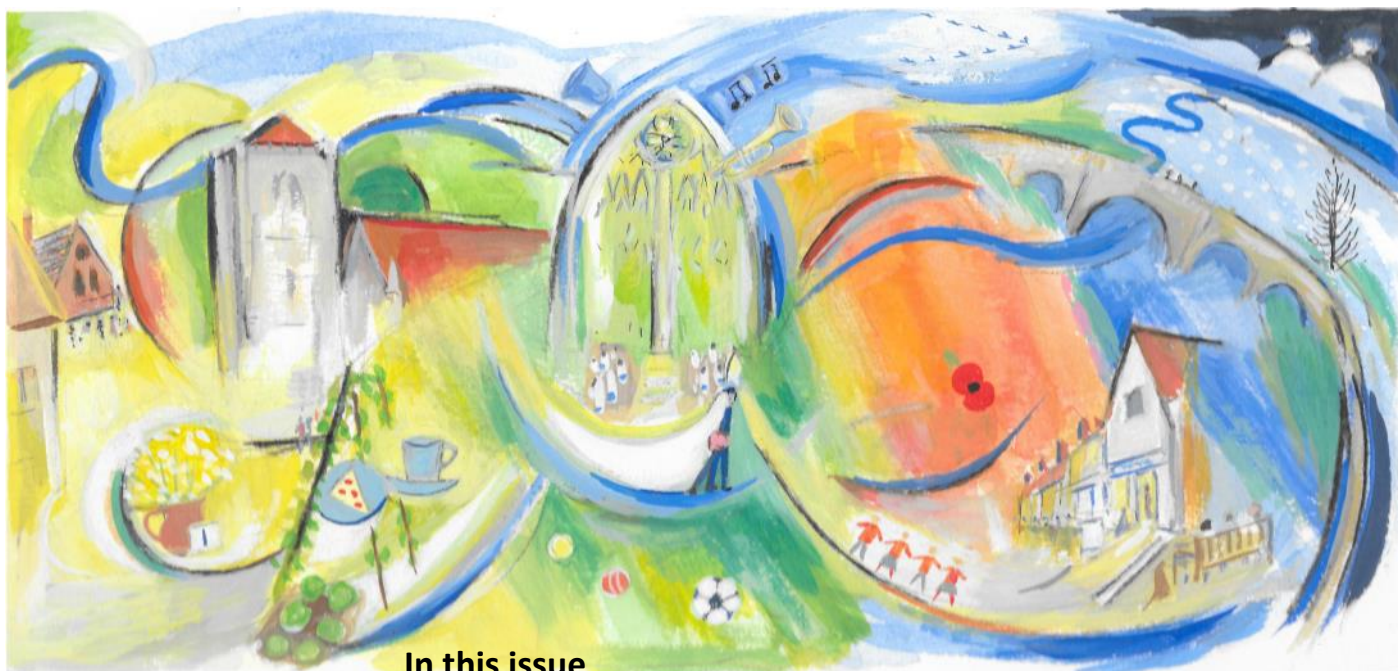


Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

March 2020





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Cover picture: Dorchester Abbey reflected in flood water

DoT view

As I write this, storm Ciara is abating. It gave us an interesting Sunday afternoon when a fallen tree blocked the bridge stopping all traffic on the southern entrance to the village for a few hours. See the picture on page 19. Thank goodness no-one was injured when it fell.

Now Storm Dennis is on its way.

Are these storms, their frequency and ferocity, a symptom of climate change? And, if so, what can we as individuals do about it?

Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, page 23, points out that Oxfordshire has the highest recycling rate in the country, (with SODC the top district), and SODC is planning low carbon offices when they move back to Crowmarsh (p21). We can all follow the lead of our councils and play our part by supporting their drives to recycle as well as by giving thought to how we reduce our own carbon emissions. SODC has recently distributed to all households a handy guide to recycling and the County Council has launched its Waste Wizard - see oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard We should use them both.

Soon it will be Spring and how lovely it is to see the schedule for the Spring Flower Show in this month's issue. But having the colour brought back into our lives through the roadside displays of daffodils and tulips, and the hint of warmer weather, must not deflect us from making our individual contributions to saving the planet.

Ian Brace

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Steph Cook

Distribution Co-ordinator

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email:

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

It's good to read

my colleague Teresa's first Talking Point for the Dorchester News this month. Teresa, who looks after Berinsfield, the Baldons and Drayton St Leonard, gets to the heart of reasons why 'Mothers Day' goes even deeper than the gifts and cards we give. Rev Sue



March is the month when we celebrate our families and our mothers. Of course, I am thinking of Mothering Sunday, the one special day in the year for children of all ages to spoil their mums! We are thankful for our mums and show them our love with flowers and chocolates, bringing them breakfast in bed, or taking them out for lunch.

On this very special day I think it is also lovely to remember and give thanks for all the women who have nurtured us or influenced

the course of our lives. Families come in all sorts of shapes and sizes, and a mother's love can be manifested in a variety of different ways. Sometimes the significant women in our lives may be a teacher who has guided and advised us, an elderly neighbour who has befriended us, or a friend who has taken time to be there for us and supported us through a difficult moment.

We could also reflect this month on our role as a 'mother' to others. There is a saying 'it takes a village to raise a child' and certainly our local community is stronger when we all take responsibility for the young or vulnerable members in our community. In today's society of county line gangs, social isolation and mental health concerns we can all have an enormous positive influence on children and young people; and we do not have to be

their mother to show them love, to offer guidance, or to tell them they are valued. Jesus once spoke of himself in the role of a mother, comparing himself to a mother hen who worries about her children and yearns to protect them from harm. In caring for vulnerable people around us, we follow his example.

So, in this month when we remember the importance of our mothers in our lives, let us all show our children and young people a little love. And each of us, whether we are men or women, recognise our role as 'mothers' who can make the world a brighter and more hopeful place.



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.

Women's World Day of Prayer Fri 6 March

The Women's World Day of Prayer service will be in St Mary's Church, Long Wittenham on Friday 6 March at 7.00pm. The service has been prepared by the Women of Zimbabwe and the theme is 'Rise! Take your mat and walk'. Please contact Janet Haylett familyhaylett@yahoo.com if you would like to help or take part.

Some changes to our services for Special Occasions

During Lent there are some special occasions which make it sensible to change our normal pattern of services so that the services held will match the occasion!

Sun 22 March Mothering Sunday.

Do come to the Abbey and join us for a service to give thanks for our own mothers and all those who have cared for us like mothers. This will be our family service for the month and we will be joined by the family service orchestra as well as the choir!

29 March is a Team Service to be held at Warborough Parish Church at 10.30am

Sun 5 April Palm Sunday 10.15am

Please join the Choir, Clergy and the Donkey for a procession to the Abbey to remind us of the events of Palm Sunday. When we arrive at the Abbey our service will include the Christening of Sue and Malcolm Lucas' grand-daughter.

Sun 5 April 6.00pm Team Service

Every year we offer a reflective service for the Dorchester Team to begin Holy Week. Please join us for reflections in music, pictures and readings.

Lent Lunches 2020

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

Lent Lunches 2020

March 6 with Sue Jupp at 13 Watling Lane, DoT.

March 13 with Meg Fisher at 4 Drayton Rd., DoT

March 20 Sue Booy at The Rectory, Manor Farm Rd., DoT.

March 27 with Hilary Warburton at Cranmer Cottage, 90 High St, DoT.

April 3 with Dawn Dudley at Church House, Queen St., DoT.

All Lunches will be at 12.30pm to 2.00pm.

The proceeds will be given to **Youth Challenge Oxfordshire (YoCO)** which is a local charity established to support young people aged 14 - 21 in youth groups following a guided 18 month programme designed to help them to overcome the problems that they face during teenage years by developing their resilience and confidence.

Team Curate

Our new curate, Catherine Schneider, was ordained last summer and will be training within the Dorchester Team for approximately the next three years. She lives in Kennington (just south of Oxford) with her husband, Stephen, and three young adult children (aged 16-20).

Catherine trained at Ripon College, Cuddesdon and before that had worked in a variety of roles - as a Debt Coach for Christians Against Poverty, playleader in a pre-school setting, parish administrator for her sending church in central Oxford, private French and German tutor and NHS manager. She has always been a generalist and is delighted that her ordained role gives the opportunity to combine many passions.

She also loves reading, being outside (gardening and walking) and spending time with her family of film buffs. She is looking forward to getting to know you all, and to learning more about the area and the many churches within it.

EASTER LILIES 2020



As we look forward to celebrating one of the most important festivals of the church, the Abbey flower arranging team invite you to participate by making a contribution towards the cost of flowers which we will use to decorate the Abbey at this joyous season.

Perhaps you would consider making this a donation in memory of a loved one whose name would be displayed close to the Easter Lilies, the centrepiece arrangement.

Please complete the form below and send it to me:
Sandie Griffith, 7 Castle Close, Benson OX10 6SN **01491 83259** or hand it to one of the flower arranging team - Kathy Glass, Susan Jupp or Vera Baker

Name

Contact phone number

.....

Amount of donation

.....

Donation in memory of

.....

Licensing of The Reverend Canon Mark Haworth

We are delighted that following a very positive response to our advert we have appointed the Reverend Canon Mark Haworth to the Dorchester Team to serve in the Bridge Group of Parishes. The Bishop of Dorchester will License Mark in Dorchester Abbey on **31 March 2020** at 7.30pm and we look forward to seeing many of his new parishioners and members of the Team there to welcome him.

We hope to be able to bring you Mark's biography next month.

Studio space available in Benson

Please contact Claudia Downing cd10008@cam.ac.uk

Lent in Dorchester Abbey and the Dorchester Team

Across the Dorchester Team there is a full programme for Lent and the basic details are printed here. You can find details in a leaflet available in all our Churches and week by week information will be available on the Pew sheets.

Lent Lunches

A time for the sharing of food and fellowship with donations for charity.

Wednesdays in the Wittenhams, Thursdays in Berinsfield and Warborough, Fridays in Dorchester

Lent Groups

An opportunity to get to know one another as we study the origins and meaning of the Eucharist also called Holy Communion or the Mass

Monday evenings in Dorchester, Thursday afternoons in Berinsfield

Compline (Night Prayer) a short reflective service on Wednesdays at Drayton St Leonard 8.45pm

Taize Group

Mondays 9 March and 23 March 7.30pm Abbey Guest House

An opportunity to pray using chants and prayers from Taize. We will enjoy learning simple chants and praying together. This group is for everyone, those who cannot read music through to experienced musicians.

Journey to the Cross and Beyond

The Journey to the Cross is a service of reflection and prayer using images created by the Sisters of Turvey Abbey. The service has its roots in the tradition of the Stations of the Cross and the practice of meditative prayer. Week by week we will reflect on successive stages of Jesus' final journey and our own experience of death and resurrection in the daily situations of our lives.

Sunday 1 March at Drayton St Leonard 6.00pm

Sunday 8 March at Toot Baldon 4.00pm

Sunday 15 March at Long Wittenham 6.00pm

Sunday 29 March at Berinsfield 6.00pm

Youth and Families Minister

The Dorchester Team wishes to appoint a Youth and Families Minister with the ability and passion to resource our vision and increase our capacity to work with families and young people by offering well supported activities that will make new disciples and inspire everyone involved to grow in faith and to live out their vocation seven days a week.

The role will involve:

- supporting our existing work with Assemblies, Messy Church and Family Services.
- identifying and growing new work across the Dorchester Team (including some larger scale activities to be organised less frequently) alongside work that is delivered in specific communities and supported centrally.
- helping to establish a future plan and train volunteers for sustainable delivery in the future.

Our aspiration is to appoint a full time (37 hours per week) worker. We are keen to offer flexibility where possible and would consider a job share arrangement. For further details please contact the office **01865 340007**.



Museum 60th anniversary – can you help?

To mark our 60th anniversary we are focusing on our founder, Edith Gratia Stedman OBE (whose corbel you can see on the Abbey wall), and how, although a newcomer and an American, she initiated and inspired so many activities, including the Museum, such that her legacy can be seen today.

- We are developing a new and lasting exhibit featuring Edith and would greatly appreciate help in the form of 'Edith' anecdotes, documents and artefacts. We have most of her pamphlets and booklets, such as 'A Yankee in an English Village', but any of the following would be much appreciated, as donations or loans:
- Photographs or newspaper articles featuring Edith or the museum
- letters, articles, old museum minutes
- pieces of the commemorative china she ordered for sale in the museum, like the jug below



- a pristine copy of the original Monastery cookbook
- one of the pebbles from the driveway up from the lychgate, laid down by Amey from the gravel pit, which Edith had identified as Second Ice Age larvae set in pumice, and then sold for a shilling each in the museum as 'Fiddlestones'!

Please feel free to contact me on **340054**, or come into the Museum on any Thursday morning in March, 10.00-12.00.

Margot Metcalfe
Museum archivist



Dorchester Abbey Museum News

Come and join us!

Our small Museum, next to the Abbey, covers Dorchester's history, archaeology and aspects of village life. It is staffed entirely by a friendly group of volunteers. Please come and join us – it's a great way of meeting people and doing something worthwhile in the community, as well as finding out more about the rich history of our village.

The volunteers welcome visitors, briefly explain what the Museum offers, and sell items from our shop. All you need to commit to is one or two three-hour sessions each month (or more if you wish!) during the Museum opening period (Easter - end of Sept). Full training is provided.

Are you a keen photographer?

We're looking for photographers to help us photograph the collection to make it more widely accessible online. Again, the extent of time you'd commit to this is flexible and up for discussion. Full briefing and guidance will be provided. If you think this might be of interest, please get in touch.

Please contact Candy Madeley for further information on both of the opportunities above:

email candymadeley@hotmail.com or tel **01865 341490**

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

Friends' Visit to Malvern

This year, the annual visit of The Friends of Dorchester Abbey will be to Malvern and will take place on **Monday 11 May**.

The cost of £30 per person will include the coach travel and a guided tour of the beautiful Priory.

There will be more information in next month's Dorchester News and Abbey Friends will receive more details in the Friends Spring Newsletter. I'm putting this brief notice in the current Dorchester News so that anyone who might be interested may take note of the date.

Yvonne Lawden



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RULES

1. The Show is open to any person residing in Dorchester-on-Thames, Burcot, Drayton St Leonard and Berinsfield.
2. No exhibitor may exhibit more than one exhibit in each class, excepting Classes 14 & 21, where three entries may be made.
3. **All entry forms and fees to be submitted no later than 7.00 pm on Wednesday evening before the show.**
4. Entries in Classes 16 & 17 must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least the previous 4 months. Other plant classes with the exception of Classes 23 & 24 must have been grown by the exhibitor. Classes 25 - 37 must be made by the exhibitor.
5. Exhibitors must provide their own dishes, stands etc. Every care will be taken of the exhibits but the committee will not be held responsible for loss or damage.
6. On the relative merits of the exhibits, the opinion of the judges shall be final, but the committee reserves to itself the decision on any other points in dispute.
7. The Committee reserves the right to inspect any competitor's garden or allotment before or after the day of the show.
8. **All exhibits for competition must be staged between 9.00 am and 10.15 am on the day of the show.**

9. All competitors must leave their exhibits on show until after the Prize giving and raffle and clear immediately afterwards.
10. Any protests must be made in writing before 3.00 pm on the day of the Show, accompanied by 50p. deposit which shall be forfeited to the Committee if the protest is not upheld and found to be groundless.
11. Any exhibitor infringing any of these rules shall forfeit all claims to any prize.

Definitions

Class 1: Long trumpet: one flower on a stem; trumpet as long or longer than petals.

Class 2: Short trumpet or cup: one flower on a stem; trumpet shorter than petals.

Classes 23 & 24: Any natural material may be used.

Please label varieties whenever possible

Please note Rule 4

DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES SPRING FLOWER SHOW and Plant Sale/Raffle

DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL on Saturday 4th April 2020

Staging 9.00 am – 10.15 am
Viewing 2.30 pm- 4.00 pm

Raffle draw and
presentation of prizes from 3.40 pm

Exhibitors will be competing for:

The Robert Soffe Cup (Long Trumpet Daffodils)
Short Trumpet Daffodil Cup
Vegetable Cup, Spring Flowers Cup
Domestic Classes Cup
Britain in Bloom Cup
The Blackwell Photography Cup
Mary Tame Handicraft Plate

Class

- 1) Daffodils, long trumpet 1 variety - 5 stems
- 2) Daffodils/Narcissi, short trumpet or cup, 1 variety - 5 stems
- 3) Daffodils/Narcissi, miniature, 1 variety - 5 stems
- 4) Daffodils, double - 5 stems
- 5) Narcissi, multiple heads - 5 stems
- 6) Narcissi/short trumpet daffodils - 5 stems, 1 of each variety
- 7) Tulips, 1 variety - 3 stems
- 8) Blossom from a tree or shrub, 1 variety - 3 sprays
- 9) Blossom from a tree or shrub, 3 varieties - 1 stem each
- 10) Polyanthus - 5 stems, mixed colours allowed
- 11) Pansies/Violas - 5 stems, mixed colours allowed
- 12) Hellebores, 1 variety - 3 stems.
- 13) Hyacinths, 1 variety - 3 stems
- 14) Any other spring flower, 1 variety - 3 stems (up to 3 entries)
- 15) Mixed Spring Flowers, 5 stems

- 16) Plant, flowering or not, in pot no more than 10" - not exhibited in last 3 years.
- 17) Bulb or bowl of bulbs of same variety, not more than 10" pot.
- 18) Leeks - 3
- 19) Stored Onions - 5
- 20) Stored Shallots - 7
- 21) Any other vegetable or fruit (up to 3 entries)
- 22) Rhubarb - 3 sticks

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

- 23) 'Easter Basket' (45x45x45cm/18x18x18")
- 24) 'Arrangement in a Shell' (15x15x15cm/6x6x6")

COOKERY

- 25) Marble cake
 - 26) Vegetable Samosa - 3
 - 27) Hot cross buns - 3
 - 28) Lemon Meringue Pie
 - 29) Oatcakes - 5
 - 30) Pot of marmalade
- PHOTOGRAPHS** - unmounted and not exhibited previously.

Film or digital camera
Must not be manipulated or enhanced in any way. Max 8" x 6"

- 31) Reflection
- 32) Subject beginning with 'E'

Image manipulation - up to A4

- 33) Any subject

HANDICRAFTS

- 34) Any item of needlecraft, incl knitting
- 35) Any other handcrafted item

CHILDREN (Please state age on exhibit)

Aged 9 and over:
36) Cake Monster

Aged 8 and under:
37) Edible Jewellery

ENTRY FORM

Please return no later than **7.00 pm Wednesday, 1st April** to: Christina Stores, 55 High Street (post through letterbox please) **ENTRY FEE 10p PER CLASS**

Class Nos

Full name of Exhibitor

Address.....

Telephone No

EMAIL

Dorchester on Thames Historical Society

Wednesday 25 March 2020

7.30pm, Village Hall Back Room

Members free, Visitors welcome (£3)

Keith Parry will talk on: 'An A to W of Bridges, from Abingdon to Wallingford.'



Bridges across the Thames have an important role in the river's history. Some, notably Abingdon and Wallingford, are very old, built initially to support the wool industry: they were the only stone structures across the river between Oxford and London Bridge until the middle of the eighteenth century. An early bridge at Shillingford is more speculative and could be one of the very few bridges across the Thames that ceased operation for several centuries. It was rebuilt, along with those at Clifton Hampden and Sutton Courtenay, as part of the road transport revolution late in the eighteenth century.

Keith Parry, after thirty years' research experience in the agrochemical industry, 'retired' to develop his interest in history, gaining a Diploma and then an MSc in English Local History at Oxford University. As a voluntary researcher for the Maidenhead Heritage Centre, he worked with the Stanley Spencer Gallery on the history of beer and malt manufacture in Cookham, based on the remaining buildings and the paintings and writings of Stanley Spencer. This research was published as 'Stanley Spencer and the Cows of Cookham', *Berkshire Old and New* 2019, pp.16-33. As well as lecturing at Oxford, Keith wrote on 'Parliamentary Enclosure in Oxfordshire' for *The Historical Atlas of Oxfordshire*, building on his MSc dissertation: 'The Defence of Cookham Commons from 1800 to 1850'. Current research includes the history and maintenance of early wooden bridges over the river Thames, an article on Marlow's Wooden Bridge 1180 to 1820 is forthcoming in *Construction History*. Keith is also Treasurer and Trustee of The Historic Towns Trust; an atlas of Oxford will be published later this year.

Looking ahead:

22 April: Liz Woolley on 'Leisure and Entertainment in Victorian and Edwardian Oxford'.

19 May: guided tour of the Fairmile Hospital site at Cholsey, led by Ian Wheeler. Meet by the Great Hall at 2 p.m., suggest car share and donation of £3 per person. More information from Sue Popham.

June, date tba: summer outing to Hughenden Manor.

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

Margot Metcalfe
Chairman

Village News



Hempcroft Allotments March

At the AGM last September a question was raised about the use of glyphosate as a herbicide on the allotments because of claims that it is carcinogenic. I am absolutely no expert in this field but I have been doing a little research. The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) currently classifies glyphosate as a Group 2A carcinogen. Group 2A carcinogens are substances that are "probably" carcinogenic to humans, based on sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in animals but only limited evidence in humans. Other examples of Group 2A carcinogens include fry cooking, glass work, and working as a hairdresser. That list also includes 'very hot beverages' and 'red meat'. By contrast, alcohol is a Group 1 carcinogen (a substance that is *definitely* carcinogenic in humans), yet alcohol continues to be consumed in large amounts by billions of people.

In my view a sensible voice in this debate is that of Dr Joshua Mylne, an Australian Research Council Future Fellow appointed jointly to the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry and the ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology at the University of Western Australia.

'Frankly, I tire of this glyphosate mania, which I hoped would stay in the USA,' he said. 'The silence as scientists wait for people to be sensible seems not to be working, so I will try to say something. The overwhelming opinion of experts is that glyphosate is safe. People forget "the dose maketh the poison".'

'The scary data sheets that come with herbicides are for the concentrated compound, plus all the chemicals needed to dissolve it, plus the detergents needed to allow the chemical to penetrate the leaf – the concentrate is a toxic cocktail, to be sure. However, the concentration at which what's in the bottle is applied is usually 1000 times less, or even more dilute than that. What might remain behind days or weeks after spraying might be many orders of magnitude more dilute than what it was applied at.'

Instead of worrying about the potential risks of Roundup, Dr Mylne believes people should focus their attention on known carcinogens.

'Our exposure to toxins is a constant – some exposure is more noticeable than others,' he said. 'One of our favourite drugs, alcohol, is quite toxic and a known carcinogen, yet we pour it down our throats with vigour every weekend.'

'It is considered a carcinogen by Cancer Australia, as well as the IARC, who ruled that for ethanol there was "sufficient evidence [highest IARC classification of carcinogenicity]" for it causing cancer of the oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, oesophagus, colorectum, liver (hepatocellular carcinoma), and female breast.'

'I wish people would trust experts and keep some perspective. If you seriously want to lower your cancer risk, keep using Roundup and stop drinking.'

Edward Metcalfe



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St Birinus Primary School News

Chinese New Year, which is the year of the rat, was celebrated during the first half of the Spring Term. To start this celebration, Hedgehog class along with the Pre-school took part in the dance of the dragon in the hall and then the dragon invaded the playground to the interest of the other children. It was great to see the procession of the dragon and the excitement of Hedgehog class telling me all about their adventure.



We are continuing to celebrate the children who are working so hard at improving their writing and it is time to announce January's 'Writer of the Month' children for each class.

Hedgehog Class: Edward Read

Squirrel Class: Bella Sebastian, Lucas Chevallier

Fox Class: Jessica King, Mikey Ashley

Owl Class: Courtney Ashley, Sian Wilson

The NSPCC also visited the school with their 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' campaign. Key Stage 1 and 2 had their own presentation about staying safe in different situations and then Owl Class had a special workshop to look more deeply into the topics covered. It was a very useful and enlightening visit and supports our children with some of the challenges they face today and I know they gained so much from the experience.

This month, Owl Class with their teacher, Mrs Eacopo and myself are heading off on our residential to the Woodlands Residential Centre in the Brecon Beacons for a week of adventure and excitement – let's hope the weather is kind to us. Look out for news of our adventures in next month's edition.

Russell Leigh
Headteacher



ST. BIRINUS SCHOOL PLAYGROUND APPEAL

£15,000 TARGET REACHED - THANK YOU!

An enormous thank you to all sponsors, local businesses, families, friends, villagers and the school. I couldn't have done this without so much help and generosity.

Thank you to Paul King for his time, technical knowledge and total support. Thanks to Darren Rhodes for designing adverts, flyers, posters and banners and to Dorchester Parish Council who agreed to back me from the beginning.

Thank you all and I hope to see you on 3rd May at the school for a celebration!

Val

SUPPORTED BY

Dorchester Parish Council, Berinsfield Parish Council, The Co-op Community Fund, Dorchester Parochial Education Trust, Pearce's Coaches, Oxfordshire County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, The White Hart, The George, Hair of Dorchester, Manor Farm, Queenford Farm, The Ainstable Trust, Oxford Direct Services, Hazell and Jefferies, Kamatsu Kamasan Ltd, Oxford Wet 'n' Wild, Jenk's Oxford.

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Afternoon Tea with Mary and Marcus Braybrooke by Helen Hobin

This is a delightful biography of the Braybrookes written by their grand daughter, Helen, who also designed the striking cover, which is inspired by the beautiful stained glass window in St. Peter's Church at Marsh Baldon, given to them by their grateful parishioners when they retired.

The book is a personal lively record of their long lives together and the extensive world-wide travels working for world peace, and promoting understanding between people of different faiths.

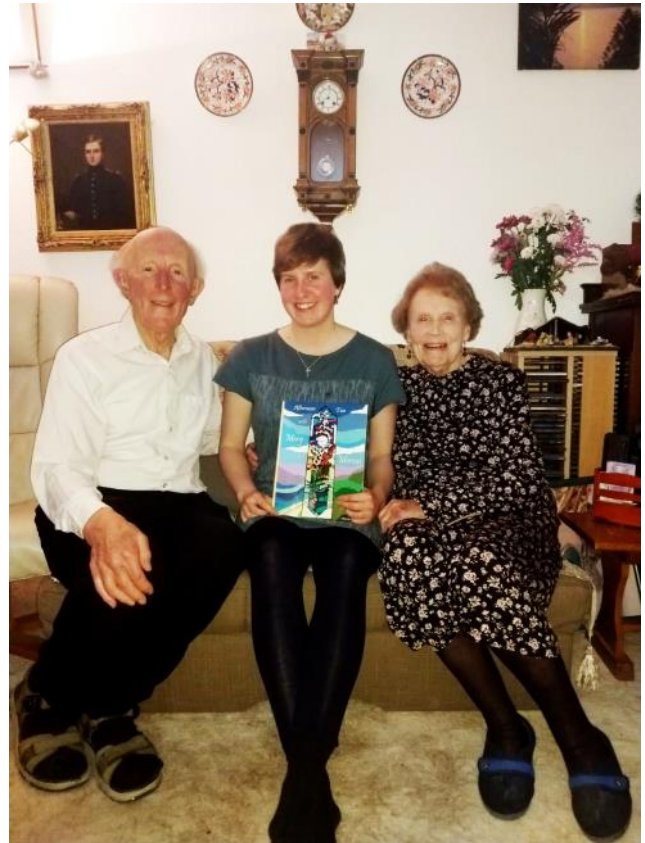
Marcus is the President of World Congress of Faiths. The book also gives a vivid picture of Mary's work as a social worker and magistrate.

The book describes their life in several parishes in different parts of the country, including here in the Dorchester Team Area, where they have been so happy. We also get a glimpse from the children of what it is like to grow up in a vicarage.

Their warm hospitality to family and friends locally and from all parts of the globe often includes a traditional 'afternoon tea'. One American rabbi described such a feast as a 'sweet, high calorie bacchanal - a typical and colourful English ritual, celebrated for centuries.'

I highly recommend this readable and well-illustrated book. It is now available for £12.95 by post from the Braybrookes at 17 Courtiers Green, Clifton Hampden, Abingdon, OX14 3EN

Carole Treadaway



Marcus and Mary with granddaughter Helen.

Culham & District Horticultural Club



©Victoria and Albert Museum

Wednesday 18 March 2020 7.30pm
Abbey Guest House, Dorchester on Thames
Alan Edmondson: The Designer's Garden
(William Morris)

Alan Edmondson is an experienced horticulturist, lecturer, broadcaster and a past president of the National Primula and Auricular Society. The talk will feature many plants that influenced William Morris' designs. It will also discuss the value of these plants in the garden and their interesting horticultural forms.

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**



Calling all Dorchester Royal British Legion members and supporters

As you will know the Dorchester Royal British Legion Branch was suspended two years ago. However, with a number of new and enthusiastic members we believe there is now sufficient support within the village to form a new committee and revive it to a fully constituted Branch again.

Therefore we would like to invite all current Royal British Legion members to a meeting in the White Hart at 7.30pm on **Wednesday 18 March** to explain what we are planning and to gain your agreement to move forward. There will also be an opportunity for members to express their views on any Legion matters as well as reforming the Branch.

If we are successful we will then be able to continue the Remembrance Day parade as in previous years. If not, there will need to be major changes in future Remembrance parades starting November 2020.

Please make a note in your diary and we hope to see you in March.

Chris Hill, Andy Pay, Charlotte Bennet, Guy and Tania Glover.

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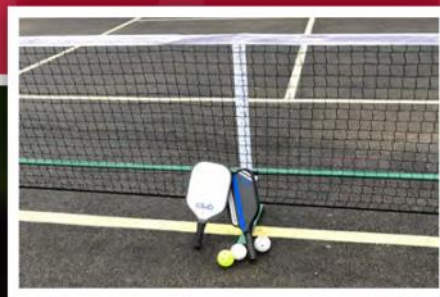
ST. BIRINUS SCHOOL PLAYGROUND APPEAL

Come and join our celebrations!

Sunday 3rd May @ 10:30
Dorchester St. Birinus school playground



Netball goal
competition



Introduction
to Pickleball



Football penalty
shoot-out

Join us for:

A pancake breakfast

Hot and cold drinks

Sausage sarnies

Home-made cakes

All served in the school's dining room

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

 Football Results North Berks League Div 2 			
22/01/2020	Long Wittenham Athletic Reserves	N/A	Dorchester First
25/01/2020	Dorchester First	2 2	Grove Rangers
01/02/2020	Saxton Rovers Reserves	4 1	Dorchester First
08/02/2020	East Hendred AFC Reserves	1 1	Dorchester First



Spring Time Tennis

By popular demand, our Wednesday coaching session with professional coach is continuing so please watch this space for announcement of new dates! We also have several exciting social events this year including a Salsa evening in May and two tournaments to look forward to – tennis players and non-players all welcome!

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

Forthcoming Events

Spring Tournament Sunday **26 April**

Salsa Evening fundraiser Saturday **2 May**

Autumn Tournament Sunday **13 September**

Enquires to Chris Smith

chrisccsmith@btinternet.com

Tel. **01865 341947**

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Dorchester Tennis Club presents




SALSA NIGHT!



Saturday May 2nd Dorchester Village Hall 7.30pm

**Come and enjoy a fantastic evening of Salsa dance moves with instruction from Salsa England
No experience required!**

**Tickets £10 only
cash bar**

**Tickets from Dorchester Co-op, Lily's Tearoom or contact fenton_julia@hotmail.com
All proceeds to Dorchester Tennis Club & village sports courts
www.salsaengland.org**

For all enquiries regarding Dorchester Tennis Club enquiries contact chrisssmith@btinternet.com tel 01865 341947



We have had a wonderful start to the year, with many old friends returning and new children starting on their Footsteps journey.

While many families travel long distances to attend Footsteps, some live very locally to us and therefore come in on a weekly basis. Tiegian's family live in Berinsfield and have been coming to Footsteps since Tiegian was just two years old.

Now five years old, Tiegian attends for an hour weekly and one or two intensive sessions per year. Tiegian has cerebral palsy.

According to mum, Catherine: 'Prior to Footsteps, Tiegian was unable to do much at all. Tiegian has improved tremendously since coming to Footsteps. She is able to sit herself up and maintain a sitting position, leaving her arms free to enable her to play. Her confidence has also improved which has been noticed by everyone who knows her. School commented that she is joining in at school now, and this coincides with Tiegian being able to sit by herself. This improved confidence has also meant that she has found a new enthusiasm to her exercise. Tiegian enjoys the social side, she does a lot of talking during her sessions! She also

enjoys the positive feedback when she has done something well and loves showing off her new "tricks" as we call them!

How lucky for this family that they just happen to live next to one of the best physio centres in the UK for children like Tiegian!



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Focus on... ...The Fleur de Lys



In the second of the articles about the hostelries in Dorchester, this month we feature the Fleur de Lys. Mother and son team Bev and Josh Walker are the most recent arrivals as mine hosts in Dorchester having been at the Fleur de Lys since the beginning of December last, re-opening the pub which had lain closed for more than a year. Why did they choose the Fleur and why Dorchester? 'As soon as we saw Dorchester we fell for its charm' Bev says. 'And the Fleur was just what we were looking for.' They were also considering a pub in Cheltenham, but says Bev, once they saw both Dorchester and the Fleur, there was no contest and they set their hearts on coming here. It surely helps that Bev lives in Oxford, and Dorchester is rather closer than Cheltenham, whilst Josh now lives on site at the Fleur.

This is their first pub together, but they bring a lot of relevant experience to running it. Josh knows all about beer, having worked for Shotover Brewery and Purity Brewing Company, winning awards for his brewing skills. He also has a passion for good wine. A comparatively

small but carefully selected wine list where you know everything is good beats a long list from which it can be difficult to find the good wines in my book. So you can always guarantee that the beer and the wine will be good. Bev has run a café in Oxford for over six years, so has the food side of the business well under her control.

And it is a combination of good drinks and good food in a comfortable atmosphere that they are aiming to provide. The Fleur is now opening all day, except on Mondays when they close during the day, and food is offered every lunchtime and evening, again except for Monday. The menu aims to be a cut above regular pub grub. As much as possible is sourced locally, with meat coming from a butcher in Sonning Common, and all food is fully prepared on the premises. Coffee comes from Dorchester company, Horsebox Coffee, emphasising their commitment to sourcing things locally and supporting the village. And, as we all know, it is excellent coffee. After a slightly false start with a chef who left unexpectedly at Christmas time, they are

delighted with chef Ashley, who started in mid-January and is now providing a menu that changes and updates every few days. So you can eat at the Fleur more than once a week and have a range of choices. And they do roasts on Sundays for a traditional Sunday lunch.

Being independent, they are also their own masters when it comes to the drinks and beers that they sell. Currently they offer beers from Warwickshire based Purity Brewing and from Cotswold Brewery brewed in Bourton on the Water in, well, the Cotswolds. They have already found that people are coming from Wallingford for the beers, and they have a plan to possibly introduce more of the unusual brewers. Josh even says that one day he might really capitalise on his brewing skills and think about setting up a micro-brewery here. But he probably has plenty of other things in hand at the moment getting the Fleur up and running.

And it certainly seems to have got off to a running start. Bev says that they were amazed how many people turned up on the opening night. Dorchester people are pretty friendly, and everyone wanted to wish them well – and have a look: we are also pretty inquisitive! And that carried on, she says, through Christmas, giving them a better start than they had hoped for.



They don't deny that there have been a few teething issues – the electronic till blew up one night, and the beer lines went down another. They then closed for a few days at the beginning of January for a new bar to be fitted. But since then trade has been steady. They get lots of

“We fell for its charm”

walkers dropping in during the day and they have many ideas for attractions and events. An open mic evening on Mondays is being tried out. They are thinking about a Pub Quiz Night, but have heard that there is one family in the village who are masters of this form of quizzing! Maybe they will have to introduce a handicapping system! A wine-tasting evening in conjunction with Oxford Wine Company is being planned, reflecting Josh's passion for good wine, and this may have happened by the time you read this. And there will, of course, be special menus for occasions such as Mother's Day.

Outside, they are keen to get the Aunt Sally up and running again, so once again on a still summer's evening we can hear the satisfying clinking of the Aunt Sally drifting across the village. They also want to reinstate the children's play area and provide food in the garden in the summer months. The garden could also be used for a marquee, raising the possibility of parties and weddings being held there. So there is a lot to plan and to do. That micro-brewery idea might have to wait a bit, Josh!



Josh, Bev and Ashley, with the lovely Odi

Meanwhile there is still the bed and breakfast business to be run. There continue to be five rooms, and these are well booked. A good source of customers continues to be the Midsomer Murders tours, and they have had people staying from as far away as Belgium. I think that they will find that they will be getting people from much further away than that!

During the winter months they are keeping two log fires going, making the Fleur a warm and cosy place to go either for a

drink or a meal. The changes that they have made to the décor have made it more friendly and comfortable and a relaxed environment. If you have not yet been there, give it a try. Drop in for a drink from the range of specialist beers and wines; go for a meal one evening using their locally sourced products; or how about a relaxed brunch at the weekend. Whichever you go for, you'll get a warm welcome from Josh and Bev.

And make sure you check out the monkey lamps on the bar.





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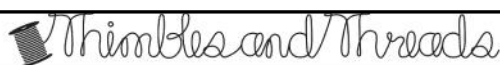
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Tree on the bridge—the world is cut off from Dorchester



The afternoon of Sunday 9 February and, for a while at least, Dorchester was cut off from the south by a fallen tree resting across the bridge over the Thames. Storm Ciara had done its worst. Thanks to the efforts of some trained chain saw users, the bridge was cleared in time for Monday morning's rush hour.



Dorchester Abbey Tea Room

A huge **thank you** to all the volunteers who bake or help in our amazing Tea Room. Last year we took an incredible £18,284, almost £2,000 more than 2018. The majority of this money will be donated to charity by the Abbey.

We would also like to thank our loyal and new customers who bravely did their bit, turning out to eat cake, regardless of the weather, to contribute to such a grand total.

We are already planning our Easter Saturday opening (**11 April**) and have some new exciting ideas which we hope you will appreciate.

If you didn't get a tea room cookery book for Christmas do get one from the Museum, Lilys or the Tea Room—for just £7.50 you get the recipes for all the Tea Room favourites.

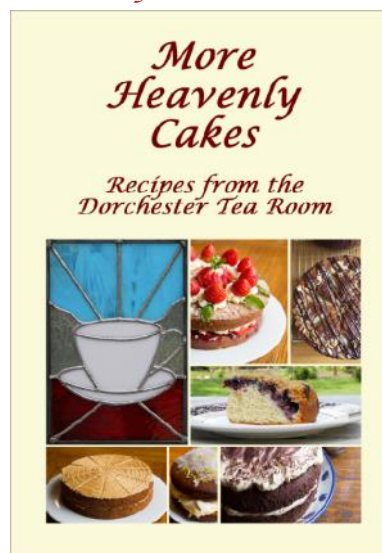
If you have time to help (even just one afternoon) or bake a cake (even just one cake) between April and September we would be delighted to hear from you—just tell us what day suits you best and we'll schedule you in. Working in the Tea Room is a fun way to meet new people and support your village!

We particularly need jam! Do you have any spare from last year that we could use at the beginning of the season? Could you make jam for us? We are organising a team fruit picking afternoon so will need pickers and jam makers.

Steph Forman
steph@forman.org.uk
01865 340434

More Heavenly Cakes

Sold in aid of Dorchester Abbey



Recipes from the expert volunteer bakers of the Dorchester Abbey Tea Rooms. From classic cakes to delicious new recipes and gluten free and vegan bakes, your favourite cake from the tea room is bound to be here!

This book is the long awaited update to *Heavenly Cakes*, keeping many of the old favourites and adding the latest star bakes.

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



It's been a busy and dramatic month at the District Council! By the time you read this we should have approved the SODC budget for 2020/21. This has been a very thorough and challenging process, going through all departments and areas of discretionary spending to find cost savings, while also seeking ways to increase income. While we cannot balance the budget in a single year, we believe we have taken significant steps towards reducing our reliance on transfers from the Council's reserves – for the last few years, under the previous administration, these have been being used to balance the council's budget. We also need room to invest in new initiatives, particularly around affordable housing and the climate emergency, with which we are making positive progress.

Between 2011 and 2019, the district council saw its direct grant funding from government reduced from £7.9 million to zero. It was only partially replaced by retained business rates and New Homes Bonus. We only keep around 5% of the business rates collected, due to the way the formulas work, and government has signalled the end of New Homes Bonus, so the council is now in an increasingly difficult financial position and could face a funding gap of up to £6.1 million by 2023/24 if no action is taken.

We should also know what will happen next to the emerging Local Plan 2034; I am, as I write this, also preparing to speak at Oxfordshire County Council, who are about to vote on whether to take over the plan and push it through inspection, if asked to do so by the Secretary of State, Robert Jenrick MP, who seems happy to override local democracy. If residents were happy with the proposed level of development in South Oxfordshire, I don't think they would have voted in a completely new administration in May. I continue to believe a rational solution is possible, but we will see.

In other developments, initial designs for the new council office to be built at Crowmarsh have been on display to the public. It will be on the site of the old SODC offices which burned down a few years back in an arson attack. Since then, the council has been housed in expensive and unsuitable temporary accommodation at Milton Park. The new offices will aim to use renewable energy, be as low-carbon as possible, and will have a proper council chamber where meetings can be streamed live, so you can see what we are up to!

As always, feel free to get in touch with any concerns over District Council matters.

Robin.Bennett@southoxon.gov.uk
tel. 01865 858680 m.07979 646815

Parish Council Notices Monthly Meetings

The March Meeting will take place in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 11 March** commencing at 7.30 p.m. and the April Meeting on **Wednesday 8 April** 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** – 3 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.

e-mail: **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.

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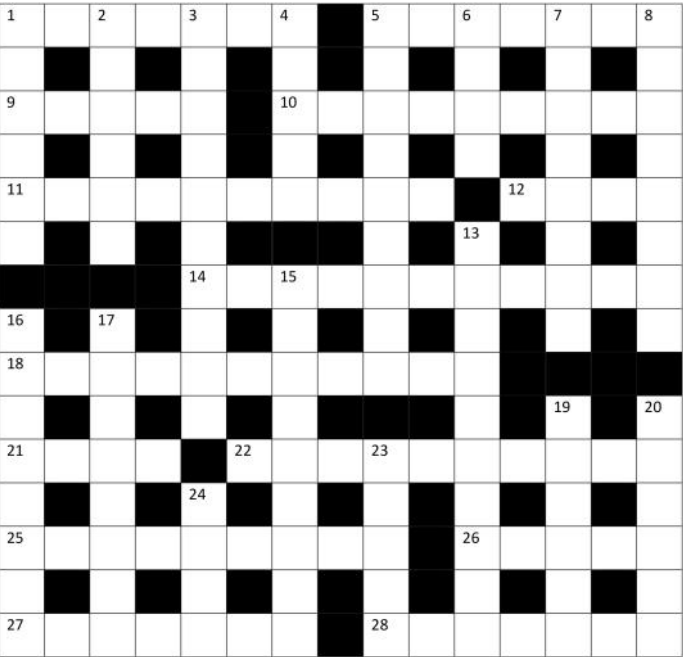
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From the editor: If you attempted the crossword in the February issue and found that you couldn't complete it, that may have been because we printed the wrong grid. So, with apologies to the crossword enthusiast and to Slider, our complier, we repeat here the clues for Crossword 11 along with, hopefully, the correct grid.

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 ploy 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 can help you through relationship breakdown

There is no storm quite like an emotional storm, and the trauma of a separation from a loved one can be devastating and overwhelming. Some people say it feels as if the ground is falling away beneath their feet. It helps if you know there's somewhere you can go right away for help: Citizens Advice.

If you and your partner or spouse have decided that separation is inevitable, you should try to work out the practical details between yourselves. But bear in mind that you might eventually need to consult a solicitor as well to enshrine your agreement in law, especially if you have assets or children. Going to court should be regarded as a last resort.

Discuss with your ex-partner where you will live, where your children will live, and how to split any money or belongings. If you and your partner are too upset to talk to each other calmly, wait and talk later, or use a mediator.

If your partner makes you feel threatened, get help. Call Refuge or Women's Aid on **0808 2000 247**. There is also a Men's Advice Line on **0808 801 0327**.

If you have children with your partner, you are both responsible for the cost of looking after them when you separate, even if you are not married. The parent who moves out might have to pay maintenance to the parent who looks after the children.

Consider any outstanding debts or loans that you might have, and think about who needs to be informed about the separation. If you pay council tax, or receive benefits or tax credits, get in touch with the relevant people and tell them about your new status.

Citizens Advice can help you find the ground beneath your feet so you can move on. Call Citizens Advice Adviceline on **0300 3309042** or come and see us in person. For locations of offices and opening hours visit

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale

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



County Council budget offers Oxfordshire residents new investment in social services, schools and roads

Proposals for an 'investment budget' to reduce neglect, ill-health and social isolation will be considered by councillors when Oxfordshire County Council sets its budget on Tuesday 11 February, following resident and business consultation.

The proposals include community support for vulnerable people so they can live independently for longer, and more help for struggling families to reduce the chances of children having to go into care.

Funding for children and adult social services would increase by **£30 million** next year, including an extra £8.1 million from the government. This money is needed to support an increase in adult social care needs for both older and disabled people, as well as the increasing number of child protection cases, which has grown in line with national trends.

The budget proposals also include investment in infrastructure across the county, such as an extra **£50 million** for new and existing schools over ten years. Most of the funding comes from housing developers to meet the need for more pupil places.

The county council proposes to spend **£30 million** in 2020/21 from its capital budget on repairs to roads, bridges, drainage and footways across Oxfordshire's towns and villages.

New funding of **£3 million** per year is proposed to improve local road safety and accessibility, including new pedestrian crossings, improved junctions and better bus stop facilities. These measures are designed to encourage walking and cycling as part of the council's commitment to improving air quality and active lifestyles.

Responding to climate change features prominently across budget proposals, including support for sustainable travel such as improving park and ride services on the A40, and the replacement of over 50,000 streetlights with energy-efficient LEDs. All budget proposals have to consider the climate change agenda and how the county council will meet its carbon neutral target by 2030.



New community library opens in Barton as part of the County Council's commitment to the service

A new community library has opened in the Barton area of Oxford as part of a community-led project between Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council and the Barton Community Association. The new community library is another sign of Oxfordshire County Council's commitment to its library service, with 44 libraries now serving communities across the county and a home library service supporting those unable to get out to their local branch. Botley Library will also move to a new home in the West Way development in February.



Go ahead for full business case for project to reduce congestion into and around Oxford

OCC and Oxford City Council cabinets have approved plans to develop a detailed business case for a project to reduce congestion on routes into and around Oxford, improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions.

The aim of "Connecting Oxford" is to make a real improvement to journey times for commuters, other travellers and quality of life for residents and visitors, including improved air quality. This will be done by reducing the number of cars travelling into and around the city and encouraging more people to travel by buses, walking and cycling.

The plans include:

- Three new bus gates at Worcester Street, Thames Street and St Cross Road/South Parks Road to reduce the number of motor vehicle trips through the city centre
- In the eastern arc of Oxford, an area that covers north, east and south-east Oxford inside the ring road
- A Workplace Parking Levy (WPL) is proposed across the eastern arc.

Benefits to employers and staff include sustainable travel improvements and parking management; discounts on bus fares, park & ride buses and parking and discounts on bike purchases

The WPL will also provide funding for new and improved bus services and for additional Park & Ride capacity and better walking and cycling routes. There will also be a significant and rapid expansion of Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) across Oxford, including nine new CPZ areas.

Plans to go ahead will be open to further input by the public, business, employers and other city organisations to address concerns and technical details.

Further public engagement work will be carried during the rest of 2020, with the next public consultation expected to take place in winter 2020/21.



New online waste information tool launched to help boost recycling rates

An online tool has been launched by OCC to help tackle the main issue inhibiting better recycling; information. Waste Wizard offers comprehensive information on what can and cannot be recycled, where to deposit it or if it can be repurposed or donated.

Waste Wizard uses postcodes and allows residents to identify what to do with a huge range of household objects and materials to avoid them being disposed of. It works across all areas of the county. It informs residents of where and how to get some objects repaired or donated as well as recycled at local authority sites or from the kerbside. Oxfordshire has a commanding lead position in England for recycling with over 58% of all waste reused, composted or recycled in compared to the national rate of 45%.

Go to: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard

Skies

Such winter-tinted firmament
Venetian green and showing distance
Its pressured clean-glass cold North air
Thin and still from Arctic wastes
As a low red heatless sun limns
The fringe of firs and bare- wood ash
Their frost coronas laced daylong

Changes come with hopeful winds
And heaven's blue is fully crowded
Great vapoured banks, Spring's fluid life
The yearly gift to germination
But shiftless treachery can be sudden
Where benign beguiling beginning
Can fast become black thundrous flood.

Under white-domed torrid afternoons
Unslaked trees hang their heads in weary leaf
As unheated, untroubled by atmosphere
Intent insects toil in endless consumption
While the lake is summer-dusted, ripple-free
And browning trodden sleeping grass
Forgoes the mower's urgent chatter

In Autumn's maturity its clouds are pure
Their welcome ordered rains refresh
Wide sunsets spread the painted evening
No harsh diagonal gale-thrown strands
That soon can spoil the apple-scent serenity
And looking up through limitless distance
We fly unreachable ever- present skies

John Pickard

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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help us raise money for the Abbey?**

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Dorchester Abbey**

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Raising money for Dorchester Abbey



From your MP...

...John Howell

I know that environmental issues are of concern to many constituents. Whilst sometimes we focus on one particular concern, such as a recent campaign on protecting our oceans, we also need to keep the environment at the forefront when considering many other issues.

At present we have the Agriculture Bill going through Parliament. A key purpose of this Bill is to deal with expenditure and payments following our departure from the EU and the Common Agriculture Policy. This is, of course, important for our farmers and indeed to all of us as food and farming are an key part of our economy and our environment. Farmland helps to shape some of our finest habitats and landscapes.

As we develop our own agriculture policy we have an important opportunity to bring forward innovative new ideas to support investment in healthy, sustainable British food production and to ensure that we do our best for farming, the environment and animal welfare. This Bill currently in progress creates the opportunity for us to pay farmers for environmental protection, access to the countryside, and work to reduce flooding. This will help us to meet crucial goals on climate change while also protecting nature and biodiversity. The Agriculture Bill also seeks to champion British food by improving transparency and fairness in the supply chain. It is important for us to know where our food has come from and to have confidence in what we eat. It is good news that this is also a commitment in trade negotiations where we import food products.

We also have the Environment Bill, which was initially introduced into parliament in October last year, back on the table. This Bill will ensure the environment is at the heart of all policy making and that this government, and future governments, are held to account if they fail to uphold their environmental duties. These will include meeting net-zero by 2050, as well as wider long-term legally binding targets on biodiversity, air quality, water, and resource and waste efficiency which will be established under the Bill. The Bill will be one of the key mechanisms for delivering the vision set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan. In this plan the Government committed to developing a Nature Recovery Network, a framework for this will be included in the Bill. This will work to better direct investment in the environment and green

infrastructure. Further, a new world-leading independent regulator, The Office for Environmental Protection, will be established to scrutinise environmental policy and law, investigate complaints and take enforcement action when necessary.

This is all good news, but I suspect that some might question this when set against a commitment also announced to continue with HS2. It is the job of government to balance things that seemingly might conflict. We cannot ignore inequality and the need for better public transport links, both within the north of our country and to the north of our country, which have long been needed. If we want to reduce road travel we have to invest in our rail network and other transport infrastructure. The package announced by the government includes thousands of new zero emission buses, more flexible travel to encourage people to use public transport over the private car. It also includes investment in new cycle routes.

We must also remember that in rural areas the car is not a luxury. Whilst some journeys can be done by bike many cannot for very practical reasons. We have also seen how the network of villages and different demands have made public transport unviable. This is why investment in alternative transport models and new fuel technologies is critical and why it is good news that the government has brought forward the date beyond which the sale of new petrol, diesel and hybrid cars and vans to 2035.

As always I am interested to know the views of constituents on the various topics as they come up for debate. Whether on a topic before the House or something else, if you have an issue that you would like to raise with me please do email me at 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) to share your views.

If you would like to receive my periodic electronic newsletters, and briefings on specific issues, please visit my website www.johnhowell.org.uk and subscribe at the link on the home page. You will also find more about my work on my website which is regularly updated.

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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

March

Sun 1 **A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood** (PG)
 Mon 2 **A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood** (PG)
 Wed 4 **Little Women** (U)
 Thurs 19 **Parasite** (15)

LIVE SCREENINGS

Tuesday 3 March 7:15pm
Riverdance 25th Anniversary
 Recorded live from Dublin, 25 years after it all began
 Tickets £12.50 (adults), £10 (seniors and under 18s)

LIVE SHOWS

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)

COMING SOON

Wednesday 1 April to Saturday 4 April 7:45pm
 A Sinodun Players' production of Agatha Christie's play 'A Daughter's a Daughter'
 Tickets £12 (adults) £8 (under 15s)

Wednesday 29 April 7:15pm
Royal Ballet: Swan Lake
 Recorded live from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden
 Tickets £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

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The Sinodun Players present



A Daughter's a Daughter

by
Agatha Christie

Directed by
Lucy Pitman-Wallace

"the trouble with a sacrifice
 is that once it is made it
 isn't over and done with"



A Daughter's a Daughter

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

...under the pen name Mary Westmacott, a play that gave her freedom to experiment without the attention and expectation from her mystery writer fame. It allowed Christie to explore relationships and families in a personal way, often using characters and plot points from her life.

The play explores what happens when Anne Prentice, a widow, and Sarah her grown-up daughter, face the prospect of Anne wanting to remarry.

The ensuing conflict and its resolution highlight the limited choices an ordinary middle class woman felt she had for the pursuit of happiness, and how one poor decision could affect one's life forever.

When: **1 to 4 April**

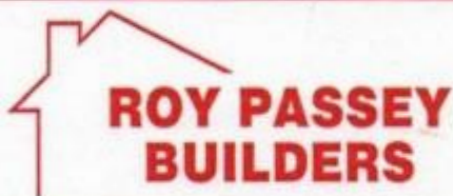
Where: Corn Exchange, Wallingford

Tickets: £12 from Corn Exchange box office **01491 825000**

<http://www.cornexchange.org.uk>

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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WOODBURNING STOVES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY



Wallingford Museum reopens 3 March

Wallingford Museum re-opens on **3 March** with two new special exhibitions.

'**Plague, Pus and Pills**' is the deservedly graphic title of our main exhibition. It traces the fascinating history of Wallingford's hospitals, caring for the sick in the town from medieval times to the present day. Its portrayal of the challenges of dealing with plague, leprosy, smallpox, scarlet fever and other such outbreaks, as well as more common illness and disabilities, brings the past vividly to light.

So don't be squeamish – be brave enough to come and explore our fascinating exhibition and find out just why we are so lucky to live in the 21st century!

'**Willis family of Wallingford - artists and artisans**' brings to life the work of a local family. The Willis family came to Wallingford in the early 19th century, living and working in High Street and what is now The Dolphin. An industrious Quaker family, all six sons had artisan or professional careers. This exhibition spotlights George (1822-1907) an artist who depicted local scenes and flora and fauna for engraved book illustrations, and William (1814-1883) whose main business was engraving and inventing ways to fix early photographs. He patented the aniline process of copying and his son, also William (1841-1923) patented what became the universally acclaimed and commercially successful platinotype process.

Our first family-friendly event will be '**Can You Face It?**' during the school Easter holidays. Create your own facial reconstruction at one of our workshops being held on **7, 9, 14, 16 April**. We have the 'skulls', play dough and know how! Children **free** with adults (£5 season ticket). Early online booking advised at www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Stu Darby

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

What's on in Wallingford



'New light on Wallingford's southern suburb' Wed 11 March



Tim Allen's (Oxford Archaeology) topic will be 'New light on Wallingford's southern suburb: excavations at the former Police Station, Reading Road'.

Excavations in advance of redevelopment have revealed settlement of the late Saxon and Norman periods outside the south gate of the defended burh. Pit clusters and ditches suggest a series of plots alongside the road leading out of the burh, and several half-celled buildings were found, two of which were particularly well-preserved. Finds indicate that the inhabitants were involved in several cottage industries, the most important being textile processing. The evidence will be discussed to see what it adds to the recently published 'Burh to Borough' project, and in the context of excavations of similar sites at Oxford and Winchester.

Oxford Archaeology's Tim Allen is well known to TWHAS and we were delighted that he was the archaeologist for this site.

This talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be held on **Wednesday 11 March**, 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 12 March

The Bill Baker Memorial Lecture

'**The Healing Power of Plants**'

Timothy Walker (University of Oxford)

Thursday 12 March at 7.00pm for refreshments for a start at 7.30pm, at Ridgeway Community Centre, Old Buildings off Wood Street OX10 0EW.

Mankind has exploited the medicinal properties of plants for thousands of years, yet the role of plants in modern medicine is still considered to be peripheral by many people. This talk attempts to put the record straight and to show that plant products are used every day by all of us to relieve pain and suffering, to heal wounds and cure diseases.

Timothy has held positions at Oxford Botanical Gardens, Saville Gardens, and Kew Garden and is a lecturer in Biological Sciences at the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Oxford. He has won four gold medals at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Visitors welcome £3.00

www.wallingford-gardening-club.com

Wallingford Flower Club 1970-2020 50th Anniversary Year Wednesday 11 March 2020

Doors Open 7.15 for 7.45pm start

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

A Floral Demonstration 'A Matter of Time' by Jennifer Thompson
Non-members most welcome - £5
For further details: phone **01491 834303**

Wallingford U3A

Our Speaker in March will be George Verdon on 'The World of Hot Air Balloons'.

Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 2.00pm in Crowmarsh Village Hall. Visitors are always made welcome. Our programme for 2020/2021 will be available at the March meeting. However, on **24 March** we are going to the Churchill War Rooms in London. For details contact Hermione on **01865 858024**.

There are still a few tickets available for the lunch and matinee at Sonning Theatre on **Saturday, 27 June**. For more information about what we do please visit our website:

u3awebsites.org.uk/Wallingford or phone Jill on **01491 835944**

Day by day

Sun 1 Mar	Lent 1 8.00am Holy Communion (1662) 10.30am Morning Service
Wed 4 Mar	Chiropodist Village Hall (see p11)
Fri 6 Mar	Lent lunch 12.30pm Sue Jupp, 13 Watling Lane DoT
Sat 7 Mar	Thames Consort Concert 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 8 Mar	Lent 2 8.00am Holy Communion (1662) 10.30am Sung Eucharist
Tues 10 Mar	10.15am Short Communion
Wed 11 Mar	Lunch Club 12.30pm Village Hall Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
Thurs 12 Mar	Thursday Tea Club 3.00pm Village Hall
Fri 13 Mar	Lent lunch 12.30pm Meg Fisher, 4 Drayton Road, DoT
Sat 14 Mar	Benson Choral Society Concert 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey

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
15 Mar **Lent 3**
8.00 am
Holy Communion (1662)

10.30am
Sung Eucharist

5.00pm
Choral Evensong

Abbey Museum
2.00-4.00pm
Open

Wed
18 Mar **Chiropodist**
(see p11)

Culham Horticultural Society
Alan Edmondson: *The Designer's Garden*
7.30pm
Abbey Guest House

Royal British Legion meeting
7.30pm
The White Hart

Thurs
19 Mar **Classic Car Show,**
1.00-4.00pm
George Hotel

Fri
20 Mar **Lent lunch**
12.30pm
Sue Booy, The Rectory, Manor Farm Road, DoT

Sat
21 Mar **Berkshire Maestros**
Concert
7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Sun
22 Mar **Mothering Sunday**
8.00am
Holy Communion (1662)

10.30am
Mothering Sunday Service

Wed
25 Mar **Lunch Club**
12.30pm
Village Hall

Dorchester Historical Society
Keith Parry: 'An A to W of Bridges, from Abingdon to Wallingford.'
7.30pm
Village Hall

Fri
27 Mar **Lent Lunch**
12.30pm
Hilary Warburton, Cranmer Cottage, High St, DoT

Sun
29 Mar **Lent 5**
8.00 am
Holy Communion (1662)

Tues
31 Mar **Licensing Service**
7.30pm

Weekly events

Monday	Tai Chi 2.00pm Village Hall Fishmonger 3.30pm by War Memorial (page 27)
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



Mother's Day Sunday 22nd March

Parish Registers

No entries

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
Revd. 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 6 Mar **Black**
Fri 13 Mar **Green**
Fri 20 Mar **Black**
Fri 27 Mar **Green**

Weekdays from 7.00am

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.

Oakley Wood centre will be closed on Tues 31 March and Wed 1 April for a deep clean.

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BENSON
Choral Society

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS *A Sea Symphony*

GRIEG *Piano concerto*

Anita D'Attellis – Piano

Lorena Paz Nieto – Soprano

Stephen Gadd – Baritone

The Elgar Orchestra

Richard Laing – Guest Conductor

Dorchester Abbey

Saturday 14th March 2020
7.30pm

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

Available online via www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk

or phone Stephanie 01865 407395