

Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

June 2018





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DoT view

Summer should be finally with us. We've had a few false, and early, starts so far this year with record temperatures in both April and May. That is evidenced by the beautiful blue sky seen in the photograph on page 8 of TWO-A-PART singing from the top of the Abbey tower on the morning of the May Day Bank Holiday. However, temperatures have returned to average, or even below, pretty quickly.

We hope for good weather in June, though, for the Open Gardens Day on 10 June.. I understand that there may be some new gardens this year that you've not previously seen, but those you have seen are always worth seeing again to see how they progress and are different year on year.

At the end of the month is the Safari Supper, when you get to see inside other people's houses and eat their food. This is a good opportunity to meet people you've not come across before and get well fed at the same time. This is well worth signing up for (see page 6)

The centre pages this month report on the 'Allotment' entertainment put on by Adrian Brooks and Jan Harvey towards the end of April. It was a lovely and thought-provoking session. Here we are lucky enough to print the stories supplied by members of the audience—a true interactive affair.

Ian Brace

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Megan Parry

Distribution Co-ordinator

Maurice Day

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Deadline for July/August Dorchester News



email:

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

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There seems to have been quite a bit written and said about the rural church in recent years, and, as a Team we are mostly very much a rural church.

I found a report, 'Enhancing the Rural Church in the Diocese of Oxford' (January 2017). The Report highlights the needs of rural churches. Rural churches have less infrastructure and very different needs to those in large towns or cities. The Report addresses areas which impinge on the life of the rural church.

'In many rural situations, small things may have huge evangelistic potential even if they are not reflected in an immediate rise in numbers in any one particular church. For example, occasional offices and visitor ministry may have particularly rich possibilities in sharing faith with cold contacts.'

Contacts with marriage, baptism and funeral families can provide a foundation on which to build. One example is an annual All Souls service to which recently bereaved are invited.

'A particular characteristic of rural ministry is that the clergy may take three or four services on a Sunday with congregations that never exceed twenty. And that can be dispiriting because that can lead to a feeling of failure.'

'It is easier to stand in front of a congregation of two or three or four hundred people and feel successful than to stand in front of ten and feel that the work you are doing is valued.'

Yes, I sometimes feel a sense of failure, it takes time and effort to prepare a service and a sermon and then Sunday comes and the congregation struggles to make it into double figures. I take some comfort by the half-recalled comment of a former colleague from my days of paid employment 'a small rural church is not a failed large urban church'. Our congregations may be small, but expressed as a

Talking Point

percentage of the population, the rural church does well.

'We all know that the Church is not all about the building, they are both a significant asset and a spectacular drain on limited resources. Maintenance of a listed building, repair, insurance, heating and lighting and care of the associated churchyard all take time and money.'
'Many of our rural churches are used for little more than conducting worship. That being the case there may be an argument for closing many of our church buildings. There are powerful arguments for the retention of church buildings but with that there is a recognition that there is a need for these facilities to be put to wider use.'
'People are not likely to want to be associated with a building which is cold and dark or both and lacking basic facilities.'

Our buildings are enormously important. Stadhampton has made a fantastic transformation into being a dual purpose village and worship centre; Culham is contemplating following a similar route; Long Wittenham is hoping to install toilet facilities as a precursor to making the building more a village resource; Little Wittenham's and Clifton Hampden's visitor books often have comments from people grateful that the building was open as a place of quiet and contemplation; Dorchester Abbey nearly always has visitors looking around it. Do we witness to our visitors and secular users, by displays, attractive literature, information on service times? Do we make our buildings welcoming? One simple way is by making sure that when the local school wants to use the building for an assembly, the heating is on, especially in winter our buildings can be very cold places!

For the rural church it has to be recognised that the day of the traditional stipendiary Vicar for each Parish has passed. But we still have a building in every Parish. Is that still a viable option? When we have

Revd. David Haylett

buildings which are only a

couple of miles apart, perhaps the time is coming when hard questions need to be asked.

Thirty years ago the Vicar was expected to be Chair of Governors of the local school, that was a much easier task than it is now. The report says, 'being Chair has almost become a full time job'.

In our churches people seem to be becoming increasingly reluctant to volunteer for Churchwarden, PCC member, Deanery Synod members etc. This is something which affects other village organisations too. Is this a symptom of increasing demands on people's time? Is 'job-sharing' an option? Is there scope for training to be made available? If so, who and where are the trainers? Training courses are provided by the Diocese for many of the roles in Church life, but that does not provide an answer to the basic problem of finding the volunteer in the first place.

On the positive side it is always a great joy to see our churches packed on Christmas Eve for the Carol Service, no urban church would expect to see a third of its population at a single service, but I would find it an even greater joy if just 10% of those people came next Sunday! And again the following Sunday.

As the Rural Ministry report says, '40% of worshippers in the Church of England are attending rural churches, which serve only 17% of the general population.' 'What's more, if you rank all the dioceses by the proportion of the population attending church, it's the rural dioceses at the top.' So we in the Rural Church have a lot to be positive about!

Post script: If you are interested in reading more on this topic 'Enhancing and Resourcing the Rural Church' www.oxford.anglican.org/mission-ministry/faith-in-action/rural-issues/rural-church/

Morning Service Sunday 3 June Earth Trust

The Church of England marks Environment Sunday on the Sunday nearest the UN's World Environment Day (5 June). This year Environment Sunday falls on **Sunday 3 June** and we are delighted that Jayne Manley, the Chief Executive of The Earth Trust will join us for the morning service and give an address

Many Congratulations

to Jon, Rachael and Sam Roberts who added a new member to their family on Sunday 28 April and are celebrating the arrival of Joshua.

Ordination Sunday 24 June

On Sunday 24 June we shall once again be hosting the Dorchester Area Ordinations at the Abbey. The day a person is Ordained as a Priest is a major landmark in their lives – almost like a marriage – and we are always delighted to offer hospitality to our Bishop and the Candidates, their families and friends. This is a public service and everyone is welcome to join us – because it is a major celebration all the things we like in a service – fantastic singing, good preaching and a great sense of occasion are present. Everyone is most welcome to come and greet our Bishop and to share this special occasion.

Rector's Study Leave

Thank you for your interest in my Study leave project. I'm pleased to report that I have completed the stage of work I needed to – as well as attending the conference week for all the Diocesan Clergy. If I can find a publisher I shall take a second short tranche of writing time later in the year. As part of this work I have been writing a study course and would like to test drive this. I am interested to hear from anyone who would either take the material and use it with a group or attend a group with me. Please get in touch!

Mission Partners

We have just heard that Tony and Katherine Paton will be on leave in the UK this summer. We have supported Tony and Katherine in their ministry in Laos through the Church Mission Society for more than 6 years now and the money raised in the Tea Room enables us to continue this support and support to a range of different charities nationally and internationally. Tony and Katherine will be visiting and we are currently expecting that they will be with us for the service on 1 July. If you would like to meet them in a smaller group, please let us know.

Safeguarding Training

On the evening of **Wednesday 13 June** in the evening there will be some basic training in Safeguarding for people who volunteer in every part of the Abbey organization. If you are a volunteer and would be interested in attending the training, please contact the office. Safeguarding is important to everyone – making sure we are well informed about the difficult issues that visitors may be struggling with and know how best to help and protect them is a very important part of our welcome.

WWI Armistice Commemoration

To mark November 11, 1918 Dorchester Abbey will offer the opportunity for all to honour the memory of those who died during World War One, either as a result of military or civilian service. If you have the names of anyone you wish to commemorate and whether you, or they, have a connection with the village of Dorchester, you are invited to join in.

This project is in addition to the Remembrance Sunday Service at the Abbey and the War Memorial on the High Street on **11 November**.

The commemoration will mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice by creating a 2018 memorial. Its scale will depend upon how many people wish to contribute. It will be something beautiful and moving to bring family and friends to view, or to visit quietly alone. It will stay in place for some time.

No donation of money will be required in any contribution you choose to make to this project. For people who like to create, there will be poppies to fashion, but everyone can join in, creatively or otherwise.

More details will follow, but in the meantime, please let me know if you have any red wool, black buttons (no larger than one inch across) or red fabric scraps (even if they have a pattern) to donate or leave them at the Rectory, Manor Farm Road, clearly marked 'Poppies'. From July 1, there will be information and materials freely available in the Abbey for anyone who wishes to learn more, or to take part. The July edition of the magazine will also have more details. Thank you for your interest.

Denise Line

denise.line@btinternet.com

01865 340905

Dorchester in Thames: archaeological excavation in the allotments

This year will see the final season of the long-running Oxford University training excavation in the allotments. The excavation will run from **24 June to 20 July**, with on-site work every day of the week except Saturdays. As in previous years there will be a general open day for the excavation, on **Saturday 14 July** to which all are warmly invited.





Village Hall Bookings Officer

We are looking for someone to take over the role of Village Hall Booking Officer when Tracey Francis stands down shortly.

The village hall is a vibrant centre of Dorchester life and the Bookings Officer has an interesting and satisfying involvement with many residents and social groups. We have an excellent bookings system in place and this requires a fairly small amount of effort to maintain. The job would suit someone who has spare time available and would enjoy seeing our unique hall put to so many uses for the benefit of our village.

To find out more give one of us a call and we'll be pleased to have an informal chat about the role and what it involves.

Mark Williams Tel. 01865 340441

Keith Russell Tel. 01865 340838

Dorchester-on-Thames Village Hall is a Registered Charity No. 900244

Update On Village Planting Scheme

*(See article in Dorchester News
June 2017 Page 11)*

The five sites kindly provided by the Parish Council for the wildlife friendly planting scheme are nearly complete.

There will be ongoing wildflower additions behind the village sign at the end of the Drayton Rd. This will be slow to get established. In the autumn I hope to plant native bluebells in the Old Oxford Road woodland. Due to lack of space or residents' requests not all plants envisaged were planted.

The project has taken longer than I intended as my knowledgeable adviser, Stuart Mabbutt, very sadly had to withdraw his help due to serious ill health. Martin Drew, who is known in the village, has agreed to take on the aftercare for me.

I have had so many kind comments made to me and I do hope that residents enjoy and wildlife benefits from this small effort to put something back into Dorchester after the environmental destruction in 2017.

Susan Bowditch

Dorchester on Thames Historical Society Summer Outing

**Lacock Abbey and village including the Fox Talbot
Museum**

Saturday 30 June



Lacock Abbey, founded in 1232 by Ela of Salisbury, was originally a nunnery and over the years has become a family home set in wooded grounds, with a botanic garden, greenhouse and orchard. The Museum is named after William Henry Fox Talbot who created the first photographic negative and established this as the birthplace of photography. There is plenty to see and do at these National Trust properties.

Lacock Village is often used as a film set and has plenty of places to eat and drink in. There are two National Trust shops as well as independent village businesses.

Lacock is National Trust Property so if you are a member of the National Trust **please remember to bring your card.** *If you are not a National Trust member you will need to pay £13.40 at the entrance to the village.* This covers the entrance to the Abbey and Museum and the village.

09.15 bus leaves Bridge End car park

11.05 arrive at Lacock

16.00 depart from Lacock

17.50 arrive back in Dorchester at the Bridge End car park

COST: £22 (for the bus journey only). Please make your cheque payable to the Dorchester Historical Society and send to Gail Thomas, 14 Herringcote, Martins Lane, Dorchester on Thames, OX10 7RD.

Tel. **01865 341977** or gail.thomas8@btinternet.com if you need further information.

N.B. You do not need to be a member of the Historical Society to enjoy this visit. Everyone welcome.

Just a few seats left!



Last month we unexpectedly had our brains severely tested with a quiz, following a last minute cancellation by our speaker who was going to put our bodies through its paces with 'A Keep Active Regime'!

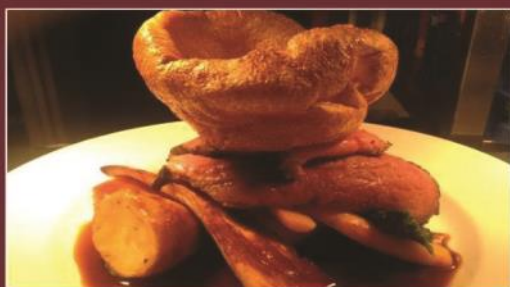
Our meeting on **Thursday 4 June** looks to be very interesting as our speaker Christine Green was a Designer at the BBC, so the title of her talk is **'A Creative Life – being a BBC Designer, Maker and Tutor'**. This meeting will be at 2.30pm in the back room of the Village Hall. Non members and visitors are always welcome to come along, a donation to cover refreshments would be appreciated.

Dorchester WI

Our meeting in July will be a tea party for members only in the beautiful gardens at 'The Barn' by kind invitation of Anthony and Linsley Esse and Anne Parker. In August we go to Highclere Castle.

On **Thursday 13 September** in the afternoon we are planning a trip to Brightwell Vineyard at Shillingford to look around the vineyard, learn about the vines and sample their excellent wine and probably make some purchases. Non members would be welcome to join us for this trip, we anticipate the cost will be £12 per person. Further details will be in next month's Dorchester News.

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Reading Group
Thursday 10th June & 12th July 2.00pm

Coffee Morning
Tuesday 15th June & 17th July 10.30am
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340434



St Birinus Primary School News

During my news items I have often mentioned our writing projects, this term our Big Write theme is based around the well-loved topic of 'Chocolate' – within this we are planning a big adventure to Cadbury World towards the end

of the summer term to add to the general excitement and provide some food for thought in our writing. It makes me hungry thinking about the topic.

Thank you to all who were able to join us for our Spring Fair. Wow! – what an evening – the Spring Fair helped by the wonderful weather and prepared by the brilliant PTA had a wonderful turnout, it was great to see so many people in the grounds and school. A big thank you to the PTA, teachers and children who prepared and worked on the stalls – I really enjoyed myself, even with the photo evidence of my attempt at the dressing up game but luckily not on general release (yet!). The fair raised an amazing £782.55 – which was brilliant. Before the fair, the children drew themselves to be placed on a cloth shopping bag – these were on sale at the fair. We did have a few left over which will be on sale in the village; please look out for them and if you are able support the school's fundraising efforts – thank you.

Julia Donaldson, the celebrated author, was a special guest in the KS1 concert at the Oxfordshire Music Centre in April, which was also attended by Squirrel Class. The children had been learning the songs and making their mouse masks. We were able to hear a performed version of *The Gruffalo* with Julia playing the mouse.

Owl class had the experience of entering the Sun Dome, which took up residence in our school hall. The children were able to look up to the stars and focus on the sun exploring the science around projects that are looking to the sun. Remember to ask someone from Owl Class (Years 5 and 6) for an explanation.

At the end of April, I was invited by John Howell, our local MP, with a few other local small school headteachers to meet Nick Gibb MP, the Minister of State for Schools, to talk about the challenges facing small schools and the current budget cuts which are affecting all schools around the country. It was very interesting to visit the Houses of Parliament, and also have the opportunity to discuss issues with a government minister, who appears to be a champion of small schools. Hopefully it will make a difference! Thank you to John Howell for organising the meeting.

A big thank you to Dorchester Parochial Educational Trust that has kindly donated £2,000 to help develop and extend our reading scheme and also £250 for KS2 to continue to purchase books to support their reading development. This is wonderful news and we are extremely grateful for such a wonderful grant.

I am pleased to announce that following our interviews for a teacher in Squirrel Class, we have appointed Mrs Grenfell and Mrs Goby as the class teachers on a job share basis with effect from September 2018. Congratulations to both of them.

Russell Leigh
Headteacher

Dorchester St Birinus CE Primary School



Pre School News

This term we have been looking at all the letters of the alphabet and numbers from 1 to 10. We have been busy playing in the garden and looking at the topic 'growing'. We have been looking at the life cycle of a frog and are looking forward to seeing our tadpoles turn into frogs in our fish tank.

We were invited to go along to the May dancing at big school which we attend every year to have a go at dancing. All our children who will be leaving us in July got their first choice for school places so they are looking forward to starting school visits after half term.

Now is the time to get your child's name down for a place at Pre School in September, places are available for 2 to 4 year olds, with government funding of up to 30 hours per week for eligible children.

Kristina Palm
Pre School Secretary

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May Morning in Dorchester

In glorious sunshine on Bank Holiday Monday morning, and for the twenty-second time, TWO A PART, a group of a-cappella singers based in Dorchester, welcomed May with their concert in the Abbey, preceded by the traditional rendering of *Now is the Month of Maying*, *Calon Lân* (in Welsh) and *Cwm Rhondda* (in English) from the top of the tower.

An enthusiastic audience of around 100 enjoyed a continental breakfast whilst listening to a short but eclectic programme including a new composition and new arrangements for the group, as well as some TWO A PART favourites.

The music included: childhood memories (*Early one morning*, *The Ash Grove*), Elizabethan madrigals, Beatles songs from the 1960s, Spirituals, Pop songs from the 1970s, and an arrangement of Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*. TWO A PART also sang *Over Hill Over Dale* by Judith Ward, a guest singer with the group, and ended with a setting of *Country Gardens* featuring a whistling chorus! Solos by Richard Walsh (tenor) and John Cornelius (bass) further added to the variety of the programme

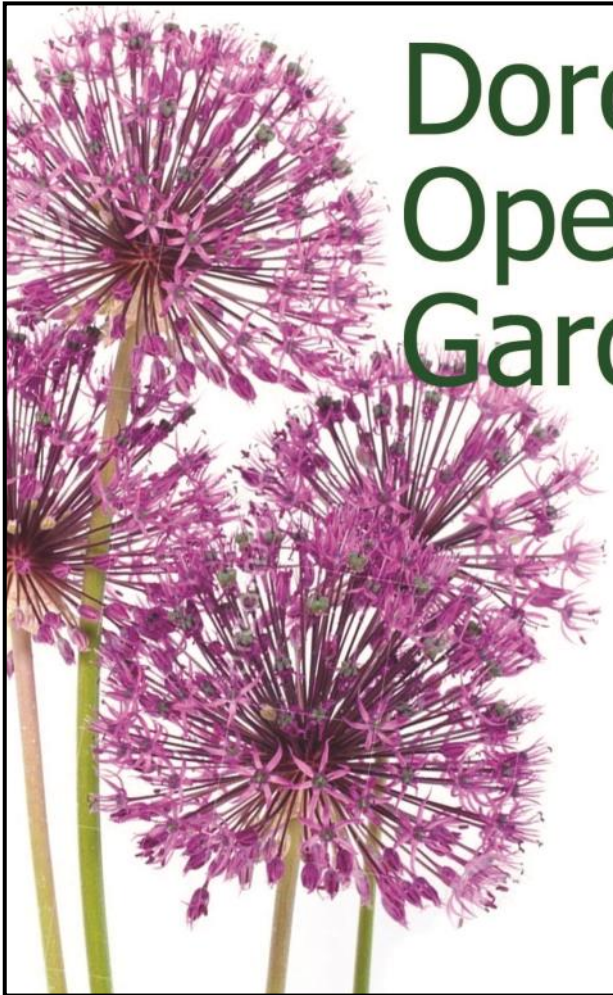
Ticket sales and donations raised £630 for YoCO (Youth Challenge Oxfordshire), www.yoco.online, which is a local charity established to support young people aged 14 - 21 in youth groups following a guided 18-month programme designed to help them overcome the problems that they face during teenage years, by developing resilience and confidence. The programme includes a week-long visit volunteering at the Nasio Trust's Centres for AIDS orphans in Kenya.

Many thanks to all those who gave of their time, talents and cash: the team providing breakfast, Dorchester Co-op for ticket sales and for getting up early to cook the croissants. The Co-op have been particularly generous this year in funding the croissants and drinks from their Community Support Fund and this meant that the event had no direct costs, so all the income went straight to YoCO. Particular thanks also to the Abbey for once again providing such a unique venue.

Tim Cook

*Photographs: Top right and below, Gordon Roberts;
Centre right, Gaynor Roberts*





Dorchester Open Gardens

Sunday June 10th
2pm-5pm

Refreshments

Children's treasure hunt

Maps £5 / £10 for a family (2 adults)
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in aid of Dorchester Abbey

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Dorchester Abbey Museum

What's happening in the Museum this month?

History of Light Exhibition

From Saturday 26 May

Following our successful temporary exhibition on the Queen's 90th birthday, we are now offering a special focus on how people have used lights in the past!

From earliest times to the present day, light has played a very special role in our lives.

We would like to hear about your memories: please come into the Museum to talk to us about them, or contact us by phone or e-mail. Do you remember when people used gaslights and candles in the village? Do you have interesting recollections about light to share? Please bring us an artefact relating to light **which has a special significance for you with its own story.**

This exhibition will also provide an introduction to the Abbey's ***LIGHT A Spiritual Journey*** from **20 October**. A fabulous multimedia journey through Art, Music and the Sciences, with local artist Adrian Brooks and composer Tim Cook.

Remember our Museum shop has a large range of gift items, including new stock for this season, as well as a wide variety of greetings cards to suit all occasions.

We look forward to seeing you very soon in the Museum!

Anne-Marie Joffrin, Curator

joffrin.annemarie@gmail.com

tel: 01235 539858



Donated to the Museum by Mary Tame and used in the Narnia exhibition, this lantern used to hang on Dorchester High Street, outside the George. Probably it ran on paraffin oil, and was lit by an official lamplighter each evening. There was no gas lighting in Dorchester until well into the C20th.

As part of the History of Light Exhibition

The Didcot Iron Age Mirror (copy)

For one month only

26 May – 25 June

A chance to view a copy of this rare Iron Age bronze mirror recently saved from export abroad



This 1st century BC mirror is decorated with a highly unusual and beautiful curvilinear pattern. Mirrors like this were used to reflect light into dark interior spaces, as well as for cosmetic reasons. Unique to Britain, only 18 complete ones are known. The only one found in Oxfordshire, it was discovered in 2007 near Didcot, by a metal detectorist. A successful appeal for £33,000 by Oxfordshire's Museum Service in

2014 meant that the mirror has stayed in the country.

'This mirror is a nationally important archaeological artefact as well as an outstanding work of art and piece of craftsmanship.... used more than 2,000 years ago.' (Director, Oxfordshire Museum)

Book by Bryan Forbes:
Whistle Down The Wind
Stepford Wives

The Slipper and the Rose

Music by
The Sherman Brothers:
Mary Poppins - Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

21 - 24 November 2018

AUDITIONS



The Slipper and the Rose is based on the 1976 musical film retelling the classic fairy tale of Cinderella. Directed by Bryan Forbes, the film starred Gemma Craven and Richard Chamberlain and featured a supporting cast led by Michael Hordern, Kenneth More, Edith Evans and Annette Crosbie.

Come and be part of this magical family musical featuring wonderful songs and costumes which tells the story of Cinderella. If you are interested in being part of this fabulous show, either on stage or behind the scenes, we'd love to hear from you.

We are looking for singers and actors (there's a number of non-singing roles) and also need people to do all the other tasks which help to make the show possible.

Audition Schedule:

Read-through / Audition - Monday 18th June - 7.30-9.30pm

Singing / Audition - Thursday 21st June - 7.30-9.30pm

Combined Read-through/Singing Audition - Saturday 23rd June - 3-5/5.30

Rehearsals are every Monday and Thursday evening in the back room of the Village Hall from 7.30-9.30pm and will start on Monday 2 July.

For more information or to request audition pieces please contact Ann (membership@dads.org.uk).



By arrangement with NODA Limited on behalf of Ensign Group Productions and Paradise Co Productions Limited

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DADS

Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society

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Well, the weather has been unpredictable of late I'm told, or has it? The ebb and flow of the seasons reliably go through their transitional processes. The date and times may fluctuate, but none the less, the seasons do reliably come and go.

So why do we say it unpredictable? Impatience? Assumptions? Attachment? Don't ask me, I've no clue either.

What I do know is, nature, in all its forms, is a solid consistency in all our lives. Nothing is constant except change, and nature is constantly evolving.

A Solid Consistency

Nature is us, and we are nature. We are enveloped in those seasonal ebbs and flows.

I'm spending lots of time just sitting out in nature whenever I can. Not naming and categorizing, just enjoying nature for what it is. A bird is a bird, a butterfly is a butterfly, a fish is a fish. To sit in nature, and just be, is something we can all forget to do with the conditioned behaviours of boxing up and containing.

I often sit, quietly, with an open mind and

just be with the nature around me. Somehow, I can sense my ancestors who also likely gazed upon the changeable skies, heard the joyous birdsong, smelt the grass pastures, felt the wind and rain on their faces, and tasted the first crops of the season.

Wildlife gardens are a healing medicine to my soul, and always a pleasure to visit one. Bringing us predictable, not unpredictable, contentment and connections.

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Daphne Pritchard 1921-2018

Daphne was born in Hampstead in 1921. Her father, Harry Witherby, was head of a family publishing and printing firm in London and a famous ornithologist who has been dubbed the 'father of British Ornithology'.

Daphne's mother Lillian Gilson was the daughter of the vicar of Itchen Abbas near Winchester. She actively supported her ornithologist husband and brought up their five children. Daphne was the last, a much-loved 'afterthought', seven years younger than her next sister Violet and 19 years younger than Tom, the eldest.

Her childhood was thus a mix of being spoiled and teased by her siblings and being on her own with her parents.

When Daphne was 13, the family moved to Gracious Pond Farm near Chobham in Surrey. Her father had bought it as a run-down farm cottage. It was developed into a most attractive reed-thatched house with seven bedrooms, a large library, and a beautiful garden. There were 20 acres of pasture and 25 acres of woodland which was all a delight for Daphne.

She retold us very recently the story of how she, with the help of an older friend who lifted her up, watered the little boy next door with a watering can, because they thought he was a 'weed'. Unfortunately, her friend dropped her on the fence leading to a near disastrous injury.

At school she did well and was good at sport, excelling at lacrosse and cricket. She remained fit until the end of her life, walking the dog twice a day on most days, and was thrilled when she managed to climb up Wittenham Clumps last year.

She always had a dog - since she was three - 'I don't know who I am without a dog' she said recently.

She was also a fit and willing, if slightly nervous, sailing companion to Peter, first in dinghies, and then in bigger, channel-crossing sailing boats.

After school, she spent two terms at a domestic science school, but was asked to leave because of her 'wild behaviour' (we have never discovered what this entailed). She then went to a college in Paris, but returned home because of impending war.

She took a job looking after horses in a local livery stable while doing voluntary work driving a 30-cwt truck as a NAAFI canteen to local anti-aircraft and barrage balloon sites. She also enrolled as a Voluntary Aid nurse working at the local hospital.

There she observed physiotherapists at work and chose this as a career. She had been keen to go to university, but her kindly Victorian parents did not see the need for women to do so. However, her father did agree to her training to become a physio-



therapist. She started the 3-year course to become a Chartered Physiotherapist at St Thomas's Hospital.

She continued as a volunteer nurse in the evenings at St Thomas's, and in July 1942 one of her patients was a newly qualified doctor, bright yellow with infective hepatitis. This was Peter! His strange colour didn't seem to put Daphne off, and with him becoming a house physician/casualty officer at St Thomas's, they were able to see a lot of each other out of hours.

Peter asked Daphne to marry him one foggy evening on Chelsea Embankment. She took some days to reply and whispered her agreement while at a performance of the Rake's Progress by the Covent Garden Ballet!

Daphne and Peter were married on 27 February 1943 at the parish church in Chobham and the reception was held in the garden at Gracious Pond Farm on a chilly afternoon.

Soon afterwards Peter was posted to India, the start of several years of difficult separation. At this time Daphne's father became ill and died at the end of 1943.

Communication with Peter was very limited, particularly when he was in Burma with the Chindits. Formal letters would come from the War Office once a month, saying that as far as they were aware, Peter was alive. He was granted brief home leave in 1945 and Wendy was born on 4 April 1946, and was a few weeks old when Peter came home for good. Rosemary was born at Gracious Pond Farm on 14 December 1947.

In May 1951, when Peter started in general practice, they moved to Warborough with their scant possessions in a horse trailer borrowed from Daphne's brother Tom. James was born on 7 June 1953.

Daphne stayed at home to look after the three children until they were all at school, when she started to work part-time at the geriatric hospital in Wallingford.

When the school journeys switched to Oxford, she worked part-time at the innovative geriatric day hospital in Cowley Road.

In May 1954 they bought the house in Dorchester which has been the family home ever since - 64 years.

Daphne's time was fully taken up with work three days a week at Cowley Road, school journeys, looking after the house and garden, and the heavy duties imposed on a GP's wife in those days. When Cowley Road Day Hospital closed, Daphne worked at the Phoenix unit at Littlemore Psychiatric Hospital, and then at the John Masefield Cheshire Home in Burcot.

She helped with the local Meals on Wheels and later ran it herself until Social Services closed it down.

The cedar shed in the garden became a studio for her absorbing hobby of painting, in which she became expert and prolific, painting local and Norfolk scenes, flowers, animals and whimsical inventions. She also stitched pictures - we all have cushions with delightful personalised scenes, often made from former favourite items of clothing.

She was a keen gardener, and the shed is still full of rosettes - prizes from the local flower and vegetable show which are proudly displayed.

The house was filled with flowers and she always put a posy in the bedroom to welcome family and friends.

She made the garden into as much of a bird sanctuary as the local cats, and latterly the red kites, would allow, and intently observed the birds on the feeders around the garden.

She was a devoted grandmother and her grandsons recall many happy times with both their grandparents.

She loved having people around her and our mealtimes and holidays were often enriched with other people.

She was an exceptionally empathetic person and cared greatly for her friends and their children as well as several generations of her own family. She continued this interest in others, asking questions of her grandsons and friends, up to her last days.

It is very hard indeed to lose Daphne so soon after Peter. Their lives were intertwined for 75 healthy happy years, which has been amazing good fortune for them and for us.

We all grieve greatly for them both, but we understand, that without Peter by her side, for Daphne, her life was also over

Game, Set, Match and Cake

Dorchester Tennis Club enjoyed a wonderfully energetic Spring Mixed Doubles Tournament, where the tennis was suitably teamed with sunshine, Pimm's and a delectation of savoury and sweet delights. Our tournament champions were Sally Bell and Adam Ives who beat Liz and Glyn Smith in a brilliantly entertaining final. Strong semi-finalists were Chris Smith and Mandy Hipkins, and Keith Ives and Caroline Scott.



If a summer game appeals, please do come along to any of the open sessions listed below; we welcome players of all abilities and would love to meet you. If the bug takes hold and you would like to play regularly, join our friendly club for access to our coaching sessions and the Autumn Tournament.

Summer Court Schedule

Sunday

10.30am to 1.00pm - Open club session

Monday

1.30pm to 3.30pm - Open Club session

Wednesday

9.30am – 10.30am Adult coaching

10.30am – 12.30pm Open club Session

Open Club night 6.30pm to 9.00pm

Thursday

10.30am – 11.30am - Adult coaching

11.30am to 1.00pm - Open club session

3.45pm – 6.15pm - Junior coaching

Friday

10.30 am – 1.00pm Ladies morning

Autumn Tournament

23 September 2.00pm

Enquires to Chris Smith

chrisccsmith@btinternet.com

01865 341947

Right:
Champions
Sally Bell
and Adam
Ives



Cricket Results Oxfordshire Cricket Association



Division 3

		Result
28/04/2017	Risinghurst v Dorchester	Match abandoned
06/05/2017	Dorchester v Kilkeny	Kilkenny win by 7 wkts <i>Adrian Redhead 56</i>
12/05/2018	Chadlington v Dorchester	Chadlington win by 7 wkts

Division 6

		Result
05/05/2018	Wolvercote III v Dorchester II	Wolvercote III win by 54 runs
12/05/2018	Dorchester II v Wootton and BH II	Match abandoned



Football Result Oxford City League First Division



18/04/2018	East Oxford Firsts	1	2	Dorchester First
21/04/2018	Dorchester First	2	0	South Park Rangers First
28/04/2018	Oxford Brookes University Fourths	2	3	Dorchester First
05/05/2018	Masons Arms First	A	W	Dorchester First

Premier Challenge Cup

12/05/2018	Dorchester First	2	4	Original Swans Firsts
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Dorchester Golf Society



On the morning of April 19, nine intrepid members of the DOGS awoke to the sound of pouring rain and the prospect of a very wet day. However, as we travelled towards our destination at Tadmarton, the rain cleared and miraculously held off for the rest of the day. Tadmarton is a well established heathland course, just south of Banbury. The course has recently been modified

with the removal of areas of gorse and re-turfing, which allowed most of us to return without too many lost balls. The green-keepers had cunningly removed the tee markers before our arrival making it a test of orienteering rather than golf in places.

The overall winner for the day was John Edwards with 31 points, closely followed by John Garrod with 30. Richard Moore won the longest drive, but Carol Moore claimed the shot of the day with a magnificent birdie on the third hole.

DOGS is very much a social society whose members and partners like to play a little friendly golf. We organise about six golf outings each year and a number of get togethers including our ever popular BBQ. Anyone living in Dorchester and the surrounding area who shares our interests would be very welcome to join us.

Contact: John Edwards **01865 343062**
or at edwards.dorchester@yahoo.com

Healthy, Wealthy and Wise

9 June, 7.00pm,

St Mary's Church, Wallingford

Are the streets of South Oxfordshire really unsafe?
Are we truly losing lives to air pollution?
If so, can it be stopped?

You are warmly welcome to hear Dr Suzanne Bartington share her knowledge with us on the 'Health Effects of Air Pollution' on **9 June** at 7.00pm in St Mary's Church Wallingford. Suzanne is a medical researcher into Public Health at the University of Birmingham.

Suzanne is a County Councillor: County handles our roads and traffic. Some of our own South Oxfordshire councillors (county, town and district) are also able to attend. We'll get the low-down on air quality from citizens of Henley, Wallingford and Watlington.

Oxford is 'streets ahead' of us (and needs to be). Oxford City Council (equivalent to our Districts) has set up a double-first: a zero-emissions zone for the centre, and a joint campaign with Friends of the Earth. Chris Church has kindly agreed to tell us about it.

This talk concludes Oxfordshire's Big Green Day. Come and see us at the Henley in Transition stall in Broad Street Oxford during the day, and chat to us about South Oxfordshire Sustainability.

This South Oxfordshire Sustainability meeting is being hosted by Sustainable Wallingford. Please contact Sue Roberts (doctor.sue.roberts@gmail.com), 07913 896874, for more details.



GO Active Gold Activities

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Activity	Venue	Day	Time	Cost
Senior Circuits	Village Hall	Wednesdays	10 am – 11 am	£4
Tai Chi for Health	Village Hall	Mondays (Starts 4 June)	2 pm - 3 pm	£5
6 Week Nordic Walking Course	Recreation Ground	Tuesdays (Starts 5 June)	10.30 am – 11.30 am	FREE

If you would like to register your interest

Email: Annalie.thomasson@southandvale.gov.uk
Number: 07766991487

Allotment

Abbey Guest House

26 April 2018

On 26 April, Adrian Brooks and Jan Harvey presented their 'Allotment' entertainment consisting of seven stories written by Jan and illustrated by Adrian's theatres, based on the Hempcroft Allotments in Dorchester. The stories were read by members of DADS to a spellbound audience. A very special evening.

**Over £200 donated to Sands*,
and over 200 large sunflower seeds given out.**

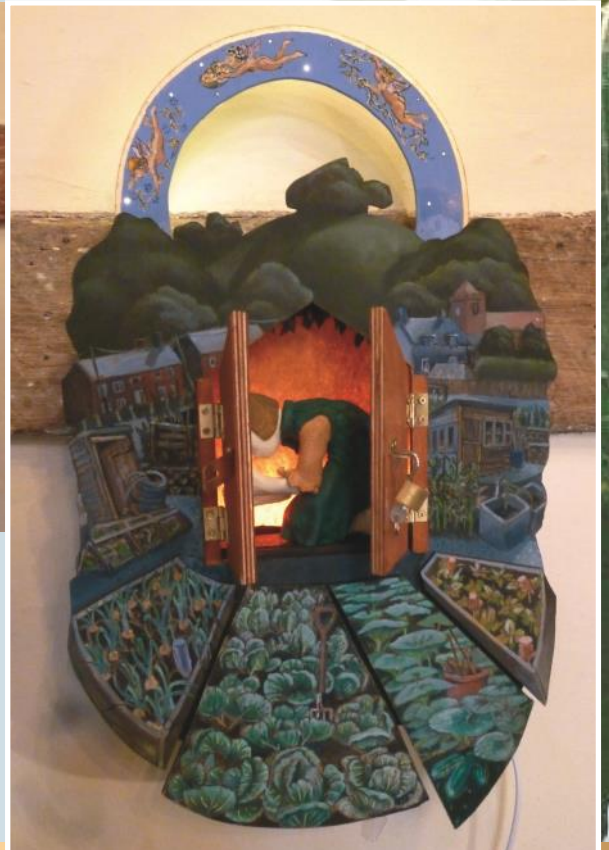
It feels as if there's some magical significance in those two numbers. Whatever that may, or may not be, words such as magical, poignant, inspiring, adorable, delightful, exquisite, brilliant, charming, fantastic and more, have been the words visitors used in e-mails to describe their feelings about the Allotment evening. Clearly they enjoyed Adrian's theatres, Jan's stories and the readings by Sue, Mark and Ann which brought it all to life, and of course the company of one another. But most of all was the recognition that these Allotment stories are part of our community experience. I hope those sunflower seeds become a sea of yellow later in the year.

**Sands is the Stillbirth and neonatal death charity that supports anyone affected by the death of a baby and promoting research to reduce the loss of babies' lives.*



Allotment book and booklet

If you were unable to join us for Allotment and would like to enjoy Jan's short stories and photographs of Adrian's theatres, they are in book and booklet form. Six of Jan's Hempcroft stories are included in **Allotment** and the seventh is in a booklet, **Searching for the Sun**. The cost is only £6 for the book and £2 for the booklet. They will be available in the Dorchester Museum, from Adrian at Adrianhbrooks@hotmail.com, or during Artweeks at the Guest House or The Garden Studio, 5 Samian Way, Dorchester on Thames, OX10 7JS, tel. **01865 340792**



Photographs: Above Adrian and Jan with Adrian's theatre depicting Jan's six short stories; Above right: Adrian's theatre depicting 'Searching for the Sun'; Right: Jan and Adrian with readers Sue Kitson, Mark Williams, Ann Winslet.



Allotment and Gardeners' stories

In response to Jan and Adrian's Allotment stories friends were invited to contribute their own memories and reminiscences, anonymously. Here are some beautiful, amusing and moving stories.

Clarissa loves her Dad

Her Dad taught her much of what she knows, and inspired her to seek out and learn the rest. As a little girl, they journeyed together through museums, castles and hillside walks, each enriched with stories from the past. History came alive and created her roots to this place and this soil.

It was in her genes but her Dad taught Clarissa to garden, to space out onion sets in rows and to sink leeks deep in the ground. As Clarissa worked alongside her Dad in the vegetable garden she dreamed about the delight of finding something really old and special - childish fantasy.

Today, 50 years on, she borrows a space on the Hempcroft Allotment. She goes there often. She relishes the joy of feeling the soil tumbling through her fingertips, digging, weeding, planting.

One day Clarissa was kneeling, digging a hole to plant a potato. The crumbly soil toppled from her trowel and there it was, a small brown disc of insignificance. She wiped its surface - a Roman coin, a real Roman coin. She wondered who had held it last and how it came to be in this forgotten corner. The voice of history was alive in her fingertips

With quivering, grubby fingers, half a century on, she reached for her phone... and rang her Dad.

Onions and Daffs

My first allotment was very neglected (a 10 pole plot) established summer fruiting raspberries, asparagus and weeds. I worked hard to prepare and clear the ground for planting in the Spring. I was lucky enough to go to Australia for 3 weeks for my 40th leaving my husband behind with two young children - my treat to visit an old school friend. While I was away he thought he would assist by planting some onions, which came up as daffodils! Thank goodness they weren't eaten.

I had the allotment for 5 years and made some lovely friends - 'the old boys' were such great company- always ready to lend a hand and offer advice. I'm still growing veg, but in my back garden and on a much smaller plot. Happy Days!



Allotment Planning

My friend and I decided to make a plan of what we would grow, she came to my house with a notebook and made careful notes of what we should plant. However when we actually got down to work on the allotment, of course we took no notice of our planning and planted any old thing we managed to buy. Lines of veg were beautifully crooked, having forgotten such tricks as string to guide us.

We had such fun - Happy Digging Days!

Plot 16

Plot 16 was the art project on an allotment in Oxford. Hops were grown and the beer brewed at the local micro brewery. Then the local community shared and enjoyed the unusual produce!

A Mind for Gardening

In the garden my brain changes.

My anxious mind gives way to sight and sound and feel.

My eyes hunt for colour and my ears alert to birdsong.

I am enveloped by a sensual surround which allows me only to fret about weeds, about trees about arrangements of beds and pots, about gravel and slate,

about horizons and verticals, about spaces and surprises,

garden rooms and eating al fresco or

watering drooping shrubs. The sight and delight of change stays

with me, the images still fresh in my mind.

The Mind which operates differently in a garden.

Pea thief.

When I was a child my parents grew peas in the back garden. I loved to eat them raw, straight from the garden. One day I ate most of the ones that were ready and hid the pods under the hedge. When my Mum came to pick them for dinner, there weren't enough and she was very cross.

Now I grow peas in my back garden, but often when I go to pick them they have vanished and I find a pile of empty pods nearby - stolen by a mouse.

I can feel my mum smiling down on me saying, 'it serves you right'!

I'm sorry to hear that.

My mum was known to everybody in the village and, as well as digging her vegetable plot, which she did for years she voluntarily cut the grass and cared for the Parish cemetery.

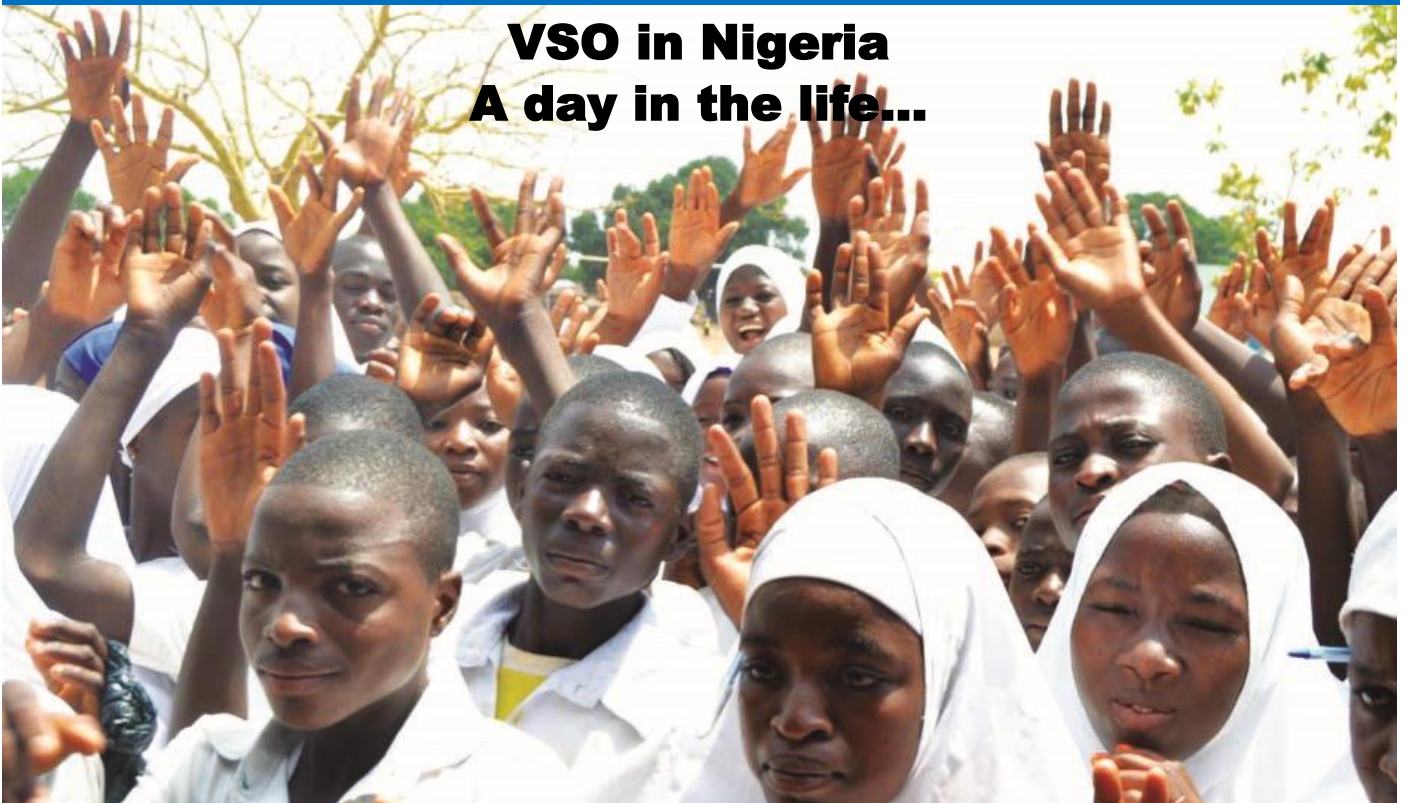
Every month the 'Man from the Pru' came round to collect the insurance money.

'Is your mum or dad in?' he asked me merrily.

'Oh no' I said, 'Mum's up the cemetery now.'

'Oh I'm sorry to hear that', he said 'when did that happen?'

VSO in Nigeria A day in the life...



Holly Exton-Smith has recently returned to the UK after volunteering with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) for 11 weeks in Gwada, a small town in Niger State, Nigeria. There, she lived with a local host family, and worked as part of a team of Nigerian and UK volunteers to increase school children's involvement in agriculture, which is one of Nigeria's top economies, as well as to raise awareness about issues such as gender equality, corporal punishment and malaria. If you would like to donate to VSO please visit their website at

www.vsointernational.org

A Day in the Life of a Volunteer

Rise and shine! Wake up at about 7.00am to the sounds of goats, chickens, chattering children and motorbikes. Time for a refreshing bucket shower and then breakfast, which is often bread, sometimes akara (bean cakes), and sometimes masa (rice cakes). Then it's off to the office, either by okada (motorbike) or a quick walk, usually followed by the shouts of excited children.

We meet at the VSO office at around 9.00am, for meetings about how we are getting on, and planning of our various

projects. This is a good time to share our experiences, like how we are getting on in our host homes, and what scary-looking insect we saw in our rooms the night before. The projects include farming lessons for the schools we visit, community action days (CADs) which raise awareness about issues that affect the community, and facilitation of group-bonding for local farmers' cooperative. Planning means brainstorming ideas, coming up with lesson plans, making posters, writing short speeches, and the occasional game of Uno.

Then, it's lunch time! We either bring lunch into the office or go back to our host homes to eat. The food varies, but usually a meal consists of a carb (rice, pasta, yam) with some sort of spicy sauce. This is often subsidised by snacks we can buy on the streets of Gwada, such as mangoes, dates, wara (tofu), oranges, and often a

much-needed cold Coke. Then back to the office and back to work.

The afternoon is usually our time to visit the young farmers clubs at schools, hold our CADs, or meet with the farmers' cooperatives.

For our lessons with the young farmers clubs, we split into groups to visit different schools, and teach them about farming techniques, such as the use of fertilisers and herbicides. This is a really fulfilling part of the week – the impact we are having in these clubs is measurable, and it's great to see the school kids' understanding grow through these interactive sessions.

If we aren't at a school that day (we go twice a week), we'll probably be holding a CAD instead. The CADs we've had so far have been met with a lot of enthusiasm by the community, and we are normally



swamped by more and more people wanting to see what all the fuss is about. One of our best CADs was a set of skills workshops for World Creativity and Innovation Day, where we encouraged Gwadaians to set up their own small businesses sewing bags, baking food, making soap, or designing jewellery.

By 6.00pm, the day is winding down, the sun is starting to set and curfew is set at a strict 7pm. This gives us time to play with our host siblings, have dinner, relax, and pray that the power comes on before we go to bed, otherwise we're doomed for another sweaty night's sleep.

Getting Accustomed to a new culture

When I first got the email from VSO headquarters telling me I was coming to Nigeria, I didn't know much about the country, and didn't know what to expect.



argument. This increased volume can be a bit intimidating at first, but easy to get used to. It just makes me realise how shy Brits are!

Language: Something I've learnt about since being in Nigeria are all the languages spoken here! Each tribe has its



So, one of the main things I was looking forward to was experiencing a new culture. What better way to learn about a different lifestyle than by living in it? It's hard to sum up a whole culture into a few main points, but here are 8 things that have struck me the most since being here:

Friendliness: Everyone is so friendly here! From the moment we arrived at in-country orientation in Abuja, I was struck by how outgoing and welcoming all the Nigerian volunteers were. In contrast to the famous British reserve, Nigerians are not afraid to show their feelings, and will let you know that they like you (or if you annoy them). In Gwada, I greet dozens of people a day just walking down the street, who want to know how my day is going and how I'm liking Nigeria; something I can't imagine happening in the UK.

Loudness: Leading on from this, Nigerians tend to be a lot louder than Brits. A normal conversation can sound like an

own language, and everyone can speak Pidgin as well. This can sometimes cause issues, for example, Gwadaians are predominantly Hausa-speakers, meaning we need translators at a lot of our community action days. I've tried to learn a bit of Hausa, but it's such a different language from anything I've heard before. Language is just one way that the tribes differ, and each has its own characteristics and traditions as well, something that I've never experienced before.

Food: One part of the culture which I've had to adapt to while being here is the food. Nigerian food is mainly based on carbs with spice. Having spice at every meal was pretty challenging at first - sometimes I just feel like a bowl of cereal or some bland British food - but a lot of it is delicious and on the whole I've enjoyed it. My favourite food is probably masala, which are a kind of rice cake, with (spicy) stew.

Religion: Another thing that has really struck me here are the strong religious beliefs of most of the population. In the UK, over half the population claims to hold no religion, and 3 in 4 18 to 24 year olds are atheists. In Nigeria, religion is much more prevalent, with most of the in-country volunteers being religious, and Gwada being a traditional community of mainly Muslims. While this was a bit surprising, everyone is very open about their beliefs, and there seems to be few issues between those of different religions. I've visited church twice here in Gwada, and really enjoyed the experience, which includes a lot more dancing and singing than your typical British service.

Gender roles: Something that shocked me when I first arrived are the strict gender roles in Gwada, as it differs so much from the attitude in the UK. Girls will either stop school at a very young age or not go at all, get married in their teens, and start a family. It also common to have a lot of children, so Gwada is full of babies! The mothers tend to stay home and take care of household chores like cooking and cleaning, while the fathers go out to work. It can be a bit sad to think about the wasted potential of all these women, so this is something we tried to address on International Women's Day. We wanted to show that a woman can be more than a mother and wife, and should be allowed to be ambitious.

Clothes: While the urban areas in Nigeria are apparently much less traditional, in Gwada, clothing is required to be modest, especially for women. This means that in almost 40 degree heat, I have to wear a top that covers my shoulders and trousers that cover my knees. This can be pretty uncomfortable but it's something I've definitely got used to. While at the beginning I was thinking about the heat all the time, it's become a normal part of life now. In a way it's a relief to not have to worry about what to wear and how I look!

Lack of Power: Last but not least, one of the things which takes some getting used to in Nigeria, and Gwada, is the intermittent power supply. It is common to go without any electricity for 2 weeks! This is despite Niger being described as the 'Power State'. Because of this, anytime electricity comes on, there is a rush to plug in all electronics to charge. This is something which I think will stay with me, at least for the first few days, in the UK. There's nothing quite like the excitement of hearing neighbourhood children cheering and knowing the power is back on.

Holly Exton-Smith



This month, Footsteps is lucky enough to be supported by two fantastic local events.

Have you ever been to Beacon Fest? This fantastic family event is held on a beautiful farm in Watlington over the weekend of the 15/16 June. See the website at

www.beaconfestival.net for details of all the fun on offer, including kidzone, comedy, crafts, food, real ale & cider and of course great local bands. Come see the Footsteps stall where we will be selling merchandise and running a community music workshop on the Saturday.

Next up is the Wallingford-based music festival – Rugfest, held at the rugby club grounds on 22 and 23 June. The headliners this year are the famous Scouting for Girls and there are many other local music acts, as well as things for the whole family and Footsteps are the principal charity this year! See the website for more details: <https://www.rugfest.org/>

These fundraising events support our vital work helping children like Olivia, age 3, who has a rare chromosomal disorder. Her mum sent us this message recently:

My daughter has been going to Footsteps since she was 16 months old, these therapists are miracle workers, 75% of children with my daughter's condition will never walk but she has just taken her first steps during our last session at Footsteps! My daughter only walks because of the therapy that these people have done with her. Thank you to all the therapists who had to listen to her crying and shouting! Thank you, thank you, thank you!



Dorchester Annual Fireworks Display

We are pleased to announce that Footsteps will be running the fourth annual Fireworks display in the village again this year on Saturday 3 November.

Footsteps are delighted that this popular event is turning into a village institution and extremely grateful for all the support from people in the village, who pull together to make this community event possible. Spécial thanks to Susie, Claire, Rachel and Val without whom the event would not exist, and thanks to all at the Parish Council who support the event year on year.

This year we are planning more live music and new activities for the children, so watch this space...



Mozart masterpieces Dorchester Abbey Saturday 16 June

Among Mozart's prodigious output of choral works, two stand out above the rest – his final Requiem and his *Mass in C minor*, K427, which Benson Choral Society bring you as their summer offering. The Mass grabs you from the start with its fugal 'Kyrie' and virtuosic 'Gloria' which will test any soloist's mettle. Happily, we have a great quartet of soloists who have sung with us before – Elizabeth Roberts, Susan Legg, Andrew Mackenzie-Wicks and Michael Bundy, and as a bonus Elizabeth will be giving us as a prelude the *Laudate Dominum* a little gem from Mozart's Solemn Vespers.

To start the concert our accompanist Anita D'Attellis, who is building her solo career to great acclaim, is playing *Piano Concerto no 21 in C K467*, one of the longer works that marked Mozart's maturity in this genre. The poetic eloquence of the slow movement was used in the film *Elvira Madigan* and in other films and TV programmes.

This is all set to happen on **Saturday 16 June** at 7.30pm in Dorchester Abbey, with the Elgar Orchestra in the confident hands of Musical Director Christopher Walker.

Tickets are £18 or £15 (reserved) or £12 (unreserved) which you can now buy online from

www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk or phone **01865 407395**. Early booking is recommended!



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From your MP...

...John Howell

Last month I wrote about campaign emails on particular issues and the different ways in which I try to deal with them. Another type of circular I often receive are those asking me to attend a particular debate or meeting. Whether or not I can may depend as much on my other diary commitments as anything and sometimes it is just not possible. This month I thought it might be helpful if I set out the different demands on an MP's time within the House. It may also help to explain some emails that do the rounds suggesting that the attendance of MPs in the Chamber of the House is only high when debating issues relating to MPs themselves. Pictures are circulated which show an empty chamber when important topics such as welfare reforms or the child sex abuse enquiry are debated but a full chamber when MPs' expenses are being discussed! These emails are clearly put together to discredit MPs so perhaps the approach taken is no surprise but they do beg a question as to why the Chamber may be full or empty at different times. Every picture tells a story but not necessarily the whole story or the right one! Let me explain how it all works.

Firstly there are two main debating chambers in the House of Commons – the main chamber which is most often shown on television and Westminster Hall. Debates in these two chambers take place at the same time so an MP cannot be at both. The main chamber is where Government, back bench and opposition business is debated. In Westminster Hall there is a series of debates each day on issues put forward by individual MPs. These raise issues of special interest to an MP or a group of MPs. I try to speak in debates where I am able and feel that I have a contribution to make. Analysis assessing the contribution to debates by individual MPs indicate that I have spoken in around 100 debates in the last year which, it says, is above average.

So immediately you can see that an MP cannot be in all debates. Most debates last for several hours and the chamber will be full at times and empty at times. People often come in at the start to hear the Minister's opening speech and then leave to attend other meetings whilst the debate continues. If an MP wishes to speak they have to be there for the opening remarks and must stay for at least the speech following their own. When a debate is drawing to an end MPs are required to stop what they are doing elsewhere and go to the main chamber to vote. When a vote is near, the chamber will fill again as the MPs have to

come from across the Estate to be in the lobby at the right time. The chamber will also be full when there are multiple votes on separate issues in a particular debate as there is often insufficient time to return to other business between votes. So in just about any debate it will be possible to show pictures of times when the chamber is full and times when the chamber is emptier. It depends on what time in the duration of the debate that the photo is taken.

However these debating chambers are but a part of the other business going on in the Palace of Westminster at any one time. There will also be a series of committee meetings. There are Select Committees - one to scrutinise the work of every Government Department. There are Bill Committees – one to go line by line through every Bill before Parliament to review the detail. I am a member of the Justice Select Committee and take my turn as called on Bill Committees or committees to introduce Statutory Instruments.

There are also All Party Parliamentary Groups which are more informal, cross-party groups formed by MPs and Members of the House of Lords who share a common interest in a particular policy area, region or country. These can be helpful due to their cross-party nature and the fact that they involve Members of both the House of Commons and House of Lords. These groups focus on quite specific issues and there are well over 600 of them. I chair the APPGs for Nuclear Fusion, the River Thames, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Design and Innovation and Digital Currencies.

There are many other meetings and events that take place and I cannot list them all here but I hope this gives you a flavour of the range of activities going on and why it is not always possible for an MP to attend a particular debate or meeting. The inability to do so does not reflect a lack of interest, simply conflicting demands on time. 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. Further details of the work of Parliament is available on the parliament website at www.parliament.uk. As always, I am interested to hear constituent's views on the proposals before the House. If you would like to share your thoughts on an issue with me you can email me at howelljm@parliament.uk or write to me at the House of Commons.

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From your County Councillor... ...Lorraine Lindsay-Gale



Oxford-Cambridge Expressway

As the highways authority, OCC was asked for its views on the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway. The submission says that until Highways England publishes a preferred route OCC cannot make a formal response on the proposal. Key points from OCC's initial response to Highways England sent in April 2018 are:

OCC welcomes the further development work and engagement taking place on the Expressway project and the opportunity to give views to Highways England. However, at this stage, OCC is not able to indicate a corridor preference, given that the technical and other supporting work required to inform the decision on a preferred corridor is not yet complete.

OCC supports the strategic objectives and purpose of the Expressway project, recognising the opportunity it brings to support and enable growth and development, enhance connectivity and take forward innovation and smart technology. However, following detailed discussion on the project between officers and members, there are some important principles which, in addition to the published assessment criteria, should be integral to the corridor selection and decision-making process. In Oxfordshire, these include:

- 1. Ensuring that the Expressway corridor does not increase pressure on the existing, already overstretched strategic highway network. Specifically, the Expressway must not use the section of the A34 through central Oxfordshire. This section is where the A34 currently operates as both a regional/national strategic route and a local distributor route (forming part of the Oxford Ring Road) and it is essential that the new Expressway infrastructure provides a completely separate strategic route to avoid this conflict of use;*
- 2. Ensuring that the Expressway corridor minimises the impact on the existing highway network, i.e. it should not use existing local road networks or draw significant strategic traffic directly into local road networks / highway infrastructure which would not be able to cope – the ring road around Bicester for example;*
- 3. Ensuring that the Expressway is developed separately alongside locally planned highway enhancements such as Culham river crossing.*

Further information is available from the [Highways England website](#).



Thames Water's Oxfordshire reservoir proposals

A series of questions have been raised by OCC about Thames Water's plans to build a huge new reservoir to the south of Abingdon between Steventon and Marcham. The council's cabinet was asked to endorse a response to Thames Water's consultation on the idea, which is part of its wider strategy for the South-East of England in coming decades. The company's Draft Water Resources Management Plan proposes a new reservoir near Abingdon which will not only support the forecast needs of the Thames Water area but also some of the needs of the wider South-East. In response to



Additional new pothole-fixing machine

OCC and contractors, Skanska, have taken delivery of another Dragon-Patcher which uses a combination of compressed air, heat, bitumen and chippings to repair potholes. There are now two machines working full-time in the county with another being shared with Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. Because it can repair a number of holes at the same time, and much faster, a Dragon-Patcher can carry out repairs far more cheaply than before. A typical Dragon-Patcher repair costs just under £14 whereas conventional methods on a non-rural road cost about £60. On a good day a Dragon can repair 200 potholes; that, combined with the low road repair costs, means that the investment is a sound one. More work is done and more money is saved so that it can be put into resurfacing. The Dragon also carries out preventative work by sealing cracks in the road surface that would otherwise let in water and eventually turn into more potholes. In the past year, OCC's own machine, along with the shared Dragon, has fixed over 21,000 potholes. It is expected that the new one, over the next twelve months, could fill up to 14,000 more.



Residents weigh in over HGVs on rural roads

Villagers throughout Oxfordshire are working with the county council's trading standards team to police the scourge of heavy lorries ignoring weight limits on rural roads and bridges. And three out of the four most recent prosecutions in Magistrates' Court have come about after members of the public reported the drivers and their vehicles to the council. OCC enforcement officer Simon Mitchell said: 'While we and the police do actively patrol hotspots, our partnership approach with local residents is proving very successful.' Since February 2016, there have been 100 prosecutions for breaching weight restrictions brought by Oxfordshire Trading Standards resulting in £55,792.50 in fines. A further 57 more cases are under active investigation. In total 660 formal warning letters have also been issued to HGV drivers as a result of investigations into the 454 public reports, 157 vehicles seen by patrolling Trading Standards officers and 460 vehicles recorded by the ANPR camera at Newbridge



Speedwatch Report

Following concerns raised about safety in the Village, at 11 October 2017 Parish Council Meeting, it was suggested that the Parish Council should sign up for a Community Speedwatch campaign. This follows similar actions by other local villages and will run for a period of six months at a limited number of strategic locations before being reviewed.

It was emphasised that there must be a process for providing information to the village, not so much about who had been caught speeding but how many, with the aim of raising public awareness and improving road safety.

Volunteers were trained in April and the first sessions took place in the first week of May. There were 19 observations of vehicles exceeding the speed limit excessively including a number above 40 mph and one over 50 mph. Thames Valley Police have already sent 12 warning letters to the owners of those vehicles.

Further observations were taken in the second week of May prior to going to press. Details will be included in the next issue.

A BBC report of 7 May 2018 shows how other communities in the UK are reacting.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/stories-43841859>

Parish Council Notices

Annual Parish Meeting 2018

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday 9 May. Some of the papers from that meeting, including the Chairman's Annual Report and the Council's Draft Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018 are available at

<https://www.dorchester-on-thames.co.uk/parish-council/>

Monthly Meeting - June

The June meeting – the Parish Council's AGM - will take place in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 13 June** commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Agenda will be posted on Village Noticeboards and on the Parish Council section of the Village website – www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk - three clear days in advance of the meeting.

Annual Fireworks Display 2018

The date is confirmed as **Saturday 3 November**. Anyone who would like to volunteer their services to assist in any way with the organisation of this event should contact the Parish Clerk – please see below.

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

More information about the Village is available at

www.dorchesteronthames.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.


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Fishmonger

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Summary of the Parish Council Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 9 May 2018

After welcoming members of the parish and guest speakers that included Rob Marsh from PAGE, Becky Waller for FODLWOS and Michael Tyce of the Expressway Action Group the Chairman outlined the work of the Parish council over the past year. This was achieved with a full complement of eight councillors with help from Sue Graney and Val Howells as school governor, and key organisers of the village Fireworks and the Christmas tree outside the Co-op.

However this year's Firework display will be organised by Maggie Davies of Footsteps with help from other volunteers and it will be held on the evening of Saturday 3 November.

He went on to provide a snapshot of the year which included the efforts of the 'Friends of the Fleur' to purchase the pub as a community asset, the renting of a unit at Q Containers for Parish Council assets, the threat of an Expressway close to Dorchester and its potential impact on wildlife, archaeology and historic character and the Village Planting Project.

He also spoke of the status of the buses. Having started the year with our council-sponsored Dorchester Flyer Friday service to Wallingford, we were informed that a new 138 service was to run on three additional days from Wallingford via Dorchester to Berinsfield that would accept users bus passes. However, this was short lived and the service now runs just on a Tuesday as well as our own Friday 'Flyer' which is still well supported

While the Recreation Ground and pavilion are still maintained by the Parish Council, the disbanding of the Sports Committee makes it unlikely that major developments or improvements will be possible in the near future.

The chairman summarised the events that have led to the closure, demolition and re-purposing of Belcher Court over the past two years. This has left a feeling of resentment and frustration with many residents and councillors as, after seeking legal advice, we discovered that a covenant in perpetuity for Belcher Court to provide housing for elderly people in the village had been overturned by SOHA and we had not been informed.

In spite of strenuous efforts, we were unable to make any changes to the SOHA plans to demolish Belcher Court and build four commercial houses. Some residents have been told that demolition will start in July.

Affordable Housing: Over the past year we have been discussing the possibility of

having a small number of affordable homes in Dorchester at Allens' Pit. Any new homes would be built to provide housing for people with a strong connection to Dorchester, who either lived here as children or as adults for many years. We will be circulating a Housing Needs survey questionnaire in June to determine if and how great is the need.

The Allotments now have 65 allotment plot holders with 15 available for any newcomers. New footpath signs have been erected and there will be further signage to prevent 'fly parking' that might deny valid allotment users from parking. There will also be an allotment Bar-B-Q later in the summer. This will be the last year for the Oxford Universities Archaeology dig at the allotment.

The Speedwatch initiative has now finally started. The first session began on Thursday 3rd in the High Street. Motorists recorded driving at excessive speeds are reported to the police. It should be emphasised that the objective is to deter drivers from excessive speeding and not to enforce speed limits - that is the work of the police. So far there have been a number of compliments from local residents supporting the initiative and encouraging waves from some motorists.

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Further improvements are being made to the **Cemetery** in the next week or so in the form of new waste bins replacing the older ones but in more convenient locations. Last month a team of volunteers from Wallingford Green gym culled ivy from the trees in the cemetery.

Finances and Precept: Your Parish Council capped the precept for the second financial year running. It remains at roughly £100 per household per year, or £2 a week. We believe that this remains very good value for money for our roughly 420 or so households.

Bishop's Court Farm: Following the controversy surrounding Bishop's Court Farm since the new owner arrived in October 2016 there have been a number of planning applications for the site. Unfortunately, even now, we have still not been successful in forming a dialogue with the farm and have never had prior knowledge of any plans. Planning applications have been presented on a fairly

regular basis with no reference to previous or impending applications. To date there has been an application for

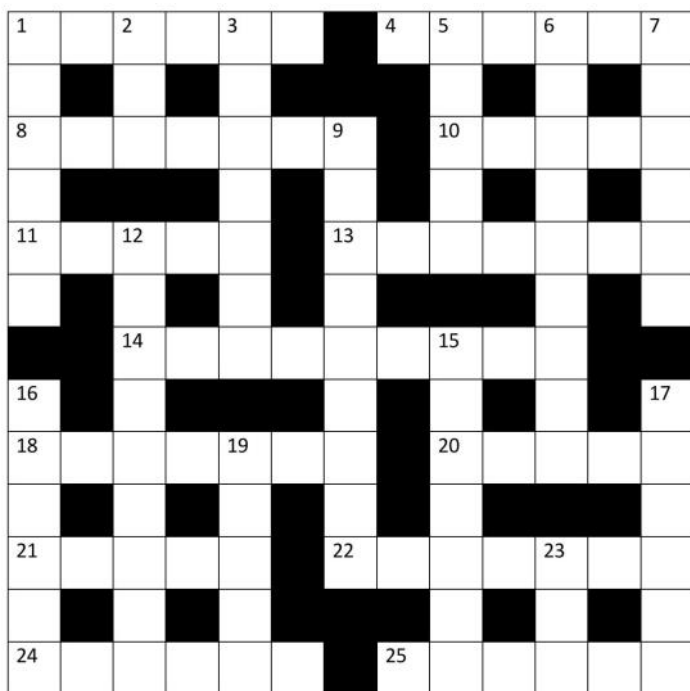
demolition of a larger barn and replacement by a new farmhouse with stables. This was refused and went to appeal before a planning inspector. The appeal was recently refused. In contrast there was an application for refurbishment of the existing historic Bishop's Court Farmhouse. Some of which dates from the 14th Century and is in need of major restoration work which we supported. In addition there have been approvals granted for two barn conversion to a house under Permitted Development. As far as other Planning Applications in the round are concerned, we made decisions on a total of 40 applications. Of those we approved or held no strong views on the vast majority and recommended refusal on 15. As you may know the result of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Referendum was – Yes: 398 (95.9%), No: 17 (4.1%), on a turnout of 51.2%. Thank you to all the members of the team that helped make it happen over the past five years for a job well done. There are also early plans for major developments of the Village Hall. Further news will be forthcoming.

This year will be the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI. This year the event is being called *Battle's Over*. The commemorations will take place on the weekend of Sunday 11 November. The bell ringers will be ringing for the event at 5 minutes after 7.00pm as will many churches across the country. This is timed to immediately follow the lighting of beacons at 7.00pm nationally. The Earth Trust are considering lighting some beacons at the Wittenham Clumps but so far no decision has been made. As a Parish Council we hope to augment and mark the day with some other local events. Parish councillor Viviane Quirke has taken a lead on this but if you would like to volunteer to help us in planning for this important event please let us know.

The Chairman appealed for more volunteers to help keep the village alive and vibrant as many of our long-standing village organisations are threatened with closure. This is endorsed by recent appeals for new members at the WI and the Lunch Club both of which have been village institutions over many years in Dorchester. Without volunteers the village will slowly become a dormitory of houses and not a community in the widest sense.

This is a summary of the Chairman's report. A complete version is available on the village website.

Solution to Dorchester News Crossword No. 4 Compiled by Slider



Across

1. Tools up again on extensions. ((6))
4. Heavens, there's a medium in, get lively! (6)
8. A man has dreamy eyes and gets a proposal. (7)
10. Small plug for the sea creature. (5)

11. Joint decimal base is working. (5)
13. Look at the pairing out of university - it's shameful. (7)
14. Stand summer in Cannes and hesitate to finish up a gangster. (9)
18. Remains a worker? One is an African. (7)
20. Pop up aerodrome save part of it for the really small creatures. (5)
21. A proposal restricting notice on a carrier. (5)
22. The old lady - almost profound and quite a personage. (7)
24. Dustin is confused, he is barely about. (6)
25. Undamaged popular delicacy. (6)

Down

1. Turn the men back to the gallery. (6)
2. A calisthenic creature? (3)
3. Idiotic to have chump in charge. (7)
5. It's all over a dish. (5)
6. Coming back when a song precedes fall. (5,4)
7. It's saucy climbing round the lamp to get echoing calls. (6)
9. Need to go to Ireland? Good we'll be getting together. (9)
12. Throw rand about, it's the way to get from Cape Town to London. (9)
15. Make it clear that no decoration is passé. (7)
16. Bradman had a top average, eh? (16)
17. Money from the French up front - that's nice. (6)
19. Upwardly attack the music. (5)
23. When you come to it you've had it! (3)



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June

Fri 1	Funny Cow (15)
Sat 2	Funny Cow (15)
Sun 3	A Quiet Place (15)
Mon 4	A Quiet Place (15)
Tues 5	An Ideal Husband Live screening from the Vaudeville Theatre Tickets £15 (Adults), £12.50 (Seniors and under18s)
Wed 6	Beast (15)
Thurs 7	Matthew Bourne's CINDERELLA (12A) Live screening Tickets £12.50 (Adults), £10 (under 16s)
Fri 8	Nothing like a Dame (U)
Sun 17	On Chesil Beach (15)
Mon 18	On Chesil Beach (15)
Tues 19	Swan Lake . Live screening from the Royal Opera House Tickets £15 (Adults), £10 (Seniors and under16s)

LIVE

June 2 Open Day 10.00am to 4.00pm

So you always wanted to know about the Corn Exchange but were always afraid to ask! Here's your chance to look behind the scenes, talk to people who volunteer, perhaps volunteer yourselves! The theatre will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm and there will be people scattered about the building ready to tell you what goes on and how it works. We'll show you the new renovations and let you see some of the heritage now exposed. You can see how our plays are produced and much more. There will be some interactive workshops which you can join in with or perhaps just watch. Come and see this fabulous theatre and enjoy a cup of coffee, cake and ice cream. **No booking required, just turn up. It's free entry of course!**

Sunday June 10 to Friday 15 7:30pm The Corn Exchange Drama Festival. This is the last of the local drama festivals and features companies from all over the county and beyond.

Thursday 28 June to Saturday 30 June 7.00pm with a 2:30pm matinee on Saturday. Sinodun Players and Encore present *Odyssey*, blending many traditions of Ancient Greek theatre with dynamic modern performance techniques, to recount many of *Odysseus'* thrilling adventures. In this magical, fun and action-packed performance; you won't need to know Homer's classic. It's full of colour, movement and music and will appeal to all ages. Tickets £10 (Adults), £6 (Children)

COMING SOON

Monday 2 July, a live screening of **Lady Windermere's Fan** by Oscar Wilde from the Vaudeville Theatre. 7:15 pm.
Tickets £15 (adults), £12,50 (seniors and under 18s)

Saturday 1 September, The Adventures of Andy Kershaw, Bunkfest's one man show in support of the Corn Exchange 8.00pm, All Tickets £15

Sinodun Players present **A Murder is Announced by Agatha Christie - 17-20 October 2018**

Thursday 22 November to Saturday 24 November, Showtime, another chance to see this musical extravaganza. 7:30pm, Tickets £15 (adults), £12 (under14s)

Tickets and further information, including additions to cinema programme included after going to press are available from www.cornexchange.org.uk or box office **01491 825000**.

Corn Exchange, Wallingford Garden Party

9 June 2018 at 3.30pm

Once again, two members of Wallingford's Corn Exchange will be opening up their riverside garden for a summer party to raise cash for the popular town centre theatre.

John and Jane Herring are offering their home for the event, which takes place on Saturday June 9, is a follow-on from last summer's very successful party.

Guests will be welcomed at 3.30pm with a glass of bubbly which will be followed by a sumptuous afternoon tea that includes savouries, cakes and scones. After tea, there will be the opportunity to sit back and relax and listen to a group of Sinodun Players' very own talented singers and musicians. There will also be a wine bar and a raffle.

Tickets for the event, which is open to all-comers, are just £15 and available from the Corn Exchange in person or by phone **01491 825000**. Also available online www.cornexchange.org.uk. The address and info on how to get there will also be available on booking.

More information from Julie Utley, email julieutley@aol.com or phone **01491 834987**.

Dorchester Bus Services

The 138 'Going Forward' bus that runs from Dorchester into Wallingford. runs on **TUESDAYS ONLY**:

Service to Wallingford

Leaves Dorchester at: 10.25 - 11.55 - 13.25
Leaves Wallingford at: 09.55 - 11.25 - 12.55

The bus now goes into Berinsfield, meaning that it could be used to visit the Health Centre, library or other services there.

Service to Berinsfield

Leaves Dorchester at: 10.06 - 11.36 - 13.06
Leaves Berinsfield Health Centre: 10.15 - 11.47 - 13.17
Bus passes can be used on this service.

The Dorchester Flyer runs on Fridays. See page 34.

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From above and below - Inner secrets of Wallingford Castle Inner Bailey?

Kevin Barton (of Landscape & Geophysical Services) will talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) about the 'inner secrets' of Wallingford Castle Inner Bailey.

In 2001, Kevin founded 'Landscape & Geophysical Services' to provide archaeological geophysical services in Ireland and overseas. In recent times he has brought his broad experience of remote sensing to assist communities in exploring their local heritage.

Much detailed historical and archaeological research has been carried out on the Anglo-Saxon establishment of Wallingford and the Norman construction of the first Castle. The most up-to-date research has been published in three primary publications with significant input by volunteers from Wallingford Museum and TWHAS.

Much has been learnt from the integration of the research results which have revealed that the Inner Bailey includes at least three halls and associated kitchens, a church and other buildings with a large garden area surrounding the church. There are questions still remaining about these structures and functional areas in the Inner Bailey which is the heart of the royal Castle.

Remote sensing with associated visualisation techniques can image archaeological features from above - in the air and below - on the ground. The talk will introduce the Castle and review the questions relating to the Inner Bailey. To address some of the questions, we will examine new visualisations of existing and recently processed airborne remote sensing data. Finally, with the help of TWHAS volunteers, some inner secrets of the Inner Bailey may be revealed in the presentation of preliminary results from a new remote sensing survey scheduled to be completed in the days preceding this talk.

This talk will be held on Wednesday 13 June, 7.45 for 8.00pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford.
Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

Katharine Keats-Rohan
www.twhas.org.uk



Wallingford Guided Historic Town Walks

Wallingford's Guided Historic Town Walks have created much interest and now take place regularly on Saturday mornings, starting from the Town Hall at 11.00am. Walks last 1 to 2 hours and cost £5 per person.

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

Just turn up - no booking is necessary!

Philip Burton
01491 836200

What's on in Wallingford



Wallingford Museum - now opening Sunday afternoons

This year's exhibition at Wallingford Museum 'Treasures with Tales' is proving very popular. From 3 June, the Museum will also open on Sunday afternoons (2.00-5.00pm) - and free entry for accompanied children continues!

The exhibition features a wide variety of fascinating objects loaned by residents, each with its own special significance - from exotic to fun to poignant - or just beautiful! Visitors are able to follow the 'Treasures Trail' and discover these things for themselves throughout the museum. Each will have its own 'tale' displayed and can be enjoyed by the whole family. The treasures are woven in amongst our other exhibitions which include not only the story of Wallingford's Saxon origins, its great Royal castle, the town's links with Agatha Christie, but also updates on the recent archaeology that is being uncovered by new developments around the town.

Stu Darby

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Wallingford Festival of Cycling
6 - 8 July 2018
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Lots of different jobs, FREE t-shirt, food & drinks provided, 50% discount on Saturday cycling show tickets and an invitation to Sunday post event party!

FIND OUT MORE www.wfoc.co.uk

Day by day

Sat
2 June **Oxfordshire Cricket Association**
Division 6
Dorchester II v Chesterton

Sun
3 June **Trinity 1**
8.00am
Holy Communion (1662)
(Canon Sue Booy)

10.30am
Morning Service
(Preacher: Jayne Marley, CEO
Earth Trust)

Mon
4 June **Friends of the Abbey**
6.30pm
Abbey Guest House

Sat
9 June **Oxfordshire Cricket Association**
Division 3
Dorchester v Brill

Wedding
1.00pm
Dorchester Abbey

Sun
10 June **Trinity 2**
8.00 am
Holy Communion (1662)
(Revd Christopher Evans)

10.30am
Sung Eucharist

Open Gardens
2.00pm to 5.00pm

Tues
12 June 10.15am
Short Communion

Wed
13 June **Parish Council**
Monthly Meeting
7.30pm
Village Hall

Fri
15 June **Music for Autism Concert**
Time tba
Dorchester Abbey

Sat
16 June **Oxfordshire Cricket Association**
Division 3
Dorchester v Bampton

Benson Choral Society
Mozart Masterpieces
7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey



Sun
17 June **Trinity 3**
8.00 am
Holy Communion (1662)
(Revd Jennifer Morton)

10.30am
Family Service

5.00pm
Choral Evensong

Mon
18 June **Service at The Close**
2.30pm

Festival of Voices Concert
6.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Tues
19 June **Festival of Voices Concert**
6.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Wed
20 June **Festival of Voices Concert**
6.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Thurs
21 June **Chiropodist**
Village Hall (see p7)

Classic Car Show,
1.00-4.00pm
George Hotel

Festival of Voices Concert
6.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Fri
22 June **Festival of Voices Concert**
6.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Sat
23 June **Oxfordshire Cricket Association**
Division 6
Dorchester II v Witney Swifts II

Sun
24 June **Trinity 4**
8.00am
Holy Communion (1662)
(Canon Sue Booy)

10.30am
Ordination

Archaeological Dig
Excavations begin
Until 20 July
Hempcroft Allotments

Sat
30 June **Oxfordshire Cricket Association**
Division 3
Dorchester v Risinghurst

Master Builders Club
Children's LEGO® Workshop
2.00pm-4.00pm
Village Hall

Safari Supper
7.00pm
(Pre-booked only)

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.28)

Wednesday **Holy Communion at Berinsfield Church**
9.30am
Keep Fit Senior Circuits
10.00am
Village Hall

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

Holy Matrimony

5 May Andrew John Winterbourne and
Susannah Claire Pattenden

Memorial Event

11 April Daphne Pritchard

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

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



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 Kate Herbert on **01865 340007**, email admin2@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

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.morerecycling.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**.

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

MOBILE POST OFFICE

The Mobile Post office stops outside the Co-op every Wednesday between 10.30 and 11.30 am

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 2 June **Black**

Fri 8 June **Green**

Fri 15 June **Black**

Fri 22 June **Green**

Fri 29 June **Black**

Weekdays from 7.00am
Saturdays from 6.00am

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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Susan Legg: Mezzo Soprano
Andrew Mackenzie-Wicks: Tenor
Michael Bundy: Baritone

Anita D'Attellis – Piano

The Elgar Orchestra

Christopher Walker – Conductor

Dorchester Abbey

Saturday 16th June 2018
7.30pm

Tickets: £18 + £15 (reserved), £12 (unreserved)

Available online from www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk

or phone 01865 407395