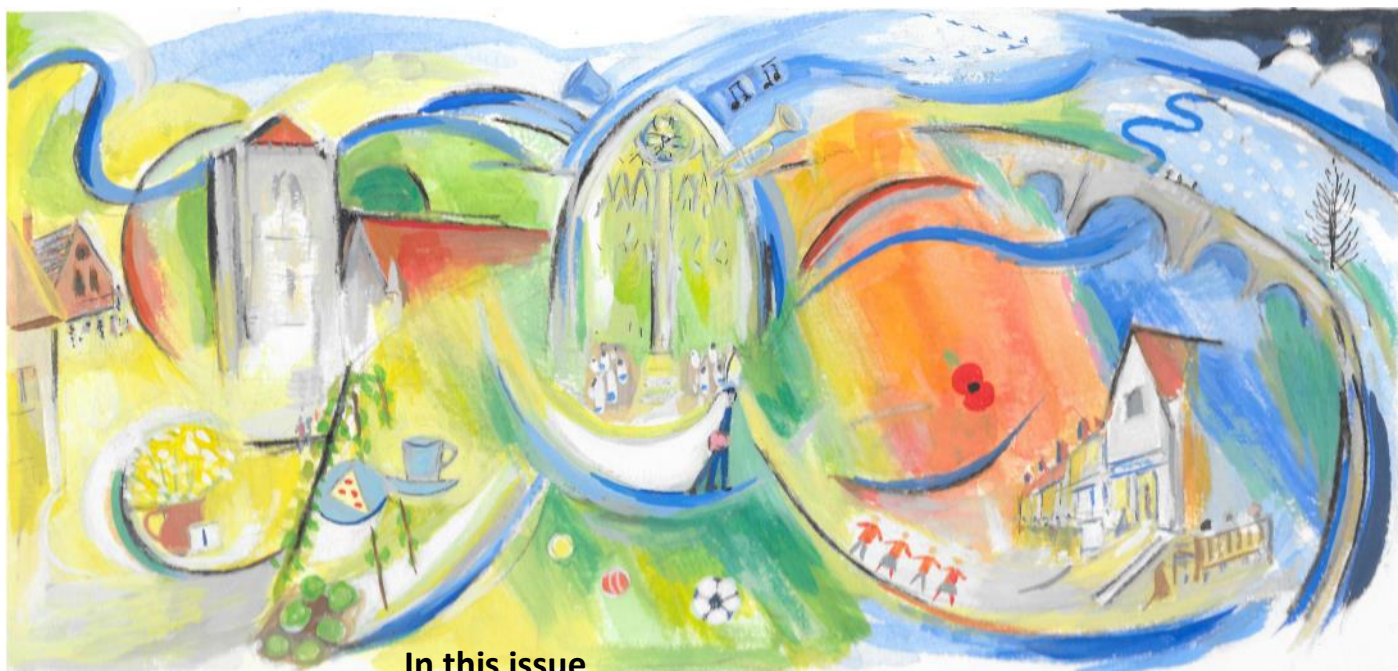


Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

November 2020





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Cover picture: Dorchester High Street in the snow. From the estate of Frank Blackwell.

Deadline for December/January Dorchester News



email:

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

DoT view

And so the year 2020 continues in its abnormal way. It appears that there will be no Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial this year. Instead there will be service in Dorchester Abbey and a display of poppies outside it.

Looking further ahead, the Christmas Carol Service, always a highlight, will this year be offered as three services with reduced capacity and possibly no singing. And that assumes that no further Covid-19 restrictions are introduced before then.

As I write this, pubs and restaurants have been told to close at 10pm, and increasing infection rates have led to further measures being introduced elsewhere. We must not assume they won't be introduced here too. Indeed by the time you read this, it could have happened.

We can still do things to keep ourselves in good spirits and healthy. One joy that we have locally is the good walks. But those walks have to be kept as places we want to use. In this issue Councillor Mark Williams reports on the September clean up that amassed bags of rubbish from around the village. I have added to that a plea to all dog walkers to clean up their dog's mess, and I repeat that here. I have received a number of pieces of correspondence on this issue, including residents who have seen dogs off the lead being allowed to foul other people's gardens. I know that the great majority of dog owners take care, and that the offenders may not live in the village, but if your dog does make a mess, and it will, for the sake of everybody, clear it up.

Ian Brace

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Gillian Johnson

Distribution Co-ordinator

Maurice Day

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November is the month of Remembrance and remembering. I wonder how we will remember 2020, an extraordinary year of political upheaval, a global pandemic and a wonderful upsurge of community spirit and support?



November 2 is All Souls' Day, an important day of prayer

and remembrance in the Church when we speak the names of those we love but see no longer and we offer prayers for them and for ourselves in our grief. This year many families have experienced bereavement in the most difficult circumstances of funerals with only a very few family members or no one present at all. Remembering and praying for those we have lost will be particularly painful this year. November 11 is of course Remembrance Day, a special day to honour those who serve to defend our

democratic freedoms and way of life. This year our Remembrance Tide is more poignant as we remember the sacrifice of all those who serve our communities during the pandemic, the NHS workers, those who work in social care, teachers, delivery drivers, Post Office staff and supermarket staff.

These three strands, remembering our loved ones, remembering those who died for our political freedom, and remembering those who support our communities; these are woven together in this extraordinary year into a tapestry which comforts and challenges us in equal measure. We can feel comforted by the resilience of our communities, the kindness of our neighbours and the knowledge of God's love for us and for those who have died. However, we are challenged to recognise the frailty of

democracy when nations and governments experience a health and economic catastrophe; and we are challenged to recognise in ourselves a selfish concern for our own needs when things get tough - remember the stockpiling of loo rolls and pasta?



As we progress through the winter months of this extraordinary year and look towards a new year, I wonder if we will remember the pain and distress of 2020 or the love and the hope shown in our response to the trials of the pandemic? My prayer for us all as we remember, is that we will cling to values of justice, mercy and love in our dealings with friends and with strangers.

Team News

Two new Licenses! It was a delight to welcome the Reverend Canon Paul Wignall as a Licensed member of the Team in a service on 7 October – and good to see representatives of the Bridge Group present. Rev Canon Rachael Carnegie was also Licensed at our morning service on 4 October. Many of you will have already enjoyed Rachael's ministry as priest with Permission to Officiate and it is a delight to have her become a member of the Team Ministry with a Licence.

Huge thanks to everyone who has worked hard to care for the Bridge Group of Parishes during the vacancy especially David Haylett and Marcus Braybrooke, Roy Epps, Christopher Purvis and Tom Boardman-Weston.

Services in the Team

We are gradually making our way back to normal with services but of course in these uncertain times we do not know what the future holds. Services of worship can happen with more than 6 people as long as the Churches in which they happen are Covid secure. One aspect of this is asking you to register in advance for services so that we can ensure there is space. I'm glad to report that people have been enjoying the return to church and wanted to remind you that you may worship anywhere in the Team. If you don't receive the regular email do please ring the office on **340007** and they will be happy to let you know a service that is near you and pass on your details to the clergy.

Annual Memorial Service

Normally at All Souls tide we invite those who have been bereaved to a special Morning Service to pray for all those whom we love who have died. For all the reasons you will understand we have decided that this year it would not be wise to hold this service in the usual form – we are very much hoping to invite you to a service during Eastertide. However, I shall be in the Abbey to greet people who wish to come from 2.00pm to 4.00pm on **Sunday 1 November** and you are welcome to join me at any time. There will be spaces in the Abbey where you can light a candle and pray quietly. Please respect the notices with instructions that help to keep everyone safe. When visiting the Abbey you must wear a face mask and may be required to give details for track and trace purposes. At 2.00pm, 3.00pm and 4.00pm I will hold a short (about 10 minutes) formal time of prayer that I will stream on Facebook using the Dorchester Team Facebook page. A pre-recorded version of these prayers will be uploaded to the Abbey website for you to use at any time for your own remembering.

During this time a list of names will be displayed in the Abbey along with an appropriate display of remembrance lilies. If you would like a name to be included in this list or to contribute to the floral display please contact us by email or telephone (details on page 31).

Obviously if the incidence of infection in Oxfordshire rises and/or if there is any form of local or national lockdown these arrangements will have to change and we will be following the guidelines that are current on the 1 November. If you are in any doubt please check our website www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

Dorchester Abbey Services for November

When there is no service in Dorchester, alternatives within the team are shown. Details may change. See website:

www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

1 Nov

8.00am Holy Communion Dorchester Abbey

Other services are available in the Dorchester Team please call the office for details

8 Nov

8.00am Holy Communion Dorchester Abbey

10.30am Remembrance Service Dorchester Abbey

15 Nov

8.00am Holy Communion Dorchester Abbey

10.30am Holy Communion Warborough (Zoom)

4.00pm Evensong

22 Nov

8.00am Holy Communion Dorchester Abbey

10.30am Holy Communion Dorchester Abbey

29 Nov

8.00am Holy Communion Dorchester Abbey

4.00pm Advent Service Dorchester Abbey

Please contact the office (**340007**) in advance if you wish to attend any service in Dorchester Abbey to allow the number of attendees to be catered for.

Remembrance Sunday

The Annual Service of Remembrance is an important marker in the community and Civic year. This year there will be a service in the Abbey and at the time of going to press the Royal British Legion is still awaiting guidance about the war memorial and outdoor processions. We have a variety of alternative plans and will make these known as widely as we can. These plans include a service in the Abbey which it will be possible for villagers to attend in person (but you will need to arrange a seat in advance) which will include an Act of Remembrance and the Silence for all those who are not able to be at the War Memorial. This service will be available online as widely as possible. Details of this will be on posters around the village



Saturday 21 November at Dorchester Abbey

Advent and Door Wreath making workshop

£40.00 per session to include materials

Various time slots will be available

Enquiries to sandie@theflower.co.uk

All proceeds for Dorchester Abbey.

Family Craft for Advent and Christmas 15 November

We are planning to hold two Family Christmas Craft sessions in the months before Christmas. Families will be invited to book a craft table in the Abbey and to join us for an hour or so of crafting. On **Sunday 15 November** the craft theme will be 'from darkness to light' and the December session will be Christmas focused.

Advent Services

Christmas – but not as you know it! Celebrating Together!

In the second week of October it is still not at all certain what Christmas will bring – but we have hopes and plans to bring you a Traditional Christmas from Dorchester Abbey even if it is a bit different. I thought I would give you some idea of our plans which we may have to adapt if the situation changes.

Our Candlelit Service of Nine Lessons and Carols is always a highlight for many people – even if we can't sing the carols (which is, I'm afraid, likely to be the case) we will still have candlelight and a feast of live, recorded and instrumental music along with readings to help us rejoice together in the spirit of Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Filling every corner of the Abbey with people just won't be possible so we hope to have three ticketed events: one on **Friday 18 December** and two on **Sunday 20 December**. There won't be a cost for this and the tickets will be issued simply to ensure that we can keep people safe.

The Crib and Christmas Tree are important parts of our Abbey Christmas and we are currently working on a project to bring them outside so that we can all share them safely. We're also working on different ways of sharing the Nativity story as an alternative to the Crib Service.

Full details of all the Christmas services and events we are able to bring you from the Abbey will be in the December Dorchester News and on posters.

Do you shop at Amazon?

Did you realise that Amazon will give money to Dorchester Abbey every time you shop? You just need to shop through the Amazon Smile page, nominating the Abbey as your charity. It's that simple!

Follow the link on the front page of the Abbey website or take a look here:

www.smile.amazon.co.uk

Do contact me if you have any questions

Nick Forman

treasurer@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.



Dorchester and District Royal British Legion

In just a few weeks we will be approaching the traditional annual Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Sunday on **8 November**. Both will be somewhat different as a result of Covid-19.

Like many charities the Royal British Legion relies on the generosity of the general public and in this difficult year this has never been more important. Supporters will be able to donate money and receive their poppy either directly to the Legion online at:

<https://www.poppysshop.org.uk/collections/poppy-appeal> or through a variety of partner organisations including with their weekly supermarket shop. Please give generously this year.

On Remembrance Sunday as a result of the Rule of Six we unfortunately cannot parade down the High Street or congregate at the War Memorial in the traditional way. Therefore we have been invited to have as much as possible of this included within the Abbey as part of the church service.

AGM

All members and potential members of the Royal British Legion are invited to join a virtual Annual General Meeting of the Dorchester Branch on **Wednesday 18 November**. Further details of the Zoom meeting for the AGM will be forwarded closer to the date.

Finally, If there are any residents living in Dorchester or the local area who would be interested in joining the Legion please contact Andy Pay or me for details. You will be made very welcome if you can join us.

Chris Hill

Chairman of Dorchester and District Branch



2021 Festival Postponed

Usually, by this time of year, Dorchester would be buzzing with ideas and news about next year's Festival programme.

However, after much discussion, we have sadly decided to postpone until 2022.

The Festival cannot be financially viable with social distancing and we will not know for some time yet (and too late to ramp up the publicity) whether measures will still be in place next May.

In the meantime the Abbey will be running smaller fundraising events to bridge the financial gap (like the recent October Fun Run!) which I encourage you to support.

Please do keep looking for events that you'd like to see included in 2022 and let me know your ideas.

Steph

steph@forman.org.uk

Personal Care Required

Personal care needed for elderly gentleman in Dorchester-on-Thames. Mornings and evening or either. DBS Check essential. Tel. **01865 340953**

Remembrance Tribute 2020

Many will remember the hundreds of poppies which local people made in 2018 for displays in the Abbey in 2018 and 2019. This year some of the poppies will be displayed in an outside location at the Abbey and we hope you will be pleased to see a new interpretation of the theme of Remembrance.



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Dorchester tennis smash away autumn blues on court

Tennis fans have had plenty to enjoy recently, watching amazing play at the French Open where competitors battled with colder weather. Dorchester temperatures may also be plummeting but play continues. Consider these tips to maximise enjoyment of your cold weather games:

*allow plenty of time for vital pre-play stretches
wear shades to protect against low sky sun
layer up clothing*

gloves on for match breaks

hit harder and deeper as ball bounce is less in cold weather

Join our club to receive priority access to the courts, club sessions and entry to the 2021 draw for Wimbledon tickets. Adult coaching has received positive feedback; contact us for details of further sessions.

Brilliant pricing - £25 individual, £40 family membership - this year only

All abilities very welcome

Wednesday

10.00am – 12.30pm Open club mixed session

Friday

10.30am – 12.30pm Ladies morning

Saturday

Gentlemen's morning

Sunday

10.30am to 12.30pm - Open club mixed session

Enquires to Chris Smith

chriscsmith@btinternet.com

Tel. 01865 341947

DADS

Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society

Weekly fun during Lockdown

An American Tale

A lot has been said recently about the social and economic impact of the performing arts and their important role in respect of mental health. Regrettably these arguments have been largely ignored by the UK government and the sector is in a parlous state.

The sector has faced threats before, especially in respect of censorship and freedom of speech both here and abroad. During WWI US President Wilson introduced the Espionage and Sedition Acts of 1917-18. Passed to censor the circulation of any opposition to the official war effort, after the war they were seen by many as a threat to free speech and democracy and much public debate ensued in the US as to whether to continue to follow the founding principles set forth in the Bill of



Susan Glaspell
www.historymatterscelebratingwomensplaysofthepast.org

Rights and the Constitution. *The Inheritors* by Susan Glaspell (winner of the Pulitzer Prize for drama) was written in response to that debate and is a play which is still thought-provoking and relevant today.

Spanning three generations, the play opens by introducing two elderly pioneers and their families who have settled in the US Mid-West, and how they came to be there, which includes flight from political oppression in Europe. The story is captivating and entertaining in its own right but, by the end you

may find that it stimulates many questions and your curiosity about some of our own history as well as that of the United States. Should our educational establishments bend their approach according to the will of wealthy patrons and market forces? Should we put our families and/or the prevailing views of 'society' before our consciences? How exactly did the British treat the people of India before they gained independence and, how do we integrate immigrants successfully into our society? But, most of all you may reflect on whether the views and values expressed by the candidates for the US Presidency would be recognisable to the early pioneers and Founding Fathers.

You are invited to join DADS on, **2 November**, the eve of the US election, to read *The Inheritors* online. If you would like to read or listen, you will need to register (free). You can do this via Facebook [@DorchesterAmDramSocietyDADS](https://www.facebook.com/DorchesterAmDramSocietyDADS) or the DADS website www.dads.org.uk.

Mark Wilkin

Online play readings during November

Registration required via www.dads.org.uk

Every Monday at 7.30 pm

2 November *The Inheritors* by Susan Glaspell.

Plays for subsequent weeks will be announced on the DADS website and Facebook pages on the Wednesday preceding the reading.

Massage Matters

Massage treatments are back!! It would be my pleasure to welcome you back to Massage Matters or to meet you for the first time. We continue to be in unprecedented times causing stress and upset. Massage can help you to feel more relaxed, restored and resilient. Please see the website for details of new COVID practices to keep you safe.

Gift vouchers, and weekend treatments available.

Based at The George Hotel, Dorchester-on-Thames. Entrance off the High Street.

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St Birinus School News

Well I cannot believe that we are nearly halfway through our first term here in school. The time is whizzing by and the children at the school are a credit to their community.

Our Reception children have enjoyed finding out all about autumn and had a fabulous afternoon recently collecting conkers after forest school was too flooded for them. Our Year 1 and 2 children in Squirrel class are learning all about dragons and castles and have been amazingly creative by setting up their own castle at school.

In Key stage 2 history is the main driver for topic work this term with our Year 3 and 4 Fox class learning all about the Romans. Someone has even brought in some actual Roman pottery discovered locally. Year 5 and 6 Owls class are currently investigating ancient Egypt and have created some stunning artwork.

We took part in 'Walk to School week' recently and encouraged children to try and walk or cycle all or part of their journey to school. We decreased our car use that week by 10% and I am proud to say that we are one of the first schools to sign up for an Oxfordshire initiative called 'Street Tag'. This is an app which you can download to your phone. It will measure the steps you're taking by scanning virtual tags and awards points based on how much walking, running or cycling you're doing. At the time of writing we are second on the leader board. The top three in December will win money for their school so we're asking the local community to join us and strengthen our team. As a small

school we are competing with much bigger schools. Join our team by using this QR code when you sign up. We would be really grateful for your support. Go to www.streettag.co.uk for more information.



Even though we are restricted by Coronavirus regulations at the moment, there seems to still be a lot going on in our little school; violin, flute and piano lessons can all be heard as I wander the corridors on various days. Our multi sports club is run by our sports coach and we are joining in with 'virtual' sports events across the county through PE lessons. Year 6 are starting to consider how they could support across the rest of the school by carrying out jobs and being given extra responsibilities which reflect the fact that they are preparing for their secondary transition later in the year. I have even had children asking if we can hold a Dorchester's Got Talent event. Watch this space!

If you have a child who is starting school in September, please do give me a call and I would be happy to talk to you about why our amazing school with its supportive family ethos is a good place for your child to begin their school career.

Sadly our planned open morning has had to be cancelled but we are currently putting together a slide show and a film to reflect how wonderful our school is.

Jo Staples
Headteacher

Berinsfield Library

Please note the slight change in opening hours

Monday & Thursday Closed

Tuesday – 2.00-5.00pm

Wednesday & Friday 10.00-12.30 & 2.00-5.00pm

Saturday 10.00-12.30

Pop in and see us.

You can return books at the door

We will meet and greet you, have a one-way system and books are quarantined for 72 hours

Why not sample some of our

Library activities on-line,

via the website or join our facebook page.

There you will find Story and Rhyme times, Book groups, weekly quizzes and lots more.

All welcome

Visit your local library

We'll give you a warm welcome

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries



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Pre-School

This month we've had a bike ride fundraiser where all the children did 5 laps of the playground on their bikes and collected sponsorship money from their families for doing it. They all loved it and each received a certificate, rosette and chocolate bar, with all the sponsorship money received coming back into Pre-School to help fund more fun things in the future.

We're still making use of the garden and spending as much time outside as we can, we've had egg and spoon races (with plastic eggs luckily!) and do our exercises classes outside too, even if we get caught in the rain some times!

If you would like to know more about us then please email admin@dorchesterpreschool.co.uk

Ed Shrimpton
Chair



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Like so many others, do you ever struggle with what's going on in your head?

Particularly during this time of uncertainty, it is no wonder so many people find themselves struggling with their mental health. For some, this is hugely limiting and for others it may just be that they find themselves unable to live life the way they'd like to be living it.

Life can feel overwhelming, goals can feel unachievable, but my hypnotherapy sessions (currently offered online) can guide you to a better tomorrow.

If you would like to know how your mind works – why you sometimes feel anxious or stressed, why you seem unable to achieve whatever you have in mind or if you have habits you'd like to change, my 1-2-1 sessions will help you.

Your thought processes are explained using the latest neuroscience, followed by a guided relaxation which reduces stress and leaves you calm, focused and recharged.

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All profits to Dorchester Abbey



Hempcroft Allotments November

The Hempcroft Allotment Society Meeting was held on 24 September 2020 in the Village Hall. Because of Covid-19 restrictions there was no AGM. Instead it was the opportunity to pay the rent and subscription for the coming year and collect a seed catalogue. About 25 members turned up for the one way system through the Village Hall ensuring that there were never more than six people in the hall at any one time.

Edward Metcalfe continues as the Chairman, Jon Rosby as Treasurer, and Charlotte Bennett, David Rossington and Chris Hill are members of the Committee.

This is the time of year, i.e. rent collection time, when some people decide to give up their allotment. We now have a few good plots available ranging from small squares to half size (5 pole) plots. If anyone is interested then please contact me.

Edward Metcalfe
edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk
01865 340160



Larkmead
VETS



We're working hard during the current UK situation to continue to provide a service to patients that need essential care in line with Government Guidelines.

We can provide video consultations directly with one of our vets to discuss options.



The situation can change rapidly so we are trying to keep our website and social media up to date with latest info!
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Online booking available
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Didcot | Great Western Park | Sutton Courtenay

Hedgehogs



Many were horrified by this year's TV news footage of animals terribly burnt or killed in Australia's wildfires. However, our own 'fire season' is only just beginning. November is bonfire month, for Fireworks Night celebrations or just disposal of gardening rubbish. Unfortunately, a

pile of wood and brash stacked ready to burn is irresistibly attractive to hedgehogs looking for somewhere to sleep or hibernate, and every year many are inadvertently burnt alive when the bonfire is lit. Help safeguard these vulnerable and declining animals by following a few simple guidelines:

Only build your bonfire in daylight on the day you plan to light it. Being nocturnal, hedgehogs may move into your woodpile if it's left in situ overnight.

If you must build your bonfire days before it's lit, surround it with a hedgehog proof fence of stout netting etc to stop them moving in, **and** check the woodpile carefully for 'hogs before lighting it.

Also, don't use slug pellets which poison 'hogs, and take great care to look ahead whenever using a strimmer in overgrown areas. Many hedgehogs suffer appalling injuries to legs and faces from careless strimming.

For more information on how to help hedgehogs just search for *British Hedgehog Preservation Society* or *Hedgehog Street*.

On the brighter side, the arrival of Autumn and Winter brings just the right time of year for tree surgery, major hedge trimming and hedge laying. All these activities should be avoided during the bird nesting season from March to August inclusive.

Stay safe and keep our already depleted wildlife safe too.

Richard Tilley



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Culham
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james@culhamgardenservices.co.uk

Regular maintenance. One-off services. Public liability insured.
References available. Est.2012

Dorchester Abbey Christmas Cards

Sold in aid of Dorchester Abbey

Please do buy Abbey cards this year to support us while our income is affected by corona virus measures. They are available from the museum or from Steph Forman steph@forman.org.uk 01865 340434. All cards are sold with envelopes in packs of 10 for £4.50 and are colour printed on glossy quality card with 'Happy Christmas' inside and 'Sold in aid of Dorchester Abbey' on the back.

(all images are © Nick Forman unless otherwise stated)

Nativity scene from the
East End window
17.6 x 12.5cm



© Frank Blackwell

Victorian wall
painting of the
Annunciation
9 x 20cm



Nativity scene
in the Shrine
Chapel
12 x 12cm



Christ Child from
the Shrine Chapel
13 x 13cm



Angels from the
Shrine Chapel
21 x 9.7cm



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www.fullcircletravel.co.uk

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E: holiday@fullcircletravel.com



Dorchester Abbey Tea Room

We are now closed after a successful, if a little unusual, season and plan to open our doors again on Easter Saturday next year as usual.

A huge THANK YOU to all the volunteers who have baked or helped in our amazing Tea Room this year. It's been a challenging time full of constant changes but we managed to be open for at least half our usual sessions serving through the hatch.

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 support us. It's tough eating all that cake but we couldn't do it without you!

Do get a tea room cookery book for Christmas for yourself (and all your friends) from Lilys or myself—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!

Steph Forman
steph@forman.org.uk
 01865 340434

Heavenly Host Angels - Dorchester

Free 'Make an Angel' kits are in the back of the Abbey. (Check the Abbey website for opening hours.) The angels need to be back at the Abbey in the collecting box by **22 November** please, and will be blessed on Advent Sunday, **29 November**. They will then be placed around the village during Advent Season. For more info see Facebook page, or phone Denise Line **340905**.



Dorchester Abbey Museum News

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENT

Sat 7 and Sun 8 November, 2.00-4.00 pm
 with mulled juice and mince pies!

Come to the Museum Gift Shop and buy your Christmas cards and presents early, with plenty of mulled juice and mince pies!

We have Abbey Christmas cards and others, and lots of lovely Christmas gifts: books, jewellery (including special Christmas earrings), as well as a wide range of stocking fillers for children.

Also our popular greetings cards for birthdays and other occasions.

Edith Stedman's Cook Book The perfect Christmas present!

To mark the 60th anniversary of the Museum's opening by Edith, we've reissued her charming *Monastery Guest House Cook Book*.

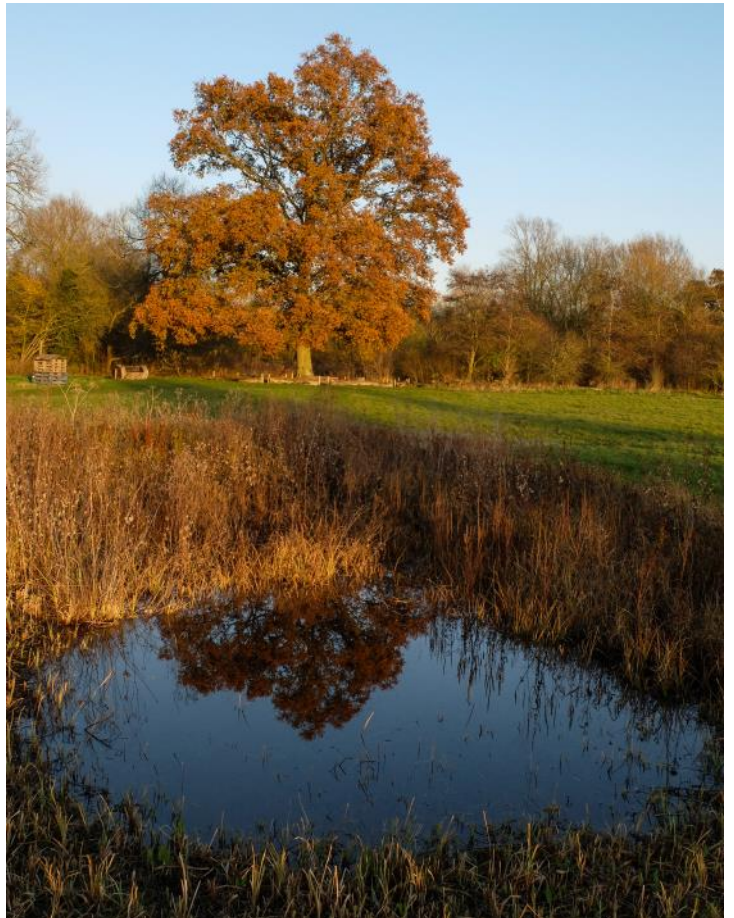
Price £7.50. Available from the Museum or Linda Hender, 11 Page Furlong, tel 01865 340032, email: linda.hender@btinternet.com

Please be assured that you'll feel safe in the Museum as we have careful Covid-19 protection protocols in place: hand sanitizer, one-way system, social distancing, only a small number of people allowed entry at the same time, etc.

Autumn on The Hurst



The face of The Hurst is ever-changing with the seasons, and autumn can be one of the most glorious, and one of the most changeable. Early morning is captured, left, in this glorious picture by David Scott, with the mist slowly rising, waiting to be burnt off. But water is never far away, and in David Wilkinson's picture below the lovely autumn tree colours are perfectly reflected in the pond water. Water is not always friendly, though, as can be seen from the Tame recently flowing over the footbridge and barring access to what is clearly a very sodden Hurst.



Joan Eva Blackwell 1926-2020

Joan was born in Oxford Maternity Hospital in 1926, the only child of Peggy and Charles Read. In the early 1930s, the family moved from central Oxford to a house on Oliver Road, Cowley, on a new development close to the Morris Motors factory. Whilst at primary school, Joan fell in love with the 'Bashers' (a type of straw boater worn in the summer) of the schoolgirls at Milham Ford School. Learning that the only way she could attend Milham was by doing well at the 11+ exam, she pursued and subsequently won a scholarship, starting just before the outbreak of the Second World War. Until very recently she still met up periodically for lunch with the friends she made at the school.

Despite doing well in her School Certificate exams, Joan decided to leave school at 16, getting a job as part of the backroom staff at Barclays Bank in Oxford. There she met Frank Blackwell, who was working at Barclays while waiting to join the Royal Navy. They soon realised they both cycled the same route to their homes in Cowley, and their relationship flourished. A lot of their courting was done at the Forum, a dance hall on Oxford High Street. Joan loved Big Band music, and right up to the end of her life she listened to Glenn Miller on CD, her feet still moving in time to the music.

Frank joined the Royal Navy in 1944, and soon afterwards Joan temporarily moved to Wolverhampton because of her father's job. Despite the separation, this time brought one of their most treasured memories. One day Joan received a message from Frank that his ship *HMS Illustrious* would be in Portsmouth for a short time, and asking whether she could be there the next day and whether she could wear a certain yellow dress that he liked. She could and she did, and their happiness is immortalised in the photograph of the two of them together.

Joan and Frank married in 1951. Frank's job at the time as a photographer in the Anatomy Department of Oxford University came with a house – which they later bought – and they moved to Coverley Road, Headington, where they lived very happily for 26 years. They had two children during this time – Martin in 1953 and Julia in 1957 – who both fondly recall a childhood filled with love, support, laughter, and excellent baking. In the late



1960s, Frank became a lecturer at the Berkshire College of Art and Design in Reading, while Joan started working in the Wages Department of Minty Furniture in Cowley. By the mid-1970s, with both of their children moving on in their lives, they decided they would move as well.

Joan and Frank discovered their ideal house in Dorchester, moving here in 1977. They swiftly immersed themselves in village activities and made many life-long friends. A founding member of the Abbey Tea Room, Joan was there helping most Saturday afternoons. Her Dundee cake remained a fixture for years and is now immortalised in the Tea Room's recipe book. Her prowess dated back to managing to bake one during rationing and sending it out to Frank on *HMS Illustrious* – in Gibraltar!

Other groups also benefited from her skills – as Treasurer, organiser, or committee member – such as The Abbey Ladies, DADAV and the Dorchester Historical Society. Joan was also responsible for introducing Lent Lunches within the village – a simple lunch for all comers, in exchange for a donation to a stated good cause (starting with, at her suggestion, providing a child in Africa with an education). After the success of the first lunches, these became a village tradition, and Joan continued to organise the hosts and host herself until very recently.

Alongside her own pursuits, Joan wholeheartedly supported Frank in his

own varied roles, from Church Warden to member of the Wallingford Lions. When he travelled within the Oxford Diocese as photographer for its newspaper, *The Door*, she accompanied him as camera holder and navigator; when he was sent around the country as a moderator for City and Guilds photography exams, she went too.

In their later years, Joan and Frank also enjoyed some truly enviable holidays. They combined visits to Joan's relatives in Washington State with trips to Alaska, Canada, and landmarks such as the Grand Canyon. Their cruises included visits to Moscow and, much to Frank's pleasure, Gibraltar. These holidays exemplified once again how well Joan and Frank complemented each other: Frank would mention visiting somewhere – anywhere – and, if

Joan agreed, then the next thing Frank knew was that it was all booked!

Despite their busy lives, Joan and Frank always had plenty of time for their growing family. Every year they travelled to Mallorca with Martin, his wife Janet, and their children Lucy and James, while Julia regularly visited the village with her husband Rob and daughters Cathy and Vicky. Moreover, for almost 40 years the whole family gathered together for an annual late May holiday at 'The Cottage' (located at various points in Wales or Dorset), as well as for Christmas and birthday celebrations.

Joan and Frank's marriage lasted 66 years, full of love, companionship, mutual respect and a shared sense of humour. They celebrated their Golden and then Diamond wedding anniversaries in the company of family and friends, and rejoiced in the congratulatory cards they received from the Queen. After Frank's death in 2018, Joan was supported by both family and the network of friends and neighbours she had acquired over her life. Her live-in carers ensured the last years of her life were as happy as possible, and proved she never lost the ability to make fast and firm friends. On 23 August, she died at home, relatively suddenly but peacefully, and never alone.

Joan was kind, thoughtful, generous, patient and unflappable. With her warm smile and a twinkle in her eye she was a friend to everyone she met.



Chris Ellis



Sophia Stewart-Liberty



Rosie Southon



Mike Southon



Patricia Drew



Ellie Ribeiro



Gill Whitten



Tracy Lester



Adrian

In September, as the UK emerged from lockdown, Reverend Canon Sue Booy invited readers of the *Dorchester News* to contribute what they had done during lockdown to an exhibition at the Abbey from September 12th-13th, Harvest Festival weekend.

The exhibition celebrated the fruits of the village's indomitable community spirit during lockdown and helped raise funds for the Abbey, thanks to all the contributors, the exhibitors who donated proceeds, the visitors who gave donations and the volunteers who helped throughout.

Now, a few weeks on, Covid-19 numbers are rising, new regional restrictions are in place, and the possibility of another national lockdown looms. As we face the winter ahead, it feels all the more important to draw encouragement and inspiration from the exhibition.

Let's once again follow the Abbey's Covid-compliant, one-way system past the displays. Whether you are revisiting the exhibition or coming across it now for the first time, it will no doubt delight you with its diverse creative expression, as it did the many visitors!

We enter the exhibition from the Abbey's west door and start in the nave, where Chris Ellis displayed a series of wonderfully detailed watercolours, including a *Carolina Wren*. Chris, who has done silversmithing as a hobby for 16 years, decided to take up watercolours during lockdown. She bought some paint, paper and brushes, followed YouTube tutorials online, and then painting watercolours of animals, flowers and birds became her 'obsession'!

Along the Abbey's northern Norman wall, Sophia Stewart-Liberty presented paintings of sun-dappled beechwoods near Woodcote, where she found coolness, peace, and safety ('virus-wise')

on hot summer days. Rosie Southon's moving painting *Locked Door* featured the closed Abbey entrance with a shaft of light before it. Rosie explains, '...the shaft of light signifies hope that this ghastly pandemic will surely be overcome', a reminder that God's love is always with us. Mike Southon's handmade, earthenware bowls glowed with warm, deep colours. Artist, author, and printmaker, Patricia Drew created two linocut prints: *Locked Out* evoked the sadness of lockdown, *Locked In*, the joys.

To chase away lockdown anxieties, Ellie Ribeiro knitted her first lacework hat, and to pass the time in isolation, Gill Whitten, a gifted 'scrap quiltmaker', sewed her remaining stashes of 'leftovers' and favourite fabrics into beautiful quilts of cats and London scenes, draped over a standing screen by the pews.

In the chancel crossing, Tracy Lester offered a fine array of paintings, including portraits of famous people, done as she followed a SkyTV broadcast 'paint-along' programme. In Tracy's words, 'I finally plucked up courage to join in on week five', joining over 100 artists.

Near the medieval shrine of St. Birinus stood a miniature ladder on which a small man climbed with determination. Artist Adrian Brooks relates, 'Like Jacob's Ladder, the little man sees angels ascending. It is intended as a visual expression of the Life of Faith.' Traditionally, during crises, shrines are placed in churches, so Adrian also exhibited his *A Shrine for the Times* (now in the Abbey Museum), a visual testament to our shared experience of the Covid pandemic.

In the Lady Chapel, Lisbet Clements laid out her lovely knitted creations made from homespun yarn. Lisbet learned to spin yarn four years ago and now has a spinning wheel on which she uses fleece

What You Do Lockdown?

from Little Wittenham. Lisbet adds, 'It is so relaxing to spin, meditative, and very satisfying.'

Fellow knitter, Denise Line shared her richly coloured Granny Blanket, completed during lockdown for her granddaughter, a local nurse. Denise also exhibited her NHS nurse Angels made as gifts and used as a focus for reflection during lockdown in the Abbey's online Morning Prayers. A Co-op Angel honoured the shop's helpfulness over lockdown.

By the archway to the People's Chapel, twelve-year-old Arabella Kilby-Birch posted her article *Exercise in Isolation*, written for her school newspaper *Quarantine Times*, with feedback from well-known experts and athletes, like 'Mr. Motivator'.

In the People's Chapel, my husband Andrew and I set out copies of books we had worked on over lockdown: Andrew has been revising a 2nd edition of *Spirituality and Psychiatry*, first published in 2009, and I published my book *The Hidden Lives of Dreams*.

Near the 12th century font, Reverend Sorrel Shamel-Wood placed a summary of her master's thesis, completed over lockdown, in which she looks at ways the biblical narrative of Esther has been brought to life in modern novels.

In front of the Abbey's 14th century wall-paintings, eleven-year-old Sian Wilson displayed her lockdown art. She explains, 'While we were off school for lockdown, I had extra lessons with Rosie Southon. I sometimes got really absorbed in painting and spent several hours at it.'

Along the Abbey's south wall, Charlotte Bennett hung a number of 'Andy's Shirts', made for her husband Andy, about which she says: 'With the shops closed, I retrieved some long-forgotten fabric samples from

the sewing drawer and set about back patterning a shirt from one of Andy's favourites...Whilst the painful weeks passed and Andy's brother Kes slipped away from us as the virus took its toll on his body, the summer shirts brought fresh hope for happier days ahead.'

Next to the Abbey's main entranceway, Tim Cook, composer and musician, displayed his inventive Celebratphone, an original musical instrument created in honour of his Golden Wedding Anniversary from recycled materials, including a confectionery box and the Perspex from an old Abbey collecting box! On the same table, Reverend Canon Sue Booy's laid out two decorative pillows she sewed during lockdown.

This retrospective tour of the exhibition concludes with breath-taking scenes of the south Devon coast as painted during lockdown by Vicky Nolan. The beauty and peace of the shoreline inspired Vicky with uplifting seaside vistas that included a path to the sea through sandy dunes.

Vicky recalls that around the time of the exhibition, she was listening to *Thought for the day* given by the Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, on BBC Radio 4. As Vicky retells it, 'The canon's main topic was the virus and the effect it has had on us all, but she finished by saying that we must remember we have three things to help guide us: Faith, Hope and Charity, and that we will eventually meet face to face although at the moment we see through a glass darkly.'

These are indeed fitting words to close on as we end our tour of the exhibition, leaving through the Abbey's west door, inspired by one another to bear new fruits for life's harvest.

Melinda Powell



Vicky Nolan



Tim Cook



Charlotte Bennett



Sian Wilson



Sorrel Shamel-Wood



Andrew and Melinda Powell



Brooks



Lisbet Clements



Denise Line



Arabella Kilby-Birch

Age UK exercise classes now on Zoom

Pre-COVID, Generation Games, Age UK Oxfordshire's physical activity service, were delivering 64 classes in the community across Oxfordshire, with around 1,000 older people attending sessions every week. With the event of COVID-19 everything changed and physical classes had to be suspended. The Generation Games service had to go online, and began to deliver exercise sessions by Zoom, the online video platform, instead. Regaining and maintaining fitness, strength and balance has been, and is, crucial during this time. Deconditioning is a serious consequence of inactivity. It was clear early on that many people (of all ages) were not getting their recommended 'daily dose' of exercise. For older people in particular, this can have detrimental effects: not being able to live life as independently as they would like. Everyday tasks such as walking up stairs, walking in general, or holding a full kettle of water become more difficult. These are all very real consequences of deconditioning.

Maggie, who joined a Zoom exercise class commented: 'I'm a lot weaker now than before. I've been lying on the sofa during the pandemic and I've lost a lot of strength. You've saved me.'

The first class we converted from a face to face to a Zoom class was a Strength & Balance session that was previously held in Jericho community centre. We wrote comprehensive instructions on how to get online with Zoom and were on hand to help solve issues where possible. There are now on average 12 people who attend this class every week. "I feel every week there is back up there from Age UK [Oxfordshire]. If I don't manage something, someone will notice and help me to get back again. That's a big security for me," said one participant. The class has been running on Zoom for some weeks now.

Zoom was unfamiliar to many of our participants. One participant, Anthea said: 'Initially it was difficult, I find technology rather beyond me, but with a little help it's very comfortable and quick. I don't know what I'd do without my exercise class.'

While many people struggle to get online for a number of reasons, we all as a society need to be encouraging and supporting older people to access online opportunities.

If you are interested in joining a Zoom exercise class, please get in touch with Generation Games on ggbookings@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk or call 01235 849 403. You can visit the website via www.generationgames.org.uk



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Role descriptions can be downloaded from the CPRE Oxfordshire website www.cpreoxon.org.uk

Application deadline is **31 October 2020** in the first instance, but we are happy to receive expressions of interest on an ongoing basis.

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Didcot Gateway – the home of the new South and Vale district council offices

Didcot will be the home of the new offices for South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils in a move that will help to secure a more sustainable future for the councils, both economically and environmentally.

The district councils will move into a new building that's proposed for the Didcot Gateway site opposite Didcot Parkway Station. The site is close to the centre of the town that sits on the border between the districts.

The councils need new headquarters following a five-year story that began in January 2015 when their shared headquarters in Crowmarsh Gifford were destroyed in an arson attack. After spending a few years in temporary offices at Milton Park, South Oxfordshire District Council revealed early designs for new headquarters at Crowmarsh in February this year. Shortly after unveiling these plans, the country went into lockdown as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, which saw nearly all of the councils' staff move to working at home full time.



Illustrative view of Didcot Gateway

<http://didcotgateway.co.uk/>

The proposals already included an office building on a part of the site that is owned by South Oxfordshire and both councils' Cabinets recently agreed it made financial sense to move to offices that are already part of a masterplan and on land owned by one of the councils.

As the plans are very much in the initial stages of development, it's too early to give a firm date for the new offices, but the councils are working towards a date in Spring 2023.

Cllr Sue Cooper, Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council, said: 'Didcot Gateway is a sensible location for our new headquarters from a financial and practical point of view. It will make a significant difference to us financially moving from large rented accommodation to a modern, well designed office that meets our reduced requirements and becomes a valuable asset for the future. As the site is centrally placed between the two districts, and close to public transport links, it will help us meet our targets for tackling the climate emergency.'

'We are sad not to be returning to Crowmarsh, which was home to our council for so long, but we will work on a good future for that site. We look forward to creating a more efficient, cost-effective and carbon neutral council for the future.'

Determining the future of the Crowmarsh Gifford site together with the local community remains a priority for South Oxfordshire District Council.



Like many organisations around the world, the move to home working demonstrated to the councils that they could work successfully with most of their staff working in a more flexible and remote manner. However, the councils have learned over the past six months that there is still a need to have some office space for certain activities and for staff who are unable to work from home for practical, personal or well-being reasons. The councils have therefore reviewed their office requirements and concluded they need smaller offices than they previously had planned for.

With a new understanding of their longer-term needs, the councils decided to explore their options to find the most viable and deliverable solution. This involved having a look at a range of alternative sites, some of which had previously been ruled out for being too small, to see if they would provide the best value for council taxpayers.

The Didcot Gateway site was one of these locations – Homes England recently ran a public engagement exercise on proposals for a brand-new regeneration development that would bring new homes, offices and cafes to a brownfield site directly opposite major local and national public transport infrastructure at the heart of the two districts.

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Frank and Joan Blackwell



In this month's issue we celebrate Joan Blackwell's life with a tribute to her on page 15. We also remember Frank, who died two years ago, through his photograph of Dorchester High Street on the front page. We felt it appropriate to also include this lovely photograph of the two of them together in their younger days, when Frank was in the Royal Navy. Many of us will only have known Frank and Joan in their later years, but this reminds us that all those who we meet later in life have their own history and their own stories to tell, often rich and interesting ones if only we take the trouble to ask..



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SODC's campaign for cleaner air

To mark Clean Air Day, on Thursday 8 October South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils launched a new campaign to encourage people to use less polluting means of transport, such as walking and cycling, for local journeys.

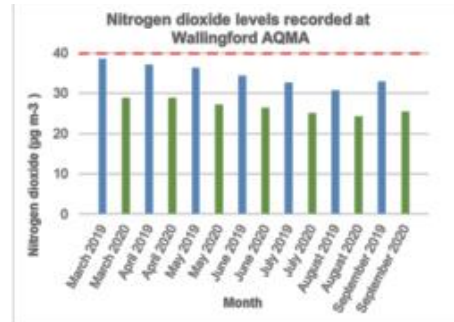
Since March many people have changed where we work and how far we travel.

This has resulted in fewer miles driven, especially at peak times. With less congestion at peak times there has been less air pollution...considerably less air pollution according to the analysis carried out by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils' Air Quality team.

The graph shows air pollution figures for March to September in High Street, Wallingford, a designated Air Quality Management Areas AQMA. The 2019 figures are shown in blue with the corresponding month's 2020 figures shown in green. (Similar results have been recorded for Henley, Watlington and Abingdon.)

This demonstrates a consistent reduction in pollution of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) in our air. NO₂ is created by the burning of fuel from our cars and can be the cause of a number of health impacts including breathing difficulties, especially for those with existing respiratory conditions such as asthma.

The government's requests that to help control the pandemic people should work at home, if possible, has reduced the number of people commuting to offices across our districts. For example, according to a recent survey of the councils' staff, those who responded have saved an average of 110 miles per person per week (by no longer commuting to the office in Milton



Park and other council sites).

(Although it seems likely that this is the case, these figures do not necessarily show that these reductions are entirely due to changes in behaviour following lockdown. Lockdown only started in mid-March this year and yet the fall in NO₂ levels in March is amongst the highest for any month. Without knowing what, if any, level of reduction was already occurring month by month prior to March 2020, we should not conclude that all of this reduction was due to lockdown. One cannot rule out the possibility that SODC has been selective in the choice of these data points. Ed.)

The councils' Air Quality team hope that this change in habit for the daily commute might translate into people looking at alternative, pollution free travel methods (i.e. walking or cycling) for local journeys and are hoping to encourage them with a series of new posters (see below).

The Air Quality team are sending the posters to schools and community groups in the districts but they will also be available to download from our dedicated webpage

www.southoxon.gov.uk/turnitoff.

Cllr David Rouane, South Oxfordshire District Council cabinet member for the environment, said: 'Last year the councils launched their Turn It Off campaign – asking people to change their driving habits for cleaner air – to turn off their engines if they were stopped in traffic for a minute. Now we are asking them to think if they could turn the engine off altogether and use less polluting means of transport for local journeys.'



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HAVE WALKED
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for cleaner air

southandvale.gov.uk/turnitoff

STEVE WILKINSON & SON

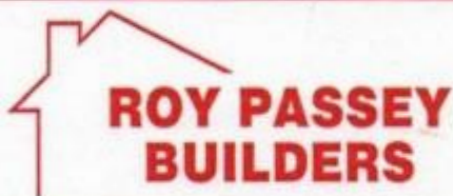
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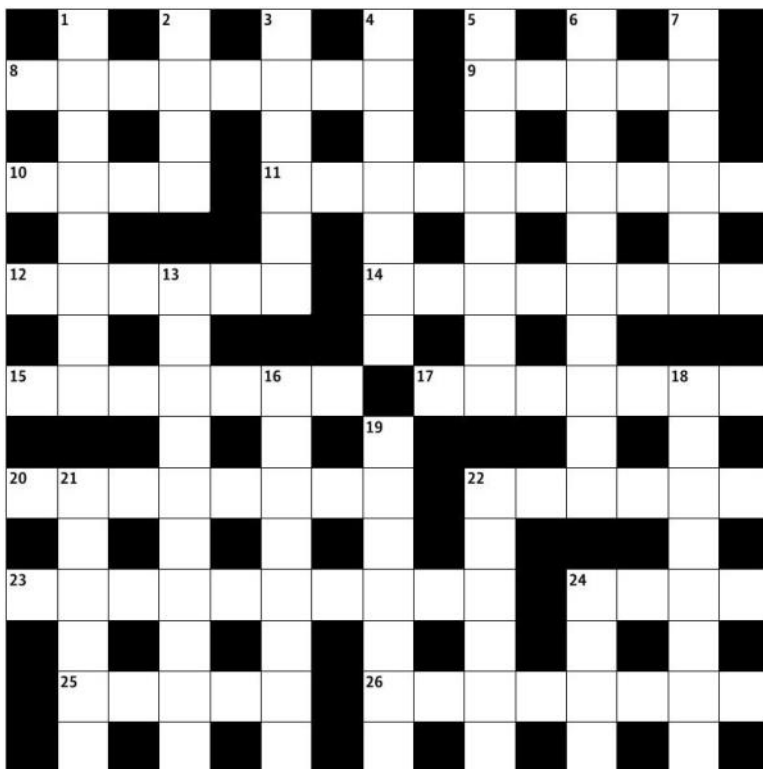
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Dorchester News Crossword No. 14

Compiled by Slider



Across

- 8 Jazz before the uncooked drug came back- a conflicting business (5,3)
 9 Thus contained to be like Marcus Aurelius (5)
 10 Fiddlers occasionally appear round the middle of the month. (4)
 11 Knocking about university I improvise and become un touchable. (10)
 12 Sample the Southern look. (6)
 14 Go on, fashion another - what a batsman! (8)

- 15 A heave of the sea to the South rises. (7)
 17 The dog I medicated contains a revered being (from the East). (7)
 20 Observed the past aurally to see something that gets to you. (4,4)
 22 Secretly looking into the odds on the dark female side with a thousand following. (6)
 23 Forecast for pier-end, set to move (10)
 24 First off the animals would surely like something to feed on. (4)
 25 Entered the exam but the middle question caused a bending of the knees. (5)
 26 Opponents with six in the middle can be looked up to. (8)

Down

- 1 British girl initially with low spirits and they can be boring. (8)
 2 Verses with two descriptive contents. (4)
 3 A short heavy stopper is lifted. (6)
 4 It's curtains for Doctor Gibbon on the train. (7)
 5 To the East of France the mountains isolate a person. (8)
 6 All together now: "To Lady Iris" (10)
 7 Point a finger at the current a hundred employ. (6)
 13 I am back in fashion with nothing on in America. That's great! (10)
 16 Payments for the warehouses holding an agreement from Italy. (8)
 18 Old service at the cathedral city done with decorations. (8)
 19 Holy man tears round the Orient in bands. (7)
 21 Collection of roses good for a frightening lady. (7)
 22 Short holiday by the sound of it. By tube? (6)
 24 No friend to this hydrated silica. (4)

Poetry and book news (with some local history)

My autobiography, *Gears through the Years*, is selling well. My earlier publication, *Dorchester on Thames Born and Bred*, has sold out and is having a second run with two alterations. It will have a new poem inside the back cover called *Love Is*. Also the back cover will have an historic photo of the River Thames at Meadside during the Second World War. It portrays the local military assembling a Bailey Bridge across the river.

These were made locally at Wallingford, at Wallingford Engineering, which later became Acrow Ltd. It was a large premises. I recall visiting there with my late father. In the yard I discovered some large wooden boxes. They were green with the army crows' foot logo. One box was damaged and I noticed a small boat, a punt, about one foot long protruding from an opening. On enquiring about it the local workman said 'When we made the Bailey Bridges a complete model bridge was despatched to all interested parties before delivery of the real bridge. That way, all involved could practice with the model and understand how it all assembled.'

James Pratt

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.

One-time adverts, please send a cheque, payable to 'Dorchester Abbey PCC', to
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Parish Council Notices

Council Meetings

The November Parish Council Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 11 November** and will commence at 7.30pm. The Agenda will be posted on Village Noticeboards and on the Parish Council section of the Village website – www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk – three working days in advance.

It is expected that this meeting will be held 'remotely' but **all** Parish Council meetings are open to the public and any resident who wishes to raise any matter of concern is welcome to do so at the start of the meeting. Please contact the Clerk no later than 3.00pm on the afternoon before the meeting so that the necessary access arrangements can be made.

The December Parish Council meeting will take place on **Wednesday 9 December**.

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.



The Parish council continue to meet via Zoom and it seems we are in for a long winter so I thought some good news was in order.

A couple of months ago I highlighted the Great British September Clean. And I'm delighted to hear that so many Dorchester residents supported this initiative led for the Parish council by Mike Corran, taking the opportunity to walk our lanes and footpaths armed with bags, gloves and litter pickers to tidy it all up. And some parts really needed it as you can see below, in some cases years of accumulated litter tidied in one fell swoop. Thank you to everyone who took part and did their bit. I was out walking this week and it was hard to spot anything alien, no crisp packets, sweet wrappers, cans or bottles. Wonderful.

But it doesn't have to stop here, what works in September works throughout the year, so if you are able and willing, do please continue to do the occasional trip to keep our village tidy.

Mark Williams
Chairman DoT Parish Council
chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk



Above: Bags of litter picked from Oxford Road and, left, the result, a litter-free pathway.

...And it is not just litter that is an issue.

I continue to receive messages from Dorchester residents about the amount of dog waste that is not picked up and of dog owners even allowing their dog's to roam into someone else's garden to do their business. I see that there is also a thread on the village Facebook page about this. Get a grip people and think of others. Editor



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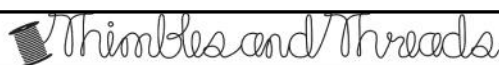
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From your District Councillor... ...Robin Bennett



It's been a very busy time at South Oxfordshire District Council, both with normal activities and work supporting residents and businesses through the pandemic.

We recently took the decision to build the new offices for SODC (and Vale of White Horse District Council) in Didcot, on land owned by the council opposite the station. Although the intention had previously been to rebuild on the site of the former offices in Crowmarsh, which were destroyed by an arson attack a few years ago, changes in work patterns caused by the Coronavirus pandemic have meant that a smaller office is required, with many staff welcoming the chance to work from home for at least part of their week. That means the site, part of an area known as 'Didcot Gateway' that has awaited development for some years, has become a viable option for the new office. The move will enable the council to move on from the expensively-rented temporary office at Milton Park into a modern, sustainable location with better environmental standards and public transport access.

We've been searching for the right use for this site for a long time, and this is the perfect solution, bringing a major employment site to the town centre, close to transport links and near to SOHA and Cornerstone, amongst others. It's important we use public sector investment to achieve multiple benefits for the community.

We've also passed our 'corporate plan' through council, which will guide the activities of SODC from 2021-2024. The public consultation strongly backed our themes, including 'protecting and restoring our natural world', 'openness and transparency', and 'action on the climate emergency'. It also retains investment in Berinsfield as a key priority for SODC.

As the Covid-19 situation continues to escalate, there is a lot of work happening to support residents and businesses. The initial business rates grant scheme to support businesses affected by the pandemic has now come to an end; in South Oxfordshire, our team awarded £25,615,000 to 1,933 businesses.

Financial support for those affected by local lockdowns and NHS Test and Trace

Residents receiving certain benefits may be eligible for £500 in financial support if they're told to self-isolate through the NHS Test and Trace system. This is a government scheme, which we're administering on their behalf. To claim, residents will need to apply within 14 days of their self-isolation period ending. There's more information, including details on who is and isn't eligible for this fund, on our website.

Businesses forced to close temporarily due to local Covid-19 lockdowns or targeted restrictions can also now apply for some financial assistance to support them during their closure.

Please note - this support only becomes available when a local lockdown or targeted restrictions have been put in place.

Community Support helpline opening hours

Residents can contact us by calling **01235 422600** or email communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

Lines are open: 8.30am-5.00pm on Monday to Thursday; 8.30am-4.30pm on Friday

All information on our COVID-19 for individuals, community groups, volunteers and local business support can be found on our new website – www.southoxon.gov.uk

Flood advice available

As we head into winter, it's worth making sure you are prepared for any adverse weather, particularly flooding. There's lots of information on our websites to help homeowners, businesses and communities on flood prevention:

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/flooding>

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



More libraries open across the county

19 of our libraries have already re-opened, with more to follow this month. Locally, we now have seven core libraries open: Abingdon, Thame, Didcot, Cowley, Henley, Wallingford and Berinsfield. Five others were opening during the week commencing 12th October.

The library network is part of my portfolio of responsibilities, and I am delighted that the County Council has been able to open so many, in a very COVID-19 safe way. It has not been as easy as you might think, but I feel it is so important to provide our residents with a safe and secure public space at a time when other venues are facing huge challenges. We ask visitors to wear masks, register with the contact tracing system, use hand sanitiser and keep their distance. All returned books are quarantined for 72 hours before being put back on the shelves. We are still not collecting any fines!

Covid-19 update

In early October South Oxfordshire continued to remain at alert level green. But **Oxford City**, then at amber alert status was edging closer to a **red alert level**. The sharp rise in cases in Oxford was a fast moving situation and the County Council was monitoring it very closely. We are working with partners to send increased and targeted warnings that call on people to follow the government guidance.

The **NHS COVID-19 app is now live** – please download it if you can. The more people who use the app the more we can keep each other safe and stop the infection rates rising. If you do not have COVID-19 symptoms please do not book a test. You could be taking a test away from someone who really needs it, like a key worker.

COVID SECURE TEAM – a new development

To help ensure that government safety rules are being applied, a new COVID Secure Team is has been established across Oxfordshire. The Team's aim is to encourage compliance by businesses and the public and to provide a visible and reassuring presence on the county's streets.

The county needs more carers

Residents across Oxfordshire are being encouraged to find their career in care thanks to an innovative partnership between our own Oxfordshire Employment and Style Acre. The Careers in Care programme, which has been extended to 31 March 2021, is designed to bring individuals closer to voluntary and paid employment through bespoke work experience. Oxfordshire needs more people to consider care as a career, so please help raise the profile of this fantastic programme with residents in your community.

Return to school going well

At the beginning of October as the Cabinet Member responsible for the Education Service, I was pleased to be able to issue a press release **praising parents, carers, pupils, teachers and school support staff** for their commitment to ensuring a safe return to the classroom, despite the continued national challenges of COVID-19.

Pupil attendance in all Oxfordshire schools was currently significantly higher than the national average: **For Oxfordshire maintained schools, it was 93.3% on 29th September, compared to 88.7% across England.**

Schools are working hard to carefully manage their COVID-19 safety measures. They are regularly communicating details to parents, carers and pupils by letter, social media and online virtual meetings giving parents confidence to return their children to the classroom, maintain attendance, and enhance their children's wellbeing.

Head teachers and members of the Council's public health and education teams have put in place robust processes so that schools, colleges and early years settings can respond quickly and appropriately to a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.

Vikings reunited

A family is being reunited from our Museums Service after 1,000 years and an Oxford Massacre

Two Vikings from the same family are to be reunited more than 1,000 years after their deaths, thanks to help from our Museum Service. We have a skeleton that is one of at least 35 men and boys believed to be victims of Oxford's St Brice's Day Massacre of AD 1002, in which dozens of Danish raiders, settlers and their offspring were thought to have been executed on the orders of the King Aethelred II of England. The skeleton is held at our Museum Resource Centre in Standlake, West Oxfordshire.

Now DNA evidence has shown that a male skeleton, discovered during an excavation in Denmark, is closely related to one of the Oxfordshire victims – known as SK1756.

Next year, SK1756 will be taken 'home' to Denmark to be included in a Viking exhibition alongside the latest Danish discovery – believed to be a close relative such as an uncle, nephew, grandfather, grandson or half-brother.

The mass grave was discovered in 2008 when archaeological excavations took place ahead of a development in the grounds of Oxford University's St John's College. Research shows that they had all been massacred at the same time, probably in AD 1002.

Statement from Corn Exchange Wallingford on the current state of UK cinema

We would like to express great sympathy with the many cinema chains and independent cinemas that are currently being closed. We all rejoiced when cinemas started opening their doors again in July and the reaction from those customers who came back was very positive, seeing a small pushback towards normality. But we've all been distressed by the postponement of films like *Bond No Time to Die* and the financial difficulties encountered by many venues.

But we're pleased to say that many cinemas like ours are still able to carry on and show a mixture of current, archive and classic films from the distributors' catalogues. It's not easy with reduced audiences and new safety precautions but we want to welcome all our loyal patrons back to our wonderful venue again. We also want to stress our continued commitment to entertainment in Wallingford and district. And we will of course continue to follow government guidelines for the safety of patrons and our volunteers.

We're pleased to say that we have had 17 film showings in October, we're booking for November and have lots planned for December and beyond. We're also happy to take any suggestions about films to show. Just drop us a line on info@cornexchange.org.uk

And we're also planning some live theatre starting with Guy Masterson in December and the Sinodun Players in January. Follow us on www.cornexchange.org.uk

We know that many people have missed their trip to the cinema since the closures in March. We also know that through the Video on Demand portals there are many films available to show in the comfort of your own home. But we, and many of our patrons also, believe that there is nothing like the experience of a high quality digital screening.

We look forward to seeing all of you.

Corn Exchange Management Team



Cinema: All regular performances start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. Tickets £8 for adults, £5 for under 15 unless otherwise stated.

There are now some cinema bookings available and we will be adding more films after we have been able to ascertain the level of demand. Please look on www.cornexchange.org.uk for further programme updates.

All the Covid-19 safety information is available on the website. Please take a moment to read this before you come to a performance.

November

Sun 1	Love Sarah (12A) 2.30pm
Mon 2	Love Sarah (12A)
Fri 6	The Secret Garden (PG)
Sat 7	The Secret Garden (PG)
Sun 8	The Secret Garden (PG) 2.30pm
Mon 9	La Haine (15) All tickets £5
Mon 16	Parasite (Black and white version) (15)



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Day by day

Sun 8.00am
1 Nov Holy Communion (1662)

Wed Chiroprapist
4 Nov Village Hall

Sun 8.00am
8 Nov Holy Communion (1662)
10.30am
Remembrance Service

Wed Parish Council Meeting
11 Nov 7.30pm
Online

Sun 8.00am
15 Nov Holy Communion (1662)
4.00pm
Evensong

Wed Chiroprapist
18 Nov Village Hall

Sun 8.00am
22 Nov Holy Communion (1662)
10.30am
Holy Communion

Sat OSJ Concert
28 Nov Faure and Wagner
6.00pm and 8.00pm
Dorchester Abbey



Sun 8.00am
29 Nov Holy Communion (1662)
4.00pm
Advent Evensong

Weekly events at the Village Hall

Monday Yoga.
9.30am

Pilates
6.00pm

Tuesday Yoga
7.00pm

Wednesday Pilates
6.30pm

Thursday Yoga
6.00pm

Weekly events

Monday DADS Play reading
7.30pm
Online

Tuesday Coffee Morning
10.30am
Online

Wednesday Mobile Post Office
1.00-3.00pm but may vary due to
Covid 19
Outside Co-op

Regular events also appear in the Parish
Council's website:

www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Parish Registers

Funeral

30 Sept Joan Eva Blackwell

See page 4 for more information about
services at Dorchester Abbey and elsewhere
in the team.

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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**
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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 Emma Shrimpton bookings@dotvh.org.uk or **01865 689452**.

Please telephone at least 24 hours in advance to arrange collection of the key.

FAULTS AND COMPLAINTS

POTHOLE, STREET OR ROAD PROBLEMS

Abandoned vehicles, dog fouling, flyposting or graffiti, flytipping or litter, street cleaning, such as broken glass in a cycle lane, unlit lampposts, potholes can be reported on fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk. In an emergency, call **0345 310 1111**.

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.more recycling.co.uk

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Green Furlong, Berinsfield **01865 340771**
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OPENING HOURS

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Weds, Thurs 2.00–5.00pm
Fri 2.00–5.00pm
Sat 10.00am – 12.30pm

ANIMAL WELFARE

RSPCA (wildlife): **0300 123 0206**
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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**. Reduced services currently being run.

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.

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The Mobile Post office stops outside the Co-op every Wednesday between 1.00 and 3.00pm but may vary

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ANGLICAN PRIEST

Dorchester Rectory
Revd. Canon Sue Booy
01865 340007

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 Nov **Green**
Fri 13 Nov **Black**
Fri 20 Nov **Green**
Fri 27 Nov **Black**

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.

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Dorchester Abbey Christmas 2020

Three socially-distanced concerts
at 6pm and 8pm.

Tickets must be pre-booked.

Wednesday December 16

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Ashmolean Voices

Saturday December 19 Handel's Messiah
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