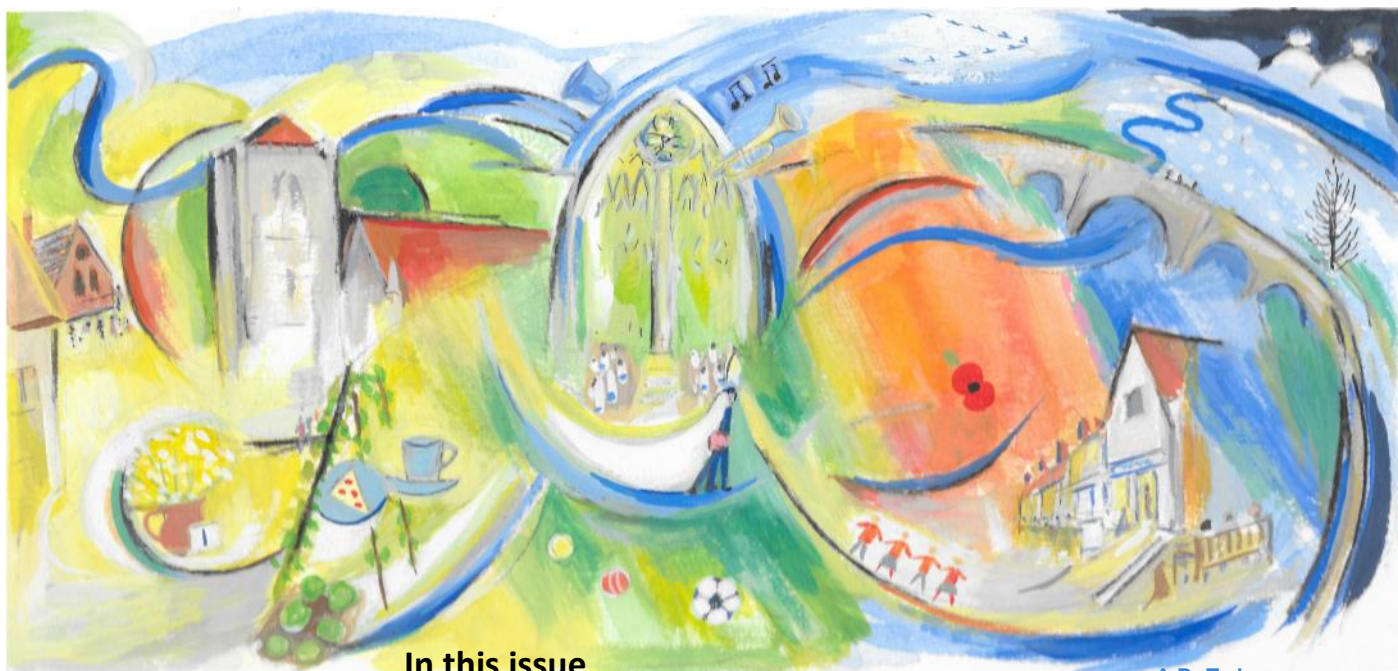


Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

March 2022





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Cover picture: The Abbey lychgate. Water colour by Ptolemy Dean. See article on page 13

Deadline for April Dorchester News



email:

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

A DoT view

This month's issue of Dorchester News contains several items about our local environment and what is being done to take care of it.

Mark Williams sums it all up in his report as Chairman of the Village Council on page 25 in which he praises the work of litter-pickers, Mathew and Maggie Grayson, who told us about their work last month; the planting and clearing work done by the Greendots, of which we have a report by Melinda Powell on page 15; the on-going work of the Hurst Water Meadow Trust, page 17; and the work of Bishop's Court Farm over the last couple of years in removing barbed wire and opening footpaths.

Our report on the farm on page 18 looks at what has been achieved there since villager Keith Ives took it over, and also what he is planning for the future of the farm and how it works with and for the village.

I hope that the article conveys the passion that you hear when talking to Keith that he has to make the farm an asset for the village as a whole. Clearly not everyone will agree with all of his proposals, but there is no doubting the generosity of his ambition.

Finally I must just mention the new bus timetable which increases the number of buses being run through the village by Going Forward. At eight buses a week in one direction and seven in the other it is still not huge, but they will disappear again if they are not used. With a little bit of planning, and not just jumping into my car, I will try to use them. I hope that others do too.

Ian Brace

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Steph Cook

Distribution Co-ordinator

Maurice Day

Printed by

Artisan Print Solutions

Loneliness can take many forms. Maybe we find ourselves without family, or friends seem preoccupied and we don't want to add to their pressure, or we aren't well enough, in mind, body or spirit, to get out and about just now. I suspect too that loneliness has become an underlying state for many of us over the past couple of years, with lockdowns, isolation, loss of the familiar rhythms of life and calendar landmarks. We aren't quite sure how to get back into circulation again, even if we want to; our energy levels have fallen through the floor.

I've been reading a little book recently. Written by Gavin Francis, a GP working in Scotland, it's called *Recovery: The Lost Art of Convalescence*. The book is full of wisdom and it grows out of the conviction that too often both doctors and their patients get into a mindset that, once the medication is finished, the wound healed on the surface, the stitches removed, all is back to normal.

But of course it isn't. We still have quite a way to go, not just bringing our bodies but also our minds back to full health. And if we don't seem to be bouncing back as quickly as we ought, then we start to worry, or punish ourselves, or feel ourselves to be failing others. But, as Dr Francis makes clear, healing takes time, acceptance of limitations (however temporary or long-lasting) and above all self-compassion. You have been through a hard time, and it's not over when the last pill has been taken or the last appointment signed off.

The last two years have hit individuals very hard, and we will need time to recover. It's hit schools and communities, clubs and pubs, and churches hard too. They will need time to recover: time for convalescence, for taking pressure off, for self-compassion and for mutual care above all. Do you remember the days of convalescent homes? Often run by trade unions or charities, they gave people time and

space, a chance to get back to some level of health and fitness, renewing confidence and helping us accept ourselves as we are, and having a realistic understanding of what we can be.

There aren't many convalescent homes around now – not in that sense – so perhaps we have to find them in family and community life, being compassionate with one another, and confident that these times too will pass, eventually, and like spring, new life will come again (even if isn't quite like the old life). So don't be afraid of being tired, detached, uncertain. It's part of the recovery. And don't be afraid of finding joy wherever you can: in your garden, in a flickering candle, in a smile, in music or a good book. Take time and time will take you in its loving arms and gently nurture you into health. It takes time to regroup with friends and family, with community gatherings; but time will do it with you, if you let it.

Lent

Ash Wednesday 2 March

Begin your Lenten journey with an act of repentance and a commitment to follow Jesus

9.30am Berinsfield Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

7.00pm Dorchester Abbey We will mark the start of the Season of Lent with a quiet, contemplative evening service at 7.00pm. This will include reflective readings and the symbolic marking with ashes. All are welcome as we journey together into Lent.

Through the week in Lent Devotional Services:

Mondays: Compline 8.00pm Drayton St Leonard Church A service of music and words for quiet reflection

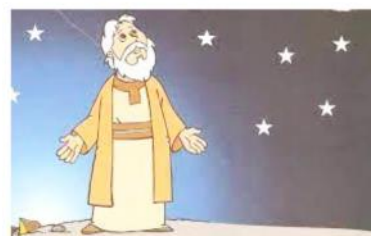
Living in Love & Faith (LLF) Lent Course

This course from the Church of England is a chance to explore important issues of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. It is an opportunity to discuss and shape the direction of the Church of England on these issues as at the end of the course you will be shown how to complete a questionnaire and submit your thoughts to the Bishops of the Church of England. We are offering sessions in the afternoon and the evening on Wednesdays during Lent so people can join in at a time to suit them. The afternoon session begins with tea and cake and the evening session begins with a Fish Supper.



Sunday 13 March
10.30am

Abraham:
God's friend



You are warmly invited to join our
Family Service for Bible stories, fun
and craft activities

Mothering Sunday 27 March 10.30am Dorchester Abbey

All are welcome to this special service to give thanks for mothers and all who nurture us, as well as for our mother church. There will be family activities and lots of music and flowers!

Drop in café with Sue Booy

If you have not yet had an opportunity to say goodbye to Sue, there will be a drop in café at the Abbey on **Saturday 5 March**, 10.00am - 11.30am, so you can have a cuppa with her and say your farewells.

EASTER LILIES 2022



As we look forward to celebrating one of the most important festivals of the church, the Abbey flower arranging team invite you to participate by making a contribution towards the cost of flowers which we will use to decorate the Abbey at this joyous season.

Perhaps you would consider making this a donation in memory of a loved one whose name would be displayed close to the Easter Lilies, the centrepiece arrangement.

Please complete the form below and send it to me:
Sandie Griffith, 39 Conisboro Avenue, Caversham,
Reading RG4 7JF

or hand it to one of the flower arranging team - Kathy Glass, Susan Jupp or Vera Baker

Name

Contact phone
number

Amount of
donation

Donation in memory of
.....

Chiropodist

Wednesday 9 March

Village Hall

Appointment only
Call **07850 196714**

Dorchester Abbey

COME AND SEE



A big, warm open invitation to all...

Based around the Lord's prayer, *Come and See* is the Bishop of Oxford's invitation to help us all explore faith in the lead up to Easter.

Monday evenings: 7.30pm.

For more details, please 'phone Malcolm and Sue Lucas: 341502

Culham & District Horticultural Club



Wednesday 16 March 2022 7.30pm

Dorchester Abbey

Paul Barney

***Shipwrecks, Bombs & Buggles: 28 Years
of Edulis Nursery***

Following a Masters in Landscape Architecture, Paul set up a landscape business which gradually in 1992 morphed into Edulis, where he grows plants for sustainable gardens. Edulis has an unrivalled reputation for its portfolio of rare plants and esoteric edibles, many collected by Paul on his extensive travels.

He will bring plants for sale at the meeting.

Please wear a face mask.

Our membership includes keen amateur gardeners, professional horticulturalists and those who just enjoy beautiful plants and gardens. We organize talks in the winter and garden visits in the summer. The annual subscription is £20.. Visitors are welcome (suggested donation £4). For more details telephone **01235 850381** or email **judy@tigercat.me.uk**



Hempcroft Allotments March

Use of Herbicides on the Hempcroft Allotments

At the AGM at the end of September 2021 there was a discussion on the use of herbicides, specifically glyphosate (Roundup) 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 tenants there was a strong feeling that all herbicides should be banned. There are also tenants who strongly supported a wholly organic approach to crop husbandry.

It was agreed that the whole membership should be consulted on this issue. We have now carried out a consultation with all members who were asked to vote for one of the following three propositions.

65% of the membership responded with the following results

1 Do nothing, allow continued use of herbicides at the discretion of the tenant	1
2 Ban the use of industrial strength herbicides but allow general commercial herbicides such as Roundup to be used in compliance with NSALG guidelines	36
3 Ban the use of all herbicides	16
Written abstention	1

On the basis of this consultation the use of general commercial herbicides such as Roundup or the equivalent on the allotments will be allowed in compliance with the NSALG guidelines. These guidelines have now been incorporated in a new draft of the Tenancy Agreement which has been sent to all members.

Edward Metcalfe
340160
edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk

Dorchester Lunch Club

The lunches in **March** will be on **Wednesday 9 and 23 March** and the final one before the summer break will be on **Wednesday 13 April**. All will be held in 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
Phone: **01865 341066** or Mob: **07907 778774**



DADS' Summer Production!

Do you fancy being in DADS' next show? DADS welcome anyone wanting to get involved in local theatre and are holding open auditions this month for their summer production, the extremely funny Jane Austen spoof, *Mansfield Park & Ride* by Brendan Murray.

Before the auditions, there will be two readings of the play, one online (**Monday, 14 March**) and the other in Dorchester Village Hall (**Thursday 17 March**). These are open to all, even if you are not intending to audition. The auditions will take place on **Monday 21 March** in Dorchester Village Hall with call-backs on **Thursday, 24** if necessary.

Last year's summer show, an outdoor production of *Wind in the Willows*, was so well received that DADS had no hesitation in deciding that the summer 2022 show would be performed outdoors too. Once again the show has been booked for three performances as part of the Kenton Theatre's summer roadshow in Henley. Performance dates will be **21-23 July** in Dorchester Abbey's Cloister Garden and **4-6 August** at a venue (TBC) in Henley.

More information about the auditions is available at www.dads.org.uk or from Mark Wilkin at mark.wilkin@dads.org.uk.

With thanks to the bagpiper on 22 December

Just a quick letter to say a massive thank you to all those that contributed and helped with the Charitable fund raising event at Dorchester Abbey before Christmas.

A special thank you to Paul at The George and Jonathan at The White Hart for their contributions and use of equipment.

Thank you also to Pipe Major Roger Huth, Sue Booyes, Santa Claus and the villagers that volunteered and cooked up a storm!

A total of £400 was raised to be equally shared between Footsteps and The Abbey.

Looking forward to next year

Bill and Nicky Howard



Football Results North Berks League Div 1



22/01/2022	Dorchester First	1	4	Hagbourne United
29/01/2022	Long Wittenham Athletic First	4	3	Dorchester First
12/02/2022	East Hendred AFC First	4	0	Dorchester First



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In House
Sales & Lettings

*According to Rightmove - Most Sales Agreed in OX10 7 between Jan - Dec 2021
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Letting?

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AWARDS**

2021

★★★★★

GOLD WINNER

ESTATE AGENT
IN WALLINGFORD



Dorchester Museum News

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 the 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 team. 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 and how to apply please contact:
The Administrator admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk or tel. **01865 340007**

Closing date for applications: **Wednesday 6 April 2022.**

Dorchester Historical Society

7.30pm Wednesday 23 March 2022
Dorchester Abbey Shrine Chapel,

Members free, Visitors welcome (£3). Please wear a mask.

Geoffrey Tyack will talk on:
Architecture of Georgian Oxford



Sheldonian Theatre

© Prosthetic Head CC BY-SA 4.0

Geoffrey Tyack, MA MLitt Oxford, PhD London, FSA, FRHist.Soc, is an Emeritus Fellow of Kellogg College, Oxford, and teaches courses on the University's MSc in Local History, His main academic interests are in British and European architectural history, especially from the C18 to the C20, and the history of urban planning since the Renaissance, with numerous published works. He has been President of the Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society since June 2017. He is also a Trustee of the Oxford Preservation Trust, a council member of the London Topographical Society, and Editor of the *Georgian Group Journal*. He is a keen amateur musician, specializing in early keyboard instruments and the organ.

Looking forward:

Wednesday 27 April: Pam Manix on 'Oxford's Medieval Jewish Quarter'

Wednesday 25 May: Keith Parry on 'Thames Bridges between Reading and Oxford'.

New bus services

Service 138/D1

From 1 Feb 2022

Going Forward Buses

Going Forward has expanded its bus services through Dorchester to include Wednesdays and Saturdays. New times to Wallingford and to Didcot are shown here.

* Picks up at Herringcote 3 minutes earlier

† Sets down at Herringcote on request

† Picks up at Didcot Tesco 10 minutes earlier

R: Sets down on request

Buses at Didcot pick up and drop off at various points. See website for details

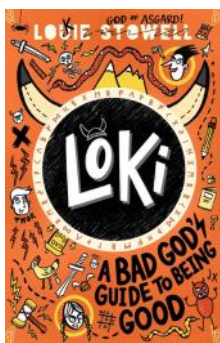
Going forward buses:

www.goingforwardbuses.com

To Wallingford	Monday		Wed		Fri		Sat	
Didcot Station	10.05	12.25 [†]	10.05	12.25 [†]	-	-	12.15 [†]	15.42 [†]
Berinsfield Health Centre	10.24	-	10.24	12.43	-	-	12.33	R
Dorchester War Memorial	10.30	12.45	10.30	R	09.46*	10.28*	12.39	16.03
Wallingford Market Place	10.45	13.00	10.45	13.00	10.03	10.45	13.00	16.20

From Wallingford	Monday		Wed		Fri		Sat	
Wallingford Market Place	09.30	11.45	11.45		11.50	12.15	09.30	14.15
Dorchester War Memorial	09.38	11.53	11.53		12.00[†]	12.25[†]	09.38	14.23
Berinsfield Health Centre	-	11.59	11.59		-	-	-	14.29
Didcot Station	10.04	12.24	12.24		-	-	10.04	R

Two books for younger readers



Do you know a young reader who is a big fan of Tom Gates or Diary of a Wimpy Kid, and looking for something similar? Try *Loki: A Bad God's Guide to Being Good* by Louie Stowell (£7.99, 7-8 year olds). Young Loki has been banished by Odin to live on earth. He wants to get back home, but to do so he's got to go to school and 'do good deeds' (sigh). Worse, he's been forbidden from using his special godly powers. Packed full of doodles, this diary-style book is brimming over with quirky humour.

For slightly older readers, *The Ship of Doom* (£6.99, 10-11 year olds; out on 3 March) is the first in a new series by M.A. Bennett. This time-travel story looks set to be a big hit. Members of Aunt Luna's Butterfly Club board the Time Train to plunder knowledge and inventions from the future. Finding themselves in 1912 on board a ship travelling from Southampton to New York – yes, you've guessed it, the HMS Titanic – friends Konstantin and Aidan meet a man called Marconi. Somehow, the pair must get Marconi and his invention – the wireless radio – off the ship to save the existence of the invention for the future. A rollicking adventure that is great fun!



Karen Gurney

BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

Visit your local library and see what we have on offer

Rhymes for the under 5s: Wednesdays 10.30am

Storytime: Wednesdays 3.30pm

IT Drop in: Thursdays 2.00pm

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

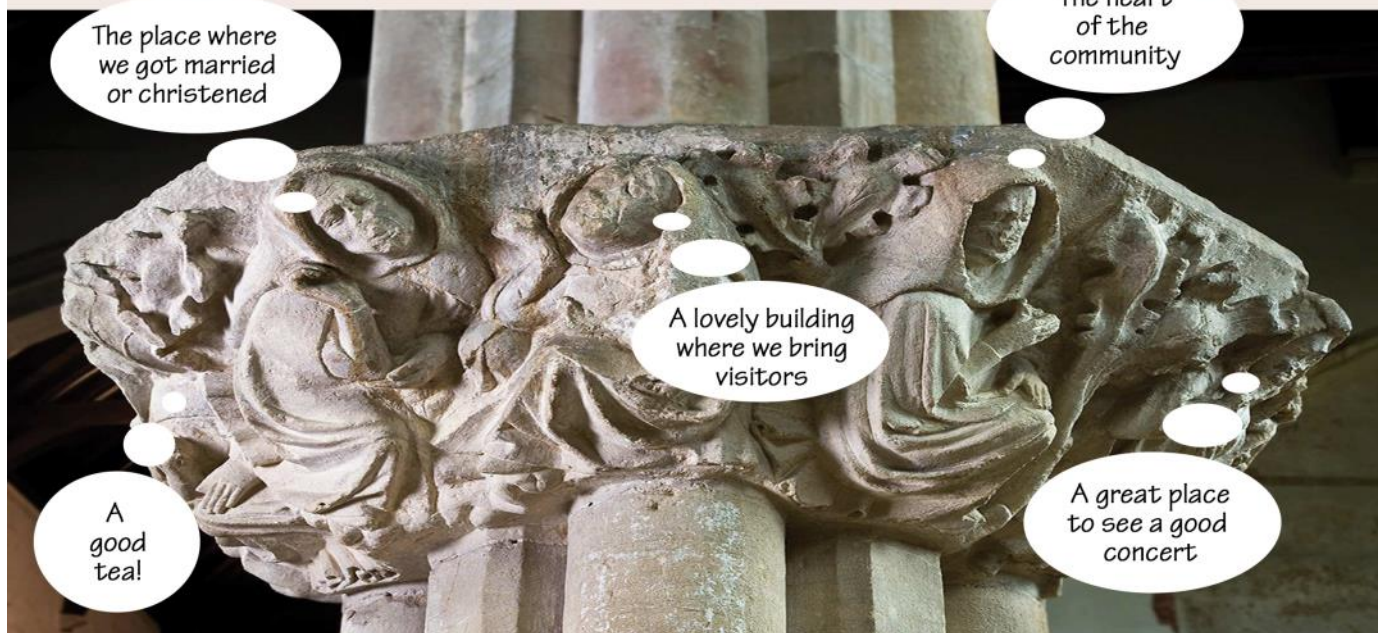
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

@OxonLibraries

OxfordshireLibraries

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Whatever the Abbey means to you.....



Become an Abbey Friend

For an annual subscription of £25 you can support the fabric of the Abbey and ensure it is here for future generations... whatever their needs!

For more information find the leaflet in this magazine or look for Friends on www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk



St Birinus School News

Here at Dorchester St Birinus we are looking forward to spring as our Coronavirus cases are dropping and the weather starts to improve. (hopefully!)

We are really proud of the progress our children are making and we continually see them demonstrate our vision of creating 'Happy, healthy, informed individuals' by living out our values of compassion, knowledge and diversity. I am proud of the nurture and education that we provide to children at this school. We feel so privileged to be a part of this community and we know how lucky we are to be in such a great situation near the Abbey, the Hurst Water Meadows and Bishop's Court Farm.

If you would like to play a part in promoting our vision, we would love you to consider becoming a school governor.

Governors provide helpful support and challenge for the Headteacher and help the school deliver its vision and values.

We currently have four governing board meetings a year and a similar number of sub-committee meetings.

Don't worry if it sounds complicated - there is the chance to start as an associate and learn the ropes gradually.

Oxfordshire County Council offers excellent governor training which is free of charge.

We are especially keen for the governing board to be representative of the diversity of backgrounds of the school



**Dorchester Abbey
Friends and Beauforest Society**

A date for your diary

The Friends of Dorchester Abbey Summer Outing will be to Southwark Cathedral on **Monday 9 May**. Further details will be announced nearer the time.

Honor Juniper
(honorjuniper@hotmail.com, 01865 343228)

community. If you are a member of the local community and feel that you have something to offer us, please do get in touch by calling **01865 340081**. We look forward to hearing from you.

If you would like to know more about our wonderful school, please visit our website:

<https://www.st-birinus-pri.oxon.sch.uk/>

Jo Staples
Headteacher



Helping people with dementia live brighter lives

Daybreak, Oxford dementia day care is excited to be the charity partner of the Dorchester Festival!

We are a local charity which helps to make the lives of people with dementia and their carers brighter and more manageable

Each of our centres offer **involvement, activity and fun**. We enjoy word games, music and singing
We see each member as an **individual**
All are treated with **dignity, respect and kindness**

We have centres in Greater Leys, Littlemore, North Oxford and Kidlington and hope to open another closer to Dorchester

If you have a family member or friend with dementia do come along for a chat with one of our dedicated and friendly staff who will be at most events including all day at the Daybreak stand at the Food & Gift Fair on **Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 May**

We look forward to meeting you!

www.daybreak-oxford.org.uk

Tel: **01865 776744**

Registered charity no. 1113182



RULES

1. The Show is open to any person residing in Dorchester-on-Thames, Burcot, Drayton St Leonard and Berinsfield.
2. No exhibitor may exhibit more than one exhibit in each class, excepting Classes 14 & 21, where three entries may be made.

3. **All entry forms and fees to be submitted no later than 7.00 pm on Wednesday evening before the show.**

4. Entries in Classes 16 & 17 must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least the previous 4 months. Other plant classes with the exception of Classes 23 & 24 must have been grown by the exhibitor. Classes 23 - 37 must be made by the exhibitor.
5. Exhibitors must provide their own dishes, stands etc. Every care will be taken of the exhibits but the committee will not be held responsible for loss or damage.
6. On the relative merits of the exhibits, the opinion of the judges shall be final, but the committee reserves to itself the decision on any other points in dispute.
7. The Committee reserves the right to inspect any competitor's garden or allotment before or after the day of the show.

8. **All exhibits for competition must be staged between 9.00 am and 10.15 am on the day of the show.**

9. All competitors must leave their exhibits on show until after the Prize giving and raffle and clear immediately afterwards.
10. Any protests must be made in writing before 3.00 pm on the day of the Show, accompanied by 50p. deposit which shall be forfeited to the Committee if the protest is not upheld and found to be groundless.
11. Any exhibitor infringing any of these rules shall forfeit all claims to any prize.

Definitions

Class 1: Long trumpet: one flower on a stem; trumpet as long or longer than petals.

Class 2: Short trumpet or cup: one flower on a stem; trumpet shorter than petals.

Classes 23 & 24: Any natural material may be used.

**Please label varieties whenever possible
Please note Rule 4**

DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES SPRING FLOWER SHOW

and
Plant Sale/Raffle

DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL

on
Saturday 9th April 2022

Staging 9.00 am - 10.15 am

Viewing 2.30 pm - 4.00 pm

Raffle draw and
presentation of prizes from 3.40 pm

Exhibitors will be competing for:

The Robert Soffe Cup (Long Trumpet Daffodils)
Short Trumpet Daffodil Cup
Vegetable Cup, Spring Flowers Cup
Domestic Classes Cup
Britain in Bloom Cup
The Blackwell Photography Cup
Mary Tame Handicraft Plate

Class

- 1) Daffodils, long trumpet 1 variety - 5 stems
- 2) Daffodils/Narcissi, short trumpet or cup, 1 variety - 5 stems
- 3) Daffodils/Narcissi, miniature, 1 variety - 5 stems
- 4) Daffodils, double - 5 stems
- 5) Narcissi, multiple heads - 5 stems
- 6) Narcissi/short trumpet daffodils - 5 stems, 1 of each variety
- 7) Tulips, 1 variety - 3 stems
- 8) Blossom from a tree or shrub, 1 variety - 3 sprays
- 9) Blossom from a tree or shrub, 3 varieties - 1 stem each
- 10) Polyanthus - 5 stems, mixed colours allowed
- 11) Pansies/Violas - 5 stems, mixed colours allowed
- 12) Hellebores, 1 variety - 3 stems.
- 13) Hyacinths, 1 variety - 3 stems
- 14) Any other spring flower, 1 variety - 3 stems (up to 3 entries)
- 15) Mixed Spring Flowers, 5 stems

- 16) Plant, flowering or not, in pot no more than 10" - not exhibited in last 3 years.

- 17) Bulb or bowl of bulbs of same variety, not more than 10" pot.

- 18) Leeks - 3

- 19) Stored Onions - 5

- 20) Stored Shallots - 7

- 21) Any other vegetable or fruit (up to 3 entries)

- 22) Rhubarb - 3 sticks

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

- 23) 'Easter Basket' (46x46x46cm/18x18x18")

- 24) Arrangement in a shell (15x15x15cm/6x6x6")

COOKERY

- 25) Marble cake
- 26) Vegetable samosa - 3
- 27) Hot Cross buns - 3
- 28) Lemon meringue pie
- 29) Oat cakes - 5
- 30) Pot of marmalade

PHOTOGRAPHS - all unmounted and not exhibited previously.

Conventional or digital camera
Must not be manipulated or enhanced in any way. Max 8" x 6"

- 31) 'Reflection'

- 32) Subject beginning with 'E'

Image manipulation - up to A4

- 33) Any subject

HANDICRAFTS

- 34) Any item of needlecraft, incl knitting
- 35) Any other handcrafted item

CHILDREN (Please state age on exhibit)

Aged 9 and over:

- 36) 'Cake monster'

Aged 8 and under:

- 37) Edible jewellery

ENTRY FORM

Please return no later than **7.00 pm Wednesday, 6th April** to: Christina Stores, 55 High Street (post through letterbox)

Class Nos

Full name of Exhibitor

Address

Telephone No Entry Fee 10p. per Class

Email address (for Flower Show reminders and schedule only)



Don't wait to be told about it – be there.

Dorchester Village Hall has secured a **one-night only** performance of *Old Herbaceous*, a professional touring play that has entranced sell-out audiences all around the country over the past five years. As *Old Herbaceous*, renowned actor Giles Shenton truly lives the part of the legendary Head Gardener, Herbert Pinnegar, inviting you to feel included in a private chat from a bygone, comforting age. The evening blossoms into tender humour, much in the traditionally understated English style of the early 20th century as relationships between 'The Big House' and outdoor staff became less class status.

'This lovingly created production is a joy to watch. Sad at times, it unexpectedly twists into a quiet love story of sorts. A delightful tale, beautifully told' The Review Hub

'Absolutely idyllic' BBC Radio York

Old Herbaceous Saturday 2 April 2022 Dorchester Village Hall

'He draws us into his world from his first entrance...and we are held entranced from start to finish' Edinburgh Fringe Review

'Downton Abbey with gardening tips' The Guardian

'Possibly one of the most poignant, beautifully acted, heart-warming plays I have ever seen...and I have seen many! Outstanding' Audience feedback

All proceeds to the Village Hall modernisation and restoration fund
Dorchester-on-Thames village hall is a Registered Charity no.900244

Door and bar open at 7.00pm

Performance at 7.30pm

Tickets £12 available from Ticket Source:

<http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/dotvh>

(Further information Jane Brooks, 01865 340792)



Can you help find Gizmo a forever home?



Hello, my name is Gizmo.

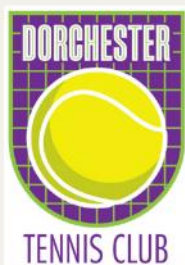
I am 8 years old. When I was 4, I lived in a nice cat rescue home but then I was adopted by Margot (all the family call her Granna). We lived happily together in a lovely cottage in Malthouse Lane, Dorchester-on-Thames. I am used to having a cat flap and being adventurous, exploring the countryside lanes and rooftops but she was always there when I got home. I am quite shy with dogs.

Sadly, Granna passed away in May 2020 and Paul, Granna's son, stayed on at Lavender Cottage to look after me. But the family have to sell the cottage and

I need a new home. They all want to have me but they live near to busy roads or in urban built up areas which would be too scary for me. Paul says I can go back to the cat rescue home, but I would really love to stay in the village. I am quite well known here - I have even been on the front cover of Dorchester News! It looks like I will have to move by the end of February 2022.

If anyone would like a small loyal furry companion that purrs, then please **give Paul a call on 07957 812913**.





Dorchester Tennis Club

Junior & Adult Tennis Lessons

Wednesday Evenings
Juniors begin on 27th April
Adults begin on 8th June

4:15 - 5:00

4-7 Year Olds

5:00 - 5:45

6-9 Year Olds

5:45 - 6:30

9-11 Year Olds

6:30 - 7:15

12+ Year Olds

All junior sessions £6.75 per session!

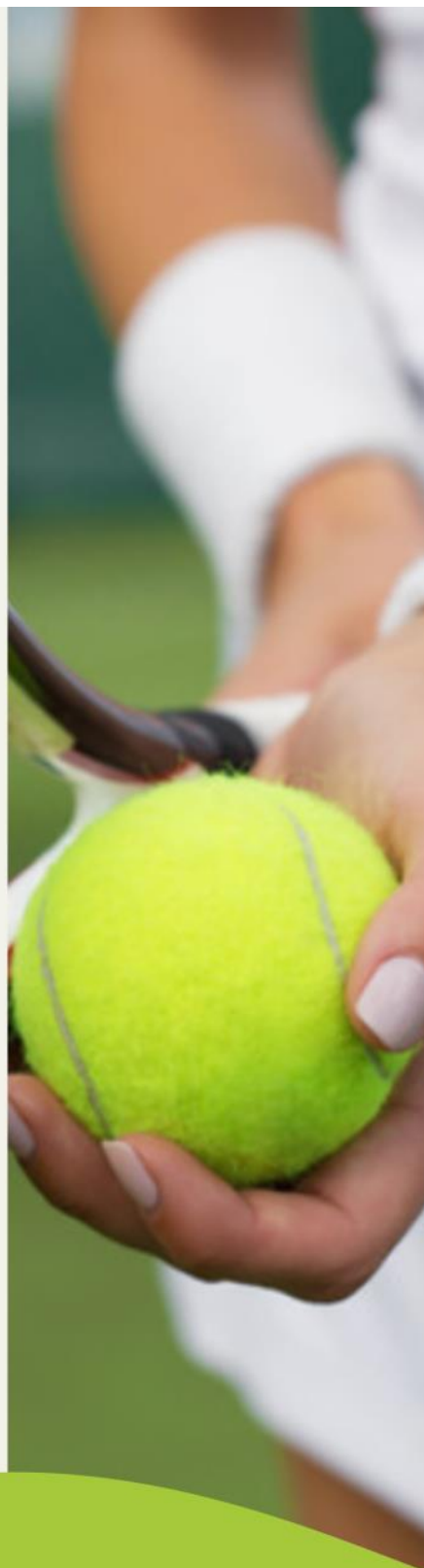
7:15 - 8:15

Rusty Rackets

Four week course for Adults returning to the
game or trying it for the first time!

**TO BOOK ON OR FOR MORE
INFORMATION**

Email Andy at andy@aatennis.co.uk



The view of the Abbey from the High Street with the lychgate in the foreground is one of the picturesque compositions which often attract artists to come with their sketch books to the village. They are a familiar sight in the summer months but we rarely see their finished pictures or know their names. One recent visitor was the well-known architect and artist Ptolemy Dean who has very kindly allowed us to reproduce his watercolour as the cover of this issue of the Dorchester News.

Dorchester Abbey Lychgate This month's cover

gates and the decorated newel post which survive on the Abbey side. His widow, Elizabeth Esther remarried George May of Reading

in 1865 and two years later May wrote to Macfarlane offering 200 guineas to fund 'a suitable lych gate as a protection to that which was erected by Mr J C Latham' on condition that it was recorded 'that the gate was erected by Mrs May to the memory of her late husband'. Macfarlane enthusiastically accepted the offer and within three weeks Scott's office had confirmed that a contract had been let for £210. This clearly suggests that Scott had already prepared the design for the lychgate possibly sometime before the death of Latham had



The lychgate from the High Street

The story of the lychgate is a little more complicated than it seems at first sight. It provides a dignified ritual approach to the Abbey grounds from the High Street and forms an appropriate setting for the magnificent restoration of the church which began in 1845 and was given renewed impetus in 1856 with the appointment of the Rev William Macfarlane as vicar. With his chosen architect Sir George Gilbert Scott, Macfarlane and his sister Jessie largely funded the completion of the restoration which was celebrated in 1874. The lychgate, however, was paid for by others with a connection to the village. Hidden away on one of the inner faces of the eastern arch is an inscription 'In Memory of Joseph C Latham of Bishops court'. It is now almost impossible to read but it commemorates a project that Latham started before his death in 1861 when he paid for the lattice



The lychgate from the Abbey side

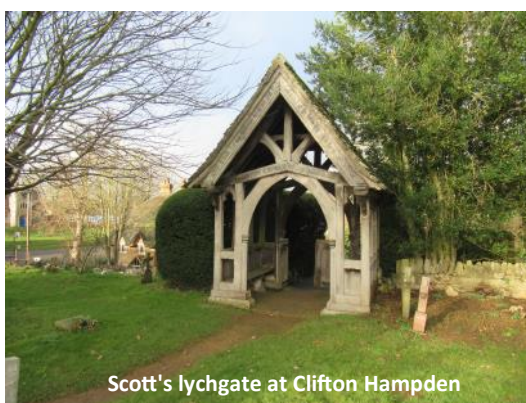
brought the project to a halt. Indeed, the inspiration for the design may have come from the elaborately decorated lychgate that Scott had erected at the entrance to the graveyard at Clifton Hampden Church as early as 1843. The arched superstructure that we see today was rapidly constructed and the condition was discharged by the inscription on the inner face of the western arch, 'Erected by George and Esther May 1867'. The much more visible inscription on the east face of the lychgate celebrates its restoration in 1981 by the American Friends of the Abbey in memory of Edith Steadman whose eccentric account of *A Yankee in an English Village* is available to purchase at the Museum and the Co-op in a new edition published last year.

When Ptolemy Dean made his watercolour of the lychgate which inspired this account he did not know that it was designed by Gilbert Scott. So it is a remarkable coincidence that Dean is the current Surveyor of the Fabric of Westminster Abbey, a post which was previously held by Scott himself.

Malcolm Airs
20 January 2022



Latham's gates with the original newel post on the left



Scott's lychgate at Clifton Hampden

29th April - 8th May

www.dorchesterfestival.com

In this copy of the Dorchester News you have a Festival programme hot off the press. If this is your second programme **please** pass it on to friends rather than the recycling bin! This is amazing entertainment right on your doorstep at a good price, so do book tickets, bring your friends, and support two very worthwhile local charities. Bash tickets are already going very fast so get your seats for this great fun evening before it's too late—see the separate ad on the back page

Claim your 10% early booking discount!

If you buy your tickets by 11th March you get a 10% discount using the code DORFEST before you pay. You can book online and print your ticket at home or use the telephone box office 0333 666 3366. Some tickets will be available from Hair of Dorchester and we will also run a 'live' box office at Tuesday Abbey coffee mornings through April.



**Food & Gift Fair & Cookery Demos
Sat 7th & Sun 8th May**

With amazing foods and gifts and live music on offer the Tent is the place for lunch

over the second weekend! Come and browse some great stalls and listen to producers be passionate about their food.

The demos are cosy sessions in some of the smartest kitchens in Dorchester! Book early as numbers are limited:

Scandi Baking with **Claire Andersson**

Delicious vegan with **Planted Plates**

Indian Classics with **Jumm Food**

Kids cookery with **Mrs Bun the Baker**

Cocktail Making

Thurs 5th May 7.30pm



The award winning manager of Soiree in Wallingford teaches you how to make (and drink) cocktails and tells a little history along the way. Book a taxi!

Live History Challenge: In Time

BH Mon 2nd May 10-4pm (1 hour slot)

Somewhere between an escape room and local history theatre performance—you have 1 hour to solve a challenge by interviewing live characters from Dorchester's history around the village. Unmissable fun!



PS — Village Essentials
Get training for the 5k fun run, plan your scarecrow for the trail and buy your duck!!!!

Book your tickets now

On line from the website or through the ticket hotline 0333 666 3366

More details of events at: www.dorchesterfestival.com

Do email us with any queries (or offers of help!) at festival@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

....we always need one more person to pour tea!

Friday Night Comedy Club

Fri 6th May 7pm



Always one of the best nights! Buy handmade pizza, bring lots of friends and see the great **Jen Brister**, star of BBC Live at the Apollo, supported by Tom Deacon, Stefano Paolini and Tom Houghton

Jazz Supper

Tues 3rd May 7.30pm

Cate Cody and her incredible band return with their American songbook sound—just lovely music by amazing world renowned jazz musicians. Paella for supper.



Dog Show

Sat 30th April from 9.30am

Prepare your best friend for a great range of classes including Musical Sit and Fancy Dress All dogs welcome from mutt to pedigree, puppy to veteran! Dog Agility demonstration over lunch



Learn to Draw Your Dog

BH Mon 2nd May 10am



Work with renowned dog portrait experts Molly & Maud to create a portrait of your dog in charcoal and chalk from a photo.

After a relaxed and fun 3 hours you will leave with your portrait and the skills to create many more!

Snowdrop and Cowslip Appeal for Village Green Spaces



Spring is fast approaching, and greenDoTs volunteers will soon be completing their winter hedging work in Dorchester on Thames and turning towards wildflower projects

This past Autumn and Winter, volunteers have been growing hundreds of native wildflower plugs from seed, and these will be ready to plant out in the Spring.

Apart from the long-standing yearly displays of snowdrops in the Abbey's Cloister Gardens and in the woody area alongside Manor Farm Road, some of you may have noticed new clusters of snowdrops appearing along the edges of the Dorchester Cemetery, Drayton Road and down Demesne Lane, which runs between Drayton Road and the Hurst Water Meadow.

These brave buds not only lift the heart with the promise of Spring, but also serve as testimony to the many snowdrop bulbs planted by greenDoT volunteers. You may also notice



some of the 4,000 English bluebells that we have planted since the project started in 2018, alongside native daffodils, cowslips, wild primrose, and star-burst clusters of winter aconite.

On Drayton Road, where volunteers have been working over the winter to rejuvenate the hedge alongside the fishing lake, in an area that had become noticeably overgrown and choked in ivy and dead elm, you may see a variety of blossoms growing in response to light that now shines through. This project has involved a good deal of work, with volunteers laying the hedge and filling gaps

with native shrubs. If you look closely, you can see where volunteers have learned how to cut and bend remaining stems, weaving together the new hedge's undergirding structure, which will soon be covered with fresh growth.



This spring, we plan to plant even more wildflowers and would especially welcome donations of snowdrops and cowslips. Last year, one villager kindly donated cowslips for the cemetery in memory of their beloved spouse, who was so fond of this flower. These cowslips are now flourishing in a bed along the cemetery's edge, opposite Herringcote.

When you are taking walks in Dorchester on Thames, be sure to keep an eye out for the snowdrops, cowslips and other winter wildflowers that are blooming in the village's green spaces. Next spring, we look forward to even more wildflowers gracing our village!

Melinda Powell

GreenDoTs is a network of community volunteers working with local organisations to enhance and connect public green spaces around Dorchester on Thames, creating corridors for wildlife and friendships between people. Volunteers work together on Monday and Thursday mornings from 10.00am – 1.00pm. If you're out for a walk then, come by to say hello and have a look. To become a greenDoTs volunteer or to donate plants, email Andrew Clements at aclem19dot@aol.com.

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





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will be live in your area.

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gigaclear.com/mycommunity

Gigaclear[®]

Two seconds that can change your life Dorchester Abbey Bell Ringers



At school we used a shorthand for the old argument described by C.P. Snow in his *Two Cultures* lecture of 1959 about the gulf between scientific and literary minds – we'd ask each other 'Are you Maths or English?' It's great to have in the village a practice that bridges that divide – bellringing. For the literary folk, or 'English', there's the mystery plot of the ninth Lord Peter Wimsey novel, *The Nine Tailors* by Dorothy L Sayers in which Wimsey becomes involved in

a nine-hour overnight peal, before the inevitable deaths begin (neither of these elements featuring in Dorchester...yet.) There's also Ernest Hemingway's novel of the Spanish Civil War, *For Whom The Bell Tolls*, the title itself taken from the poet John Donne's *Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions, Meditation XVII* as well as numerous other references from Shakespeare to Betjeman to Elton John.

So much for the English, what about the Maths?

Well church bells are obviously massive, the largest and loudest musical instrument of all, weighing hundreds or even thousands of pounds in weight, so they have a natural period to their swing which is not easy to lengthen or shorten by meagre humans pulling on ropes. So in change ringing, (the type of ringing traditionally practised in this country – and no other) the timing of each bell can't move more than one position forward or back from one permutation to the next. When ringing using the usual six bells, the time between each 'round', when all six ring after each other, once, is approximately two seconds. And what a couple of seconds they are! Though bells have been ringing in churches for over a thousand years, for the last four hundred, bellringers have been exploring the different permutations of patterns it's possible to play other than straight rounds, then memorising the different 'methods' of these combinations and playing them on up to a dozen bells. As methods increase in complexity, the mathematics of group theory begins to show. With one ringer per church bell, probably the largest set or 'extent' that is humanly possible is one on eight bells which involves 40,320 changes. It has apparently been achieved only once, at the Loughborough Bell Foundry in 1963. The ringing began at 6.52am on July 27, and finished at 12.50am on July 28 after 17 hours 58 minutes of continuous ringing and an unknown number of complaints to the police. The theory of methods and group theory surpasses human capacity and goes on to reach the abstract heights of 'the knitting pattern of the Plain Bob ringing sequence on n bells similarly corresponds to the flipping sequences of a regular n -sided polygon' and even Hamiltonian cycles, for all those with a severe 'Maths' inclination!

But oh, the methods have such wonderful English names such as 'Cambridge Surprise', 'Stedman Triples' and even 'Reverse Canterbury Pleasure Place Doubles', that last name

New trustees at the Hurst

Following the transformation of the old Hurst Trust into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, a number of our longest serving trustees have decided they wish to retire.

John Metcalfe, Gillian Johnson, Shammy Puri and Chris Hill have been highly influential stewards of the Trust over many years, and we shall miss their wisdom, experience and common sense.

To replace them we welcome Richard Tilley, David Wilkinson, Sophia Stewart-Liberty and Thom Airts. Richard has long acted as an ecological conscience for us as a keen volunteer. David's archaeological and environmental experience, most recently from his work at Historic England, will also help keep us sensitive to conservation. Sophia will be known to all as an artist and also brings educational and social media experience. Thom has been a journalist which more recently has expanded into wider communication work, including photography and advising on social media matters. He produced the recent films of Malcolm Airts' historic walking tours around Dorchester. All but Thom are local residents, but Thom spent many happy hours fishing on the Hurst as a child and still plays cricket for Dorchester. He now lives in Haddenham.

Gillian retires not only as a trustee but also as our Secretary. Trustee Chris Smith takes on that role, and his old role as our weekly volunteer group manager is being taken over by Louise Beland.

We thank all for committing to maintain the Hurst as a much valued local asset.

Richard Farrant (Chair)

just about doing justice to the feelings of elation following the marriage of physical and mental effort combined with camaraderie and teamwork.

In Dorchester, we've weathered the worst of the pandemic by meeting on ringingroom.com when lockdown began, eventually progressing to socially distanced ringing on handbells in the cloister garden. Now we're back in the tower and luckily find ourselves joined by two new learners and one returner so are now twelve experienced and two novices, but are always in need of new recruits to make sure we have enough people to ring all our eight bells if possible and to reduce the attendance strain when required for weddings and funerals in addition to the usual Sunday service ringing. In 2021, since returning to near normal in July, we've rung for four weddings on all eight bells, and tolled the tenor bell for a number of funerals. We generally start off with bell handling practices on Saturday mornings and once the learner is confidently handling a bell they join the main practice at 7:30pm on Tuesdays. We're happy to show anyone around from Dorchester or nearby who's interested in learning and they can contact the Tower Captain, Nick Forman on nick@forman.org.uk

Robin Jones



It is almost two years since Dorchester News reported on what was happening at Bishops Court Farm and interviewed the then relatively new owner, Keith Ives. So we thought it time to go back and catch up with where Keith, and the farm, have got to, and particularly as he currently has an exhibition of his future plans.

When we spoke to him in 2020, Keith was only a few months into his ownership of the farm but already had clear ideas about how he wanted to develop it. He spoke about how he wanted to open up the land as much as possible for the village to use, introducing alpacas (at the time he had about 30) and miniature horses; encouraging bees and producing honey; continuing with the sheep; rebuilding the stables to bring horses back to the farm; and in the longer term having a farm shop and introducing holiday lets and encouraging agri-tourism. The farm came with a number of planning permissions for renovating the existing farmhouse and converting some of the barns into housing, which he would continue with, and a large new house, which he decided he would not build.

So how is he doing? Pretty well.

On opening up the land he has removed miles of barbed wire from the footpaths and widened and resurfaced many of them. He has opened up a new footpath, the covid diversion path, down towards Day's Lock, to ease the congestion in the narrow path that was previously the only route, and conversion of land to Village Green status at Day's Lock and the Dyke Hills has been achieved.

Hedgerows and some trees have been taken out in places, but, Keith explains, this is because it had previously been poorly managed and was in an unsatisfactory condition. Trees are being replanted and he is committed to planting between 8 and 12 kilometres of new hedge this year. This will include a hedge to separate the 'covid diversion footpath' from the field it skirts, because the field frequently contains sheep and not all dog walkers respect this.

The alpacas have multiplied, and alpaca walking has become part of the offer for visitors. The miniature horses have not appeared, but miniature goats have; the farm is producing its own honey from its own hives; and the sheep are about to produce another crop of lambs. Keith estimates that there will be about 600 new lambs this year. The stables have been rebuilt and return of horses to the farm has been a great success and always a welcome sight for any visitor to see. Pigs have also been introduced, and the farm is now making its own sausages, ham and bacon.

A farm shop has been replaced with a café, due to open this month, March, and some farm produce may be sold there.

Renovation of the farmhouse is proceeding slowly following delays in planning, and, as Keith points out, expensively. Two years ago Keith said that it was in need of extensive restoration but I doubt that even he realised just how much work would be needed. The dilapidation of the farmhouse was clearly evident when I was shown round it. Walls were unstable (one external wall collapsed when the rendering was removed) and one upstairs floor was so unsupported that the structural engineer called in to assess it declined to walk on it. But there is the huge amount of work going in to restoring it. Lathe and plaster walls that have deteriorated are being rebuilt, for example; new floors put in as well as basic structural work, where there appears to be nothing holding up parts of the building. None of the roof tiles were salvageable and so over 600 new ones had to be hand made. It will one day be a lovely house again, but it will take time and a lot of money, and Keith acknowledges that the cost of restoring it properly means that he will make a loss when it comes to selling it.

The farm's best on-going source of income is the equestrian side and Keith

An update on Bis

is keen to see this grow further, with a new manège or events arena already available. Keith would love to see gymkhanas and their like return to the farm. Otherwise his main income has come from the sale of lambs and the sale of the two workers' houses on Abingdon Road. He is particularly proud of these houses which have been rebuilt as state of the art smart houses. Passionate about environmental and energy issues, these houses are self-sustainable and even produce a surplus of electricity, with heating coming from the farm lake.



One of the new bars. Construction work in pro

And energy is not Keith's only commitment to environmental sustainability. Tiles from these two cottages were recycled for the roof of the café, which was dressed inside using wood from the demolished barns. There is a whole barn full of material from demolished buildings that will be used in the creation of new ones, so reducing the farm's carbon footprint. His architect has to find ways of using as much of this as possible.

To date, then, Keith and Bishop's Court Farm have delivered or are on the way to delivering on the plans of two years' ago, and he must be congratulated for that. But where are they on the longer term vision of agri-tourism and development of the farm. There, Keith will admit that they are behind schedule. Planning and covid delays have not helped. 'Two years in and we are eighteen months behind' he joked.

But the vision is still there and is now the subject of an exhibition in the new café at Bishops Court Farm, which started in February. If you have not seen it, there

Bishop's Court Farm



may still be an opportunity into early March, until the café comes on stream.

Coming up the drive from the High Street, the first thing that you'll notice is that the wooden fence will have been replaced to allow a view into what on your right will now be called the village park, a space for the village to use. At the top of the drive is the café, which is already there and shortly to open. Behind the café is the listed granary, standing off the ground on its mushroom feet. This is a listed building and will be restored with the hope of converting it to be the farm office. On your right is currently a rather dilapidated barn. The vision here is that this area will become what Keith is calling a 'Community Hub'. The intention is that this will be realised in the later stages of the project, but currently the idea is that it should contain educational facilities (the farm already gets school visits) with flexibility for other uses and a restaurant. On the north side



of this there will be a parking area with electric charging points; building in for the future. There will then be an access road from Abingdon Road. This is planned for use principally by farm vehicles, to keep them separate from visitors to the café and community hub and off the High Street.

Beyond this, relocation and rebuilding of barns is already well under way. These are being arranged to group them to better suit the needs of the farm and include the new stables which are already in use and include three dwellings for farm workers. Living on site will help to reduce their carbon footprint

From the start Keith has said that he wants to promote agri-tourism and the café, restaurant and other facilities are designed to support that. But a key component is the plan for ten eco-pods arranged around the lake.

These will be short let holiday homes, each one completely self-contained in terms of environment and energy use, which will be nestled in amongst the trees bordering the large lake. They will be different sizes to suit the needs of different families, and, Keith says, probably only partially joking, will include a 'honeymoon pod' set slightly apart from the others and soundproofed. These are in development and subject to planning consent.

Finally, and some way down the line, there are thoughts about building some housing on the edge of the 'village park' adjoining the Abingdon Road. His current thinking is that there could be up to 14 of them, mostly affordable housing. He is very conscious of the need to keep younger people in the village and allow village families to continue to live near to each other and feels that these could contribute to the longer term community health of Dorchester. The number sounds a lot, but by grouping them and by good design, the visual impact will not be visually detrimental to the village. And, of course, they will all be energy-neutral smart homes built for the future.

So Bishops Court Farm is on track to achieve most of the goals that we were told about two years' ago and the longer term vision is clearly developing.

When you talk to Keith you feel his passion to make the farm an asset for the village and the villagers. That is why he bought it in the first place. That is complemented by his passion to ensure it will be energy neutral and environmentally sustainable. But to survive that has to be balanced with it being commercially viable.

The exhibition of the proposals for the farm continues in the café building until early March, so if you have not yet had a chance to see the vision, do go. See what you think.



The view across of what is to be designated the Village Park

Some of the longer term projects

© lapd architects



An eco-pod by the lake



The Community Hub



Affordable housing in the park

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The Living Lightly in Dorchester Noticeboard

The Living Lightly in Dorchester Noticeboard

This notice board was put up in 2008 as part of the Dorchester Carbon Project – a village group established to support the community of Dorchester to lower our impact on the planet. During that time there were lots of successful initiatives and awards to our village – zero waste award and energy saving community award. Many residents took part, and some may still have the popular Dorchester Shopping Bag.

This notice board belongs to the community and is here to help advertise any ideas or projects that could help residents improve our local and global environment. However, it has not been used in recent years and the Parish Council would like to hear from you as to its future. Would you like it to stay and be actively in use once again, or would you prefer it to go? It belongs to the village so your opinion really matters.

The Dorchester Carbon Project is still a registered group and if there are any villagers who would be interested in restarting it, please do let us know.

Please send your thoughts to
parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk



Warborough & Shillingford WI

In my first WI report last month, I confessed I was new to the group, I am also new to the village of Warborough. What amazed me was the wealth of activities on offer to residents at the **Freshers Fair** on Saturday 5th. The WI had our own stall, where we publicised our monthly speakers, the walking group, cutting edge campaigns, outings and courses available online from 'Denman at Home' for personal development, and making delicious Valentine chocolates. Committee members were delighted to meet lovely new people who we hope will join us and it was nice to see current members who stopped by to say hello; we are such a friendly bunch.

As I mentioned last month this is our **Centenary year** and we plan to have a **Party on the Green** on **10 August 2022**, more details later. We hope all our members will be there but would also like to invite past members to join us. Contact Liz or Vicky and we will include you in the arrangements.

Programme 2022: Wednesday meetings offer an eclectic programme of speakers. This month Lorraine Lindsay Gale revealed there was more than meets the eye as you scan the landscape around our villages in her fascinating talk on the Archaeology of Warborough, Shillingford and Dorchester. Who knew that beneath our feet are artefacts from Neolithic settlements, the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman times? Investigations conducted during P.A.G.E. revealed two Roman Villas in Warborough and there were many more around Dorchester, where the Romans built a fort.

March is officially the beginning of Spring and it is also the time of our **WI Annual Meeting**: we shall be reflecting on the past year followed by a talk from Bea Drury on **Drones**. I look forward to having the information to decide if they are an asset to civilization or a menace.

The Walking Group is going strong under the excellent leadership of Chris Tilley. Fresh air and exercise are tempting but so too is the reward at the end of the walk of coffee and cake at the Six Bells.

It is envisaged that the **Craft Group** may soon begin but because those involved will be in close contact, and it is important that everyone stays safe, the start date has been delayed, for now.

Community Projects: We are awaiting the result of our presentation, on the Shillingford Bus Shelter Replacement Project, to be announced by the Parish Council in March. Watch this space!

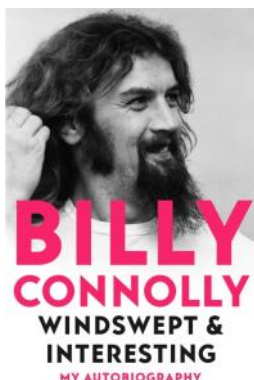
Membership: Our WI covers the areas of Warborough, Shillingford and Dorchester and we love to welcome new members. For those living in Dorchester lifts can be arranged if needed.

Vicky Hart, Secretary,
vicky_hart_northwood@hotmail.com
tel: 01865 416437

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

Goings-on at Wallingford Bookshop

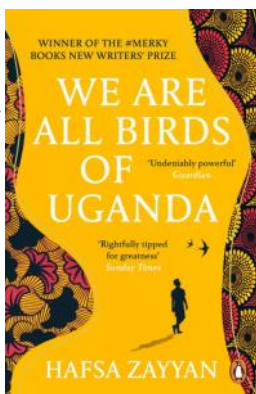
The power of a sticker is a wonderful thing. Last week, a mum came into the bookshop to find a birthday gift for her husband. We hit upon the perfect book almost straight away – the recent



Billy Connolly autobiography, *Windswept and Interesting* (HB, £25.00). Part of the book's joy is that Connolly writes so well that you can hear his Gaelic voice in every word. Occasionally heartrending, often amusing, Connolly really knows how to spin a yarn. All good, then. Except that, by this point, mum's two young toddlers had found the children's picture books and were not keen on leaving. Cue the special bookshop sticker collection, and everyone left

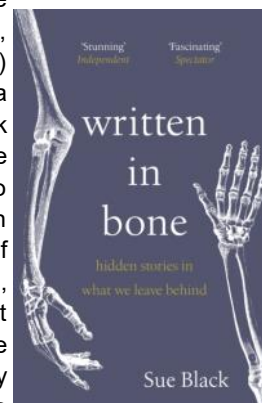
happy. So happy, in fact, that the little girl was bouncing with excitement; it made us all smile to see her gleefully skipping off up the road.

True, stickers are less likely to bring quite the same level of joy to our adult visitors, but hopefully our books will delight instead. *We Are All Birds of Uganda*, a debut by Hafsa Zayyan (PB fiction, £8.99) is a good place to start. The story centres on Sameer, a twenty-something London lawyer who is under parental pressure to join the family business in Leicester. Disillusioned with the prejudices he faces in the City, shocked by a brutal racist attack on his close friend,



Rahool, and unsure which way to turn, Sameer travels to the ancestral family home in Uganda. Once there, he learns of how, under the rule of Idi Amin his grandfather, Hasan, found himself amongst many African Asians expelled from Uganda in the 1960s and left without citizenship. 'Beautifully written' are words that verge on overused by book reviewers, but, in this case, there is no better description. Rich on historical detail, the story asks big questions about the meaning of identity and the nature of borders. I first read it when it came out in hardback and liked it so much I gave it to my son's English teacher.

And now for something completely different! *Written in Bone* by Professor Dame Sue Black (PB non-fiction, £9.99) is another fascinating read. The title



page inscription, 'Flesh forgets, bones remember' (Jon Jefferson) sums it up in a nutshell. Black is a forensic anthropologist and her book works its way, case study by case study, from 'The Brain Box' down to 'The Foot'. Black provides rich scientific detail: the typical number of vertebrae in the human body is 33, we are told, but 'there are almost three times as many bones in the spine of a newborn baby, before they start to fuse together'. What makes

her account fascinating, however, is the application of this knowledge to the real-life crime cases on which she has worked as expert witness. An example? How about the time the police brought her a key fob, off of which dangled 'three human finger bones, perfectly articulated, strung on a silver wire that bridged the joint spaces'? It had been found in the undergrowth by a dog walker (of course). The bones had been cleaned (boiled and bleached) and the cut marks indicated removal by saw. Admittedly, this could make for a distressing read, but Black's compassion and sensitivity help get the tone right, invoking awe at the ingenuity of the human body and the skill of forensic detection. A well-deserved winner of a CWA Gold Dagger for Non-Fiction.

Karen Gurney

Dorchester News Crossword No.20 Solution

Compiled by Slider

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With apologies for some missing clues last month which were made available on Facebook.

Professional theatre is returning to Benson

Due to the pandemic and the unavailability of Benson's halls it has been a long time since the Benson Players were last able to bring a professional touring group to Benson. So, it is very exciting to report that Badapple Theatre will be performing their new comedy, *Elephant Rock*, by Kate Bramley with songs and music by Jez Lowe, at Benson Parish Hall on **Saturday 7 May**. More information will follow in next month's Dorchester News but, tickets are available now from Derry's Den and www.badappletheatre.co.uk.



Cost of living crisis on the way Citizens Advice warning

Citizens Advice has warned that inflationary factors leading to higher food prices and energy bills will cause hardship for many this year.

Unavoidably we will be paying much more for essentials (rent or mortgage, food, telephone and broadband, household bills, Council Tax) by the middle of 2022.

However, much can be done to manage this, and setting your own personal budget is a key step. Start preparing now, making a budget and seeing if you can maximise your income. Look closely and objectively at your financial figures – how much comes in every month, how much goes out, so that you have a clear picture of your situation. Take an average over a period of, say, six months, so that quarterly bills are taken into account. Decide what the priorities are and reduce your costs even on essentials if possible. Do remember that inflation will increase your outgoings.

Citizens Advice can tell you about fuel vouchers, benefits or government grants and Covid support that might be available, as well as the Household Support Fund, administered by the local district council of South Oxfordshire at www.southoxon.gov.uk. The Citizens Advice website at www.citizensadvice.org.uk has tips on how to reduce your living costs. You can also contact your energy suppliers and ask about affordable options to pay.

If you need more specific support or don't feel able to manage your situation alone, call **Citizens Advice** for general advice on **0808 278 7907** or the debt helpline on **0800 240 4420**.



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For further info, please contact our Branch Secretary Dorian Grier.

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Performance Dates
Cloister Garden, Dorchester Abbey 21-23 July, 2022
Henley-on-Thames 4-6 August, 2022

www.dads.org.uk

DADS
Dorchester Amateur Dramatic Society

Benson Choral Society is back with a bang!

If you walk past St Mary's Church, Wallingford on a Tuesday evening you'll hear some great singing as we rehearse! We're delighted to stage our first full-scale concert since lockdown! It's also the first outing of our new Musical Director David Wordsworth, who with a wealth of experience in conducting and music publishing, introduces Bob Chilcott's Requiem (2010) to the choir. Former King's Singer Chilcott is now one of Britain's leading choral composers and the choir are really getting to grips with this new challenge. The programme is completed with Haydn's sparkling Nelson Mass. Irish soprano Iúno Connolly heads an international quartet of soloists, and the Elgar Orchestra complete the scene. The performance takes place on **Saturday 19 March at 7.30pm at Dorchester Abbey**. Altogether, you'll get something special! Tickets are £18 and £15 (reserved) or £12 (unreserved) and can be booked online at www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk or call Stephanie evenings on **01865 407395**.

(See poster on page 28)



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From the Chairman of the Parish Council



As the days get a bit longer and I wander round the village it got me thinking about how much of your Parish Council's time, as well as the efforts of villagers, is focused on improving and changing the environment we live in in Dorchester and how much has changed over the past couple of years whilst we've been largely cooped up at home. So I thought I'd provide an overview of as many pieces of the jigsaw as possible so we can view it as a whole, to complement the more detailed articles on many of these initiatives that have appeared in Dorchester News in the past few months and with more this month. And also as testament to those that actually pick up tools and put in the hours as well as those who help write, review and opine on plans both inside and outside the Parish Council.

So, here goes; to start with we have the dedicated litter pickers led by Matthew Grayson's magnificent efforts (I hope you read Matthew's article last month – thank you Matthew in particular); the River of Life project on the Overy Piece as well as the far side of the river near Little Wittenham and round to Clifton Hampden is a wonderful addition to the local environment and wildlife; the amazing work on village hedgerows, verges and paths led by Andrew Clements (see Andrew's article this month about the team he leads); removal of barbed wire and opening up of the paths round the lake on Bishops Court Farm which has given us all wonderful opportunities for exercise; also on the farm the wider changes taking place and envisioned (however controversial some may be); the continuous work by the Hurst volunteers; the plans for traffic calming measures where our local view has now been registered with OCC (as reported last month); and finally the decision we have just made at the Parish Council to put some bike racks in the centre of the village with support from our County/District councillor, a small thing in itself but the little things are sometimes the best received. I'm sure there is more I've missed but you get the picture I hope, of lots going on.

Digesting all of this and making sure the overall effect is positive is where the Parish Council comes in. We do our best to look after the collective interest of the village and to encourage great initiatives often led by volunteers as well as providing funding on occasion to oil the wheels. Change is not always easy and we rightly have different views and priorities as Parish Councillors as you will as residents. So, as we discuss various elements of these changes each month please do take the opportunity to let Parish Councillors know what you think and even come along to our meetings and participate in our discussion, you are very welcome. As I've said before second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Mark Williams
Chairman DoT Parish Council

Parish Council Notices

Monthly Meetings 2022

The next Council Meetings will take place on **Wednesday 9 March** commencing at 7.30 p.m. and on **Wednesday 13 April** also commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Agenda will be posted on Village notice boards 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.

Platinum Jubilee – Ideas? Volunteers?

The Parish Council would like to hear from residents with suggestions for how the Village should celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. For more information see <https://www.royal.uk/platinum-jubilee-central-weekend>

Sunday 5 June has been reserved for The Big Jubilee Lunch. Every year since the idea began in 2009, The Big Lunch has encouraged communities to celebrate their connections and get to know each other a little bit better, coming together in a spirit of fun and friendship.

In 2022 people are invited to share friendship, food and fun with neighbours as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. A Big Jubilee Lunch can be big or small – street party or picnic, tea and cake or a garden barbecue.

At www.thebiglunch.com you will find tips and idea for hosting an event, including information about ways in which the event can raise funds for good causes.

Please contact the Parish Clerk with your suggestions in time for them to be discussed at the Council meeting on **Wednesday 9 March**.

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.



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



Budget and improved financial management

As I write this we are about to have the meeting to pass the council's budget for 2022-3. After the first 2 years trying to get the council's finances back on track, and providing support through the pandemic, with this budget we will be able to provide real investment into the projects from our Lib Dem-Green administration's corporate plan, with funds directed towards our new Climate Action Plan, towards nature restoration, and for community well-being projects. We also plan to spend £5m on new council-owned housing at truly affordable rents, the first such investments in this district by the council for decades.

We continue to see the benefits of the cancellation of the contract that 'outsourced' many of the core activities of the Council to Capita. With the accounts now done in house, the senior finance team are better able to analyse and plan, and so draw a clearer picture of the Council's finances.

Not only does the Council now have a better control over the accounting and book-keeping processes, it has also made significant savings. It undoubtedly helps that at least three of my SODC Cabinet colleagues are qualified accountants, and are therefore able to provide a professional approach to the Council's finances. As far as I can ascertain, there were no qualified accountants in the SODC cabinet in the previous administration.

It was the decision in the past to freeze Council tax, while losing control of the finances by outsourcing so much to Capita, that gave rise to alarming forecasts in the Council's medium term finances. However, despite the improving position, the Council's finances are not yet sufficiently robust to prevent an increase in Council Tax. There is no point in making

a political gesture by freezing council tax if the Council ends up, like Northamptonshire or Slough, completely bankrupt.

It is worth pointing out that the Council Tax covers the County Council, Parish, and Police as well as SODC, and of the total SODC has only 6%, the Police 10% and the Parishes 5%, with OCC using 78%. The SODC Council Tax is still one of the lowest in the country, and financial support is available to those struggling to pay.

Households in England in council tax bands A-D will also receive a £150 rebate from the government. The rebate to bills will be made by local authorities to households from April directly rather than through the Council Tax system. This will not need to be repaid.

New projects and investment for 2022/23

As part of the budget-setting process for 2022/23, I've been working on a prioritised list of projects which will use the SODC portion of 'Community Infrastructure Levy' funds collected from developers. The majority of these projects relate to the District's leisure centres, the Riverside pool, campsite and other facilities in Wallingford, tree planting projects and to the purchase of housing for social rent. This includes a budget for replacement of the artificial pitch at Abbey Sports centre and some upkeep and drainage improvement for the pool. We will be announcing more such investments as the year progresses.

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

Oxfordshire County Council Budget 2022-2023

OCC has just agreed the first budget of the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance, a new administration for Oxfordshire which has been forged around a shared commitment to nine priorities. The three political parties of the Alliance (Lib Dems, Labour and Greens) are working together because we want to see a greener, fairer, healthier Oxfordshire. We want to build on our strengths while confronting the challenges we face: addressing climate change, tackling inequality, strengthening the resilience of individuals and communities, fostering more social cohesion and common purpose.

Our initial budget proposal in December had more than double the number of responses received last year. We have sought to reflect these in the budget, and have added:

1. £500,000 to support the review into home-to-school transport, with a particular focus on supporting more active travel and more sustainable transport opportunities.
2. We are offering tenants of the Council in community assets a one-year rent holiday to take account of financial pressures on many community and voluntary organisations.
3. We will undertake a strategic rail feasibility study to establish what it would take to advance the proposals for new rail links to Cowley, Grove/Wantage, North Cotswolds and West Oxfordshire.
4. We are investing to accelerate our work on active travel in the county: planning for new walking and cycling schemes and including them in any future proposals.

Further investment to (a) support projects that will generate future savings for the Council budget; (b) make early interventions to improve the lives of children and young people; (c) accelerate our climate response.

The Alliance called on national government to respond to the challenges facing local government in a meaningful way through the autumn spending review. Unfortunately, they did not. Instead, in adult social care for example, they directed that local authorities should use council tax to meet rising costs.

In some areas, we have found that the sums provided for capital projects by the previous administration were inadequate, for example we have had to budget £27m extra for Kennington Bridge. The largest example is the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF1) scheme linking Didcot and Culham; When the previous administration committed to deliver this, it accepted the full financial liability for any additional costs. We now face disruptions to the supply chain, very significant inflation and labour shortages in the construction sector, which will hugely increase the expense of such projects. We have asked officers to take a more sober and realistic assessment of the costs and risks associated with major programmes.

The OCC budget also included £8m over 3 years to allow communities across the county to bring in 20mph limits in built up areas; it's great to see such a positive response in Dorchester and I'm glad to support the Parish Council's proposal to bring this in, building on the extensive preparatory work they've already completed.

Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council end formal partnership

Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council have both agreed to bring their formal partnership arrangements to an end. The arrangement between the two councils, which has taken the form of joint services under a single chief executive, has been in place since September 2018. Recruitment will take place for the post of permanent chief executive for the County Council.

Public engagement on proposal to move Oxford United FC to Stratfield Brake (Kidlington)


Oxford United Football Club has proposed to develop a new 18,000 capacity football stadium with linked leisure and commercial facilities at Stratfield Brake in Kidlington (on land owned by the County Council). In addition to the stadium, the club's proposal includes facilities such as a hotel, retail, conferencing and training and community grounds.

After February's public consultation, OCC Cabinet will consider whether to proceed with negotiations at its meeting on **15 March**.

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From your MP...

...John Howell

In my newsletter last month I wrote about the need to learn to live with the COVID virus as we move from pandemic to endemic. I know that many people have welcomed the Prime Minister's Statement which was first made on 19 January which set the path for further removal of regulations. We will hear more later this month, probably by the time this letter is published in some magazines! In January many parents and young people welcomed removing the requirement for secondary school students to wear face masks in classrooms. However, some people were concerned should face masks become more widely advisory rather than mandatory. I understand some of the concerns but do support the view that we need to allow people to make their own judgements. I appreciate that as more regulations are set to be removed some people remain anxious, but we have come a long way in the last couple of years. When all of this started, we did not know what we were dealing with. We did not know how to treat the virus and had no medicines at our disposal. Thanks to research we now have effective ways to treat the virus and a range of drugs at our disposal to relieve symptoms. We do, of course, also have the vaccines and it is good news that at last the Novavax vaccine has been approved in the UK too. I am aware of a number of constituents who volunteered to take part in this trial and of the difficulties that some have faced as a result of the delays to the approval. I am grateful to those who have taken part in trials without whom we would not have effective vaccines and trust that all are relieved that it is now among the approved vaccines. Moving forward with Covid we need to learn to manage it in the same way as we have always managed seasonal viruses and I trust that we will see some measures coming forward to respond to this.

In our move to live more normal lives we are seeing the economy open up again and people returning to some of the activities that have been prohibited or curtailed for many months. Alongside this inevitably there has to be an end to special funding that has been made available to try to mitigate for the negative impact of Covid. Among these is a support grant for bus companies to help bridge the gap in fare income with reduced passenger numbers. Although I fully support the gradual withdrawal of the specific Covid funding I am concerned that use of public transport has not yet reached pre-covid levels and that the removal of this grant may adversely affect our bus services. To this end I have written to the Secretary of State for Transport to raise my concerns on this and to seek continued funding to ensure that we can keep our bus services running. I appreciate that it is especially difficult in rural areas where the

volume of passengers on individual routes is just not at the level of urban areas and thus the journey cost per head is prohibitive. In such cases where there is a key route for a community it has long been within the remit of county councils to budget for appropriate subsidies. It is, of course, a political decision where any administration allocates its funds. In response to both the Covid impact and in support of climate initiatives I would like to see our local council make this a budget priority especially in light of the generous Local Government Settlement this year which has given substantial increases to our local councils.

On the world stage there is great concern at what is going on to stop war between Russia and the Ukraine. This is not just a distant issue but could have a significant impact on the UK. It is a particular concern to me as a senior Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Both Russia and Ukraine are members of this Assembly - although how serious Russia is may be doubted when one senior Russian fell asleep publicly when moving an objection to an amendment in a debate I was chairing! The Council is doing all it can to help bring about peace between the two countries and I have personally worked closely with my opposite number in the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The role of the Council of Europe is often overlooked in Britain but all members of the Delegation that I lead share my concerns. It is often derided as just a human rights organisation. But while human rights are crucially important, it is much more than this and has had a key role to play in maintaining the peace in Europe since the late 1940s.

I am always interested to know the views of constituents even if we agree to differ. If there is an issue that concerns you please do share your thoughts. Email is the easiest way if you have access to that. My email address is

john.howell.mp@parliament.uk. Alternatively, you can write to me at the House of Commons (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA) or my constituency office (PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD).

If you would like to know more about my work on behalf of the Government and the Constituency please do look at my website which is regularly updated. The address is **www.johnhowellmp.com**. Further details of the work of Parliament is available on the parliament website at **www.parliament.uk**.



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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.

All events now have full seating. This is in line with the practices and guidelines elsewhere. We are asking patrons to still sanitise their hands, and also wear a face covering when inside the building. We'll continue to fog all public areas after each performance. We have recently installed new air filters as a safety precaution. 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.

March

Tues 1	The Eyes of Tammy Faye (12A)
Wed 2	Moonfall (12A)
Thur 3	Moonfall (12A)
Fri 4	Moonfall (12A)
Sat 5	Moonfall (12A)
Sun 13	Death on the Nile (12A)
Mon 14	Death on the Nile (12A)
Tues 15	Death on the Nile (12A)
Wed 16	Death on the Nile (12A)
Thur 17	Death on the Nile (12A)
Fri 18	Jules et Jim (12A)
Sat 19	The Duke (12A)

Live Screenings

Sunday 13 March 2.00pm

Rigoletto (filmed screening from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden)

Sung in Italian with English surtitles

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

Live on Stage

From 9 to 12 March

Showtime 2

The Showtime team are back!

Featuring the very best of what modern musical theatre has to offer, Showtime 2 (includes music from shows like Mary Poppins, Miss Saigon, Cats, Les Misérables and more....

Tickets £16, £14 (under 18s)

From 29 March to 2 April

The Constant Wife by Somerset Maugham

This is a production by the Sinodun Players.

Wallingford Country Market

Have you paid us a visit recently?

Open each Friday morning in St. Mary-le-More Church, (behind the Town Hall), between 9.30 am – 12 noon.

Our Easter Market will be held on Maundy Thursday, **14 April**, instead of Good Friday. Orders can be placed for most items we sell, including Easter Cakes, (please place orders for Simnel Cakes a little in advance), and other baked goods. Also on sale, handcrafted items, including a variety of unusual bags and small gifts. Colourful pots of spring bulbs, primroses and polyanthus can be found on the Gardening Table. These will give way to the ever popular plants for bedding, baskets and borders during May/June. A lot of what we sell changes with the seasons – you never know what you may find! Do come and see us soon. New producers for Baking and Plants in particular would be very welcomed. For further information please contact: Alison Broadbridge (**01491 681596**), Sandra Halstead (**01491 836527**) or, come and visit us one Friday morning.



Wallingford Museum News

We are delighted that the museum will be open from **1 March 2022** with the exception of the Wallingford story, which is under development. Check the web site for opening times.

This year's exhibition, 'Caring for the Sick - A history of Wallingford's Hospitals', which was devised well before the current crisis, traces the fascinating history of Wallingford's hospitals, caring for the sick in the town from medieval times to the present day. Its portrayal of the challenges of dealing with plague, leprosy, smallpox, scarlet fever and other such outbreaks, as well as more common illness and disabilities, brings the past vividly to light. Ironically, it puts our present troubles in their historic context.

Wallingford Museum has proudly received a painting by GD Leslie on behalf of the nation.

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk/news

GD Leslie's painting 'A Thameside Conversation' has been acquired for the nation through the Acceptance in Lieu Scheme, which is administered by the Arts Council, and allocated to Wallingford Museum.

GD Leslie (1835-1921) was a well known Victorian artist who lived in Wallingford between 1884 and 1891. He was an ardent lover of nature, and particularly of the River Thames and this painting depicts a scene on the riverside, probably at Pangbourne. It was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1864.

Our amazing exhibit, the new Wallingford castle model, is also on display, created in collaboration with Ben Taggart. Wallingford Museum's dedicated team of researchers have worked with architectural model maker, Ben, to create a 1:300 scale model (1.5m x1.6m) of Wallingford's royal castle as it may have been in the mid-14th century.

At The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society zoom talk on **9 March** Ben shares this fascinating journey with its membership. <https://www.twhas.org.uk>

The Museum will be running Easter holiday workshops for families. Please look at the web site for details. <https://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk>

Day by day

Wed **Ash Wednesday**
2 Mar Ash Wednesday Service
7.00pm
Dorchester Abbey

Sat **Drop in café**
5 Mar Met Sue Booy
10.00-11.30am
Dorchester Abbey

Sun **First Sunday of Lent**
6 Mar 8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am
Sung Eucharist

Mon **DADS Play reading**
7 Feb 7.30pm
Zoom

Wed **Chiropodist**
9 Mar Village Hall
Appointment only see page 4

Lunch Club
12.30pm
Village Hall

Parish Council Meeting
7.30pm
Village Hall

Sun **Second Sunday of Lent**
13 Mar 8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am
Family Service

5.00pm
Choral Evensong

Pre-School Sponsored Walk
11.00am
Pre-School

Mon **DADS**
14 Mar Mansfield Park & Ride
Read through
7.30pm
Online

Wed **Culham Horticultural Club**
16 Feb *Shipwrecks, Bombs and Buggles: 28 years of Edulis Nursery*
7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Thur **DADS**
17 Mar Mansfield Park & Ride
Read through
7.30pm
Village Hall

Sat **Benson Choral Society**
19 Mar 7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey



Sun **Third Sunday of Lent**
20 Mar 8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am
Sung Eucharist

Mon **DADS**
21 Mar Mansfield Park & Ride
Read through
7.30pm
Village Hall

Wed **Lunch Club**
23 Mar 12.30pm
Village Hall

Dorchester Historical Society
Architecture of Georgian Oxford
7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Sat **OSJ Concert**
26 Mar Mozart
7.00pm
Dorchester Abbey

Sun **Fourth Sunday of Lent**
27 Mar 8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am
Mothering Sunday

Parish Registers

Funerals

1 Dec Robert Jeremy (Jerry) Nudds

(Correction from last month.)

Weekly events

Monday Come and See
7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Tuesday Coffee Morning
11.00am
Dorchester Abbey

Abbey Bell Ringers
Practice
7.30pm

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

Thursday Wellbeing Walks
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
3.15pm

Wednesday Tango
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

Advertising in Dorchester News

Costs per issue are for an eighth of a page £11.75 mono, £12.75 colour; quarter page £23.50 mono, £25.50 colour; half page £35.25 mono, £38.50 colour and full page £47.00 mono, £51.00 colour. There are ten issues per year.

Please send artwork to
dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk
one week before the deadline for editorial copy given on page 2.

One-time adverts, please send a cheque, payable to 'Dorchester Abbey PCC', to
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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.

ANIMAL WELFARE

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

MOBILE POST OFFICE

The Mobile Post office stops outside the Co-op every Wednesday between 2.00 and 3.00pm but may vary.

Useful Information

BUS SERVICES

Bus services by Going Forward buses
Dorchester to Wallingford and Dorchester to Didcot
See new timetable on page 7.

OTHER BUS SERVICES

Services X39 X40 go every 30 minutes from the bypass at the end of Drayton Road to Oxford and Wallingford. Information about bus services, is available from www.traveline.info, and **0871 200 2233**.

AGE UK

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

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.

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ANGLICAN PRIEST

Dorchester Rectory
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
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Bridge End
01865 340417
www.stbirinus.co.uk

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



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Weekdays from 7.00am

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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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