

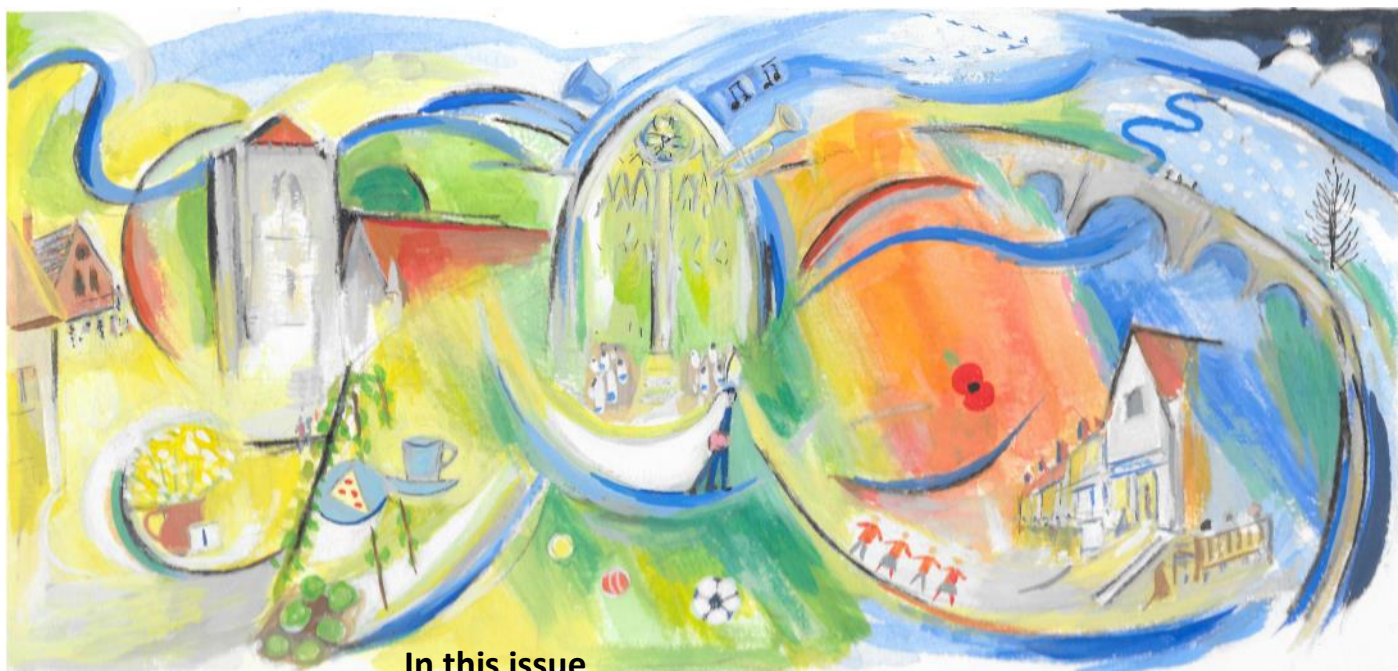
# ***Dorchester News***

*Free to every home in the parish*

**October 2021**







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Cover picture: Autumn leaves in Manor Farm Road

## Deadline for November Dorchester News



email:

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

### **A DoT view**

Some achievements worthy of note are covered in this month's Dorchester News.

The efforts of FODLWOS and in particular of Becky Waller in helping to reclaim Dorchester's open spaces, and the marvellous response from Keith Ives, were all recognised in an article in The Sunday Telegraph in September, where what has been achieved here was held up as a beacon to other communities to show what they can also do.

And achievements are in the air at the Village Hall, as they set out their plans for redevelopment both to improve the facilities and to recognise better its Gilbert Scott heritage. An appeal to raise £600,000 to achieve this has been launched and all households will have received the details of how they can contribute.

And achievement is also the word, following the announcement by the Rev Sue Booy of her imminent retirement as Rector of Dorchester Abbey. Sue has achieved a huge amount in her time here, and no doubt Dorchester News will be returning to that theme in a future issue. We shall be sorry to see her go.

And one more achievement—the return to a live Flower and Produce Show in the Village Hall. Wasn't that just great.

**Ian Brace**

### **Editorial Team**

Ian Brace, Kathy Glass

### **Distribution Co-ordinator**

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### **Printed by**

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Autumn is now underway and harvest services across schools and churches have begun. Harvest is celebrated less than in previous generations – could this be linked to our disconnection with the agricultural environment that brings us our produce? Or perhaps many of us are still grateful for the produce we enjoy but would choose to express our thanks in other ways. By being fully present to this season, with its “mists and mellow fruitfulness”, by savouring it with all our senses – the freshness of cold air in our nostrils as we step outside and breathe deeply, the taste of blackberry and apple crumble, the beauty of the turning leaves - however we engage with this season we can honour it. As Brian Draper (author of *Soulful Nature: A spiritual field guide* with botanist Howard Green) recommends, may we “meet autumn’s imminent arrival with the kind of love we might show an old friend; or with the kindness we’d offer a stranger; or with the reverence we’d reserve for God.”

And as we contemplate and give thanks for nature and the environment here are 8 practical high-impact steps (in no particular order) we can take as

individuals to care for the natural world and reduce climate change this autumn:

- Plant trees in tropical rain forests (through **Treedom**, we can choose the type of tree based on how much carbon it removes from the atmosphere). Or join the work of
- <https://internationaltreefoundation.org/> based in Oxford, planting trees in the UK and Africa. Reforestation could remove around two-thirds of human-made carbon.
- Create more sustainable transportation habits. Think about
  - Lift-shares when travelling or using public transport
  - Avoiding rapid acceleration and braking
  - Walking and biking to our destination whenever possible
  - When buying a new car, choose a climate-friendly option
- Lower our heating bills where possible by checking the thermostat and improving insulation and airtightness through walls, roof, and windows.
- Divest from coal and encourage others to do the same. Check that our banks,

insurers and others have agreed to divest and if not ask them to do so.

- Eat less beef. Emissions from animal agriculture account for around 15% of all human emissions, and beef is responsible for 41% of that, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.
- Educate girls, by giving to a charity that makes school more affordable and accessible for girls in low- and lower-middle-income countries, such as the Malala Fund. Women have a disproportionate share of decision making around water, cooking, food waste, fuel choices, and how homes are heated, built, and used.
- Advocate for a healthy planet by supporting and lobbying for legislation, writing to our local councillors and MPs.
- Convince our friends to behave sustainably – we are all motivated to do what those around us are doing!

Why not pick one of these during our autumn harvest season as a way of giving thanks and safeguarding our future? Enjoy!

### Harvest Services Sun 10 October

We will celebrate **Harvest** at the Abbey on **Sun 10 Oct** with a Family style service in the Morning and an Evening Service of popular Harvest Hymns, Anthems and Readings at 5.00pm. We do hope that you will join us for either service. We will take gifts of money and dry goods to the Wallingford Food Bank and you can pledge to support creation in any of the ways Reverend Catherine suggests above at the services. Gifts of fresh produce are sadly more difficult to find a home for these days but it is lovely to see fresh offerings from allotment and garden displayed. Offers of cash for items on display can be added to the money sent to the Food Bank.

### Fellowship of St Birinus

The annual service of Evensong for the Fellowship of St Birinus will take place in the Abbey at 5.00pm on **24 October**. Bishop Gavin will make awards to people who have given long and exceptional volunteer service to their Churches in the Dorchester Archdeaconry. This is always a lovely occasion and an opportunity to hear our new Bishop if you have not yet done so.

### A Special celebration for the Rector Everyone is invited!

I was ordained Deacon in Christ Church on 4 October 1995 and Priest at St Mary's Church Banbury on September 29 1996 and so this year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my priestly orders. Last year my Deacon celebration fell on Bishop Colin's leaving service day so my celebrations were muted! Anyone who would like to celebrate with me on **3 October** is warmly invited to join me in the Abbey at **12.00 noon** for a celebratory service followed (I hope) by refreshments. Please let me know if you would like to join me!

### ...and another bit of personal news from Dorchester Rectory.

I will retire as Team Rector next January, slightly earlier than the clergy retirement age of 70. I have hugely enjoyed being the Team Rector here and learning, laughing and loving alongside people in all the parishes. The current plan is that my final service will be on **Sunday 9 January** – the Feast of the Epiphany. Thank you for your friendship and support.

**Revd Sue Booyo**

### Abbey Services

If you would like to register for the weekly information about services or have any queries about services please contact the Parish For services in Dorchester Abbey see the Dorchester Diary on page 30.



## All Souls Sunday 7 November

Sadly last year amongst the confusion of the pandemic we were unable to hold our Annual Memorial Service so it will be good to re-instate this in 2021. Please join us for a quiet and reflective service at which you will be able to remember your loved ones who have died. This service is for everyone – we do send formal invitations for this service to everyone for whom we have conducted a funeral during the past five years – but everyone is welcome to attend and to ask to have the name of a loved one remembered at the service. There will be sheets to add names on the table on the west end of the Abbey nearer the time or you can contact the office on **01865 340007** or email **admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk**

## Tribute to Justin Amery

Justin Amery was a greatly loved Doctor at Bury Knowle practice in Headington and a specialist in children's palliative care in this country and across the world – particularly in Africa. Justin lived in Stadhampton with his family – to whom we extend our deepest condolences – and it was a privilege to offer the space of the Abbey for his funeral which was conducted by the Rector and Rev Caroline. Tributes to Justin and links to other information can be found via the Bury Knowle website.

## Filling Station Marsh Baldon Village Hall Wed 13 October 7.30pm

We are planning a celebration for our return to Marsh Baldon Village Hall and our 6<sup>th</sup> birthday. Save this date and join us as we celebrate with food and wine, and praise and worship, giving thanks to God for many blessings, and seeking His face as we remember those we have lost since we last met together in person. Our speaker at this meeting will be James Nickols, our Filling Station regional coordinator, who was our speaker at the launch in October 2015.



## took place on Saturday 11 Sept

This is the annual sponsored event to raise money for the Oxford Historic Churches Trust and it was a perfect day for it.

Once again *Many Congratulations* to Susan Jupp and James Pratt who both put in another fantastic performance! Please do offer to sponsor them or anyone else you might know who took part. You don't need to wait for them to ask you.

**It isn't too late!** Last year they raised a fantastic £1,208.30 between them. Could you help them to match it again this year, or even raise it? *Thank you!*

## Join us to celebrate the centenary of the War Memorial 2.00pm Saturday 16 October

Have you ever considered how our War Memorial came to be built, how it was funded and the movement in villages and towns across the country following WWI that led to ours being dedicated on 16 October 1921?

To celebrate this important moment in our village history the Parish Council is sponsoring an event with the support of the Abbey Church, the Historical Society and the Royal British Legion. It will take place at 2.00pm on **Saturday 16 October** this year in appreciation of the vision, motivation and tenacity of those that brought it to fruition in 1921.

It will commence with a talk by Kate Tiller, an eminent local historian, in the Abbey starting at 2.00pm, on the history of War Memorials and, particularly our memorial in Dorchester. We will then walk to the War Memorial where we will gather



with other members of the community, a representative of the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire and Rev Sue Booy for a short service of re-dedication of the Memorial with copies of the original service sheets from 1921. Poppy crosses will be laid to commemorate those men recorded on the memorial before dispersing at about 3.15pm

Everyone is invited to attend the talk in the Abbey and the re-dedication at the War Memorial that will follow. We would especially welcome any residents that have ancestors who are named on the War Memorial from either of the world wars.

Please pass on this invitation to anyone you believe might be interested in attending, especially if they are not regular readers of Dorchester News.

Photo: Frank Blackwell

## Dorchester Lunch Club

There will be a lunch in the back room of the village Hall on **Wednesdays 13 and 27 October** at 12.30 for 12.45. The cost of the lunch is £5 and must be paid by cash when you attend (credit or debit cards payment cannot be accepted). It is very important that you contact me to book a place on or before the Monday of each date. As car parking is very limited at the Village Hall, priority has to be given to the cooks who bring the food so please do not come by car, disability scooters can be driven into the Village Hall and parked in the hall.

The Lunch Club is open to any resident in the village who is 70 years and over who is retired, but as it is impossible to accommodate more than 24 people at a time, priority is given to people living on their own but if there is space, couples are most welcome. It is a sociable activity as well as enjoying a delicious home cooked lunch.

If there is anyone who would be willing to be a car driver to transport someone unable to get to the hall by any other means, I would be very grateful if you could let me know and a space outside the hall would be kept especially for your car.

**Susan Jupp**

**Tel: 01865 341066**

**Mobile: 07907 778774**



## Warborough & Shillingford WI

In August the members met to celebrate all their **Covid birthdays at a Birthday Tea Party** on the Green outside the Pavilion. It was a sunny afternoon, the traditional tea of sandwiches, scones and cake was delicious and the atmosphere really positive. A full get-together was just what we needed to take us into the autumn and our new monthly educational programme, the continuation of our community projects and planning for our Centenary in 2022.

In September we will be back on Zoom for a **Live Streamed tour of Cambridge** – a first for us. We have cheese tasting, quilt making, local archaeology and more to delight members through the autumn and into winter. These meetings we hope will be back in the St Laurence Hall which has been renovated over the summer.

The **Walking Group** is back – walking is a great way to get fit and explore ideas about what we should be doing next.

**W&S WI Centenary 2022.** Plans are underway and expect new dates for your 2022 diaries.

**Membership** – we are delighted to welcome our new members from the three villages of Warborough, Shillingford and Dorchester. Do get in touch if you are interested in what we do.

**Dorchester residents** There are already seven Dorchester residents and we would love more of you to join us! And lifts are 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**



## Hempcroft Allotments October

August and early September were remarkably dry and such events are likely to become more common with climate change. The National Allotment Society has made available to plot-holders a series of leaflets created by the DRY project, that address future concerns about water shortages and drought and how that may affect allotment growing.

The DRY project was founded in April 2014 by a team of researchers from Loughborough, Warwick, Exeter, Sheffield, Cardiff, UWE, Harper Adams and Newcastle universities with the aim of developing an easy-to-use resource to inform decision-making for drought risk management in the UK over a four year period. Representatives from the National Allotment Society, members and other plot-holders have contributed their knowledge and experiences to inform the good practice and options outlined in a number of leaflets that address water use on allotments and climate change. The leaflets are;

**Introduction to drought, climate change and growing**  
**Introduction to sustainable water collection and use on allotments**

**Advanced sustainable water collection and irrigation on allotments**

**Growing drought resistant crops on allotments**

**Ground level rainwater collection on allotments**

**Climate predictions for allotments**

All the resources produced by DRY are available on the DRY Utility website.

### New E10 petrol and garden machinery

Standard unleaded petrol on garage forecourts now contains 10% ethanol, this petrol may not be compatible with many items of garden machinery such as strimmers and lawnmowers. The AA have advised gardeners to use super unleaded from September onwards. The [government website](#) advises checking the appliance manual or asking the manufacturer or dealer before using E10. Even if your appliance is compatible the new petrol may cause problems if the mower or strimmer is left unused over the winter months.

**.Edward Metcalfe**

**340160**

**edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk**



## Dorchester Abbey Museum News

### New curator

We're delighted that we now have a new curator – a very warm welcome to Dr Tina Eyre who started in early September.

### Autumn opening

Although the Museum will be closed for the winter as usual from 1 October, we plan to have some additional days open – watch out for details of these soon.

We also plan to continue our successful Christmas shopping days in November and December, so you can choose Xmas gifts from our wide selection of books, toys, greeting cards, crafts, stocking fillers and more...





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The much-coveted trophy

## Dorchester on Thames Tennis Club Autumn Tournament

Having watched on television the skill, poise and triumph of Ms Raducanu at the New York Open the previous evening, the members of Dorchester Tennis Club turned out for the Autumn Tournament on the 12 September full of hope and excitement at the prospect of emulating our Emma. The eight mixed pairs who had made it through qualifying were split into the two halves of the draw. After hard fought matches and much struggling to recall how Emma had hit balls down the line and the final, winning ace, Chris Hill and Mandy Hipkins on one side and Robin and Rachel Marriott on the other replicated Dorchester's own version of Raducanu v Fernandez. It was a hard-fought match and the crowd nearly went wild but in the end Chris and Mandy triumphed 6-1. Congratulations to you both but I'm afraid the television cameras weren't there to record it so you'll probably have to wait until next year to become media superstars, and probably a little longer for your letter from the Queen...



The crowd nearly went wild



Liz uses her balletic forehand



Duncan prepares to serve



POPPY APPEAL 2021



This year we will once again have poppy sellers coming door-to-door. Many people are out of the habit of keeping cash so please try and remember to have some coins near the door so you can buy your poppy when the seller comes (between Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday November 14<sup>th</sup>).

If you'd like to become a poppy seller please get in touch – there are a few areas in the village that are vacant. It is not an arduous task and only lasts for 2 weeks of the year.

This is the centenary year of the Royal British Legion and there is a commemorative enamel pin available for a suggested donation of £4.

If you would like one of these please ask your poppy seller or your local Poppy Appeal Organiser - Charlotte Bennett. 01865 341959

On behalf of the Dorchester and District RBL Branch



Many thanks for supporting the RBL



## St Birinus School News

We are all happy to be back in school after the summer holidays. Our children have settled brilliantly into their new year groups and the school has a purposeful and calm atmosphere which makes us all feel proud.

We have a new vision; enabling all our children to become '**happy, healthy, informed individuals**'; our vision is supported by our three core values: compassion, knowledge and diversity. We expect our school community to demonstrate that they always uphold these values, and the children will become more familiar with the words and their meanings throughout the year through assemblies and classroom activities.

You will have noticed a significant amount of work going on around our school site over the summer. The flat roof and the boiler are being replaced in order to make our school watertight and more energy efficient. We hope the works have not caused too much disruption to our neighbours.

We have also been redecorated over the holidays and now have a lovely fresh look which matches the smart new uniforms and bright smiles of our children. This term sees the beginning of some new initiatives at Dorchester St Birinus and we are pleased to tell you that we now teach Latin to our Key Stage 2 children. We have also opened DASH; Dorchester After School Hub, where children can be cared for by qualified staff from the end of the school day until 6pm. We will be welcoming the

Chance to Shine English Cricket Board Initiative into school this term and all our children will be taught cricket skills by a specialist cricket coach - such a wonderful opportunity.

Last year our school was involved in the SCAMPA project, (The Schools Clean Air Monitoring Project in Abingdon). A large amount of data about significant air pollutants, such as nitrogen dioxide, was collected. The air quality around the school proved to be one of the best in the study with low readings of nitrogen dioxide. This year we will continue collecting and analysing the data. The aim is to involve pupils in asking questions, reflecting on the results, and broadening their understanding of air pollution.

We hope to run an open morning on 10th November, but this will depend on restrictions and risk assessments. We are now operating as one bubble and it is lovely to see all the children being together at lunchtimes and playtimes; supporting one another. We still need to exercise caution though, and have continued with hand hygiene routines, some enhanced cleaning and good ventilation through school. We have a robust risk assessment and contingency plan in place should we need to step up any measures.

If you are interested in sending your child to our fabulous school, please give me a call to arrange a time to come and have a look around.

**Jo Staples**  
Headteacher

### BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

#### PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN OPENING HOURS

Monday & Thursday am Closed  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday  
10.00am-1.00pm & 2.00-5.30pm  
Thursday 2.00-5.30pm  
Saturday 10.00am-12.30pm

#### Our community activities are back

Rhymetime Wednesday 10.30am  
Storytime Wednesday 3.30pm  
Reading Group Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2.30pm  
Coffee Morning Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 10.30am

All welcome

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### *British tennis – be inspired!*

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Family £48, Individual £30 and Junior £5 – don't miss out!

All abilities very welcome

#### Wednesday

10.00am – 12.30pm Open club mixed session

#### Friday

10.30am – 12.30pm Ladies morning

#### Saturday

Gentlemen's morning

#### Sunday

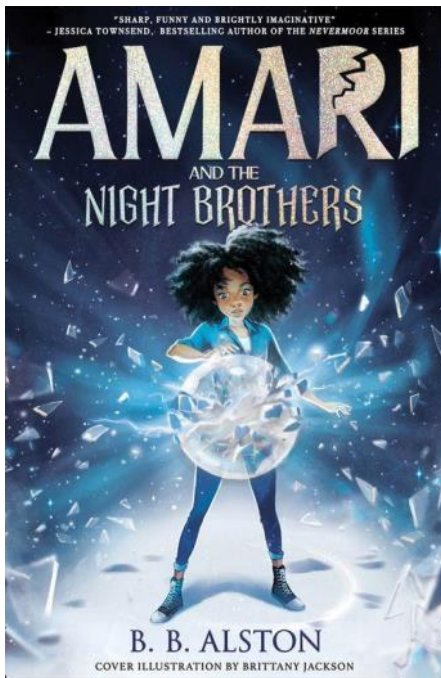
10.30am to 12.30pm - Open club mixed session

enquires to Chris Smith [chriscsmith@btinternet.com](mailto:chriscsmith@btinternet.com) tel. 01865 341947



## Books brimming over with puzzles and adventure

Described by HarperCollins as a cross between Percy Jackson and the Men in Black, *Amari and the Night Brothers* by B. B. Alston (pb, £7.99) is a fabulously fun read for 8-12



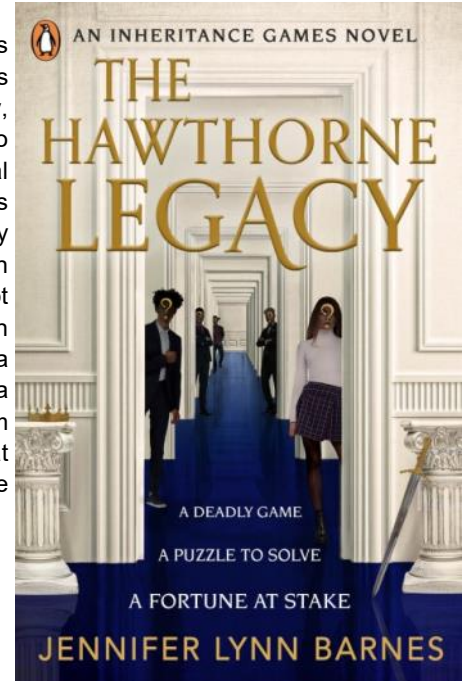
year olds. Amari's big brother, Quinton, is smart, really smart: he has scholarship offers for elite schools. He's also her best friend. When Quinton goes missing, weirdly, no-one seems particularly bothered, so 13-year-old Amari sets out to find him. A ticking suitcase in Quinton's room reveals that he has secretly been involved with the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs – an organisation that manages a

whole supernatural world she never knew existed. Quinton, it turns out, has also nominated Amari for a summer traineeship with the organisation. To become a full member of the Bureau and continue her attempts to find her brother, Amari must pass three trials, complete with mermaids and magicians. Oh, and there's also the small matter of coping with having a weredragon as a roommate. The first book in a new series, *Amari and the Night Brothers* cleverly weaves issues of racism

and classicism into an action-packed plot with plenty of twists.

To my real-life 13-year-old son's delight, this last month has also seen publication of *The Hawthorne Legacy* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes (pb, £7.99). This is the eagerly anticipated sequel to *The Inheritance Games*, a hugely popular thriller, filled with secrets and codes, written for young adults. The first book sees a girl called Avery bequeathed a huge fortune by a billionaire benefactor, with no clue as to why. The condition? To inherit, Avery must live in the Hawthorn Mansion for a year alongside the benefactor's relatives.

This second book picks up the story, furthering attempts to find out why a virtual stranger left his inheritance to Avery rather than his own family. If you've not met Avery, you're in for a treat. This is a treasure hunt with a difference, and I'm reliably informed that both books are brilliant!



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## ***Parallel lives* by Charlie Burnand**

Two lives in parallel - my own and my habitat's.  
As I grow up, two stories to tell.  
One of the child, constantly growing.  
One of the rivers and fields where I dwell.

Fields where I learned how to walk and to run,  
Hiding amongst all that golden corn.  
Taking delight in the bright red poppies,  
Taking delight in where I'd been born.

One day it all changed, a new farmer in charge,  
Bringing my world under his new scheme,  
Lying in bed, my sleep was shattered  
By thudding machinery ruining my dream.

Hammering stakes to form prison walls,  
Brutal barbed wire demarcating my fields,  
All in the interests of modern farm-management,  
All in the interests of increasing yields.

Not only the fields wore striped prison gear,  
But liberty torn from their visitors too.  
Running through corn, a vanishing memory,  
Cruelly harrowing the world that I knew.

Gone were the picnics we'd had by the river,  
Running through buttercups down to the Thames.  
Flashing their branches like whips go the willows,  
Flashing blue kingfishers glinting like gems.

But reaching the river restores future hope,  
As the Thames and the Thame are now 'Rivers of Life'.  
A rewilding project for biodiversity,  
Improved water quality, fit for wildlife.

People and nature working in unison  
Seek to undo the harm that's been done  
By deep channels ploughed for Thames navigation,  
By deep channels hidden away from the sun.

Harming the backwaters, home to so many,  
But now the rewilding is bringing them back.  
Handing the riverbanks over to nature,  
Allowing the wetlands to get back on track.

Little Wittenham Wood, home to great crested newts  
Water reeds reaching right up to the skies,  
Life's rich tapestry - voles and stag-beetles,  
Life's rich tapestry - bright dragonflies.

Slowing the flow of the great river Isis,  
Filtering the water and making it clean.  
Letting the wetlands become re-established,  
Capturing carbon to make the world green.

Seeing the realm of my childhood restored,  
That beautiful world where Thames and Thame meet,  
Historic landscape where kings once were christened;  
Historic landscape, my memory so sweet.

Restored by the Earth Trust, these rivers are thriving,  
Allowed to return to their natural state,  
Natural habitats, man merely background,  
Restoring the Golden Age before it's too late.

But my theme of relations between man and nature,  
This theme of rewilding, man standing aside,  
It works on all time-frames, both long-term and short,  
It works on all levels to bring that same pride.

For now a new farmer has joined the rewilding,  
No big project here, but my world still renewed.  
Man versus nature - the gaoler turned good,  
Alliance and harmony replacing that feud.

No more harsh stakes now cut off my fields,  
No brutal boundaries remain to be seen,  
From dangerous barbs that glinted with menace,  
From dangerous barbs to a lattice of green.

A natural fence, interwoven with poppies,  
A gentler barrier allows me to roam.  
Papery red-heads graciously nodding,  
An elegant sentinel guiding me home.

This poem, *Parallel Lives*, was written by 11-year-old Dorchester resident, Charlie Burnand. It recently won both Charlie's age category (9-12) and the overall competition in the national Young Wild Writer Competition 2021. The theme was rewilding, and Charlie focused his poem on the fields around Dorchester, where he has lived all his life, and on the Earth Trust's project to rewild the Thames and Thame. So many people in Dorchester were upset at the barbed-wire fences that went up so quickly on the fields down to the Thames, that he thought this theme might be of wider interest! The competition was run by Gill Lewis in connection with Hen Harrier Day, and was read out by Cressida Cowell, the Children's Laureate.



## Completion of earthworks

The excavations to improve the wet areas of the three meadows have been completed. Work on the Hurst was carried out during three days in July, deepening the existing river overflow channel and scooping out a new scrape. The aim is to retain floodwater, rainwater and groundwater for longer periods in the year, especially in summer, thereby providing a damp habitat for more animal and plant species. This project was generously funded by FCC Communities Foundation with a grant under its Gift Aid Programme to cover all our costs: a grant that did not require a contributing payment from a third party. With an authorised extension of 12 months (due to Covid restrictions in 2020) the project was completed in good time and below budget. Find out more about this grant giving organisation at [www.fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk](http://www.fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk)

Work on Old Bridge Meadow and Overy Mead Piece was completed by the Earth Trust in September. This has been part of the River of Life II project to create extensive new wetland habitats on both sides of the river Thames: a total of 46,000m<sup>2</sup> of wetland. It is the first time that we have partnered the Earth Trust in a project and we were enthusiastic about allowing them to open up former backwaters of the river Thame in our two meadows downstream of Dorchester bridge. More information about this project is at [www.earthtrust.org.uk](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk)

Dorchester residents may have been concerned about the scarring of the meadows as an immediate result of the excavations but already vegetation is re-establishing on the bare earth and we hope that before long the new workings will no longer be obvious.

## New information panels

The old interpretation panels on the three meadows were out of date and gave misleading information; it was time for a rethink. New panels have been designed to give helpful information to visitors, with a map showing all three meadows and footpaths from the village centre, as well as the location of amenities in the village. We hope that you like them. Similar panels are located at the entrance to each of the meadows, the only difference being the location of the 'You Are Here' red dot. The design, by Carrie Webb, used input from trustees and

photographs kindly offered by friends of Trust (credits are listed on the panels). The map was prepared by Linda Francis. Printing and installation was carried out by Carbon Colour of Abingdon. We were able to use the existing wood structures to display the panels and these were smartened up by the application of several coats of oil to the woodwork and by replacing rotten timber with new oak.

## Change of charitable status

During the last year the Trust has changed its charitable status to that of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with a new charity number. Unlike the projects described above, there is no outward change to be seen!

**Gillian Johnson, Hon. Secretary**

**Richard Farrant, Chairman**

[www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk](http://www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk)





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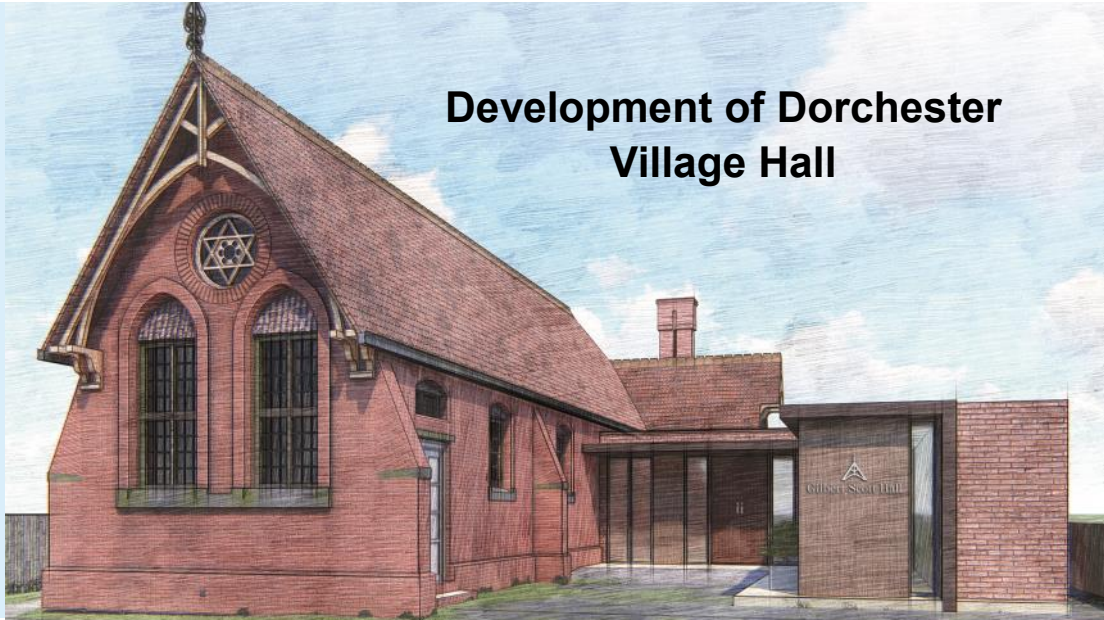
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## Development of Dorchester Village Hall



On Saturday 21 August an event was held at Dorchester Village Hall to launch the fund-raising process for the development of the hall as advertised in the July/August Dorchester News. The development has received planning permission and now the task of raising the £600,000 to fulfil it starts in earnest. More than 80 people gathered in the hall to hear, over a glass of wine, Prof Malcolm Airs, Keith Russell and Mark Williams explained the proposals. These include extending the hall into the back room, and creating three flexible spaces that can be used individually or as a single hall; a new reception area/foyer; new toilets to the rear of the hall; and a dedicated office for the Parish Clerk. The hall will be renamed the Gilbert Scott Hall, to honour the famous architect who designed it, and which first opened as a girl's school, in 1872. Externally the finial, once at the apex of the roof, will be restored, much to the relief of Malcolm Ayres who has been storing it since the last renovation. Malcolm's video about the history of the hall can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2NgZji2GUs&t=4s>



The Parish Council has committed £30,000 to get the ball rolling; more is expected to come from funding sources and grants, and also through donations and fund-raising events that will involve the people of Dorchester.

During September, every home in the village should have received a brochure explaining the development in detail and which included a pledge/donation form.

### Main features of the development

- Modern and welcoming new reception area
- Gently sloping front forecourt allowing easy access
- Improved disability facilities for interior mobility, controls, and toilets
- Three hireable self-contained and private hall spaces
- Functions needing more space able to combine rooms
- The largest private bookable room space in Dorchester
- Front-of-house catering servery backed by a
- Fully equipped state-of-the-art professional kitchen
- Two-way accessible licensed bar for main hall and reception area
- Individually controlled room sound, hearing aid and lighting systems
- Projection and visual aid electronics available
- High-speed broadband and Wi-Fi systems
- Dedicated Landline for emergency use and non-network communications
- Stage lighting and sound facilities installed
- User identification signs can be varied to suit the event
- Modern toilet and hygiene facilities for disabled
- Environmentally responsible heating and lighting systems throughout
- Dedicated Parish Clerk's office and village record storage





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# Snow White

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Dorchester Amateur Dramatic Society

## Dorchester residents' achievements recognised in national press

On Sunday 5 September, The Sunday Telegraph carried an item titled 'You've gotta fight for your right to roam', written by Mary-Ann Ochota.

The article looks initially at the case of Hatfield Park in Hertfordshire, where for years the local residents have had free access to use the land. But this year access was due to be limited to members of a new organisation, 'Friends of Hatfield Park', with an annual charge of £50 for membership. Campaigners there have fought to have free access re-instated for local residents and some free passes have now been issued.

Public Health England, according to the article, have issued a report that 'green space is 'associated with mental health and well-being...' and that in England alone, £2.1billion per year could be saved in health costs if we all had good access to green space. Laws were passed in Scotland in 2003 to give open access to most land. In England the Countryside and Rights of Way Act of 2000 gave access only to registered

commons, and areas of mountain, moor, heath and down, which is far less than in Scotland.

And this is where Dorchester comes in, as an example where landowners are already delivering open access, along the bank of the Thames and around the Dyke Hills.

We know of this, of course, because of the efforts of FODLWOS, led by among others, Becky Waller, and to the open access approach of Keith Ives

since he bought Bishops Court Farm.

Becky Waller is quoted in the article as saying *'The farm and fields had been in the same family since the 1940s, but when the old lady died, Bishops Court Farm was sold and the new owner put up fences across the property. Suddenly from children playing in the fields and people throwing balls around we were limited to two metres between barbed wire fences. It was heart breaking.'*

She goes on to explain that residents had gathered evidence to prove that the land had been used for recreation without challenge for more than 20 years, and, this meant that it could be registered as a village green, even without the agreement of the landowner.

The article goes on to say 'At the start of 2020 the farm and land were back on the

market and Keith, a resident of the village, saw an opportunity. *"I started out as a Nimby, to be honest— I thought, these are the fields my house looks on to, and I want them to look how I want. And it was land I used with my kids when they were young."* A year after buying it, Keith has removed kilometres of barbed wire fencing and created access to five miles of extra paths. *"And I'm in the process of registering Days Lock meadow and the Dyke Hills as village greens. I'm not a saint and this isn't just altruistic. It's eco-tourism, combining organic agriculture and sustainable tourism. My hope is that everyone benefits."*



Keith Ives

The article concludes with the hope that what is occurring here, and at Hatfield Park is leading to a new era of access to all.

I am sure we can all agree that what both Becky and Keith have done, and are continuing to achieve, is not only remarkable, but well worth this recognition by a national newspaper. Maybe other communities having read this article may follow their example and that they too may achieve real benefits of open access for their residents too.



Becky Waller







# The Autumn

The show was at last back in real life and just for the entries and the usual keen competition, although carrying off five trophies. We are hoping that Charles a run for his money. Forty-five people and 90 people came along to view the exhibits.

Our vegetable and flower growers should be proud of a difficult growing season and many lesser mortals.

We're glad to say that the show is on a good footing to make contributions to the Abbey and to at least what we do regularly and the committee will discuss it.

The roll of honour is below – congratulations to all.



## Roll of Honour

### Children's classes

A harvest crown – Age 8 and under

Mini allotment on a tray – Age 9 and over

### Adult Classes

Runner Bean Plate

Pat Cheese Potato Cup

Vegetable Collection Plate

R Belcher Onion Cup

Jenny Nudds Tomato Cup

Best Vegetable Award

Fruit Plate

Blackwell Photography Cup

Jerry Nudds Fruit Cake Plate

Victoria Sandwich Award

Rose Plate

H C Smith Dahlia Cup

Floral Art Cup

Britain in Bloom Cup

Amey Tankard

Amey Rose Bowl



# Flower Show

as good as ever. We had a lovely selection of  
gh not keen enough to stop Charles Dickerson  
even more of you will enter next Spring to give  
entered the show giving a total of 210 entries, and

particularly congratulated as it has been a very  
would have given up.

ting financially; we will be using some of our funds  
st one other good local cause. This is something  
at our next meeting

ll the prize winners.

## The Committee

### r Autumn 2021

d 1st = Gabriella Grant  
and Eleanor Petheridge

1st Charlotte Bristow

Roger Seabrook

Charles Dickerson

Charles Dickerson

Andy Pay

Richard Juniper

Roger Seabrook

Charles Dickerson

Gordon Roberts

e Judy Parker

Christina Stores

Margaret Broadbent

Charles Dickerson

Maureen Fitzgerald

Alison Myres

Charles Dickerson

Charlotte Bennett







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# Dorchester Flyer News



## Volunteer Minibus Drivers Wanted!

Going Forward Buses, the Community Interest Company that runs our own Dorchester Flyer service to Wallingford, relies heavily on volunteer drivers. Mike Ward, the Managing Director, says that they are looking for any drivers who might be able to step in if one of the regular drivers is unavailable. The more people on the 'list' who can be asked, the more reliable the service will be.

No commitment is required - it's just so that along with others on the list they can be contacted and hopefully someone will be available to cover so that last minute cancellations can be avoided. The 14 seater minibuses can be driven by anyone with D1 on their driving licence. Ladies as well as gentlemen are welcome !


For more information please email [littlebluebus@yahoo.com](mailto:littlebluebus@yahoo.com). This is also the email address for any queries or feedback about the service

## Timetable changes

After nearly six months since reviving the 'Dorchester Flyer' bus service, Going Forward Buses has made some changes to the timetable. Journeys run earlier than before, leaving Dorchester every Friday at **9.46** and **10.28** from the bus stop opposite the War Memorial. The service picks up at all recognised bus stops in the village, and also at Herringcote, and will drop you off anywhere along the route where it is safe to do so. The return buses now leave Wallingford Market Place at **11.50** and **12.15**.


Going Forward Buses also run through Dorchester Village on Mondays (but these services don't call in at Herringcote): the bus runs to Didcot leaving the War Memorial at **09.35** and **11.53**, and to Wallingford at **10.29** and **12.45**. If you travel on the first buses you can have just over two hours in Didcot or one hour in Wallingford.

There's no need to book on any of these services, and Concessionary Bus Pass holders travel free. Anyone without a bus pass is of course welcome to use the service; the adult single fare is £3 to Wallingford or £4 to Didcot - and you can return the same day for free. Children aged 5-18 pay half fare. For full details of these and other services operated by Going Forward Buses please visit the website [goingforwardbuses.com](http://goingforwardbuses.com). The bus 'hotline' for any enquiries is **07484 605888**.



### Football Results North Berks League Div 1

11/09/2021	Cholsey United Firsts	2	1	Dorchester First
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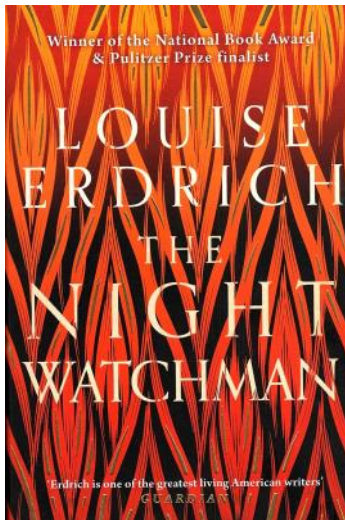
Flexible times by appointment





## Some of Karen's best books of 2021

October, already. Ahead of the festive season's onslaught of new books in The Wallingford Bookshop, I took a moment to reflect on my favourite reads of 2021 so far. It's been a good year. Winner of the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction was Louise Erdrich's *The Night Watchman* (pb, £8.99). What a book! Erdrich is the granddaughter of the chairman of the Chippewa



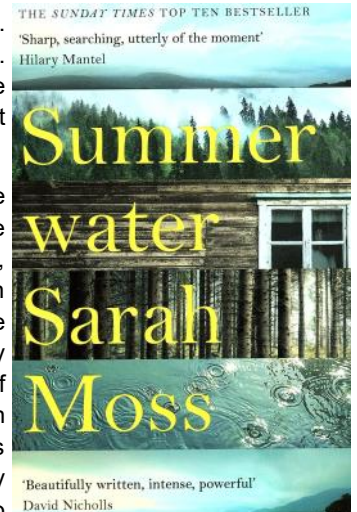
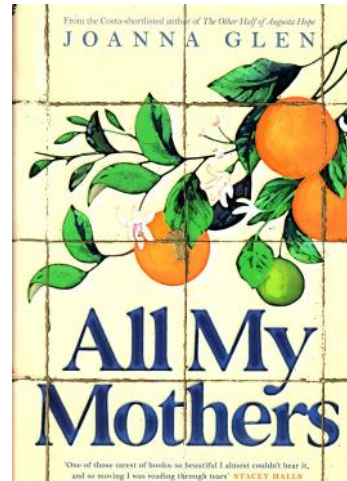
American Indian tribe. Living on the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota during the 1950s, Erdrich's grandfather learned of a new 'Emancipation Bill', proposed by Congress, that claimed to generously offer American Indians the same rights as all other Americans. Only problem, that same treaty would also dispossess them of their reservation, and the various services, such as education and healthcare, that had been negotiated in lieu of the transfer of their original

tribal territories to the US Government. With a strong narrative drive, Erdrich tells of the tribe's fight for justice in the face of perceived 'termination'. Raw in emotion, the book is also wonderfully rich in detail about the traditions of tribal life.

Hopping over to Scotland in contemporary times, *Summerwater* by Sarah Moss (pb, £8.99) is a short novel, but one that lingers. Twelve people are on holiday at a remote cabin park: young families, retired couples and bored teenagers. Each has a different story to tell, and each is watching each other. As readers, we look through everyone's eyes, think their thoughts, and see the contradictions. The chapters tip-toe along, against a background of persistent rain.

Slowly, the tension builds. Something is about to happen. Each chapter ends with subtle indications of what this might be, but will you work it out?

Finally (but only because space limitations mean I can't write about *all* my favourite books), *All My Mothers* by Joanna Glen (hb, £14.99) is a book I've recently been regularly pressing into the hands of friends and customers. When Eva Martinez-Green starts primary school, she is asked by her teacher to bring in a photo of herself as a baby. But there are no photos of Eva as a baby. None. Her father explains that a thief stole the photos. Young Eva is rightly dubious about this response, and embarrassed by the baby photo of her father she's made to take in instead.



As Eva grows, her suspicions increase, and she embarks on a journey to understand her beginnings. In so doing, she learns about different kinds of love, and the range of ways love can be expressed by all kinds of mothers.

**Karen Gurney**

## Dorchester News Crossword No.18 Solution

Compiled by Slider

1B		2A		3S		4V		5I		6S		7P		8S
9R	E	B	U	T	T	A	L	S		10T	R	U	M	P
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## Oxfordshire Plan 2050

The latest consultation on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 has now launched and runs until **8 October**.

The Oxfordshire Plan will set the development framework for the county for the next generation. It will affect all Oxfordshire residents, either directly (through development) or indirectly (through impacts on services, infrastructure, our countryside and rural character).

CPRE Oxfordshire is fighting to make sure that the growth options are deliverable without undue damage to our countryside and some otherwise good policy proposals for getting to net zero and restoring nature. That means guiding development to the right places and building high-quality compact housing to make the best use of scarce land.

**We urge you to respond to the consultation – it is our best chance of influencing both the outcomes of this Plan and the OxCam Arc proposals.**

**Have your say NOW – it's too late to act when the bulldozers arrive.**

**Find more information on the CPRE Oxfordshire website [www.cpreoxon.org.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk)**



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## Parish Council Notices

### Change of Date for October Council Meeting

The next Council Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 6 October** which is one week earlier than normal. The meeting 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 – [www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk](http://www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk) – three clear working days in advance.

It is expected that this meeting will be held 'in person' rather than remotely. All Parish Council meetings are open to the public and any resident who wishes to raise any matter of concern is welcome to do so at the start of the meeting.

In November the Parish Council meeting will take place on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>** – the second Wednesday of the month, as normal.

#### FREE Electric Blanket Testing

Oxfordshire County Council arranges FREE Electric Blanket Checks for County residents. These will take place on **4 to 8 October**. Blankets will be collected, taken away for testing and then returned. To book your collection call **01865 895999 (Option1)**

or email [communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

#### 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 <https://www.dorchester-on-thames.co.uk/parish-council/> This includes the minutes of all Parish Council Meetings and financial information such as monthly bank balances and payments as well as a record of all planning matters upon which the Parish Council has been consulted and reports from our County and District Councillor.



### From the Chairman of the Parish Council

I have received many positive comments about the clarity of the speed survey results presented in my last update. The county council are aiming to have a new, low cost policy enabling parishes to instigate 20mph zones in place late October, so we will see how that progresses. We are now on a (lengthy) waiting list to have Highways select and install posts for 'smiley' speed indicators if we decide they are of benefit. The indicators also monitor speed in both directions 24/7 so we would build up a database of traffic and speeds through the village as well as hopefully reducing average speed by Meadside and along the Abingdon Road.

Ten parishes, coordinated by Warborough and supported by our MP, John Howell, have now banded together to pressure the Thames Valley Police Commissioner regarding motorbike speeding and noise along the by-pass. We will update you on progress.

Speaking of progress, Gigaclear have made great strides on installing the fibre broadband infrastructure, and may well extend it further than originally planned. Updates on the work plans are posted on the village website (under events) to inform as many as possible on progress and changes.

The village hall committee has launched their fund raising to refurbish the hall, see <http://dotvillagehall.fund> for further information on what is planned and how to donate. The Parish Council is the Custodian Trustee and has pledged £30,000 to the project and is now looking at ways to provide meaningful funds for a project for the pavilion.

Our next Council meeting is on **6 October**, a week earlier than normal. Do get in touch with any issues you may have.

**Mark Williams**  
Chairman DoT Parish Council

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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.





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



### Afghan refugees

We have pledged the district council's full commitment to work with other service providers to support refugees who will be arriving in the UK from Afghanistan. The UK government has said it will work with international partners and other countries to resettle up to 20,000 Afghan refugees in the UK, with up to 5,000 eligible for refugee status in the first year.

As a local housing authority, South Oxfordshire District Council can provide assistance locally to people over the age of 18 arriving in the UK who have been granted refugee status. The council works with a range of service providers to successfully resettle families, and has previously supported two Syrian families to resettle in the area.

### What's going on with the Garden Waste service?

At the time of writing, the brown bin service has temporarily been paused due to driver shortages; I hope by the time you read this, things will have been resolved.

There's a national shortage of HGV drivers caused in part by drivers leaving the UK since Brexit - waste services for councils across the UK are affected in the same way – and a huge backlog of training and testing caused by lack of government facilities for this, as well as Covid rules.

We agreed to a temporary suspension to give drivers who had been working long hours a break, and so that we could continue to provide core waste collections – rubbish, recycling and food – without major disruptions.

We continue to work closely with our contractor, Biffa, and are pressing them to urgently update us as how they propose to reinstate their contracted services. Once we know when service is resuming, we can make sure that no one pays for a service they don't receive.

SODC will continue to post updates on our website and social

media channels. As soon as we are able to update customers on the resumption of the service, we will write to them all.

For information on what you can do with garden waste in the meantime please see our webpage

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/garden-waste/>

### Berinsfield Garden Village

The SODC Garden Village team visited both the Berinsfield Fete and the Oxfordshire Play Association event over the summer, signing up residents for the Garden Village newsletter. We've set up a steering group to guide the project forward, which I am chairing.

Work so far has included a clean-up plan for Elaine's ditch, gathering views on a possible logo, and work towards coordinating grounds maintenance across Berinsfield.

Discussions are ongoing with landowner representatives on the best way forward to ensure future facilities are delivered promptly in any development, as set out in the South Oxfordshire Local Plan policies, and that old and new parts of the village are seamlessly integrated. See our dedicated webpage for the latest information:

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

### Oxfordshire Plan 2050

There's still time until Friday 8 October to respond to the consultation about the long-term future of our county at

<https://www.oxfordshireopenthought.org>

**Robin.Bennett@southoxon.gov.uk**

**tel. 01865 858680**

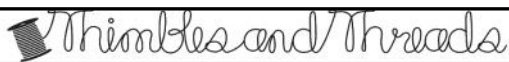
**m. 07979 646815**

### DoT Men's Pub Night

A dozen or so DoT men meet from 8pm on the 1st Wednesday of each month in The White Hart, to enjoy a couple of drinks, good craic and great company. We each contribute to a £10/head kitty. Please join us on **6 October**, or contact [harryclark1@gmail.com](mailto:harryclark1@gmail.com) tel **07771 775175** for more details.







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## From your County Councillor... ...Robin Bennett

Things at the Council – as in life generally - are beginning to return to some kind of normal; I just attended my first Planning & Regulation committee meeting, and OCC Full Council will be meeting shortly in Oxford for the first time. I have submitted a question on our provision for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (currently lower than the national average).

### County libraries return to pre-pandemic opening hours

Almost all the county's libraries have now returned to pre-pandemic opening hours.

Residents can visit the county council's library webpage to check the opening hours for their local library. The opening hours are also available on the library app (search Oxfordshire Libraries in the app store) and on Google business listings.

### Saturday music sessions for children set to launch across Oxfordshire

New music sessions across the county on Saturday mornings for children aged 6-13 will offer a fun, safe supportive atmosphere to make new friends and improve by performing with others. The 90-minute Saturday music centre sessions are available through school term times from 18 September and are available in Bicester, Oxford, Didcot, Thame and Witney.

Most school choirs and bands have not been able to rehearse together for more than a year, and children learning to play an instrument have had to rely on remote instruction, so this is welcome news – culture is vitally important for all of our wellbeing.

Our instructors are DBS checked and risk assessments and safety precautions are being taken to reduce the risks of COVID-19 transmission. Booking is via the OCC website.

### First in planned wave of new 20mph zones approved

A 20mph speed limit will be introduced in Cuxham later this month, becoming the first of five trial sites, which could pave the way for a countywide road safety programme.

This followed a consultation process in which 82 per cent of residents responding were in favour of the speed reduction. The council is currently in the process of consulting on four more 20mph trial sites across the county, in Long Wittenham, Wallingford Central, Wallingford North and Kirtlington. It is believed there is the potential to have around 85 per cent of Oxfordshire's 30mph roads reduced to 20mph, subject to local opinion and available funding, of course.

This 20mph approach will help to make active travel, public and shared transport the natural first choice, improving the experience of being on streets and making healthy travel safer.

As part of this process, Oxfordshire County Council is working with the campaign group 20's Plenty, local communities, Thames Valley Police, bus companies and other stakeholders.

### Civil Parking Enforcement

The government has approved Oxfordshire County Council's bid to take on responsibility for civil parking enforcement. The council already enforces parking in Oxford City and West Oxfordshire and will now take over from Thames Valley Police in South Oxfordshire, the Vale of White Horse and Cherwell districts, ensuring continuity across the whole county when the change comes into place, which is currently expected to be on **1 November 2021**.

The aim is for the new arrangement to be self-funding, with the extra pay and display spaces helping to pay for enforcement costs, although with some funding from the three districts.

Parking offences will be enforced by a contractor on behalf of the council. Penalty charges range from £50-£70 but will be reduced by 50 per cent if paid within 14 days.

### Councillor Priority Fund

The Councillor Priority Fund (CPF) is a sum of £15,000 per councillor that runs over the course of two years until 31 March 2023. The fund is now open for applications and each councillor can use their fund to support community projects and organisations.

**robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk**  
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**From your MP...**

**...John Howell**

It is just over 10 years since I started to write a monthly newsletter to parishes. Out of curiosity over the summer I looked back at some of the early issues. For a few months I ran a little mini-series at the end of my newsletters seeking to answer questions that were frequently asked about the work on an MP and the workings of parliament. Such questions are still regularly asked as people take a new or different interest in politics and so I thought it might be worth revisiting some of the questions in the coming months.

An overarching question asked of many MPs by people of all ages, and one frequently asked on school visits, is what does an MP do? There is no job description, and each MP has to work out the best way to pursue the role for themselves. Indeed an MP may change the way in which they work over the years as issues and needs change. The last 18 months has forced some changes in working patterns and some forced changes have proved to be for the better. For example I intend to continue doing my advice surgeries virtually as this has proved to be very popular. With the geographical size of the constituency people often had to travel long distances for a relatively short meeting. The ease of access which virtual meetings has offered has been welcomed. They reduce the need for travel and can save constituents a considerable amount of time. Working this way can also enable me to reduce the waiting time for an appointment.

The main task for an MP is to consider and propose new laws as well as raise issues relating to the constituency or constituents. This is not always easy as contentious and divisive issues are often debated with several differing views. These tend to be the issues that the media is quick to pick on. For my part I think it is important to listen to different views and to weigh up arguments. I am happy to have robust but polite debate, but an MP is not a delegate and in the end, as with the rest of my colleagues, I have to make my own judgement on how I respond on any particular issue. With a party-political system it will be no surprise that an MP on the whole supports the party on whose manifesto they stood for election.

For the most part an MP's time is divided between working in Parliament, representing parliament elsewhere (as I do at the Council of Europe), and working in their constituency. When Parliament is sitting, MPs are generally expected to be in Westminster from Monday to Thursday and so time in the constituency is limited. Outside of sitting weeks there is more

time for constituency meetings and visits. I am looking forward to the forthcoming recess when I will be meeting in person representatives from several of the 85 Parish Councils and Parish Meetings across the constituency. Something that has not been possible for some time now.

When in Westminster every day brings competing demands on an MP's time. Days can include time spent scrutinising legislation, attending debates, ministerial question sessions, committees, briefings and other meetings, and also responding to correspondence. There is also a hierarchy of demand in that the business of the House must come first and when asked to sit on a Bill Committee to scrutinise the detail of a particular Bill this is expected to take precedence over other things. These competing demands mean that it is not always possible to attend a particular debate or drop-in session that someone may ask me to attend, although I do try to fit in as much as I can each week.

It is often thought that an MP sits at the top of a hierarchy of Government and has power to direct local councils. This is not the case. Although local councils are required to conform with central government policy within this they are fully autonomous, and MPs do not have any jurisdiction over local council decisions. Thus the primary focus of questions that MPs raise will be relating to Parliament and the work of Government departments such as the NHS, HM Revenue and Customs, and the Department of Work and Pensions. These questions may arise from an MP's own concerns or may be on behalf of constituents. Questions can be formal written or oral questions however I have found that it is often better to discuss issues privately with Ministers. With local issues MPs can write to councils on behalf of a constituent, and this is something that I often do. However there are locally elected representatives to these councils who should really be the first point to contact for council issues. I will write more about this in a later newsletter.

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 still write to me at the House of Commons, London, SW1 0AA or PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD. To find out more about my work please do visit my website which is regularly updated on key issues. [www.johnhowell.org.uk](http://www.johnhowell.org.uk).



**Cinema:** All regular performances normally start at 7:30pm unless stated otherwise.

Tickets £8 for Adults and £5 for under 15s unless otherwise stated.

#### October

Fri 1	<b>No Time to Die (12A)</b>
Sat 2	<b>No Time to Die (12A)</b> 2.30pm & 7.30pm
Sun 3	<b>No Time to Die (12A)</b> 2.30pm & 7.30pm
Mon 6	<b>No Time to Die (12A)</b>
Tues 5	<b>No Time to Die (12A)</b>
Wed 6	<b>No Time to Die (12A)</b> 2.30pm & 7.30pm
Thurs 7	<b>No Time to Die (12A)</b>
Fri 8	<b>No Time to Die (12A)</b>
Sat 9	<b>No Time to Die (12A)</b> 2.30pm & 7.30pm
Sun 10	<b>No Time to Die (12A)</b>
Mon 11	<b>No Time to Die (12A)</b>
Tues 12	<b>No Time to Die (12A)</b>
Wed 13	<b>No Time to Die (12A)</b>
Thurs 14	<b>No Time to Die (12A)</b>

#### Live Screening

**Wednesday, 27 October, 7:45pm**

**Cliff Richard: The Great 80 Tour**

Broadcast live from the Royal Albert Hall, London. Sir Cliff's 80th birthday tour (rescheduled from 2020) broadcast live from the Royal Albert Hall. Featuring a selection of his greatest hits, the show is sure to have you dancing in the aisles (government regulations permitting!)

**All Tickets £10**

#### Live Theatre

**Sat 30 October, 7:45pm Arthur Smith is SYD**

Arthur Smith's show SYD follows a highly successful season at Soho Theatre and a sell-out and critical acclaimed run at the Edinburgh Fringe.

Packed with big gags, hilarious stories and poignant reflections about an ordinary man who lived through extraordinary times; Arthur, accompanied by the mellifluous Kirsty Newton, tells the story of his own father.

**Tickets £15 (with some adult humour)**

**This show has had to be moved to Saturday 30th October as Arthur Smith's accompanist Kirsty Newton tested positive for Covid. We have held your bookings and your tickets will be valid on that date. However if you cannot make that new date and want a refund please email [refunds@cornexchange.org.uk](mailto:refunds@cornexchange.org.uk) with your details. We're really sorry that this show has had to be moved cannot go ahead but this was beyond our control.**



## Wallingford Gardening Club

Over the recent times despite the lockdown, Wallingford Garden Club has not been in hibernation, many of our members have been very active in our gardens enjoying the energising peace and well-being that comes from horticulture. This year we started meeting again with two garden visits.

At Bledlow Ridge, a great NHS, garden we had a rainbow on arrival and another on departure!

Our first in person meeting will be on **Thursday 14 October at 7:30pm** in Ridgeway Community Centre, Wood Street, Wallingford OX10 0BD. Aleck Harrison will take us on a journey of '*How Plants Got Their Names and Their Meaning*'. Before this we will have a short AGM (the first in two years!)

Visitors are welcome £3.00 per meeting.

For more details please either email [gardenwallingford@gmail.com](mailto:gardenwallingford@gmail.com) or visit [www.wallingford-gardening-club.com](http://www.wallingford-gardening-club.com)



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## Day by day

Sun 8.00am  
3 Oct Holy Communion (1662)  
  
12noon  
Silver Anniversary of Canon Sue  
Booys ordination

Wed 6 Oct **Parish Council Meeting**  
7.30pm  
Village Hall  
  
**Men's Pub Night**  
The White Hart

Sat 9 Oct **OSJ Concert**  
7.00pm  
Dorchester Abbey

Sun 10 Oct 8.00am  
Holy Communion (1662)  
  
10.30am  
Family Service  
  
5.00pm  
Choral Evensong

Wed 13 Oct **Lunch Club**  
12.30pm  
Village Hall

Sat 16 Oct **War Memorial Centenary Celebration**  
2.00pm  
Dorchester Abbey  
3.15pm  
War memorial

Sun 17 Oct 8.00am  
Holy Communion (1662)  
  
10.30am  
Sung Eucharist

Wed 20 Oct **Chiropodist**  
Village Hall



Sun 24 Oct 8.00am  
Holy Communion (1662)  
  
5.00pm  
Fellowship of St Birinus

Wed 27 Oct **Lunch Club**  
12.30pm  
Village Hall

Sat 30 Oct **RBL Poppy Appeal**  
Commences

Sun 31 Oct 8.00am  
Holy Communion

10.30am  
Reflective service



Clocks go back

## Parish Registers

### Baptisms

29 August Albie James Stephen Selwood

### Marriages

20 August Joanne Brown and Darren Walker

28 August Katie Marshall and Samuel Preston

### Funerals

23 August Justin Amery

## Weekly events

Tuesday Coffee Morning  
11.00am  
Dorchester Abbey  
  
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 website:  
[www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk](http://www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

## Weekly events in the Village Hall

Monday DADS  
Rehearsals  
7.30pm

Wednesday Pilates  
5.30pm  
  
Tango  
7.30pm

Thursday DADS  
Rehearsals  
7.30pm

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

For current information about other services  
at Dorchester Abbey see  
[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)

All events are subject to change due to Covid restrictions

## Trafalgar Day 21st October



## CONTACTING THE POLICE

To report a non-emergency crime, or to give information to Thames Valley Police, call **101**. Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555111**. In the event of an emergency dial **999**.

## HEALTH SERVICES

### DIRECT LINE TO URGENT LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

## MINOR INJURIES

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

## A&E

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

## SURGERIES

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

## ROOM HIRE

### 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](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.morerecycling.co.uk](http://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

Green Furlong, Berinsfield **01865 340771**  
Free Internet access. DVDs can be ordered.

## OPENING HOURS

See page **X** for current opening hours.

## ANIMAL WELFARE

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

## Useful Information

## TRANSPORT

### DORCHESTER FLYER

#### FRIDAYS

To Wallingford: 09.46; 10.28am  
From Wallingford Market Place:  
11.50am:12.15pm

### GOING FORWARD BUSES

#### MONDAYS

To Wallingford: 10.29am  
From Wallingford: 11.45am

To Didcot: 09.38am

From Didcot: 12.15pm

## 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**.

## 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 2.00 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  
**Rev. Canon Sue Booy**  
**01865 340007**

### ABBEY 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.

### ABBEY 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

Weekdays from 6.00am

Fri 1 Oct **Black**  
Fri 8 Oct **Green**  
Fri 15 Oct **Black**  
Fri 22 Oct **Green**  
Fri 29 Oct **Black**

**Note weekday collections now from 6.00am**

**For garden waste collections see SODC website.**

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 [www.oxford.gov.uk/](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/)

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## Some winners from the Autumn Flower Show

