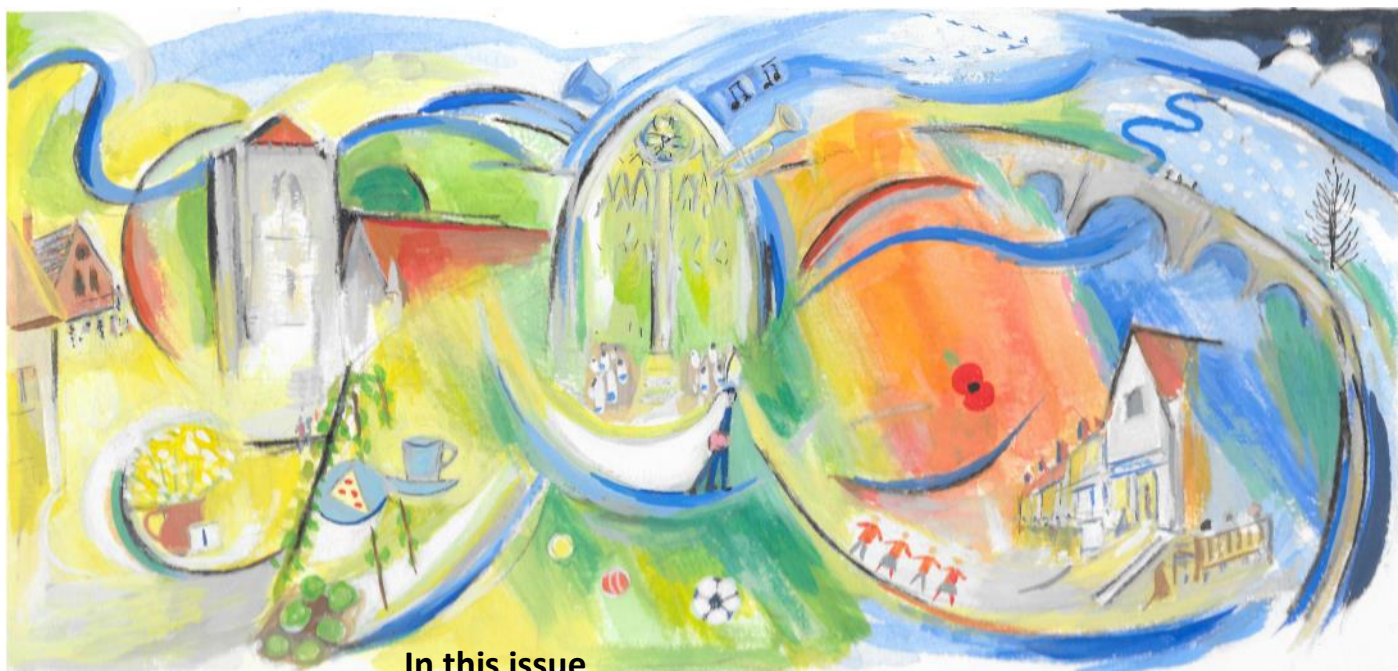


Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

June 2021





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Cover picture: Rising mist and rising sun over the pillbox by the Dyke Hills promise a hot summer day. Photo by Oliver Nowell.

Deadline for July/August Dorchester News



email:

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

DoT view

As I write we are about to experience stage three of the easing of the lock down, meaning that we can meet people (up to five others) indoors again. How we are looking forward to that, meaning that we can spend time with friends and family without freezing outside—the weather has not been kind to outdoor meeting since we were allowed to. The next stage is planned to be the lifting of all social distancing restrictions towards the end of June. However, at the moment our expectations about that are being carefully managed by government announcements relating to the latest variant to reach this country.

Events are right now being planned, and advertised, in late June and through July, so a delay in the opening up could put some of those in doubt. But if the opening up goes ahead, we shall see many events returning to Dorchester over the summer—Open Gardens, Safari Supper, St Birinus school playground celebrations, an exhibition of developments at the Village Hall, the latest DADS production of an open-air version of *The Wind in the Willows*, and then later in the year the return of Lunch Club. There is information on all of these in this issue.

If the lockdown restrictions are not lifted though, it will be for very good reasons and we will understand why many of these events will not be able to take place, and will remember that the first duty of government is to look after the safety and welfare of its people.

Ian Brace

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Megan Parry

Distribution Co-ordinator

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As I write this for the June magazines there is a song, *June is bustin' out all over* from the Rogers and Hammerstein musical *Carousel*, which I cannot get out of my head. Only the first line of course so I thought I would check out the rest of the lyrics and remind myself of the story of *Carousel* since it is many years since I saw the film. It is a love story set on the Maine coastline but one that is far from straightforward as you would imagine. The optimism and joy expressed in the song celebrates the month of June because it is spring, winter has passed and love is in the air. Billy, a carousel barker and Julie, a local millworker, fall in love amidst much disapproval and she becomes pregnant. But tragedy strikes when Billy falls on his knife and dies after a failed robbery attempt. Julie's cousin, Nettie then sings

another very well-known song, *You'll Never Walk Alone*, to comfort her in her grief. This song is reprised in the final scene to encourage a graduation class of which Louise (Billy and Julie's daughter) is a member. The now invisible Billy, who has been granted the chance to return to Earth for one day in order to redeem himself, watches the ceremony and is able to silently motivate the unhappy Louise to join in the song. Prejudice is redeemed with acceptance. Mistakes forgiven. Walking on with hope in our hearts.

Towards the end of June the church remembers St Peter who is the dedication Saint for Marsh Baldon and Little Wittenham churches as well as for Dorchester Abbey (with St Paul). St Peter was the disciple of Jesus who we know often failed. When Jesus was

arrested, he denied knowing his friend. However, after his resurrection, Jesus gave Peter the chance to redeem himself. 'Master' Peter says 'you know everything! You know I love you.' Jesus then gives Peter the job to care for and lead his followers. The Christian Church is born and today we still remember Peter's role in the early Church, even though he still didn't always get things right. A frail human like us all.

The joyous celebration of June bustin' out all over to the reassurance of the final song *You'll never walk alone* echoes the story of all our lives. We know things will not go right all of the time but we can celebrate the joyful times and know that, because of His promises, with Jesus we will never walk alone, whatever storms come our way.

Abbey Services

We anticipate that a regular pattern of 10.30am services twice monthly will continue during June assuming that the Government plans and local infection rates continue to develop as at the time of going to press, probably moving to weekly in July. We are having family fun services (outdoors where possible) on the third Sunday of the month over the summer at 3.00pm to coincide with Tea Room opening, beginning with a wildlife treasure hunt on **20 June**. Everyone is welcome – look out for posters and flyers nearer the time. We expect that we will need to continue to invite people to register in advance for services, as this makes track and trace requirements simpler and safer but we do not expect a capacity problem. If you would like to register for the weekly information about services or have any queries about services please contact the Parish Office.

Service dates and times are given in Dorchester Diary on page 30.



Dorchester Abbey Choir is emerging from lockdown!

If you have developed an urge to start (or restart) singing again over the past year, why not come and try us out? Adults rehearse on Fridays from 7.00pm to 8.15pm followed by an optional visit to The George, and lead the music in services most Sundays. Juniors rehearse on Fridays during term time from 6.00pm until 6.30pm and sing once a month on Sundays and other occasional services. Singing has a great 'feel good' factor and is lots of fun! If you would like to know more please get in touch.

Jeremy Boughton, Organist and Choir Director

01491 836310

jjbwallingford@tiscali.co.uk

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Hempcroft Allotments June

A couple of months ago I created a new strawberry bed and checked on the suggested spacing of the plants by referring to some gardening YouTube videos which also recommended placing straw around the plants, to keep the fruit, when formed, off the ground; hence the term 'strawberry'. I was telling my wife this and she said strawberries existed in the wild long before they were cultivated and therefore the association of the name with straw is wrong. If straw was ever used in protecting strawberries, this practice would have been important only in gardening, long after people gathered strawberries in the wild. I did some research on the internet and she is right; it is clear that nobody knows the origin of the word *strawberry*.

The trouble with *strawberry* is that no other European language has a similar name. The Latin for strawberry is *fragum* and in the languages derived from Latin the word is *fragola* (It), *fraise* (Fr), *fresa* (Sp). It is in the Germanic/Nordic languages that the term *berry* is incorporated; *erdbeere* (Ger), *aardbei* (Dutch) *jordgubbe* (Sw), and all these translate as *earth berry*. The word *strawberry* apparently goes back to Old English, *streawbergen*, and there must have been a serious reason for deriving it, or for changing the traditional denomination of '*earth-berry*' if that was indeed the origin. Thus on the face of it, '*straw*' makes little sense.



Some have postulated that the first element of the English word may have been *strew* rather than *straw*, with reference to the propagation by runners. Then there are the small straw-like particles (achenes or seeds) that cover the surface of this berry. So is straw-like berry a possibility?

We can see that the question remains open. Whatever the origin of the word it is a delicious fruit and I await my first crop.

Edward Metcalfe
edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk

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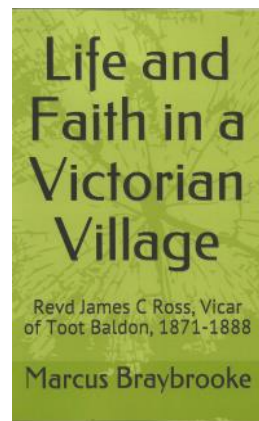
Dorchester Lunch Club

I hope the Lunch Club will be able to resume again in October, but aside from the uncertainty of the Covid situation, we do desperately need more cooks to cook the meal for the Club. For those of you who are new to the village or do not know what the Lunch Club is; it was formed about 50 years ago for retired residents living on their own to meet and socialise with others in the village once or twice in the month and give them lunch as a break from cooking for themselves and eating on their own. Since then, the club has also been open to couples.

To keep the Club in existence we need cooks. Most of the present cooks have been involved since the early days and therefore have reached the ages of 80+ themselves, so I really think it is time they could be given the opportunity to enjoy a break and someone else to cook for them! Therefore, you younger recently retired residents please consider taking over the reins and volunteer to help; particularly as cooks. I suggest forming small groups of three or four of your friends, so each group can share preparing a meal about once every six weeks (depending on how many cook groups there are) during the winter months. You cook the meal in your own home and bring it to the Village Hall at the last minute to serve it, vegetables can be cooked in the Village Hall if it is easier for you, and you would be reimbursed for the cost of all ingredients. Please, please consider volunteering as it would be such a shame if the Club closed, it is such a valuable social activity for both participants and helpers. For more information, please contact me.

Susan Jupp
Co-ordinator of the Lunch Club
susan@jupp13dot.force9.co.uk
01865 341066

Life and Faith in a Victorian Village



After Evensong at Toot Baldon on **Sunday 13 June**, which is at 5.00p.m., there will be a chance to learn more about the history of the church and the village, when Marcus Braybrooke will briefly introduce his new book *Life and Faith in a Victorian Village*, which is based on the careful records made by Revd James C. Ross, who was Vicar of Toot Baldon 1871-1888. Veronica Sandilands, who has a detailed knowledge of local history, will also speak.

All Welcome

Drinks and nibbles will be served

The book is available from Amazon, or from Marcus Braybrooke (marcusbraybrooke4@gmail.com) and Veronica Sandilands (vsandilands@btinternet.com)

The cost is £10, from which £1 will be given to the Church in the Baldons.



Dorchester Abbey Museum News

**We're now open again!
Come in and see us!**

After reopening the Museum on **Sat 22 May**, we'll now be open every **Wed, Thurs, Sat and Sun, 2.00-5.00pm** until the end of September, as well as **bank holiday Mondays**.

So please do come in to say hello and have a look at the exhibits and the wide selection of greeting cards and small gifts in our shop.

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.

Volunteers needed!

Please come and join our friendly team of volunteers who welcome visitors to the Museum. It's a great way of meeting people from the village and visitors from afar. You don't need detailed knowledge of our collection; you'll get plenty of support. Time commitment is not extensive, just an afternoon session a couple of times a month, until the end of September.

For a look round the Museum and a chat about what's involved in volunteering please contact:

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

Edith Stedman

To mark the 60th anniversary of the Museum's first opening by Edith, we have a new display board celebrating the major contribution she made to Dorchester Abbey and the village, for which she was awarded an OBE. We are also reissuing Edith's charming and amusing account of Dorchester life in the 1950s and 1960s, *A Yankee in an English Village*, with added photos and explanatory notes. Further details to follow - publication planned for later in the summer.

DADS

Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society

The Wind in the Willows

Toad, Mole, Ratty, Badger and their arch-rival Weasel are coming to the beautiful setting of Dorchester Abbey's Cloister Garden this July! DADS will be performing Philip Dart's enthralling adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's enduring classic, *The Wind in the Willows*, from **22 to 24 July**. This play should delight audience members of all ages. Why not treat yourself, tickets are only £7 (£4 for those aged 4-12 years old).

Performance times:

Thursday 22 and Friday 23 July 7.00pm

Saturday 24 July 2.00pm and 6.00pm

Tickets available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/dads or **01865 340792**.



Dorchester Abbey Museum

Job Opportunity

Volunteer Curator (Part-Time) For Dorchester Abbey Museum

This is an exciting opportunity to take Dorchester Abbey Museum into the next phase of its development, and make a valuable contribution to the local community. The post would suit an enthusiastic, creative person with a keen interest in Dorchester, its people and history – perhaps someone working part-time, seeking to develop a career in museums, or recently retired.



Dorchester Abbey Museum is a small, accredited and highly-regarded museum located in the Abbey Guest House adjacent to Dorchester Abbey, Dorchester on Thames, Oxfordshire. It is normally open to the public from Easter to end of September, but its work goes on throughout the year. During 2020 as a result of the pandemic, the Museum was closed for most of the time, like other public venues. We opened for some weekends when possible, subject to government guidelines and social distancing procedures. In 2021 we plan to open to the public from late May to end of September.

The Museum is managed by a small committee which includes the Curator, and run day-to-day by a team of 30 committed volunteers. The Curator is responsible to Dorchester Abbey's Parochial Church Council and works closely with the Museum Committee. After a successful two-year period in post our Curator has recently left for a salaried museum post, so we need a replacement.

Time commitment: 1-2 days a week (7-15 hours approx.). The appointment is not for a fixed term, but will be reviewed after 3 and 6 months, thereafter annually. We seek someone who is able to take up the post as soon as possible.

For further details please contact

The Administrator admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk or tel. **01865 340007**

Closing date for applications: Monday 21 June 2021



ST. BIRINUS SCHOOL PLAYGROUND APPEAL

Come and join our celebrations!

Saturday 3rd July 10:30am to 2:30pm
Dorchester St Birinus school playground



Netball goal
competition



Introduction
to Pickleball



Football penalty
shoot-out

Join us for:

A pancake breakfast

Hot and cold drinks

Sausage sarnies

Home-made cakes

All served in the school's dining room

Postponed from last year due to covid restrictions

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Collect stickers and rewards as you read library books over the summer holidays.

Complete your challenge at an Oxfordshire Library to win a Wild World Heroes medal, certificate and a keyring.



Under 3s can take part in a mini challenge with their own special card and stickers.

Illustrations © Heath McKenzie 2021

Visit summerreadingchallenge.org.uk for the fun to carry on at home.

If you finish the challenge at your local Oxfordshire Library, you will be entered into an **exciting prize draw!** Don't miss out!



St Birinus School News

As the summer term whizzes by, the children are all working hard here in school.

Hedgehog class (our youngest children) are busy learning how things grow. They have planted all sorts of plants and have painted some beautiful beanstalks. Our Key Stage One children in Squirrel class are learning all about Africa. They have developed their skills in using globes and atlases and have especially enjoyed learning about the 'big 5' animals.

Our Year Three and Four children in Fox class have amazed us all with their understanding of Shakespeare's Macbeth. They are also finding out all about the Tudors.

Our oldest children are busy learning about life in the Stone Age and our Year Sixes are preparing for their transition to secondary school.

The children have been busy designing Coronavirus Hero stamps for a Royal Mail national competition. I have been impressed by the quality of the designs and feel sure we could have a potential winner!

We are really pleased to announce that DASH (Dorchester After School Hub) will be starting in September. This means that we can provide after school care for children until later in the day. Alongside our breakfast club, this completes a comprehensive wraparound offer in our school.

We have lots to look forward to as school life gradually returns to 'normal'. We are taking part in the community art project 'Henge 21' and are very excited to be a part of this initiative.

The other community event to mention is our playground open event on **Saturday 3 July**. Why not pop along, have a game of Pickleball with our new equipment and enjoy a slice of cake? It would be great to see you.

Jo Staples
Headteacher

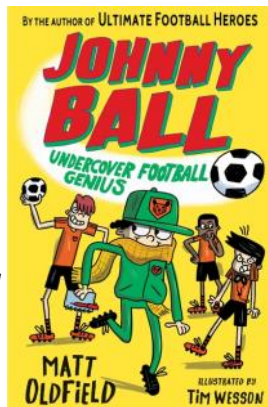
New titles for children: friendship and football



No one at school thinks that 12-year old Twitch is cool. But Twitch loves birds, and he forgets all his troubles whenever he visits his secret bird hide at the local wood. Then, one day, when he turns up to watch his feathered friends, Twitch finds police everywhere. An escaped prisoner is using the woods as a hideout, and Twitch must use his very best birdwatching

skills to help track down the convict. *Twitch* (PB) by M.G. Leonard is a heart-warming mystery adventure about friendship for 8-12 year olds.

Also out this month is the latest in the hugely successful Johnny Ball series by Matt Oldfield: *Undercover Football Genius* (PB). Truth be told, Johnny's not so good at physical football skills, but he's brilliant at tactics. When he's



made assistant team manager, the team's star player, and Johnny's younger brother, doesn't want everyone to know they're related, so Johnny turns up in disguise... A fabulously fun read for 5-7 year olds.

Titles available from The Wallingford Bookshop.

Wizkidz Afterschool Care

June 2021

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After school club. 3-6pm

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Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Royal British Legion

On the morning of Saturday 15 May a small number of Dorchester Branch members, including the Branch Standard Bearer, a number of County officials and the Reverend Rachel Carnegie, gathered at the War Memorial for a short ceremony.

At 9am a special commemorative wreath was laid to mark the occasion as the Branch Standard was lowered.

The Reverend Carnegie delivered a Prayer and a Blessing for the work the Royal British Legion has done in the past and for this to continue in the future.

With thanks to Nick Forman for kindly creating a video and photographic record of the event. For details about membership to the Royal British Legion please visit: www.britishlegion.org.uk

**Andy Pay and
Charlotte Bennett**
Secretary,
Dorchester and District RBL
Branch.



IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE VILLAGE HALL



After a two-year conception and design process plans for a radical modernisation of the Village Hall, as well as restoration of historically important features in an outstanding Gilbert Scott building, are ready to be unveiled. This is a £600k programme that will improve every aspect of its layout and facilities

Come and join us for a special viewing and see what the future looks like

Saturday 17th July 2021

The Hall will be open 5pm - 7pm and there will be a short presentation at 6pm

Wine and other refreshments will be provided

For further information: email: admin@dotvh.org.uk

Dorchester-on-Thames Village Hall is a Registered Charity No.900244 managed as an entirely self-funding village facility

Dorchester

Open

Gardens

Saturday 26th June
2pm-5pm

Beautiful private gardens
of all shapes and sizes

Refreshments

Children's gnome hunt

Maps £5

£10 for a family (2 adults)

available from the Coop
Tea Room

Hair of Dorchester

in aid of Dorchester Abbey
www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk





HENGE21- Settlement update

HENGE21 Settlement - celebrating the landscape, history and lives of those who settled in the around the Wittenham Clumps, Brightwell Barrow and the Dyke Hills.

Latest News

The glowing double ring henge, decorated with images and poetry nears completion.

The drama and dance, marking the stages of Birth, Union and Death are in rehearsals, accompanied by the haunting soundscape.

Six artists are building striking large scale Land Art, to be located in the Dyke Hills

Plans are in place for school workshops in July and September with Brightwell cum Sotwell CofE Primary, Abbey Woods Academy in Berinsfield and Dorchester St Birinus Primary.

We are in conversation with Berinsfield and Wallingford Libraries and Dorchester Museum.

Plans are in place to utilise the WW2 Pillbox as a temporary digital gallery for community and family artwork.

And of course, no ancient gathering will be complete without the all-important 'feasting' (well, refreshments at least) and an opportunity to meet with friends living around the Clumps and Brightwell Barrow, echoing the social gatherings of our forebears at the double ring henge millennia ago.

Why not get involved?

Save these dates

Friday 24 Sept 5.45pm in the Dyke Hills and a second performance with easier access in Dorchester Abbey on **Saturday 25 September**.

Join the Procession, and enjoy a memorable experience.

Exhibit your artwork in the Pillbox gallery. All ages and abilities welcome. Any form of art is eligible on the theme of HENGE21. Full details to follow.

Join the Writer's Workshop

A Q&A and performance with award winning author Jill Battson. Wallingford Corn Exchange **Saturday 31 July**, 3.00-5.00pm

Sunday 1 August, 10.00 am - 5.00 pm Poetry workshop with Jill Battson. Dorchester Village Hall. Ticket info and details to follow.

More details will be posted every month

Follow us on Instagram: **henge.21**

Facebook: **Henge festival**

And soon on our website: **Henge Festival.com**

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www.dorchesterfireplaces.co.uk

HETAS

WOODBURNING STOVES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Warborough & Shillingford WI

We are delighted to say that all our existing members have re-joined this year and we have welcomed two new members. It has been a tough year with so much uncertainty and we are grateful to all our members who have found new ways of 'being together' and constantly looked to the future.

The **Members meeting on Zoom in May** was **The Life and Surprising Legacy of Anne Frank** given by Gillian Walnes Perry.

In **July** the **WI and Mowers and Growers** are joining forces to **visit Broughton Castle and gardens**.

The **Members meeting in April** was an illustrated history of **The Foundling Hospital [FH]** by John Caldicott, who was a Foundling member from 1936. The FH was originally The Thomas Coram Foundation for Children or simply Coram. He had been a sea captain who retired to Rotherhide which was only 6 miles from London and he was appalled when he saw dead and dying babies on the roadside so in 1722 he started a project to care for abandoned or illegitimate children. but it took him 17 years to gain public support and a royal charter. Finally the foundation bought 56 acres of Bloomsbury Fields and started work on the first hospital building and admitted 170 babies in the first year though 56 died. The fine hospital buildings in Bloomsbury were demolished in 1928 after the FH had moved to Redhill. It closed as a residential school in 1954. It remains as an adoption agency to this day. The Foundling Hospital museum is on the edge of Coram Fields in Bloomsbury and well worth visiting to see the photographs and the personal accounts of the children and their teachers.

The **Tea and Chat** on Zoom on the 21 April was we hope, be our last on Zoom as from now on we hope to meet in members' gardens throughout the summer.

The **Walking Group** is meeting every two weeks on Friday mornings and starts from either Warborough or Dorchester and explores the local footpaths – and local cafés when available.

W&S WI Centenary 2022. Plans are underway to celebrate this amazing achievement with a memorial oak tree on the Green [to be planted in the autumn] and a summer 2022 celebration at St Cross College, Oxford.

Dorchester residents There are already six 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
tel 07717 295165

The last year has been challenging for everyone to say the least and we

are grateful for the support of the Dorchester community. Footsteps has remained open since June 2020, ensuring a lot of our families can get the therapy they need. To be able to do this safely, we have put many procedures in place to minimise risk, including specialised cleaning, PPE and testing. We now have 15-minute breaks between children so therapists can disinfect the gyms and change their clothes – we have also invested in some nifty UV lamps that can disinfect a room and kill viruses in just 10 minutes!

We recently sent out a questionnaire to families, to see how they were getting on and get some feedback.

'You have managed the past year with such sensitivity and professionalism. We have felt so reassured by the measures you have taken and can honestly say that without your therapy provision this past year our experience of COVID would have been traumatic and I don't use that word lightly. Because of you, we have managed to keep Thomas' strength and stamina up. Our hard work these past 5 years has not gone to waste and it could have. It would have. More importantly, we still have our happy, motivated young boy who embraces life and all its challenges.'

It has been really tough for Footsteps families during the pandemic with disability support and activities cancelled and no NHS physiotherapy provision. We are so relieved that we have been able to continue to help children who otherwise could have stalled in their progress and possibly lost some of the momentum and



improvements gained. We thought that we would share some of the testimonials of families who travel from all around the UK to Dorchester-on-Thames, to access this life-changing therapy:

'The benefits to our son coming to footsteps is beyond words. Over the last few years he has become stronger, more independent and confident in himself.'

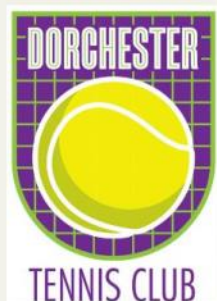
'The benefits are massive, they keep our children mobile, they help them become independent, the physio is the best in the country'

'Having regular therapy helps all areas of child development. We would be in a much worse place health wise without Footsteps'

'Footsteps helped to identify key areas to work on to increase Myles mobility. We saw dramatic improvements beyond anything his NHS physio was able to do'.

'Footsteps has given Clark the skills and confidence to master the basics of walking. Clark's confidence, independence and subsequent joy has skyrocketed, as has the rest of our families :) Thank you Footsteps'

Please see our website for up to date news and ways to get involved. **www.footstepsfoundation.com**



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5:15 - 6:00

6-9 Year Olds

6:00 - 6:45

9-11 Year Olds

6:45 - 7:30

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Help with long-term Covid

Over a million people in the UK are suffering from Long Covid, the accepted term for Coronavirus that lasts more than four weeks. And, sad to say, more than 70,000 people in this country have had Covid symptoms - fatigue, breathlessness, numbness, pain or partial hearing loss - for over a year.

If you are one of those affected, you should know that PIP (personal independence payments) may be available. PIP is financial support for those who have an illness, disability or mental health condition, making it hard for them to do everyday tasks or get around. Income, savings and employment status don't affect your PIP eligibility, and PIP can supplement any other benefits you might be receiving. To apply, you need to be aged between 16 and your state pension age, and you need to have had these health problems for at least three months and expect them to continue. For help with applying for PIP, contact Citizens Advice Adviceline on **0808 278 7907** (for Oxfordshire South and Vale). There is more information about PIP at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/sick-or-disabled-people-and-carers/pip/>

The Wind in the Willows

Freely adapted by Philip Dart

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www.ticketsource.co.uk/dads

- Gates open one hour before each performance. Why not bring a picnic?
- Seating is not provided, please bring a low backed chair or rug should you wish.
- Please wear appropriate clothing and leave umbrellas at home, in consideration of others.
- Assistance dogs allowed.

www.dads.org.uk



Patricia Drew Exhibition

10 June– 3 July

Dorchester artist Patricia Drew is showing her monoprints, drypoints and linocuts at an exhibition at the **ronapainting gallery**,
34 Walton Street, Oxford.

10 June to 3 July 2021

Tuesday to Saturday 11.00am - 6.00 pm

info@ronapainting.com

Readers may recall the beautifully rendered still life paintings and portraits by local artist Tracy Lester at the Abbey's September 2020 'What did you do during lockdown?' exhibition. Eight months on, having contributed to the Oxfordshire Artweeks, Tracy shares with us her journey as an artist and talks about the paths her art has taken during the pandemic.

For those of us still feeling constrained by restrictions and concerned about new variants,



Red red robin

Tracy's art, like her painting of a 'Red red robin' poised on a branch, brings to life words penned by the American poet Emily Dickinson:

*'Hope' is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -*

Join Tracy as she takes us on a journey into the art of life in challenging times.

Tell us about your journey as an artist.

Three years ago, I would not have called myself an artist. I have worked as a Consultant Scientist in Genetics for over 25 years, helping people with very rare disorders to reach a diagnosis. Drawing from observation in biology was about as much art as I did at school - so how did I get to be where I am now?

To cut a long story short, I had a mid-life burn-out. Symptoms started in 2003, following the birth of my second daughter, a house move and job relocation. My face became swollen, and I had a fever that required antibiotics. In 2004, I developed extremely itchy rashes over my body, and my joints began to ache, symptoms I put down to allergies. I was constantly tired but thought that wasn't unusual for a working mum with two young children.

My GP immediately suspected Lupus, also known as SLE (systemic lupus erythematosus) - an auto-immune condition with sunlight sensitivity. A specialist confirmed the diagnosis, put me on medication and advised me to avoid sunlight. For a while my symptoms were kept at bay, and I continued to over-work, renovating a house whilst juggling childcare and work.

After the birth of my third child, symptoms came back with renewed force. I tried painkillers, anti-inflammatory drugs and steroids. My



Tracy Lester

diagnosis was revised to 'rhumus', as I had symptoms of both lupus and rheumatoid arthritis. My immune system was attacking my joints. At its worst, I struggled to get dressed and out of the house. Every small movement hurt, even chewing. Something had to change.

My work-life balance was out of whack. Exhausted and overwhelmed by pain, I signed up for counselling, and slowly my life changed. I took time for myself, taking naps during the day and delegating more. I started yoga and Salsa dancing. I meditated and watched my diet. My marriage of over 20 years ended. I started listening to my body, and slowly I got better.

I realised I craved creativity. As a child I had been very creative: drawing, knitting, making models, sewing. Although I had been channelling my creative energy into house projects, I had a yearning to paint. I signed up for a local art class, and then found a wonderful teacher of oil-painting on-line, Roisin O'Farrell. I took her course and fell in love with oil painting.

I am continuing to learn and create and am now almost totally free of pain and on much reduced medication. I can even go out in the sun without it triggering a flare-up!



Sunset through the trees

Painting is my therapy and I hope that my paintings bring you the same joy that I feel when painting them. Thanks for joining me on my artistic journey - please sign up to my mailing list if you would like to keep up-to-date with new works.

How has your experience as an artist been influenced by the long lockdowns?

Painting in oils, I am inspired by the colours and forms in the natural world. Unable to travel, I was inspired instead by photographs and objects in my home and garden. Nature still inspires my still life paintings, which almost invariably feature something natural, such as fruit, flowers, or a random leaf. The joy that nature brings me inspires bright colours that represent happiness to me. For me, painting is a meditative process that switches off the monkey mind's constant worry. When my right brain takes over, I see shapes, angles and colours.

During lockdown, I found support and friendship on-line from a community of artists and tried portrait painting. Sky TV broadcast a 4-hour 'Portrait Artist of the Week' paint-along programme via Facebook on Sunday mornings, with thousands of artists joining in and submitting their paintings via Instagram. The programme was a welcome break from lockdown isolation.

Challenging Times:

Dorchester artist Tracy Lester

For Artweeks, you created a wonderful 'flipsnack' book online about your work.

Many of the paintings are of birds. Could you tell us what it is like to paint birds, especially the 'Red red robin'? Do you 'see' birds differently now?

During the pandemic I had to shield because my medication suppresses my immune system. I worked from home five days a week and was unable to go far beyond the garden. The birds were a great distraction from the tedium of daily life, and I enjoyed watching their antics out of the window. Luckily,



Blue into green

I found a fantastic resource of photographs for artists and decided to have a go at painting some. 'Red, red robin' was the first, and I enjoyed studying his form and colour closely. I was surprised to find purple amongst his feathers as well as orange! Through the close study of painting, I am now better able to recognise the different species, including the kingfisher pictured here.

In April 2021, you took part in a charity fundraiser called 'Incognito'. Tell us about the fundraising event and what inspired you to contribute to it?

Incognito is an art sale that takes place in Ireland every April to raise money for the Jack and Jill Children's Foundation. Artists create three artworks on postcards, sold incognito through auction – the buyers don't know who has painted the piece until after purchase. As some famous people, like Bono from U2, take part, this generates interest, and the cards sell out very quickly! The money raised helps provide home nursing care for extremely sick children. Through my work in genetics, I come across many serious diagnoses in young children, and one of my own children was hospitalised just before his first birthday and needed life-saving emergency surgery. I am therefore acutely aware of how important this care is to families and have donated paintings for the last three years. A similar event happens every other year to support Sobell House hospice, to which I also donate.



Squirrel for Incognito Art Sale



Life is a bowl of cherries

Your painting 'Life is a bowl of cherries' illustrates your love for still life painting. What are some of the joys and challenges of such artistry?

Still life paintings are challenging because it is difficult to set up an interesting composition using everyday objects although it means I'm never short of something to paint because they can change whilst painting as the shadows move and flowers wilt. However, they can elevate seemingly mundane objects into an object of desire! So, from that perspective they can be very rewarding.

What are you looking forward to painting in future?

I would like to paint more of the Oxfordshire rivers and waterways like 'Thames at dawn'. I am interested in how humans interact with their surroundings for mutual benefit and am considering a series featuring people living and working on or near the water, but the landscape will be the primary focus.



Thames at Dawn

For more of Tracy's work, see:

<https://www.tracylesterart.com>

<https://www.instagram.com/tracylesterart/>

<https://www.facebook.com/tracylesterart>

Email sign up: <https://eepurl.com/gFyHgb>

Contact Melinda Powell at [DRime-](mailto:DRime-linda@ccpe.org.uk)

linda@ccpe.org.uk, if you have a topic you would like written up or if you would like to be included in a 'newcomer' article.

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Ruth Dyer

8 November 1932 - 31 March 2021

Ruth felt a great connection with Dorchester Abbey because of her birthplace – Manor Farm. She was a twin and grew up in Dorchester, with her brother Bernard (who died in 2019). Ruth was bridesmaid to Sylvia and Bernard and she made the bridesmaid dresses. She was an intensely practical and down-to-earth person.

This quality can only have helped in her career which included working for a number of well-known Oxford firms and institutions including Neilsen's, where she met her great friend Muriel, the Milk Marketing Board, for the NHS at Littlemore and finally for Richard Wilson Solicitors in Goring where she worked alongside her great friend Ann. Ruth retired from this post and this gave her more time for gardening, Bridge – in which she was a Master - and Genealogy.



Amongst Ruth's delights were horse racing - and having a bet; she had particularly enjoyed an outing to Ascot Ladies' Day with Sylvia. Ruth enjoyed travelling to see the Oberammergau passion play – an inspiration – and a cruise. For her 75th birthday she went with her friends Ann and Val on the Orient Express.

Although Ruth had moved to Benson in the 1960s with her parents she never lost her association with Dorchester – returning to help with the Tea Rooms and being a regular attendee at the 8.00am Communion service – often making a herculean effort to make sure that she attended. On crutches, barely able to speak and struggling to swallow after her cancer, Ruth kept her connection and kept returning to this service in the Birinus Chapel. When she couldn't come her first question to us when we visited was 'What's the news from Dorchester' – the truth is that as an avid reader of the Dorchester News which was posted to her monthly she was nearly always pretty much up-to-date – but she loved to hear about the news of peoples' ordinary lives – the joys and sorrows. It's a particular sadness to me that having witnessed her kind and enthusiastic interest in my daughters adventures a few years ago, and her wedding last year, I missed by only a week the joy of sharing baby photos with her. I know that her inimitable burst of questions would have ensued!

Ruth chose all the readings for her funeral service. They reflected a woman with a sense of justice and common sense – things do not always go well – but you square your shoulders and carry on – mourning has its place but thanksgiving for a life is more important. Most of all, her choice of readings represented two things: her readiness to make this final journey and her love of the natural world and the sense that this indeed gives us a foretaste of heaven – in God's Garden!

I only visited Ruth at home when she could no longer attend services at the Abbey but I was still able to admire her garden – despite Ruth's frustration that though she had some hard working help it was not as good as it had once been. She also had an allotment in Benson – as her father had done before her and it was through this that she met Sue and

Ivor who have been loyal friends and executors. Her expertise was in demand as a judge in flower shows. This love of anything that grew originated in her childhood along with her passion for animals – and, as we all know most especially for dogs.

Ruth maintained a lifelong, thankful friendship with the person from whom her first dog Bertie came and was enormously grateful to the Cinnamon Trust and their wonderful volunteers for allowing her to keep coming home to Charlie when she had to be away.

Rev. Sue Booyes

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steph@forman.org.uk 340434

Dorchester Safari Supper Saturday 3rd July

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Fundraising for Dorchester Abbey

7pm drinks & canapes

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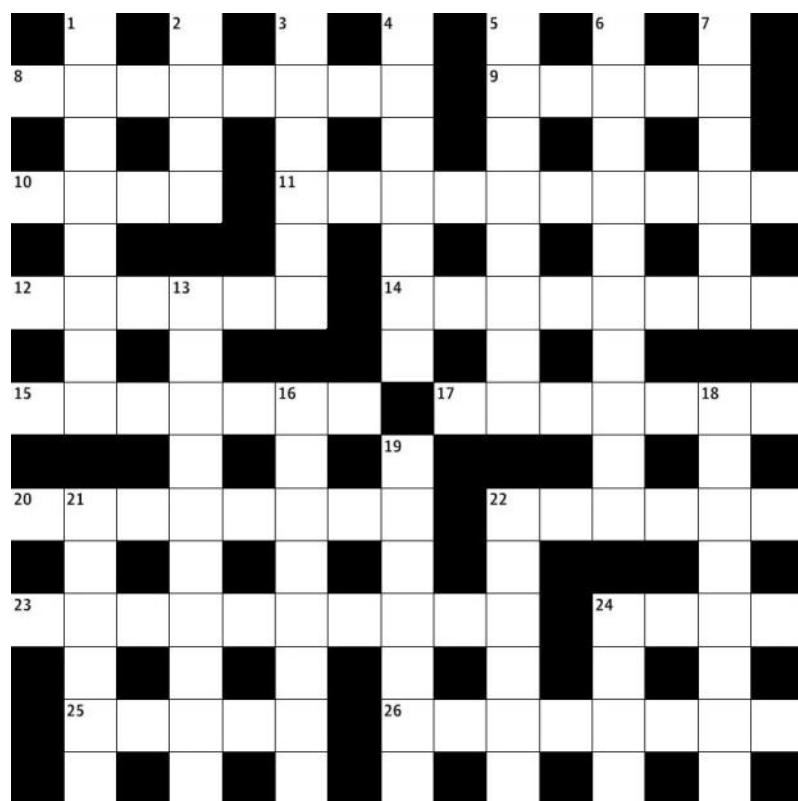
Pudding (at another house in Dorchester!)

Coffee (at Dorchester Rectory)

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

Dorchester News Crossword No.17

Compiled by Slider



Across

- 8 Let down of the French by an uninteresting journalist. (8)
 9 This is a composer? Get knotted! (5)
 10 Two services to find some water. (4)

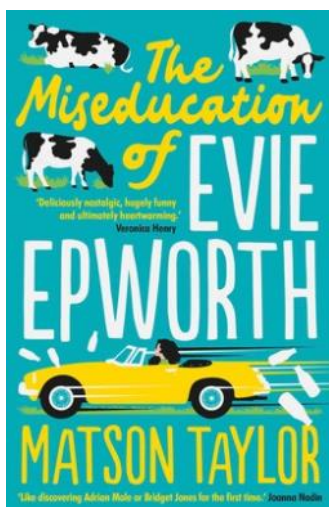
- 11 Allow freedom to eat red glue-that's horrible! (10)
 12 Perhaps Dracula does this in his pants? (6)
 14 They may direct the way to drug treatment centres. (8)
 15 A hotplate's force to upset a cleric kept inside. (7)
 17 A trial session to like dress dimensions. (7)
 20 Two ways to the high life - mad for them! (8)
 22 Speak and the German is contained. For some this should be an observance period. (6)
 23 Expenses are going down. (10)
 24 Retro teaching - repeat and learn! (4)
 25 This slim young thing came from a drunken revel. (5)
 26 Nine star performance gets on track. (8)

Down

- 1 Pay appertaining to volunteers in the American hospital department. (8)
 2 A dessert's international flavour, partly raised (4)
 3 Eastern duets play these pieces. (6)
 4 Puff skirt? Now someone is talking. (7)
 5 Movement for good scriptural learning goes to secret society initially. (8)
 6 Confused at an Open University live appraisal? (10)
 7 Up for the Spanish, worried over old coins. (6)
 13 At the end of the year is Slider in possession? Not sure. (10)
 16 Polishing off drink one day and get run in. (8)
 18 Was vice so demanding? (8)
 19 Weapon found most in Germany's possession. (7)
 21 Again exploits cunning plans about energy. (6)
 22 Special values enter life through education at first and that can lead to an elegant degree. (6)
 24 This is not fake South American money. (4)

A good read: Yorkshire, Australia, and spies

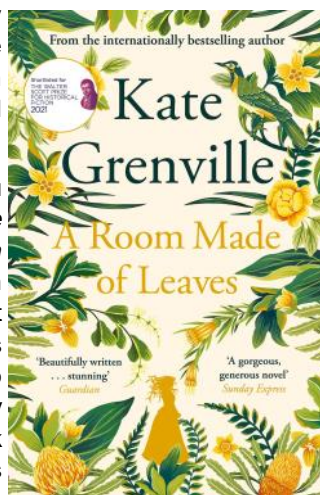
These last few months, publishers have finally released many books previously put on hold due to Covid restrictions. The result? The Wallingford Bookshop is absolutely awash with shiny new titles! For orders or recommendations, do come and see us at the shop, or give us a call on **01491 834383**.



Want a book that will make you laugh out loud? Try *The Miseducation of Evie Epworth* by Matson Taylor (PB). Set in rural Yorkshire in the 1960s, it fizzles with fun. Young Evie has just turned 16 and is about to be ousted from her family farmhouse by pinker-than-pink housekeeper, Christine, who is firmly set on marrying Evie's dad. Evie needs a plan, and fast.

By contrast, Kate Grenville's *A Room Made of Leaves* (HB) takes us back in time to Australia in the late 1700s.

Loosely based on a true story, the narrative follows the life of English-born Elizabeth who emigrates to New South Wales after marrying ruthless soldier John Macarthur. John is lacking in love and money, but he has grandiose ideas of setting up a



sheep farm. Grenville paints a vivid picture of Elizabeth's sparky resilience in confronting life at the harsh new penal colony.

In non-fiction, Ben Macintyre's *Agent Sonya* (PB) relates the true story of British housewife, Mrs Burton, a.k.a. German spy Ursula Kuczynski. Regularly seen pedalling her bike through the Oxfordshire countryside in the

early 1940s, Mrs Burton used the family grocery run as cover for her intelligence gathering operations with a nuclear physicist at Harwell. Macintyre is a master storyteller; his inimitable style ensures Ursula's fascinating story is entirely accessible.





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Parish Council Notices

The Return to In-person Meetings

Government approval for Parish Council meetings to be held remotely was not extended beyond Friday 7 May but, according to the Government's 'Roadmap', it will be at least 21 June before all legal limits upon social contact are removed.

Pressure of business means that the Council must hold an in-person meeting in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 9 June**. This will take place with careful observation of all prevailing social distancing guidance.

Like all Parish Council meetings, it will be open to members of the public but those attending must wear protective face masks and sanitise upon arrival. Seating in the Hall will be laid out so that social distancing can be maintained, and group handling of papers will not be allowed.

It is recommended that advance notice of matters which require the Council's attention should be sent to the Clerk no later than midday on the date of the meeting so that he can circulate the information by e-mail in advance.

Annual Parish Meeting 5 May 2021

A copy of the Chairman's Report and the Draft Receipts & Payments Account for the year to 31 March 2021 can be viewed in the Parish Council section of the village website <https://www.dorchester-on-thames.co.uk/parish-council/>

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 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.



From the Chairman of the Parish Council

As we come out of the Covid pandemic I'm delighted to report that your parish council is now making significant decisions on how to spend the money we have accumulated to enhance Dorchester village life in the years ahead for young and old alike.

Unfortunately we don't have a magic money tree so we always have to prioritise based on our own judgement and what we hear from residents. With council meetings on Zoom I know it has been more difficult for residents to attend meetings, in particular the May Annual Parish Meeting, so do make sure you let any of our councillors know your opinions when you catch them in the street (or even your garden or house in the future!). Or you can email me direct, as some of you already do. Hopefully we will see more residents able to join meetings in future; our councillors do their best but can never fully represent the richness of views in the village.

As well as the funds we have provided to Bishops Court Farm to support the very visible changes to footpaths, and to support our school with iPads and the refreshed bus service, our biggest commitment will be to support the upgrade of the village hall where so many of us find some entertainment in more normal times. More will follow from the village hall committee and I won't steal their thunder but this will be the major financial priority for your council.

And, as I've highlighted before we also hope to allocate some funds to smarten the playground and the pavilion. If you are interested in those projects do contact parish councillors so you can get involved.

Lastly, a number of residents have raised concerns over the noise and risks arising from the get-togethers from bikers at the H Café. We are working with our county councillors and other parishes to see what can be done to balance the interests and concerns of all. I'll keep you updated.

Mark Williams
Chairman DoT Parish Council



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



The future of virtual meetings

Recently, courts ruled on the future of virtual committee meetings and disappointingly the news is that primary legislation is required to continue with this approach. This means returning to face-to-face committee meetings, including the recent Annual Meeting of South Oxfordshire District Council.

Assets of Community Value

We recently held an online event for Parish Councils on 'Assets of Community Value'. This will be the first online event of the year in our programme of engagement activities. It was aimed at those who are interested in learning more about this statutory process, which gives local groups a right to nominate a building or land for listing by the local authority as an asset of community value.

The session explained both the legislation and the tests an ACV nomination needs to satisfy to achieve a successful listing, and the resources available to guide nominating groups through the process.

There is also a forum for Towns and Parishes on **the Climate Emergency on Thursday 27 May**, to discuss opportunities for supporting and encouraging action on climate change within communities and leading at a local level. Climate and nature recovery are two of the main themes in our new Corporate Plan for SODC.

Bank holiday Monday leisure opening times and bins

SODC's Better Leisure centres opening times change slightly on the bank holiday Monday, with Abbey in Berinsfield opening at 8.00am and closing at 4.00pm on May 31. The leisure centres continue to operate following Covid-19 safety guidelines you can find out more on the [Better website](#).

Due to the bank holiday, we'll also empty bins a day later than usual that week.

Berinsfield Garden Village

Our steering group of public sector organisations met last month, looking to hear more about what support local organisations will need over the coming years, and planning the next steps for the project and how residents will be able to get involved.

Elections 2021

I'd like to thank all the SODC officers and volunteers who helped the 2021 local elections run smoothly and in a Covid-safe manner. Rather than the usual overnight counting, the process was spread out over several days, with a number of very close results requiring several recounts, and the Council's democratic services team managed to stay on top of things throughout (you may have seen that elsewhere in Oxfordshire, the wrong winner was announced in one seat in Banbury, which can only be unpicked via the High Court!)

I was honoured to be elected as County representative for Berinsfield and Garsington Division, which means next month I will be writing a County Council report for you as well. I'd like to thank all those who supported my campaign, and I wish all the best to my predecessor, Lorraine Lindsay-Gale.

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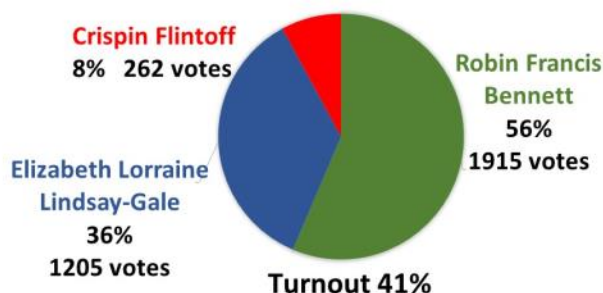
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Oxfordshire County Council election May 2021 Result for Berinsfield and Garsington





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From your MP...

...John Howell

This month will bring with it a major step forward in the COVID19 recovery programme, which is welcomed. I know that many people have been enjoying the opportunity to meet up with friends again outdoors, but the weather has, quite literally, put a damper on that! The new opportunity to meet indoors, and to be able to stay overnight with people, is good news. The progress that has been made to enable this is also good news. With the virus deemed to be suppressed in most of the constituency I know that many people are looking forward to a more normal way of life. The vaccination programme has, of course, played a huge part in this and my thanks to those who have come forward to take up the vaccination. However there are still many people who have yet to be offered the vaccine and so I encourage everyone, including those who have already been offered the vaccine, to remain vigilant and follow the guidance for the sake of these people.

One thing that I have very much missed during lockdown and under COVID restrictions is being able to meet people within the constituency. Prior to the pandemic, along with all other MPs, my Fridays and sometimes weekends were filled with visits to schools, businesses, charities and meetings with individuals and groups to discuss a wide range of issues and concerns. Some of this has continued through virtual meetings but I am looking forward to getting out and about more and seeing what is going on for myself. Once all restrictions are lifted, hopefully in June, I

will be looking to schedule visits and meetings. Please do get in touch if there is something you would like me to come to.

One thing that I plan to continue is virtual surgeries. This has been one very positive thing that has emerged from lockdown. The constituency is geographically spread and, although I move surgeries around, people wanting to meet with me would sometimes have to travel some distance. With online opportunities we have been able to save people much time and at the same time reduce car journeys. In future we can determine the best way to meet according to the time needed and the travel involved.

With the beginning of the new parliamentary session we have some important new legislation coming forward. Much of the detail is yet to be published but as information is available I would welcome, as always, views on proposals. Email remains the quickest form of communication. If you have an issue that you would like to raise with me, if possible, please email me at 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. Please be aware that remote working means that it is taking longer for mail to get through to me.

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Live chamber music returns to Wallingford

29 May | **Lipatti Piano Quartet**

Beethoven • Piano Quartet in E flat, Op. 16
Fauré • Piano Quartet no. 1 in C minor, Op. 15
Two performances, at 5:30 and 8 pm at St Mary-le-More, Wallingford: Tickets £12

12 June | **Indira Grier** (cello)
Florian Mitrea (piano)

Beethoven • Cello Sonata in A, Op. 69
Brahms • Sonata in F major, Op. 99
Two performances, at 5:30 and 8 pm at St Mary-le-More, Wallingford: Tickets £12

26 June | **Pocket Sinfonia**

Beethoven • Symphony no. 5 (arr. Hummel)
Prokofiev • Suite from *Romeo and Juliet*
8 pm at St Mary-le-More, Wallingford

17 July | **Ferio Saxophone Quartet**

Music by **Bach, Handel, Bozza, Reinhart, Gershwin, Lago and Bizet**
8 pm at St Mary-le-More, Wallingford

14 August | **Consone Quartet**

Dvořák • Two Waltzes
Haydn • String Quartet in F Major, Op. 77 no. 2
Puccini • *Crisantemi*
Verdi • String Quartet in E minor
8 pm at St Mary-le-More, Wallingford

28 August | **Dominic Degavino** (piano)

Beethoven • Piano Sonata no. 30, Op. 109
Roberto Gerhard • Dances from *Don Quixote*
Schumann • *Fantasiestücke*, Op. 111
Debussy • Preludes, Book 1
8 pm at St Mary-le-More, Wallingford

18 Sept | **Brompton String Quartet**

Haydn • String Quartet in C major, Op. 74 no. 3
Bartók • String Quartet No 6
Schubert • *Quartettsatz*
Beethoven • String Quartet in F major, Op. 59 no. 1
8 pm - venue to be confirmed

2 Oct | **The Thames Consort**

Handel • *Alexander's Feast*
8 pm - venue to be confirmed

16 Oct | **Sacconi Quartet**

Haydn • String Quartet in C major, Op. 54 no. 2
Ravel • String Quartet in F major
Schubert • String Quartet in A minor, 'Rosamunde'
8 pm - venue to be confirmed

Music at St Peter's

Concerts will be "Covid Secure" in accordance with Government guidance. Concert arrangements, venues and programmes may change; see website for latest information

www.musicatstpeterswallingford.org.uk

Tickets £16, free for under-25s • Tickets must be pre-booked online or by phoning Jules on 07968 703079 • Payment online or by contactless card only

Concerts promoted by Wallingford Chameleon Arts, registered charity no. 1021045



Wallingford Museum News

Wallingford Museum is now looking forward to opening on **Tuesday 22 June**. We plan to open the ground floor only, in the first instance, where our amazing new exhibit, the new Wallingford castle model will be on display.

Wallingford Museum's dedicated team of researchers have worked with architectural model maker, Ben Taggart, to create a 1:300 scale model (1.5mx1.6m) of Wallingford's royal castle as it may have been in the mid-14th century.

This amazing collaboration has drawn on 15 years of research, unravelling the castle's history, using archaeology, geophysical surveys, LiDAR, maps, and the transcription, translation and analysis of many documentary records. The culmination of all this research is this magnificent model of the castle at the height of its power,

All planning is subject to government guidelines for Covid-19 prevention, please check the web site for confirmation www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk.

Museum admission will be free, until fully open, donations welcome.

Museum Bookshop

The Museum bookshop will be open on Fridays and Saturdays from now until the **22 June**, from then the bookshop hours will mirror those of the museum.

We have an excellent selection of good second-hand books (both fiction and non-fiction) at sensible prices. We'll be open from 22 June every Friday from 10.30 to 3.00, and every Saturday from 10.30 to 1.00.

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

Town and Castle guided tours

Wallingford Museum's experienced team are now taking bookings only for historical tours of the town or castle - with social distancing in place throughout and any other necessary precautions. (Please read the essential guidance on the web site before booking.)

To Book a tour

- All bookings are via email: pburton6@talktalk.net or via the website.
- Request a day and time to suit you and we will do our best to arrange it.
- Request either a Town or a Castle walk.
- You will be contacted by email to confirm or adjust arrangements.

Arrangements

- Tours will meet beneath the Town Hall in Wallingford Market Place.
- You will be in a group of no more than 6 people (incl Guide) on any tour.
- Cost is £10 per head, for a tour of between 90-120 mins.
- Payment must be made in cash on the day.
- Exact money must be handed to the guide in an open envelope on which you have written a name and phone number for each participant, to allow compliance for Track and Trace. We shall look forward to hearing from you.



The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society

Zoom talks for members

Please see the web site for further details:

www.twhas.org.uk/meetings-programme.html

9 June (Weds)

Elizabeth Popescu: 'Excavation of the cemetery of St Augustine's, Stoke Quay, Ipswich'

Featured in recent Current Archaeology magazine.

14 July (Weds)

Steve Capel-Davies: 'The River Thames - How it Shaped our Region'

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk



Good news that the Corn Exchange opened again on Monday 17 May. There are a number of cinema bookings available below and more will be added in the next few weeks. Please look on www.cornexchange.org.uk for further programme updates.

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

Tickets £8 for adults, £5 for under 15 unless otherwise stated..

June

Tues 1	Underdogs (15)
Wed 2	My New York Year (12A)
Fri 11	Fargo (18)
Fri 25	The Father (12A)
Sat 26	The Father (12A)
Sun 27	The Father (12A)
Mon 28	After Love (12A)
Tues 29	Cruella (12A)
Wed 30	Cruella (12A)

LIVE SHOWS

Wednesday 14 July to Saturday 17 July

3.00pm Saturday and 7.45pm (all evenings)

Sinodun Players present *Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame (adapted into a one-act play and directed by Marilyn Johnstone), one of the all-time great animal stories and a true classic of children's literature.

Tickets £8 (adults) and £5 (under 14s)

Day by day

Sat **Orchestra of St John's**
5 June Concert
6.00pm and 8.00pm

Sun 8.00am
6 June Holy Communion (1662)

Wed **Parish Council Meeting**
9 June 7.30pm
Village Hall

Sun 8.00am
13 June Holy Communion (1662)

10.30am
Eucharist

Sun 8.00am
20 June Holy Communion (1662)

3.00pm
Family Fun—Wildlife Mapping

For current information about other services
at Dorchester Abbey see
www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

For St Birinus RC Church go to:
www.stbirinus.co.uk



Sat **Dorchester Open Gardens**
26 June 2.00pm-5.00pm

Sun 8.00am
27 June Holy Communion (1662)

10.30am
Ordination Service

Parish Registers

Funerals

15 April Ruth Dyer

19 April Betty Cooper

Marriages

16 April Alastair Rugg-Gunn and
Gemma Latimer

Weekly events

Tuesday Coffee Morning
10.30am
Online

Abbey Bell Ringers
Practice
7.30pm

Wednesday Mobile Post Office
2.00-3.00pm but may vary due to
Covid 19
Outside Co-op

Friday Abbey Junior Choir
Practice
6.00pm

Abbey Senior Choir
Practice
7.00pm

See also the Parish Council's website:

Weekly events in the Village Hall

Monday Breeze Dancing
4.30pm

Wednesday Pilates
5.30pm
Tango
7.30pm

Friday Taekwondo
6.30pm

Saturday Boost Drama Club
8.30am

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

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.

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HEALTH SERVICES

DIRECT LINE TO URGENT LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

Dial **111** to access urgent local NHS health care services. Where possible, they will book you an appointment or transfer you to the people you need to speak to or send an ambulance if they think you need one. For non-urgent health needs you should contact your GP in the usual way.

MINOR INJURIES

The Minor Injuries Unit at Abingdon Hospital, Marcham Road, daily from 10.00 am to 10.30 pm: **01865 903476**.

A&E

The nearest A&E units are at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford (**01865 741166**) and the Royal Berkshire in Reading (**01183 225111**)

SURGERIES

Berinsfield Health Centre: **01865 340558**
Clifton Hampden: **01865 407888**
Millstream Benson: **01491 838286**

ROOM HIRE

ABBEY 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.morerecycling.co.uk

POWER CUTS

If you suffer a power cut call **105** to get National Grid who will put you through to the network operator.

BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

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Fri 2.00-5.00pm
Sat 10.00am - 12.30pm

ANIMAL WELFARE

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Useful Information

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See pages 9 and 30.

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

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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.

MOBILE POST OFFICE

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ABBEY E-MAIL:

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ABBEY WEBSITE

www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

VILLAGE WEBSITE

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



REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Sat 5 June **Green**

Fri 11 June **Black**

Fri 18 June **Green**

Fri 25 June **Black**

Weekdays from 7.00am
Saturdays from 6.00am

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

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

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