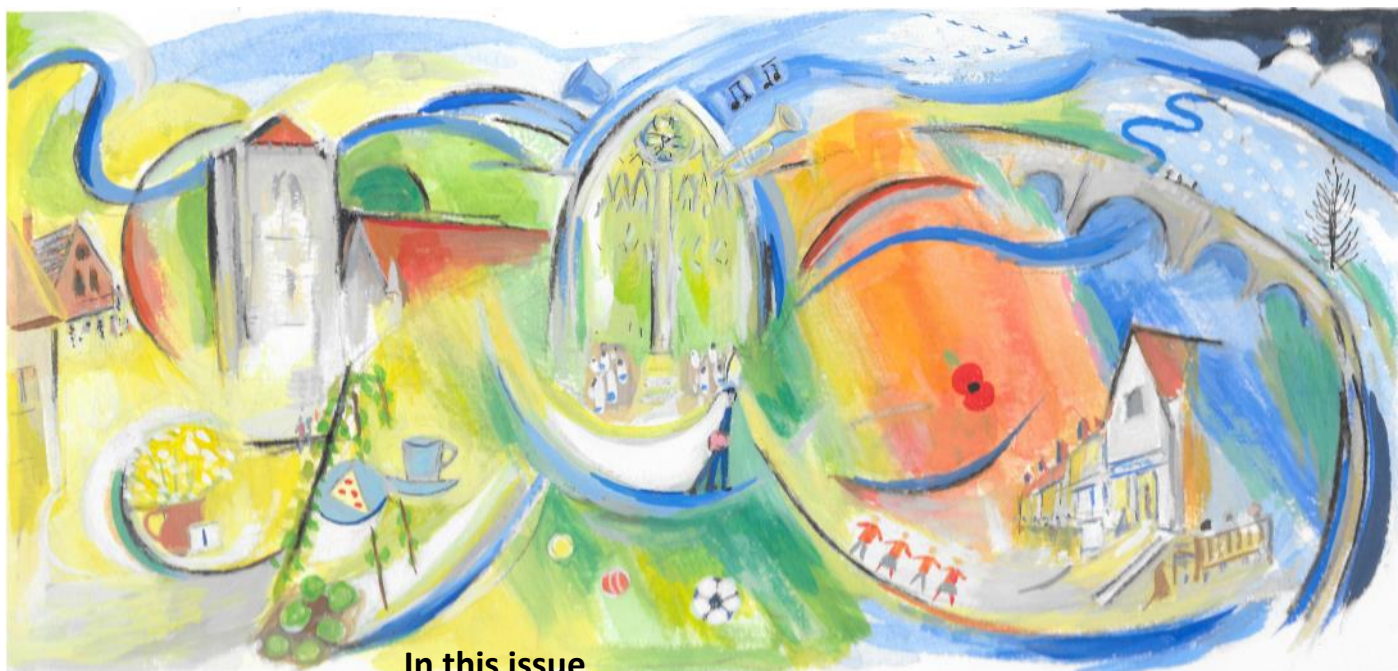


Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

February 2020





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Cover picture: Snow at Day's Lock.

Deadline for March Dorchester News



email:

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

DoT view

Firstly I apologise for an omission in the December/January issue of Dorchester News. Under 'Refuse Collections' I failed to indicate that the collection on Monday 6 January was green bins only, i.e. NO brown bins. To those of you who put out brown bins that were not collected, I apologise. You may take comfort from the fact that I too spent all of the Sunday afternoon collecting up garden rubbish to make sure that the bin was full for collection the next day. Ah well, at least it was a job done ready for the next collection.

A new year. A new decade. Perhaps a new interest. On 20 February there is the *Village Information Evening*, sub-titled *What's up DoT?* when clubs, societies and other village activities will be showing what they do in the Village Hall. Sometimes known as the *Newcomers' Evening* this is most definitely not just for newcomers to Dorchester. It is a chance for everyone to re-acquaint themselves with what goes on, or to find out more about something that they have sometimes thought that they might like to take part in or join a group. So if you fancy having a go in the next panto or wonder what bell-ringing is like (both are great fun in their own ways), standing for the parish council or finding out more about any of the village activities, come along and have a chat.

You may find a new interest that will truly make it a Happy New Year..

Ian Brace

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Gail Thomas

Distribution Co-ordinator

Maurice Day

Printed by

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*It's 'all change' at the moment! The Abbey is transformed into Narnia, and Jennifer reflects below on some of the changes that are happening around us. Changing from within is the basis of anything we take on or give up for Lent – online and in the Abbey you'll find daily reflections on Caring for Creation – and ideas for generosity from 40acts.org. Looking outside ourselves is often the first step to building inner strength and there is a great opportunity for that with World Interfaith Harmony Week being celebrated in Clifton Hampden. **Be gentle with creation, be generous with others, be Blessed!** Rev Sue*

February is, for me, a transitional month. At long last days are getting longer although we have not yet said goodbye to winter and the rather variable weather we have experienced over the last few months. However there are already signs that spring is on the way. As I write this in early January the hazel catkins are forming and the first snowdrops flowering in the grass. By the beginning of February no doubt the snow-

drops will be in full bloom, the other spring flowers joining them and the buds swelling on the trees ready to burst into leaf. They have survived their downtime after all despite erratic temperatures and rainfall!!

February is also a transitional month in the seasons of the Church. The Christmas season comes to an end on the 2nd with the presentation of the baby Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem. The final chapter of the story of his birth forty days after the celebrations of Christmas day. This, however, was only the beginning. At the end of the month the Church begins Lent with Ash Wednesday on the 26th the next period of forty days. The baby has become a man and Christians will be preparing to remember again his death and resurrection at Eastertide. This year there are a few weeks in between these two seasons of the Church when we can take the opportunity to reflect on what life holds for us, our families and friends, our communities, our country, our world, at the beginning of this new decade. Will the world become a place where there is equality and justice? Will we

have finally left the European Union and all that means for this country? Will the pressures on the natural environment be taken seriously? Can people be persuaded to tolerate views that are different to their own without resorting to the nastiness that seems to be a detrimental characteristic, not only of social media, but also all public comment?

It is sometimes difficult to feel optimistic in the light of all that is happening around us, socially, politically and perhaps most of all in the natural environment. The blossoming of the spring flowers, and the promise of new life in creation does give us a hope that the seasons of the year will come and go as expected. Maybe then we can also reflect through the seasons of the churches year on the life of a child born in humble circumstances, who grew to be the man who showed us the way to treat each other and creation. If only we would listen, hear and act on his words then there might be a greater hope for all of us.

Morning Service 10.30am Sunday 2 February with the Leprosy Mission

Mr Trevor Grant, the Regional Manager for the South West and Wales will be joining us. He will be speaking on the theme for this year's World Leprosy Sunday entitled Hospital Heroes, which focuses on the remarkable medical staff who make many sacrifices to care for people affected by leprosy at Mawlamyine Christian Leprosy Hospital in Myanmar.

Telling the Story of Narnia Thursday 6 February

Join us in Narnia to hear storytellers, authors and Narnia enthusiasts trace the history of Narnia with some favourite readings and the opportunity to weave the stories of our own imaginations. Our guests include Francis Spufford – a Narnia enthusiast who was recently part of the Radio Four 'Beyond Belief' broadcast about the Narnia Chronicles.

'Meet the Author' coffee morning Friday 7 February

Francis Spufford author of *Golden Hill* and *Unapologetic* who is joining us for the Narnia storytelling event has kindly offered to stay on and discuss his books over coffee on **Friday 7 February**. Depending on numbers this will be held at the Rectory or in the Guest House. Please contact Sue direct to reserve your place.

Ash Wednesday 7.30pm 26 February

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent and there is the opportunity to receive the sign of a cross, in ash, on your forehead during a special service on that day. There will be a service in Berinsfield Church at 9.30am and in the Abbey (Birinus Chapel) at 7.30pm.

This ancient tradition is an annual reminder of our Baptism and our commitment to bring constantly to mind the places where we fail and the blessings of forgiveness!

Morning Service 10.30am Sunday 1 March

On this first Sunday in Lent we will reflect on the gift of God's creation and our responsibility to care.

Lent Lunches 2020

All are welcome to share a simple lunch on the Fridays in lent.

All proceeds go to charity The Nasio Trust this year.

On **28 February** the lunch will be with Julie Taylor at Overy Manor, 12.30 to 2.00 pm.

Dates of the venues for the rest of Lent will be in the next Dorchester News.

Sunday 9 Feb



As part of the international World Interfaith Harmony Week, a service in which people of several world religions will participate will be held at St Michael's Church, Clifton Hampden on **Sunday 9 February** at 2.30 p.m. All are welcome and are invited to stay for refreshments.

King Abdullah II of Jordan proposed observance of a World Interfaith Harmony Week at the United Nations in 2010 and it was adopted unanimously within a month. In King Abdullah's words, 'the world's single most important threat is the attack on interfaith harmony, mutual respect, and trust. Every global challenge in this 21st century demands that we resist hatred and exclusion. Economic growth, peace-making, protecting the environment, global security, inclusive opportunity — all these critical goals require that people of faith cooperate and combine our strengths to our common benefit.'

The service on **9 February** will be led by Rev Marcus Braybrooke. Marcus was vicar at the Baldons before retiring to Clifton Hampden. In 1997, together with Sir Sigmund Sternberg and Sheikh Zaki Badawi, he founded the Three Faiths Forum, a charity initially focused on relations between Muslims, Christians and Jews, but which, now named Faith and Belief Forum, has evolved to work with people of all faiths and beliefs, including the non-religious.

Also taking part at the service on **9 February** will be Monowar Hussein, now Imam at Eton College but whom many will remember from the Turnpike Garage, Penny Faust, a leading member of the Oxford Jewish Community and Philip Koomen of the Baha'i, who lives in Burcot, as well as members of other faiths.

£130 for the Abbey

The Abbey's insurer's, Ecclesiastical, are running a promotion during 2020 called Trust130 which means that for each new home insurance policy taken out during the year they will donate £130 to a church nominated by the policyholder.

You can find out more on their website at **www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130** or call them on **0800 783 0130** and quote Trust 130.

As always terms and conditions apply, which can be found on the website page above or on the poster in the Abbey.

Ecclesiastical will provide advice on the appropriateness of any policy to an individual when you contact them.



Dorchester Abbey Ensuring the future

The plans for the developments within and around Dorchester Abbey reported in the November Dorchester News are proceeding. Currently these are mainly in two areas:

- a) architects have been appointed to create preliminary ideas and drawings of the two parts of the scheme: the gallery in the west end of the Church and the new building or visitor centre to the rear of the Guest House. This will lead in time to discussions with historic and local authorities and eventually to an application for planning permission
- b) A preliminary application (known as an Expression of Interest) has been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for partial funding. In parallel, Sir Tony Baldry, Chairman of the fund-raising appeal has appointed 17 Vice Presidents to spread the word, in addition to the President, Tim Stevenson, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire.

We will continue to keep Dorchester updated on the progress of the development as it occurs through Dorchester News and other means.

Dorchester Abbey Development Steering Group



16th February
10.30am

Family Service

The Lord's Prayer



Introducing our series of Family Services
on
The Lord's Prayer

All are welcome at our Family Services
for worship, Bible stories, fun and
refreshments.

Dorchester on Thames Historical Society

Wednesday 26 February 2020

7.30pm, Village Hall Back Room

Members free, Visitors welcome (£3)

Richard Dudding will talk on: 'The Deserted Settlements of Radley. National Causes and a Local Case Study.'



Richard Dudding read history at Cambridge (supervised by a youthful Simon Schama), after which he worked in central government and then Oxfordshire County Council. The move to Oxfordshire brought his family to their current home, a cruck house in Radley, which helped to rekindle his interest in history.

He currently chairs the Radley History Club, one of the most active in the area. He

has written *Early Modern Radley, people land and buildings 1547-1768* (2014) and was the lead author of *Radley Manor and Village, a thousand year story* (2019).

Looking ahead:

25 March, Keith Parry will talk on '*Thames Bridges between Reading and Oxford*'

19 May, guided tour of the Fairmile Hospital site at Cholsey, led by Ian Wheeler. Meet by the Great Hall at 2.00 pm; suggest car share and donation of £3 per person. More information from Sue Popham

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

Margot Metcalfe
Chairman



Village Carol Singing Thank you!

Thank you to the large crowd who came along to carol sing on a wet and windy night just before Christmas and to those who dug deep into their pockets to support us.

We raised an amazing £352 for Action around Bethlehem Children with Disability (ABCD), who are dedicated to improving the quality of life for those children in Palestine suffering from physical, mental and psychological disabilities.

Steph Forman

Village News



Hempcroft Allotments February

You may be of the impression that February is a rather dormant time on the allotment, particularly if the cold weather bites. However there is a lot of valuable work that can be done to get a head start on the growing season.

- Plant garlic bulbs if not already done, and plant shallots in sheltered areas.
- If the soil is not too wet sow parsnip seeds.
- In milder areas, sow broad beans under cloches for an early crop.
- Check spring cabbage and firm the soil around any that have been loosened by movement, and sow early cabbages.
- Clean established asparagus beds ready for spring growth. Top dress with well rotted manure or compost.
- Put early potato tubers to chit.
- Sow lettuce and radish (under cloches if necessary).
- Now is the time to prepare new asparagus beds. As this is a permanent crop the ground must be well prepared. This means removing all weeds and digging the bed to a spade's depth. Incorporate plenty of manure or compost in the bottom and a dressing of bone meal. Three year old crowns are usually advised but you can use 1 year old crowns if you are prepared to wait a bit longer before cropping (two years).
- Lift and divide rhubarb if it is getting congested.

Edward Metcalfe

Thursday Tea Club

The Thursday Tea Club returns in February.

The following are the dates in 2020 when Tea and Natter sessions will resume:

Thursday 13 February

Thursday 12 March

(No date in April)

Thursday 14 May

All these sessions will be held in the Back Room of the Village Hall from 3.00pm to 4.00pm. Any one, whatever age, can come but please give £1 when you arrive to cover the cost of hiring the room.

Lunch Club

The dates from February to Easter are:

February 12 and 26

March 11 and 25

April 8: Easter Lunch

Please make a note of these dates in your diary. I would be grateful if everyone who wants to come to a lunch would phone me by the preceding Friday of all the dates above they wish to attend. The cost per lunch will remain at £5.

Susan Jupp
Co-ordinator of the Lunch Club

CARRIAGES & FOUNTAIN ROOM



Happy new year to you all

We have had a great first Christmas and New year here at The George Hotel. We would like to thank everyone for your support so far. We were very busy each day.

Jonathan very much enjoyed his reading at the Abbey and we would like to thank Revd Canon Sue Booy for inviting The George to be part of a great service.

The feedback we have had from Christmas lunch has been amazing. We are now taking booking for Christmas 2020 for Christmas parties and Christmas Day. So, if you would like to book please pop in and see us. We already have a few tables booked.

February 2020 Food offers

£12.95 lunch 2 courses or £15.95 for three courses (Monday to Friday 12pm to 3pm)

Friday steak night 2 steaks with all the trimmings and a bottle of wine* for £45

Monday fish and chips night for £9.99 (normal price £16.95) (gluten free available)

Afternoon teas from £18.95 per person & cream teas from £6.95 (pre booking only)

*house wine only white, red or rosé

Breakfast	Monday to Friday 7am to 9am Saturday & Sunday 8am to 10am
Lunch	Monday to Saturday 12pm to 3pm Sunday 12pm to 4pm (pre booking is advisable)
Dinner	Monday to Saturday 6pm to 9pm Sunday 6pm to 8pm
Bar	Open from 11am to 11pm 7 days a week



Please note that each night that there is a concert at the Abbey we will have a pre-concert menu and will start serving food at 5pm please ensure you make a booking in advance as concert nights are very busy.



©Crocus

Wednesday 19 February 2020 7.30pm **Abbey Guest House, Dorchester-on-Thames** **Sue Burge – The Making of a Garden**

Sue is an Honorary Consultant Dermatologist at Oxford University Hospitals with a longstanding love of wildlife and plants. She will talk about her ½-acre informal wildlife-friendly garden, Upper Green in Horton-cum-Studley. Sue will discuss what inspired her to garden and how over 30 years she has developed Upper Green.

Membership is open to all those who have a keen interest in horticulture (annual subscription £20). Meetings are monthly at the Abbey Guest House in the winter and visitors are welcome (suggested donation £4). Visits to local gardens are organised for the summer months. For more details telephone **01235 850381** or email judy@tiggercat.me.uk

Heavenly Host Dorchester on Thames **Angels 2019**

Thank you to all who so carefully crafted Angels for people to find in Dorchester during Advent. Around 150 hand-made Angels were placed for others to find. The efforts of those who made the Angels was appreciated by those who found them, as they took the message of the Joy of the Angels into their homes.



Dorchester Abbey Museum

Half term opening for Narnia

The Museum and shop will be open at half term on Saturday and Sunday afternoons: **15,16, 22 and 23 February, 2.00-4.00pm**. Why not visit us when you come to the Narnia Exhibition in the Abbey.

Edith Stedman's Cookbook

Marking the 60th anniversary of the Museum's opening by Edith, the reissue of her charming *Monastery Guest House Cook Book*

Price £7.50. Available from Linda Hender, 11 Page Furlong tel **01865 340032**

email: linda.hender@btinternet.com

Look out for news of more events to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Museum – coming soon



Walking for Health in Dorchester

Walking for Health in Dorchester is a great way to exercise and make new friends

Did you know that there is a new short and easy organised Health walk in Dorchester suitable for all abilities? The walks are ideal for people who would like to improve their health by increasing their physical activity levels

It's a gentle half an hour walk run by South Oxfordshire District Council as part of the National Ramblers Walking for Health initiative. All walks are led by trained walk leaders who are there to offer information and support on the walk. Afterwards we stop for a tea or coffee and a chat at Lily's Tearoom.

Cloudy or unpromising weather doesn't deter us, although we don't walk in heavy rain or on icy conditions. There is no obligation to turn up every week, just come and join us whenever you can.

For further details contact Annalie Thomasson on **07766991487** or email Annalie.Thomasson@southandvale.gov.uk

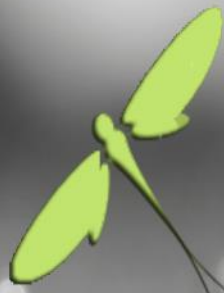
Day: Thursdays

Start time: 10.00am

Meet-up point: outside the Co-op in Dorchester

Length: A 30 minute gentle paced walk

Contact details: Annalie Thomasson on 07766991487 / annalie.thomasson@southandvale.gov.uk



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Knit and Natter 2.30pm
Tuesday 4 February & 3 March

Reading Group 2.00pm
Thursday 13 February & 12 March

Coffee Morning 10.30am
Tuesday 18 February & 17 March

All Welcome

Berinsfield Library Opening Times

Tuesday - 10.00 - 12.30 & 2.00 - 7.00pm

Wednesday - 10.00 - 12.30 & 2.00 - 5.30pm

Thursday - 2.00 - 5.30pm

Friday 10.00 - 12.30 & 2.00 - 5.00pm

Saturday - 10.00 - 12.30

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St Birinus Primary School News

The end of the Autumn Term was a busy time – here are some of the highlights –

- Squirrel and Hedgehog classes performed their play – 'Baubles'. The children performed brilliantly learning all their songs and words for the actors.
- A Christmas jumper day in aid of Save the Children - as always it is great to see the array of colour around school
- Finally, in the last week, we all visited the Oxford Pantomime, had our Christmas parties, Christmas lunch and finished the term with our Christmas service – which is always a great way to prepare for the Christmas holidays.

Some exciting news... the Playground appeal exceeded its target of £15,000 which was the best Christmas present. A huge thank you to Val Howells (one of our governors), who has worked tirelessly to raise the money during this year. We are so grateful to Val and all the kind people and companies that donated to the appeal. The work began before the end of term and we returned with a newly re-surfaced playground – we are just waiting for the lines to be painted. As part of the appeal, we held the silent auction and I can announce the winners:

Two fishing rods: Karen Robinson

Honey hamper: Margaret Simmons

Meal voucher: Linda Hender

In a special assembly, we said our sad goodbyes and thank you to Mrs Burns, who retired at Christmas after working at the school for 19 years. She has been an amazing teaching assistant and has worked in all areas of the school. We wish Mrs Burns a happy retirement and we will all miss her.

As I write this, we are just starting the Spring Term. Our new writing topic this term is 'Take a picture' – looking at various pieces of artwork (old and new) and considering what the picture is trying to tell us or maybe what we imagine the back story of the picture could be. I am looking forward to seeing the variety of ideas develop over the next few months.

Russell Leigh
Headteacher

Pre-School continued

Please note half term is **17 February to 21 February**.

There are still places available if you know of anyone wanting to send their child to an exceptional Preschool. Details are available on our website www.dorchesterpreschool.co.uk

Thank you for your continued support.

Lauren Collett
Secretary, Dorchester Pre School.



Pre School

A belated 'Happy New Year' to you all from all of us at Dorchester Preschool!

I would like start by expressing our sincere gratitude to two parties. Firstly, to Dorchester Parish Council who most generously reimbursed the Preschool for the money lost through vandalism to the outdoor play equipment in the summer; we are incredibly grateful for your altruism.

Thankfully subsequent school holidays have passed without incident, and long may that continue. Can I please ask that if you see anybody on Preschool premises that shouldn't be there, especially if they are behaving antisocially, that you report it to the police or get in touch with a committee member, many of whom live in the village.

The second thank you goes out to the many villagers who arranged, assisted or participated in the Christmas Quiz Night held in the Village Hall in December. It was a fantastic evening, enjoyed by all and raised a colossal £770 for the Preschool which will be put to great use. As a charity, events like this, raising amounts like this, are fundamental for our continued existence. We cannot thank you enough and congratulations to the victors!

Money aside, I would also like to take this opportunity to mention all the children who have received the manager's award since the last newsletter entry - namely Finlay W who has enjoyed learning all about transport, Finlay S who can incredibly count to twenty at only two years old and Cora who has been busy practising writing her name. Well done all of you!

British Heart Foundation Sponsorship

As in previous years I shall be joining the British Heart Foundation Sponsored Bike Ride on Saturday 21 March, cycling from Kempton Park to Caversham. This is a challenging route and I am always pleased to reach the finish!

If you would like to sponsor me please call me on **01865 341503**. This charity does great work with heart, stroke and other associated circulation problems. It would be marvellous to have a record amount of sponsorship this year.

James Pratt
01865 341503



2020—Make Time for Tennis

Why not make 2020 the year to either step-up your tennis activity or, if you are a newbie, begin this fantastic sport by joining us at the Dorchester Tennis Club? The weather may still be chill but our Winter schedule will continue throughout February and you will soon be warmed up! The very popular Wednesday coaching session with professional coach are likely to begin again in soon, so please watch this space for further updates! In the meantime, join us on court

Sunday

10.30am to 1pm - Open club session

Wednesday

11am – 1pm Open club Session

Friday

10.30am – 12.30pm Ladies morning

Saturday

9.30 am – 1pm Gentlemen's morning

New Year's Eve Party

Thank you to everyone who supported this popular event which raised £600 towards the maintenance of the widely used village tennis courts.

Enquires to **Chris Smith**
chrisccsmith@btinternet.com
Tel. 01865 341947



Football Results North Berks League Div 2



16/11/2019	Dorchester First	2	1	Kingston Colts Adults
30/11/2019	Dorchester First	1	3	East Hendred AFC Reserves
14/12/2019	Dorchester First	6	0	Marcham First
04/01/2020	Dorchester First	2	3	Saxton Rovers Reserves
11/01/2020	Dorchester First	5	2	Long Wittenham Athletic Reserves

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www.fullcircletravel.co.uk

T: 01491 833227

E: holiday@fullcircletravel.com



Village Information Evening

By invitation of Dorchester-on-Thames Parish Council

New, and not-so-new residents – please join us for one of our regular information evenings.

Thursday 20th February 2020

Village Hall, Queen Street 7pm to 9pm

Village Clubs, Societies and Voluntary Organisations - promote your activities, with table-top display space provided free of charge.

Villagers and visitors - everyone is welcome to attend, to talk to event organisers, collect leaflets and contact information and, most important of all, enjoy an informal village social gathering.

There are more than 20 organisations in the village so everyone should find several things of interest.

More information from **Geoff Russell**, Parish Clerk – tel: text 07745 311434 and email parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Complementary Light Refreshments will be served



Narnia

...a journey of discovery

Dorchester Abbey to 8 March

On the evening of Friday 10 January, around 60 people gathered at Dorchester Abbey for the opening of the Narnia exhibition – A Journey of Discovery. They included the Mayor of Didcot, representatives of Christ Church Cathedral as well as other invited guests, volunteers and workers who had helped to create the exhibition.

The exhibition is based on *The Lion, the Witch and The Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis, first published in 1950, although second chronologically in the seven novels that make up *The Chronicles of Narnia*. In this first book four children go through the wardrobe

into the country of Narnia. The main theme of the book is that of Christianity. In Narnia the children are offered temptation in the form of Turkish Delight by the White Witch. (With the book set during the food shortages of World War II, Turkish Delight would have been irresistible.) Aslan the lion, the King of Narnia, and champion of the children, sacrifices himself to save one of them only to return to life shortly thereafter, in a clear allegory to the Crucifixion. It is a story of self discovery within the Christian tradition that was instantly popular when first published and has remained one of the favourite stories for older children ever since.



Above: Guests listen to the welcome remarks by Revd Sue Booyes

Below: Tour guide, Gill Whitten, introduces guests to Scene 1 'Always winter and never Christmas.'



A series of nine scenes or tableaux around Dorchester Abbey relate the story, each tableau accompanied by a poster summarising the events represented there and their relationship to Christianity, to Dorchester Abbey and to Dorchester. Aimed at children of all ages, the event sets them challenges and is intended to stimulate their own thought processes, recognising themselves through the children in the story.

Creating the scenes has been a real collaborative effort with contributions not only from Dorchester's St Birinus School—the book covers in Mr Tumnus's scene—but also the Abbey Woods Academy, Berinsfield—who made Aslan, see opposite page — and Marsh Baldon School, who made the snow flakes around the White Witch. Already a lot of children have been a part of and contributed to the exhibition.





‘Absolutely wonderful—inspired and inspirational’

Tim Bower, Christ Church Cathedral

At the opening, Revd Sue Booyes began the proceedings with a welcome to the guests and an introduction to the exhibition. Following that, groups of fifteen at a time were given a guided tour of the exhibition, starting by going through the wardrobe themselves, and then following the story through to the end, emerging back through the wardrobe to our world. Everyone remarked how extraordinary the exhibition is and how imaginatively it has been put together.

The Narnia exhibition runs Saturdays and Sundays until 8 March, and all of half term week, 17 to 21 February. Children will be given 1940s coats to wear to help them to better understand the children in the story, and provided with challenges and quizzes to help them understand the exhibition.

The event has been marvellously conceived and executed by Margaret Craig, Education Officer at Dorchester Abbey, along with a host of volunteers, and should be visited by everyone, but especially by children. If your school would like to visit on a weekday, there are still a few slots available, so contact the Abbey to book one.

‘I thought it was amazing.’

Charlie from Didcot

Top left: Guests move around between the scenes

Middle: Tea with Mr Turnus

Bottom left: The Thrones of Cair Paravel

Bottom right: Aslan in The Springtime Forest



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Feedback on River of Life II proposals

In October 2019 we invited local residents to join us at public consultation events across four local village locations, to find out more about our **River of Life II wetlands project**. Earth Trust has partnered with local landowners Church Farm Partnership and The Hurst Water Meadow Trust to improve water ecosystems along the River Thames and River Thame. We will be creating new wetland habitats between Overy Mead and Clifton Meadow and further ponds will be created in Little Wittenham Wood. Thanks to funding from a Water Environment Grant, this exciting new partnership project will revive and create natural riverside wetland systems and increase biodiversity.

The consultations were well attended by local residents. Visual materials were on display and our project manager was able to talk through this ambitious and exciting project. As well as providing an opportunity to give local people more information about the practical elements around local impact, it was also a chance to explain how these new ponds, backwaters and wet woodland will provide vital habitats for wildlife.

As a team we enjoyed hearing about the reasons why people love these special green spaces, with plenty saying they enjoyed spotting all the varied wildlife and being out in nature. One Little Wittenham resident said: 'This is a wonderful area and the River Thames is one of my favourite walks coming out of Wallingford, it's a really tranquil part of the river.'

The feedback that we received from visitors provided us with valuable information and it was fantastic for us to be able to work with the community in shaping our plans. All attendees throughout the consultation strongly agreed that this entire stretch of river and surrounding countryside was extremely important to the community, and protecting and enhancing wildlife here is vital.

The full planning application for the riverside wetlands was scheduled to be submitted in late November, and the application for the new ponds in Little Wittenham Wood at the end of December. We will be sharing the details of these applications as soon as they are live. It is expected that the South Oxfordshire District Council consultation will last 21 days as part of a 13 week determination period.

We'd like to thank everyone who took the time to come along and share their thoughts.

Download a PDF of the exhibition visuals at:

<https://earthtrust.org.uk/news/local-residents-feedback-on-river-of-life-ii-proposals/>

River of Life II is a collaboration between Earth Trust, Church Farm Partnership and The Hurst Water Meadow Trust. The project is being managed and delivered by Earth Trust.

River of Life II is funded by a Water Environment Grant through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.



Trust welcomes HRH The Countess of Wessex

On 27 November 2019 Earth Trust was delighted to welcome HRH The Countess of Wessex to the Earth Trust Centre. HRH met environmental charity CEO Jayne Manley and Chair of Trustees Ian Davidson. This provided an opportunity for HRH to learn more about the important work of Earth Trust in tackling local environmental challenges and barriers to people benefiting from a healthy environment.

Jayne Manley, Earth Trust CEO said: 'It is a real honour that HRH The Countess of Wessex visited Earth Trust today. The visit supports the importance of our charity's mission for everyone to benefit from accessible green places, which are rich in nature, and understand how they provide for us all. This is a great boost to everyone involved, including the many volunteers who give their time readily and with great energy.'

The Countess has a passion for agriculture and embracing opportunities for young people and those with special educational needs, so there is a real alignment between her interests and Earth Trust's charitable objectives.

Earth Trust champions accessible green spaces, both directly and on behalf of communities; over 200,000 visits are made to Earth Trust's green spaces per annum. The charity looks after 500 hectares of farmland, woodland and wetland, including the iconic Wittenham Clumps and their Iron Age hillfort, a scheduled ancient monument. Earth Trust demonstrates the delicate balance of growing food and providing for biodiversity whilst also ensuring that these special places are accessible for people's enjoyment and benefit.



Dedicated projects such as Countryside Skills, part of the Earth School initiative, focus on children with special educational needs and those who struggle in the mainstream classroom environment. Green spaces provide outdoor classrooms where young people can gain confidence, skills and abilities to equip them in their lives.

Jayne Manley continued: 'What makes our projects different is that we respond to need. Our activities enable people to experience how the countryside is managed, introducing them to practical farming or forestry, as well as how traditional land management can be modified enabling wildlife to thrive.'

To find out how you can support Earth Trust's work please visit www.earthtrust.org.uk/support-us.



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Highlighting a Fundraising Hero...

When James Gesner first walked into Footsteps for a visit four years ago, neither of us knew that it would be the start of a brilliant ongoing partnership.

James has raised £41,000 over the years by running the London Marathon and holding hugely popular annual golf tournaments at Haddon Hill, getting hundreds of local businesses involved and spreading the word about Footsteps far and wide. James has four children himself and so he really identifies with the families that come to Footsteps and knows how valuable the work that we do with the children is. Whenever he visits, he always gets on well with the children who are working hard at their therapy and always raises a laugh or a smile.

In 2019, we asked James to become a Footsteps Ambassador, in recognition that some people do far more than just raise funds. Wherever he goes, James promotes our work and brings new supporters to our door. He runs a successful local independent estate agency: James Gesner Estate Agents, and lives in Wallingford with his wife and children.

A huge thanks to James and to all our wonderful supporters – we couldn't do it without you!



Above: James with Rohan



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Treasure Island: A lot of fun for all the family

I attended the DADS Pantomime on the first night and was treated to a feast of good family fun, where fellow villagers put their best acting feet forward to entertain and amuse both young and old.

The adaptation of *Treasure Island* by Ben Crocker, into a pantomime is unusual and required several changes to the well loved classic adventure story, to make it suitable for the pantomime world. Young Jim Hawkins successfully became the romantic lead and Mrs Hawkins, who does not exist in the book, was transformed into a traditional dame. Ben Gunn became a photographer, thus updating it into the 21st century and by including a group of WI ladies the author provided plenty of parts for female actors. The WI group, together with the Squire's daughter Jenny, showed 'girl power' in control when they met with the 18th century pirates, and their insistence on health and safety matters finally proved to be the downfall of the pirates. It was all together funny, fast moving and essentially true to the story.

After a slightly hesitant start, Mrs Hawkins, (Ian Brace) soon had the audience involved and kept the pace going throughout. Her colourful costumes looked good and were worn with great aplomb in a typically dame manner which kept the audience laughing.

Ann Winslet's direction used the available

actors well and did not overburden them; she even managed to fit them all on to the relatively small stage, which was quite an achievement. The songs and dances, with expert accompaniment on the piano from Russell Leigh, were short and snappy and kept the audience entertained. I was a bit puzzled and confused about the ghost scene in the cave where they were looking for the map, but realised it was to give opportunity for the audience to call out, 'It's behind you', and 'Oh yes it is'. For me it was done a little too quickly and over too soon before we could get into spirited replies. The slapstick baking scene was rather clumsy and over very quickly, but I understand these routines improved over the run and were highly successful on the last night. The quick costume changes were handled well with many people requiring different outfits and props.

The scene changes were unobtrusive, with the stage crew moving quickly to get everything in the right place. The set was well designed and constructed by Mark Wilkin, Michael Herbert and the team, and the scenery, using projected colourful artwork by Adrian Brooks worked brilliantly. The sound effects and lighting were handled skilfully by Simon Ratliff.

The romantic leads by Jim Hawkins [Ross

Wilkin] and Jenny Trelawney [Rachel Winslet Morris] were well enacted with good stage presence. They both managed to portray 21st century people living in the 18th century in a convincing manner. They sang their duet with confidence and had a good rapport with the audience.

The comically fierce pirates were energetically led by Long John Silver [Mike Lord], who had a short peg leg. He had an interesting relationship with his parrot Polly [Jane Brooks]. I loved her costume and parrot movements and would have liked to see more of her, perhaps some dancing? I do understand that the costume made seeing and moving difficult, but I enjoyed her performance. The Fridge [Mark Wilkin] threw himself into the part and portrayed a complex character with great authority, being both frightening and funny. Seadog Sam [Kate Phillips] and Seaweed Willy [Amelie White] had a good partnership and were excellent at handling the audience, getting the children on stage and getting everyone



Jenny (Rachel Winslet Morris) and Jim (Ross Wilkin) notice Billy Bones in the Admiral Benbow.



Left: Long John Silver (Mike Lord) quizzes Seaweed Willy (Amelie White) and Seadog Sam (Kate Phillips)



Right: Mrs Hawkins (Ian Brace) promises spotted dick to Squire Trelawney (Mark Williams)

to participate in the singing.

Squire Trelawney [Mark Williams] who loved his puddings, especially Spotted Dick and custard, was a genial soul. He was very fond of the WI, and loved his daughter Jenny [Rachel Winslet Morris] although the 18th century Squire had no concept of a modern girls abilities or ambitions. His main desire was to eat as many puddings as the WI ladies could produce.

The WI ladies played a wide range of characters and were well controlled, commanded and led by their president, Mrs Henderson [Rosemary Mills]. I especially enjoyed the pirates transformation into rival WI ladies, led by the irrepressible Long John Silver in a splendid frock. The interplay between the two groups was amusing, with health and safety issues resolving all problems,

the family. A traditional, knock-about pantomime which was enjoyed by young and old alike.

A lot of fun for all

Gill Whitten

(For more about Spotted Dick, see page 29)



Right: Squire Trelawney (Mark Williams) and Mrs Henderson, leader of the WI (Rosemary Mills)

Below: Polly the parrot and the cast line up for the wedding of Jenny and Jim.



Focus on... ...The White Hart



With two of the three hostelryes in Dorchester under new management in recent months, Dorchester News thought that it is about time we featured each of them. We start this month, though, with the one that is not under new management, The White Hart. Indeed continuity of management has been a feature of The White Hart for many years. Manager Sean Harris first arrived here in 2000, when the hotel was bought by Oxfordshire Hotels Ltd. In addition to the The White Hart, The Deddington Arms in Deddington and the Cartwright Hotel in Aynho make up the group.

But The White Hart is, of course, much older than that. As the brickwork on the front facing testifies to the year 1691, but that refers only to when the brick façade was installed. The building behind that façade goes back even further, probably to the sixteenth century. For many years it was a major coaching inn and post house, where coaches travelling on between London and Oxford or Gloucester could change horses and provide refreshments for their travellers.

This business declined with the advent of the railways but in the 20th century revived in a different guise as a garage carrying out repairs on vehicles, as well as 'stabling' the guests' vehicles. These days the hotel still 'stables' the cars of its guests but the vehicle repair business has long gone.

The White Hart now consists of 29 bedrooms together with meeting rooms, restaurant and bar, the last two of which in particular are well known to many residents of Dorchester.

There are about 14 staff at The White Hart, increasing to around 20 in the summer months, several of whom live locally. Many are young Dorchester residents who have earned their first pay packets behind the bar or in the restaurant. Six of the staff live in.

Sean may be coming up to 20 years at the hotel, but he is by no means the longest serving staff member. Renee, Head Housekeeper, has been there for 31 years and Assistant Manager, Marie, for about 23. Sean regards these two, together with Dawn on the front desk,

who came to The White Hart from The George ten years ago, as the cornerstones of the business.

At the moment he is delighted to have recruited Paul Holden as the new Head Chef. Another local man, having grown up in Berinsfield, Paul has recently returned from working in

Australia. He took up the new post in December. We can expect to see some developments in the restaurant menus as Paul brings in his own influences in the next few months.

But, says Sean, there are not as many lively village events as there were twenty years ago, when he recalls regular parties and balls being organised by

groups of villagers either at The White Hart or catered for by them. He believes that the amount of business for pubs and inns has declined generally. The evidence for this is all around, with the closure of many pubs each year across the country. In part, he believes, this because of changes in our lifestyles, with more of us preferring to spend our evenings at home with our families than socialising in bars. Years ago, when more people were involved in manual labour, there was more of a requirement for a drink at the end of work, and often workmates would reconvene later in the evening for a drink and darts. Those days may be largely gone, but Sean is keen to offer all village groups the opportunity to use the facilities of The White Hart. There are a number of function rooms which he is happy to allow village groups to use, providing that he does not have a prior booking for them. And if you buy a few drinks, then so much the better.

If you have an idea for an event or a party or a function of any kind, then Sean will do whatever he can to oblige.



DOT.2

HIGH STREET, DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES

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In this postcard picture of the High Street, the people are standing at an earlier entrance to the hotel. It is possible to make out the Hovis sign at Exon's bakery just beyond the car entrance. (You might need a magnifying glass!)

The current mainstay for The White Hart is the need of local businesses, in particular Culham and Oxford Science Park, to house employees who live elsewhere but spend most of their weekdays here. Sean says he believes this to be the case for many hotels in the area. He estimates that 70% of his hotel business is from people who work but do not live locally. Many of these stay at The White Hart or other local hotels from Monday to Friday each week. Mind you, the definition of 'working locally' can be pretty flexible. He has had weekday residents who have driven daily to work in London, returning to their homes elsewhere at weekends. They would rather spend their evenings in Dorchester than in a London suburb. And quite right too.

The remaining 30% of overnight stays is made up of leisure travellers, many on weekend breaks. The White Hart offers deals in association with Bicester Village, Blenheim Palace and other sights and venues. And, of course, if you are a member of the Restaurant Club, you get 10% off food.

Relations with sections of the village have not always been smooth. Sean recalls the tussles over the installation of the sliding doors in 2002 at what is now the street entrance, and was then an

entrance to the car park. This is where the stage coaches would have turned in for the stables in years gone by. The hotel had originally been in the main building on the north side of the entrance, but had spread to other side, which is now the bar and restaurant, when it took over Exon's bakery in the 1960s. With customers and staff moving between the two buildings, and increased traffic coming in and out of the car park, things were getting a little dangerous. Sean recalls at least one occasion when a plate of food being carried by a staff member was sent flying by the wing mirror of a car. That illustrated the potential danger of the arrangement. Together with the cobblestones that caught high heel shoes, and the howling gales that swept into the bar and the reception areas every time the outside doors were opened, that convinced Oxfordshire Hotels that pedestrianizing this area and sealing it with the sliding doors was the right thing to do. There was much discussion, says Sean, about a possible public right of way that would be blocked but says that whilst that may not be correct there are permissive rights for people to pass through. A hotel is after all regarded as a public building, and he is happy to see anyone using the passage between 7.00am and midnight. Outside of these hours the doors are locked for security reasons.

What of the future? The bar areas has been upgraded recently and currently the two newly built houses facing Queen Street are for sale, with the proceeds of those sales scheduled to go into upgrading the bedrooms. Also scheduled in the plan is the sale of 26 High Street, which is the cottage between The White Hart and Lily's that the hotel owns and uses. This will result in the loss of six rooms. This sale will provide money towards the upkeep of the building. An old timber framed building such as this requires a lot of upkeep and is expensive to maintain.

Sean is a little less certain about the longer term future. Nigel Oddy, owner of Oxfordshire Hotels, is of an age when he might be considering retiring. Given the current development and upgrading plans this is unlikely to happen shortly but must be considered likely sooner or later. What happens then depends on whether Mr Oddy decides to sell the business, and if so, what any new owner would plan to do with it. As Sean points out, few hotel owners would want to take on a building that is so expensive to run. He also feels that there may not be room in the village for three pubs in the future. He remembers that in 2000, when Oxfordshire Hotels bought The White Hart, there was an alternative buyer who proposed to turn it into retirement homes. This is a route that has been trodden very successfully with the Rose and Crown in Tring, another old timber framed hotel building, and such a proposal could resurface. This won't necessarily happen, of course, but if we want all of the pubs in the village to remain open, then, as Sean says, we must use them.

Ian Brace



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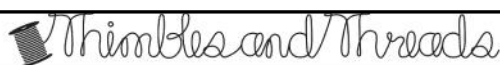
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'What's Up DoT?' **Village Information Evening** **Thursday, 20 February 2020** Village Hall, Queen Street 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Every two/ three years the Parish Council hosts an Open Village Information Evening at which all Village Clubs, Societies and Voluntary Organisations are invited to promote their activities. Table-top display space is provided free of charge.

While this event is mainly intended for 'new' residents (i.e. those who have moved to Dorchester-on-Thames within the last 2/3 years), everyone is welcome to attend, to talk to event organisers, collect leaflets and contact information and, most important of all, enjoy an informal village social gathering.

There are more than 20 organisations in the village so everyone should find several things of interest. Entry is free and complementary light refreshments will be served.

To book display space and for information about setting up contact Geoff Russell, Parish Clerk – tel/text **07745 311434**, email

parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Dog Fouling

Recently the Parish Council has received an increased number of complaints about dog mess being allowed to remain in public areas. This includes playing surfaces on the Recreation Ground as well as pavements and footpaths. Dog waste bags and bins are provided throughout the Parish so there really is no excuse for this being a problem. Some more consideration, please.

Monthly Meetings

The February Meeting will take place in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 12 February** commencing at 7.30 p.m. and the March Meeting on **Wednesday 11 March** also 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 days in advance of each 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.

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.

email: **parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk**

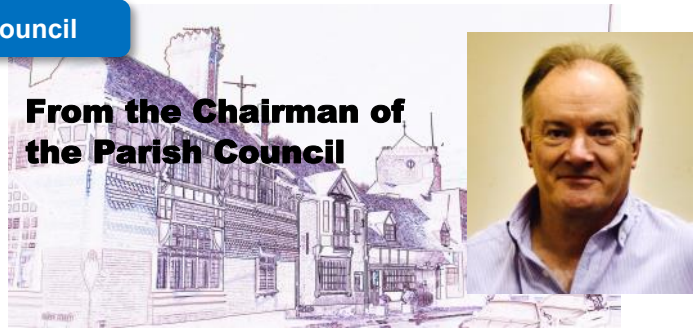
Cllr Mark Williams, the Chairman, can be contacted via **chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk**

For information about the Parish Council go to

<https://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.

From the Chairman of the Parish Council



Happy new year from the Parish Council to all the residents in the parish. We hope you had a good time over the festive period.

Back to village business. Residents contact council members regularly regarding concerns over speeding, particularly on the entry roads into the village. So the council have agreed to formal survey of traffic speeds using the rubber tubes you see from time to time. That will give us far better data from which to consider what action we might want to take as a village. In the meantime of course it is down to us as the residents to treat our village and fellow residents with respect and keep to the designated limits. I will report back after the survey is complete.

It might be Winter and blowing outside as I write this but Spring is out there somewhere. So I pleased that we have funded a couple of initiatives to plant more bulbs, in a gap in the beautiful row of daffodils by the thatched wall and also around the village entrance signs. Thanks to the villagers who came forward with both these ideas and who will be doing the planting. We look forward to seeing the fruits of their labours. And I know I say this most months, but it bears repeating, if you have a project to improve our village in some way, the council stands ready to put some funds in; we've not turned anybody down yet so try me. Just drop me an email at **chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk** or call me or stop me or any other council member and let us know your ideas.

The next village newcomers event is nearly upon us, we do them every couple of years. If the **20 Feb** is not in your diary put it in now, its a great chance for new residents to pop along to the village hall, see what we have to offer and have a glass of wine. All the family are welcome - as are existing residents who want to look at some of the clubs and societies who will have stalls there to help you find out what Dorchester gets up to. I hope to meet some of you there.

Mark Williams

Chairman of DoT Parish Council

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From your District Councillor... ...Robin Bennett



As well as being ward councillor, I'm SODC Cabinet Member for 'Development and Regeneration'. Part of the council's role is to support the local start-up business culture, increase small businesses' resilience, and encourage increased productivity. Of the more than 13,500 small and medium enterprises in the Districts, just over a third are sole traders.

The South and Vale Economic Development team have received the Institute of Economic Development (IED) 2019 Impact Award. This national award recognised the team's 'Stronger Economy – Start-Up project', which resulted in more than 87 new businesses start over an 18-month period. This followed the work of the team in providing support to people who wish to start a business and/or be more productive. A number of week-long, free, pop-up business schools were held to support new and existing businesses, including a very successful one last year in Berinsfield.

At the **Full Council meeting of 19 December**, council voted through a number of motions relating to the future organisation of local councils, including asking for a report on the possible benefits of merging South and Vale district councils, and a report on the possible options for a council with 'unitary' powers – that is, combining the responsibilities of County and District councils. The government has suggested they will be looking closely at local government reorganisation in the near future, and we wanted to state clearly that decision-making and accountability should remain at the most local level possible.

SODC's financial situation is difficult, following years of holding down council tax to levels well below the national average and even further below that in other 'shire' districts. The removal of the central government grant and drastic reduction of the New Homes Bonus have made it challenging to fund essential services,

and councils have not yet been given any funding clarity from the government beyond the 2020/21 financial year.

SODC is already an efficient and low-spending council compared with its peers and has relatively low staffing numbers. Another financial pressure faced is that the '5 Councils' outsourcing contract with Capita has not delivered all of the savings promised when it was announced with a fanfare many years ago now, with many services now having to be brought back in house at the council.

Also on 19 December, council resolved to develop a prioritized plan of where new and improved cycle and walking infrastructure is needed in the district to contribute to a Strategic Active Travel Network, and to update planning policy to encourage and prioritise 'active travel' (walking and cycling).

Local Plan: We still don't know precisely what will happen next to the emerging Local Plan 2034 and are awaiting further discussion with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The minister, Robert Jenrick MP, who placed a temporary 'holding direction' over the emerging Local Plan in October, remains in post following the General Election, and has just written a letter to the Leader, Sue Cooper, suggesting he may use further legal powers to push through the submitted plan or ask the County Council to do so. Naturally, my personal view is that this decision should remain with the elected local planning authority (South Oxfordshire District Council), especially given that concerns about over-development played a key role in the dramatic results of the May local elections. A decision is likely in early February.

. Robin.bennett@southoxon.gov.uk

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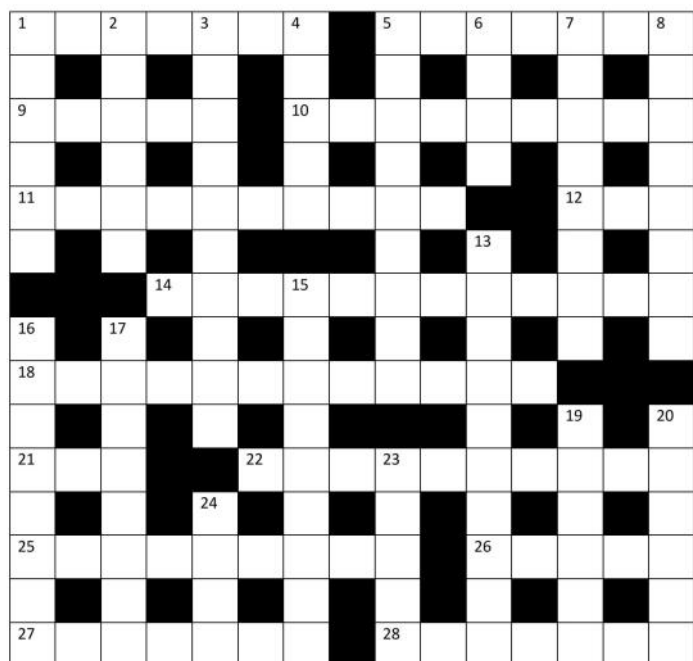
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Dorchester News Crossword No. 11

Compiled by Slider



Across

- 1 Stays on electricity. (7)
 5 It is an attractive cape. (7)
 9 Gave out a gathering light. (5)
 10 In Crete an extraordinary fruit is produced. (9)
 11 No warrant when one of the French was in the army. (10)
 12 Keep it in the turbulent river. (4)
 14 Tackle one army cop with Eastern girl soldiers (and others!) (11)

- 18 It takes a strong man to put the first lady in a taxi and throw her to the end. (5,6)
 21 Cancel a night out (and that includes spirit). (4)
 22 Awkward puss clears the top of the tree. (10)
 25 Make viscous when moving a drug back to the ship? Idiocy! (9)
 26 Tax the birdman. (5)
 27 Arranges a medical man's letters. (7)
 28 Points out poor places for tennis. (7)

Down

- 1 We follow the artist/policeman to be part of the circle. (6)
 2 I see Sun perhaps without a strain. (6)
 3 Information on popular vagrants, for instance, found here maybe. (2,8)
 4 Spokesperson arrived carrying a detector. (5)
 5. Shade I can mix for the estates. (9)
 6. A green beginner follows an Oriental ceremony. (4)
 7 Being back inside won't net six euros! (8)
 8 Occasional supper caters all in ghostly form. (8)
 13 He curses the little devil on about rock. (10)
 15 They make a stab at Queen's (it's posh inside). (9)
 16 Taken the fungus into account Edward? (8)
 17 There is a case for the blood group line I have. (8)
 19 The play sounds like a change of direction. Give it approval audibly. (6)
 20 Class A drug is absorbed by addicts to showers. (6)
 23 Take a sedative internally and the anxiety will be gone. (5)
 24 Heavens above! No additive for the runners. (4)



Citizens Advice in South and Vale needs volunteers

Citizens Advice in South and Vale needs volunteers to help with:

- Reception duties in Abingdon, Henley and Thame
- Advisers in Abingdon and Didcot
- Head office administration in Abingdon
- IT support in Didcot and Thame
- Fundraising (from any location)
- Communications and website designers (from any location)

We are a local charity providing free, confidential advice. Last year, our 150 skilled advisers helped over 11,000 local people from advice centres in Abingdon, Didcot, Faringdon, Henley, Thame and Wallingford.

Many people who come to us face difficult and sometimes frightening problems that threaten to overwhelm them. In 2019 we helped three quarters to resolve their problems.

For volunteers, we offer a welcoming office environment and an opportunity to gain new skills, meet new people and make a real and valued contribution to your local community,

It's up to you when you volunteer. We normally ask for two half days a week but can be flexible. If you are interested, please follow this link:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/>

Or, if you would like to discuss these volunteering roles, please email Jon Bright, Director:
jon.bright@osavcab.org.uk

Chiropodist

First and third Wednesdays of each month,
 11.30am – 4.00pm
 Village Hall (back room)
 Tel: **07850 196714**

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



Services for children with special educational needs are improving in Oxfordshire, says inspector

Support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) has made progress in Oxfordshire with senior leaders from the education, health and care services working effectively together.

This was the finding of a recent Ofsted review of SEND services following a full inspection in 2017. In the report Ofsted described the leaders as having an 'aspirational vision' for children with special educational needs and disabilities and inspectors found that leaders across the education, health and care system were taking full responsibility to improve the service. 'Accountability has been strengthened and there is now a helpful mechanism for overseeing improvement,' the inspectors said.

Ofsted said that three out of five areas that needed reviewing after the 2017 inspection are now making 'sufficient progress', while two need further improvement. Inspectors found that parents do not yet feel part of this vision and do not fully understand what work is being done to achieve it. Oxfordshire County Council recognises this challenge and is addressing it with education partners.

Inspectors acknowledged progress in the Council's and Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's work to improve the quality of education, health and care plans (EHCs), which identify needs and set out the additional support to meet those needs. More EHC needs assessments are being completed within the statutory 20 weeks, despite a significant increase in the number of assessment requests. However, overall, the quality of EHC plans remains too variable, not reliably reflecting children, young people and their parents' aspirations.

Ofsted stated it was encouraged by the reduction in the number of school days lost to exclusion.



Smart bike lights trialled to gain insights on cycling infrastructure

Oxfordshire cyclists are testing a new 'smart' bike light linked to a phone app that will provide data on cycling journeys. The trial will provide transport planners at Oxfordshire County Council with valuable insights into travel patterns that will help improve cycling infrastructure. The project is one of a growing number of transport innovation projects backed by the county council as part of the 'Smart Oxford' programme, which applies digital technology to transport and environmental challenges.

The light operates in tandem with the app which then transmits data on the ride and route to a data hub where it can be analysed. Over 100 million points of anonymised data have already been collected in Oxfordshire, showing where and when people cycle, as well as speeds, obstructions and road surface conditions.



Council plans to improve online services and reduce cyber-threats

As more people access public services on computers or mobile phones, residents will see real improvements after Oxfordshire County Council revealed plans to 'future-proof' its digital systems as part of a two-year overhaul. Councillors approved a new information and communication technology (ICT) strategy, which will lead to investment in smarter, more secure systems and better customer services.

The county council's website gets 370,000 page views per week and receives around 1300 online payments per week. A new online Blue Badge application process with credit card payments was launched earlier this year. Since then, nearly 70% of applications are online - previously it was 40%.



Oxfordshire community action groups gear up to tackle climate change

Community groups running repair shops, community fridge groups and carbon reduction schemes across Oxfordshire have taken control of their county-wide parent network. The network is funded by the county council as part of its long-standing environmental commitment.

During 2018-2019 the community action groups ran over 4,000 events, with 80,000 attendees, and contributing 51,000 volunteer hours - equivalent to 31 full time staff). Now the 65 community action groups (CAG) and are helping to reduce carbon emissions in Oxfordshire are taking over the reins to run it as an independent body.



Oxfordshire is named top waste recycler in England

Oxfordshire has been named the best performing County Council waste disposal authority in England for the sixth year in a row, thanks to residents' commitment to the environment. In 2018, residents recycled or composted a larger proportion of their household waste than the previous year, while the national average for recycling fell, according to new government figures.

Officers at Oxfordshire County Council point to residents recycling more of their food waste as an important reason for the increase. Nearly 20,000 tonnes of food waste was recycled in 2018-19 – up 6% on the previous year.

Overall 58% of household waste was recycled in Oxfordshire last year, compared to 57% the previous year. The national average was 44.8%, according to the new figures from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). Individually, the five District and City Authorities in Oxfordshire have also achieved excellent results above the national average.

The Oxford Environmental Partnership of the Oxfordshire district, city and county councils has a target to increase recycling to 70% by 2025



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Get help with home repairs

There are services and funds available to help people (owners and private tenants) stay independent, safe and well in their homes, and Oxfordshire County Council has developed a referral service to help residents (or carers) access the right organisations in their area, to get the help they need.

The type of help that can be provided are services such as new boilers, repairs to boilers, loft or cavity wall insulation, access to a local and trustworthy repairs service and general advice on how to stay safe, well and affordably warm in your home.

For more information or to make a referral visit

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homerepairs

Your home affects your health



Find out what support is available to help keep you safe and well in your home.
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homerepairs



SUPPER AND CONCERT

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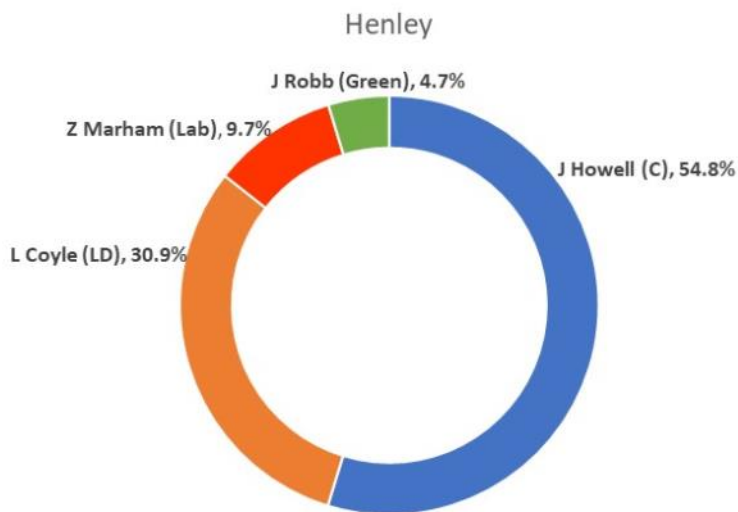
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General Election 12 December 2019

Result for the Henley Constituency



2019		2017	
J Howell (C)	32,189	J Howell (C)	33,749
L Coyle (LD)	18,136	L Coyle (LD)	8,485
Z Marham (Lab)	5,698	O Kavanagh (Lab)	11,455
J Robb (Green)	2,736	R Bennett (Green)	1,864
		T Scott (UKIP)	1,154
		P Gray (Radical)	392
Majority	14,053	Majority	22,294
Turnout	76.7%	Turnout	76.1%



Oxfordshire Care Awards 2020

Don't miss out! Nominations for the Oxfordshire Care Awards 2020 close on 14 February 2020.

The purpose of the Awards is to recognise and celebrate individuals, organisations, and companies who have demonstrated excellence within the care sector in Oxfordshire. The organisations involved are Action for Carers Oxfordshire, Age UK Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers (OACP).

There are ten categories: Newcomer to Care Award, The Care Home Worker Award, The Unpaid Carer Award, The Community/Home Care Worker, The Care Team Award, The Care Employer Award, The Long-term Service Award, The Leadership Award, The Inspiration Award and Josie's Award.

Nominations can be made by filling out our leaflet, by downloading a Nomination Form on the OACP website and emailing or posting it to us, or filling out an online Nomination Form.

Winners will be announced at the ceremony on 27 March 2020 at the Kassam Events and Conference Centre, OX4 4XP.

To nominate, or for more information, visit oacp.org.uk/oxfordshire-care-awards-2020-inspiration-for-all/ email awards@oacp.org.uk or call 01235 520463.

Postal entries can be sent to Oxfordshire Care Awards 2020 c/o Age UK Oxfordshire, 9 Napier Court, Barton Lane, Abingdon, OX14 3YT.

Spotted Dick

The Squire's insatiable appetite for spotted dick in the panto, Treasure Island (see pages 18,19), made us wonder whether anyone actually makes this delicious pudding any more. In case you don't, here is a recipe for it taken from BBC Good Food of October 2012.



Ingredients

250g self-raising flour
pinch of salt
125g shredded suet
180g currants
80g caster sugar
finely grated zest 1 lemon
finely grated zest 1 small orange
150ml whole milk,
plus 2-3 tbsps
custard, to serve

Method

1. Put the flour and salt in a bowl. Add the suet, currants, sugar, lemon and orange zest.
2. Pour in 150ml milk and mix to a firm but moist dough, adding the extra milk if necessary.
3. Shape into a fat roll about 20cm long. Place on a large rectangle of baking parchment. Wrap loosely to allow for the pudding to rise and tie the ends with string like a Christmas cracker.
4. Place a steamer over a large pan of boiling water, add the pudding to the steamer, cover and steam for 1½ hours. Top up the pan with water from time to time.
5. Remove from the steamer and allow to cool slightly before unwrapping. Serve sliced with custard

© BBC Good Food





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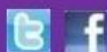
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News from Wallingford Museum

Volunteers at Wallingford Museum are very busy preparing two new exhibitions of local interest, for a re-opening on **Tuesday 3 March**:-

- **'Plague, Pus and Pills'** - the history of Wallingford's hospitals', which will trace the story of caring for the sick from medieval times to the present day'
- The **'Willis Family paintings'**

In addition, there will be special events during the year:-

- **'Can you FACE It ?'** workshops (which will appeal to ages 7 to 99!) in April. With an introduction to forensic science and plenty of imagination you too can make your own facial reconstruction, complete with eyes, eyebrows, nose, lips, hair and ears.

Stop press: booking now open online !

- **'Family Archaeology Day'** in July
- **'Squish, Squash, Bish, Bosh!'** - a special family event in August. Discover how Victorians worked hard in Wallingford !
- Drop in quizzes, puzzles and other family things to do, during the summer holidays.

Our **Museum Bookshop** has an excellent selection of good second-hand books (both fiction and non-fiction) at sensible prices. We'll be open in February - every Friday from 10.30 to 3.00, and every Saturday from 10.30 to 1.00.

We look forward to seeing you - it's free to browse!

We would love to hear from anyone interested in **volunteering**, whether to be a custodian, assist with the archive, delve into research, assist at events, or be a walk guide etc.

If you would like to **join our team** please contact Jenny Carpenter **01491 826734**, jenacarpenter@hotmail.co.uk

Stu Darby

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Wallingford Country Market,

Every Friday 9.30am – 12noon at St. Mary-le-More Church, Market Place (situated just behind Town Hall).

Look out for new seasons Seville Orange Marmalade which will be available towards the end of January onwards – 'A Golden Treat in Every Jar' - tasting available. This is our best selling preserve, if you haven't already tried it this will be a great opportunity for you to do so.

All our regular products also on sale including fresh home baked cakes and savouries.

Vegetarian and also vegan items now available and can be made to order too. Hand-crafted items, and particularly hand-knitted babies and children's wear to keep out the cold on sale, as well as seasonal plants.

Please contact our Market Manager, Alison, for further details (Tel: **01491 681596**) or come and speak with her one Friday morning. New producers are always welcome.

What's on in Wallingford



'The re-use of castles'- a TWHAS talk Wed 12 February



Dr Elaine Jamieson (Reading University) will present 'The re-use of castles' at this TWHAS meeting.

Elaine's talk is about the research project funded by the Leverhulme Trust which aims to explore the date, form and palaeo-environmental context of large mounds in England in order to test the hypothesis that some medieval castle mottes are re-used monuments from earlier periods.

This talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be held on **Wednesday 12 Feb**, 7.45 for 8.00pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford.

Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

Katharine Keats-Rohan
www.twhas.org.uk



Wallingford Gardening Club Thursday 13 February

The Wallingford Garden Club Annual General Meeting, will be held on **Thursday 13 February** at 7:30pm, when we will look at our new constitution.

In addition, there will be a showing of *'The Good, The Bad and The Just Plain Ugly'* a gallery of members gardening experiences of 2019.

The meeting venue is Ridgeway Community Church, Old Buildings off Wood Street OX10 0EW.

Annual membership renewal is due this month at £12 for the year.

Visitors are most welcome; admission is just £3.00.

For more details please either email

gardenswallingford@gmail.com or visit www.wallingford-gardening-club.com.

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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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

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

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,
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Dorchester-on-Thames,
OX10 7HN.



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

Tickets £8 for adults, £5 for under 15 unless otherwise stated. Please look on www.cornexchange.org.uk for further updates on screenings

February

Sun 2	Jojo Rabbit (12A)
Mon 3	Jojo Rabbit (12A)
Tues 4	Little Women (U)
Wed 5	Little Women (U)
Thurs 6	Knives Out (12A)
Fri 7	Cats (12A)
Sat 8	Cats (12A)
Sun 9	2040 (PG)
Mon 10	The Two Pops (12A)
Wed 12	Knives Out (12A)
Thurs 13	Ordinary Love (12A)
Fri 14	Seberg (15)
Sat 15	The Runaways (12A)
Sun 16	1917 (12A)
Mon 17	1917 (12A)
Wed 19	Bombshell (15)
Sat 22	The Personal History of David Copperfield (12A)
Sun 23	The Personal History of David Copperfield (12A)
Mon 24	Marriage Story (15)
Tues 25	Marriage Story (15)
Thurs 27	The Lighthouse (15)

LIVE SCREENINGS

Tuesday 11 February 7:15pm
Royal Ballet, **Sleeping Beauty** (12A)
Recorded live from Covent Garden
Tickets £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Tuesday 18 February 7:15pm
Royal Opera, **La Bohème** (12A)
Recorded live from Covent Garden
Tickets £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Thursday 20 February 7.00pm
NT Live, **Cyrano de Bergerac** (15)
Live from London West End with the Jamie Lloyd Company
Tickets £15 adults, £12.50 (seniors)

LIVE SHOWS

Friday 21 February 7:45pm
Jeeves and Wooster in Perfect Nonsense
From the Chipping Norton Theatre production
Tickets £12

Friday 28 February 7:45pm
Posting Letters to the Moon
Readings of wartime letters between Celia Johnson (from Brief Encounter) and her husband Peter Fleming (writer and explorer).
Live on stage read by their daughter actress Lucy Fleming and her husband actor Simon Williams.
Tickets £15

COMING SOON

Tuesday 10 March to Saturday 14 March 7:30pm
with a matinee on Saturday 2:30pm
Guys and Dolls,
A joint production by the Corn Exchange and Crescendo Music
Tickets £19 and £17 (adults), £17 and £15 (under 16s)

A Daughter's A Daughter

Sinodun Players present Agatha Christie's intense family drama, written in 1956.

It's Agatha Christie, but not as you know her. A Daughter's A Daughter was published by Christie under the name Mary Westmacott.

Set between 1945 and 1949, Ann Prentice, a widow on the cusp of remarriage, has to choose between her only daughter and the man she loves.

What follows is a remarkable exploration of the aftermath of sacrifice, as love turns to hatred and mother and daughter struggle to understand what has happened to them.

When: **1 to 4 April**
Where: Corn Exchange, Wallingford
Tickets: £12 from Corn Exchange box office 01491 825000
<http://www.cornexchange.org.uk>

St Mary's Dental Practice

Dr Ash Ratti (BDS Hons) Kings College London
www.stmarysdental.co.uk

21a St Mary's Street
Wallingford Oxon OX10 0EW
Tel **01491 825252**

We are a family orientated Practice located in the centre of Wallingford providing care and consideration from all members of my team to help provide you with all aspects of your dental requirements.

For further information, or make an appointment, please call my Receptionist on **01491 825252**

Day by day

Sun 2 Feb **Presentation of Christ**
8.00am
Holy Communion (1662)

10.30am
Morning Service with the
Leprosy Mission

Wed 5 Feb **Chiropodist**
Village Hall (see p26)

Thurs 6 Feb **Narnia Evening**
Dorchester Abbey

Fri 7 Feb **Golden Hill Event**
Dorchester Abbey

Sat 8 Feb **YoCo Supper and Concert**
7.00pm
Dorchester Abbey

Sun 9 Feb **3 before Lent**
8.00am
Holy Communion (1662)

10.30am
Sung Eucharist

Tues 11 Feb **10.15am**
Short Communion

Wed 12 Feb **Lunch Club**
12.30pm
Village Hall

Parish Council Meeting
7.30pm
Village Hall

Thurs 13 Feb **Thursday Tea Club**
3.00pm
Village Hall

Sat 15 Feb **Abbey Museum**
2.00-4.00pm
Open

Church services in Dorchester 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



Sun 16 Feb **2 before Lent**
8.00 am
Holy Communion (1662)

10.30am
Family Service

5.00pm
Choral Evensong

Abbey Museum
2.00-4.00pm
Open

Wed 19 Feb **Chiropodist**
(see p26)

Culham Horticultural Society
Sue Burge: *The Making of a Garden*
7.30pm
Abbey Guest House

Thurs 20 Feb **Classic Car Show,**
1.00-4.00pm
George Hotel

Village Information Evening
What's up DoT?
Open evening (See p11)
7.00pm
Village Hall

Sat 22 Feb **Abbey Museum**
Open 2.00-4.00pm

Sun 23 Feb **Sunday before Lent**
8.00am
Holy Communion (1662)

10.30am
Sung Eucharist

Abbey Museum
Open 2.00-4.00pm

Tues 25 Feb **Shrove Tuesday**



Wed 26 Feb **Lunch Club**
12.30pm
Village Hall

Ash Wednesday Service
7.30pm

Dorchester Historical Society
Richard Dudding 'The Deserted Settlements of Radley. National Causes and a Local Case Study.'
7.30pm
Village Hall

Fri 28 Feb **Lent Lunch**
12.30pm
Overy Manor

Sat 29 Feb **Corona Strings Concert**
7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Weekly events

Monday **Tai Chi**
2.00pm
Village Hall
Fishmonger
3.30pm by War Memorial (page 31)

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

Thursday **Walking for health**
10.00am
Outside Co-op

Friday **Choir Practice**
7.00pm Abbey

Regular events also appear in the Parish Council's website:
www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Parish Registers

Baptism

17 Nov Edward John Leonard Bucknall



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

ABBAY 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 Kate Harris 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 **0345 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

MOBILE POST OFFICE

The Mobile Post office stops outside the Co-op every Wednesday between 10.30am and 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 10.00am 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, and **0871 200 2233**.

VOLUNTARY CAR SERVICE TO BERINSFIELD HEALTH CENTRE

This operates on Wednesday mornings for appointments made for 10.00 am.
To book transport, call Dorchester Fireplaces on **01865 341452**

AGE UK

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

WALLINGFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE

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

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

ANGLICAN PRIEST

Dorchester Rectory
Rev. Canon Sue Booy
01865 340007

EDUCATION OFFICER

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

ABBAY E-MAIL:

admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk
Contact details for Church Wardens and other Abbey information are on the notice board in the Abbey.

ABBAY WEBSITE

www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

VILLAGE WEBSITE

www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST

The Presbytery
Fr. John Osman
Bridge End
01865 340417
www.stbirinus.co.uk

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



REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Fri 7 Feb **Black**
Fri 14 Feb **Green**
Fri 21 Feb **Black**
Fri 28 Feb **Green**

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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CORONA STRINGS



Saturday 29 February 2020, 7.30pm

Dorchester Abbey, High Street, Dorchester on Thames OX10 7HH

HEARTSTRINGS

A feast of romantic works for string orchestra and guitar

Tchaikovsky, Serenade in C

Sibelius, Romance

Lindsey-Clark, Guitar Concerto no.2

Nielsen, Little Suite Op.1

Finzi, Romance

Corona Strings

Leader, **Catherine Leech**

Guitar, **Raymond Burley**

Conductor, **Janet Lincé**

Tickets: £20 (£15 concessions); £5 full-time students and under 18s
coronastings.co.uk/heart and on the door



www.coronastings.co.uk