

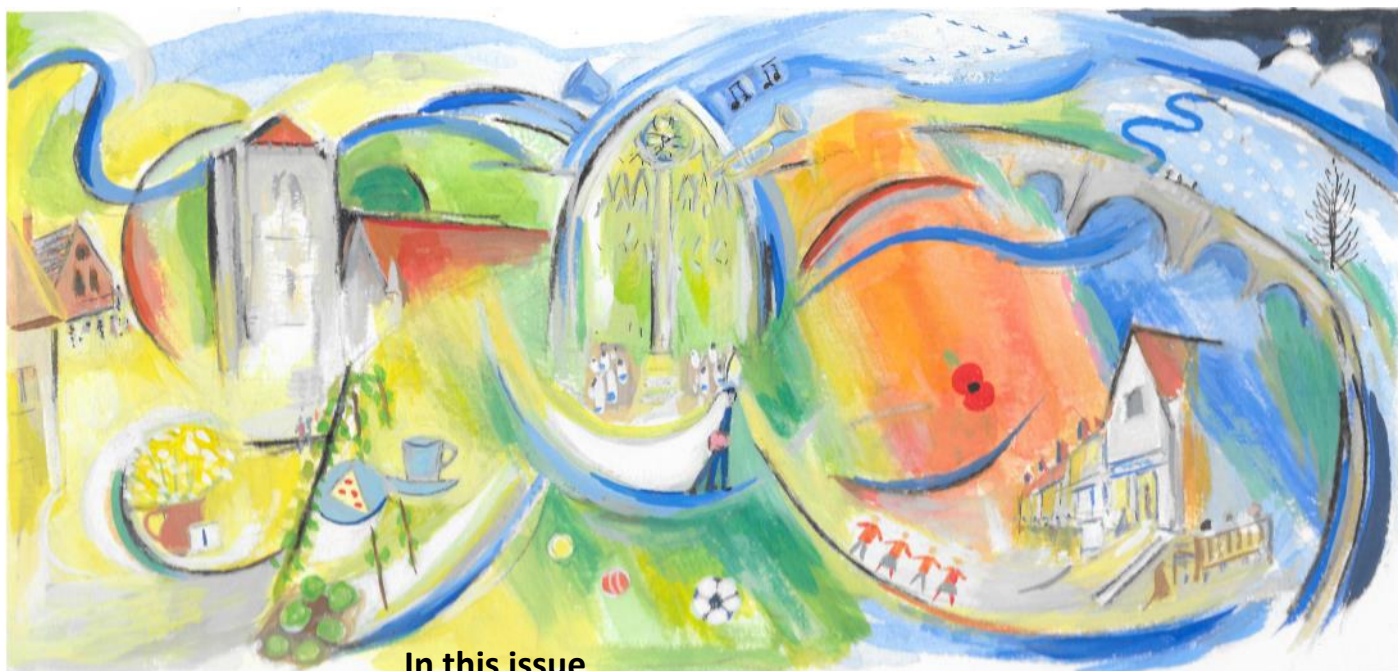
# ***Dorchester News***

*Free to every home in the parish*

***May 2019***







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Cover picture: Watling Lane in May.

## Deadline for June Dorchester News



email:

[dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk](mailto:dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

## DoT view

Alternate Mays are busy times in Dorchester. Each year sees the English Music Festival coming here for four days at the end of the month; and every other year the Dorchester Festival during the first half. This year we have the parish and district council elections as well. So what a busy month this is going to be.

The Festival has a number of old favourites—the Bash kicks it off in style, then there's the Tallis Scholars, the BBC Elstree Band, Comedy Night, Jazz Night and lots of other things, with new events that include a gin-tasting and a bake-off competition. And there's the Open Mic. Give it a go; you never know you might enjoy it. And don't forget the Fun Run. You can run or stroll round the course—a lovely start to the Bank Holiday. But *Romeo and Juliet* is bound to be one of the highlights. I have seen some of the rehearsals and I know it is going to be really good. Do go to that. See pages 11, 13 and elsewhere for more.

The English Music Festival brings lots of music lovers to the village, and enables villagers to hear some music that includes old favourites but also music you don't often hear. In previous years I have discovered works that have since become firm favourites for me, and I hope to find the same again this year. And there is 10% discount for villagers! See page 26.

Ian Brace

### Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Gillian Johnson

### Distribution Co-ordinator

Maurice Day

### Printed by

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*If you don't want to know the score, please look away . . . now!*

I wonder in how many houses those words have rung in recent weekends? I mean, almost every Saturday someone is kicking, batting or throwing something at someone or something else, be it net, basket or stumps. And it is, of course, difficult for the legion of interested followers and fans to keep up with every wicket, pass or goal. When I was growing up, around the time video recorders were becoming popular, the person who had taped the game and who therefore had to rush home without gaining knowledge of the results was something of a stock scene in sit-coms. When we want to enjoy a process, we don't want to get to the finish before time. This is true of sports games, detective novels, good films, days off and lots of the best things in life.

However, from time to time, we all are also painfully aware of the opposite phenomenon—when we are so desperate to arrive at an end (*any* end)—just that a process might stop. There is a saying attributed to Albert Einstein that captures the contrast between these two opposites beautifully. In 1929, he was asked to

describe the experience of relativity and is reported to have replied: *'An hour sitting with a nice girl on a park bench passes like a minute, but a minute sitting on a hot stove seems like an hour.'* The one goes too quickly; the other not nearly quickly enough. It probably feels to many of us that events out in the wider world are more like the second scenario than the first. By the time this piece is read, a few weeks from now, Brexit might finally be over . . . or Article 50 revoked . . . or negotiations might have concluded . . . or we all may still be sitting (and arguing) on the 'hot stove' together not really knowing what the outcome is going to be. Whatever does or does not eventually happen, I suspect that some will be disappointed, others elated and all of us fatigued.

For Christians at this time of year, the season of Easter captures both sides of this contrast. In the run-up to the festival, we spend time thinking about the hardships and temptations Christ endured and his death on a cross. And from Easter Sunday, we focus on his final victory over death, particularly evident in his empty tomb and his appearances to his friends. But without the death, there

could be no climax of the story in the Resurrection, and without the Resurrection the death would have not have the meaning that it does. Both the ending and how we get there are equally crucial (no pun intended).

There is something for all of us here—as individuals, as families and communities, as a nation. The story of our journey through the big decisions of life, can be as crucial as the outcomes of those decisions themselves. We pray that we might all learn to travel well together!

God bless you all.  
**Revd Dr Michael Lakey**

This is Festival month and I do hope that everyone will enjoy their part – whether organizing, volunteering or simply enjoying an event. The Festival is an excellent opportunity to welcome people to Dorchester on Thames and I look forward to welcoming people from the village and further afield to the Abbey for different events.

### Godparents Sunday Christenings Special Sunday 5 May 10.30am

We would like to extend a special invitation to you, including all children, parents, and Godparents, to remember and celebrate your Christenings. There will be a mini breakfast and children's entertainment from Juggling John. So bring your 'Godparents and teddies' to a special service in the Dorchester Festival Tent. You can collect your teddy if they have been at the 'Teddy Sleepover' the night before or bring any teddies who couldn't make it...

RSVPs welcome, and for more information  
[admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

### Festival Service Sunday 12 May

Please come to our special Festival Service packed with favourite hymns and popular anthems from our amazing Dorchester Abbey Choir.

### Ascension Day Thursday 30 May Toot Baldon

It is our custom to go to one of our higher parishes for Ascension Day! This year we will meet and celebrate at Toot Baldon with its glorious view across the valley to the Chilterns. I look forward to seeing you there. The service starts at 7.30pm.

### The Rev Dr Michael Lakey

By now most of you will know that Michael has been appointed Vicar of Chalgrove. After several years as part of the Team Michael has decided that his heart lies with parish ministry and Chalgrove is an excellent fit for his family – Amelia and Ava will be able to stay at their school and already have friends in Chalgrove. Michael will have a pub to look after. We will be extremely sad to say good bye to Kirsty, Michael and the girls in the summer but are delighted that this is such a good move for them.

### Abbey Concert Managers needed

Can you spare some time to be a volunteer Concert Manager and enjoy attending Abbey events such as orchestral and choral concerts. The Abbey provides a Concert Manager to assist all hirers during the period of their event at the Abbey. The Concert Manager meets the hirer on arrival to ensure that organisers have access to all they need for the set-up period, then remains on call during the rehearsal period, and looks after the venue at the concert/event. Anyone over 18 may apply and participation can contribute towards a CV and job applications. Full training is given prior to starting. A selection of dates would be agreed in advance, around one session per month. If you are interested in joining the team or would just like to explore it some more, please email Kate Herbert at [admin2@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:admin2@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)



## Dorchester on Thames Historical Society

**Wednesday 22 May 2019**  
**7.30pm, Village Hall Back Room**  
Members free, Visitors welcome (£3)

**Alex Davies on:**

*'The Archaeological Dig at Great Western Park, Didcot'*



The housing development at Great Western Park allowed archaeologists to explore in detail a vast area of landscape. This revealed significant discoveries from virtually every period, allowing for the reconstruction of the various ways in which the inhabitants of Didcot have lived over the last 10,000 years. The evidence is in many respects representative of changes that can be seen over much of southern Britain. This talk will introduce the prehistoric discoveries made at Great Western Park and discuss how they help us understand the lives of our ancestors.

A selection of artefacts found at Great Western Park will also be on display.

Alex Davies obtained his PhD in 2016 on Late Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement and society in the Thames Valley. He has since worked in post-excavation at Oxford Archaeology, primarily analysing and writing up prehistoric excavations and pottery. He is interested in all aspects of British and European prehistory, and the use of ethnography in the interpretation of prehistoric society.

### Other News

- **Shops and Pubs** We were overwhelmed by the attendance at our talk on 27 March and are hoping to repeat it for those who had to be turned away. We are immensely grateful to the local families and individuals who have helped us with this project. Meanwhile, come on our **guided tour** at the Festival on **6 or 11 May**.
- We are hosting Paul Booth's talk on the Dorchester Dig on **8 May**.
- There are still places available on our outing to Salisbury on **6 July** (see right).
- The new season begins on 25 September, when Mark Davies will give a talk entitled *'Professors of Rowing: the first Oxford v Cambridge boat races'*.

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

**Margot Metcalfe**  
Chairman

## Dorchester Historical Society Summer Outing

**Salisbury Cathedral and Close**  
**Saturday 6 July 2019**

Salisbury, with its iconic Cathedral and quintessential English Close has much to offer. Even if you have been before I expect you will not have had the time to visit everything. The Cathedral and Chapter House are a must and the Magna Carta is now back on display. There is also a restaurant in the Refectory.

In the Cathedral Close you can visit:

**Mompesson House**, now owned by the National Trust (**National Trust members remember to bring your card**), featured in the film *Sense and Sensibility*. A Queen Anne style town house it houses a fine display of English 18<sup>th</sup> century drinking glasses and a collection of stumpwork (raised embroidery). There is a lovely garden and tea-room.

**Arundells, 59 The Close**, was originally a medieval canonry, with the first recorded occupant being Henry of Blunston, Archdeacon of Dorset, who lived there from 1291-1316. The House has a fascinating history, the last occupant being the late Sir Edward Heath. It houses a very interesting art collection including paintings by John Piper.

**The Salisbury Museum** is also in the Close and well worth a visit.

09.00 bus leaves Bridge End car park

11.00 approx. arrive in Salisbury

16.00 depart from Salisbury

18.00 approx. arrive back in Dorchester at Bridge End car park

**COST: £25 (for the bus journey only – no refunds)**. 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](mailto: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.



Photo: [visitwiltshire.co.uk](http://visitwiltshire.co.uk)



## Hempcroft Allotments May

Well, Brexit uncertainty continues potentially up until 31 October, with a possibility that we leave without a deal. There could well be an impact on the availability and price of fresh fruit and vegetables. So why not consider taking an allotment and growing your own through the summer. While there is a very healthy occupancy of the Hempcroft Allotments at the moment there are still a number of plots available for rent. The normal size of an allotment is 10 poles (252 square metres) which is the size to feed a family of four people. This is generally too large for people these days and most of our rented plots are half size or quarter size

If you are interested please contact me by telephone or by e-mail [edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk).

**Edward Metcalfe**  
**01865 340160**

## Play Reading Evenings and DADS' next play

By the time you are reading this, we will have held the third play reading evening in Dorchester. So far, we have read plays by W. Somerset Maugham, Alan Bennett and George Bernard Shaw. The evenings are free to attend, open to all and, for the time being at least, DADS are providing free wine!

The next play reading evening will be held on **21 May** at 7.30pm in Dorchester Village Hall. Everyone is welcome, whether you would like to read or just want to listen.

Meanwhile, rehearsals for *Sex Please We're Sixty* are going really well.

It is an extremely funny contemporary farce which the cast are enjoying rehearsing. Performance dates are **Wednesday 19** to **Saturday 22 June**. Tickets are available via DADS website [www.dads.org.uk](http://www.dads.org.uk) and Dorchester Co-op.

## Clifton Hampden Patients Participation Group

For those who attend the Clifton Hampden surgery, we are having our AGM in the waiting room on Wednesday 29 May at 7.30pm

We would really appreciate your presence and interest in our future plans and to have your ideas. We can only contact patients who have given us their email addresses and hope that those who received our recent newsletter enjoyed it.

It would be lovely to hear from anyone willing to attend and support our group. We are particularly keen to have representation from all villages. So far, we have members from Clifton Hampden, Dorchester, Long Wittenham and Sutton Courtenay and occasionally other villages.

If you are interested, please contact Gerry Moscrop our PPG hon. Secretary [geraldmoscrop@btinternet.com](mailto:geraldmoscrop@btinternet.com)

**Mary Braybrooke (Chairperson)**

## Become a Friend of Dorchester Abbey

The Friends of Dorchester Abbey is an association with a legal identity separate from the Parochial Church Council and raises funds to be used exclusively for the restoration, maintenance, embellishment and improvement of the structure of the Abbey Church and the Abbey Guesthouse. These have included major repairs to the roof and stonework of the abbey, new sound and lighting systems, restoration of the historic wall paintings and a new high altar frontal.

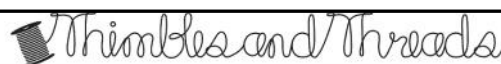
The Friends were formed in 1959 and over the years have promoted and supported social events such as concerts, lectures, flower and craft festivals as well as visits to cathedrals and other abbeys.

The subscription is not fixed, but we do ask for a minimum annual subscription of £20. Life membership is also available for a single payment of £300 per person or £500 for a couple.

Details of the work of the Friends together with application forms can be found on the Friends' notice board in the Abbey and on the Dorchester Abbey website

**[www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk](http://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk)**

For further information contact the membership secretary, Mrs Honor Juniper, **01865 343228** or email [friends@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:friends@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)



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### Advertising in Dorchester News

Costs per issue are for an eighth of a page £11.75 mono, £12.75 colour; quarter page £23.50 mono, £25.50 colour; half page £35.25 mono, £38.50 colour and full page £47.00 mono, £51.00 colour. There are ten issues per year.

Please send artwork to

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one week before the deadline for editorial copy given on page 2.

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

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## St Birinus Primary School News

Owl Class joined several other schools at the Oxfordshire Music Service Centre in Oxford in March for their second POPS concert. They all learnt songs like Mamma Mia and Dance with Me Tonight; it was great to see all the children singing well and their brilliant behaviour. Congratulations to Annabelle, Melissa and Jacob for their solo performances.

For Comic relief we held our cake sale, which made £91 for the appeal, a great amount. Thank you to everyone who donated cakes for the sale – it was very much appreciated.

Fox Class headed off to the Living Rainforest near Newbury – an amazing adventure linked to their Rainforest topic. They even allowed me to go with them. It was great to see so many animals that would be at home in the forest, even just the arm of the Sloth showing in the trees. The children enjoyed the experience and were brilliant listening to our guides.

In contrast, Owl Class visited Didcot Sewage works linked to their work on the water cycle. It was a chance to learn about what a good pipe looks like compared to one that has a 'fatberg'. It sounded a fascinating visit and they certainly learnt a great deal.

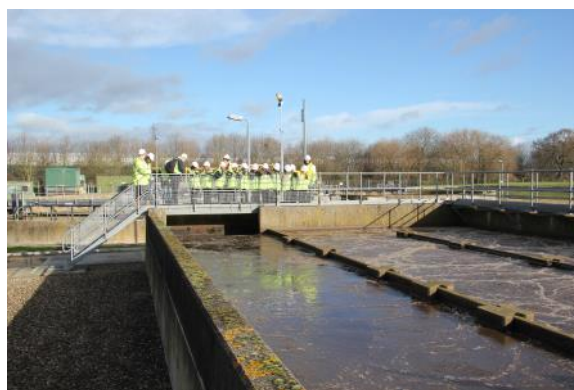
The Year 6 children headed off to the Abbey for the Y6 Diocese Service and workshops – this year's theme was 'Quests and Questions'. It was good to meet up with other Year 6 children and I know the singing was very impressive. They also had their annual Junior Citizen visit at the Oxford Fire Station to develop their life skills in an emergency – as always a reminder

to the children to keep the activities quiet from the other children, don't spoil the surprise!

For the eagle eyed amongst you – you may have spotted our new trim trail in the school playground that was installed over the Easter Holidays and caused great excitement on our first day back. This was a joint project between the PTA and the school and we are very grateful to the PTA for supporting us.

Our May Dancing event will be on **Friday 3 May** at 1.30pm. Please do come along to watch the children in action and maybe join us for the final dance.

**Russell Leigh**  
Headteacher  
Dorchester St Birinus  
CE Primary School



Didcot Sewage Treatment Works which Owl class visited in April.

Picture: corporate.thameswater.co.uk



## ST. BIRINUS SCHOOL PLAYGROUND APPEAL

Please help us raise **£15,000** to resurface our playground to create a multisport, intergenerational area for our children to enjoy, which we hope will include a Pickleball court for use by the local community.

To pledge your support online:

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-birinus-playground](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-birinus-playground)

To pledge via bank transfer or cheque, contact Val Howells:  
[valhowells@btinternet.com](mailto:valhowells@btinternet.com)

Our Parish Council have already pledged **£3,000**.

**THANK YOU**

# OXFORDSHIRE art WEEKS

Art Weeks  
in Dorchester.  
Two venues open.  
Please do come  
and see us.



Watercolour Paintings  
by  
Sophia Stewart-Liberty  
Open 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>,  
19<sup>th</sup> May.  
12.00-5.00p.m.  
66, High Street,  
Dorchester



Textiles by  
Ann Batchelor and  
Gill Whitten  
Open 11<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May  
inclusive 12.00-  
5.00p.m.  
17, Page Furlong



## OXFORDSHIRE art WEEKS

Sites 254, 255 & 256

You are invited to an exhibition of paintings, jewellery and  
ceramics at:

### Clumps Studio

The White Cottage,  
Little Wittenham,  
Oxon OX14 4RA

11th to 19th May 2019

11am to 6pm daily

Teas and cakes available in the Garden

Jane Duff—paintings  
Sarah Marchant—ceramics  
Hester Robinson Spoon—silver bangles and spoons  
Gillian Diggle—Ladies who Lunch jewellery





## Dorchester Golf Society

On Monday April 8, eleven DOGS members and one guest went to the Temple not to pray but to play. (The Temple is a lovely golf Course just outside Henley). The course is attractively set in a valley in the Chilterns, but the hills did take a toll



on some of the members by the end. The rough was less penal than on our last visit, though the greens remain difficult with many slopes and undulations. The DOGS, however were undaunted and returned some very respectable scores. Bill Maish and John Dauphin sharing third place on 32 points, John Garrod was second on 35, but the overall victory went to one of our newer members,

Mike Richmond, with 36 points, playing off 22. It was very much Mike's day. He also won nearest the pin and swept the pot with two birdies.

The players were sustained with sandwiches and an excellent homemade soup before play commenced and I am sure all will be keen to return next year

Our next outing is on **May 2** at an old favourite, Flackwell Heath near High Wycombe. We look forward to welcoming any new members who wish to join us.

Contact: John Edwards **01865 343062**

## Life in the fast lane

James Pratt is writing a new book about his great love of cars and his life driving and racing them. This life long Dorchester resident learnt to drive at age 11 and was banger racing by the time he was 15, moving on to FI stock cars a few years later, and from there on to auto-cross, and then rallying. In the book James describes the thrills and spills of driving cars fast competitively, and some of the close shaves that he has had over the years.

Watch out for this when it comes out.

### Marsh House Bed & Breakfast

Comfortable B&B in Shillingford.

Please ring **01865 858496** for further details.

### Chiropodist

Third Wednesday of each month,  
1.00–4.00pm

Village Hall (back room)

**15 May**

Tel: **07850 196714**



### Me(n) Time

In the spirit of true Dorchester Tennis Club equality, we shall be starting a Gentlemen's Morning, to be launched after our Spring Tournament. We are sure this will be as popular as our well established Friday Ladies sessions and look forward to seeing new members join us. More details to follow soon...

### Coach Required – Junior Section

We are continuing with our popular adult coaching sessions but are in urgent need of an additional coach for our Junior Section for the summer season; please do contact us if you can help us with this

Don't forget our regular sessions listed below and contact Chris Smith if you would like to join our very sociable club; all abilities welcome – just come along – it's a great opportunity to make new friends as well as to play

### Spring/Summer Court Schedule

**Spring Tournament – Sunday 28 April**

#### Sunday

10.30 am to 1.00pm - Open club mixed session

#### Wednesday

9.00am – 11.00am Adult coaching

11.00am – 1.00pm Open Club session

#### Thursday

10.30 am - 12.30 pm - Open club session

#### Friday

10.30am – 12.30am – Ladies Open session

**Autumn Tournament - Sunday 8 September**

Enquiries to Chris Smith

[chrisccsmith@btinternet.com](mailto:chrisccsmith@btinternet.com)

Tel **01865 341947**



## Football Results North Berks League Div 3



23/03/2019 Lambourn Sports Reserves 3 2 Dorchester First

Dorchester First have completed their fixtures for the Season, finishing fourth in their division.

### Fishmonger

The travelling fishmonger comes to Dorchester every Monday and will stop at 3.30pm in High Street near the War Memorial.

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# Romeo & Juliet

written by  
William Shakespeare  
directed by  
Caroline Seed

15th-17th & 19th May 2019

**Dorchester Abbey**

There will be a short talk and  
Q&A after the performance  
on Thurs 16th May

**tickets** £15 / £10

(16 & under half price)

**[www.dorchesterfestival.com](http://www.dorchesterfestival.com)**

and from Hair of Dorchester

**presenting**

Zach Morris as Romeo

Kelly-Ann Stewart as Juliet

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SERVED FROM 12 NOON THROUGH TO 8PM

*A choice of three roasts as well as fish, chicken  
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www.white-hart-hotel-dorchester.co.uk



[www.dorchesterfestival.com](http://www.dorchesterfestival.com)

As you read this the Festival will just be starting—62 brilliant events right on your doorstep in Dorchester. Do come along and enjoy the fun—there really is something for everyone and some events are completely free!

## Get bidding in the Online Auction!

Solve all your present problems or simply treat yourself to these great events usually at a good price! Amazing prizes, including holidays, a VIP Henley tent, Aston Martin & F1, cake, meals, pilates and flower arranging. See the website for details on auction lots. PLEASE take a look and support us—it's also really good fun!



## Essential Village Events

### Dorchester Dog Show

**Sat 4 May**

The dog show is fun day out for the whole village with categories to suit all ages of dogs and people from child handler to veteran & fancy dress

### Dorchester Duck Race

**Sun 5 May**

Ducks available from the Co-op or tent. Buy now and start decorating!



### Scarecrow trail

**Fri 3 May—Sun 12 May**

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



### 5k Fun Run (/walk)

**BH Mon 6 May 11am**

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

### Canon Custard Walk

**BH Mon 6 May 2pm**

Revd Sue walks on custard (not water) at the kids science afternoon—yes really!

**Book on line from the website**  
**[www.dorchesterfestival.com](http://www.dorchesterfestival.com)**  
**or through the ticket hotline**  
**0333 666 3366**

### Food & Gift Fair 11 & 12 May

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



Grand opening by Masterchef finalist Nawamin Pinpathomrat

### Bake Off Competition

**12 May 11.30am**

Bring along your favourite family cake or children's cupcakes to be judged by Christine Wallace, BakeOff quarter finalist, and be crowned Dorchester bakeoff champion!



### Cookery Demos

**11 & 12 May**

Bread with Nick Galer and Vegan cooking with Ribizli cafe in lovely Dorchester private kitchens.

### Mad Hatters Tea Party 12 May 2-5pm

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



### Local Artists Exhibition & Sale

**4—12 May 10.30am—4.30pm**

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



A beautiful 15<sup>th</sup> century coaching inn set in an idyllic location

We have a new chef and a new menu, offering a variety of exotic dishes and a traditional Sunday roast served with our signature Yorkshire pudding.

20% off ala carte menu at lunch times for senior citizens Monday to Saturday

We serve food Monday – Saturday 12-2.30pm and 6pm-9pm and Sunday 12-9pm



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## The 2019 Spring Flower Show Saturday 6 April

It was a pleasure, as always, to help organise our small but perfectly-formed Spring Flower Show. Entry numbers remain good, and the judges commented on the very high quality of entries. So, all that work you put in – it really does get noticed.

Thank you to all the committee members for their hard work in getting everything ready and making the show run so smoothly. And a special vote of thanks to our retiring Treasurer, Alison Myres, who has been a long-standing member of the committee, great supporter of the show, and our point of contact with all the judges. We'll really miss you Alison, but thank you for everything.

Our show is in a good financial position and we will be giving a donation to the Village Hall. The Autumn Show will be on **Saturday 14 September**, so see you then.

**David Wilkinson**



### Roll of Honour

Decorated boiled egg	Age 8 and under	1st Delilah Budd 2nd Mylo Budd 3rd Jessica King  Highly commended Loveday Goodwin Raffaella Goodwin Olivia Goodwin
Easter Hat	Age 9 and over	1st Alistair Mucklow
Robert Soffe Cup (Long Trumpet Daffodils)		Margaret and Simon Broadbent
Short Trumpet Daffodil Cup		Margaret and Simon Broadbent
Spring Flowers Cup (best flower exhibit other than daffodils)		Charles Dickerson
Vegetable Cup (best vegetable(s) in show)		Nick Forman
Britain in Bloom Cup (most points in all flower classes including flower arranging)		Janet DeLaine
Mary Tame Handicraft Plate (best piece of handicraft)		Hilary Warburton
Domestic Classes Cup (most points in domestic classes)		Nick Forman
Blackwell Photography Cup (best photo in the show)		Gaynor Roberts



## HENGE19 - a sense of place



Book the date: **Friday 20 to Sunday 22 September**

Artists' encounter an ancient hidden landscape.

Poetry, visual art, installation and music.

# HENGE

A sense of place

### Enjoy receiving Dorchester News?

Distributors are always wanted to help out. Just do your street. Distributors particularly wanted for Bridge End at this time. Contact Maurice Day:  
[mauricejday@btinternet.com](mailto:mauricejday@btinternet.com)



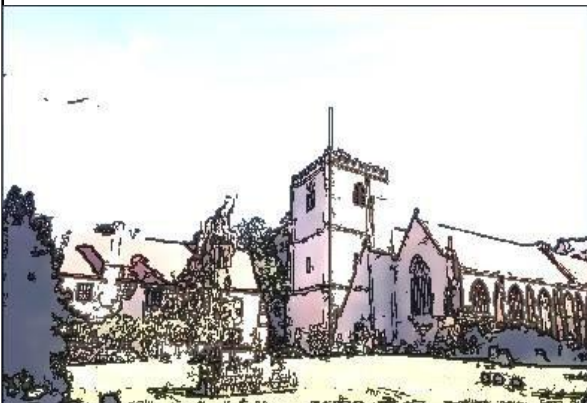
**Come and enter the Dorchester  
5K Fun Run on Bank Holiday  
Monday, 6th May at 11a.m.**

**You don't have to run, come  
and walk, bring the whole  
family and even the dog!! You  
might even win a prize...**

**Application form on  
[www.dorchesterfestival.com](http://www.dorchesterfestival.com) or  
entries on the day.**

## **Dorchester May Morning Sunday 5 May. (Note SUNDAY not MONDAY as previously)**

TWO A PART will again welcome May by singing from the top of the Abbey tower and then give a free concert in the Abbey. Funds raised from breakfasts and donations will be shared between the Festival Charity and YOUTH CHALLENGE OXFORDSHIRE (YoCO), a local charity established to support young people aged 14 -21 to develop resilience and confidence so that they can overcome the problems that they face during teenage years. Their year-long programme culminates with a week volunteering at the Nasio Trust centre for AIDS orphans and destitute children in Kenya.



## Continental Breakfast

From 8.30am in the Abbey

## Two A Part

Sing from the Tower at 9.00am, then in the Abbey

Breakfast tickets £5

**MUST BE BOUGHT IN ADVANCE**

Available from Dorchester Co-op,  
[tim.cook12@btinternet.com](mailto:tim.cook12@btinternet.com) or  
[www.dorchesterfestival.com](http://www.dorchesterfestival.com)



## Adopt a Grave

In our second report on the progress being made in the 'Adopt a Grave' initiative, set up to improve the village cemetery by restoring unsightly and distressing graves of once-respected and valued Dorchester people, Dorchester News asked Chris Hill to give his views on why he has become involved.

DN. What prompted you to adopt a grave?

CH. *"The 'Battles Over', the 2018 Centenary Remembrance of the end of WW1 that prompted the village to rediscover the history of local Dorchester soldiers who were killed in that conflict.'*

DN. Why does it matter that long-forgotten cemetery tombs are restored?

CH. *'It has often been said that the true measure of a civilised society is how they respect and look after their elderly people. In my view this also extends to how we honour and respect our dead, especially if they have made the ultimate sacrifice of giving their life for us to enjoy our freedoms. This is my way of recognising that debt.'*

DN. Tell us why you chose to restore a specific overgrown and uncared for grave.

CH. *'One grave that caught my eye, as it is a very longstanding village name, was Alma Cobb's. Her brother Roland had been killed in 1917 aged 19 and like hundreds of thousands of other soldiers he was buried in France close to where he was killed. He is commemorated with a mention on his young sister's gravestone.'*

DN. What do you know about Roland and how does he relate to our village?

CH. *'Roland was the tenth of eleven children who lived at Croft Cottage (Samian Way) and attended Dorchester Infants and Boys School winning prizes for his good work and attendance.'*

DN. How much time and effort have you spent in order to make Alma's grave, including a tribute to her brother Roland, look cared for again?

CH. *'Although the Cobb gravestone was in good condition there were no remnants of a grave surround and as it was adjacent to a yew tree the ground had become overgrown with elder bushes, tree roots and ground covering ivy. Much of the work was to carefully remove as much of these invading plants as possible and redefine the whole grave area. There's still work to do but I estimate I've so far spent 3 to 4 hours restoring this grave. It will never be a thing of great beauty, but it will be a fitting tribute to the lives of real people who once were a part of our village way of life.'*

DN. Why is it important for residents of Dorchester to become involved in commemorating past villagers who no longer have anyone looking after their last resting places?

CH. *'While the grounds of the cemetery are kept in good condition by the Parish Council the actual grave plots are the responsibility of family and friends of the person buried there. Sometimes these families have died out, moved away or are no longer fit and able enough to care for a grave. Some of these graves are falling into disrepair, with shrubs and even quite mature trees growing into the plots, which not only threaten the stability of the whole grave structure but cast a sad reflection on an otherwise valued and respected resting place for past villagers.'*

DN. What are your feelings when you walk around our village cemetery and see 'your grave' looking as though the person buried there is still remembered and respected?



CH. *'It gives me a feeling of great satisfaction that I've been able to make a small difference to just one grave and hope that if ever it became necessary some kind soul might do the same for me'*

DN. Why should other residents of Dorchester come forward and become involved in 'Adopt a Grave'?

CH. *'As I've already mentioned, I believe that respect for our elders and our departed is a sign of our humanity. I believe Dorchester is a village that shares this belief and if enough people can give just a few hours of their time then together we can make a big difference.'*

We plan to include further reports of 'Adopt a Grave' involvements in future editions of Dorchester News. But more volunteers are still needed. There's no commitment other than some light gardening work and an interest in finding out about the lives of our past residents. If you are interested then contact our Parish Clerk, Geoff Russell, his details are listed in the back pages.

**May Play Reading - Free Wine!**

7.30 pm Tuesday, 21 May - Dorchester Village Hall

**DADS**  
Dorchester Amateur Dramatic Society



Contact [spwsixty@dads.org.uk](mailto:spwsixty@dads.org.uk) for more information



## Dorchester From the air: With the publication of aerial photographs from the Cambridge



Cambridge University has a remarkable archive of aerial photographs of Britain beginning in 1945 and containing nearly 500,000 images. They were taken as part of a pioneering project that enabled archaeologists to use crop marks as means of spotting the evidence for the hidden remains of vanished historic sites. Most of them are black and white but there are a few early colour photographs of towns and cities. The first batch of 1,500 items from the collection has now been digitised and is freely available on line at [cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk](http://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk). Not unexpectedly given the richness of our historic landscape, they include many images taken in

the vicinity of Dorchester. In particular there is an evocative colour photograph of the village taken in 1948. It was the lead picture on the BBC News website when it announced the availability of the archive. We are delighted to feature it here with, by way of contrast, a recent aerial view taken almost from the same position by Simon Crehan in 2016.

Although we sometimes think of Dorchester as timeless, taken together the two photographs chart the extraordinary changes that have taken place in the appearance of the village between the two dates. In 1948 Dorchester was just

emerging from the austerity years of World War II. The need for many villagers to grow their own food is vividly captured by the allotment gardens and smallholdings that form the setting for nearly all the houses between the High Street and Watling Lane. Interestingly, there is only a single shed on the Hempfield Allotments. Similar vegetable plots are also prominent to the east of Queen Street and beyond the Manor House where what is now Monks Close is occupied by a field of pigs. The remnants of the yard of Manor Farm was still in productive use. Petrol was rationed and the main Henley to Oxford trunk road which winds its way along the



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1948



study of the village in advance of designating a conservation area which described six shops, a restaurant, five antique shops, seven public houses and various businesses including three petrol stations. Many of those had gone by 2016, although thankfully we still have the White Hart, the George, Hair, Lily's and the Co-op to meet our needs and hopefully the Fleur will reopen as a public house in the near future.

Fortuitously it was in 1948 when the first photograph was taken that the Act which protected listed buildings

High Street carries very little traffic. Significantly for those of us today who struggle to find a gap to park, the on street parking of private cars is totally absent throughout the village and there was no need for a dedicated car park at Bridge End. The first sheds that housed Joe Pratt's business on the site of the forge off Malthouse Lane had been erected in the previous year and Dr Pritchard's house in Martins Lane stood in solitary splendour. The slaughter house which served the butcher's shop in the Shambles can be seen across the road next to the toll house and Old Alice's thatched cottage by the Abbey churchyard had not yet been destroyed by fire. Most of the housing in the village is concentrated along the High Street and Rotten Row with only a few sporadic houses in Queen Street, the Abingdon Road and along the old Oxford Road. Many of them date from before the twentieth century and it is almost as though there had been little change to the physical form of the village since Queen Victoria was on the throne. Only

the fishing lake on the Drayton Road hints at the massive programme of gravel extraction which was to create the watery landscape at the northern end of the village and the new community of Berinsfield visible in the 2016 view had not yet been planned.

It was in the 1960s and '70s that the significant expansion of the village which is evident in the modern photograph took place. New housing developments dating from those decades include Beechcroft in the High Street, Queens Close and Jemmetts Close along Queen Street, Monks Close off Manor Farm Road, Page Furlong on Drayton Road and the gradual infilling of individual plots on the Oxford and Abingdon roads. The social housing at Belcher Court has come and gone and in the 1980s the retirement homes at Herringcote replaced the field in Martins Lane which Miss Herring rented for her donkeys to graze. Other changes in the interval between the two aerial photographs have been more ephemeral. In 1973 the County Council carried out a

first came into force and the open land in the centre of the village was scheduled as a statutory Ancient Monument in 1961. The designation of the conservation area – only the ninth in the whole county at that time – and the inclusion of Dorchester in the Oxford Green Belt in 1975 have ensured that further expansion in the size of the village has not taken place, unlike other nearby communities. And now we have further protection through the Neighbourhood Development Plan with its stated objective of nurturing and protecting the natural and built environment of the village for future generations to enjoy.

We remain a thriving and dynamic community. The variety of historic buildings which are at the heart of the village are well maintained and the magnificent Abbey continues to dominate the view. Perhaps what is most heartening about both photographs is that the rural landscape of fields and trees which forms the setting for our beautiful village remains intact. Long may it remain so.



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## A Poppy Appeal Organiser Needed to coordinate this year's Poppy Appeal in Dorchester on Thames

We currently have a vacancy for a Poppy Appeal Organiser to work with our team of volunteers and coordinate the Poppy Appeal in Dorchester on Thames. This role can be carried out by an individual or a team of people.

The support for our armed forces provided by the Royal British Legion is as relevant today as it was back in the years following the First World War. From Sports-based rehabilitation courses and careers advice to dedicated care homes for older veterans, the Legion is here to ensure every member of the Armed Forces community and their families receive the support they need.

Without local volunteers we would be unable to have a Poppy Appeal presence throughout Oxfordshire and the local community in Dorchester on Thames has always been very generous to the Poppy Appeal so it would be great to keep a presence there.

If you would like to find out more about this important role, please contact Jess Jenkins, Community Fundraiser Oxfordshire by emailing [jjenkins@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:jjenkins@britishlegion.org.uk) or telephone **07500 225215**.



## Bike Ride Kempton Park to Caversham 23 March 2019

Could I please thank everybody who sponsored me in this event. It raised funds and awareness for the British Heart Foundation which does an incredible job overcoming problems in this area. Over 1,500 cyclists took part in this well-organised event.

It took me just over four hours to cover the distance. So far I have raised £210 for this good cause. If you would like to donate retrospectively please see me or I can be called on **01865 341503**

Thank you all

**James H Pratt**



Cyclists en route from London to Reading for the BHF ride.

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01865 340792

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Dorchester Amateur Dramatic Society

[www.dads.org.uk](http://www.dads.org.uk)

## More than just sew-sew



Gill Whitten and Ann Batchelor, who are opening for Art Weeks to exhibit articles made from textiles. They have made quilts, throws, wall hangings, wearable art, pictures, bags, bowls, mats and much much more. Call in and see them sewing and hopefully be inspired to up-cycle your own fabrics. They are happy to give help and advice.

See page 8 for opening details



## Clive Clayton Davis 1951-2019



Clive showed from an early age a passion for mechanical devices. Indeed his first words as he crawled along a sea front were apparently not mama or papa but car car! Aged eleven he was completely dismantling and servicing lawnmowers and re-assembling them. At 14 our father trusted him enough to service the family car. Possessions appeared to matter little to Clive, apart from having a car with technology he could admire.

Clive had a pragmatic intelligence, free of airs and graces, which he applied diligently throughout his life. He was able to maintain his sense of humour even in the face of his illness and approached the end of his life as he had lived; directly, with courage, determination and without self-pity. In this all of us may find inspiration.

Clive went to Merchant Taylors School from the age of 12 where he made life-long friends. He was young for his class and his time at school was not initially easy and those friendships mattered.

Around the age of 13 Clive showed early financial acumen. He started his own business called 'Redwood, House and Gardens' based on the revolutionary idea

of charging our parents or our grandmother, who lived with us, fees for household chores. Needless to say, accounts were kept of every transaction with an audit trail provided using a ticketing machine to record the job, charge and date and guard against any potential parental bad debts! The bookkeeping enhanced Clive's innate business negotiation skills, as we soon discovered our grandmother would frequently pay double the parental rate for many of the jobs!

On leaving school Clive flourished. He

worked with characteristic industry to pass his accountancy exams at the remarkably early age of 21 and, demonstrating the highest financial integrity and diligence, he became a financial director at the age of 26. Later he developed his skills moving to further senior positions at many differing companies.

In his early twenties he met the love of his life, Angela, with whom he shared over 42 years of devoted married life. I know that in his last months Clive greatly enjoyed looking back through photos and videos with Angela of their life together and travels and the family pictures of Philip, Katy, Christopher and Alexander growing up. Family life was core to Clive's values. He was thrilled at Katy and Ivan's wedding in 2017 and bringing Noah, Isaac and Clara into his life. He was delighted with Christopher's work as an architect and with Alexander's recent PhD and continued research work. He loved Philip's graphic designs and more recently relished becoming a grandfather with the birth of his granddaughter, Jadzia, to Philip and Dallas.

He will be remembered as an endearing and humorous uncle, brother and friend and above all a loving husband and father.

# Dorchester Safari Supper Saturday 22nd June

£20 per person incl all food & 3 glasses of wine  
Fundraising for Dorchester Abbey

7pm drinks & canapes at The Manor House

Main course (at a house in Dorchester)

Pudding (at another house in Dorchester!)

Coffee (at Dorchester Rectory)

Tickets from:  
Steph Forman  
[steph@forman.org.uk](mailto:steph@forman.org.uk)  
340434



## Parish Council Notices

### Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Wednesday 8 May** at which the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Council will be elected for the coming year. The meeting will take place in the back room of the Village Hall. The Agenda will be posted on Parish noticeboards and on the Parish Council section of the Village website:

[www.dorchester-on-thames.co.uk/parish-council/](http://www.dorchester-on-thames.co.uk/parish-council/) three clear days in advance of the meeting.

All Parish Council meetings are open to the public; a resident who wishes to raise any matter of concern is welcome to do so at the start of the meeting.

### Dorchester Fireworks

The date for this year's Fireworks Display has been set as **Saturday 2 November**.

### 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**. Text messages are always welcome. e-mail: [parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

Cllr Chris Hill, the Chairman of the Council, can be contacted via [chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk](mailto:chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

For information about the Parish Council go to [www.dorchester-on-thames.co.uk/parish-council/](http://www.dorchester-on-thames.co.uk/parish-council/)

This includes the minutes of all Parish Council Meetings and financial information such as monthly bank balances and payments as well as a record of all planning matters upon which the Parish Council has been consulted and reports from our County and District Councillors.

## Parish Council

### Speedwatch



During our three early April Speedwatch sessions (with one rained off), 18 vehicles were recorded at above 36mph of which eight were at 40mph and above and two at 45mph and above with one recorded at 48mph.



Our Team is pleased that two additional Volunteers have joined and will receive training after the school holidays. Of course, further Volunteers will be most welcome.

The Parish Council will consider the following proposal in a future meeting, possibly in May, when villagers' opinions will be requested:

- Installation of a speed limit of 20mph through High Street and around Queen Street and Martins Lane.
- Installation of four permanent speed indicators (like Burcot) located in Meadside, Bridge End, High Street and Abingdon Road.

Our County Coucillor would be requested to arrange funding for the Speed Limit and Speed Indicators.



### Fire fighters

Have you ever thought of becoming an on-call firefighter?

Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service are looking for On-call Firefighters to join their team!

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On-call Firefighters are the backbone of the fire service and anyone can be one. If you're employed full-time, are a parent, out of employment or just have some spare time, you can respond to emergency calls.

On-call Firefighters are trained and paid for their time and service - and on average are expected to be called out two or three times each week for about an hour at a time - this can be at night or during the day.

They are looking for anyone over the age of 18, who is physically fit (this can be worked on), doesn't suffer from vertigo, claustrophobia or dislike the sight of blood. They need good common sense, to be enthusiastic, reliable and honest.

If this sounds of interest, please visit [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oncallfirefighters](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oncallfirefighters)





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



## **£218m secured for major transport links in Didcot Garden Town**

OCC, working in close partnership with South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse district councils, was awarded the funding to support the creation of thousands of new jobs and houses, including affordable homes. The successful outcome of the bid was announced by Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, in the Spring Statement and is part of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Housing Infrastructure Funding (HIF) programme. The package of measures has previously been identified in Local Plans to provide the infrastructure that helps deliver homes. The main schemes for developing Didcot are:

- A4130 widening from A34 Milton Interchange towards Didcot;
- A new 'Science Bridge' over the A4130, Great Western Railway line and Milton Road into the former Didcot A Power Station site;
- A new Culham to Didcot river crossing between the A415 and A4130;
- A Clifton Hampden bypass

All schemes include improved segregated walking and cycling routes which will give people real travel choice. The lack of suitable crossings over the railway line and river coupled with the success of the Science Vale area has resulted in heavy congestion. Construction is currently programmed for mid-2021 and completion is expected by March 2024.



## **Delivering an Older People's Strategy for Oxfordshire**

A strategy setting out how agencies will work together to deliver a positive future for the county's older population has been approved. 'Living Longer, Living Better: Oxfordshire's Older People's Strategy' was produced in 2018 following the redesign of the Health and Wellbeing Board. It was developed by OCC and Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group. The draft strategy went out for wider public consultation between December 2018 and February 2019 and received 236 individual responses. Overall, there was strong agreement with the vision, priorities and outcomes. Following approval by the council's Cabinet and the Health and Wellbeing Board, planning is now under way on delivering the strategy.



## **County Council backs Joint Strategic Spatial Plan**

OCC supports the aspirations of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, which was out to consultation until 26 March 2019. As part of the Housing and Growth Deal that the six Oxfordshire councils signed with the government, the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 will consider issues such as housing and infrastructure while also keeping and enhancing Oxfordshire's heritage and natural environment. The plan will also promote public transport, cycling and walking and will make healthy living and wellbeing a priority. The aspirations for Oxfordshire 2050 described in the consultation document also include supporting economic growth, improving housing availability and increasing transport connectivity across the county. In its submission to the consultation OCC's response included:

- Greater emphasis on the need for an increase in sustainable modes of travel, and to enhance messages around public health and the environment
- Highlight the need for charging points for electric vehicles into all premises together with full fibre broadband
- Focus on the need to ensure that cycling and walking levels and traffic reduction are radically improved

There will be another round of consultation in the summer, which will cover: place-shaping principles, policy options including levels of housing and employment growth, and broad locations for new development.



## **Oxfordshire to get boost from women's cycle race**

Oxfordshire can expect economic and health benefits from hosting a stage of the prestigious OVO Energy Women's Tour professional cycling race on Wednesday, June 12. A stage of the high-profile British cycling event has been secured by the county council and five districts in a three-year deal with race organisers SweetSpot. In a comparable stage in last year's race in Warwickshire, additional local expenditure linked directly to the event totalled £2m by around 100,000 spectators. Nearly two-thirds (63%) came from outside the county and 67% of spectators said they were inspired to cycle more often. This year's stage will start in South Oxfordshire and end at Blenheim Palace. Details of the exact route, which will also pass through the Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire, will be revealed in the coming weeks.

## **Councillor's Priority Fund**

This year I have awarded grants to the following Parish Councils and community groups in my Division:

Warborough Parish Council: New railings for War Memorial

Employment Action Group – The Berin Centre: Repairs to building & new classes  
Baldons Parish Council: Improved parking on the green  
Berinsfield Bus Club: Subsidy for bus fares to Abingdon

Culham Parish Council: Application for speed limit reduction

I am already awarding grants to community groups for the coming year 2019-2020.



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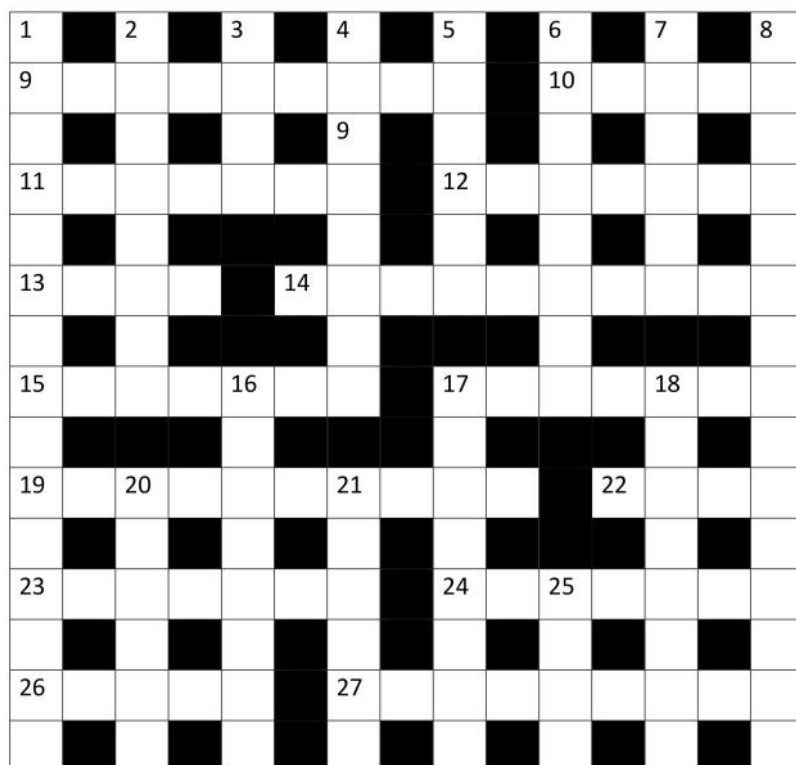
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**[www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk](http://www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk)**



# Dorchester News Crossword No. 8

Compiled by Slider



## Across

- 9 Fruit used for sweet drink in Russia perhaps? (9)  
 10 Short circle surrounding European city (5)  
 11 Cutting head off makes sense. (7)  
 12 Pipe in the back portion of cortisol occipitally stressed. (7)  
 13 The beans are capital. (4)  
 14 Dig around a bit for a way to catch Mustela. (10)  
 15 Fighting duels, no small aggregations. (7)  
 17 Back up if the matter goes back to Hull perhaps. (7)  
 19 Caught? Cursed, confused about nothing and got away from base. (10)  
 22 Foot doctors are back at one. (4)  
 23 Some deride if I educate to be given the highest status. (7)  
 24 The odds are on a foreign milk returning and occupying space. (7)  
 26 High level lutenist caught going back for material. (5)  
 27 The way to secure an easy bird ? (5,4)

## Down

- 1 As a matter of honour but with uncertainty I deny title of Hun. (2,3,4,2,4)  
 2 Cleared off to bend-press together by the sea. (8)  
 3 It's a wrap for the South African bible class. (4)  
 4 With a fireplace on board the ship will be grounded. (8)  
 5 Get tough with part-timer's hesitation. (6)  
 6 This red-head sounds to be built up on work. (8)  
 7 A smell belonging to us? This can't be serious. (6)  
 8 Contesting to put it up in competence but unable to get on. (15)  
 16 After half a century atomic change was given great importance. (8)  
 17 Keep the children in hats. (8)  
 18 They could be standing for no tax on altered particles (8)  
 20 Let it rip, let it rip, let it rip! (6)  
 21 Left before the performance to work on the text. (5)  
 25 Desire the current chap. (4)

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# From your MP...

## ...John Howell

The activities in Parliament in recent months have been far from the usual and it is clear from many questions raised with me that even the more normal procedures of Parliament can be confusing. There are indeed some peculiarities wrapped up in historic process. With some of the recent voting, especially on indicative votes, I have set out my own guide to try to help. With amendments and counter amendments, unless you follow it closely, it is not always obvious what a vote is actually on and thus there can be misunderstanding over what an individual MP has actually supported or opposed. I have been accused of supporting things I have not supported and vice versa!

Questions over how Parliament works are not new. I am often asked about the role of an MP or to speak to groups on what I do. A few years ago I wrote a series of articles on different aspects of the workings of Parliament and thought it might be helpful to write on this again in response to recent queries. There is too much for one newsletter so I will write a mini-series over the coming months.

*There is no job description for an MP and each MP has to work out the best way to pursue the role for themselves. The main task is to consider and propose new laws as well as raising issues relating to the constituency or constituents.* This is not always easy with contentious and divisive issues as has been seen of late. It is always important to listen to different views and to weigh up arguments. In the end every MP has to make a judgement on what they say and how they vote on particular issues. Growing use of social

media has brought an interesting dimension to politics and to the work of MPs and I will look at this specifically in a later article.

By and large a MP's time is divided between working in Parliament or representing parliament elsewhere and working in their constituency. When Parliament is sitting MPs are expected to be in Westminster from Monday to Thursday and so time in the constituency is limited. Outside of sitting weeks there is more time for constituency meetings and visits. A key constituency time for me is the September recess which is the only recess that does not coincide with school holidays and so many more people are available than in other recesses.

During the course of a week in Westminster there are many competing demands on an MP's time. Time is divided between scrutinising legislation, attending debates, committees, briefings and other meetings, and responding to correspondence. These competing demands mean that it is not always possible to attend a particular debate or drop-in session that a constituent may ask their MP to attend, although I try to fit in as much as I can each week.

When an MP wants to speak in a particular debate they are dependent on being called by the Speaker or the Chairman. Sometimes time may run out before you are called at other times contributions are time limited to allow more people to have a chance to speak. The website 'theyworkforyou.com' records the activities of all MPs. According to their data I have been included in the top 100

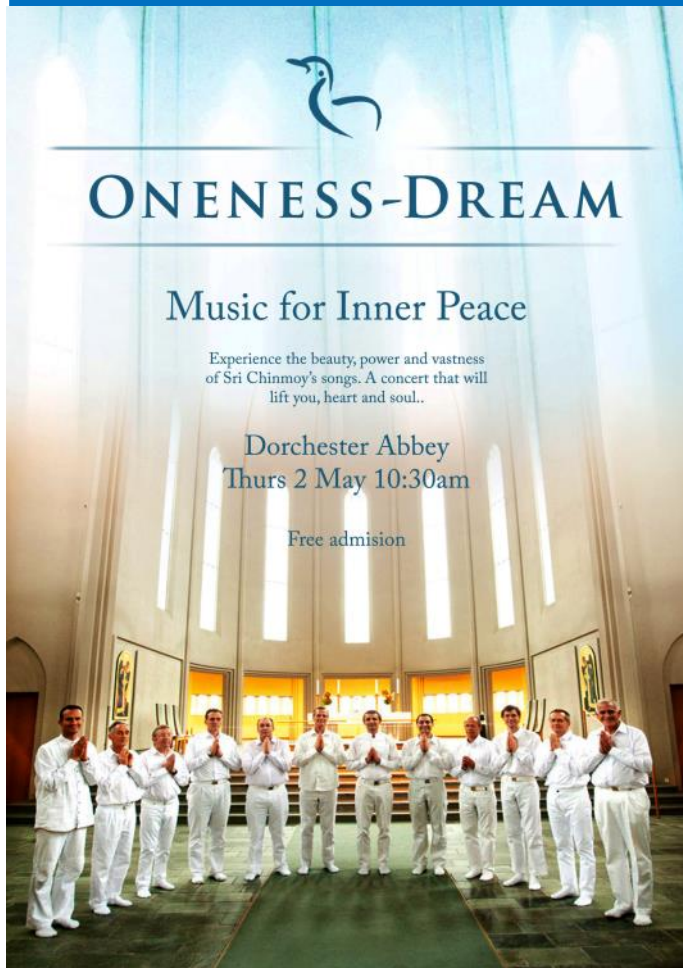
backbenchers for speaking in the House of Commons. In addition to speaking in debates, issues can be raised in public questions to a Minister in the Chamber of the House of Commons. However some issues are better raised directly with Ministers rather than on the floor of the House. It is essential to choose the best way of raising an issue to get the desired action or response.

I will write more on other aspects of the work and workings of Parliament in future months. In the meantime if there is an issue that concerns you please do let me know. You can email me at [howelljm@parliament.uk](mailto:howelljm@parliament.uk) or write to me at the House of Commons (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA) or my constituency office (PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD).

If you would like to be on the circulation list for my general e-newsletters and special briefings on specific issues please email me at

[john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com](mailto:john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com).

For more information about my work both in Westminster and in the constituency please do visit my website which is regularly updated. The address is [www.johnhowellmp.com](http://www.johnhowellmp.com). You can also follow me on twitter @johnhowellmp or on Facebook [www.facebook.com/john.howellmp](https://www.facebook.com/john.howellmp)



### Oneness-Dream Dorchester Abbey Thurs 2 May 10.30am

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**Coffee Morning**  
21 May and 18 June 10.30am

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[www.st-birinus-primary.org.uk](http://www.st-birinus-primary.org.uk)





**Cinema:** All regular performances start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

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#### May

Wed 1	<b>At Eternity's Gate (12A)</b>
Thurs 2	<b>At Eternity's Gate (12A)</b>
Fri 3	<b>Dumbo</b>
Sat 4	<b>Dumbo</b> 2.30pm
Sat 4	<b>The White Crow</b>
Sun 5	<b>The White Crow</b>
Mon 6	<b>Bel Canto (15)</b>
Tues 7	<b>Bel Canto (15)</b>
Wed 8	<b>The Sisters Brothers (15)</b>
Thurs 9	<b>The Sisters Brothers (15)</b>
Fri 10	<b>Red Joan (12A)</b>
Sun 12	<b>Red Joan (12A)</b>
Mon 13	<b>Red Joan (12A)</b>
Wed 15	<b>Styx (12A)</b>

#### LIVE SCREENINGS

**Tuesday 14 May 7.00pm** **NT Live: All My Sons**

Tickets £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)  
Broadcast live from the Old Vic Theatre in London in co-production with Headlong. Arthur Miller's blistering classic drama starring Academy Award-winner Sally Field (*Steel Magnolias*, *Brothers & Sisters*) and Bill Pullman (*While You Were Sleeping*, *Independence Day*) and directed by Jeremy Herrin (previously directed National Theatre productions of *This House and People*, *Places and Things*).

**Thursday, 16 May, 7.15pm**

**Tickets £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)**

The Royal Ballet live from The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Conductor: Jonathan Lo, Cast: Lauren Cuthbertson, Sarah Lamb, Vadim Muntagirov  
*Within the Golden Hour* - Christopher Wheeldon's ballet to a score by Ezio Bosso has been acclaimed as one of his finest works. Incorporating music by Vivaldi.

New ballet by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui - Acclaimed contemporary choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui creates his first work for The Royal Ballet.

*Flight Patter* - Canadian choreographer Crystal Pite's ballet is a moving exploration of the refugee crisis, from the plight of millions of displaced people to individual human relationships, set to music from Górecki's *Symphony of Sorrowful Songs*.

#### LIVE SHOWS

**Saturday, 11 May 8.00pm In Loyal Company**  
**Tickets £12**

The incredible true story of missing World War II soldier and prisoner of war Arthur Robinson, written and performed by his great-nephew, David William Bryan. May 1941, Arthur Robinson, joins up becoming a private in the 18th reconnaissance division. Deployed to Singapore, his ship is destroyed by Japanese dive bombers on arrival. Arthur is declared missing. This extraordinary true story of survival is a tour-de-force war epic.

**Saturday, 18 May, 7.45pm Eva Cassidy: The Story**  
**Tickets £12**

Elsa Jean McTaggart presents the story of Eva Cassidy, through song, story and video footage. Eva Cassidy was an American singer and guitarist known for her interpretations of jazz and blues. In 1992, she released her first album, *The Other Side*, a set of duets with musician Chuck Brown, followed by the 1996 live solo album titled *Live at Blues Alley*. Accompanied by Mr Lister on piano and bass, this is a deeply Includes Elsa singing with Eva Cassidy.

**Wednesday, 29 May to Saturday, 1 June, 7.45pm**  
**She Stoops to Conquer**  
**Tickets £12**

Sinodun Players present the classic comic play Love, intrigue, mischief and misunderstanding fill the stage in the Sinodun Players' production of the popular 18<sup>th</sup> century romp, *She Stoops to Conquer* by Oliver Goldsmith. Originally entitled, *Mistakes of the Night*, events unfold over the course of a single night in the company of wonderfully comic characters whose exuberant and confused journey leads to a triumphant conclusion.

### Wallingford U3A

A message must have got about that our April speaker, H H David Eccles QC, was worth hearing because he played to a packed house. And he was, indeed, brilliant: deadly serious yet very funny, and provocative; he challenged us to think about some of the contradictions that judges have to resolve as part of 'A Judge's Life'. HH David Eccles gave us a wonderfully entertaining and interesting afternoon. We are grateful that he found time to come to speak to us, and hope he might come again.

Wallingford U3A has an outing planned to Highgrove (**21 May**). There is already a waiting list for this one. Our outing in June will be to Petworth House. For more information please phone Hermione.

At our monthly meeting on **1 May**, Ian Keable will look at *The History of Cartoons from William Hogarth to Private Eye*.

Meetings are held at 2.00pm on the first Wednesday of each month at Crowmarsh Village Hall. Visitors are always made welcome for the talk followed by tea, biscuits and general conviviality.

For more details please visit our website:

[u3awebsites.org.uk/Wallingford](http://u3awebsites.org.uk/Wallingford), or phone Jill on **01491 835994**.



## A Night at the Museum

Wallingford Museum will have a special one-off evening opening at half price (Adults £2.50, accompanied children free as usual), on **Friday 17 May** (6.00pm to 9.00pm) offering a chance to see our current exhibitions and also take a look 'behind the scenes' at a time when we are usually closed. You can also find out more about how the museum is run and what opportunities there are to join the team of volunteers!

**Stu Darby**

[www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk)



## Wallingford Town walks

Wallingford's popular Guided Historic Town Walks, held on every Saturday morning starting from the Town Hall at 11.00am, are now in full flow. The Walks are led by knowledgeable volunteers from Wallingford Museum, last 1 - 2 hours and cost £5 per head.

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

Maybe you would like a special Walk for your Group or business at lunchtime or early evening? If this is of interest, please contact Philip Burton on **01491 836200**.

**Philip Burton**

[pburton6@talktalk.net](mailto:pburton6@talktalk.net)



## Once Upon a Time... the changing face of Wallingford

This year at Wallingford Museum there is a special 'Once upon a time... the changing face of Wallingford' exhibition about how we connect with times past by exploring Wallingford's history and archaeology. Wherever we live, the familiar surroundings of our houses, our streets and our town, can remind us of the people that came before us, their work and their lives shaping our present and our future.

In this journey of discovery throughout the museum, you'll be invited to share any local knowledge you may have and to reminisce about your own history. Old and young alike can enjoy 'hands on' activities, discovering the secrets of garden archaeology and tracing the passage of time through photographs and objects, all of which reflect the changing face of Wallingford.

This family friendly exhibition will run throughout the museum, with a sheet to guide people round with a number of 'hands on' things for children.

**Judy Dewey**

[www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk)

## The Annual Plant Sale

**Saturday 11 May 9am -12.30pm Wallingford Town Square**  
The Wallingford Garden Cub will be holding our annual plant sale in the Wallingford Town Square. So be ready to purchase vegetable and annual seedlings, plus plants of all shapes and sizes ready to fill your gardens with colour and structure.

Profits are for club funds enabling us to bring quality speakers to Wallingford and sponsor local gardening activities.

**Aleck 07734 889717** [www.wallingford-gardening-club.com](http://www.wallingford-gardening-club.com)

## What's on in Wallingford



## 'Bluestones and white bones: the origins of the people buried at Stonehenge'

Prof Rick Schulting will talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) about '*Bluestones and white bones: the origins of the people buried at Stonehenge*'

Stonehenge has long inspired the imagination. Much work has been done on understanding (or speculating on) how the stones themselves were moved, whence they came, and what the monument meant to its creators. Far less attention has been paid to those creators themselves. The cremated remains of more than 50 individuals were placed in the Aubrey Holes at Stonehenge, making it one of the largest Late Neolithic (ca. 3000-2500 BC) cemeteries known in Britain.

Rick Schulting of Oxford's School of Archaeology will present the intriguing results of the strontium isotope analysis of the remains, which suggested there were strong connections between west Wales and Wessex, extending beyond the transportation of stones, to the movement of people, from a project that was recently nominated for Current Archaeology's 2018 Research Project of the Year.

This talk will be held on **Wednesday 8 May**, 7.45 for 8.00pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford.

Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

**Katharine Keats-Rohan**

[www.twahas.org.uk](http://www.twahas.org.uk)

## Wallingford Gardening Club

**Thursday 9 May at 6.30pm,**

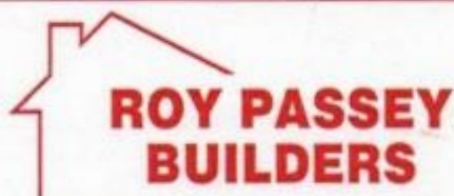
We will be meeting for a visit to Lime Close, Drayton for a one and a half hour tour of this NGS garden. Which is described as a 3 acre mature plantsman's garden with rare trees, shrubs, roses and bulbs. Mixed borders, raised beds, pergola, topiary and shade borders. The Herb garden is by Rosemary Verey. Cottage garden by MCL Garden Design, planted for colour, an iris garden with 100 varieties of tall bearded irises. Winter bulbs. A new arboretum with exotic trees from Asia and USA planted for autumn colour.

The cost will be £10 per person including refreshments. Please let us know if you intend coming to this event.

**Aleck 07734 889717**

[www.wallingford-gardening-club.com](http://www.wallingford-gardening-club.com)





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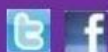
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## Day by day

Thurs 2 May	<b>Parish and District Council Elections</b> 7.00am to 10.00pm Village Hall
	<b>Concert</b> Oneness Dream 10.30am Dorchester Abbey
	<b>DOGS</b> Outing to Flackwell Heath
Fri 3 May	<b>May Day Dancing</b> 1.30pm St Birinus School
	<b>Dorchester Festival Begins</b>
Sat 4 May	<b>Oxfordshire Cricket Association</b> Dorchester II v Hook Norton II Recreation Ground
Sun 5 May	<b>Easter 3</b> 8.00am Holy Communion (1662) (Rev'd Jon Roberts)  10.30am Godparents' Sunday Christenings Special Service  <b>Dorchester May Morning</b> 8.30 am Dorchester Abbey
Wed 8 May	<b>Parish Council</b> Annual Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
Thurs 9 May	<b>Thursday Club</b> 3.00pm Village Hall
Sat 11 May	<b>Art Weeks</b> Begins in Dorchester. See page 8
Sun 12 May	<b>Easter 4</b> 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booy's)  10.30am Festival Sung Eucharist
Mon 13 May	<b>Friends of Dorchester Abbey</b> Visit to Worcester 9.00am Bridge End Car Park



Tues  
14 May 10.15am  
Short Communion

Wed  
15 May **Chiropodist**  
Village Hall (see p9)

Thurs  
16 May **Classic Car Show,**  
1.00-4.00pm  
George Hotel

Sat  
18 May **Oxfordshire Cricket Association**  
Dorchester II v Chesterton  
Recreation Ground

Sun  
19 May **Easter 5**  
8.00 am  
Holy Communion (1662)  
(Rev'd Jennifer Morton)  
  
10.30am  
Family Service  
  
5.00pm  
Evensong

Tues  
21 May **DADS**  
Play reading evening  
7.30pm  
Village Hall

Wed  
22 May **Historical Society**  
Alex Davies  
'The Archaeological Dig at  
Great Western Park, Didcot'  
7.30pm  
Village Hall

Fri  
24 May **English Music Festival**  
Talk  
5.15pm  
Village Hall  
  
Concert  
7.30pm  
Dorchester Abbey

Church services in Dorchester Abbey appear in red. More details can be found at:  
[www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk](http://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

For details of services at St Birinus RC Church go to: [www.stbirinus.co.uk](http://www.stbirinus.co.uk)

Sat  
25 May **Oxfordshire Cricket Association**  
Dorchester v Brill  
Recreation Ground  
  
**English Music Festival**  
Dorchester Abbey and Village Hall

Sun  
26 May **Easter 6**  
8.00am  
Holy Communion (1662)  
(Canon Sue Booy's)  
  
10.30am  
Sung Eucharist

**English Music Festival**  
Dorchester Abbey and Village Hall

Mon  
27 May **English Music Festival**  
Dorchester Abbey and Village Hall

## Weekly events

Monday **Tai Chi**  
2.00pm  
Village Hall  
**Fishmonger**  
3.30pm by War  
Memorial (page 9)

Tuesday **Coffee in the Abbey**  
10.30am-12noon  
**Bellringing Practice**  
7.30pm Abbey

Wednesday **Holy Communion at Berinsfield Church**  
9.30am  
**Keep Fit Senior Circuits**  
10.00am  
Village Hall  
**Mobile Post Office**  
10.30am  
Outside Co-op

Friday **Choir Practice**  
7.00pm Abbey

Regular events also appear in the Parish Council's website:  
[www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk](http://www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

## Parish Registers

**Baptism**  
24 Mar Alexander Govern

**Marriage**  
6 April Alexa Innes and  
Daniel-Paul Johnson

**Funerals**  
25 Mar Alfred Cooper  
8 April Clive Davis

It is not possible to show all the events of Dorchester Festival, nor of the English Music Festival here. Please go to:  
[dorchesterfestival.com/](http://dorchesterfestival.com/)  
[englishmusicfestival.org.uk/](http://englishmusicfestival.org.uk/)  
respectively for details of events.





## 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](mailto:admin2@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

#### HIRE OF DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL

To hire our Village Hall, contact Kate Harris [bookings@dotvh.org.uk](mailto:bookings@dotvh.org.uk) or telephone **01865 689452**. 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](mailto: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](http://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

### MOBILE POST OFFICE

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

## 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 10.00am and , returning at 12.00 noon. Tickets must be bought from Lily's in advance.

#### OTHER BUS SERVICES

Services X38, X39 X40 go every 20 minutes from the bypass at the end of Drayton Road to Oxford and Wallingford. Information about bus services, both local and national, is available from [www.traveline.info](http://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](http://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](mailto:www.wallingford.volunteercentre@gmail.com)

### CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

#### ABBEY E-MAIL:

[admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

#### VILLAGE WEBSITE

[www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk](http://www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST

The Presbytery  
**Fr. John Osman**  
Bridge End  
**01865 340417**  
[www.stbirinus.co.uk](http://www.stbirinus.co.uk)

Dorchester Abbey Museum E-mail  
[museum@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:museum@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)



## REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Fri 3 May **Black**  
Sat 11 May **Green**  
Fri 17 May **Black**  
Fri 24 May **Green\***  
Sat 1 June **Black**

**Weekdays from 7.00am**  
**Saturdays from 6.00am**

**Green\*** = extra garden waste collection

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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