young Marx. Broadcast live from The Bridge Theatre, London, the production is directed by Nicholas Hytner and reunites the creative team behind Broadway and West End hit comedy One Man, Two Guvnors. It's 1850, and Europe's most feared terrorist is hiding in Dean Street, Soho. Broke, restless and horny, the thirty-two-year-old revolutionary is a frothing combination of intellectual brilliance, invective, satiric wit, and child-like emotional illiteracy.

Thursday 8 February at 7.00pm. Certificate 15. All tickets £12.50

Then you can catch the NT Live production of Tennessee Williams' Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. On a steamy night in Mississippi, a Southern family gather at their cotton plantation to celebrate Big Daddy's birthday. The scorching heat is almost as oppressive as the lies they tell. Brick and Maggie dance round the secrets and sexual tensions that threaten to destroy their marriage. With the future of the family at stake, which version of the truth is real - and which will win out? Thursday 22 February at 7.00pm. The stage production has an age guidance of 15 plus. All tickets £15.

At this time we do not have a published schedule for other so please visit the cinema showings www.cornexchange.org.uk for details as they appear or to book tickets. You can always telephone or visit the box office on 01491 825000 on evenings between 7.00pm and 8.00 pm or on Friday and Saturday between 10.00am and 1.00pm. www.cornexchange.org.uk.

Tyler's talk on the Ridgeway. He talked us from

the Ivinghoe Beacon to Avebury. It was fascinating. Many of us This is a matinee with lunch followed by the performance. People agreed that we had been inspired to follow the Ridgeway locally.

Our next speaker will be lan Keable who will tell us about Our holiday this year is in Norfolk. We stay at a good hotel, and James Gillray, the first ever political cartoonist.

This meeting is also the AGM. Our monthly meetings are held at 2.00pm on the first Wednesday of each month at Crowmarsh Village Hall. Visitors are always welcomed for the talk, tea, and the chance to meet and talk to people.





# Aspire to build: construction of medieval cathedrals and churches

Mike Chamberlain will talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) about cathedral construction.

His talk will discuss the rise in cathedral construction during and after the medieval period, and the complexity of these magnificent buildings. It will also a look at the human endeavours during the process, and the material requirements from planning to completion.

Mike has lived in the area for many years and after retirement joined the Oxfordshire Historical Churches Trust, the Churches Conservation Trust, and the National Churches Trust. He takes an interest in preservation of the past, and is keen to learn more about our historical buildings.

The talk will be held on Wednesday 14 February, 7.45 for 8.00pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford. Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

www.twhas.org.uk

Katharine Keats-Rohan

# Wallingford Country Market,

Every Friday 9.30am – 12 noon New location, St Mary-le-More Church, Market Place

'Marmalade Moments' Friday, 2 March 2018 - Delicious new season's Seville orange marmalade on sale, and other flavours, (including tastings).

Also available - all our usual items, home-baked, homecrafted, home-grown (particularly pots of colourful bulbs), as well as eggs, preserves and local honey. Coffee/tea served throughout the morning.

We hope you will visit us soon, you may be surprised at what you will find! All enquiries to Market Manager Tel: 01491 681596 or, come and speak with her one Friday morning.

The new year began with a full house for John **Wallingford U3A** We have a trip organised to Sonning Mill: Agatha Christie's The Unexpected Guest on 30 June.

can signup for the June outing at the next meeting.

always have a full and varied itinerary. There is always a good mix of couples and single people with plenty of laughter and companionship. For more information please visit our web site: Google: U3A Wallingford. Alternatively phone Hermione on 01865 858024; or Jill on 01491 835994

# Day by day

Sun 4 Feb 2nd before Lent

8 00am

Holy Communion (1662) (Revd Marcus Braybrooke)

10.30am Morning Service

Sun 11 Feb **Sunday before Lent** 

8.00 am

Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booys)

10 30am Sung Eucharist

**Chiltern Arts Festival** Mozart and Mendelssohn

**Dorchester Abbey** 

7.30pm

10.15am Tues 13 Feb **Short Communion** 

Shrove Tuesday

Wed **Parish Council** 14 Feb Monthly meeting 7.30pm Village Hall

Thurs Classic Car Show, 15 Feb 1.00-4.00pm George Hotel

Lent lunch Fri 16 Feb The Rectory

Manor Farm Road 12.30pm to 2.00pm

Sun Lent 1 18 Feb 8.00 am

Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booys)

10.30am **Family Service** 

5.00pm Evensong

Mon Service at The Close 19 Feb

Dorchester

Wed Chiropodist 21 Feb

Village Hall (see p7)

**Culham Horticultural Society** Nick Wray, Curator, Bristol Botanic

Garden

Making the Most of Your Garden's

Microclimates 7.30pm

Abbey Guest House

Service at the Cheshire Home Thurs 22 Feb 11 30am

Fri Lent lunch 23 Feb 4 Drayton Road 12.30pm to 2.00pm

Sun Lent 2 25 Feb 8.00am

Wed

28 Feb

Holy Communion with hymns (1662) (Canon Sue Booys)

10.30am Sung Eucharist

Stepping into Song Concert

5.00pm

Dorchester Abbey

**Dorchester Historical Society** 

Katherine Clarke

'Pandora, poets and party-animals: Representations of Women in the Ancient World 7.30pm

Village Hall

# Weekly events

Tuesday Coffee in the Abbey

10.30am-12noon **Bellringing Practice** 7.30pm Abbey Fishmonger

9.30am to 9.50am by War

Memorial (p.4)

Wednesday Holy Communion at

**Berinsfield Church** 

9.30am

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

## **Baptisms**

17 Dec Oliver Theodore Turner

**Funerals** 

4 Dec Margaret McMullen

20 Dec (Grace) Sheila Webb

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

# 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.

Despite increases in production costs, we are pleased to announce that our rates to advertisers remain unchanged for 2018.

Please send artwork to

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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.



## **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**

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#### 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

## 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.morerecyling.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**

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

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

## ABBEY E-MAIL:

admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

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

ABBEY WEBSITE www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

VILLAGE WEBSITE www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

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

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



# REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Fri 2 Feb Green Fri 9 Feb Black Fri 16 Feb Green Fri 23 Feb Black

# Weekdays from 7.00am.

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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Winterbrook Nursing Home

















# The Christmas doors of Dorchester, or the 12 doors of Christmas.

(A selection of the many decorated doors in Dorchester over Christmas.)







