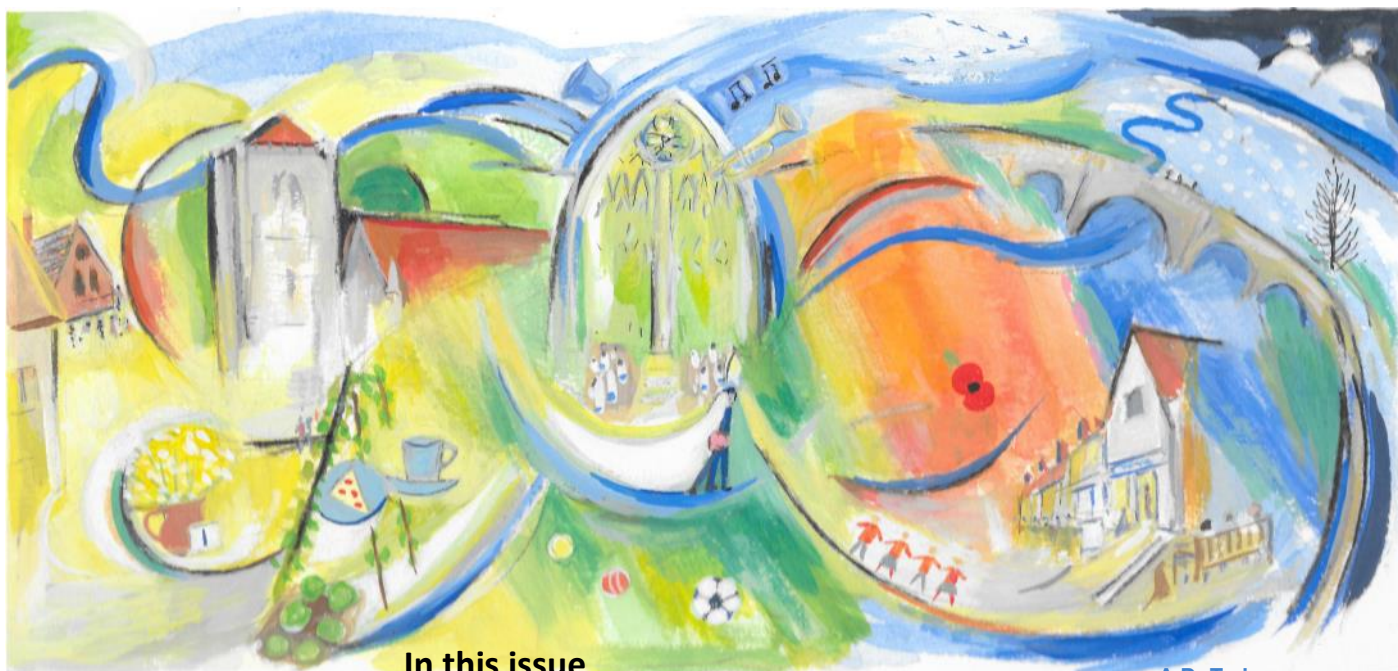


Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

December 2021/January 2022





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A DoT view

The end of the year. Not yet the end of the pandemic but life continues to get back closer to where it was. This is evidenced by the number of concerts and events that are taking place once again, especially those linked to the Christmas season. There are the Posada Party and concerts in the Abbey as there were a couple of years ago, and a panto in the Village Hall, all of which either happened in a much reduced form or not at all last year. The difference still is that these are all subject to the on-going improvement on the pandemic situation and could be scuppered by a resurgence of it or even a few people testing positive. So let's both keep our fingers crossed and keep being sensible with things like wearing masks in enclosed spaces. They may not be compulsory but aren't they still sensible?

This is the last issue for which Rev Sue Booy's has written the Talking Point feature. In January she will retire as Rector of Dorchester Abbey. She will clearly be much missed not just in the Abbey but in the village too—come and see her performance in Snow White if you think she is just about the church. She has also been effectively the publisher of Dorchester News throughout my time as editor. And, although it is underwritten by the church, it has been Sue's sense of community that has allowed us to make Dorchester News a publication for the village as a whole. I, like so many others, will miss you Sue.

Ian Brace

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Megan Parry

Distribution Co-ordinator

Maurice Day

Printed by

Artisan Print Solutions

Cover picture: The lamp at the front of The Manor House, seen through the leaves and berries.

Deadline for February Dorchester News



email:

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Memories

The night before I was interviewed to come to Dorchester and serve here as your rector I drove over from Warborough to pray in the abbey. It looked very different inside at that time as the work of the campaign was still underway. I met Maurice Day who had come to lock up and who, kindly, said I could stay and he would come back later. After I'd left the Abbey I met Denise Line who, as Bishop Colin's PA also knew that I was being interviewed the following day. I had the same conversation with them both as I have about every momentous decision in my life; we hoped and prayed for the right outcome. When I had been interviewed I can remember feeling that I was very unlikely to be appointed but I knew that I'd done my best and promised myself not to be disappointed with the outcome. The rest, as they say, is

history! Denise and Maurice are simply named representatives of the multitude of you to whom I want to say thank you for your welcome support and companionship over seventeen years. Richard and I have so many great memories of our time here and we look forward to sharing those as we meet over the coming weeks.

This time of year tends to be full of memories. With its account of Mary's meetings with the Angel and her cousin Elizabeth and other quite personal material the Nativity as we read it in St Luke's gospel is believed to have been formed by memories told and retold by people who knew Jesus' family as personal friends. It seemed important to Luke to record these details of Jesus's early life and it is his story collection that we treasure as the Christmas story.

Beginnings and the memories of them are important to us. We like to celebrate

our beginnings by remembering birthdays and anniversaries and to mark important milestones. Often those milestones involve making commitments and time and again we might fall short of the standards we set ourselves but that doesn't mean that our commitment has faded - only that we are human! As the New Year turns we have an annual opportunity to start over making new beginnings and renewed commitments in our daily tasks and our relationships.

2022 will mark a very different chapter in our lives and we hope and pray that we will enjoy a last Christmas with you all before making an ending and new beginnings just after the New Year. For now a very Happy Christmas and please...keep in touch!

Practical arrangements after the Rector leaves...

Our Christmas Services Business as Usual!

We are now expecting that it will be possible to hold a full programme of services this Christmas including our popular Candlelit service of Nine Lessons and Carols - always a highlight for many people! We are keen to ensure that everyone feels safe coming to our services and we will be keeping an eye on numbers and on ventilation. At present we are aiming to have a single service at 6pm BUT we expect to issue free undesignated tickets for the Carol Service early in December. The group of young people Pride of NASIO are providing our Nativity drama this year as one of their activities - it's a Nativity with a bit of a twist as well as all the things we normally look forward to and has been written by one of the young people who has acted in many of these! If you're coming do dress up as a Nativity character - it is possible that we will issue tickets in the same way as for the Carol service. Please CHECK noticeboards, social media and the weekly email from the Church at the beginning of December.

We are sending a weekly email with Abbey information; if you want to receive this email - and for up to date information about services - please call the Team Office on **01865 340007** or email admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

Practical arrangements after the Rector leaves...

For the Abbey it will be 'business as usual' after I leave and there are some great people to help answer enquiries and make sure everything happens. Gail Thomas and Malcolm Lucas as Church Wardens hold the responsibility for the parish and I know they will always be happy to talk to you. There is a large group of people supporting them to make sure services, abbey fabric, finance and day to day opening all remain on track. Rev Rachel is available to help on Sundays but is busy during the week in her work for the worldwide Anglican Communion. Rev Catherine is currently on sick leave but we hope she will be making a gradual return to work soon.

The best way to contact the right person to answer your question or respond to a request is to 'ask the office'. Either Kate or Jon, our new administrator, will be in the office (telephone **01865 340007**) every morning from 9am until 12.30pm and they will be able to pass on messages in a timely way and to the right person. You can also email admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk. Emergency contact details will also be available on the office automatic response.

We have a great Team to help you please do just ask.

Christmas Services

Carol Service 6.00pm on **Sunday 19 December** (see above)

Nativity Service 4.30pm on **Christmas Eve**

Midnight Mass 11.30pm on **24 December**

Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Family Christmas Communion. There is a long standing tradition that children bring presents for Rev Sue to see as this service starts - she would be very disappointed not to do this one last time although live Christmas presents are usually best left at home!!

There will be a service of Holy Communion on **26 December** at 9.00am in the Birinus Chapel.



Hempcroft Allotments December

The year is coming to an end and winter has approached and so it is time to prepare for next season and reflect on this year's efforts on your allotment. This year has been a little testing, but remember that there are no failures. It is always down to the weather, pigeons, slugs, or various Acts of God. It is now time to tidy up your plot for the winter and if you have a fruit cage do not forget to remove the top netting. Although it is becoming increasingly unlikely, if there is snow sometime during the next two months it could cause a problem.

Our full size plots are described as 10 pole plots and half size plots are 5 poles. There are quite a few new allotment holders this year and I have often been asked '*how big is a pole?*' or even '*isn't a pole a measurement of length?*' Allotment plot areas are measured in square poles but they are more commonly referred to simply as poles rather than square poles. A pole, rod or perch are all the same length being 5½ yards or 5.0292m. By the way, the name perch derives from the ancient roman unit the pertica which is 10 pedes (Roman foot). So a square pole (or square rod or square perch) is 25.29m² or a 10 pole plot is 252.9 m² exactly. By the way this is also 1/160 of an acre, (a furlong was 40 poles; an acre 4 by 40 poles, or 4 poles by 1 furlong, and thus 160 square poles). To help visualise all this, 10 poles is the size of the penalty area on a football pitch or a doubles tennis court.

I hope that this is not too confusing...

Edward Metcalfe
340160
edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk

Wallingford Food Bank

The number of people in our area who need help from the foodbank has increased to over 200, more than a quarter of whom are children.

More people living alone need assistance and if they, or anyone we know of, needs to get in touch with the foodbank they should ring the dedicated landline **01491 876677** so that they can be offered help and advice.

The Fountain Community Space in Wallingford is open Tuesday – Friday from 10.00am to 2.00pm and anyone who goes in will find a warm welcome together with a hot drink and a piece of cake.

Thank you very much to those of you who donate in the local shops or bring goods to my garage. All donations small and large of goods and money are very gratefully received.

Judy Parker

Dorchester Lunch Club

The lunches in **December** will be on **Wednesday 8** and a Christmas lunch will be on **Wednesday 15 December**, but there is some uncertainty about the venue for the 15th, and therefore it is important that you contact me before that date for the details.

In **January** the lunches will be held on **Wednesday 12 and 26**, in the Village Hall at 12.30 for 12.45 and the cost will be £5 to pay by cash when you arrive. Please phone me before the preceding Monday for each date to say you would like to attend.

Susan Jupp
Co-ordinator of the Dorchester Lunch Club
Phone: **01865 341066** or Mob: **07907 778774**



THE HURST WATER MEADOW TRUST

New blood wanted

The Hurst meadows are a much loved village asset but they don't run themselves. Ten trustees oversee their maintenance and ensure the Trust which owns them delivers its three charitable aims of conservation and protection, education, and public recreation.

After very long service, John Metcalfe, Gillian Johnson, Chris Hill and Shammy Puri are retiring as trustees. We will badly miss their expertise and wise counsel, particularly on ecological and/or water management matters. More broadly, we need trustees who are in touch with the users of all ages of our facilities and have the perspective to keep us firmly grounded while being open to change, recognising that we rely on volunteers. Our work to conserve the meadows depends on the generosity of our private donors supplemented by various grants, so experience in money matters and fund raising is always helpful.

The role is rewarding rather than burdensome - we routinely have only two formal meetings per year in the evening, but much more informal communication and activity between those meetings.

This is your chance to influence how we run this community treasure and experience the pleasure of feeling you are adding value to Dorchester. If you are interested do please contact us. If you are not certain you have the time or relevant experience, talk it over with us. Contact Richard Farrant (Chair) or Gillian Johnson (Hon. Secretary), or any other trustee whom you know (Louise Aukland, Graham Beland, John Metcalfe, Shammy Puri, Chris Hill, Roger Seabrook, Chris Smith, Mike Southon).

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St Birinus School News

We were really pleased to be able to take our Key Stage 2 children into London in November to watch a special children's performance by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The children thoroughly enjoyed

the experience and the excitement of walking along the South Bank and seeing the London Eye and the Houses of Parliament.

All our children are making us proud every day as they continue to demonstrate our core values of compassion, knowledge and diversity in order to achieve our vision of enabling our children to become 'happy, healthy, informed individuals.'

We were pleased to be able to hold a successful open morning and our Year 6 children did a superb job of showing families what our school has to offer.

Our website is the best way for prospective parents and people who do not have children at our school to find out what is going on here at Dorchester St Birinus Primary School.

We are excited to share our new website with our local community. Please do take a few minutes to have a look at <https://www.st-birinus-pri.oxon.sch.uk/>

School place applications are now open for children born between September 2017 and August 2018. We would love to welcome children into our Reception class in 2022. If you would like to come and have a look around our school please give me a call on **01865 340081**.

We continue to be busy here in school as Christmas approaches and we have plans for parties and Nativity performances, panto trips and Christmas lunches.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of our community and we're looking forward to a fabulous Christmas. Merry Christmas from all of us here at Dorchester St Birinus Primary School!

Jo Staples
Headteacher

Great British Christmas Trees For Sale

at Shillingford Farm
Henley Road, Shillingford

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays
in December

Limited supply

Deliveries available
within a 5 mile radius



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 (four days a week, afternoons), but its work goes on throughout the year. During 2021 we were open to the public from late May to end of Sept, following Covid-19 government guidelines.

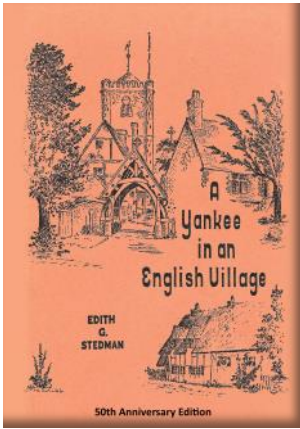
The Museum is managed by a small committee which includes the Curator, and run day-to-day by a team of 30 committed volunteers. The Curator is responsible to Dorchester Abbey's Parochial Church Council and works closely with the Museum Committee. After a successful two year period in post our previous Curator has 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, and annually thereafter. 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 13 December 2021.**

A Yankee in an English Village by Edith Stedman



Some may already know this book about Edith Stedman's life in Dorchester during the 1960s, but if you don't, it is now re-issued by Dorchester Abbey Museum on the 50th anniversary of its first publication. For the 21st century reader, there are notes compiled by Margot Metcalfe that tell you about the characters in the book, the events described and the village as it then was.

Edith Stedman was a retired American academic of some renown, who spent her summers in Dorchester every year from 1959 to 1970, living with friends at The Manor House and in 1971 wrote this account of her life here.

It is an absolutely charming book, running to 85 pages of tales of village life. Think the James Herriot books of his life as a vet in this same period, only with Edith organising whatever she could around the Abbey, being instrumental in starting the Abbey Museum in the Guest House and raising funds for the Abbey. It seems that every year she had a new project. There is the lovely story about the Abbey Museum biscuit mould. Having decided that Museum biscuits would be good sellers, she needed moulds in order to make them. Being a confident American, in a most un-British way, she simply turned up at the gates of Huntley and Palmer in Reading, one of the country's biggest biscuit makers of the time and asked to talk to someone. This ended up with tea with Mr Palmer and the production of Dorchester Museum biscuit moulds for no charge.

Edith was well connected. The foreword to the book was written by her friend Penelope Jessel, later Lady Jessel; her

friend at BOAC who saw she got good seats on transatlantic flights was Tom King, later to be Lord King, chairman of British Airways; the chair of her fund-raising committee was Lady Gibbs. Even the mad man who turned up at the Abbey having moored on the Thames and with a plan that there should be a marina built next to the Abbey turns out to be Lord St Davids.

But she also writes about the village, many of the characters and events of the time. The Hankey sisters of Lych Gate Cottage who talk apparent nonsense; Miss Frain of Bull Cottage who would go to bed with her clothes on so as not to be late for church next morning. And she had her own version of the Baker Street Irregulars, a group of lads who did jobs for her and sometimes had to be called to order by Sergeant Day.

She blotted her copy book, however, when the Queen Mother visited Dorchester and Edith was sat with her at tea. Instinctively, Edith patted the Queen Mum on the knee, and was quickly whisked away. That didn't stop her, though, from receiving an honorary OBE, a gargoyle in her representation on the exterior of the Abbey, and an inscription on the Abbey lych gate in honour of all the work and fund-raising she did for the Abbey.

This is a delightful read of a time gone by, but one that is so relevant to Dorchester residents now because she certainly left a legacy that we continue to enjoy. A Christmas gift that anyone in Dorchester would enjoy.



Edith, right, with Miss Margaret Hankey

See below for how to buy a copy in time for Christmas.

Dorchester Historical Society A date for the diary - Wednesday 26 January 7.30pm in Dorchester Abbey. Modern buildings in Oxford.



The speaker will be **John Stevenson**, architect, formerly head of the School of Architecture at Oxford Brookes University, and Dorchester resident, who will speak on **Modern buildings in Oxford**.

All Welcome



Dorchester Abbey Museum News

Edith Stedman's *Yankee in an English Village*

The perfect Xmas present!

Reissued 50 years after its original publication, Edith's charming and amusing account of life in Dorchester during the 1950s-1970s, with detailed explanatory notes by Margot Metcalfe. Beautifully illustrated with twelve pages of photos of Edith and the village during her time here. Price £9.99.

Also available:

Edith Stedman's *Monastery Guest House Cook Book*, her wide-ranging collection of recipes old and new from monasteries and abbeys around the world. Price £7.50

Both books available from Linda Hender, 11 Page Furlong, 01865 340032, linda.hender@btinternet.com,
Or Maggie Martin, 01865 343207, maggiiep55@btinternet.com

Dorchester Abbey Christmas Cards

Sold in aid of Dorchester Abbey

Please do buy your Christmas cards from the Abbey this year!

They are available from the museum or from Steph Forman steph@forman.org.uk 01865 340434

All cards are sold with envelopes in packs of 10 for £4.50 and are colour printed on glossy quality card with 'Happy Christmas' inside and 'Sold in aid of Dorchester Abbey' on the back.

Nativity scene
in the Shrine
Chapel
12 x 12cm



Victorian wall
painting of the
Annunciation
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(blank inside)



Christ Child from
the Shrine Chapel
13 x 13cm



Angels from
the Shrine
Chapel
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Remembrance Day Sunday 14 November

Once again Remembrance Day was commemorated with a service in Dorchester Abbey followed by one at the War Memorial led by representatives of the Anglican and Roman Catholic communities of Dorchester, leading up to and past the two minute silence at 11.00am. Wreaths were laid including this year one laid by two members of Dorchester Abbey Junior Choir on behalf of 'children of today'. Other wreaths were laid by Deputy Lord Lieutenant Helen Baker, Chris Hill representing Dorchester British Legion, and Mark Williams representing Dorchester Parish Council. Shortly after, two helicopters came out of a grey sky to perform a fly past.



29th April—8th May 2022

Time to put our 9th Dorchester Festival in your diaries!

60+ events over 10 days; opera to cocktail masterclasses, big band to inflatable brains and vicars walking on custard, local history to cookery workshops.

Over the years we have raised over £200k and in 2022 our profits will be shared between Dorchester Abbey and Daybreak, an Oxfordshire charity who provide social and therapeutic respite days for people living with dementia.

Find out what's in the programme

Be the first to hear about the programme as the events are booked by taking a look at our website (www.dorchesterfestival.com) and following us on twitter (@dorfestival) & facebook (@dorchesterfestival). You can also make sure you get an early bird discount by joining our mailing list using the button on the front page of the website—we'll email you as soon as tickets are released!

Become a Festival friend and get advanced booking and front row seats.



Can you help?

Does your business sponsor events or would they advertise in the programme?

Could you help to organise an event or spend some time online helping with marketing?

We are looking for people to help out on the day—serving tea, selling tickets, photographing teddy bears, kayaking after ducks... There are jobs for all ages and abilities and it's a great way to make new friends. Contact Steph Forman at steph@forman.org.uk or **07711 046818**.



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Village Hall 150th Anniversary!

Although the bulk of the finance will flow from external sources, over the coming months the Village Hall Trustees will be organising several fund-raising opportunities in which the whole community can become involved. These include the formation of a new group – **'The Friends of Dorchester Village Hall'** – the relaunch of **'The 200 Club'**, and fun-events such as the ever-popular **race-night** and a **'Murder Mystery'** in association with The White Hart.

More details will be available soon but we are pleased to announce that in celebration of the Hall's important forthcoming

Friday 7 January 2022 marks the 150th Anniversary of the opening of the Girls' and Infants' School in what is now Dorchester Village Hall, designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott, England's greatest architect of the Victorian period.

The building was funded by Rev William Macfarlane and his sister Jessie. Macfarlane was appointed Vicar of Dorchester in 1856 and employed Gilbert Scott in all of his projects in the village, starting with the restoration of the north aisle of Dorchester Abbey. Local Scott landmarks include Clifton Hampden bridge and the Martyrs' Memorial in Oxford. Among his work elsewhere, the hotel at St Pancras Station and the Albert Memorial are some of the most celebrated.

The recently-announced plans for the radical modernisation of the Village Hall include the restoration of the historically important features of this outstanding Gilbert Scott building as illustrated. This is a £600k programme that will improve every aspect of the Hall's layout and facilities. Further details are available from <https://dotvillagehall.fund/>

anniversary, a **Victorian-themed evening** will be held on **Saturday 23 April**. The entertainment will be in keeping with this historical connection – 'fancy dress' will be optional!

For further information contact admin@dotvh.org.uk



Gilbert Scott Hall

The village hall of Dorchester-on-Thames

DO YOU HAVE A COUPLE OF HOURS A WEEK TO SPARE? VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS OFFICER REQUIRED

Emma, our Bookings Officer, needs to take a break and so we are looking for someone to take her place to co-ordinate our bookings and liaise with people wanting to use our village hall.

This would suit someone with some time to spare, an interest in village events and social activities and willing to help us maintain running an essential village asset.

The job can be managed at home on a PC along with occasional visits to the village hall.

Please help us keep the hall viable as an on-going centre for village activities.

For more details contact Keith Russell, 01865 340838 or Mark Williams, 01865 340441 or email admin@dotvh.org.uk

Dorchester Village Hall is a registered charity No .900244



Pilates & Personal Training



Monday 9.30, Zumba Gold
Pilates 10.30 at Blewbury Village Hall

Tuesday 9.30, Zumba Gold
at Dorchester Village Hall

Tuesday 11.00, Zumba Gold
Pilates 12.00 at Steventon Village Hall

Wednesday 9.00, Zumba Gold
Pilates 10.00 at Crowmarsh Village Hall

Thursday 13.30 Zumba Gold Toning on zoom
Zoom recording of the class is included which lasts 7 days

Friday 9.00, Zumba Gold at Chalgrove
Village Hall

Friday 10.45, Zumba Gold at
Marcham Centre

All classes are £5 and are streamed on zoom, recordings are available too. for more info please contact Stu
stu-zumba@hotmail.co.uk
Drop-ins are welcome, See you In class!!

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Warborough & Shillingford WI

Our October meeting was special, we were back in the newly revamped St Laurence Hall after 18 months. Rachel Walker arranged a Cheese and Herb identification quiz [surprisingly difficult!] accompanied by wine or soft drinks and it was a great success. This was an opportunity for old friends to catch up and meet the new members who have joined while we were virtual.

Gill Whitten, formerly resident in Warborough and now in Dorchester, is coming, in November, to show us some of her Personal History Quilts and tell us how she designs and makes them.

And with luck we will have our Christmas party in the St Laurence Hall in December.

The 2022 programme is almost complete and has a fascinating mix of subjects. The first will be a talk by Peter Adamson about his book, Landmark in Time, which is a series of stories set around Wittenham Clumps.

The **Walking Group**: we are walking and talking every second Friday guided by Chris Tilley.

The **Craft Group**: Clare Dewell and Wendy Rapp will be steering many of us to make bunting for next year's celebrations.

W&S WI Centenary 2022. The little oak tree will be planted on the Green by the time you read this and in the spring we hope we will see the fritillaries growing in the grass around the tree. The fritillary is the symbol of Oxfordshire WI so is significant.

Community projects: the WI Christmas Collection is for Women's Refuges and we would like to thank all of you who have made contributions. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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

Liz Eaton,
President
lizmeaton@gmail.com
tel 01865 858534

Saturday 18th December 2021 - 7pm to 11pm

PRIDE OF NASIO* CHRISTMAS DISCO

DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL, QUEEN STREET,
DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES

Tickets: £5 per individual or £15.50 per family (2 adults and 2 children)



Bar

*Pride of Nasio are a group of young people from the local area who will be raising money to travel to Kenya to volunteer with the Nasio Trust. Activities will include: house building; working with the Red Cross; helping in the Day Care Centre and community schools

Tickets from Ticketsource



www.ticketsource.co.uk/pride-of-nasio

Snow White will soon be here

The panto is back. On Wednesday 2 December the lights go up on this year's DADS pantomime, Snow White.

Our reporter from Dorchester News was invited to visit the cast and crew at a recent rehearsal and full of excitement I turned up at the Village Hall to be greeted by a display of colourful costumes the like of which I have never seen before. The more than 20 members of the cast were there in all their magnificent finery, dressed to dazzle by wardrobe mistress Elaine Williams.

I was allowed to stay and watch parts of the rehearsals. Obviously there were some key moments that I was not allowed to see, to avoid ruining the surprises and fun of the production, but what I saw showed that this has all the hallmarks of a great fun show, with a mixture of familiar faces and some exciting new ones.

Snow White is played by Alice Hope. This is Alice's first time with DADS, although she is an experienced amateur dramatics performer. She has done pantos before but she is

particularly excited by this because it is the first time she played a title character. Everyone at DADS has been so welcoming, she said, and she has enjoyed the production immensely. I should add that Snow White has several songs to sing, and Alice's voice is just perfect for them.

The Prince is played by Ryan Fannin. Ryan has been cast before in DADS production, but it was the one that got cancelled by the Covid pandemic, so this is his first actual performance with DADS. The Prince, of course, saves Snow White with a kiss, so it is just as well that Ryan is...Alice's boyfriend.

The director of the show is Ann Winslet, who has produced previous DADS pantos, so we know that this is going to be as slick a production as ever.

Get your tickets for the 2,3, 4 December—two shows on the Saturday—but they are already going fast and you will regret having missed this one.

See ad opposite for how to get tickets.



Snow White and her lady-in-waiting



The Dame shows off his finery



The 'dwarves' - well six of them



The cast listen attentively to the director



Snow White

A Panto by John Yates



2nd - 4th December 2021

Dorchester-on-Thames Village Hall

Thursday & Friday 7pm, Saturday 2pm and 6pm

www.ticketsource.co.uk/dads £10 (U12s £8)

DADS
Dorchester Amateur Dramatic Society

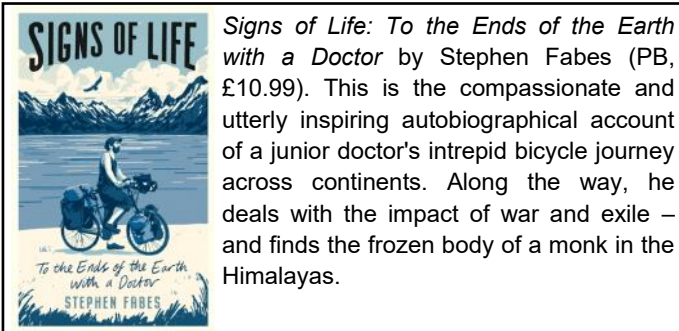
Goings-on at Wallingford Bookshop

'Hello, I'm Andrew Cotter. I've got a book out today and thought I'd visit the Wallingford Bookshop this afternoon...' One of the very special things about working in the bookshop is that, when the phone rings, you're never quite sure what's in store. This is the kind of call we love. A BBC sports commentator, Andrew Cotter shot to 'fame' during the first lockdown for his online video commentaries of Olive and Mabel, his two dogs. If you haven't already done so, look them up – 'The Walk of Shame' is particularly good. As

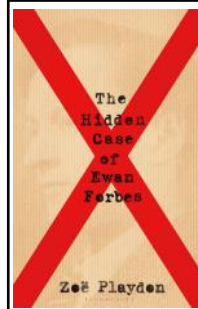
Cotter's new book, *Dog Days* (HB, £20), shows, he is just as witty on paper as he is in person, making this the perfect gift for dog lovers. And, with Christmas fast approaching, the bookshop is once again brim-full of customers looking for special gifts that are just a little bit different. Here is an eclectic mix of fascinating recent releases to explore.



Karen's other picks for Christmas:

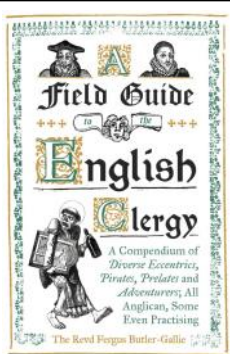


Signs of Life: To the Ends of the Earth with a Doctor by Stephen Fabes (PB, £10.99). This is the compassionate and utterly inspiring autobiographical account of a junior doctor's intrepid bicycle journey across continents. Along the way, he deals with the impact of war and exile – and finds the frozen body of a monk in the Himalayas.

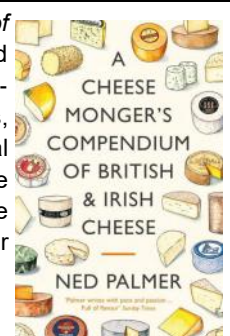


The Hidden Case of Ewan Forbes: The Transgender Trial that Threatened to Upend the Establishment by Zoe Playdon (HB, £20). This unveils a secret court case, held in 1965, challenging Ewan Forbes' baronetcy inheritance. Tradition dictated that inheritance should follow the male line, but Ewan, now happily married and working as a doctor, had been born Elisabeth.

A Field Guide to the English Clergy: A Compendium of Diverse Eccentricities, Pirates, Prelates and Adventurers; All Anglican, Some Even Practising by Reverent Fergus Butler-Gallie's book (PB, £8.99). Wow, what a title! Apparently, the 'Mermaid of Morwenstow' excommunicated a cat for mousing on a Sunday. How? Why? So many questions...



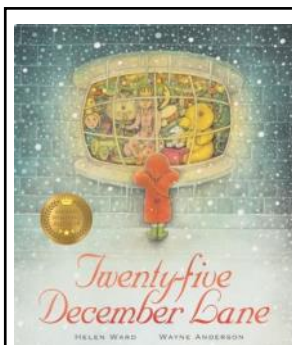
A Cheesemonger's Compendium of British and Irish Cheese by Ned Palmer (HB, £14.99). Features full-page descriptions of 150 cheeses, including their origins. Our local 'Sinodun Hill' is in it, said to be made using 'a natural rennet derived from the Cardoon thistle'. Useful research for the Christmas cheeseboard!



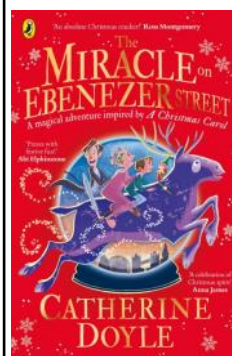
Three Christmassy treats for younger readers



Tinsel: The Girls Who Invented Christmas by Sibeal Pounder (8-12 years, PB, £6.99). A magical new take on the origins of Christmas. Blanche Claus and her best friend Rinki go on a crazy Christmas caper to the north pole where they encounter lots of elves all called Carol and a hilarious fir tree called Eggnog. A touching story about friendship.



Twenty Five December Lane by Helen Ward and Wayne Anderson (4-5 years, picture book, £6.99). This includes beautifully detailed images provide lots of talking points. It's Christmas Eve and a young girl is trying to buy the perfect gift when she meets a friendly bearded gentleman. Hmm, I wonder who that could be...



Miracle on Ebenezer Street by Catherine Doyle (8-12 years, PB, £7.99). A re-working of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* that conjures up a whole range of emotions. Young George's dad is a bit of a Scrooge. With the aid of a snow globe from Marley's Curiosity Shop, and a grumpy purple reindeer, father and son explore the past – and the hope offered by the future.



Above: Elinor Carter. Below: Muriel Phillips

Concert of Seasonal Favourites

Dorchester Abbey

Thursday 9 December 7.30pm

On **Thursday 9 December** at 7.30pm, local mezzo-soprano Elinor Carter will bring you a bit of Christmas sparkle in the more intimate Shrine Chapel of Dorchester Abbey. She and pianist Muriel Phillips will perform seasonal favourites such as '*In the Bleak Midwinter*', '*Oh Holy Night*' and '*I'm Dreaming Of A White Christmas*', and there will be opportunity for audience participation!

Tickets are £15 (£10 children/students) to include a glass of mulled wine or fruit juice and a mince pie and should be booked in advance by contacting Elinor on **07711 319444** or elinormezzo@gmail.com



Beautiful Star

Wednesday, 15 December 2021, 7.00pm, donations

Have you ever stood in the mountains, no city lights around, looking up, seeing all these stars above you? It's very impressive and it may be that this experience has made many generations before us turn to the stars for company, support or guidance. Every year at Christmas we take the tale of the Star of Bethlehem for granted. The story tells us that it led the three wise men to the birthplace of Jesus. Astronomically speaking it has caused quite a lot of

controversy amongst historians and scientists - so we thought we'd just tell its story through music.

Susanne Mecklenburg - voice

William Hancox - piano

Sophie Hebden - oboe

Michael Eisinger - viola



Traffic calming measures – residents survey

Please use the survey form on line on the village Facebook and website. If you prefer paper then please use this form and return to Mike Corran, 77 High St.

The Parish Council wants your views on how Dorchester should respond to the new County Council initiative to encourage 20mph limits and other traffic speed measures where local communities support them. Your response to this survey will help us agree the best way forward. The closing date for this survey is Christmas Day. Thank you.

1. Which of the following best describes which part of Dorchester you live in?

- ☐ Abingdon Rd
- ☐ Oxford Rd / Drayton Rd
- ☐ High St
- ☐ Overy
- ☐ Meadside
- ☐ Watling Lane
- ☐ Bridge End
- ☐ Queen St
- ☐ Other

2. Do you support additional traffic calming measures in Dorchester?

- ☐ No – we are fine as we are
- ☐ Yes – I would like to see additional traffic calming measures – please complete Q3

3. Which traffic calming measures do you support

- ☐ A 20mph zone through the centre of the village (eg Abingdon Rd/High St junction to bridge)
- ☐ Speed display screens on the approaches to the village (eg near the sailing club /Meadside)

4. Do you have any other comments (eg on variants to those listed under Q3)?

Parish Council Notices

Council Meetings

The December Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 8 December** commencing at 7.30p.m. and the January Meeting on **Wednesday 12 January 2022** also commencing at 7.30p.m. The Agenda will be posted on Village Noticeboards and on the Parish Council section of the Village website – www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk - three clear days in advance of each meeting.

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.

Contacting the Parish Council

The Parish Clerk is Geoffrey Russell of The Pigeons (next to The Fleur de Lys), 5-7 High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames OX10 7HH Telephone (during normal office hours, please, unless an emergency) **07745 311439**.

Texts are always welcome. e-mail:

parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Cllr Mark Williams, the Chairman, can be contacted via chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

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



From the Chairman of the Parish Council

I seem to be updating you every month at the moment about transport matters. And more this month in a transport focused report. That's because there is a lot going on and things are moving on rapidly on some fronts.

As anticipated, the County Council have launched their plans to make 20mph the norm in built up areas where it has community consent. They have massively streamlined the process and set a target of three years to implement their policy in all parishes who wish to take part. Their direction of travel and enthusiasm to get there quickly is clear so now it is time for us as a community to decide what we want to do, if anything, given our particular circumstances. We are being encouraged to get a clear view as promptly as possible.

Dorchester starts in a good place given the speed survey which I shared in September. That said, there are a range of options for us to consider as the County Council have removed the current restrictions on the criteria for a 20mph zone. We could, as an extreme, zone the whole parish, or simply select a central area. In order to get the widest possible input from the community we are asking for feedback from as many residents as possible in the next couple of months. One way or another, traffic and how we manage it affects us all so we really do want to hear from you. The survey form is available on the village Facebook page and website and a paper form is included in this edition of Dorchester News if you prefer that medium. (See opposite.)

Once we have your feedback we will attempt to distil the range of views into a practical consensus plan and work with the authorities to refine it.

Whilst we are on transport matters I'm pleased to report that the parish council has funded and installed better lighting by the bus stop on the far side of the bypass. It's all up and running in time for the darker nights and hopefully will make more people feel able to use the bus service safely.

More frustratingly, the motor bike noise is persisting and getting action from the various authorities is proving challenging to say the least for all the villages concerned. Suffice to say we continue to wade as much as we can through the bureaucratic treacle.

Mark Williams
Chairman DoT Parish Council

Dorchester News Crossword No.19 Solution

Compiled by Slider

	1V	E	2S	T	3R	Y		4P	5S	A	6L	M	7S	
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11R	A	F	F	1	A		12P	O	L	T	R	O	O	N
	N				C		O		L		A		W	
13G	O	O	14D	S	E	N	S	E		15E	T	O	N	
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21B	E	K	I	N	D	T	O		22R	A	23K	I	N	G
	M		M		O		N		O		N		D	
24C	O	L	E	O	P	T	E	R	A		25E	V	E	N
	N		N		T		D		D		L		R	
26A	T	T	E	S	T		27I	S	T	L	E	S		

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



Garden Waste Collections

The garden waste collection service is now back to normal. Those using this service have had their subscription period extended by three months.

Capital Grant funding available to help good causes in South Oxfordshire

South Oxfordshire District Council is launching a new round of its Capital Grant Scheme with grants available of up to £75,000 for local voluntary and community organisations and town and parish councils.

This grant can fund up to 50 per cent of the total cost of capital projects like contributing to buying a building, replacing or making improvements to long term assets such as play areas and equipment.

Voluntary and community organisations and town and parish councils will also need to consider how their project will contribute to at least one of the council's Corporate Plan 2020-2024 priorities, such as 'protect and restore our natural world', 'action on the climate emergency' or 'improved economic and community well-being'.

New offices at the Gateway site opposite Didcot station

The concept design for the new district council building at Didcot Gateway has been approved, and the detailed design process is now getting underway.

The concept design for the building is available to view on the council's website. Because of its location the building is being designed to reflect the town's industrial and railway heritage as well as meeting the principles set out in the Didcot Garden Town delivery plan, meaning it reflects both local history and the town's future.

In line with the councils' commitments to tackle the climate

emergency, the offices will be built to meet a strict sustainability standard, known as the BREEAM Excellent standard – this would put the building in the top 10 per cent of new non-domestic buildings in the UK in terms of its sustainability performance. To help meet that standard, the building will feature solar panels on its roof and potentially even on covered visitor parking spaces.

To help the councils meet their commitments to building stable finances, the building will also include commercial office space the councils can let to a third party. The location opposite the station should help in our efforts to encourage sustainable commuting and the flexible space will accommodate organisations, which like the council want to explore more flexible ways of working after the pandemic. The central site will also be more accessible to the public than the current expensive offices at Milton Park.

Council Motions

At its council meeting on Thursday 7 October, South Oxfordshire District Council agreed a series of motions aimed at boosting efforts to address the climate emergency, and to protect and enhance the natural environment and increase biodiversity, including changes to building regulations and 'retrofitting' old homes – that is, improving insulation and updating heating systems.

The motions all highlight the need for government to take action to remove unnecessary barriers which are delaying or impacting measures to tackle the climate emergency at a local level. As we reflect on COP26, councillors believe these actions will be vital if the UK wishes to lead by example in the fight against climate change.

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

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.

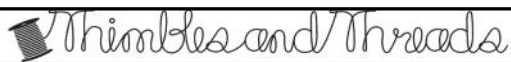
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one week before the deadline for editorial copy given on page 2.

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WOODBURNING STOVES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

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

New 20mph policy passed by Cabinet

The county council is changing its approach and acceptance of 20mph restrictions which will enable a much greater coverage across Oxfordshire.

The proposal is aimed to:

- make streets safer
- encourage residents to walk or cycle
- reduce noise and pollution.

The initiative will not be compulsory and will need to be supported by the parish council and the local county councillor. We anticipate a lot of demand, so requests from parishes will be prioritised by need; the aim is to get all requests done within three years. Dorchester PC has already done a lot of preparatory work and speed surveys.

The introduction of 20mph restrictions in other areas has already cut speeds and accidents. The area of the proposed restriction should not have a speed limit that is greater than 40mph. It can be a whole village or town or just one street within the area.

Full information can be found at

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/traffic/requesting-20mph>

Leader's letters to the Prime Minister on financial challenges facing county councils

The leader of the County Council, Cllr Liz Leffman, wrote to the prime minister in advance of the government's autumn budget to highlight the predicted funding shortfalls in social care for adults and children, and provision for children with special educational needs. The letters can be read in full here: <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/urgently-address-funding-issues>

Out-of-hours highways service up and running

Oxfordshire residents can now report a highways matter to Oxfordshire County Council outside normal office hours – including evenings, weekends and bank holidays – if there are concerns about it causing an accident or damaging property, by calling **01223 849731**.

The call adviser will discuss the urgency of the issue and take appropriate action as required.

During normal working hours, people should continue to call the council's customer service centre on 0345 310 1111. If the situation is potentially life threatening, people should call emergency services on 999. For routine reports of problems, I recommend using <https://www.fixmystreet.com>

Climate change: our commitment in Oxfordshire

Whatever you think of the results from COP26, the fight against climate change is at the heart of everything we are doing as a council. Every decision we take weighs up the impact on carbon emissions and our work is underpinned by our commitment to become a zero carbon county council by 2030 and enable the whole of Oxfordshire to be carbon neutral by 2050 – if not sooner. Find out more about what's going on across the county:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/energy-and-climate-change/cop26-our-commitment>

Reminder: Civil parking enforcement starts 1 Nov

Following extensive preparation and commitment at County and District level, civil parking enforcement will officially commence on 1 November 2021 in South Oxfordshire, Vale of the White Horse and Cherwell districts. This means parking offences in those areas previously enforced by the police become the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council – these parking violations will become civil offences. In Oxfordshire, enforcement will apply for on-street parking (roads and highways). The changes will result in increased, more consistent enforcement of waiting and loading restrictions, double parking offences and dropped kerb obstructions.

COVID-19 update

Of course, COVID-19 is still with us. As always, all the latest public health advice can be found at

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/coronavirus-covid-19>

robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk

tel. 01865 858680

m. 07979 646815



Football Results North Berks League Div 1



06/11/2021 Dorchester First 1 7 Berinsfield First

13/11/2021 Drayton First 2 0 Dorchester First

North Berks Charity Shield

23/10/2021 Dorchester First 3 3 Hagbourne United

Hagbourne United win 7-6 on penalties



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

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

We have decided to have full seating for all events from the end of November. This is in line with the practices and guidelines elsewhere. We are asking patrons to still sanitise their hands, and wear a face covering especially when moving around the building. We'll continue to fog all public areas after each performance. We're grateful for patrons for their observation of all the Covid rules that we have implemented in the theatre. Please look out for new updates for the programme on the website www.cornexchange.org.uk.

December

Wed 1	Anything Goes
Thurs 2	The Power of the Dog (15)
Fri 3	The Power of the Dog (15)
Sat 4	Ron's Gone Wrong (PG) 10.30am and 2.30pm
Sat 4	The Power of the Dog (15) 7.30pm
Sun 5	The Power of the Dog (15) 2.30pm
Mon 6	Dune (12A)
Tues 7	Dune (12A)
Wed 8	Dune (12A)
Fri 10	Spencer (12A)
Sat 11	Spencer (12A)
Sen 12	Spencer (12A)
Fri 17	House of Gucci (15)
Sun 19	House of Gucci (15)
Mon 20	House of Gucci (15)
Wed 22	House of Gucci (15)
Thurs 23	House of Gucci (15)

Live Screenings

Thursday, 9 December, 7.15pm Nutcracker
From the Royal Opera House

Tickets £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

A Live Streaming from the Royal Opera House to launch its new international Cinema Season after 16 months of closure, with Peter Wright's spectacular production of The Nutcracker. A festive favourite for the whole family, it was created for The Royal Ballet in 1984, and has delighted audiences ever since.

Loosely based on the story by E.T.A. Hoffmann, the ballet begins in the 19th-century German home of the Stahlbaums, where they are hosting a lively Christmas party. The period setting is captured in opulent detail by Julia Trevelyan Oman's designs, which include authentic Christmas tree decorations that are magically brought to life. Wright's choreography ingeniously incorporates surviving fragments

of the ballet's original material, including the sublime pas de deux for the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Prince. But in emphasizing the relationship between Clara and the Nutcracker, the production also gains a touching subtext of first love.

Wednesday, 15 December, 7.15pm Tosca
From the Royal Opera House

Tickets £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors), £10 (under 18s)

Sung in Italian with English surtitles.

Into the romantic world of an idealistic painter, Cavaradossi, and his sensuous lover Tosca comes the malevolence of Baron Scarpia, Chief of Police, with fatal results. Jonathan Kent's taut and intense production with Paul Brown's historically charged designs wonderfully evokes the dangerous atmosphere of Rome in 1800, where love and evil come – thrillingly – face to face.

Live Music

Saturday, 18 December, 7:30pm

Punchbowl from the Sinodun Players

Tickets £10 (adults), £5 (under 16s)

With music from the Outriders and other local talent. Come and start Christmas with some good fun.

Live show

From 14 to 29 January,

Sleeping Beauty from the Sinodun Players

Twelve evening performances (Tuesday to Friday at 7:30pm and Saturdays at 6:30pm) and three matinees (Saturdays at 2.00pm).

After a year's absence, the Sinodun Players are roaring back with their seasonal humorous retelling of Charles Perrault's classic French fairy tale. This time-travelling version, written by Wallingford-based Pete Orton and Barbara Wood, will transport you to a land not so far away in an extravagant stage show encompassing a time lord, a cheeky cat, a bunch of hippy festival goers and a script for all the family!

Tickets £12 (adults-Tuesday to Thursday), £15 (adults (Friday, Saturday), £8 (under 16s)

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Dr Ash Ratti (BDS Hons) Kings College London
www.stmarysdental.co.uk

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Tel **01491 825252**

We are a family orientated Practice located in the centre of
Wallingford providing care and consideration from all
members of my team to help provide you with all aspects of
your dental requirements.

For further information, or make an appointment, please
call my Receptionist on **01491 825252**

Day by day

Thurs 2 Dec	DADS Snow White 7.00pm Village Hall
Fri 3 Dec	DADS Snow White 7.00pm Village Hall
Sat 4 Dec	DADS Snow White 2.00pm and 6.30pm Village Hall
Sun 5 Dec	Advent 2 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Sung Eucharist
Wed 8 Dec	Lunch Club 12.30pm Village Hall Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
Thurs 9 Dec	Concert of Seasonal Favourites Elinor Carter 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Sat 11 Dec	Decorating Christmas Tree 9.30am Dorchester Abbey OSJ Concert Ceremony of Carols 7.00pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 12 Dec	Advent 3 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Posada Party
Tues 14 Dec	Chiropodist Village Hall Appointment only see page 21
Wed 15 Dec	Christmas Lunch Club 12.30pm Village Hall Beautiful Star 7.00pm Dorchester Abbey



Sat
18 Dec
OSJ Concert
Handel Messiah
7.00pm
Dorchester Abbey

Pride of Nasio
Christmas Disco
7.00pm
Village Hall

Sun
19 Dec
Advent 4
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am
Sung Eucharist

3.00pm
Carol Service

6.00pm
Carol Service (see page 3)

Fri
24 Dec
Christmas Eve
4.30pm
Crib Service

11.30pm
Midnight Service

Sat
25 Dec
Christmas Day
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am
Family Christmas Communion

Sun
27 Dec
First Sunday of Christmas
9.00am
Team Communion Service

Fri
31 Dec
OSJ Concert
Overtures and dances
6.00pm
Dorchester Abbey

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

Weekly events

Tuesday Coffee Morning
10.30am
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

Thursday Well Being Walk
10.00am
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

Weekly events in the Village Hall

Tuesday Zumba Gold
9.30am

Busby Dance
2.15pm

Yoga
Imogen Clare
6.00pm

Wednesday Pilates
5.30pm

Tango
7.30pm

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

Parish Registers

Marriages

30 Oct David Booy and
Fanny Vergnon



Day by day

Sun 2 Jan **Epiphany or 2nd Sunday of Christmas**
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am
Sung Eucharist

Sat 8 Jan **Drop in café** with Rev Sue
Dorchester Abbey
10.00am-12.00noon

Sun 9 Jan **Baptism of Christ**
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am
Family Communion

Wed 12 Jan **Chiropodist**
Village Hall
Appointment only see page 21

Lunch Club
12.30pm
Village Hall

Parish Council Meeting
7.30pm
Village Hall

Sun 16 Jan **2nd Sunday of Epiphany**
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am
Sung Eucharist and Rector's Farewell



Wed 26 Jan **Lunch Club**
12.30pm
Village Hall

Dorchester Historical Society
Modern Architecture in Oxford
7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Sun 23 Jan **3rd Sunday of Epiphany**
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

Team service at Long Wittenham—
led by Families and Young People

Sun 30 Jan **4th Sunday of Epiphany**
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am
Reflective Service

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

Weekly events

Tuesday Coffee Morning
10.30am
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

Weekly events in the Village Hall

Tuesday Zumba Gold
9.30am

Busby Dance
3.15pm

Wednesday Tango
7.30pm

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

BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

Visit your local library and see
what we have on offer

Rhymes for the under 5s: Wednesdays 10.30am

Storytime: Wednesdays 3.00pm

IT Drop in: Thursdays 2.00pm

Knit and Natter: Tues 7 Dec, 4 Jan 2.30pm

Reading Group: Thurs 9 Dec, 20 Jan 2.30pm

Coffee morning: Tues 21 Dec, 18 Jan 10.30am

All Welcome

Berinsfield Library opening times:

Tuesday: 10.00am to 1.00pm & 2.00pm to 5.30pm

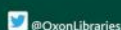
Wednesday: 10.00am to 1.00 & 2.00pm to 5.30pm

Thursday: 2.00pm to 5.30pm

Friday: 10.00am to 1.00pm & 2.00pm to 5.30pm

Saturday: 10.00am to 12.30pm

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries



Wellbeing Walks

Has lockdown affected your well being and are you looking to be active and
socialise with people?

Want to get more active?

Join us for a short walk of 30 minutes, at a gentle pace at
locations across the South Oxfordshire.

Walking is a great way to get fit, explore what's on your doorstep
and make new friends.

Dorchester

Thursday - 10am

Meet: Outside Co-op

Our walks are free, but please contact us prior to attending.
All our walks follow Covid-19 safety guidelines.

For more information please email:
active.communities@southandvale.gov.uk

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

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

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

OPENING HOURS

See page 7 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: 10.13; 10.48am
From Wallingford Market Place: 12.15; 12.50pm

OTHER BUS SERVICES

Services X38, X39 X40 go every 20 minutes from the bypass at the end of Drayton Road to Oxford and Wallingford. Information about bus services, both local and national, is available from www.traveline.info, and **0871 200 2233**. Reduced services currently being run.

AGE UK

The UK's largest charity working with older people For help and advice etc. go to www.ageuk.org.uk

WALLINGFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE

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

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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/.

USEFUL CONTACTS

ANGLICAN PRIEST

Dorchester Rectory
Rev. Canon Sue Booy
01865 340007

ABBEY E-MAIL:

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

VILLAGE WEBSITE

www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST

The Presbytery
Fr. John Osman
Bridge End
01865 340417
www.stbirinus.co.uk

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



REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Fri 3 Dec **Green**
Fri 10 Dec **Black**
Fri 17 Dec **Green**
Fri 24 Dec **Black**
Wed 5 Jan **Green***
Tues 11 Jan **Black**
Mon 17 Jan **Green**
Sat 22 Jan **Black**
Fri 28 Jan **Green**

*No garden waste collection on 5 Jan

For collection of Christmas trees see www.southoxon.gov.uk/christmaswaste

Weekdays from 7.00am
Saturdays from 6.00am

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

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

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A photograph of an older man with glasses, wearing a light purple button-down shirt, smiling while playing a cello. The cello has a yellow cloth draped over its body. The background shows the interior of a church with wooden paneling and a large organ pipe.

osj

Sat 11 Dec 7pm

Britten Ceremony of
Carols

Sat 18 Dec 7pm

Handel Messiah

OSJ Oxford Voices

Fri 31 Dec 6pm

New Years Eve

Overtures and Dances

Orchestra of
St John's
Dorchester Abbey

Tickets £20-£15
osj.org.uk