

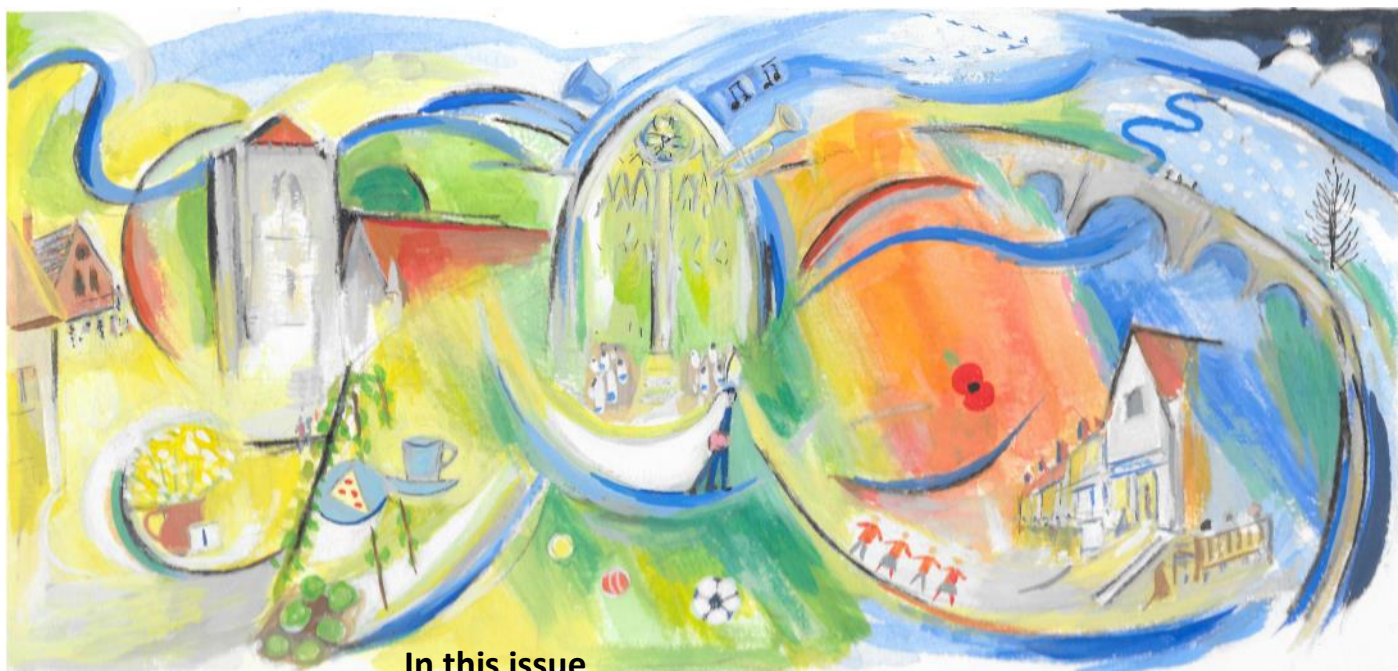
# ***Dorchester News***

***Free to every home in the parish***

***April 2021***







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### **DoT view**

Now we have the Government's road map for easing lockdown, thoughts are turning to returning to some kind of normality, with plans, albeit provisional, being laid for the return of village events.

So in this newsletter, the first signs are the Abbey tea room advertising its opening for outdoor service from Easter, the Tennis Club back on court, and an Easter service at the Abbey.

Looking further ahead, the Abbey Museum should re-open in May, June and July may well see the Open Gardens event, Safari Supper, an outdoor production of *Wind in the Willows* from DADS, and then *Henge 21* in September, all if the road map holds of course.

Hopefully we will also see the return, albeit gradually of the village's pubs and hotels to general opening, other local businesses getting back to normal and events in the Village Hall returning.

All of this will be much needed both for the DoT residents, who will be able to get, to attend meetings and to socialise once again, but also for businesses and facilities, including the Village Hall and Abbey who have suffered financially in the last twelve months. Much has been written about pent-up demand being released at the end of lockdown, bringing viability back to them. Most of us will want to get out and enjoy the new normal, and these local businesses and facilities are going to depend on us doing just that.

Let's just hope that next month I'll not be writing about the road map being deferred.

Ian Brace

Cover picture: Daffodils in the High Street.

## Deadline for May Dorchester News



email:

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

### **Editorial Team**

Ian Brace, Kathy Glass

### **Distribution Co-ordinator**

Maurice Day

### **Printed by**

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This image of the sunrise was taken in the Abbey Cloister Garden at sunrise on Easter Day 2020. It has been part of Easter tradition to greet the rising sun on the day that we celebrate the Risen Son of God. As years of experience have taught me – sometimes walking to the Clumps after an all-night vigil – the sunrise is not always at its best in late March – early April. Last year it was glorious and exceptional and, like the

weather throughout the Lockdown of 2020 a real encouragement to those who were feeling the sadness of not being able to celebrate the Easter Feast in our Church buildings

These images (for it is one of about 20) have helped to sustain me through the year as a reminder of an extraordinary experience. Last Easter, in a weekend that felt as if it must be consistently dark – a long Good Friday, an Easter that could not possibly reflect the new beginnings that are such a part of my faith – Easter Day (as I suppose it always should) took us by surprise. Shut out of our buildings and deprived of the sacrament of Holy Communion the celebration of Easter was not robbed of its significance – that the darkest days can always be overcome, that the light of the glory of the risen Son could not be quenched and that new beginnings

with God are to be found even in the darkest moments.

In 2021 I shall be in the Cloister Garden at sunrise again – and co-hosting a service taking place simultaneously on the Clumps – I will be preparing (God willing) to be IN Church for Easter Day and after a year of darkness to celebrate the gradual rising of a new dawn. I hope that for each of us this Easter will mark a new beginning as we endeavour to move slowly and surely out of Lockdown.

If you should want to talk about a new beginning be sure that Rev Catherine, Rev Rachel and I will always be happy to do that and all of us wish you a joyful Eastertide praying that during the weeks that mark the Easter season you will be reunited with friends and loved ones finding new hope and new beginnings.

## News from the Rectory

In December I had a ministry development review with Archdeacon Judy. This process is preceded by a personal reflection followed by a consideration of this with the reviewer. In our conversation I reflected with her about the last five years, which until the end of 2019 were difficult and 'full on' for a number of reasons. As some of you will know during that time I also suffered two significant periods of ill health from which I have thankfully pulled back but without on either occasion recovering full stamina.

It is time I had a sabbatical (clergy are offered one every ten years) and Archdeacon Judy and I discussed my taking some time to concentrate on 're-setting the compass' physically. The current guidelines are that it should take about a year to arrange a sabbatical but under the circumstances, and with the support of my GP, it was agreed that this should be taken sooner rather than later. My colleagues and the PCC have agreed this and therefore I plan to take two months from around **21 April**. You may well see me around the footpaths, in the swimming pool (I'm hoping it opens) and maybe even running so please say hello and offer me some encouragement – I've set myself some goals that feel pretty steep at the moment!

For those needing the help of the clergy or information about the Abbey, Rev Catherine and Rev Rachel will look after services and the office can deal with all your enquiries. There will be an answerphone message on the office number for out of hours pastoral contact.

**Revd Sue Booy**

## The Abbey and Dorchester Team Office

The Office will re-open on **6 April** after Easter from 9.00am – 12.00noon and we look forward to welcoming our wonderful staff who have been working from home.

One of the people who works for us has had to shield for a health condition and for that reason we will be asking that everyone telephones before calling the office and makes an arrangement to visit rather than simply turning up on the doorstep. We can't know at present exactly what the advice will be or how the infection rate will progress in April and May so this arrangement will remain in place whilst things become clearer. Thank you so much for your help. To contact the office please phone **340007** or email [admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

### 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](mailto:dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk) one week before the deadline for editorial copy given on page 2.

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



## Returning to Church for Worship and Weddings

As I wrote in a previous issue of Dorchester News we concluded that we would not hold services of public worship in the Abbey whilst schools were not open and the infection rate was climbing. We have continued to hold services and other church activities online some of them broadcast directly from our churches and this will not stop abruptly.

In the past few weeks we have seen the government's welcome plans for opening up different kinds of activity gradually and an even more welcome fall in the infection rate. By the time you read this you may have attended or seen publicity about the Mothering Sunday service we held and the fact that we are now holding an 8.00am service in the Abbey every Sunday. On **Easter Day**, weather permitting, we will hold a service that is partly outdoors in the Cloister Garden and partly in the Church. I do hope you will join us – gathering in the Garden just in time for a 10.30am start. You will be asked to register for this service. If you are uncomfortable entering the Abbey building please join us for the beginning of the service. We will return to the garden at the end of the service.

After Easter we will continue to offer a regular 8.00am service and mid-morning services weekly online and aiming for a fortnightly service in person as we continue to monitor the impact of emerging from lockdown.

Pentecost on **23 May** is the Church's Birthday and we are very much hoping and expecting that this date will also mark a celebration and a return to a full pattern of worship. If you would like to be informed of regular Abbey plans please contact the office during the morning on **01865 340007** or at any time by email [admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

We look forward to seeing you at the Abbey for Easter if you would like to join us.

## Wallingford Food Bank

Huge thanks to everyone who has brought goods for the use of the food bank this month.

Each week we have been able to take a large amount of food and other essentials to the distribution centre at Wallingford.

Last month 229 people received food and an increasing number of single people used the food bank for the first time.

Due to lockdown the supplies are delivered to the recipients by a team of volunteers who sometimes drive as far as Watlington and Woodcote.

Food, toiletries, and other items are still urgently needed. Please leave your donation either in the yellow box in my garage or in the collection points in Waitrose either in Wallingford or Abingdon.

Judy Parker



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# DADS Live Theatre Coming Back To Dorchester!

Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society

Even before the Government's latest announcements on easing lockdown restrictions, DADS have been investigating how to be able to perform again in a safe and secure way. The result is that we are planning to perform *The Wind In The Willows* in the Abbey's Cloister Gardens in July. More details to follow.

Meanwhile, our play reading evenings continue online but, due to rehearsals for *The Wind In The Willows*, they may not be as regular and may be held on different evenings. Please check the DADS Facebook page

@DorchesterAmDramSocietyDADS or [www.dads.org.uk](http://www.dads.org.uk) for up to date information.

## Thank you to two kindly people

A big thankyou to two Samaritans who came to my rescue when I fell from my bike in Dorchester on Wednesday 10 March.

To Tim, who stopped with no hesitation to see if I was okay, and actually put my bike on his truck and brought me home. I found out on our journey home that I knew him as a toddler when his mum Becky used to bring him to Gym Joey at Berinsfield where I worked.

Also to the kindly gentleman who was out walking with his wife, who again with no hesitation helped me off the road. In these Covid times I can't thank them enough. (I broke my wrist.)

Thank you  
Jen Harwood



## Dorchester Village Hall 200 Club Prize Draw

Congratulations to the winners of the March draw.

1st Prize	£75	No.82 Mrs E Stewart
2nd Prize	£45	No.4 Mrs J Bryan
3rd Prize	£25	No.6 Mrs G Johnson

The next draw will be in June, so join now for a chance to win!

The 200 Club is a quarterly prize draw to reward supporters and raise funds for the village hall. We need new members to keep the draw worthwhile but there are good odds of winning as there is a maximum of 200 tickets in the draw. A ticket for the year (four draws from when you join) only costs £12. To join, contact Elaine Williams on **340441** or email **200club@dotvh.org.uk** for a form. You can pay by cash, cheque or standing order.

Thank you for your support and good luck!

Elaine

## Planted Easter Baskets



Available to buy :  
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If you would like the opportunity to work in a highly rewarding environment and can rise to the challenge that managing a retirement estate demands, we would like to hear from you.

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## St Birinus School News

It has been wonderful to welcome children back to school this week. They have demonstrated remarkable resilience and their enthusiasm to be back with their friends has been a joy to watch.

Our school remains a busy and happy place to be. There was great excitement tinged with disappointment recently as the high winds blew the huge tree in the playground over. We had to cut the whole tree down in order to keep everyone safe, but we will be replanting one to replace it.

Our fundraising efforts are starting to gain pace as all the children return to school. We are grateful to the Parish Council for a generous contribution to our iPad fund. In an ever-changing world we are keen to allow our children the opportunities to keep up with technological advances. We know that, in the future, our children will need to be able to communicate via a variety of media and learning how to use technology in various forms will be of great benefit to them. Using iPads also provides the opportunity for children to develop skills in literacy and numeracy as there are a myriad of apps to help support their learning. Using iPads has been proven to improve levels of engagement and increases inclusion. Having iPads in school means that children can use them quickly and easily as calculators, dictionaries and encyclopaedias. The iPads we are raising money for will be a brilliant enhancement to the education we offer to the children in our community. If you are interested helping us with our

fundraising and would like an added opportunity to win some money then please support us through the South Oxfordshire Charitable Lottery. Tickets are only £1 per week and you could win up to £25,000 in addition to helping our school raise funds for this much needed technology. Please go to [www.socharitable.co.uk](http://www.socharitable.co.uk) and search for St Birinus School. Many thanks!

**Jo Staples**  
Headteacher



TENNIS CLUB

## club tennis 2021

### club rates 2019

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Dorchester tennis is ON. We are smashing, lobbing and volleying with a vengeance. Get on court **now** to ditch those lockdown pounds, to re-energize and annihilate your post pandemic lethargy.

Join our club for 2021 priority access to courts, club sessions and entry to the 2021 draw for Wimbledon tickets. We offer social tennis, coaching sessions and competitive tournaments. Whatever gets you moving - relaxed rallying or more intense competition, we have something for you in our super friendly club atmosphere, all at **amazingly** competitive 2019 rates:

Family £48, Individual £30 and Junior £5

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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

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Supporters must be 16 years of age or older



## Warborough & Shillingford WI

The February Members Meeting on Zoom was given by **Rosie Jacobs** about **Independent Oxford** the organisation that she set up with a friend to help small businesses reach us, the potential customers. Rosie has global experience of retail and purchasing so has brought all her know how to this important and successful initiative. Check out the website for Independent Oxford; it is a revelation.

The **March Members** meeting was our first ever Annual Meeting on Zoom followed by an illustrated talk on a journey from **East to West in Bhutan** by **Pat Norman**.

The April Members meeting will be a historical talk on **The Foundling Hospital** by **John Caldicott**.

A **Community Project to Combat Loneliness at Easter** will aim to take a small gesture of friendship to all who live alone in our village on Good Friday.

**At Tea and Chat** in March, Caroline from the recently formed **Oxford Prostate Cancer Support Group**, came to talk about how women can support men with the disease.

**The Walking Group** will resume as soon as the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted sufficiently. It will be good to get together for real.

**Dorchester residents** if you are reading this and feel that you would like to join us, please get in touch with me. There are already five Dorchester residents and we would love more of you to join us! And when we start to meet in the Hall again there will be lifts available. Please call Ann Wells, a Dorchester resident, on **01865 341246** if you would like more information.

Pat Norman, Secretary, [pnorman87@btinternet.com](mailto:pnorman87@btinternet.com)  
tel **07717 295165**

**Pat Norman**  
Secretary

[pnorman87@btinternet.com](mailto:pnorman87@btinternet.com)  
tel **07717 295165**

### Book Group

**The Tenderness of Wolves** by **Steph Penny** was generally enjoyed by the group as good yarn. It was set in the late 1800s when the Hudson Bay Company was dominant in Canada and the adjacent USA. It is a murder mystery set amongst pioneer Europeans, native Americans and itinerant fur trappers. Steph Penny has agoraphobia and has never been to Canada so found the descriptions of the vast frozen world very interesting.

*The Skylark War* by Hilary McKay  
*The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield.  
*Full Tilt* by Dervla Murphy  
*Red Notice* by Bill Browder  
*A Single Thread* by Tracy Chevalier

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### HENGE21- Settlement

We are fortunate that we are not only surrounded by a beautiful and historically rich landscape, but also, we have many talented artists, writers, composers and performers living in our communities.

**HENGE21-Settlement** will be a celebration of our ancient sites. A glowing henge installation will provide a performance area for specially choreographed dance movement. Young actors will point us back 4,000 years to those first henge gatherings. A specially written score will create a haunting soundscape and poetry and performance will challenge our ideas on the meaning of Settlement.

Below is a link to a short video presentation on **HENGE21-Settlement**.

[vimeo.com/506469244](https://vimeo.com/506469244)

We will also invite artists, writers and families to take part in an 'Artist's Opportunity', a 'Writers' Workshop' and later a 'Family Art Challenge'.

At this stage if you would like to know more about the 'Artist's Opportunity', please contact Dionne at

[www.oxonarts.info/opportunities/19794](http://www.oxonarts.info/opportunities/19794) for details of the project brief, dates and deadlines.

Follow us on:

Instagram : **henge.21**

Facebook: **Henge Festival**

**Adrian Brooks**



## Dorchester on Thames Historical Society

We are finally able to look hopefully at resuming meetings in the autumn, COVID-willing, and are looking at possibilities for interesting talks. We have not planned a group outing and will defer this until next year.

Updates will be sent direct to members and be published in Dorchester News and on the village website.

Many other historical societies and groups have gone down the Zoom route, and we hope you may have been able to join some of these. We ourselves chose not to explore these options, or greater use of social media, as we just don't have the skills or capacity in our present committee. We would need a new, dedicated committee member to take this forward. Any offers?

We look forward to meeting you all again later in the year. And please do let us have any ideas you may have for future activities.

**Margot Metcalfe**  
Chairman



### Dorchester Abbey Museum News

Owing to Covid restrictions, we are sadly not able to open the Museum from Easter, as we usually do.

We plan to open as soon as the government roadmap for ending lockdown allows – not earlier than 17 May for museums. Further details in the May issue of Dorchester News.

#### Edith Stedman's Cookbook

To mark the 60<sup>th</sup> 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**,

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## Spoonville

## Dorchester on Thames



### Spoonville : Dorchester on Thames

No sooner had we rejoiced in 'Doorsy's' fairy doors popping up all over the village, than a cry went up for Spoonville! Decorate a wooden spoon and put it in the ground at the corner of the High St and Drayton Road. And, of course, the people of Dorchester embraced their creativity and got to work. The Co-op sold the spoons and creative juices of the village did the rest. The Spoonville community grew and grew, with nearly a hundred spoons covering a range of designs and faces, some straightforward, others fiendishly intricate. It is amazing what you can get on to a wooden spoon.



At the last count, in the middle of March, there were more than 100 spoons firmly in the ground, braving the weather. And one that didn't make it out of the Co-op was the one of Carol, left, on display to encourage even more Spoonville creativity.

### Spoonville International

'The very first Spoonville was started in Winnersh, Berkshire, England by a very creative lady, Karen, who came up with the idea of making Spooky characters from wooden spoons as a way of cheering up her local community during Covid-19 lockdown.

Helen from Mull (who used to live in Berkshire) spotted a photo of the Winnersh Spoonville on her friend's Facebook page. Thinking this was a fab idea 'because spoons don't have to social distance' Helen and her daughter got busy creating a Spoonville in Cragg, Isle of Mull. Helen posted on Facebook that their Spoonville was looking to increase its population and encouraged others to add to the Spooky people.

Junelle, Helen's friend from Longwarry, Australia saw Helen's Facebook post, loved the idea, created their Spoonville in Australia and Spoonvilles were global!

There are now Spoonvilles all over the world with new Spooky characters popping up across the every day.'

From: [spoonvilleinternational.com/about-us/](https://spoonvilleinternational.com/about-us/)

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# Dorchester Open Gardens

Saturday June 26th 2pm-5pm



We are looking for new gardens!  
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Your garden does not have to be  
perfect, large or finished,  
just interesting!

*Also looking for any donations of spare  
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Contact Steph Forman  
01865 340434  
steph@forman.org.uk

## Dorchester Safari Supper

Saturday 3rd July

£25 per person incl all food & 3 glasses of wine  
Fundraising for Dorchester Abbey

7pm drinks & canapes

Main course (at a house in Dorchester)

Pudding (at another house in Dorchester!)

Coffee (at Dorchester Rectory)

Tickets from:  
Steph Forman  
steph@forman.org.uk  
340434



## Bonfires

Some residents have complained to the Parish Council about bonfires and nuisance smoke. The District Council is urging people not to light bonfires at this time to protect the respiratory health of the vulnerable and to avoid unnecessary burden on the NHS. COVID-19 is a respiratory disease and smoke inhalation can impair people's breathing. In addition to this, with larger numbers of people now working from home and also looking after children, the smoke from such bonfires can cause unnecessary nuisance to your neighbours.

If you feel that having a bonfire is the only option, it is important that you follow this advice:

- out of courtesy, inform your neighbours you are proposing to have a bonfire
- only burn dry 'clean' wood/garden waste
- do not burn household rubbish, such as plastic, foam, paint or rubber.
- do not light bonfires when the material is damp because this will generate more smoke
- do not use old engine oil, meths or petrol to light the fire
- do not light bonfires when the wind is likely to blow smoke into neighbours' homes or gardens
- do not leave bonfires unattended, even if it is just smouldering.

To complain about a bonfire contact

[www.southoxon.gov.uk/](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/) Tel: 01235 422410

Parish Council



## Hempcroft Allotments April

All of our usable allotment plots have now been let and there is a small waiting list and so we have turned our attention to the large area in the south west corner which is dominated by the plots let for many years to Norman Blissett. As Norman got older the plots became more overgrown. The Committee decided to tackle this whole area by hiring an industrial sized rotavator, and strimmer and brush cutter and paying James Talbot (a village resident currently on furlough) to carry out the restoration work.



We have created three new 10 pole plots (or six new 5 pole plots) and also cleared a whole area of brambles that were starting to spread in the south west corner. We have also created two new plots in the area of the archaeological dig.

So if you want to join the ever expanding Dorchester allotment community now is the time to make contact with us.

Spring is in the air and a lot of people are busy preparing their vegetable beds for planting and this means quite a lot of digging (if this was not already done during the colder winter months). Disposing of perennial weeds exposed by this process always presents a problem. Bindweed and couch grass all have indestructible roots which will re-infest the ground if allowed back into the soil. If you put them into your compost heap they will flourish.

Bob Flowerdew's preferred method is to drown perennial weeds. Place in a bucket, fill with water and tightly affix a lid and leave for a number of weeks. They may then be added to the compost, including the liquid which will be high in nitrogen (or the liquid can be used in a dilute form as a nitrogenous plant feed). Garden Organic recommends bagging perennial weeds using black plastic bin liners. Without light they will die and the contents of the bag can ultimately be added to the compost. This takes longer than drowning but does allow more weeds to be processed. So instead of the acrid smell that comes from anti-social slow burning bonfires heaped with soggy weeds, (not allowed on the allotments by the way) you will now have a welcome addition of a good organic soil conditioner to your compost.

Alternatively you can do what I do, which is to take them home and put them in the Council green waste bin!

**Edward Metcalfe**  
[edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk)

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### By Email

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appointment

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## Welcoming Three More 'New' Residents

As you read this issue of the *Dorchester News*, we will all, hopefully, be emerging from the long winter lockdown. During this strange time of enforced hibernation, it has been a solace to me to write articles about topics related to village life in Dorchester, whether it be describing the outstanding display of local talent at the Abbey's autumnal 'Lockdown Exhibition', sharing news about community conservation projects, featuring the creations of resident artists, like scrap quiltmaker Gill Whitten, and, not least, introducing newcomers to Dorchester. All this has helped me to feel connected to



others – to the heart of village life – and I hope readers have shared in this connection too.

Like the steady and gracious presence of the nearby River Thames and its tributary, the Thame, the human spirit moves within the lives of the people and places featured in these stories, expressing renewal, creativity, generosity and love, undimmed in these challenging times.

Recently, someone told me with a smile that although they'd lived in Dorchester-on-Thames for more than thirty years, they were still 'newcomers' because, unless you're born in Dorchester, you're always a newcomer! That makes me a real 'newbie', as I only moved here in 2015 to join my husband, Andrew, who has lived here for some time. So, in writing this article about three new Dorchester residents, I've applied a very colloquial definition of what it means to be 'new'!

By way of introduction, the first newcomer is Hilary Taylor, who lives close by the Hurst; the second is Graham Baxter, whose house looks out onto Dorchester's medieval bridge, and the third, Gabriella Harvard, settled into Bridge End, close by the Thame.

In November 2020, Hilary opened a 'new chapter' in her life by moving to Dorchester just as the winter lockdown took hold. Previously, Hilary had lived in Nova Scotia for a number of years and before that in South Bucks, where she had lived and taught for thirty years. Hilary

took the decision to move back to the UK, and to our village, through getting to know a local resident who happened to be a member of an international organisation that Hilary had joined while in Canada, the University of the Third Age ([www.wallingfordu3a.org](http://www.wallingfordu3a.org)).

Hilary has made the best of the lockdown, zooming in for the Abbey's coffee mornings online and volunteering for dog walking through the 'Borrow my doggy' website ([www.borrowmydoggy.com](http://www.borrowmydoggy.com)). Her love of dogs had previously led to her volunteering for the charity Hearing Dogs for Deaf People ([www.hearingdogs.org.uk](http://www.hearingdogs.org.uk)). As she explains, 'The charity wanted the dogs to be in a home environment at weekends rather than in a kennel. The dogs were people-oriented and had been through a rigorous assessment while training.' One dog that she adopted from the charity went with her to Nova Scotia and became a Therapy Dog for the St John's Ambulance there.

With her keen interest in bird-watching and year-round gardening, Hilary chose to make her home in Monks Close, an area where medieval monks once managed the Abbey's pastureland and fisheries. To develop a garden full of colour all year, Hilary advises, 'Get structure with trees and evergreens first. Then you can fill in with the 'fluff'! There's so much colour for winter



Hilary Taylor

now. Coloured and patterned bark on trees, berries, flowers, scent, and foliage. Do that and you'll always have a garden with interest.' Along with helping out at village events and in the Abbey tearoom, Hilary

looks forward to joining a local garden club once lockdown lifts.

Graham Baxter is also drawn to Nature. Before he came to Dorchester, he and his wife lived for thirty-four years in a lovely cottage on the edge of the New Forest, while he was working for the Civil Service and they were raising a family. Following his wife's passing, Graham chose Dorchester as a beautiful place to live, being only a 30-minute drive from his daughter in Bedlow, her husband, and their seven-year-old twins, Emily and John.

When Graham moved to the village in February 2019, he decided right away to get involved in local activities. As Graham tells it, 'I particularly like the Keep Fit Club (highly recommended!), the Wednesday Lunch Club



# **Life:** **Residents to Dorchester-on-Thames**

superbly organised by the energetic Sue Jupp, the Tuesday coffee mornings in the Abbey and the monthly meetings of the Dorchester Historical Society.'



**Graham Baxter**

You may also find Graham at his allotment or helping Andrew Clements with his Conservation Projects for the village. You'll see evidence of Graham's hard work in the freshly turned soil at the top of Demesne Lane, where primroses now

bloom, and in the cleared-out ditch that runs along the cemetery's southern boundary, where wildflowers and shrubs are being planted. Graham says of the conservation work, 'We are small in number but have great comradery, knowing we are doing our bit to enhance the attractiveness of the village cemetery and surrounding areas.'

Like so many of us in Dorchester, Gabriella was also attracted by our village's proximity to Nature. Originally from South Africa, she has lived in the UK for a number of years. Her father came from Scotland, where her sister resides with her family.



**Gabriella Harvard**

In 2018, Gabriella moved to Dorchester from Nuneham Courtenay. As she told me, 'Having been brought up in South Africa, I loved the sense of space I got stepping out into the fields from Wittenham Lane. Finding the cottage here on Bridge End was like a dream come true. Being so close to Nature is something I value greatly -

and something I've taken full advantage of during lockdown over the past year. When lockdown ends, I'm looking forward to inviting friends and family over to my 'little spot of heaven'.

Gabriella holds degrees in Psychology and English and also trained in meditation, a skill she has taught for over eight years. Five years ago, she started working at Oxford University Press in their Learning and Development team. Now she's supporting the organisation through coaching, mentoring, management

and leadership programmes. She adds, 'I love being able to support people to grow and find ways of manifesting more of their potential.'

Gabriella speaks for many of us when she describes the challenge of working from home during lockdown while maintaining a work-life balance. As she says, 'My daily walks have kept me sane after so many hours at my desk in front of a computer.' While out walking, she often takes photos (some of which are shown here) that testify to her attentive eye. She notes, 'Every walk is different depending on the weather or the season (or my mood). I find the people here are always friendly, smiling and greeting in passing. I so appreciate the care that people give to their gardens, and especially to the Hempcroft allotments, which I walk past almost every day. I'm in awe of what people manage to grow and how much time and love they put into it.'



Gabriella's words echo the thoughts so many of us will have had of late, 'I feel incredibly grateful to live in a village like Dorchester. I love all the quaint corners, the characterful houses, and most especially the access to such beautiful natural spaces.'

Gabriella's reflections bring us back to the banks of the Thame as it flows onward to join the Thames. I am reminded of the river of life that runs through all our days, bringing new people and possibilities into our lives, sustaining us through the pandemic and carrying us forward with hope for the future.

**Melinda Powell**

Contact Melinda Powell at [DRImelinda@ccpe.org.uk](mailto:DRImelinda@ccpe.org.uk) if you would like to be included in a 'newcomer' article or if you have a topic you'd like written up

River photographs courtesy of Gabriella Harvard.



# Dorchester Abbey Tea Room Takeaway

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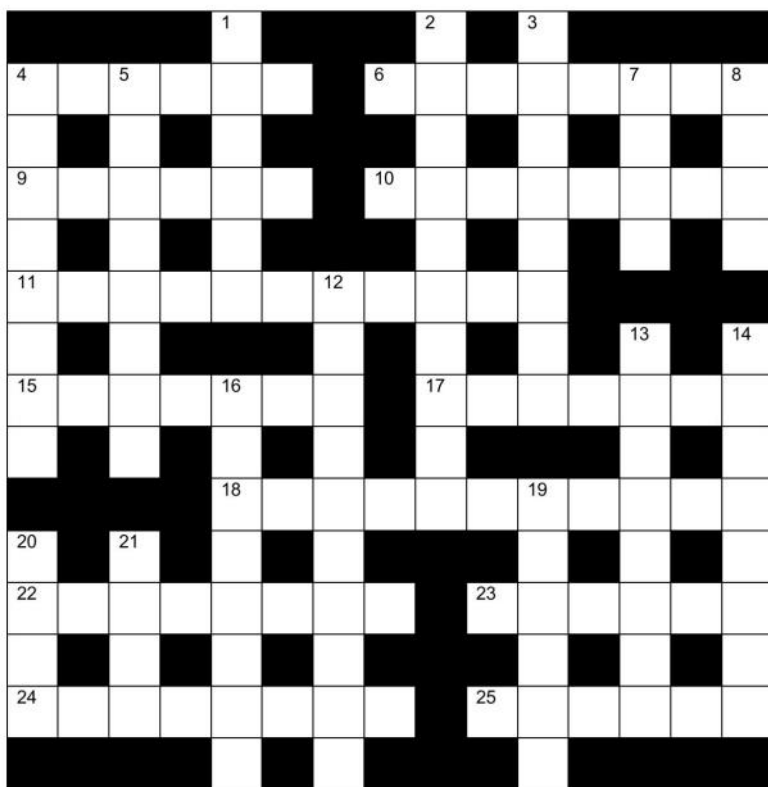
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any spare home made jam then please contact Steph Forman  
[steph@forman.org.uk](mailto:steph@forman.org.uk) 340434



## Dorchester News Crossword No.16

Compiled by Slider



### Across

4. An unpleasant condition may enable the Royals to come together. (6)
6. One's treatment is with a drug off and on regularly. (8)
9. 'L'Environ de Lyon' includes two quatrains followed by a quintet. (6)
10. One relative has the jewellery but there are others here. (8)
11. The international body favours charity but will not let you off! (11)
15. Intertwined and cleaned. (7)
17. An architect ran some tests to secure a lintel. (7)
18. When mixing I go in class with one. (11)
22. Said to be from Arcadia half of them were horsing around. (8)

23. Understand that the firm is working, with no alcohol allowed inside. (6)
24. Supports sounding certain to drink. (6,2)
25. We revere living creatures but we are going after the deer! (6)

### Down

1. Dish it out to the soldiers for shooting something in the sky. (6)
2. Plant a trap, Sid is arranging it. (10)
3. A game soldier has a defence. (8)
4. Ford Blackbird ? plenty of horses to go round. (8)
5. A square crease can determine the number of things or people. (8)
7. The river confuses a distinctive horse. (4)
8. No problem eating peas your mum said. (4)
12. Not proper that in D.I.Y there's nothing for you and me. (10)
13. Is Edward after a ship for this sort of passage? (8)
14. Commonly I am not in favour of the opponents' pictures. ((8)
16. The French following around Jamaican music and they come from the wood. (4,4)
19. Press running things? Ears pierced while you wait for example. (6)
20. Singles champions? (4)
21. A reversal of release in good numbers. (4)

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## Parish Council Notices

### Monthly Meetings

The April Parish Council meeting will take place via Zoom on Wednesday 14 April and will commence at 7.30 p.m. The Agenda will be posted on Village noticeboards and on the Parish Council section of the Village website three clear days in advance.

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 p.m. on the afternoon of the meeting so that the necessary access arrangements can be made.

### Meetings from May

At the time of writing this notice we have not been informed about the rules which will apply to parish council meetings after 7 May.

By all means make a provisional note that the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Wednesday **12 May** probably on-line commencing at 7.30 p.m. and this will be followed by the May Parish Council meeting. But please look out for the May edition of 'Dorchester News' for confirmation of these arrangements.

### 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](mailto:parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

Cllr Mark Williams, the Chairman, can be contacted via [chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk](mailto:chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

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

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



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### From the Chairman of the Parish Council

As Spring comes and Covid (hopefully) eases we are able to focus more on the space outside our homes. So I'm pleased to say that we expect all the villages outdoor facilities to be open from 29 March when the tennis courts can be used. And I'd like to thank villagers for both their patience and their sensible use of the playground which has enabled us to keep it open as much as we have been able to over the past year. Hopefully by the next time I write, this will all be a thing of the past and the opening of pubs outdoors, some indoor activities, and the village hall will be heading back towards normal. I will personally be making it a priority to check all the pubs are open!

Staying outside, the parish council was delighted to hear about some more really positive developments in our local environment. In addition to the changes we have all seen on Bishops Court Farm over the past year and the great success of our litter picking campaign which is still doing its good work, particularly after the floods, this week we were updated by both the Hurst Trust and the Rivers of Life programme which will both be doing work this summer to make local habitats even more diverse and supportive of wildlife. I won't steal their thunder and will let them update you in more detail on their plans but it was great to see this significant investment in our environment.

Also this month, your parish council is delighted to have been able to respond positively to a request from the village school for support to purchase iPads to help all the children make the most of their educational opportunity. Whilst Covid has brought this need to the fore it is a longer term drive for educational excellence that lies behind it and, as we will all agree, a thriving primary school is a vital part of keeping Dorchester as a vibrant community so we were delighted to be able to support the PTA and Headteacher.

So lots going on in a more positive light alongside the vaccine roll out which so many of us have benefited from already. Roll on summer!

**Mark Williams**  
Chairman DoT Parish Council



**Supporting iPads for  
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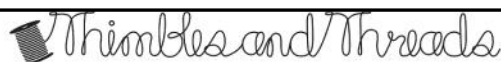
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## From your District Councillor... ...Robin Bennett



### **Our services at the district councils**

Officers are currently working on what the roadmap out of lockdown means for district council services. For all of our services – including public buildings like our leisure, arts and community centres – there will be a variety of aspects to consider. The earliest the council offices could reopen would be 21 June, but this is unlikely to mean an immediate return to office working for council staff who continue to work from home at present. Any reopening is likely to be gradual. Garden waste collections have now resumed, and our elections staff are working hard on preparations to run the 6 May local elections safely. If you'd prefer to vote by post and haven't previously, the deadline for new postal vote applications is 5.00pm on Tuesday 20 April.

### **'Ecological Emergency' declared by South Oxfordshire District Council**

An Ecological Emergency has been declared by South Oxfordshire District Council following a motion by my colleague Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye. The declaration reflects the council's commitment to protect and restore the natural world – a key priority set out in the South Oxfordshire Corporate Plan. This builds on the council's pledge to become a carbon neutral council by 2025 and a carbon neutral district by 2030. It also calls for the council to incorporate the climate and ecological emergencies and nature recovery as strategic priorities in planning policies. We are working hard to embed climate action and ecological initiatives within all council work areas, including COVID-19 recovery projects and programmes.

### **Tree Champions**

The Council has appointed two Tree Champions, Cllr Peter Dragonetti and Cllr Ian Snowdon. Their work will form part of a wider drive to protect and restore nature across South Oxfordshire. The role will include encouraging people to reconnect with nature and to promote woodland conservation and tree-growing initiatives. They will be involved in promoting the value of trees and woodlands in tackling the climate and ecological emergencies, as well as raising awareness of the statutory protections for trees and woodlands.

### **Conservation funding for Newts**

The great crested newt is a protected species. We've raised £240,000 for the conservation of these internationally important amphibians through an ongoing, innovative developer-funded conservation scheme.

### **Community space and affordable homes in Didcot**

We are looking to create new community spaces and high quality, sustainable affordable homes on three empty properties that we own on Broadway in Didcot. One at 120 Broadway could be in line for a full refurbishment to make a

space for community activity on the ground floor with affordable homes on the first floor. The other two buildings at 116-118 Broadway are no longer safe to use in their current condition, so we plan to demolish them to make way for a new community space along with one and two-bedroom affordable homes on the floors above. We're working on a sustainable design for the whole development. For those of you up to speed with the different sustainability standards, the aim is to build the affordable homes to PassivHaus standards at units 116 and 118 and refurbish 120 to equivalent EnerPHit standard.

### **Financial assistance for residents and businesses**

There are still funds available to support residents who are struggling to afford food and basic essentials as a result of Covid, although the funds are becoming limited. If residents need assistance with food, they should contact Citizens Advice in the first instance, or if needed they can call our Community Hub. We have already administered millions in government grants to businesses already this year; given the constantly-changing system of available grants, the best thing to do for businesses is to visit our dedicated business support website [www.svbs.co.uk](http://www.svbs.co.uk).

### **The Oxford-Cambridge Arc strategic framework**

The government recently announced a new plan designed to transform the Oxford-Cambridge 'Arc' region. We intend to do what we can to ensure that Arc projects protect and enhance our natural environment and to use our local influence to push for stronger environmental planning policies and investment in green technology. We remain opposed to the building of an Expressway from Oxford to Cambridge and we will continue to watch the Arc very closely to ensure it does not act as a means of un-pausing that project.

### **Pushing for data on sewage releases in our rivers**

Our Thames Champion, Cllr Jo Robb, has renewed calls for Thames Water to tell the public when it releases raw or partially treated sewage spills into the Thames and its tributaries and ditches. Thames Water has data monitors on almost all, if not all, of its outfalls in South Oxfordshire. It is providing public data on sewage discharge in six key sites in and around Oxfordshire, but we want to see this scheme rolled out along South Oxfordshire's stretch of the Thames. If you see (or smell) evidence of sewage in the river (brown appearance, smell, sewage foam or 'rag' which is sanitary products and solids) please report to the Environment Agency on **0800 807060**.

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

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



## Local Elections 6 May 2021

On 6 May Local Elections are taking place across the country. These will include County Councils, Elected Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners. I have been your County Councillor for 12 years. I am standing for re-election, and if I'm successful, I look forward to working for you over the coming four years. This area is going to experience significant change, and I would like to be able to support our local communities to see that they gain the maximum benefit they can from the new development that will be happening here soon.

The County Council has experienced severe pressures during this term of office, particularly due to the pandemic, but I am proud that we have managed to present a balanced budget for 2021-2022 that includes investments to provide better services for young people.

## Local Highways Update

### Warborough Junction Made Safe at Last

The residents of Henfield View Warborough have wanted changes to the road markings at the junction with Thame Road for a long time. There was no line of sight to the right, compounded by people parking to use the village stores on the corner. Finally after considerable pressure from me, the County Highways traffic team have painted new white lines that afford protection to pedestrians, people parking and the Henfield View drivers.

### Culham to get a Pedestrian Crossing

Culham has come a step closer to having a pedestrian crossing at the traffic lights on the A415 by the ex-Waggon and Horses pub. The developer who plans to make the pub into an hotel with some housing behind, has offered to part fund the scheme. I shall certainly be pressing for the project to go ahead.

### Flooding and Road Safety in Garsington

The county council has been tunnelling under an area of Garsington in an effort to solve the problem of repeated flooding at the junction of Denton Lane. The Council has agreed to conduct a survey into the number of people crossing the road in the same location as a first step towards possibly putting in a pedestrian crossing. They have also agreed to schedule a feasibility assessment of the very narrow stretch of road going up the hill to the pub to widen the pavement and put in a small chicane to slow the traffic and protect pedestrians. I am very concerned about these issues and will push for action to be taken as soon as possible.

## Consultation Launched on Oxfordshire's draft Transport Blueprint

Residents and organisations across Oxfordshire are being offered the chance to help shape the transformation of transport and digital connectivity across the county in a new consultation from 15 February to 28 March on a draft blueprint for the future.

With the need for climate action, helping create healthy communities and addressing air quality at the heart of council thinking, the new local transport and connectivity plan (LTCP) sets out a vision for Oxfordshire that will contribute to developing a zero-carbon economy for the county and transform the health and wellbeing of residents.

Oxfordshire is a great success story, but its ongoing performance must address how we travel in a way that can reduce congestion, improve our health and help develop active, connected communities. The vision has been developed following analysis of engagement work with many organisations and through an analysis of transport data and evidence from a survey in March 2020.

The areas of focus for the new plan are:

- Commitments to de-carbonise transport system by 2050
- Reducing the need to travel
- Discouraging unnecessary individual private vehicle use by promoting use of public transport and active travel such as walking and cycling
- A push towards quality digital gigabit and/or full fibre connectivity for all
- Enabling the economy to develop, supporting the Oxfordshire local industrial strategy agreed in July 2019
- Public transport operations and network changes amid the impacts of COVID-19.

A second consultation later this year will cover the development of the full LTCP including an updated vision and goals.

## Target for cutting greenhouse gas emissions exceeded

Oxfordshire's aim of becoming a zero-carbon county by 2050 has received a boost with news that our target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions was exceeded last year. We cut our corporate carbon emissions by eight per cent from April 2019 to March 2020, beating our target of six per cent. The replacement of boilers and streetlighting with more energy-efficient models, the installation of solar panels and the purchase of more electric vehicles were all factors in the reduction and more savings are soon on the way with the rollout of LED street lighting. The full story is published in the news section of our website





From your County Councillor, Lorraine Lindsay Gale continued

### **COVID-19**

#### **The statistics**

In the seven days up to 5 March, there has been a total of 220 confirmed new COVID-19 cases in Oxfordshire. This is a decrease from 405 new cases in the previous week. This is equivalent to a weekly rate of 31.8 per 100,000 residents and a reduction of 46 per cent over the last seven days.

#### **Vaccination programme update**

To date, over 150,000 people living or working in the county have now received their first dose of the vaccine, including all frontline health and social care staff and all older adult care home residents and staff. Over 95 per cent of those aged over 75 have also had their first vaccination, together with more than 90 per cent of those aged 70 - 74.

#### **New vaccine outreach programme**

Oxfordshire councils are running, in partnership with GPs and the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, a new outreach service to support the uptake of COVID-19 vaccinations.

The service is aimed at reaching out to residents in the top four priority groups who have not responded to their invitation for a first dose of the vaccine to help support them if they want to have the jab. We hope this outreach programme will be a valuable tool in ensuring that everyone who wants the vaccine can be supported to get it and that nobody gets left behind in the rollout of Oxfordshire's vaccination programme.

### **Filthy Gully Contents can be Recycled**

Now Oxfordshire County Council is recycling in a completely different area – road repairs and gully cleaning. Over a four year period, the approach could potentially stop 1,000 tonnes of CO2 being emitted and save £4.3 million of council taxpayers' money. It will also cut the amount of waste that is sent to landfill sites and reduce the amount of new material that is dug out of the ground.

It's difficult to imagine anything useful being salvaged from the dirty water and solid matter - largely silt – recovered by tankers during the process of cleaning gullies. But you'd be surprised. Oxfordshire County Council contractor Skanska is currently taking part in a trial with the company Combined Drier Technology to reprocess and reuse the waste, thereby reducing the amount that has to be disposed of expensively.

Using purpose-built de-watering bays in the county council's depot in Drayton, near Abingdon, water is removed and filtered. Depending on the quality, the water can be re-used or discharged into the foul drainage network under a trade effluent discharge consent.

The de-watered gully waste is then dried, allowing it to be screened and graded, recovering as much of the original waste as possible and removing any non-recyclable contaminants. These recycled materials could then potentially be used in highways works as fill material for

### **Motorbike crash survivor helps launch hard-hitting road safety campaign**

One of the County Council firefighters is encouraging motorbike riders to prioritise safety after he was involved in a life-changing biking accident. Nathan Crockford, who is based at Burford Fire Station, suffered severe leg damage after crashing into a car that pulled out in front of his motorbike. Nathan is certain his injuries would have been worse, if not life threatening, without wearing a safety helmet and the correct protective clothing. Further details about Ride Safe events are available on the **365alive website**. I have been in touch with Andy and hope he can help encourage better behaviour from bikers on the A4074.

### **Oxfordshire parents and children offered first choice of school**

As the Cabinet Member for Education I am delighted that in the vast majority of cases parents and children across the county have been offered their first choice of secondary school for 2021/22. A total of 89.99 per cent (6,371) of applications have been awarded their first choice, and our school admissions team has done an excellent job in achieving this.

This is both a slightly higher percentage than in 2020 when 88.56% received a first preference and a higher number - 6,321 in 2021 compared to 6,048 in 2020. This year the group of primary school children making the transfer to secondary school is 7,103 – as compared to 6,829.

The level of housing development in the County has led to a building programme of nearly 30 new schools and the expansion of many existing schools. The Council is also building three new special schools in Didcot, Littlemore and Bloxham.

resurfacing, topsoil replacement, or be fed into the production of recycled aggregates, subject to appropriate material and chemical testing results and stakeholder agreement. During the trial period, this drying and screening is being undertaken at a third-party permitted facility. However, the equipment used is mobile which would allow it to be deployed to the Drayton depot if the trial proves successful.

Oxfordshire produces approximately 1,000 tonnes of gully waste annually. If successful, the new methods of dealing with it could save up to £27,000 a year and prevent four tonnes of CO2 being released into the atmosphere.

One of the by-products of road and path resurfacing – created as a result of asphalt being removed from a surface sub-base – is known as 'asphalt planings'. Annual maintenance of Oxfordshire's highway network produces significant quantities of this material, which can be recycled. However, approximately 8,000 tonnes of this are classified as 'asphalt waste containing coal tar' (AWCCT), a toxic material which makes it expensive to dispose of safely and difficult to recycle.



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Wallingford and surrounding villages covered

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# From your MP...

# ...John Howell

I hope that the hint of Spring and the progress that we are making nationally to emerge from the restrictions that the pandemic has forced upon us bring a note of optimism to many. I say that, knowing the wide range of difficulties that the prolonged lockdown has brought for many people which we will need to work through together in the coming months and years.

It was a delight to see such positive reports from teachers and children as they returned to school. It was also moving to hear children say what they had missed and the hopes that they have on going back. Mindful of the mental health concerns that the pandemic has given rise to, I was pleased at the recent announcement of £79 million to expand mental health services for children and young people. I know from many emails sent to me that young people across the age range have faced many difficulties in this time.

Last month I mentioned new legislation coming forward to help protect our communities from illegal encampments. This is a problem that has been prevalent in the last year. Mindful of concerns to cut crime and build safer communities, the Government has now laid the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill before Parliament. This Bill seeks to ensure that the police have the powers and tools they need to protect themselves and the public. It also looks to overhaul sentencing laws to ensure that there is better protection from serious sexual and violent offenders and also to place greater emphasis on rehabilitation for offenders to help them rebuild their lives and prevent reoffending. This Bill will now make its way through due process in the coming months.

I know that Climate Change is an issue dear to many hearts. Whilst there are many big things that Government can do and is doing, I have often said that there are also many things that we as individuals and households can do that will also make a significant difference. The recent Food Waste Action Week focussed on one such issue. This was led by the Waste and Resource Action Programme and supported by Defra. Some of the data produced to support this campaign is very revealing as indeed is the impact that we can make if we all try to reduce our waste - for example, the fact that around 20 million slices of bread are thrown away at home every day. It has been said that stopping this would do the same for greenhouse gas

emissions as planting 5.3 million trees! Such data certainly focuses our attention and, of course, reducing food waste also saves us money. For more information on this do go to the WRAP website.

Also on the subject of the environment there is good news from the Department of Transport on the planned introduction of a new blend of petrol for cars and motor bikes to be available later this year which will help reduce harmful emissions. This is not to discourage the move towards electric vehicles but E10 fuel will mean greener fuel available to help reduce emissions from millions of vehicles already on our roads. When it is available it will be important to check compatibility with your own vehicle before use.

Many of our communities have completed, or are working on, Neighbourhood Plans. I continue to lobby Government where there are concerns related to these. I know that there have been concerns over the work involved in producing a plan, especially in smaller communities. I was therefore pleased this month to see some new funding come forward to pilot a simpler approach. The aim of this pilot is to test a simpler approach which aims to overcome the perceived complexity of the process and lack of volunteer capacity that can often result in low uptake for producing a plan despite a strong appetite in the local community to shape their areas. I have written to both SODC and Cherwell DC to encourage them to consider taking part in the pilot.

I hope that Parliament will soon return to a more normal pattern of working but in the meantime the work continues albeit largely remotely. If you have an issue that you would like to raise with me, if possible, please email me at [john.howell.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:john.howell.mp@parliament.uk). If you cannot email you can write to me at the House of Commons, London, SW1 0AA or PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD.

If you would like to receive my periodic electronic newsletters, and briefings on specific issues, please visit my website [www.johnhowell.org.uk](http://www.johnhowell.org.uk) and subscribe at the link on the home page.

## Weekly events at the Village Hall

See  
[dorchesteronthamesvillagehall.org.uk/  
 #calendar](http://dorchesteronthamesvillagehall.org.uk/#calendar)  
 for forthcoming events.

## Parish Registers

### Funerals

16 February Reginald King



For current information about services at  
 Dorchester Abbey see page 4 or  
[www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk](http://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

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

## Weekly events

Monday	DADS Play reading 7.30pm Online
Tuesday	Coffee Morning 10.30am Online
Wednesday	Mobile Post Office 2.00-3.00pm but may vary due to Covid 19 Outside Co-op

See also the Parish Council's website:  
[www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk](http://www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

# Wallingford District Talking Newspaper



Many people will already have heard of the Talking Newspaper. In Wallingford and district we have been producing a weekly edition, with news drawn mainly from the Wallingford Herald and the Henley Standard, for over 30 years and have kept going all through the Covid lockdown. The talking newspaper is normally associated with people with visual impairments, but we would like to publicise the fact that the Wallingford & District Talking Newspaper (WDTN) is also available to a wider range of people who, for any reason, have difficulty reading a newspaper but are not eligible for the free postage that blind and partially sighted people enjoy. The weekly talking newspaper can be listened to on the WDTN website ([wdtna.org.uk](http://wdtna.org.uk)) simply by a click of the mouse. People can also listen to back numbers of the talking newspaper and the monthly magazines editions online, but will need an access code to do so. Please get in touch by email: [wdtninfo@gmail.com](mailto:wdtninfo@gmail.com) or by calling **07976 302136** for more information.

We also produce a monthly edition containing a digest of articles from village and parish magazines in the local area. These include Dorchester News, the Window on Wallingford,

Crowmarsh News, Benson Bulletin, The Bridge (Clifton Hampden), The Forty (Cholsey), The Villager (Brightwell cum Sotwell), and Ewelme News. Using makeshift 'recording studios' at home, we have been able to continually record the Wallingford & District Talking Newspaper (WDTN) from several of our homes throughout the pandemic and have not missed one edition (yet!). The WDTN is able to send out the weekly and monthly recordings on memory sticks to visually impaired listeners, using the free postage that is nationally available when sending 'articles for the blind'. We are always pleased to hear from anyone who is visually impaired and who would like to receive the talking newspaper by post. We provide, free of charge, a player for the memory sticks that is designed to be easy for people with poor sight to use. But remember, you do not have to need a special player or a memory stick to listen. People who are not necessarily blind or partially sighted, but who would find it easier to listen to rather than read the local newspaper, can get to hear the local news online via our website.

**Keith Tibbs**  
 Wallingford District Talking Newspaper  
[www.wdtna.org.uk](http://www.wdtna.org.uk)

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

## HIRE OF DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL

To hire our Village Hall, contact Emma Shrimpton [bookings@dotvh.org.uk](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.more recycling.co.uk)

## BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

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

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Tues, Wed, Fri 10.00am - 12.30pm  
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Fri 2.00-5.00pm  
Sat 10.00am - 12.30pm

## ANIMAL WELFARE

RSPCA (wildlife): **0300 123 0206**  
St Tiggywinkles animal rescue: **01844 292292**  
Swan Lifeline: **01753 859397**

## Useful Information

## TRANSPORT

### DORCHESTER FLYER

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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](http://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](http://www.ageuk.org.uk)

## WALLINGFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE

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

[www.wallingford.volunteercentre@gmail.com](mailto:www.wallingford.volunteercentre@gmail.com)

## CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

## MOBILE POST OFFICE

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

## RAF BENSON

For information on flying schedules and night flying, [www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/stations/raf-benson/documents/raf-benson-flying-programme/](http://www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/stations/raf-benson/documents/raf-benson-flying-programme/).

## USEFUL CONTACTS

### ANGLICAN PRIEST

Dorchester Rectory  
**Revd. Canon Sue Booy**  
**01865 340007**

### ABBAY E-MAIL:

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

Contact details for Church Wardens and other Abbey information are on the notice board in the Abbey.

### ABBAY WEBSITE

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

### VILLAGE WEBSITE

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

### ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST

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

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



## REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Sat 3 April **Black**  
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Fri 30 April **Black**

### Weekdays from 7.00am Saturdays from 6.00am

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

The recycling centre at Oakley Wood (off the A4130) is open 8.00am - 5.00pm seven days a week. Check website <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/>

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