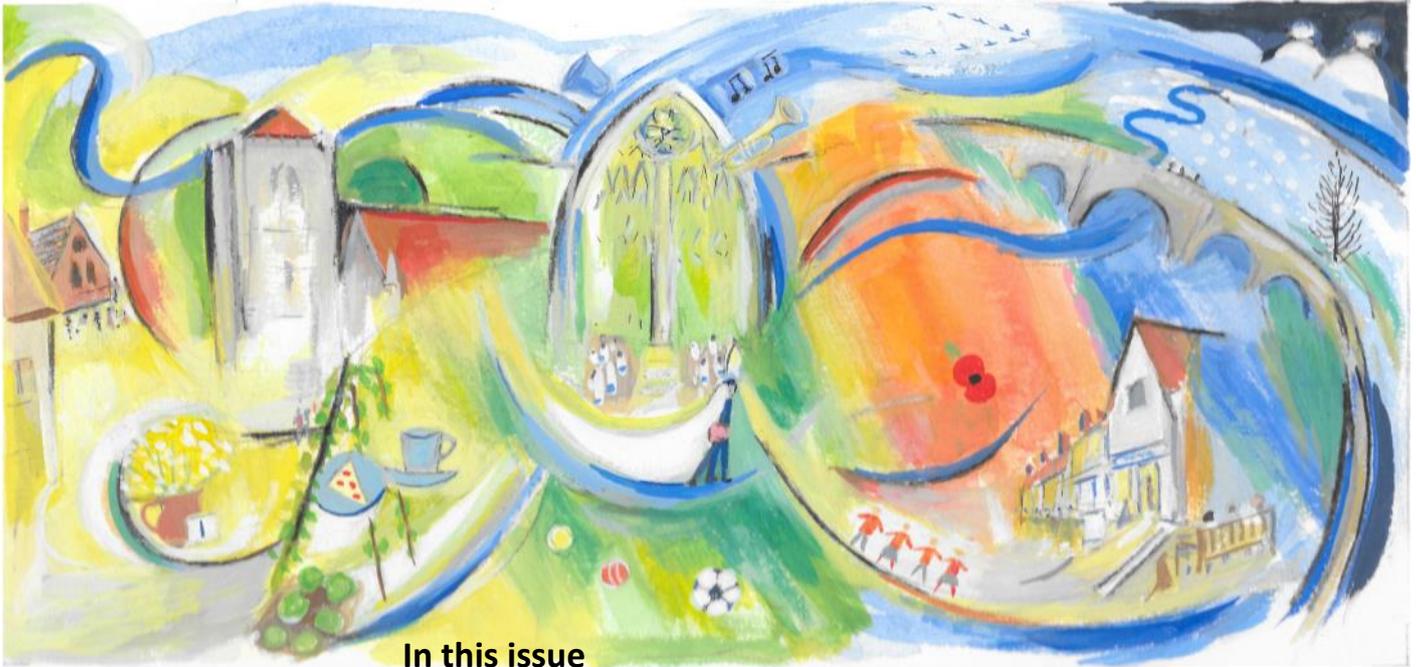


Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

April 2020





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Cover picture: Walkers near Day's Lock with Dorchester in the background.

Deadline for May Dorchester News



email:

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

DoT view

Last month I was writing about Storms Ciara and Dennis. This month it is a totally different type of storm; one that has the potential to affect significantly the lives of all of us at least for a few months. The Coronavirus, or Covid-19.

Throughout this issue you will see village events up to early May that have already been cancelled and others beyond that are still on but will be constantly under review. The advice at the time of writing is to minimise social contact, particularly for vulnerable people, which consists mainly of those with underlying health conditions and those over 70. There are plenty of people in Dorchester who fall into one of those groups, or even both, so do not be surprised to find that more events in April are cancelled beyond those already declared here.

Avoiding social contact means staying at home, particularly for the vulnerable groups. Mark Williams, Chairman of the Parish Council asks on page 23 that we look after and watch out for our neighbours, and item on page 22 reminds us that the village website

www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk can keep us better informed about what is going in real time, so don't forget to go there for up to date information.

Most of all, though, stay safe.

Ian Brace

Editorial Team
Ian Brace, Kathy Glass
Distribution Co-ordinator
Maurice Day

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In my recent travels to Kenya and South Africa I took a number of journeys – several of them long, exhausting and really rather dull but necessary in order to get there and others (mostly) rather shorter and very much less dull in both of these countries. I'll mention just two.

On my first afternoon in Kenya as part of a Youth Challenge Oxfordshire group hosted by the NASIO Trust we were invited to take part in an 'awareness raising demonstration'. Following a local band, waving banners, singing and chanting we left the NASIO Noah's Ark school and danced and sang our way through the local community. Our slogans 'Free Malaria Vaccination' and 'Stop Gender Violence'. It is extraordinary the audience that a group of (mostly) young Mzungo's (white skinned people) singing and dancing through a village street can gather – and when we stopped, Jane, the NASIO programme leader, invited parents to bring their children for vaccination but, perhaps more importantly, addressed the gathering on the subject of gender violence – what we would call domestic abuse. Taking part in that demonstration was a journey not just of physical but also mental endurance for most of us who took part.

In South Africa on Ash Wednesday I undertook one of the most extraordinary journeys of my life. It involved being the sole driver of the car in which we



mistakenly took a non-made up road for about 50 kilometres across any number of different road surfaces and ended up embedded in sand. By an extraordinary act of grace a young Afrikaaner farmer turned up within half an hour; just after we had cleared the area around the wheels. I had just begun to wonder which items of clothing I would sacrifice to ensure our 'grip' when he rescued us by reducing the air pressure in our tyres and driving the car to freedom. The expression on his face when we said how long we had been stranded gave us pause for thought – he was clearly surprised at our brief wait – and, since neither GPS nor mobile signals were appearing on our phones we considered ourselves very fortunate.

At the end of this long drive I was privileged to share in the Ash Wednesday communion at Grobblershoop – one of the parishes with which we are linked through the Burning Bush project. The

generosity of

their new parish priest who invited me to Ash his congregation and to distribute the Bread which he had consecrated alongside his Lay ministers was something I will not easily forget. By the time I hit my bed on Ash Wednesday I felt as if I had experienced the whole of Lent in a day!

By the time you read this the Lenten journey marked by testing and acts of self-sacrifice will be almost over. In these troubled times we do not know what journeys or what dangers lie just around the corner for us and I pray as I write that our communities will have reached the beginning of April if not untouched at least not discouraged.

With Easter in sight, the great journey of Holy Week in which we mark Jesus' final journey to death and beyond still lies before us. What marks out this story as extraordinary is the demonstration of a hope that exists even when all seems hopeless – and a promise of joy; the joy of Easter – a joy that is not without cost but which does transcend pain.

May you and yours be blessed in your journeying and in journeys end!

(A longer description of this journey is to be found in a sermon for the first Sunday in Lent available on the Dorchester Abbey website

www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

Services

31 March 7.30pm Licensing of the Reverend Mark Haworth to serve in the Bridge Group of Parishes, followed by refreshments.

5 April Palm Sunday

Procession from the War Memorial led by a Donkey kindly provided by the Brightwell Donkey Sanctuary. Gather for 10.15am for the Blessing of Palms and procession. Family Service and Baptism in Church.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting immediately after the service

6.00pm Walking the Way of the Cross - Brothers and Sisters in Christ. News, pictures and prayers for Palm Sunday shared with our Link companions in the Burning Bush parishes.

Holy Week – see the Holy Week leaflet for services and meetings in your parishes.

Maundy Thursday 9 April Celebration of the Last Supper followed by Solemn Stripping of the Altar in Dorchester Abbey. 6.30pm. Please indicate your attendance on sheets at the back of churches.

Good Friday 10 April Following the Way of the Cross – Addresses and meditations by members of the Clergy Team in the Abbey 12noon – 3.00pm

Holy Saturday Youth Vigil in the Abbey from 7.30pm. Worship on the hour each hour until midnight with activities centred on Easter themes in between. Everyone welcome to join us for a walk to the Wittenham Clumps to light the Easter Fire at dawn.

Coronavirus

Coronavirus: At the time of writing there are no restrictions on public gatherings but clearly any of our events over the next months are subject to alteration. We expect to publicise up to date information on the front page of the Dorchester Abbey website and on A Church Near You pages. Please keep checking. We will also keep the telephone line **01865 340007** monitored and with an up to date message.

We hope that all of us will be able to worship together during Holy Week and Easter. However, new advice from the Church of England is that parishioners should receive communion in one kind - the bread. The priest will celebrate in both kinds but only the bread will be distributed. Neither the Peace nor Blessings will be offered using direct touch. You may wish to learn a simple BSL form of the Peace.

All our churches will be endeavouring to provide hand gel near the door of churches for the use of all congregants, but you will be aware that this recommendation may not be achievable. We will be asking all those acting in a welcoming, chalice assistant, sacristan and server capacity to use hand gel and will be providing water for hand washing in the sanctuary.

Your clergy have considered upcoming events in our Calendar and are planning sensible contingencies subject to Government and Church of England advice.

Dorchester Abbey

ALL CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES HAVE NOW BEEN SUSPENDED.

EASTER LILIES 2020



**ALL CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES
HAVE NOW BEEN SUSPENDED.**

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
.....

£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.



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 Dorchester will License Mark in **March 2020** at 7.30pm and we look forward to his new parishioners and members of the Team there to welcome him.

Mark was brought up in Lancashire and after graduating from St Andrews University spent 15 years with the Forestry Commission as a District Officer, ending up in Ludlow where he became a Hereford ordinand in 1998.

He trained for the priesthood at Westcott House, Cambridge and then served as vicar, rural dean and sub-warden of readers at locations in the Ely Diocese. He was School Chaplain at Framlingham College and Brandeston Hall School, Bishop's Chaplain at Peterborough and then seven years as Team Rector of the Pendleton Team Ministry (later the Salford All Saints Team Ministry). He was also Borough Dean of Salford. He then became Vicar of Rochdale and was made an Honorary Canon of Manchester Cathedral in 2012.

For the last seven years he has been at St Edmondsbury & Ipswich, for six years of which he was Rural Dean.

Mark considers that he has embraced a wide breadth of worship, spirituality, prayer-life and music in his lay and ordained ministry, and that his faith journey is Christ-centred, Biblically-grounded and pastorally-driven, undergirded by a facility and desire for good administration, prayer and parties! He looks forward very much to working within the Bridge Group and the whole Dorchester Team, its schools, the deanery and the diocese, building on what has gone before, and that which is already in place and flourishing.

Mark has three children, two of whom live in London and one in Suffolk. He has three grandchildren.

As a singer he will enjoy becoming involved musically in South Oxfordshire. He particularly enjoys fellwalking and landscape, architecture, concerts, theatre and film; he is also a lifetime supporter of Blackburn Rovers FC (which feeds his love of sacrificial loyalty and sardonic humour). Mark and his third faithful labrador Honey enjoy local walking and spending time with family and friends, and in addition he hopes to pick up his racquet-sports more often than has been possible of late.

Shirley Anne Dean 1932 - 2020

Shirley sadly passed away in January and her funeral was held on 4 February at Oxford Crematorium. It was well attended by neighbours and friends from the village.

Odd Job Man wanted

I have a cottage in Dorchester which I rent out and I'm looking for a chap who could do some odd jobs when needed... if you are interested please call Diane on **07730 580199**.

Friends of Dorchester Abbey Visit to Malvern Monday 11 May 2020

The coach will leave from the Bridge End car park in Dorchester at 8.30am.

Please note the time is earlier than usual.

With a short comfort stop we should arrive in Malvern at about 11.00am.

Free time to explore and have lunch.

The attractive Victorian town of Great Malvern is the setting for Malvern Priory, described as a cathedral sized wonder of English Medieval architecture. It is renowned for its stained glass, including the huge East window dating from the 15th century. There are misericords with 14th and 15th century carvings and 15th century tiles in over 100 different designs.

The history of the Priory is very similar to that of Dorchester Abbey: Founded as a Priory in 1085, it was a monastery for over 450 years until in 1541 the church was bought for £20 by the local people to save it from destruction. The quire and chapels of Dorchester Abbey were bought by Richard Beaufort for £140 and bequeathed to the parish in his will dated 13 July 1554. Both have been the parish church ever since.

The Friends of Malvern Priory visited Dorchester a few years ago and they invited the Dorchester Abbey Friends to visit Malvern so that they could return the hospitality.

The town has always attracted artists and crafts people, so some delightful works are on show and in shops and galleries. There are good independent shops and many places to enjoy lunch, including the book and coffee shop at the entrance to the priory churchyard and the cafe in Malvern Theatres in the Old Winter Gardens.

Guided tour of Malvern Priory at 3.15pm, followed by a cup of tea with the Friends of the Priory

The coach will leave Malvern at 5.00pm.

Traffic permitting, we should arrive back in Dorchester by 7.30pm.



Further information will be sent to participants in the week before the visit.

Cost: £30.00 per person for Friends of the Abbey, which includes the coach travel and guided tour of Malvern Priory.

£32.00 per person for non-Friends of the Abbey

Friends of Dorchester Abbey will receive this information and booking form in the Spring Newsletter.

If anyone else would like to come, please send a cheque for £32.00 per person, payable to 'The Friends of Dorchester Abbey'

Your name, address, phone number and email address to:

Mrs Yvonne Lawden, 9 Queens Close, Dorchester-on-Thames, Wallingford, OX10 7LR by Friday 17 April. [Please note: you will not be sent tickets or a receipt, if you have any queries please phone Yvonne Lawden on **01865 340465** or email: **y.m.lawden@gmail.com**]

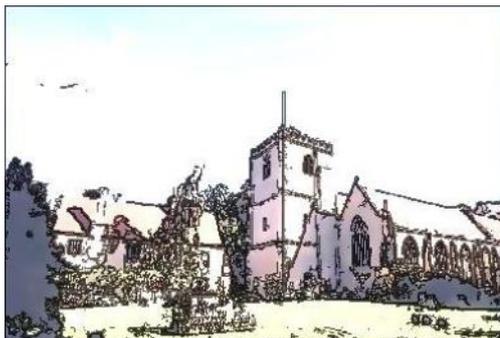
Yvonne Lawden

Dorchester May Morning

Friday 8 May. (Note **Friday** not **Monday** as in previous years)

TWO A PART will again welcome May by singing from the top of the Abbey tower and then give a short concert in the Abbey. In recognition of VE Day this year's programme will include some songs from the World Wars.

There is no admission charge but donations will be shared between the Abbey and The Nasio Trust, a charity supporting AIDS orphans and destitute children in Kenya



In light of uncertainties over Coronavirus we are not doing breakfasts this year but hot and cold drinks will be available from 8.45am

Two A Part

Sing from the Tower at 9:00, then in the Abbey

tim.cook12@btinternet.com

www.thenasiotrust.org

Please check for possible postponement.

Dorchester on Thames Historical Society

Wednesday 22 April 2020
7.30pm, Village Hall Back Room
Members free, Visitors welcome (£3)

Liz Woolley will talk on: *Leisure and entertainment in Victorian and Edwardian Oxford*

In the mid nineteenth century changes in employment practices and rising real wages meant that ordinary working people found themselves, usually for the first time, with leisure time and with spare money to spend on recreation. All sorts of establishments arose to fulfil the new demand for entertainment, many of them aimed at keeping people out of the pub. This talk describes where and how Oxford citizens spent their free time, and how the middle classes attempted to impose 'rational recreation' on their working-class contemporaries.



Liz lives in Oxford and has an MSc in English Local History from the University's Department for Continuing Education. She is particularly interested in Oxford's 'town' - as opposed to 'gown' - history, and in the lives of ordinary working citizens in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Looking ahead:

27 May: Pam Manix on 'Oxford's Medieval Jewish Quarter'.

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

11 July: summer outing to Hughenden Manor. More information see right.

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

Margot Metcalfe
Chairman

Get your waste to the right place

A new and magical hero is in town to kill the confusion around recycling. The Waste Wizard is a new online tool that's here to provide a magical solution to help Oxfordshire residents in their quest to solve the riddle of household waste and defeat General Waste.

Type in your postcode and the name of any item to find out whether it can be reused, repaired, donated, recycled, if it needs to go into a specific bin or can be disposed of at a Household Waste Recycling Centre - oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard

Village News

Hughenden Manor and Operation 'Hillside'. Saturday 11 July 2020

Hughenden Manor, home to Victorian Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, is not only a fascinating house to visit but also holds a secret. During the Second World War it became the headquarters of a top-secret operation codenamed 'Hillside' and this put Hughenden high on Hitler's target list. This secret map-making operation played a critical role supporting the pilots of nearby Bomber Command.

We will spend the day exploring Hughenden and its estate and learn more about Operation 'Hillside' at the recently opened exhibition. This is a National Trust property and has a café, shop, second-hand bookshop and plants and produce from the estate are also available.



9.30 departure from the Bridge End car park

Returning to Dorchester by 16.30 approx.

Cost: £26 (coach only)

National Trust Members free entry (remember to bring your Membership Card)

Non National Trust Members pay £12.60 on arrival at Hughenden.

Please make your cheques for the coach (£26 per person) out to the Dorchester Historical Society and send/give to Gail Thomas, 14 Herringcote, Martins Lane, Dorchester on Thames OX10 7RD, Tel: **01865 341977** or email: gail.thomas8@btinternet.com

You do not have to be a member of the Historical Society to come.



Dorchester Abbey Museum News

Museum reopens Easter Saturday
11 April, 2.00pm-5.00pm
*Come in and see us as we open up
for the new season!*

Our Museum shop has a large range of gift items as well as a wide variety of greetings cards to suit all occasions.

Have you seen Edith Stedman's charming *Monastery Guest House Cook Book* – recently reissued to mark the Museum's 60th anniversary? Price £7.50

Volunteer training: Curator, Joe Raine, will be holding training sessions for new and experienced volunteers in the Museum – we look forward to seeing you either on **Wed 1 April, 10.30am** or **Fri 3 April, 10.30am**, whichever date is better for you. Refreshments provided.



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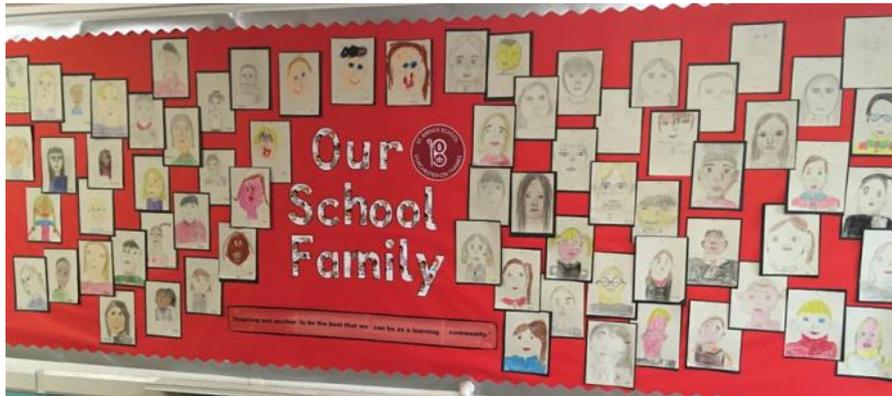
In House...Your local property experts!



St Birinus Primary School News

Just before February half term, we held our annual Art Week, all the classes had the opportunity to draw a self-portrait – these drawings have provided a fantastic display in our main corridor to represent the family of our school. Each class has also been engaged in some additional art activities looking at different artists – an exciting week of art.

World Book Day was on Thursday 5 March - the children had the opportunity to come dressed as a character from a book (or in non-uniform if they preferred). As always there was a great array of costumes and the fun of guessing what characters they had come as. This year, we also held a 'Cook for Books' cake sale at the end of the day to raise some money to buy some sets of class reading books.



Fox Class headed off to Narnia (in the Abbey), the children had helped prepare some of the exhibition, so it was great for them to take part in the workshop based around the book. They imagined themselves as evacuees and ventured through the wardrobe door. They all had a wonderful experience.

There has been much excitement in Squirrel Class with the arrival of eggs and an incubator. All the children in school had the opportunity to predict which egg would hatch first and we did not have to wait long as the chicks started to hatch two days later. I kept popping in to have a look to see how they were getting on and it was lovely to see the children's joy.

As I write this, I am currently enjoying the delights of the Woodlands Centre with Owl class and Mrs Eacopo on their residential in the Brecon Beacons. Apart from being just a little damp, we have had a great time canoeing, climbing, caving and mountain walking. Of course the biggest challenge of the week was to make our own beds – I am smile about their antics even now. As always this is a great week to challenge and push ourselves past our comfort zones. I am proud of the whole group.

Russell Leigh
Headteacher

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BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

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Wednesday 8 April 2.30pm
Easter Craft Afternoon

Rhymes for the Under 5s
Suspended

Storytime Suspended

IT Drop in Thursday 11 April 10.00am - 11.00am

Key Stage 2 Reading Group 2.30pm
Thursday 4 April & 5 May

Reading Group 2.00pm
Thursday 9 April & 14 May

Coffee Morning 10.30am
Tuesday 21 April & 19 May

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

All activities cancelled for time being.

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/



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NARNIA: A Journey of Discovery 2020

The Return!!

A hugely successful engagement event for our local and wider community, schools and families

We first staged NARNIA in October-November 2016 when we were amazed by its popularity with both visitors and schools! Because of the wonderful memories that lived on with locals and families we decided a return to the magical world of CS Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* was called for! Once again we turned to our amazing local Dorchester community to help bring it to life and what a superb job they did too – from the fantastic audio-visual display by Tim Cook showing 'All Aboard! The Sleigh Ride' in the cold Narnia forest (with Adrian Brooks's wolves lurking menacingly), to the amazingly scary White Witch and the fabulous homes of Mr Tumnus (with Puff Drew's wonderful artwork making a



welcome reappearance) and the Beavers staged by Gill Whitten, Mel Rust and Sally Bell. As well as the beautiful springtime forest of fir trees decorated with silk, knitted, felt and potted flowers created by our own talented Sandie Griffith and her skilled wonderful assistant Samantha Turner. Many others helped by providing items to help stage the various scenes or erecting some of the settings, such as Mark Townson and Jon Francis putting up the wintery trees provided by the Hurst Water Meadow Trust, complemented by Nick Forman's cool blue lights – not to forget the knitters of the mice and Sue Ryder providing us with the coats! We also had help from local schools to create some of the decorations, as we went on outreach visits into three local schools at Marsh Baldon (the fantastic shimmering giant snowflakes), our own St. Birinus (Mr Tumnus's highly inventive book covers) and the Abbey Woods Academy in Berinsfield whose Y5 and Y6 children had a great time constructing the amazing collaged head of Aslan! But we must also commend Maggie and her fantastic team of volunteers, who manned the welcome desk and the plethora of craft activities, and Steph's team manning the pop-up tea room, all of whom provided a marvellous Dorchester welcome to everyone, something that visitors greatly appreciated and many commented upon!

An online review posted on Red Kite Days just after we opened highly praised the quality of the interactive exhibition which was 'put together by someone with an obvious creative streak and eye for detail', further adding to our success and bringing in even more families. We also featured on two weekend Radio Oxford programmes, including a visit from their Sunday morning 'Find it or Forfeit' team! Half term was constantly busy, with a regular stream of families of all ages and sizes flooding in to explore NARNIA, make some fun crafts and eat yummy cakes and other goodies!

It is clear that everyone who visited the exhibition had a fabulously happy time donning a big coat, collecting their 'Identity Card' and going through the wardrobe into the cold and wintery effect of the Cloister Gallery turned into the 'Always Winter and Never Christmas' of Narnia, followed by an exploration of all the other scenes too. Children particularly loved finding the letters in various locations and decoding the secret message, 'Aslan is alive', as well as trying to count how many mice and robins were hidden throughout the exhibition.

We had the pleasure of welcoming around 2,000 visitors to the exhibition, as well as 14 school and group visits booked into the NARNIA exhibition, with some schools bringing 2 or 3 groups on different days. Schools enjoyed the character led guided role play tours of the exhibition indulging the White Witch's Turkish Delight and Mrs. Beaver's spiced biscuits! The tours highlighted key themes of the story followed by creative workshops where they made their own wardrobes and wrote about their Narnia experiences. These proved to be inspirational to both the pupils and the teachers with comments such as: 'I loved the dressing up and eating the Turkish Delight!' and 'I had great fun and loved Mr and Mrs Beaver's house the most.' 'Knowing how much work it takes to make something visually lovely I can just about imagine how much effort went into making the spaces so absorbing and realistic. The reflections at each 'post' were also really thoughtful and I loved the way you'd thought about the depth of different aspects of Narnia which support the bigger themes of death and resurrection.' Furthermore, our visitors book was filled with a multitude of grateful comments from parents, grandparents and children stating what a wonderful time they had experiencing the



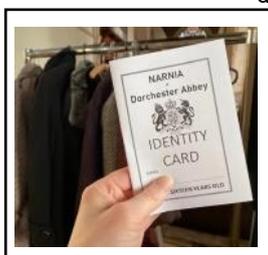
magical world of NARNIA: 'I truly enjoyed the whole exhibition. It took me back so vividly. Thank you.' 'Everything was awesome. The Aslan model was special.' 'Excellent! We've been twice this week already! Kids love the Narnia exhibition.'

To further complement this exhibition in early February we had a lovely evening of NARNIA themed readings hosted by the Rector with favourite extracts taken from a wide range of the Chronicles series, including readings from local authors Francis Spurford and Colin Durez. A lovely intimate evening set within the heart of the exhibition and enjoyed by one and all who attended.



As well as the immense community engagement that enabled the staging of this exhibition, this event could not have been staged without the generous financial assistance provided by Christ Church College, St. John's College, St Michael's and All Saints and the support of the diocese. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed in whatever way to this wonderful event, it would not have

been possible or been the success it has been without your very generous support!!



Summer 8-Week MINDFULNESS Courses (MBSR)

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Classes from May 1 – July 3 (not half term or Bk Hols)

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Thursday's: Iffley Turn Practice OX4 3JR 5.30 – 7.30pm

Friday's: Santosha Wellbeing OX10 0BX 12.45 – 2.45pm

Open to Individ's, Grp's and Businesses. Cost £185 - £225

Qualified teacher. To book contact:

Em: bonnie@positiveconsultancy.net M: 07957 571620



Fishmonger

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

Chiropodist

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

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special menu is available Monday to Friday for early
dining with orders taken before 7pm and at lunchtimes.

(Restaurant Club discount not applicable)

www.white-hart-hotel-dorchester.co.uk



Earth Trust to create revolutionary learning space



Artist's impression of Earth Lab.

Earth Trust have announced the appointment of Beard Construction to complete their new sustainable education space. Beard will be working with Earth Trust to create an environmentally focused education centre, Earth Lab, and to convert an existing barn into an Innovation Hub for sustainable businesses. Work will begin in March and once completed will enable Earth Trust to further deliver its charitable objectives to involve people of all ages with the environment and climate change through access to natural green spaces

Earth Lab will provide flexible and accessible classroom space for the delivery of STEM and art-based environmental education

sessions, bringing people together to discover what they can do to care for the natural environment. Earth Lab will double Earth Trust's capacity to engage people and provide opportunities for bringing environmental education to life throughout the curriculum. The Innovation Hub will offer multi-use business units for like-minded sustainability conscious businesses, as well as an inspiring welcome for visitors.

Construction of the Earth Lab and the Innovation Hub was due to commence in March.

Culham & District Horticultural Club



Wednesday 15 April 2020 7.30pm
Abbey Guest House, Dorchester-on-Thames
Nick Wray: Gardens of Sicily

Nick Wray was Curator at the Bristol Botanic Garden for 30 years. Sicily, the largest island in the Mediterranean, has many beautiful gardens rich in plants from around the world. The lecture focuses on the key gardens on the island.

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**

Hempcroft Allotments April



The Hempcroft Allotment Association Committee met in early March and discussed, amongst other things, the rather untidy state of the allotments following the storms of February. A number of sheds have been sufficiently damaged that the owners are probably considering scrapping them, and there has been a mass movement of compost bins and lids from the west of the site to the east of the site. We plan to have an allotment working party on the morning of **Saturday 18 April** starting at 10.00am. The more people that turn up then the shorter the time spent in getting the overall site into a 'spring cleaned' state.

We plan to have a skip located on the site so that as much debris/rubbish as possible can be disposed off in one major clean up. Please come along and help, and anyone who does not yet have an allotment but is thinking about having one is also most welcome. This working party for the allotments may be impacted by Coronavirus advice, and notices will be placed on the allotments if this is the case.

Edward Metcalfe



**DEAR FRIENDS
THIS IS YOUR HOUR**
Winston Churchill

**BANK HOLIDAY FRIDAY
8TH MAY 2020 7PM
VILLAGE HALL
FOR A CELEBRATION
OF 75 YEARS OF PEACE**

Please let us know if you have any items we could borrow to help to decorate the hall.

- Union jack or fabric bunting
- 1940s memorabilia
- Old fashioned slot machines

Please contact Charlotte on 01865 341999 or charlotte@btinternet.com

TICKETS
1940 THEMED SIT DOWN DINNER: £20

EVACUEES PICNIC BOX: £10

Tickets available from
Charlotte and Andy, 2 Haven Close, 01865 341999
Claris and Sheila, 7 The Cottage, Bridge End, 01865 340910
Lily Tearoom, 28 High Street, 01865 340900
Please provide details of food choice preferences, allergies and contact details when purchasing tickets

DRESS CODE: 1940 THEMED - OPTIONAL



ST. BIRINUS SCHOOL PLAYGROUND APPEAL

Come and join our celebrations!

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



Netball

Football penalty shoot-out

POSTPONED due to CORONAVIRUS
New date to be announced

- Refreshments for:
- Pancake breakfast
 - Hot and cold drinks
 - Sausage sarnies
 - Home-made cakes

All served in the school's dining room

Dorchester Tennis Club presents



SALSA NIGHT!



Saturday May 23rd Dorchester Village Hall 7.30pm

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

POSTPONED due to CORONAVIRUS

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 chriscsmith@btinternet.com tel 01865 341947



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meetings/
briefings

8-16 year olds
and
parents

Are you
interested?



Please come along to
The White Hart Hotel
at 6pm on 29th April
to find out more!

John and Rachel



BLACKBERRY DADS

Play reading postponed until further notice

Play reading evening 7.30 pm
Tuesday 24th March 2020
 Breakfast Room, George Hotel, High Street, Dorchester OX10 7HH

Reading For Fun!



More Spring Time Tennis

Our Wednesday popular coaching session with professional coach has been continuing throughout March, so please watch this space for announcement of additional dates! We also have several exciting social events this year including a quiz night in October 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**

Autumn Tournament Sunday **13 September**

Quiz Night—Saturday **10 September**

Enquires to Chris Smith

chrisccsmith@btinternet.com

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Football Results
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Div 2



29/01/2020 Dorchester First 4 1 Hagbourne United Res

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DOGS has always visited the finest golf clubs in our surrounding area and 2020 will be no exception.



ukgolfguide.com

Monday 20th APRIL
Temple Golf Club
 9.30 Tee-off, Soup & sandwich lunch
 £43.50



ukgolfguide.com

Thursday 28th MAY
Henley Golf Club
 1.00pm Soup & sand-



calcotpark.com

Tuesday 9th JUNE
Calcot Park GC
 9.30 Coffee and bacon rolls.
 Tee-off 10.30
 £47.00



top100golfcourses.com

Friday 24th JULY
Newbury and Crookham GC
 12.00am Soup and sandwiches
 Tee-off 1.00pm
 £41

Plus 9-holes early evening summer golf at
The Springs GC and **Huntercombe GC**
 followed by an optional informal meal at The
 White Hart Hotel for players, non-playing
 partners and guests



top100golfcourses.com

DOGS 2020 GRAND FINAL
 22nd OCTOBER
Studley Wood GC
 12.00am Soup and sandwiches
 Tee-off 1.00pm
 £37.50

But DOGS isn't just about golf.

In recent times we have organised lots of social events, included visits to Gifford's Circus, Oxford's TOAD Gin Distillery, Oxford Brookes' Student Restaurant, Greyhound Racing, Aunt Sally competitions, our 'DOGS Dinner' and, of course, our annual BBQ



giffordscircus.com



oxfordmail.co.uk



brookes.ac.uk



Oxford & District Aunt Sally Association



spiritoftoad.com

Come along and see for yourself

Call Mike Rimmer 01865 343719 or md_rimmer@yahoo.co.uk

Focus on... ...The George Hotel



In the third of our series looking at the pubs and hotels of Dorchester this month we take a look at The George, another that has changed management within the last year. We all know The George, dominating the High Street with its black and white building which dates from 1495, and the bright yellow, eye-catching and much photographed carriage out front. There have been times in recent years when the carriage has looked a little jaundiced and sad, but now it is sparkling clean, with plans to improve it further with the restoration of its lights.

The people who have these plans are Soul and Jonathan, who took over The George last September. I met with Soul to find out more about them and about their plans.

Before coming to The George Soul and Jonathan had been working in holiday

parks for some years. Their locations sound a veritable encyclopaedia of English coastal resorts, including Camber Sands, Isle of Sheppey, Isle of Wight and Skipsea Yorkshire. That might sound a bit of a leap to a country hotel but their role had been to run accommodation, restaurants and bars, which sounds familiar, albeit on a different scale. Indeed, Soul told me that none of the restaurants he managed had fewer than 300 covers and the last one had 600. And it was to get away from that, from the size and routine that size inevitably brings, and to get a better style of life that they have come to The George. Jonathan had worked in holiday parks for all of his working life, but for Soul this is a return to an earlier career in which he re-opened closed pubs and made them viable again. A career that hit the buffers about seven years ago when the rate of closures was

fast that no-one was even trying to reopen them.

So, last year, seeking a change of lifestyle, they looked around and found an opportunity with The George, an opportunity that combined their skills in restaurants, accommodation and pubs. Dominion Hospitality had acquired the Chapman Group, including its Relax Innz brand, in 2016 and were looking for a new team to take over the running of The George. The pair applied and arrived here in mid-September. They are neither managers nor tenants but owners of the business, whilst Dominion continues to own the property and to market the business via its website and elsewhere. They may have changed their lifestyle to a village environment, but, says Soul, the working day is as hectic as ever. And in their time off, living in Farrier's Cottage next door, they have found just the lifestyle they were hoping for.

Soul looks after the pub and restaurant sides of the business and Jonathan the hotel, although of course there is a lot of crossover in actual day to day running. The hotel has 24 rooms, numbered 1 to 25 because there is no room number 13! Nine of these are in the main building with others in the barn and stables. As

'I received v service and t food was Tripadvisor

'The George new manage dramatically, Tripadvisor D





with The White Hart, most of their weekday hotel business is taken up by people who work in the area but do not live here. Soul thinks that the profile of their hotel customers though is different, with fewer from Culham and the Science Park and more tradespeople. Their ambition here is to increase the leisure side of the business. With that in mind

**very friendly
the quality of
amazing'
January 2020**

**is now under
ement and is
y improved.'
December 2019**



they are making an effort to be dog-friendly and using Groupon offers to encourage trade.

In the restaurant the head chef, Kirk, arrived at The George shortly before Jonathan and Soul, and impressed them with all his ideas for the menu. The vision is for English traditional food that is well executed, and which uses as much locally sourced meat and vegetables as possible.

With the bar, Soul has discretion over which guest beers they offer, but as they share the ownership of this part of the business with Dominion, there are restrictions on which other ales and lagers they carry.

All of this is run by a staff of seven, plus Jonathan and Soul, with Sarah the invaluable head housekeeper.

What of the future? They recognise that The George needs a lot of tlc, and they have put much effort into getting it up to scratch again. They know this is going to be a long haul, and for the time being they are not rushing things, but there will be fresh coats of paint and hanging baskets to make the place smarter and brighter. Are they succeeding? Since they took over their score on TripAdvisor

has risen to 4.6, from an average of 3.4 over the previous 13 years, with three-quarters of the reviewers given them five out of five. So they are certainly getting there.

Part of their five year plan, though, is to put The George at the heart of the village. There are already some plans to do that with a Sunday night quiz in support of Footsteps already up and running, there is an agreement with the Oxford and District Aunt Sally Association to install two pitches for league games this summer, and a thought that they might hold a music event at some point in the summer.

And next year, in September 2021, Soul and Jonathan are planning to marry. Expect a marquee and a big event!

A few years ago this series of looking at the pubs and hostelries of Dorchester might have continued for months. Now though, with this, the third, it is concluded. Will these three continue? Unfortunately, as I write, the Coronavirus epidemic is ramping up and that may well depress business for all of them over the coming months. Let us hope that they can all keep their plans on track and emerge as strong as ever, with a little help by being used by the residents of Dorchester.



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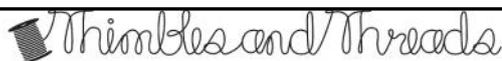
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Dorchester Amateur Dramatic Society



The Oxfordshire Drama Network (ODN) each year attends and rates the pantomimes put on by amateur dramatic groups across Oxfordshire. In March, following the end of the panto season they then make awards - the Oscars of the Oxfordshire pantos.

worth while because this year, because Treasure Island achieved two awards, one for Best Chorus and the other for Best Front of House. Rosemary Mills and Maxine Briscoe were also short-listed for individual awards. Well done. To all concerned

It is a long wait for DADS, whose Treasure Island was performed back in November, but well

ODN also provided a review, which is reproduced here.

Dorchester Amateur Dramatic Society 20th - 23rd November 2019

Treasure Island by Ben Crocker



Given the constraints of the stage and hall this pantomime made excellent use of all the available space. The ingenious projection of the scene onto the back wall of the stage told us all we needed to know regarding the location of the action.

song and dance in the show, which was a shame as there could have been opportunity for more songs, particularly as there was an excellent pianist present.



Ian Brace, as Mrs Hawkins, the dame, anchored the show brilliantly, taking us from scene to scene. His mannerisms and affectations were just right. I would like to have seen him in different outfits as the action progressed. That is just a minor

The supporting parts of Seadog Sam (*Kate Phillips*) and Seaweed Willy (*Amelie White*) really excelled with their cavortings with the kiss of death 'black spot', eventually finishing off Billy Bones (*Maxine Briscoe*), whose dying scene was a sight to behold!

It was a touch of genius to mix the Women's Institute with the pirate ship expedition to Treasure Island. The troupe of Women's Institute members, were enough to strike fear into the hearts of anyone, including the pirates, being led by the indomitable Mrs Henderson (*Rosemary Mills*) who was a real tour-de-force. The pirates in drag, meet up with the ladies of the Women's Institute in a bake-off style contest. This involved messy 'crazy foam' and the slapstick scene could have been enhanced to make it more worthwhile. The hazardous voyage aboard the *Hispaniola*, the eventual landing and locating the treasure on the island was handled well, along with removing it from the haunted cave.

point, as his wedding dress was quite spectacular. Mrs Hawkins was ably supported by other principals including her son, Jim, (*Ross Wilkin*) and Squire Trelawney (*Mark Williams*), whose passion for 'spotted dick' gets him into all sorts of trouble, particularly with the malevolent Long John Silver (*Mike Lord*) who managed to manoeuvre ably with his wooden leg.

This was a well performed show, which was enjoyed by the enthusiastic audience.

Romance between Jim Hawkins and Jenny Trelawney (*Rachel Winslet Morris*) was a charming moment and well cast. Apart from sea shanties and the audience song, theirs was the only

Congratulations to all.

Nigel James
Oxfordshire Drama Network



DADS
(dates for your diary)

'The Haunted Cabin'

Will they survive the storm until help arrives,
or just become the new eternal residents of the haunted cabin?

25-27 June 2020

An invaluable resource for residents and visitors

The village website www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk is wholly funded by the Parish Council. It is professionally designed with hosting and security managed by experts, but all the content is produced and edited by local volunteers.

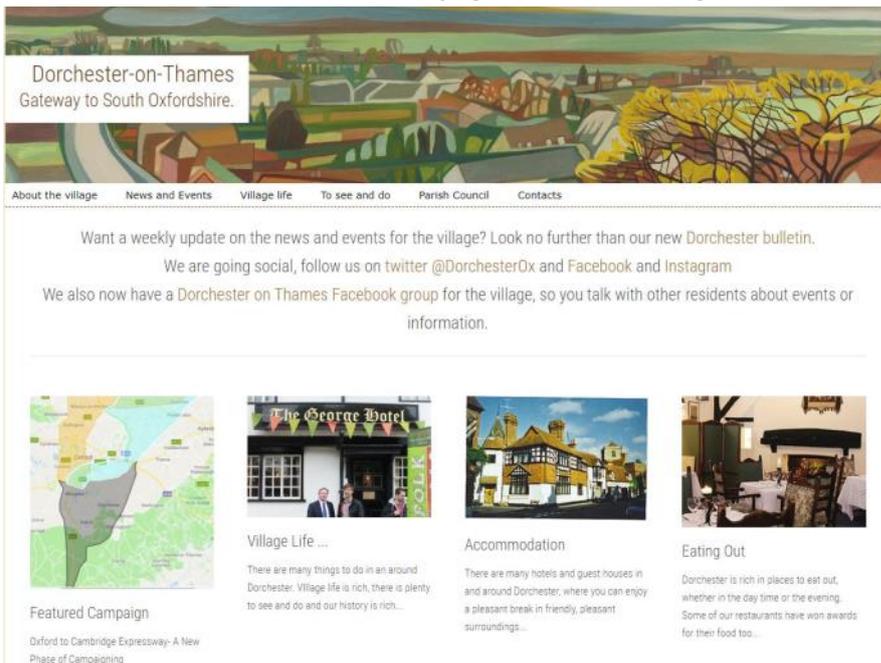
This website contains easy access to information about the Village, its history, art and photography, events, churches, education, Neighbourhood Watch, clubs and societies, businesses, accommodation and eating out, bus routes and timetables, sports and leisure, with downloadable guides for walks and places of interest etc plus a section about the Parish Council with minutes, reports and other documents – an essential aid to local accountability and democracy.

It is free-to-view every hour of every day, and, with several sections being frequently updated, is worthy of a regular visit. It can be used to access the 'Dorchester Bulletin'- a digest of village news and information about forthcoming events which is delivered on request by weekly email. It is also a route for joining Dorchester's social media channels such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram with the Village Facebook group providing opportunities for communication with friends and neighbours. This magazine - 'Dorchester News' - can be read on-line along with an archive of previous editions.

But it is not all one-way traffic. Dan Duke, our Village Webmaster, welcomes the input of local readers. He can be reached via website@dorchesteronthames.co.uk and should be contacted by any resident, voluntary group or local business with news and/or information including photographs as well as text.

Geoff Russell
Clerk to Parish Council

Below: Home page of the DoT Village Website



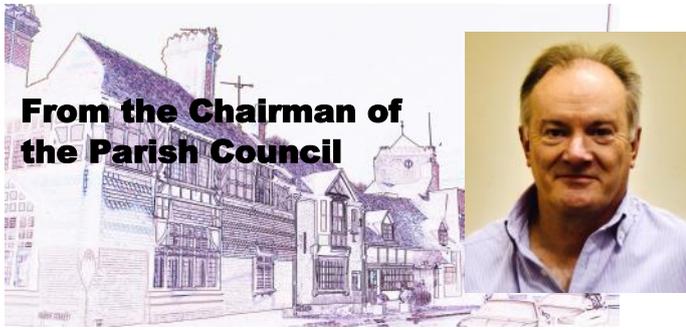
Coronavirus/Covid-19

During the current Coronavirus epidemic the village website will be kept regularly updated and should be the first point of information for how it is affecting life in Dorchester. Log on regularly to find out what is happening.

Dorchester News Crossword No. 11 Solution

Compiled by Slider

1R	E	2M	A	3I	N	4S		5H	O	6T	N	7E	S	8S
A		E		N		O		A		E		X		P
9D	O	L	E	D		10N	E	C	T	A	R	I	N	E
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				14I	M	15P	E	D	I	M	E	N	T	A
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18C	A	B	E	R	T	O	S	S	E	R				
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21E	L	A	N		22S	U	P	23E	R	C	L	A	S	S
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E		V		I		R		E		O		I		R
27D	R	E	S	S	E	S		28D	I	R	E	C	T	S



From the Chairman of the Parish Council

Dorchester emergency response plan

On many of our minds at the moment will be the Coronavirus and how it might develop. And I'm conscious that by the time this article reaches your doormat things will have moved on further. Of course the first place we go to for help are to the Public Health England information site which is clear and up to date and also to the NHS helplines if needed. And that is true of most emergencies where government agencies tend to take the lead in providing both information and practical responses to whatever is happening.

Given this is the hot topic of the next few weeks and possible months, it prompted me, when taken together with the big storms we have had to tell you more about the role the parish council has to play in emergencies when they arise.

Of course, as I've said, the central government services are key to any emergency, the fire and rescue services, the Environment Agency, power companies, the NHS etc. But like all parish councils we are required to have an up to date emergency plan to make sure we, as a community, can organise to do the simple things we can all do to support ourselves alongside those bodies which might be stretched in supporting other communities. Our role, of course, is never to try and take over their role but to encourage neighbours to help one another, particularly our most vulnerable residents and to provide a central contact point for those emergency services.

And our plan is not for the inconveniences of life but for real emergencies. So, if we have serious flooding or communications are cut off for a long period of time by bad weather or we have a long term loss of power (and therefore possibly heating) then we can mobilise our emergency plan to coordinate with the relevant agencies, to encourage good neighbours to do what good neighbours do and even to make sure the village hall or Abbey is available as a place to keep people warm and fed if they can't do so in their own homes.

I'm pleased to say we have just updated our plan as a council and are confident it can do what is necessary if required. All the parish councillors know the emergency plan and how to use it

From the Parish Council

Coronavirus/covid-19 – it looks like the virus will spread more widely and more of us will be self isolating over the next few weeks and months. Please do look out for vulnerable neighbours, give them a call, offer to do shopping to leave on their doorstep. We know Dorchester does this type of thing anyway but please make an extra effort in the days ahead.

so you can contact any of them if the need arises. Let's hope we don't need it.

This can all sound extreme of course and we hope never to have to mobilise our local parish emergency plan but it is good for residents to know it is there if it is needed. And, of course, we are all those good neighbours we will rely on and I know Dorchester residents will rise to the challenge if we need to act.

Newcomers event

On a lighter note it was great to see so many villagers, new and old, join us at the newcomers event in February which was extended this year to welcome all residents to see or remind ourselves of what Dorchester has to offer. I'm pleased to say a good number of new residents came along together with those of longer residency. Alongside a drink and a nibble and a chance to meet new people or catch up with old friends we saw a lot of interest in the wide range of activities Dorchester has to offer. And I'm pleased to say the feedback from both residents and, importantly, our stallholders was very positive, with people signing up to help or join in the various groups. Thanks are due to all those who help to organise the event, particularly the stallholders.

Annual Parish Meeting

Our annual Parish Meeting is coming up on the **8 April**. It is your chance to come along and discuss what issues are affecting Dorchester and to challenge the parish councillors on what they have done and intend to do. Please do come along and take part. 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Mark Williams
Chairman of DoT Parish Council

Parish Council Notices

Monthly Meetings

The April Meeting will take place in the Village Hall following the **Annual Parish Meeting** on **Wednesday 8 April** commencing at 7.30pm The May Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 13 May** 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.

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.

Village Information Evening Thursday 20 February 2020

Every few years the Parish Council hosts an Information Evening in the Village Hall. This is primarily for the benefit of people who have recently moved to the Village, but all residents are welcome to attend.

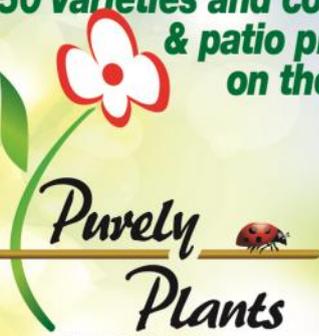
The event gives Village organisations a chance to talk about and display their activities and villagers can collect the contact details of groups that they may wish to join and support.

Research shows that around 200 new residents have moved to the village in just under four years and so it is not surprising that the evening was very well supported. For those who were unable to attend, however, we list below the names and email addresses of the organisations that were represented.

Exhibitors and contacts

Abbey Group		
• Bell-ringers	Nick Forman	treasurer@dorchester-abbey.org.uk
• Choir	Jeremy Boughton	jjbwallingford@tiscali.co.uk
• Flower-arrangers	Sandie Griffith	sandie@theflower.co.uk
• Museum	Margot Metcalfe	metcalfe.margot@btinternet.com
• Tea-Room	Steph Forman	steph@forman.org.uk
• Visitor Centre project	Nick Forman	treasurer@dorchester-abbey.org.uk
• Abbey Gardens	Kathy Glass	kathyglass159@aol.com
Allotments Society	Ed Metcalfe	edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk
Cheshire Home	Katy Watson	Katy.Watson@valorumcare.co.uk
Cricket Club	David Rippington	david.rippington@stfc.ac.uk
DADS	Ann Winslet	awinslet52@gmail.com
Dorchester Angling Society	Michael Marriott	michael.marriott1@btinternet.com
Dorchester Festival	Steph Forman	steph@forman.org.uk
Dorchester News	Ian Brace	dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk
Dorchester Village Website	Dan Duke	website@dorchesteronthames.co.uk
Flower Show	David Wilkinson	drpwilkinson@yahoo.co.uk
Golf Society (DOGS)	Mike Rimmer	md_rimmer@yahoo.co.uk
Historical Society	Margot Metcalfe	metcalfe.margot@btinternet.com
Hurst Water Meadow	Gillian Johnson	johnson.gs@btinternet.com
Parish Council	Geoff Russell	parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk
Pre-School	Ed Shrimpton	eshrimpton@yahoo.com
Royal British Legion revival	Chris Hill	chrish03@btinternet.com
Sailing Club	Fiona Broadbent	fionabroadbent.dsc@gmail.com
Tennis Club	Chris Smith	chriscssmith@btinternet.com
Village Hall	Mark Williams	trevalt@yahoo.co.uk

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



It has been another dramatic month for the emerging local plan. The Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick MP, issued another legal direction, this time ordering the council to progress the plan through examination, to be adopted by December this year. This followed Oxfordshire County Council voting to take over the plan, should it be asked to do so. The new direction means the plan stays with SODC, but under strict conditions and with the threat of further intervention if deadlines are not met. London's local plan has just met similar intervention, so we are not alone on this front. I'm not certain this is what was meant by localism!

At SODC we passed a motion asking for resources to explore all opportunities to address the council's concerns about the plan, particularly on housing to meet local needs, enhanced environmental policies and the council's declared climate emergency. This will include suggesting alterations as the current plan goes to inspection, as well as via schemes such as the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and the Oxford-Cambridge Arc which will likely have a major influence on future plans for the area.

I attended a conference on the 'Arc' in London, chaired by John Howell MP. While there is still a lack of clarity and leadership on the project, it does provide an opportunity, since the government appears very committed to innovation and leadership on environmental standards and transportation, such as East-West Rail. There were more announcements about the Arc in the recent budget, including that the Expressway is 'paused' – not cancelled as some have claimed.

We had a great turnout for our exhibition about the new SODC office building, and lots of useful feedback on its proposed design and features. There's a project website at [https://](https://southoxfordshirehq.wordpress.com/)

southoxfordshirehq.wordpress.com/ which will be updated as the project rolls out.

Some people have questioned the need to build a new Council office at all, so it's worth pointing out that SODC currently spends several hundreds of thousands of pounds each year renting, heating, lighting and maintaining 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park. Any homeowner will appreciate that it's more financially sensible to own your own home and to invest in making it as cheap to run as possible. We're very confident that this is a prudent investment in the future financial stability of the Council.

At the time of writing, we have cancelled most upcoming activities and meetings due to the Coronavirus outbreak, with staff working from home and many council departments focused on keeping essential services running in challenging circumstances.

Look after yourselves out there, and your neighbours too.

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



The Cinnamon Trust in Dorchester on Thames needs more dog walking volunteers.

The Cinnamon Trust is the national charity whose wonderful volunteers help people over retirement age and those in the latter stages of a terminal illness by

offering all kinds of pet care. We are looking for some dog walking volunteers to help a resident of the Dorchester on Thames area and their adorable dog who would love to go for a good walk.

Many elderly or ill pet owners worry about their ability to provide proper care for their animals and start looking to rehome what may be their only companion. This is where our national network of dedicated volunteers step in to offer support enabling them to stay together. We'll walk the dog for a housebound owner, we'll foster pets when owners need hospital care, and even clean out the bird cage or litter trays.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, you can download our volunteer registration form from our web site www.cinnamon.org.uk or email us at volunteer@cinnamon.org. If you would like to have a more in-depth chat about becoming a volunteer, please call us during office hours (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm) on **01736 758701**, or you can check out our website www.cinnamon.org.uk for more details.

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



A busy month dealing with storms and flooding

Our Emergency Planning, Fire and Rescue and Highways teams have had a busy February dealing with the local impacts of the storms and flooding that have made national headlines.

Highways teams dealt with more than 150 incidents as a result of Storm Ciara and more than 100 stemming from Storm Dennis. The Storm Ciara incidents largely related to high winds (fallen trees blocking roads, debris) whereas Storm Dennis was also about flooding with some roads closing and surface water causing issues.



Oxfordshire offers new ways to repair and reuse small electrical items

Oxfordshire County Council has launched a new trial service to residents with a way to ensure their unwanted small electrical items can be repaired and reused, reducing what the county would otherwise send to waste. Funded by Valpak, the council is trialling drop off points for unwanted small electrical items that are still in good condition at a number of participating Oxfordshire libraries. The trial is to run at Banbury, Bicester, Kidlington, Witney, Carterton, Oxfordshire County Library, Headington, Cowley, Littlemore & Blackbird Leys libraries.



Berinsfield Youth Centre successful Award from the Youth Opportunities Fund

The Berinsfield youth club known as the Berry Youth Centre is one of 24 organisations to have been successful in receiving a share of Oxfordshire County Council's new £1m Youth Opportunity Fund. The Centre has been awarded £33,500 to develop their Beat the Streets project. The fund is aimed at groups that can provide activities and opportunities for young people between the ages of 11-18, and 11-25 with special educational needs.



Becoming a dementia friendly council

Oxfordshire County Council is implementing plans to become a dementia-friendly organisation. The aim is to develop further awareness, understanding and support for vulnerable residents and staff who are impacted by the health condition.

The number of people with dementia in the UK is expected to rise to 1 million by 2021. About two in every 100 people aged between 65 to 69 have dementia, and this rises to one in five for those aged 85 to 89. Oxfordshire has an ageing population and the number of residents aged 85 and over is forecast to increase.

Oxfordshire County Council aims to help people who live with dementia to stay independent and live well in their communities for as long as possible. The council's plans are part of a wider Alzheimer's Society initiative that aims to create a network of four million Dementia Friends across the country.

As the first step to becoming more dementia friendly, the Alzheimer's Society held an event for staff and councillors at County Hall on Tuesday 25 February to complete a 'dementia friends' training session to improve awareness and learn about dementia friendly communities in Oxfordshire.

The next step in the plan is to help to develop dementia friendly communities across Oxfordshire to help to reduce isolation and support people to be aware of and understand dementia. This will enable people living with dementia to live well within their local communities for as long as they are able.



SODC Local Plan causes heated debate at County Hall

On Tuesday February 11 the County Council held a debate arising from the Secretary of State's decision to put a Holding Direction on the District Council preventing them from withdrawing their Local Plan. Since October, discussions between SODC, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have been taking place to try and find a way to allow the process of examining the Plan to continue. Since this has not been possible, at the moment of writing, the Holding Direction remains in place. The SoS has written saying he is considering asking the County Council to prepare the SODC Local Plan which gave rise to the debate on 11 February. After a very heated discussion that included many speakers, the County Councillors voted that if they were to receive an invitation from the SoS they would accept it, by 39 votes in favour, 16 against with four abstentions. I abstained. I would far prefer that the SODC ruling group come together to find an acceptable way to take the plan before an Inspector. There is a motion coming to the District Council to that effect. I sincerely hope the District Councillors will decide that this route is far preferable to either the SoS taking control and running it from Westminster, or the County Council taking it forward against their wishes.



Citizens Advice campaigns hit the target in 2019

People often see Citizens Advice as a 'quick fix' centre, rather like the garage that changes your car tyres – you pop into our office or ring Adviceline or you check the facts on our comprehensive website. But there's more to Citizens Advice than quick fixes.

'Research and Campaigns' (R and C) is a part of Citizens Advice with a different task, a long-term one that demands much effort and patience. It has the job of collecting evidence on emerging social problems and then directly petitioning the people or organizations - including ministers, local MPs and government departments - that have the power to solve or alleviate them.

These campaigns have been remarkably successful, often making use of the media to put their point across. In 2019 R and C contributed to the surge of action that led to the scrapping of tenant fees. It also submitted a 'super-complaint' on the Loyalty Penalty, whereby long-standing customers in some services (e.g. insurance) often end up paying more than new customers for the same service. Noting the rise in demand for food vouchers, R and C highlighted the issue of pressure on household budgets because of slow payment schedules for Universal Credit. R and C also issues occasional publications such as 'Putting the house in order', which described failings in the housing market.

Would you like to become one of these dedicated and hard-working volunteers, or work for us in a different role? Visit www.caox.org for further details.

For more general help see our website www.citizensadvice.org.uk, call Citizens Advice Adviceline on **0300 3309 042** or come and see us in person. For locations of offices and opening hours visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale

Accommodation Wanted for EMF

Are you able to help a young person with a burning desire to work in the field of music, by hosting them for a few nights during the Fourteenth English Music Festival? The Festival is returning to Dorchester-on-Thames from 22-25 May 2020, and we have two interns who desperately wish to be involved in the Festival by helping on the ground. However, we have no-one to host them this year, as all our available hosts are already full.

Susie and James are both just out of university and want to go into the music world, hence their desire to gain experience at the EMF. We are seeking people to host them from the evening of **Friday 22 May** to the morning of **Tuesday 26 May**. We can deal with transport - it's just a bed for those nights that we need, preferably with breakfasts as well if possible! If you are able to help I'd be grateful if you could email me at

em.marshall-luck@englishmusicfestival.org.uk, to let me know; your support would be so hugely appreciated.



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From your MP...

...John Howell



When constituents approach me with individual issues and concerns I always try to get information for them, and when appropriate I raise things directly with Ministers. With the turmoil of last year and ongoing uncertainty it seemed to become increasingly difficult to get responses. Now that the long-anticipated Government reshuffle has been done, and Ministers either confirmed in their posts or new appointments it seemed we were in for a more stable period with greater opportunity to discuss issues with Ministers. Then Coronavirus hit. It is in the midst of concern over the virus in early March that I write.

There is a fine balance in deciding what best to do in these situations and I am pleased that there has been cross-party support for the ways in which the Government has been handling the issue. By the time my newsletter is published the situation will have changed again. I share the concern of many at fake news which adds to unnecessary fear. The panic buying by some has also triggered a concerned response. I can understand that people worry about the virus but, whilst those who can afford to fill their cupboards do so, they add to the vulnerability of those who are unable to shop other than little and often. This is a time for testing our shared compassion.

It was good to hear the Chancellor open his Budget Statement addressing the issue of Coronavirus bringing forward measures to help with economic security and stability. Readers will be familiar with the key funding announcements, so I will not repeat them. Having listened to some specific concerns I was particularly pleased that the Chancellor offered financial support to encourage people to take the necessary time off work should they be advised to stay at home. This is welcome as is the support for small businesses to enable them to pay people for time off due to the virus without having to meet the direct cost themselves. This is especially so in a constituency where small business is the heart of our economy. I do appreciate that there are other issues that our local businesses, and indeed all of us will have to face, but I am sure that working together and accepting some short-term limitations on our usual lifestyle will help us get through this difficult time.

On a more positive note, and for the longer-term, I believe that the overall budget is one which will bring benefit across our

national life and I look forward to seeing how the budget announcements are developed in different government departments over the coming months. Within the constituency I have been following up with specific groups to find out how new funding announcements are helping and to identify ongoing issues that may need government attention. I welcome hearing from businesses, schools, and others who have particular thoughts on budget matters. However, I am not seeking to revisit Party political campaign arguments! It might also be worth mentioning here that, along with many colleagues, I do not sign Early Day Motions (EDMs). There is a note on my website explaining more about EDMs.

More generally, and 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 john.howell.mp@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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Wed 8	Emma (U)
Thurs 9	1917 (15)
Sat 11	Onward B (PG) 2.30pm
Sat 11	Misbehaviour (12A)
Sun 12	Onward B (PG) 2.30pm
Sun 12	Misbehaviour (12A)
Mon 13	Portrait of a Lady on Fire (15)
Tues 14	The Perfect Candidate B (TBA)
Wed 15	Joker (15)
Fri 17	Military Wives (12A)
Sat 18	Military Wives (12A)
Sun 19	Somebody Up There Likes Me (15)
Mon 20	Dark Waters (12A)
Fri 24	Radioactive (12A)
Sat 25	Radioactive (12A)

LIVE SHOWS
Friday 2 April **7:30pm**
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Wednesday 29 April **7:15pm**
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 Tickets £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

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Wednesday 1 April to Saturday 4 April **7:45pm**
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The Corn Exchange is now closed until further notice.

Wallingford U3A

1 April: Leah Lewis: *Wheelpower: Transforming Lives Through Sport*
6 May: Chris Trelawny: *The Trinity House Story*

Our Meetings are 2.00pm on the first Wednesday of each month at Crowmarsh Village Hall. Visitors are always welcome.

On 23 April We go to Pitzhanger Manor in Ealing, designed, built and lived in by Sir John Soane.

For information about outings phone Hermione on **01865 858 024**

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For information visit our website: u3asites.org.uk/Wallingford, or phone Jill on **01491 835994**.

Wallingford Country Market,

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

Do come and visit us, especially in the run up to Easter when all our usual cakes and savouries will be on sale, as well as special Easter Cakes - both decorated sponges and the ever popular traditional Simnel Cakes and Easter biscuits. All can be ordered in advance. The Gardening Table can provide pots of seasonal bulbs and flowers and a variety of other plants for beds and borders. Our Crafters can supply seasonal decorations, novelty gifts and cards. Honey, Preserve and eggs (including Duck) also available.

Please note that our Easter Market will be held on **Maundy Thursday, 9 April**, which replaces our regular Friday market. Further information available from Alison, our Market Manager Tel: **01491 681596**, or come and speak with her at Market one Friday morning.

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 dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk one week before the deadline for editorial copy given on page 2.

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Plus, there are two new special exhibitions now open:-

'Plague, Pus and Pills: the history of Wallingford's hospitals' traces the fascinating history of Wallingford's hospitals for the sick in the town from medieval times to the present. Its portrayal of the challenges of dealing with such diseases as smallpox, scarlet fever and other such more common illness and disabilities.

'The Willis family of Wallingford' Spotlights the careers of Charles Willis who depicted local scenes, and William Willis who produced book illustrations, and William Willis an engraver but whose main business was engraving ways to fix early photographs.

Stu Darby

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk



Wallingford Gardening Club

Thursday 2 April

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Thursday 2 April at 7:30pm, at Ridgeway Community Centre, Old Buildings off Wood Street, Wallingford OX10 0EW. (Please note the change of the first Thursday for this month)

Visitors welcome £3.00

www.wallingford-gardening-club.com

What's on in Wallingford



'The Thames At War'



Bill King's talk will show how the River Thames has always played an important strategic role throughout British history. From the time of the Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Normans, through the English Civil Wars and into modern times the River has proved to be both a key transport route and major obstacle to the movement of armies across southern England.

Following a brief outline of its historic role the talk explains why the river was such an important strategic feature in World War Two and its role in defence of the country. The Thames was adapted to meet the hour of need and the Thames Valley became a major centre for aircraft production and the building of aircraft.

Bill King has conducted extensive research into the River Thames and World War with particular reference to the Royal Air Force and Special forces and in particular the role of the Thames Valley as historical adviser and appeared in several television programmes.

This talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be held on **Wednesday 8 April**, 7.45 for 8.00pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford. Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

Katharine Keats-Rohan
www.twhas.org.uk

Wallingford Flower Club

50th Anniversary Year

Wednesday 8 April 2020

Doors Open 7.15 for 7.45pm start

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

Jane Rowton Lee - Presentation

'The Symbolism of Dutch and Flemish Flower Painting'

Non-members most welcome - £5

For further details: phone **01491 834303**

FOR A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN

Choose from our wide range of quality garden services: design and construction, plants and maintenance. We tailor-make our service for you.

For a free, no-obligation visit and written estimate from RHS qualified staff, call **01865 891634**, or email info@brannfordsgardens.co.uk Full details at www.brannfordsgardens.co.uk



Day by day

Wed 1 Apr	Chiropodist Village Hall (see p11)
Fri 3 Apr	Lent Lunch Dawn Dudley, Church House, Queen St, DoT 12.30pm
Sun 5 Apr	Palm Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (1662) 10.15am Procession and Baptism followed by APCM 6.00pm Team Service
Wed 8 April	Easter Lunch Club 12.30pm Village Hall CANCELLED Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm
Thur 9 Apr	Maudy Thursday 6.30pm Shared meal followed by Communion
Fri 10 Apr	Good Friday Team Devotion OSJ Good Friday Concert CANCELLED Dorchester Abbey
Sat 11 April	Abbey Museum Reopens for season 2.00pm
Sun 12 Apr	Easter 8.00am Holy Communion (1662) 10.30am Family Communion
Tues 14 Apr	10.15am Short Communion
Wed 15 Apr	Chiropodist (see p11) Culham Horticultural Society Nick Wray: <i>Gardens of Sicily</i> 7.30pm Abbey Guest House



Sat
18 April **Hempcroft Allotments**
Working party
10.00am

Sun
19 Apr **Easter 2**
8.00 am
Holy Communion (1662)

10.30am
Family Service

5.00pm
Choral Evensong

Mon
20 April **DOGS**
Temple Golf Club
9.30am

Wed
22 Apr **Dorchester Historical Society**
Liz Woolley : *Leisure
and entertainment in Victorian
and Edwardian Oxford*
POSTPONED
Village Hall

Sun
26 Apr **Easter 3**
8.00am
Holy Communion (1662)

10.30am
Sung Eucharist

Tennis Club
Spring Tournament
2.00pm
Recreation Ground

Wed
29 Apr **Nasio Trust**
6.00pm
The White Hart

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

Weekly events

Monday **Fishmonger**
3.30pm by War
Memorial (page 11)

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

Wednesday **Holy Communion at
Berinsfield Church**
9.30am
Mobile Post Office
1.00-3.00pm
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

Weekly events at the Village Hall

Monday **Yoga**
9.30am
Tai Chi
2.00pm
Pilates
6.00pm

Tuesday **Kids Dance**
3.15pm

Wednesday **Keep Fit Senior Circuits**
10.00am
Pilates
6.15pm
Tango Class
8.00pm

Thursday **Pilates**
9.15am
Yoga
7.00pm

Saturday **Boost drama**
9.00am

Parish Registers

Funeral

2 March Margaret Edmondson

Please note: All Church of England services have been suspended until further notice. Masses and other liturgies have been suspended in Catholic churches.

Other events listed here are also liable to be cancelled or postponed.

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
Wed, 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 3 Apr **Black**
Sat 11 Apr **Green**
Sat 18 Apr **Black**
Fri 24 April **Green**

Weekdays from 7.00am Saturdays from 6.00am

Weekly: food waste (in biodegradable starch-based bag or wrapped in newspaper, in green caddy).

The recycling centre at Oakley Wood (off the A4130) is open 8.00am – 5.00pm seven days a week.

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

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OSJ50
ORCHESTRA OF ST JOHN'S

Brahms Requiem

Faure La Mort de Melisande

Debussy Mort d'Ophelie

Verdi Requiem The death of Melisande

CANCELLED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS

OSJ Voices

Orchestra of St John's

John Lubbock conductor

Good Friday

10 April 2020 6pm

Dorchester Abbey

osj.org.uk