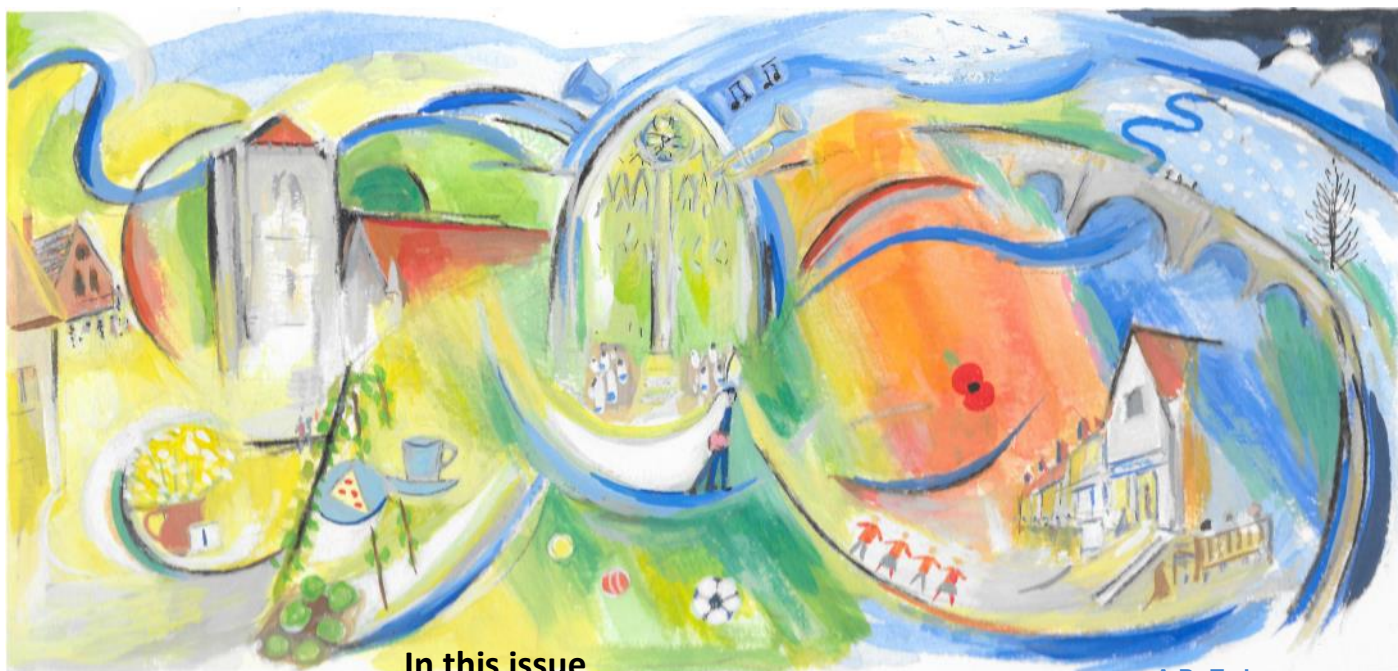


Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

November 2021





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Cover picture: Rose hips in the Abbey Rose Walk

**Deadline for
December/January
Dorchester News**



email:

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

A DoT view

We are coming towards the end of 2021; we are five sixths of the way through and beginning to think back about what has occurred during this year. How being locked down at the beginning of the year has slowly eased and we have returned in some part to our behaviours of before, though for most of us with some considerable modification particularly in relation to managing infection and health issues.

But November is also a time when we remember those we have lost, in particular those who gave their lives in combat. In October we marked the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the village war memorial—a familiar sight to us all.

That commemoration is marked in this issue, together with an item on how war graves in our own cemetery are looked after, and another about how we can all contribute to looking after those graves for which there is no one to tend or to remember their occupants

The Covid pandemic is not yet finished with us but we have reached the point where we hope that we are the ones who have survived. So what better time can there be to remember those who have gone before and keep alive their memory, as we hope our own lives will be remembered.

Ian Brace

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Gillian Johnson

Distribution Co-ordinator

Maurice Day

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Blessed are the peacemakers

'This year Remembrance Sunday will be on **14 November** and there will be special services and gatherings in our churches and at village War Memorials. Please see the magazine details and village noticeboards/electronic communications for details for each community. Hopefully we will be able to gather in ways not possible last year. This will bring an extra poignancy to our commemorations, as we also recall the sacrifices made by so many who worked selflessly throughout the pandemic and who continue to do so as the pandemic continues to affect our lives.

Each year on Remembrance Sunday I am struck by the number of names read out of those who lost their lives in war, particularly the losses borne in the First World War and comparative to the small size of many of our communities. Their loss and the effect it had on our villages was immense. I imagine them as fit

young men, who had parents, families and partners at home.

It is right that we gather together as communities to pay our respects because Remembrance Day is not just a private occasion it is a time when we can meet together as a community and bring our remembering, prayers and reflections into the present. Remembering is a very important part of our Christian faith and of our own lives. At the heart of the Eucharist we remember Jesus's last supper with the disciples and bring that event into our presence, so that Jesus is present amongst us in a very special way.

I believe that the gift of memories is an important part of our God given nature; when memory is taken away as it cruelly is in diseases such as Alzheimer's we rightly mourn its loss. To be able to spend even a few moments remembering a special event is a special gift. At times such as Remembrance

difficult memories and emotions can surface. As communities gather, we can offer love and support to each other, and assure others that sacrifices for the greater good made are not forgotten, and that we continue to offer our thanksgiving.

Remembrance Day is never just about the past, it should also inform our present and our future. This November let us pray with thanksgiving for the lives of those people who have died in conflict. Let us also pledge ourselves to work towards peace between nations and in our homes and communities.

Jesus said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers'. And at this time of Remembrance I like to recall these words of Jesus and see them as honouring the memory of all those who have given their lives for our freedoms, but also holding before us an example of a life of love lived fully in the service of peace.

All Souls Service 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 send formal invitations to everyone for whom we have conducted a funeral during the past five years but anyone in the community 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 at 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

Remembrance Sunday and War Memorial Exhibition Sunday 14 November

The Annual Service of Remembrance is an important marker in the community and Civic year. This year we are able to return to the normal service in Dorchester Abbey **at the slightly different time of 10am** followed by the solemn procession to the War Memorial for the Act of Remembrance and the Silence.

Beauforest Evensong Sunday 21 November

The Dorchester Abbey Choir sings a traditional evensong at 5pm to celebrate Richard Beauforest our earliest Benefactor. Members of the Beauforest Society (part of our Abbey Friends) receive a particular invitation to this service and everyone is most welcome. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Friends and the Beauforest Society please do contact our Membership Secretary Mrs Honor Juniper.

Christmas Plans

We are very much hoping that this year we will be able to restore a full programme of services this Christmas and in particular restore 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. It is likely that we will issue free undesignated tickets for the Carol Service at 6pm and offer a second, earlier, service if numbers appear to be particularly high. Please check the December issue of the Dorchester News, posters and social media for details at the beginning of December.

We expect to have a Christmas tree as usual and will be letting you know the date for decorating it. The Crib service – always such an important part of our Abbey Christmas will certainly happen and we hope that last year's necessary migration of the crib scene to the Cloister Garden and beautifully lit will be repeated.

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



Sunday 21 November: 10.30am Advent Craft



*You are warmly invited to join our
Family Service
for Bible stories, fun and craft
activities as we look forward to
Advent and Christmas*

DADS

Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society

Snow White

Ann Winslet, Director of DADS pantomime *Snow White* reports that rehearsals are going really well. The show features a cast of twenty-four! Audience members will recognise many faces from previous productions but the show also features some new to our stage, led by the very talented Alice Hope as Snow White. Tickets are on sale now at www.ticketsource.co.uk/dads. Show dates are **Thursday 2 December to Saturday 4 December**. DADS' summer show sold out in advance of opening night so early booking is advised.

See back page for more details.



Remembrance Sunday 14 November 2021

Dorchester and District Royal British Legion

We are approaching the traditional annual Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Sunday which this year falls on **Sunday 14 November**. We are very pleased that this year we can return to something more familiar to earlier years without all the restrictions imposed by Covid last year.

The morning starts with a service in the Abbey prior to the short walk down the High Street to the War Memorial where the Silver Band will already be assembled. Everyone is invited to join us for this traditional Dorchester village event.

Please give generously this year now that Poppy Collectors can again knock on doors and offer poppies face to face. If not then please make a donation online or in one of the retail or business collection boxes. We hope that this might be a bumper year in the light of the difficult times that all charities experienced last year.

Chris Hill
Chairman of Dorchester and District Branch
Royal British Legion

Dorchester Lunch Club

The lunches in November will be on **Wednesday 10** and **17** and will be in the large room of the Village Hall at 12.30 for 12.45. The cost is £5 in cash to pay when you arrive. Please remember to check with me, Susan Jupp (phone **01865 341066**) on or before the Monday of each date to confirm you would like to come as I can only accommodate 24 people. If you have to cancel at the last minute on the day of the lunch you can contact me on my mobile **07907 778774**

Susan Jupp
Co-ordinator of the Dorchester Lunch Club



Dorchester Village Hall 200 Club Prize Draw

Congratulations to the winners of the
September draw.

1st Prize	£75	No. 124	Mrs J Douglas
2nd Prize	£45	No. 178	Mrs S Clarke
3rd Prize	£25	No. 46	Mr D Joseph

The next draw will be in December, with a first prize of **£100**, so join now for a chance to win!

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

Thank you for your support and good luck!

Elaine



Hempcroft Allotments November

The Hempcroft Allotment Association Annual General Meeting was held on 28 September 2021 in the Village Hall. The meeting was very well attended this year with about 40 members being present. Rents were paid and seed catalogues were collected.

The Committee comprised Edward Metcalfe (Chairman), Jon Rosby (Treasurer), Sharon Thorpe, Charlotte Bennett and Chris Hill. All Committee members offered themselves for re-election which was unanimously approved. David Rossington had very recently resigned following his move to Oxford.

As of September there was full occupancy of the allotments and a short waiting list of three people. The Treasurer presented the accounts. Association funds are £1,245. Membership of the Association increased to 95 members from 85 the previous year. Income was £2,931 and expenditure was £2,922. The main recurring expenditures are insurance and the statutory membership of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners. Additional expenditure was driven by costs incurred during the refurbishment of vacant plots to meet demand. These totalled £546 for plant hire and labour. The rent will remain the same as last year. Note that all of the money collected as rents is paid directly to the Parish Council. Seed catalogues were available for collection at the meeting and members were encouraged to order seeds from the catalogue because the Society derived some income from this.

It was a cold wet start to the year and then a long dry summer which led to challenges for certain crops but most people had coped admirably. Trophies for the best allotments were established some years ago. The categories and the winners for 2020/21 are as follows:

Best Newcomers (joint winners): Hayley Muggleton,
Dale Warne

Best Crop Diversity: Trevor Greenaway

Best Crop Husbandry: Dave Cutler

Debbie Jones had won the trophy for **Best Overall Allotment** at the Village Flower Show and this was presented to her during the show.

There was lively debate on a number of issues. One concern discussed was the use of chemicals to control weeds on the allotments or on the pathways. There have been instances of the chemicals damaging crops on adjacent plots. Jon Rosby had contacted the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) to see if they had guidance on this issue. They have provided advice and a standard policy, and our insurers now also require a policy on the use of herbicides and pesticides. The NSALG policy is to allow the use of herbicides such as glyphosate at the strength level commercially available in garden centres in a carefully controlled manner. Because of past indiscriminate use by some plot holders there was a strong feeling that all herbicides should be banned and this went to the vote with the overall majority of those present supporting a ban. It was agreed that the whole membership should be consulted on this issue.

Edward Metcalfe
340160
edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk

Hedgehogs and Bonfires



With **5 November** approaching and many gardeners keen to set autumn bonfires, please consider our vulnerable hedgehogs. Your pile of wood and leaves makes a really attractive shelter or hibernation site for a 'hog. To avoid a horrific death or injury to your resident hog, please follow this guidance from Hedgehog Street, a partnership between People's Trust for Endangered Species and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society:

1. Build your bonfire at the last minute to prevent hedgehogs from moving in. Ideally it should be built on the day of lighting. Or move the entire bonfire a few metres just before lighting.
2. Put up a fence or barrier around the bonfire beforehand, using chicken wire or a pile of old tyres.
3. Check the bonfire thoroughly for hidden hedgehogs before lighting, even if the other steps have been followed – just to be on the safe side. Amphibians, reptiles and even pets also like to hide in structures like bonfires, so keep an eye out for them too.
4. If you find a hog, put it in a high-sided box and keep it somewhere safe, for release later that night, after your fire is out and cooled.

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St Birinus School News

Our sponsored walk in October was an amazing success. We walked from school, through the Hurst Water Meadow to the river, over the bridge, around the Clumps where we gratefully used the facilities at the Earth Trust, and then up to the top of



the Clumps for a picnic. Some of our younger children did a slightly shorter route. All the children were absolutely amazing. There was no moaning and some of them even went up and down the clumps a few times as they were enjoying the run down so much! We are so grateful to all our kind sponsors. We raised over £1500 which is an incredible amount. We are going to use the money

to update some of our technical equipment in school.

There have been lots of other things going on across our school this term and we love being back together as one bubble. It is wonderful to see the compassion being demonstrated by our older children towards our younger cohorts who are settling into school life.

Our Year 5/6 class enjoyed a visit from local poet James Carter as part of the Henge project. He worked with them for



the morning and they have produced some amazing poetry following his input.

We also celebrated the Harvest with an assembly in school. Children brought in donations for the Wallingford Food Bank and we were blown away by the generosity of our school community. Thank you.

If you have a child (or know a child) who is going to be starting school in September 2022, please do take a look at what our fabulous school has to offer. We aim to ensure that our Year 6 children leave us as 'happy, healthy, informed individuals' and our school especially values compassion, knowledge and diversity. We are a nurturing and ambitious environment where children thrive. We can provide wraparound care from 8.00am until 6.00pm and our Ofsted judgement is 'good'. We are so lucky to be situated in the heart of this beautiful village and benefit greatly from our community links with the Abbey. We have a forest school within walking distance and offer weekly forest school sessions to our youngest pupils. Please give me a call on **01865 340081** so we can arrange a time for you to come and have a look around, or have a look at our website www.st-birinus-primary.org.uk

Jo Staples
Headteacher

BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

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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

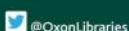
Our community activities are back

Knit and Natter 2 Nov 2.30pm
Book and Bun 11 Nov 2.30pm
Coffee Morning 16 Nov 11.30am

All welcome

**VISIT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY AND
SEE WHAT WE HAVE ON OFFER**

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries



Pre-School

Dorchester Pre-School has had an excellent start to the new school year, with lots of new starters all settling in well. It is wonderful to see the children so happy to go into the preschool each morning!

We do have some, limited, spaces for new starters so please get in touch with Helen at manager@dorchesterpreschool.co.uk for more information, or to arrange to be shown around the setting.

If you missed the AGM for preschool on 20 October but would like to get involved, please contact us to let us know; we are always happy to have more volunteers and support – it takes a village to raise a child after all!

We are hoping to run a sponsored walk for the children around the local farm soon, so keep a look out on the noticeboard and the Facebook page for more information:

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

We are happy to accept donations of things that we might find useful; at the moment we are on the look out for old pots and pans for the children to use in the mud kitchen.

For more information contact Rach at secretary@dorchesterpreschool.co.uk

Yoga coming to Dorchester

Starting Tuesday 2nd November for 6 weeks

6.00-7.00pm

Dorchester Village Hall

All ages, bodies and levels of fitness welcome.
Suitable for complete beginners and those with years of experience.

£12 drop in or £60 for 6 classes

Cash only please I Booking advised

If finances are tricky at the moment please get in touch about a reduced rate.

My name is Imo. I am a qualified yoga teacher registered with Yoga Alliance UK. I teach a subtle yet powerful form of Hatha yoga that uses traditional poses and awareness of the breath to increase mobility, release tension and create a deep sense of calm. My classes are designed to be thoughtful and informative, playful and profound.

Mats and props are provided. Please bring warm layers to put on during relaxation.

Do you have questions? I would love to hear from you:
imogenclare@me.com I 07968 256790



Dorchester Historical Society

We're back!!

A date for the diary - Wednesday 24 November
at 7.30pm in the Abbey.

The Historical Society's Christmas Miscellany

To celebrate our emergence from pandemic restrictions, we invite you to come and join us for drinks and nibbles and to hear from three local authors about their latest books.

Peter Adamson will be talking about his book *Landmark in Time: the world of the Wittenham Clumps*.

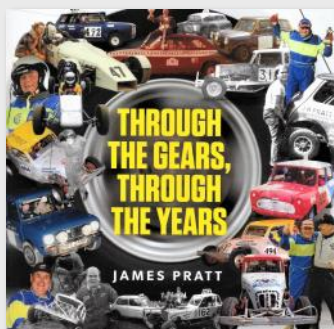
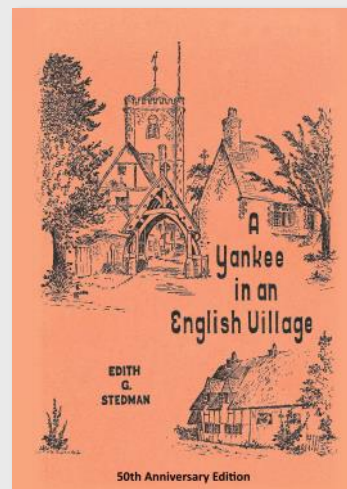
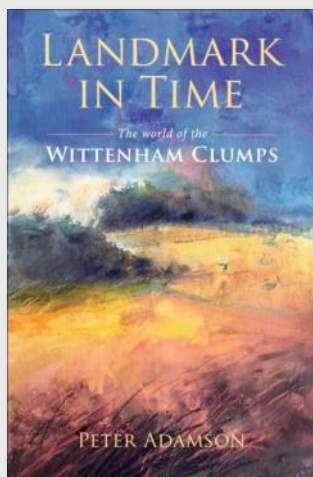
Margot Metcalfe will be talking about the just published 50th anniversary edition of *A Yankee in an English Village*, the remarkable Edith Stedman's memoir of her time in Dorchester.

James Pratt will talk about his book *Through the Gears, Through the Years* which describes his career in motor sport against the background of his family's life in Dorchester

There will be a chance to buy the books at the end of the meeting, or at the Museum's Christmas opening, and to hear about our programme for 2022. We have some really fascinating talks coming up.

Books make perfect Christmas presents, particularly for those with an historical bent, so come along and support local authors.

All Welcome



Dorchester Abbey Museum News

Christmas Shopping Events

**Saturday 27 November, 2.00-5.00pm and
Tuesday 30 November, 10.00am to 12.00 noon**

Come to the Museum Gift Shop and buy your Xmas cards and presents early!

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

**Also our popular greetings cards for birthdays
and other occasions.**

Edith Stedman's *Yankee in an English Village* The perfect Xmas present!

To mark the 60th anniversary of the Museum's opening by Edith, we've reissued her charming and amusing account of life in Dorchester during the 1950s-1970s, with detailed explanatory notes by Margot Metcalfe. Beautifully illustrated with photos of Edith and the village during her time here. Price £9.99.

Also available:

Edith Stedman's *Monastery Guest House Cook Book*

Price £7.50.

Please be assured that you'll feel safe in the Museum as we have careful Covid-19 protection protocols in place.

Introducing the GreenDoTs Community Volunteer Group

GreenDoTs is a network of community volunteers and organisations connecting together the publicly accessible green spaces around Dorchester-on-Thames to create corridors for wildlife around the village. We meet on Monday and Thursday mornings from 10.00 to 12.00. People help out as and when they can during those times.

We have a core group of volunteers who are organised by local resident Andrew Clements, but we are also in need of new volunteers. If you'd like to get some good exercise and get to know other conservation-minded villagers in the process, please come along!

Since 2018, the greenDoTs team – with support from the Parish Council and with help from the Wallingford Green Gym – have been transforming areas around Dorchester that had previously been overlooked. For instance, team members have been tending the Abbey View car park, clearing weeds and planting many wildflowers and shrubs in the lane behind Page Furlong as well as in Dorchester Cemetery.

More recently volunteers have been preparing more beds for an Autumn planting of a diverse range of wildflowers and shrubs to accommodate a wider range of species including insects, bees, butterflies, and birds. When walking by these areas, have a look at the wooden labels in the Dorchester Cemetery to identify what's been planted. See if you can find where the foxgloves, blue bells, cowslips, primroses, spindles, dogwood and hawthorn are located. Keep an eye out for them next spring!

In February 2021, during the winter lockdown, we wrote a longer piece in the *Dorchester News* to introduce readers to community conservation projects led by Andrew. Going forward, we'd also like to give you updates on what's been happening with the conservation work.



GreenDoTs Team Members
Coffee Break After Bluebell Planting



To start this process, we'd like to introduce you to a computerised map the team has been developing for the cemetery. Use the link <https://tinyurl.com/DOTConservation> or use the QR with an iPhone (or Android, plus app) to view the map.

Click on the different markers to get more details. With each click, the more detailed information you get. For example, if you click on a flower bed in the Cemetery, you can then click again to get the names of flowers and shrubs planted to date. You should then be able to toggle between the various mapping layers. For instance, if you click in the tick box next to 'Significant trees', you should be able to see a map of all the main trees in the cemetery. Thus, you can 'connect the dots!' We'll be updating the maps as we go along, so have a look from time to time to see what's new.

We hope you'll be interested to learn more about the different ways we've been nurturing and connecting green spaces in Dorchester-on-Thames and that you will be inspired to join in!



Melinda Powell

If you'd like to volunteer or to make a donation of plants, contact Andrew Clements at **340753** or email

aclem19dot@aol.com

To donate funds via the Parish Council please contact Geoff Russell, email **parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk**



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call: 07450008972

www.Brushstroke-ann.co.uk

studio: Ayres house studios, Wallingford
References available

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DoT Cricketers Win League

The village can toast a title-winning sports team after the cricket club completed a successful 2021 season.



Conor Graney shows what he can do against Aston Rowant

The club's first XI finished top of Division 6C of the Cherwell Cricket League having won 11 of 18 matches, losing just two.

It was an all-round team effort to lift the trophy, but Dorchester's star performers deserve singling out. Conor Graney, who grew up in sight of the recreation ground, scored 510 runs at an average of 85, including two 50s and two centuries in a fantastic season.

Dan Houseman starred with both bat and ball, scoring 370 runs at 46.25 and taking 26 wickets. In June he teamed up with Graney for a 165-run partnership at Aston Rowant before catching his breath and taking four wickets.

Dorchester Firsts were unbeaten until July 10 when they suffered a shock home defeat to Steventon, but regained composure and went on another loss-less run until the final day of the season when, having already secured the title, they were beaten by runners-up Wantage.

The second XI also had a strong season, finishing fifth out of 12 teams in Division 8A. The season ended in September with a friendly against our friends at Chesterton CC on the hallowed turf of Wormsley, near Stokenchurch – a picturesque ground which regularly hosts international stars past and present.

The club takes its members from around the local area, but still has plenty of players with residential ties to the village including Tom Kitson, Ian and Tom Ferris, Luke Lochhead, Vachan Nayak, Ali Line and Thom Airts. There is also a core of players from outside the village who grew up representing Dorchester's youth setup run by villager Mike Stimpson in the 2000s.

Dorchester CC welcomes spectators and new players with open arms and is always looking for new members. Umpires in particular are in short supply and the club would love to hear from former players looking to officiate matches. It's a paid gig on summer Saturdays.

The club plays league matches on Saturdays and a smattering of friendlies on Sundays. Dorchester also compete in a friendly T20 league that takes place in the first half of the summer on Wednesday evenings.



Tom Kitson notches up a half century against Wormsley

Indoor training will begin again in January at Moulshford Prep School.

The best way to keep up to date with the team is to visit www.facebook.com/DorchesterCC or contact Thom Airts on 07793 067344 or thom_airs@hotmail.com.

Thom Airts

Cherwell Cricket League Division 6C Final Positions 2021

	Team	P	W	D	L	T	A	BP	Ump	Ded	Total
1	Dorchester 1	18	11	3	2	0	2	38	15	0	358
2	Wantage & Grove 1	18	11	1	3	0	3	41	14	0	358
3	Thame Town 3	18	9	3	5	0	1	63	10	0	321
4	Clifton Hampden 1	18	9	1	3	0	5	31	16	0	314
5	Steventon 1	18	6	3	5	0	4	57	14	0	265
6	West Ilsley 1	18	6	3	7	0	2	71	15	0	261
7	Stokenchurch 2	18	6	1	9	0	2	51	10	0	234
8	Marcham 1	18	2	2	11	0	3	76	15	0	166
9	Aston Rowant 4	18	3	3	9	0	3	54	13	16	158
10	Didcot 3	18	2	0	11	0	5	58	14	0	157



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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 chrisccsmith@btinternet.com
tel. 01865 341947



Football Results North Berks League Div 1



18/09/2021	Steventon First	3	2	Dorchester First
25/09/2021	Hagbourne United First	2	2	Dorchester First
02/10/2021	Dorchester First	2	5	Wallington Town Reserves
09/10/2021	Dorchester First	1	0	Drayton First
16/10/2021	Dorchester First	1	7	Milton United Dev

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Fencing.**

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Mobile: 07885 538514*



Warborough & Shillingford WI

In September we were back on Zoom for a **Live Streamed tour of Cambridge by Murray Jacobs** who used Google Street View to introduce us to probably the most famous street, Kings Parade with Kings College, The Senate House, Gonville and Caius College, Old Schools and Great St Mary's Church. He told us about their history, art, famous students and unusual events, such as the Austin 7 van that was hoisted onto the roof of the Senate House by engineering students in 1958! Now lots of us would like to really visit Cambridge.

Our **October meeting** will be the first in the newly revamped St Laurence Hall for 18 months. We will be doing a Cheese and Herb identification quiz accompanied by wine or soft drink – and lots of catching up.

The **Walking Group** : On their first outing this autumn 10 members enjoyed a chat and walk from Warborough War Memorial to Benson Marina along the river, had coffee at the café and walked back on a beautifully sunny day. The next walk will be in Dorchester starting at Bishops Court Farm.

W&S WI Centenary 2022. A Craft Group is forming to create celebratory bunting to decorate the St Laurence Hall for a party for current and former W&S WI members with lots of archive material and delicious things to eat. This autumn we will be planting an oak tree on Warborough Green and beneath we will plant fritillaries – the Oxfordshire Federation WI [OFWI] flower.

Community projects – we will be planting daffodil bulbs along the greensward in Shillingford. This Christmas the OFWI collection will be for those families and individuals in desperate need and we will be collecting.

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

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A Warm Welcome Far From Home!



Refugee children in Kabul, August 2021

Photo: Trent Inness / Shutterstock.com

Most of us will vividly remember the news through the summer of the rapid Taliban take over of Afghanistan and the evacuation of thousands of Afghans having strong links to the U.K. or at particular risk. We had wall to wall coverage of those frantic last flights from Kabul and our hearts went out to those struggling to leave and those left behind. From the news stories we can just begin to imagine what those who managed to get out have been through and their current fears for those who they had to leave behind. Around Oxfordshire we are now supporting many of them and are meeting some very shaken people. One man is the sole guardian for his dead siblings' seven orphaned children.

Having spent their first few weeks in Covid quarantine, many of those flown to the U.K. are now staying in hotels across Oxfordshire while awaiting permanent housing. Some may stay in the county, others will be spread anywhere across the country. No one yet knows where they will be going or when, so levels of anxiety related to their old and new lives are high.

Asylum Welcome is a small, Oxford based refugee charity working with the County Council to support the recent arrivals while they are in the hotels. This could turn out to be for many months. Our support includes helping with all the initial registrations, making sure people are clothed and equipped, linking with health and other public services, translating, accompanying people to appointments, arranging induction, recreation and language learning activities. Children are now starting at a range of local schools, some not so far from here, and those adults, including most of the women, who don't speak English have started language lessons. We have had our first baby born and another is imminent. Schools and health services have been amazing.

People in Dorchester and local villages have been hugely generous, both in giving clothes and in supporting Asylum Welcome's work. Many individuals have donated, as have the Abbey community, other local churches and a private trust based in the village. We have also received a

welcome donation of vouchers originally and generously given by the Coop to help the Dorchester 'Covid volunteers' to gather at the end of their efforts to help those home-bound or isolated by Covid. The intended party had to be cancelled because of the second lockdown and the volunteers have kindly passed the vouchers on to use for our foodbank.

At this stage we don't now need more donations of second hand goods or clothes. The few things that we do still need are very specific, so we have set up a wish-list on Amazon so that people can purchase exactly what the families need. If you would like to know more or contribute in cash or kind, do please look at Asylum Welcome's website. To all who have already supported the Afghan arrivals, thank you so much!



Mark Goldring
Director, Asylum Welcome
(and Dorchester resident).

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Dorchester Abbey Christmas Tea Room Takeaway & Shopping

Saturday 27th Nov 2.30-5pm

Hot BBQ Bratwurst

Mulled wine

Baking takeaway & gifts:

Whole Christmas cakes

Mince pies

Stollen

Christmas Biscuits

Chocolate Logs

& much more....

Museum gift shopping

Cards

Wreaths

For more info or to bring a stall:

steph@forman.org.uk



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
9 x 20cm
(blank inside)



Christ Child from
the Shrine Chapel
13 x 13cm



Angels from
the Shrine
Chapel
21 x 9.7cm

On Saturday 16 October around 150 local residents of all ages from Dorchester and surrounding villages commemorated the 100th anniversary of the dedication of Dorchester War Memorial.

The event commenced in the Abbey with a talk by Margot Metcalfe of Dorchester Historical Society which described the backdrop to life for ordinary soldiers and their families at the end and following WWI. This was followed by a more detailed talk specifically about the Dorchester War Memorial and how it was planned and erected in the High Street by Prof Malcolm Ains. A welcome to the event was followed by a reading of the poem 'In Flanders Field' by Mark Williams, the Chairman of Dorchester Parish Council.

Those present then followed the Royal British Legion Standard along the High Street for a service at the War Memorial led by Rev Sue Booys that reflected many elements of the original in 1921, including a number of prayers and a hymn from that service.



Photo: Nick Forman

The parade leaves the Abbey

The Vice Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Mr Brian Buchan addressed the assembled crowd and reflected on how some things that affect our modern lives had changed dramatically over 100 years but thankfully we still have men and women today who are prepared to make the same sacrifice to protect the values that we hold so dear in this country .

In honour of the fallen in both World Wars poppy crosses were laid at the memorial for each of the names recorded there. In many cases local relatives were invited to lay a cross for their particular family member. Prayers to commit ourselves to a better future were read. The event closed with the Royal British Legion Standard being placed over the plinth of the memorial and a photograph of all present taken to replicate one taken in 1921.

Dorchester War Memorial 100th



Many thanks are due to all of the contributors for the success of this event. Especially to the Rev Sue Booys for hosting the event in the Abbey, for her help planning the service at the War Memorial and for co ordinating all of the elements into a cohesive whole. Thanks also to Sally and Phil Greenaway for keeping the whole War Memorial area in such good condition and to Royal British Legion Poppy co-ordinator Charlotte Bennett for creating the poppy cross display and delivering personal invitations to every address in the village, the Branch Secretary and standard bearer Andy Pay and RBL Chairman and Parish Councillor Chris Hill for planning the event.



Photo: Nick Forman

Mark Williams reads *In Flanders Field*

h Anniversary Commemoration



The WWI local history photo display that has been created so sensitively especially for this event by Denise Line can be seen in the Abbey until Remembrance Sunday 14 November. Please take some time to view and appreciate the historic photos contributed by many long standing local residents on the south wall of the Abbey.

Chris Hill



Taking care of Dorchester's War Graves

Anyone visiting any of our military war cemeteries in Europe or elsewhere across the globe must feel a sense of pride that the men and women commemorated there are so tenderly respected and remembered in their final resting places. The scale of losses in both world wars is



hard to comprehend and meant that repatriation of those killed overseas was not a realistic possibility. However, some service personnel were in the UK when they died and are buried here, but their graves are cared for equally by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, CWGC.

We have six of these instantly recognisable white headstones in Dorchester cemetery, so back in June, we met up with Malcolm Peel while he was working there.



He explained that he is a volunteer recruited by 'Eyes On, Hands On', the organisation set up by CWGC to watch over and maintain headstones in local areas. They check the condition (eyes on) and carry out regular cleaning and clearing of each memorial (hands on), reporting back if more

detailed work, such as restoration, is required. This ensures that every headstone is monitored, preserved and recorded in the massive archives held by CWGC.

Malcolm explained that he first became interested in being involved after visiting the grave of his great uncle buried at St Sever cemetery near Rouen in France. 'I was struck by the variety of cemeteries – no two are alike, other than the care and attention given to the graves'. He went on to say that the CWGC also records, wherever possible, private memorials where names are added to regular headstones even though the person is buried in Europe or elsewhere. We have several



of these in Dorchester belonging to private individuals and families, so only a limited amount of clearing is permitted, no physical cleansing is allowed.

Malcolm expressed real pride in keeping alive the memory of our villagers who lost their lives in the service of their country 'in perpetuity'. This was a fascinating insight to what goes on, largely unseen and unheralded, by a remarkable organisation.

Keith Russell



Dorchester's cemetery is a quiet and peaceful oasis in a busy village. It is beautifully maintained, including a new section where wildflowers and grasses provide shelter for insects and other small creatures, and much of this is down to individuals tending graves that have special meaning for them and their families. Unfortunately, there are other graves that have been left untended for many years and these are sad reminders that the villagers in them are no longer valued.

Shortly before the COVID-19 outbreak a new initiative, 'Adopt a Grave', had been launched. This asked for volunteers who would devote a few hours to clearing a specific overgrown grave and try to learn something about the person buried there. Ideally, this would be followed by just a couple of brief visits a year to prevent it becoming overgrown again.

However, COVID-19 restrictions then brought all such activities to an end but hopefully things are now looking more positive, and we can resume the 'Adopt a Grave' programme. To help understand why this matters in today's fast-moving society we asked Chris Hill to give his views on why he was one of the first to become involved.

DN. What prompted you to adopt a grave?

CH. *'It has often been said that the true measure of a civilised society is how they respect and look after their elderly people. In my view this also extends to how we honour and respect our dead, especially if they have made the ultimate sacrifice of giving their life for us to enjoy our freedoms. This is my way of recognising that debt.'*

DN. Tell us why you chose to restore a specific overgrown and uncared for grave.

CH. *'One grave that caught my eye, as it is a very longstanding village name, was Emma Cobb's. Her brother Roland had been killed in 1917 aged 19 and like hundreds of thousands of other soldiers he was buried in France close to where he was killed. He is commemorated with a mention on his sister's gravestone.'*

DN. What do you know about Emma's brother and how does he relate to our village?

CH. *'Roland was the tenth of eleven children who lived at Croft Cottage (Samian Way) and attended Dorchester Infants and Boys School winning prizes for his good work and attendance.'*

DN. How much time and effort have you had to spend in order to make Emma's grave look cared for again?

CH. *'Although the Cobb gravestone was in good condition*

there were no remnants of a grave surround and as it was adjacent to a yew tree the ground had become overgrown with elder bushes, tree roots and ground covering ivy. Much of the work was to carefully remove as much of these invading plants as possible and redefine the whole grave area. There's still work to do but I estimate I've so far spent 3 to 4 hours restoring this grave.'

DN. Why is it important for today's residents of Dorchester to restore the graves of villagers who are uncared for by anyone else?

CH. *'While the grounds of the cemetery are kept in good condition by the Parish Council the actual grave plots are the responsibility of family and friends of the person buried there. Sometimes these families have died out, moved away or are no longer fit and able enough to care for a grave. Some of these graves are falling into disrepair, with shrubs and even quite mature trees growing into the plots, which not only threaten the stability of the whole grave structure but also cast a sad reflection on an otherwise valued and respected resting place for a past villager.'*

DN. What are your feelings when you walk around our village cemetery and see 'your grave' looking as though the person buried there is still remembered and respected?

CH. *'It gives me a feeling of great satisfaction that I've been able to make a small difference to just one grave and hope that if ever it became necessary some kind soul might do the same for me.'*

DN. Why should other residents of Dorchester come forward and become involved in 'Adopt a Grave'?

CH. *'As I've already mentioned, I believe that respect for our elders and our departed is a sign of our humanity. I believe Dorchester is a village that shares this belief and if enough people can give just a few hours of their time then together we can make a big difference.'*

Further reports of specific 'Adopt a Grave' contributions will be in future editions of Dorchester News and these will feature 'before and after' photos, along with the restorers and the work this involved. But more volunteers are still needed. There's no long-term commitment other than some light gardening work and an interest in unlocking the history and lives of past residents. Please contact our Parish Clerk, Geoff Russell, his details are listed in the back pages, and see if there's a grave you might be interested in restoring.





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.

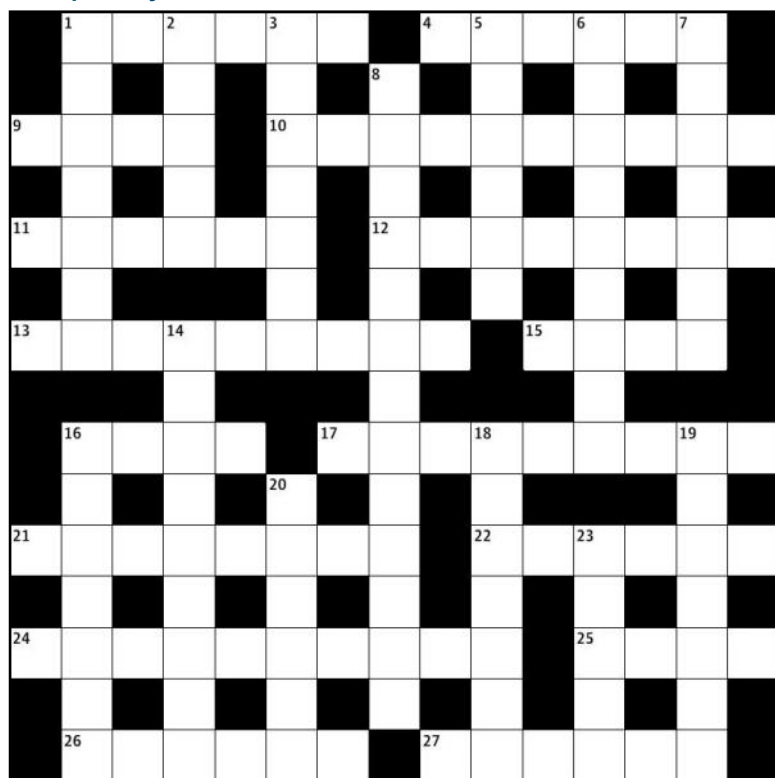
Time commitment: 1-2 days a week (7-15 hours approx.). The appointment is not for a fixed term, but will be reviewed after 3 and 6 months, and annually thereafter. We seek someone who is able to take up the post as soon as possible.

For further details please contact
The Administrator admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk or
tel. 01865 340007

Closing date for applications: **Monday 13 December 2021.**

Dorchester News Crossword No.19

Compiled by Slider



Across

1. A piece of clothing outside ready for the changing room. (6)
4. Charitable afterthought leads to songs of praise. (6)
9. A band without clarity. (4)
10. Qui est Peri? Translate to receive a bonus. (10)
11. Melancholia if far away, go back inside and get something weavable from Madagascar. (6)
12. This idiot put a tailless parrot onto the golf course. (8)
13. Excellent taste? This is not so silly. (4,5)
15. The school is working and French comes first. (4)

16. Let's hear it for the view, (it could be Paris). (4)
17. Make bare a narrow piece on the hillside. (5,4)
21. Care to get into bed with a king? It will need arranging. (2,4,2)
22. Shooting the gunners' family? Good beginning! (6)
24. Cole Porter, uncertain without his finale but given an A, sounds like the Beatles. (10)
25. Smooth revenge. (4)
26. Certify a match presence. (6)
27. A history lesson, (no railway involved) includes yucca products. (6)

Down

1. A book about refusal. This could be explosive... (7)
2. ... and a graphic addition backfires. (5)
3. Change the salesman's long service. (7)
5. A short question in the South and everything finishes. Then there's a disturbance. (6)
6. Passion thought much of then purified. (9)
7. 'Tis a rest that's needed. (3,4)
8. Made a play for the job and finish with the daily leader. (13)
14. Confused police go on horseback to the conservationists – this can't be a good thing. (9)
16. Crazy romance in the Italian city. (7)
18. Invasion of popular stretches of water. (7)
19. Uncertain thoughts drew son into a terrible state. (7)
20. Takes in a party and initially plays the simpleton. (6)
23. The King's mistress heard the sound of doom. (5)



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Goings on at Wallingford Bookshop

'Do you have any signed copies?', the customer had asked. 'Er, no', I found myself having to reply, 'I'm really sorry to have to let you know, but, um, the author... well, he died last year'.



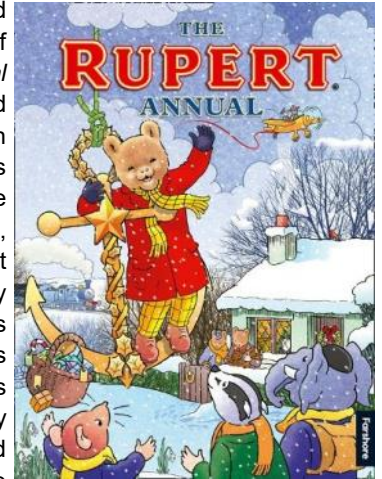
To be honest, it was something of an awkward moment. Happily, even without the benefit of a signature, John le Carré's final novel, *Silverview* (HB, £20), is a delight, not least because it's about a successful City businessman turned... bookshop owner! All is rosy at the shop until a Polish emigré arrives and seems overly interested in the new endeavour. He's not alone. When a British spy chief in London is alerted to a serious leak, the shop's quiet seaside location begins to get busy!

Although a true-life account, the autobiography of former President of the Supreme Court, Lady Hale, is no less extraordinary in its content. Lady Hale is a pioneer and reformer, perhaps best known for finding the 2019 prorogation of Parliament to be unlawful. In *Spider-Woman* (HB, £20), she lays bare her fighting spirit, emphasising her belief that the law should provide support at times of crisis. Despite this, Hale admits that insecurity remained a



constant companion: 'Unbelievably, I am the first woman and the youngest ever Law Commissioner. I am ploughing through an immensely detailed and learned discussion of what should be done with the law of blasphemy: abolish, modernise or replace it? [...] The other commissioners are some of the cleverest men I have ever known. Am I an imposter? Can I cope?'. A remarkable lady.

Finally, and proving that you're never too old to receive a Christmas annual, a charming gentleman came into the shop in September and requested several copies of the *Rupert Bear Annual* (HB, £10.99). He explained that it was a family tradition for him to gift these to his children every year. The age of those children? Well, I'll spare their blushes, but it's been a while since they saw 40. The customer's early order belied his experience — Christmas annuals are typically published in August, and can be sold out by late November. So, whether you're keen to gift an annual as a nostalgic gesture, or, indeed, if you're buying for yourself because you're a closet Doctor Who fan, it's definitely best to order early.



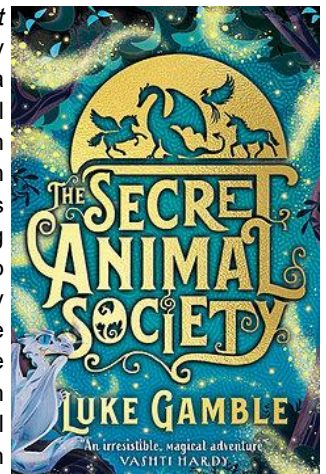
Two brilliant books for younger readers

Perfect for fans of *The Island* and *One of Us is Lying*, *Lies Like Wildfire* (PB, £7.99) by Jennifer Lynn Alvarez is a taut tale that tests the boundaries of friendship. When I sat down to read this book it was quite early in the evening. I found myself compelled to keep turning the pages, and it became a late night! The story is about a teeny tiny spark that is accidentally created by sheriff's daughter, Hannah, and her friends while they are out for the day. The problem? This is California during the summer forest-fire season and the ground is tinder dry. As a reader I kept thinking, 'This is a YA novel, everything is going to



be OK - it just has to be'. But the blaze spreads, destroying rural communities and towns, travelling at-pace towards beautiful Yosemite National Park. Horrified by what has happened, Hannah and her friends agree to protect their secret, and in the end, it is not just the fire that proves destructive.

Rather more light-hearted in tone, and written for the younger 8-12 age group, *The Secret Animal Society* (PB, £7.99) by real-life vet Luke Gamble is a Dr Doolittle-esque magical adventure. When young Edith Wright goes to visit her uncle in the New Forest she discovers she can talk to animals! Along with her uncle, Edith travels to the Himalayas to help a family of furry yetis. But, there are enemies at hand, and those enemies want to track down and destroy every last mythical creature on Earth. Yikes! Edith has her work cut out to keep everyone and everything safe, but will she succeed?



Karen Gurney

The White Hart

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Parish Council Notices

Council Meetings

The next two Council Meetings will take place on **Wednesday 10 November** and **Wednesday 8 December**. These meetings 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 – three working days in advance.

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.

By-pass bus services

An extra street light is being installed to assist those people using the bus-stop on the Shillingford-bound carriageway. Access is connected to Drayton Road both by a flight of steps and also a U-shaped footpath. The Parish Council has paid for this improvement with the help of a grant received through District Cllr Robin Bennett whose support is most welcome.

Information about the Timetable, Route Map and Fares for Thames Travel's 'River Rapids' services is available via **www.thames-travel.co.uk/routes/x38x39x40#timetable**

Notice Boards

Both of the Parish Council's Notice Boards have a section which can be accessed without a key. These areas are freely available for domestic use by local residents and village organisations wishing to promote their events. They are not intended for commercial use.

The amount of space is limited so notices which have ceased to have any useful purpose should be removed as soon as possible.

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.

Financial support for residents

Throughout the year South Oxfordshire District Council has been providing support via government funding and practical support to those who have been hit the hardest. This support is still available.

If any resident is struggling financially the council is urging them to get in touch, and to do so before they reach crisis point. The Community Hub team are working alongside Citizens Advice to offer help in the form of advice, supermarket and fuel vouchers or through the direct payment of energy or



I'll start my update with where we are with Gigaclear. As we can all see they have made good progress through the village. Whilst it is temporarily disruptive the end result is in sight. I hope those who were interested were able to attend the online presentation by Gigaclear in September, if not, their website and helpline are the best place to go with queries and to register your interest in their service. We understand their plan is on schedule to allow the first residents to sign up for their service around Christmas; obviously we are in their hands but it's not far off now. And we are continuing to talk to them about the areas not covered by the initial plan and we have heard some encouraging noises at least about Watling Lane although nothing is in the bag till it's in there.

Last month I updated residents about the results of the recent speed survey. I know this is of keen interest to residents, with quite a range of views. As a parish council we now are working with OCC to assess the implications of that analysis for the different parts of the parish and what options might be available if both we and OCC agree something is appropriate. This is quite complicated in line with their rules for when they support various measures, but we will engage with residents for opinions as and when we have something to decide upon.

I am conscious the noise from the motorbikes on the bypass continues. There are now around a dozen parishes with similar concerns about both speed and noise pollution. The responsibilities split between OCC, SODC and the police, so it is proving hard to pin down precise ownership and actions. But we continue to press relevant bodies and, to that end, we raised the issue with our local MP John Howell last week, and he committed to contact the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber. Hopefully that will help as we continue to work with other parishes as much as we can.

As many of you will have seen the River of Life team have finished their works. And the results for wildlife are already visible if you walk around the various locations. As a result of the works, the car park over the bridge will take a bit of time to recover so we have taken a decision to close it temporarily to give it a chance and to make sure it is in a good state to support the festival come the spring. The recreation ground should look after our needs in the meantime.

Mark Williams
Chairman DoT Parish Council

water bills. The support is there for all households: residents needing help do not have to be in receipt of any government benefits and can be given financial support through this funding more than once.

For help, call the South Oxfordshire Community Hub on **01235 422600**

or email **communityconnectors@southandvale.gov.uk**



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



Garden Waste Collections

You will be aware that the garden waste collection service has resumed, with a four-weekly schedule to be implemented as in interim measure while the situation with HGV drivers is kept under review. The schedule can be found on the SODC website. Council debated a report on the situation and concluded that the Business Continuity Plan within the Biffa contract had been implemented appropriately. It was accepted that the collection of direct debit payments should have been suspended while the service was also temporarily halted, and the recommendation to extend the subscription period by 3 months was also approved.

One of the criticisms received by SODC has been the lack of communication with customers about the suspension of the service. This has also been investigated and some key findings were included in the officer report. Firstly, when it was decided to bring the fulfilment service back in-house from Capita (this process started in April 2021), it was discovered that the customer data was in very poor shape and that there were email addresses for only 37% of customers. There was no Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system in place, so there was no way to link the billing data with the service delivery data (one system had been outsourced to Capita, the other to Biffa). Every effort was made to communicate the suspension to residents via social media, local newspapers, TV & radio, but it wasn't feasible (or would have been prohibitively expensive) to send physical letters to everyone.

Fortunately, we will be approving a refreshed IT Strategy in November, and one of the projects included is the selection and implementation of a suitable system so that SODC will be able to manage information and communicate effectively.

Arc project questioned

The Oxford-Cambridge Arc is a government-led project that includes the area between Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge. A consultation on the 'vision' for the Arc has just closed. Many residents have significant worries over how the Arc may impact our area, particularly the long-term effect on our environment. At the SODC council meeting on Thursday 7 October, I proposed a motion highlighting concerns that, while the government had consulted people on the Vision for the Arc, they believe that it had already determined that the main priority should be economic growth, and had done so without asking residents, or even considering whether the Arc project - 'an arbitrary geographic construct' - was necessary in the first place. The proposal to raise our concerns with the government and to call for a pause on the project, so its need and impact can be better considered, was supported unanimously.

Genuinely affordable housing funded

It was agreed at the same meeting to award grant funding of more than £450,000 towards new affordable housing. The funding came from pooled developer contributions and has gone to the Henley and District Housing Trust. Council agreed to give the trust 50 per cent of the cost of creating three new homes, which will also be fitted with solar panels to reduce their carbon footprint. Rents on all the properties will be charged at Social Rent level, which ensures that rents are as affordable as possible in an area of very high market values. We are keen to encourage and fund more schemes like this using our Section 106 affordable housing fund, and will be reopening it for applications soon. More info at:

www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/housing/affordable-housing

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

New leader and deputies at SODC



Cllr David Rouane

Cllr David Rouane is the new Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council. He was chosen by councillors during a vote at the Council meeting last night.

His election as Leader comes after Cllr Sue Cooper chose to stand down having led the council since the local elections in 2019.

Cllr Rouane, who is ward member for Didcot North East, has been a district councillor in South Oxfordshire since 2019, and has served on the Cabinet since his election, as Cabinet Member for

Housing and Environment, and Didcot Garden Town. He is also a member of the council's Climate and Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee.

Amongst the changes to the cabinet, Councillor Robin Bennett becomes responsible for Economic development and regeneration, and joint deputy leader (statutory deputy leader during the following months: May, July, September, November, January and March).



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



Engagement for new OCC strategic plan and 2022-3 budget

As a result of the change of administration to the cross-party Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance, the County Council is currently carrying out an intensive period of various public and stakeholder engagement activities to support the development of the new strategic plan. There are five strands of activity: a residents' satisfaction survey (sent to around 4800 randomly chosen households); discussion groups for adults; discussion groups for children and young people; stakeholder workshops; and councillor engagement.

Most of this is taking place in October, with some continuing into November. Consultation on budget proposals will start in early December.

The Future Oxfordshire Partnership

The Oxfordshire Growth Board has formally changed its name to The Future Oxfordshire Partnership, and the new name also indicates a welcome change in priorities. Following a public review in 2020, the Partnership - a joint committee of the six councils of Oxfordshire together with key strategic partners - adopted a new purpose, which is to:

- Coordinate local efforts to manage economic, housing, and infrastructure development in a way that is inclusive and maximises local social and environmental benefits
- Support the development of local planning policy that meets the UK Government's stated aim of net-zero carbon by 2050, and contributes towards biodiversity gain whilst embracing the changes needed for a low carbon world
- Seek to secure funding in the pursuit of these aims and oversee the delivery of related work programmes delegated to it by the Joint Committee's constituent local authority members.

Civil parking enforcement

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.

Plans to make 20mph the new 30mph in Oxfordshire

We are making it simpler to lower speeds in most urban areas and village streets from 30mph to 20 mph, where this is suitable and supported by residents. We believe this is an important step to improving health and wellbeing, and that combined with other measures it can create healthy, accessible community spaces. There is huge local interest and desire to deliver 20mph within the county.

Closure of recycling centres for essential maintenance and deep cleaning

During November, our household waste recycling centres will be closing for two days each for a deep clean and essential maintenance. Each of our recycling centres will close for two days. Residents are asked to plan ahead, ideally holding on to waste until your local site reopens or if that is not possible visiting one of the neighbouring sites. The sites will reopen at 8am the following day.

Local Sites	Dates of closure
Drayton (Abingdon)	9 and 10 November
Oakley Wood (Wallingford)	16 and 17 November
Redbridge (Oxford)	18 and 19 November

Recycling waste for road repairs saves cash and carbon

As part of our plan to be carbon neutral by 2030, hundreds of tonnes of material that was previously treated as waste is being used to help repair Oxfordshire's roads. We are working with our partners to make use of the toxic tar-bound material that is removed during road and path resurfacing work. The recycled material will be used in road maintenance projects at 11 different sites in Oxfordshire. The process is an example of the 'circular economy' – where waste products are utilised, rather than disposed of – and will save money, reduce carbon emissions, and minimises the need for new materials.

Covid-19 Vaccinations for younger people

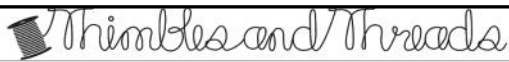
Twelve to 15 year olds are now being offered one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Healthy school-aged children aged 12 - 15 will primarily receive their COVID-19 vaccination in their school, with alternative provision for those who are home schooled, in secure services or specialist mental health settings. Parental, guardian or carer consent will be sought by vaccination healthcare staff prior to vaccination in line with existing school vaccination programmes.

Sixteen to 17 year olds are being offered a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to give them protection. Some young people in this age group who are registered with a GP practice in Oxfordshire are being contacted via text, phone, or letter to invite them to get their first jab at a local GP-led vaccination site (LVS). Not all LVSs are offering the vaccine to 16 - 17 year olds. However, anyone aged 16 or over can 'grab a jab' at the Kassam Stadium in Oxford, without an appointment.

More than 100,000 primary and secondary school children in Oxfordshire will also be offered the opportunity to be immunised against influenza this autumn, with an expanded health protection campaign.

All the latest public health advice on Covid-19 can be found at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/coronavirus-covid-19>

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From your MP...

...John Howell

During the parliamentary recess that coincides with the various Party Conferences I have taken the opportunity to meet up with representatives from a number of parish councils across the constituency. It is good to be able to meet with people face to face again and I know that many people welcome this. Around the constituency I see more and more community activities restarting and events taking place.

I was also delighted that international travel has opened up and that I was able to attend the autumn session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in person. This was the first Session for some time that the UK delegation had been able to attend in person. As Leader of the UK delegation and as a Deputy Speaker it was a great pleasure to be able to welcome to Strasbourg members of the Delegation who were making their first visit as members of the Assembly. I am sure everyone benefited from being able to attend committee meetings and plenary sessions in person and conduct the accompanying diplomacy in the corridors and coffee halls of the Parliamentary Assembly. Indeed I know from many a conversation that people returning to offices are finding the less formal contact invaluable and realise how much has been missed when this was absent.

With COP26 very close now I was pleased that in this session PACE devoted a whole day to climate change and environmental rights and it was a privilege to be able to chair part of the session. The day on this subject was divided into 3 parts. In the first part there was debate on reports on the right to a healthy environment, participative democracy in deciding climate change issues, criminal and civil liberties around climate change, and the rule of law across the whole gamut of climate change and environmental protection. In the second part, a high-level panel was convened which looked across a number of issues relating to climate change and heard from a number of experts including the UK judge at the European Court of Human Rights, the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, the President of Hungary, the Speaker of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, the Portuguese Deputy Minister for the Environment and Climate Action. They each looked at climate change from their own perspectives. The third part of the debate examined inequalities as a result of climate issues and migration and environmental protection in the context of climate change. Overall, the debate considered what practical actions could be

taken to combat climate change and uphold environmentalism. This marked a major contribution to COP26 and recognised particularly that any one country was not going to be able to make the most of change in itself. If we want to make change we need to be working together and working cross-border.

The UK is committed to working with all countries and joining forces with civil society, companies and people on the frontline of climate change to inspire climate action ahead of COP26. The summit itself will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Overall in its COP26 Presidency the UK has four clear objectives:

To ask countries to commit to net zero by mid-century, with more ambitious nationally determined contribution targets for 2030;

To urgently protect and help adapt our communities and natural habitats from the destructive effects of climate change;

To increase funding to support these aims, making good on the \$100 billion annual climate finance goal affirmed through the Paris Agreement;

To close off the outstanding elements of the Paris Rulebook, and accelerate delivery of the Paris Goals through collaboration between Governments, Businesses and Civil Society.

Ultimately, these aims will allow the world to keep the prospect of limiting global temperature rises to 1.5°C alive, thereby avoiding the worst of climate change damage.

There is, of course, lots more to do and much work in preparation. The Government will soon be publishing the Heat and Buildings Strategy, the Net Zero Strategy, the Net Zero Review, as well as the Biomass Strategy and Rail Environment Plan next year. For my part I want to see these being as ambitious as possible.

If you have an issue that you would like to raise with me, if possible, please email me at

john.howell.mp@parliament.uk. If you cannot email you can still write to me at the House of Commons, London, SW1 0AA or PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD.



Wallingford Theatre Club



Do you love live theatre? Would you like to share your passion with other like-minded folk? Then you may be just the person to help Wallingford Theatre Club get going again after lockdown.

Wallingford Theatre Club, which has members across the whole Wallingford area, including Didcot, is keen to get started again after its enforced inactivity because of Covid. The Club exists to organise coach trips to various theatres to watch live performances and share the experience with others. Favourite theatres Club members have visited include the Richmond Theatre and the Orange Tree in Richmond. Following lockdown, the Theatre Club finds itself without someone to organise the purchase of group tickets from various theatres; keep an eye out for and select plays and theatres that would be suitable for members and liaise

with the box offices. The reward? The satisfaction of enabling fellow drama enthusiasts to visit theatres and see plays that they might not see otherwise. There is also a modest honorarium to cover out of pocket expenses.

If you are interested and think you could help, please get in touch with the Theatre Club chairperson, Sue White (sueandterrywhite@ntlworld.com) or telephone Sue on 01491 200978, to find more details of what is involved.

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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Wallingford Country Market

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 from the end of November including the two live shows in 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'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.

November

Mon 1	Eating Our Way to Extinction (12A)
Tues 2	Eating Our Way to Extinction (12A)
Sun 7	The Rescue (12A)
Mon 8	The Rescue (12A)
Tues 9	The Last Duel (15)
Wed 10	The Last Duel (15)
Thurs 11	The Last Duel (15)
Fri 12	The French Dispatch (15)
Sat 13	The French Dispatch (15)
Sun 14	The French Dispatch (15)
Mon 15	The French Dispatch (15)
Tues 16	Quant (PG)
Wed 17	Quant (PG)

Live Theatre

Saturday, 20 November, 7:45pm

Under Milk Wood

Performed solo by Guy Masterson, celebrating a day in the life of 'Llareggub' – a small sea town somewhere in Wales – all 69 ebullient inhabitants in Dylan Thomas's timeless masterpiece are assiduously recreated in an amazing feat of memory and virtuosity. Complemented by a stunning original soundscape, it's bawdy and beautiful, sad and sensual and, through the music of language, leaves indelible, unforgettable images of humanity.

All Tickets £15

Thursday 25 to Saturday 27 November, 2:30pm (Saturday) and 7:30pm (all evenings)

This is Jess

A new musical - with a twist... Billing itself as 'half gig, half musical theatre, and half stand-up comedy' (*Jess is better at geography than maths!*), the one-woman, two-act show follows a year in the life of local girl, Jess. But it isn't just any year: this is the year she meets Gino Corsetti, and a roller-coaster romance ensues. You're certain to fall in love with the hapless Jess (*think Bridget Jones, without the celebrity glamour and fake snow!*) and leave the theatre singing any of the 16 plus strong numbers from this whimsical, uplifting and touching musical.

Tickets £14 (Adults) £12 (Under 18s)

Wallingford Country Market is open each Friday morning in St. Mary-le-More Church, (Market Place), between 9.30 am and 12 noon. With Christmas on the horizon, why not let Wallingford Market help take the strain? Christmas orders can be placed for seasonal and other home baked goods from November onwards. In addition, as well as our regular seasonal plants and produce items, fresh Christmas decorations and wreaths will be available from December. Our Crafters are busy making small hand-crafted gifts and cards.

Do pop in one morning - you may be surprised at what you will find.

Our last market for 2021 will be **Friday 17 December**, but orders can be placed for delivery the following week by arrangement with the producer.



We return after the Christmas break on **Friday 14 January 2022**. Country Markets Bake, Craft, Grow. We are currently looking for new producers. If you have any of these skills and feel that you may like to join our team, we would love to hear from you. For further enquiries, please contact Alison Broadbridge, our Market Manager, (email: alison.broadbridge@gmail.com), or come in and speak with her, or any of us, one Friday morning. We wish all our customers an enjoyable Christmas and a very happy and peaceful New Year!

Wallingford Country Market Committee

Day by day

Wed 1 Nov	Men's Pub Night 8.00pm The White Hart
Sun 7 Nov	8.00am Holy Communion (1662) 10.30am Memorial Service
Wed 10 Nov	Lunch Club 12.30pm Village Hall Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
Sun 14 Nov	8.00am Holy Communion (1662) 10.00am Remembrance Day
Wed 17 Nov	Lunch Club 12.30pm Village Hall Culham Horticultural Society 7.00pm Abbey Guest House
Sat 20 Nov	OSJ Concert 7.00pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 21 Nov	8.00am Holy Communion (1662) 10.30am Family Service 5.00pm Beauforest Evensong
Wed 24 Nov	DoT Historical Society The Historical Society's Christmas Miscellany 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey



Sat
27 Nov **Abbey Museum**
Christmas Shopping Event
2.00-5.00pm

Abbey Tea Room
Christmas Take Away & Shopping
2.30-5.00pm

Sun
28 Nov 8.00am
Holy Communion (1662)

10.30am
Team Advent Service

Tues
30 Nov **Abbey Museum**
Christmas Shopping Event
10.00am-12noon

Parish Registers

Marriages

16 Sept Steven Sanderson and
Madalina Zaharia

18 Sept James McLardy-Smith and
Frances Booth

Funerals

27 Sept David Parry

Memorial Service

1 Oct Rev Tim Perry

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

Monday DADS
Rehearsals
7.30pm

Tuesday Busby Dance
2.15pm

Yoga
Imogen Care (see p8)
6.00pm

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

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

Remember, remember the 5th November

But also remember the hedgehogs and other animals



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 5 Nov **Green**
Fri 12 Nov **Black**
Fri 19 Nov **Green**
Fri 26 Nov **Black**

Weekdays from 6.00am
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/
Oakley Wood will be closed on 16 and 17 November.

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Snow White

A Panto by John Yates



2nd - 4th December 2021

Dorchester-on-Thames Village Hall

Thursday & Friday 7pm

Saturday 2pm and 6.30 pm

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

DADS

Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society