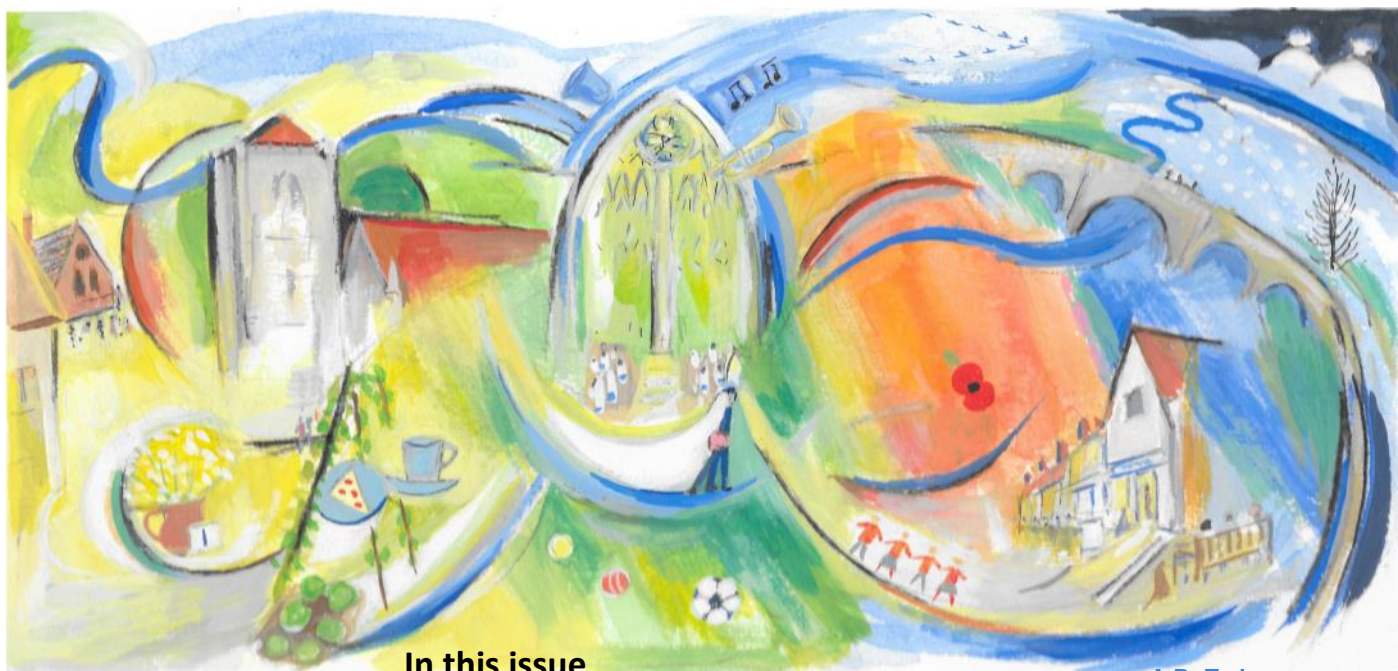


Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

April 2022





In this issue

Dorchester Abbey

Holy Week	3
Lent Services	3
Palm Sunday	3
Talking Point	3
Team Agape Meal	3
Easter Day	4
Easter Lilies	4
Friends visit to Southwark Cathedral	4
Team Service	4
Abbey Museum News	7
Dorchester Abbey Tea Room	8
A final farewell to Sue Boops	18

Clubs, Societies and Sports

Culham & District Horticultural Club	5
DADS April Play Reading	5
Dorchester Lunch Club	5
Hempcroft Allotments	5
Dorchester Historical Society	7
Dorchester Tennis Club	12
Warborough and Shillingford WI	22
DoT Football results	23

Village news/articles

Bishops Court Farm	5
Village Hall bookings officer required	7
Spring Flower Show	10
Hurst Water Meadow Trust	11

Dorchester Festival

Dorchester May Morning	8
Festival Gems	14
Food and Gift Fair	15
Fun Run	15
Artists Exhibition	16
The Getaway Bash	17

Art Music and Entertainment

Two books for younger readers	8
Peace	13
Goings-on at Wallingford Bookshop	21
Old Herbaceous	24
Crossword No 21	24
Musical theatre coming to Benson	33

Community and Charities

Wallingford Food Bank	5
Daybreak	16
Healthwatch	24

Local and national government

From your Parish Council Chairman	23
Parish Council Notices	23
From your District Councillor	25
From your County Councillor	27
From your MP	29

Schools and education

St Birinus School News	9
------------------------	---

Wallingford

Petanque Wallingford	31
Wallingford Museum News	31
Wallingford Historical Society	31
Wallingford Corn Exchange	33

Advertising

Advertising in Dorchester News	34
Index of advertisers	35

Cover picture: Queen Street.

Deadline for May Dorchester News



email:

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

A DoT view

April sees spring arriving properly. It is marked by the Spring Flower Show in the Village Hall. Doesn't the Spring Flower Show always make you think that the warmer weather is just round the corner? It certainly does for me and it is what makes April such a welcome month.

Gardening is also the theme for the entertainment being put on at the Village Hall on the first Saturday of April, when Old Herbaceous will entertain us with talks about gardening in support of fund-raising for the hall. That sounds great fun.

And this year, the end of the month sees the start of the Dorchester Festival, having been delayed by a year due to Covid. The Getaway Bash kicks it all off on the 29th, and then there will be around 50 events over the following nine days. Lots of established favourites and some new ones as well. Already, as I write, some of the events are sold out, so get thumbing through the programme and deciding which you want tickets for before it is too late. An all in aid of good causes.

It really will then begin to feel like Spring.

Ian Brace

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Kathy Glass

Distribution Co-ordinator

Maurice Day

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I am sure that, like me, you have images from Ukraine seared on your mind. For me, it is the family parting at Kyiv train station, mother and little children on the train, the father staying behind to defend his city. The little girl holds her hand up to her father's hand, love touching through the train window.

Just as the invasion began I heard a Ukrainian man say that he was now digging a shelter, rather than planting daffodils in his garden - his original plan for the weekend. This brutal disruption of peace has been profoundly shocking. Writing on a beautiful spring morning in Dorchester, the scenes of destruction and suffering in Ukraine feel all the more appalling.

We are also hearing about incredible outpourings of compassion and generosity as ordinary people in Poland, Hungary and other neighbouring countries open their hearts and homes to welcome the refugees. And we hope for a similarly generous welcome for refugees coming to the UK.

I am drawn to the words of the much-loved and much-missed Archbishop Desmond Tutu. In his own life, Desmond Tutu experienced and witnessed hurt and oppression and yet he remained deeply hopeful about our shared humanity. His words may be familiar to you: "Goodness is stronger than evil. Love is stronger than hate. Light is stronger than darkness. Life is stronger than death." Given his painful life experience, these are not words of easy optimism but rather statements of a deep faith and ultimate hope.

Last week I heard a priest talking about the situation in Ukraine and the little church he pastors. Describing the darkness that has fallen on Ukraine, he said that this was their current experience of Good Friday, but that, as Christians, they believe that Easter light and hope will dawn, however long it takes. We hear this enduring, courageous vision of hope expressed in other parts of the world too, from places still in the midst of conflict but out of

our news.

Love is indeed stronger than hate. All the distress we feel in witnessing the anguish and hateful destruction in Ukraine and elsewhere is also a reflection in ourselves of love, in recognising and caring about our shared humanity, our connectedness with others.

It is also a reminder to look as well for what is good in the world. How our communities came together to help one another during the pandemic. How we take delight in the coming of Spring and the arrival of lambs in the fields. How we will celebrate together at the Dorchester Festival coming soon to the village. We do not look away from the suffering in the world but we also hold onto all that is good and all that speaks of hope.

My prayer is that, amidst all that brings concern, we will also all know the light and joy of Easter in our families and community.

Lent Services

Mon 4 April 8.00pm Compline in Drayton St Leonard – a reflective service in words and music

Thurs 7 April 5.00pm Stations of the Cross in Berinsfield – a devotional reflection on Jesus's journey to the Cross.

Palm Sunday

10.15 am Sunday 10 April

Come and meet the donkey! Kindly provided by the Brightwell Donkey sanctuary our donkey will help us to re-live the experience of walking through the community with palm leaves. Meet at the War Memorial at 10.15am.

Team Agape Meal and Solemn Stripping of the Altar Thursday 14 April

As usual the Team will gather at Dorchester Abbey to remember together the last night that Jesus spent with his disciples. The evening begins with a shared meal at **7.00pm** during which we will remember the events of the Last Supper. Weather permitting we will go out into the Garden as Jesus and his disciples did and then return to the Abbey for a Communion Service with the Solemn Stripping of the Altar at about **8.30pm**. (Timings cannot be precise). (If possible, for catering numbers, please sign up on the list in the Abbey – but everyone is welcome on the day even if not signed up.

Holy Week

Mon 11 April 8.00pm Compline in Warborough – a reflective service in words and music

Tues 12 April 8.00pm Compline in Little Wittenham – a reflective service in words and music

Wed 13 April 9.30am Service of Reconciliation at Berinsfield – A devotional service to prepare for the great events of Easter by bringing ourselves honestly before God. The service will be followed by a fellowship breakfast

Wed 13 April 8.00pm Compline in Dorchester Abbey – a reflective service in words and music

Thurs 14 April – Maundy Thursday – Agape in the Abbey - A fellowship meal with meditations and prayers followed by the stripping of the Altars

Fri 15 April – Good Friday – 10.00am All Age Team Worship in Dorchester Abbey – a short interactive service with music, readings and activities for children

Fri 15 April – Good Friday – 12noon to 3.00pm – Service of Word and Prayer in Dorchester Abbey – Traditional service of meditation, music and prayer.

Sat 16 April – Easter Eve 8.00pm – Service of Fire, Light and Joy! In the Dorchester Abbey Cloister Garden – The lighting of the First Fire of Easter in the Cloister Garden followed by readings, music and Easter joy!

Easter Day Sunday 17 April

6.00am Easter Dawn Service: Celebrate the dawning of Easter in the Cloister Garden with a reflective service followed by breakfast together.

10.30am Easter Family Service: All are welcome as we celebrate the joy of Easter. There will also be fun with eggs!.

Team Service 10.30am Sunday 24 April

Team Service in April will be at Drayton St. Leonard – Everyone is welcome!

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 Griffiths, 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
.....

Friends of Dorchester Abbey Visit to Southwark Cathedral



Monday 9 May 2022

9.00am The coach will leave from the Bridge End car park in Dorchester.

We should arrive in Southwark about 11.00am depending upon London traffic.

Free time to explore and have lunch.

2.15 pm Guided tour of Southwark Cathedral.

3.30 pm Depart Southwark.

Traffic permitting, we should arrive back in Dorchester by 6.00pm.

Further information will be sent to participants before the visit.

Cost: £35.00 per person for Friends of the Abbey, which includes the coach travel and guided tour of Southwark Cathedral.

£37.00 per person for non-Friends of the Abbey.

Booking form for the trip to Southwark on Monday 9 May 2019 leaving at 9.00am

I would like to book places for the visit to Southwark Cathedral.

£35.00 for Friends £37.00 for non-Friends for coach travel and Cathedral guided tour.

I enclose a cheque made out to 'The Friends of Dorchester Abbey' for £.....

Your name

.....

Your phone number

Email address:

Please return this booking form with your cheque to:

Honor Juniper, 34 Watling Lane, Dorchester on Thames, OX10 7JG by Tuesday 19 April.

Please note you will not be sent tickets or a receipt. If you have any queries, please phone Honor Juniper on **01865 343228** (mobile **07907 638957**) or **honorjuniper@hotmail.com**.



Hempcroft Allotments April

MI5 raids the Hempcroft Allotments!

A very odd encounter on the allotments occurred a couple of weeks ago.

Two of the tenants saw a woman on their plot taking vegetables, so they called out to her that she shouldn't be taking produce and that she was not on the public footpath. She said she had a right to any herbs and vegetables, but slowly moved off and along the footpath towards the village carrying her bulging carrier bag and accompanied by her dog. She then stopped to clearly pick things from other plots. When challenged and asked to leave things alone she replied in a rather posh voice that she owned the allotments, and that "you have no idea who you were dealing with".

She had never heard of any of the Committee members, and thinks that she owns the Trust which owns the allotments, and that there is a clause in the Trust documents allowing her to take reasonable produce from them. It was pointed out that this is completely incorrect and that the Parish Council owned the allotments. She was asked for her name and she gave two, saying that it was necessary to change her name because she ran MI5! She then accused the tenants of being mad and walked off..

Edward Metcalfe
340160
edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk

Wallingford Food Bank

Last month the food bank helped 76 households, 136 adults and 53 children.

The rise in inflation and increases in gas, electricity and petrol prices affect those on a low or fixed income very badly. Food prices are higher and some supermarkets are no longer stocking many value or essential lines. This means that those on a tight budget cannot make a choice to save money.

Your continuing support both by donations of food or of money is still urgently needed and will be gratefully received.

Judy Parker

Dorchester Lunch Club

Wednesday 13 April is the final lunch for the Lunch Club and will be held at **12.30** in the **White Hart Hotel** in Dorchester, not as originally planned in the Village Hall (please note this change in the venue).

The Lunch Club lunches have always been held in the winter months when the Abbey Tea Room is closed, but I regret to report that I as organiser and the present group of cooks feel we are unable to continue to run the lunch club in the future and therefore it will not be restarting in October.

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

Culham & District Horticultural Club



Wednesday 20 April 2022 7.30pm

Dorchester Abbey

Jane Moore

Painting with Plants

Jane explores clever colour combinations, using colour for maximum impact and effect in the garden, creating drama, subtlety and the romantic look. Jane became Head Gardener at The Bath Priory Hotel in March 2003, awarded a Chelsea Silver Medal in the same year, is a gardening journalist, and became the British Garden Writers' Guild 'Journalist of the Year' in 2007.

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

DADS' April Play Reading and Summer Production

The date for DADS' next play reading will be announced once the cast members for the summer production *Mansfield Park & Ride* have been selected and rehearsal dates have been agreed. Check DADS' website www.dads.org.uk or the Dorchester-on-Thames Events and Noticeboard or DADS Facebook pages for more details.

Bishops Court Farm

Further to the article in last month's issue of Dorchester News, we should point out that a number of the proposals for development mentioned in the article, particularly those spoken of as being long term or not currently under construction, are subject to planning permission being granted.

Dorchester News will aim to keep abreast of planning developments as they occur.



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Dorchester Museum News

Easter opening!

Sat 16 April 2.00-5.00pm

From Easter Saturday, 16 April, we're open again for the season until the end of September, so please come in and say hello. Have a look around the Museum and the new stock in our gift shop.

As usual, we have lots of attractive small gifts for adults and children, a range of local books, and our wide selection of greeting cards.

We're open from Easter four afternoons each week, Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday (also Bank Holiday Mondays), 2.00-5.00pm

Become a volunteer helper

Have you thought of volunteering for the Museum? You'd be most welcome to join our friendly team. No previous knowledge or experience is needed, and you don't have to commit to more than one or two afternoons per month over the season.

Come in and see what's involved at our pre-opening drop-in session on **Saturday 16 April,**

10am-12 noon

Or contact us by e mail: museum@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

Dorchester Historical Society

7.30pm Wednesday 27 April 2022

Dorchester Abbey Shrine Chapel,

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

Pam Manix will talk on:

Oxford's Forgotten Jewish Quarter



David of Oxford's House

Pam Manix-Holland has been the Project Historian for the Oxford Jewish Heritage Committee for nearly 15 years. In addition to her ongoing research and writing books and articles about Oxford's medieval Jews, she has long given very popular walking tours of the medieval Jewish Quarter during Oxford Open Doors and at other times. She has been the project historian for three archaeological digs in the city and several DNA investigations, and an advisor to the Museum of Oxford and Merton, Magdalen, Christ Church and Pembroke Colleges.

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

Margot Metcalfe



VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS OFFICER REQUIRED

We're looking for someone to co-ordinate our bookings and liaise with people wanting to use our village hall.

This would suit someone with a couple of hours a week to spare, an interest in village events and social activities and be willing to help us maintain running an essential village asset.

The job is managed using Google Docs or MS Office, along with occasional visits to the village hall.

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

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

***Dorchester Village Hall is a registered charity No.
900244***

Two books for younger readers

The King of the Copper Mountains, Paul Biegel (pb, £7.99, 7+ years)



Newly translated from the original Dutch text, this story is about old, tired, King Mansolain whose heart is slowing down. A cure is needed, but until it can be found The Wonder Doctor says that to help keep the King alive he must be told a story every evening. One after another the kingdom's citizens arrive – the lovesick Donkey, the fire-breathing Dragon, and others – each vying to tell a story better than the one that went before, and each trying to keep the King alive until the Wonder Doctor returns with a cure. Every chapter in this wonderful little book is a story in its own right; together, they make up a magical tale.

Libby and the Parisian Puzzle, Jo Clarke (pb, £7.99, 9-11 year olds)



Imagine going to a school that moves around – from one country to another. Mystery-lover Libby finds herself doing just that, joining her Aunt Agatha's school when it is in Paris. But then – disaster! – Libby's aunt is arrested on suspicion of jewel theft. Libby and her new best friend must find the real thief to help release Aunt Agatha. Mysterious, adventurous fun for fans of the *Adventures on Trains and Strangeworlds Travel Agency* series.

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



Dorchester Abbey Tea Room Opens Saturday 16th April

Amazing home made cake and cream teas to be eaten in our lovely tea room or courtyard or taken away for home or for gifts.

2.30pm-5pm Saturdays, Sundays and BH Mondays
3pm-5pm Wednesdays & Thursdays

All served & baked by local volunteers to raise money for charity

If you'd like to volunteer to serve or bake or if you have any spare home made jam then please contact Steph Forman
steph@forman.org.uk 340434



St Birinus School News

As our Spring term nears its end we have enjoyed seeing the weather improve and being able to get our children out and about. Our youngest children took their binoculars out with them for a village and farm walk to see if they could spot some of the birds who have been visiting the area. We were lucky enough to spot some egrets and a goosander. We also made friends with some alpacas!

We are focussing on our value of compassion at the moment. Our children have been touched by the displacement of so many people in Ukraine and our Year 3 and 4 children made us really proud as they decided to do something to help. Our Fox Class organised a non-uniform day and a cake sale. They raised a whopping £450 for the Red Cross Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. The hard work they put in and the compassion they have shown really exemplifies our school values. Thank you so much to everyone who donated toys, made cakes and came and bought things. You can see photos from the event in the gallery on our website here <https://www.st-birinus-pri.oxon.sch.uk/News/Galleries/>



We are going to dress as heroes for Comic Relief Day and we know that our school community will continue to demonstrate their compassion by giving generously to this cause.

World Book Day saw the children celebrating a range of reading and learning about some new authors. Each class was anonymously gifted some wrapped books and the excitement of reading the books and then trying to find out where the books had come from generated a lot of valuable discussions about books and reading.



We have so much to look forward to here and we are especially excited to be involved in a range of activities to support the Dorchester Festival.

We have places available and if you would like to see what we could offer your child please give us a call to arrange a tour. You can find out more from our website here:

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

Jo Staples
Headteacher

250 varieties and colours of basket & patio plants all grown on the nursery



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Purely Plants Nursery, 142a Wantage Road, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 0LU



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).....



Trust receives High Sheriff's climate action award

Some of Oxfordshire's "inspirational" climate action heroes were honoured at an awards ceremony recently. The River of Life II project – developed in partnership with the Earth Trust and Church Farm Partnership – was nominated alongside a number of Oxfordshire climate heroes.

The excavations on Old Bridge Meadow and Overy Mead Piece have rejuvenated historical backwaters on the River Thames to encourage fish breeding, benefit the local wildlife as well as the environment for Dorchester residents. Kingfishers and Snipe have already been seen on Old Bridge Meadow and of course it will take time for vegetation to cover the new banks, which have been left to recover naturally, rather than by seeding.

The project involved a dynamic group of volunteers, who prepared sites by clearing brash and conserving existing habitats for wildlife over the seven month period it took to complete the works in 2021.

River of Life II is the largest wetland habitat creation project of its kind on the banks of the Rivers Thames and Thame, adding 46,000 square metres – an area equivalent to six football pitches. The new wetland will tackle environmental challenges by improving water quality, biodiversity, carbon sequestration and flood alleviation.

Our thanks go to all the local volunteers who helped us with this project.

Chris Smith
Hon. Secretary.

Email: hurstwatermt@gmail.com



Old Bridge Meadow backwater

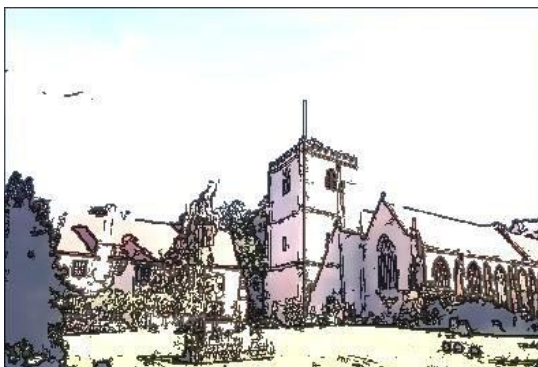


Overy Mead Piece backwater

Dorchester May Morning Monday 2 May

Resuming the annual tradition after a two-year Covid absence, Dorchester's a cappella group will welcome May by singing from the Abbey tower and then in the Abbey.

Proceeds from this event go to this year's festival charity Daybreak and to The Pride of Nasio, a local group of teenagers raising money to volunteer with The Nasio Trust in Kenya. They will be involved with building mud houses for destitute families, working with the Kenya Red Cross and engaging with children at Nasio's two day-care centres. A life changing experience.



Continental Breakfast

From 8.30am in the Abbey

Two A Part

Sing from the Tower at 9:00, then in the Abbey

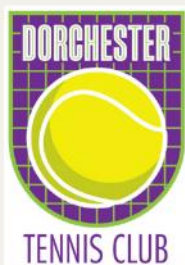
Breakfast Tickets £5

Must be bought in advance

available from Dorchester Co-op,

tim.cook12@btinternet.com or

www.dorchesterfestival.com



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

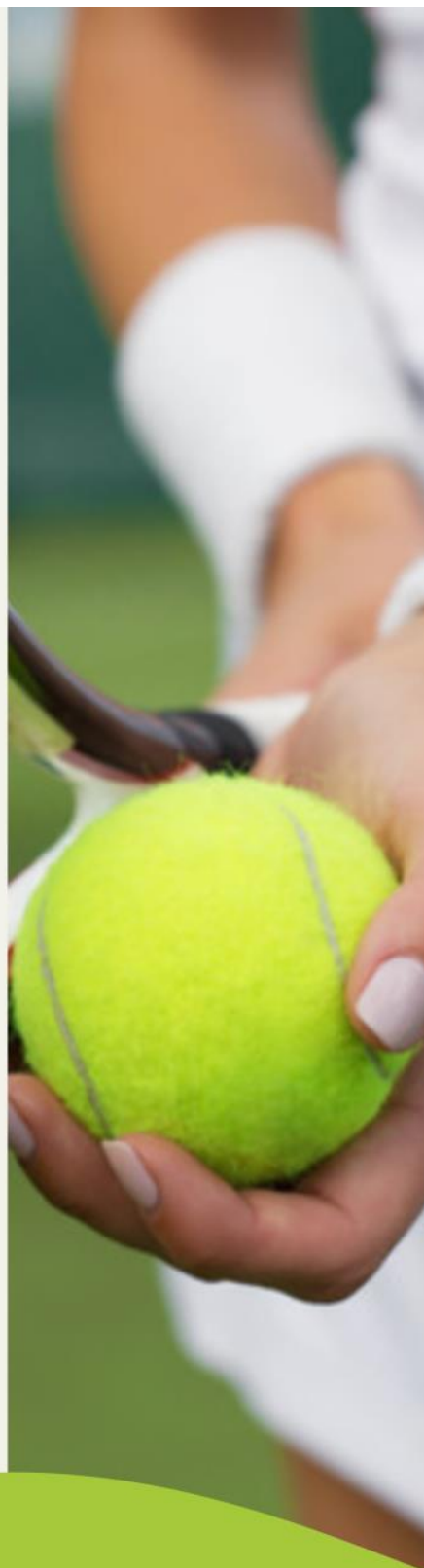
12+ Year Olds

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

PEACE

As we go to press, the war in Ukraine continues to rage, and to increase in intensity. Dorchester poet, John Pickard, wrote this poem, not in response to this conflict, but it feels very appropriate just now.

When war is done, conciliation spoke
As peace grins wryly through the smoke
Until the next mad despot tries
To cry new havoc in the skies

Great powers after conflict meet
To settle battle's balance sheet
But soon old arguments are there
With who owes what and who goes where.

But can they calculate the cost
Of homelands smashed and young lives lost
Can they force to a finality
A heartless ruler's skewed mentality.

John Pickard

The SODC housing department is starting to collate offers of support for sponsoring Ukrainian refugees. They are still waiting for further guidance from the Government, but they wanted to get ahead of the game by creating a register of potential accommodations.

If you think you might be able to help and would like to find out more, please email housing@southandvale.gov.uk. At the time of writing they don't have the full details of how any scheme will work, but expect to hear soon, so if they have your details they will be able to communicate with you promptly.

Here to help you find and book the perfect holiday....



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29th April - 8th May
www.dorchesterfestival.com

Have you bought your race duck, entered a scarecrow and bought event tickets?
 Just one month to go until an amazing set of events lands on your doorstep so get started!

Festival Gems



People often ask what events we are looking forward to most, so our advice is below— if you miss these you may just regret it!

Live History Challenge: A Walk in Time.

BH Monday 2nd May from 10am

Important items have gone missing and must be found or descendants will be lost; can you find them by talking to the live characters from Dorchester's history who have appeared in the village?

The King's Singers

Sunday 8th May

The first UK concert of 2022 from this world-famous a cappella group. Winners of two Grammy awards and an Emmy they'll perform music from Schubert to Queen.

Family Dog Show

Saturday 30th April

A lovely relaxed day out whether you're watching with tea & cake or joining in. Categories from child handler to veteran, rescue to musical sit and fancy dress! Dog agility display at lunchtime.

Teddy Abbey Sleepover

Saturday 30th April (all ages!)

Bring your teddy for a sleepover in the Abbey, make a sleeping bag and then watch social media to see what they get up to while you're asleep (sorry you can't join them!)



Draw Your Dog workshop

BH Monday 2nd May

Learn from the experts and walk away with a lovely portrait of your dog

Mad Hatters Tea Party

Saturday 7th May from 2pm

A completely mad afternoon with amazing (drink me!) tea and (eat me!) cake! From the moment you walk through the rabbit hole you will be immersed in the rather incredible world of Alice in Wonderland.



Food & Gift Fair

Saturday 7th & Sun 8th May

Bigger and better than ever with some brilliant live bands on our outside stage. Just come, browse, eat and drink and soak up the atmosphere.

Folk Night—Merry Hell & Jackie Oates / Megan Henwood

BH Monday 2nd May

Joyful, uplifting music full of wonderful stories from these award winning folk bands

Festival Silent Auction from 9th April

Great prizes, including holidays, private tours and cake! An Oxford United VIP box experience, a camper van for a long weekend—this is well worth a look! A great opportunity to support our Festival charities and buy a special gift for your friends or family (or a treat for yourself) at the same time. See the website & get bidding!



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!



Dorchester Food & Gift

Fair & Live Music!

Sat 7th May 10am-5pm

Sun 8th May 12-5pm

Dorchester Abbey
Cloister Garden

Food & Gift Stalls
& Street Food



Dorchester Festival

5k Fun Run

BH Mon 2nd May

Registration at the Abbey
from 10.30am

Join the village on our charity fun run
Amazing water meadow and river scenery
Category prizes or just come and walk.

Bring the whole family – even enter the dog!



Application form on www.dorchesterfestival.com
or entries on the day

Dorchester Artists Exhibition



Sat 30th April – Sunday 8th May
Dorchester Abbey Guest House

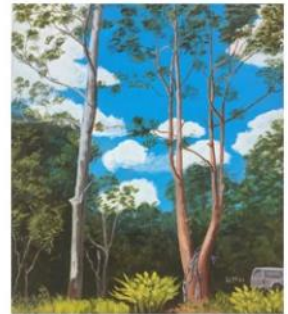
10.30am-6pm (except Tues-Fri afternoons only)

Free Entry!

An exhibition of amazing work by artists living in Dorchester.

Artists include Patricia Drew, Adrian Brooks, Sophia Stewart-Liberty, Mari Metcalfe, Bill Maish, Tracey Lester, Alison Rosby, Rosie Southon, Jo Ferguson, Sarah Cown, Chris Ellis, Edward Metcalfe

25% of all sales will go to the Festival Charities



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

The Getaway Bash



OPENING NIGHT PARTY
FRIDAY 29 APRIL 7pm-1am
TICKETS £48 includes food,
welcome drink and band
Festival Tent



A final farewell to Sue Booy



It was Frank Sinatra who believed that you could never have too many farewells. So having reported in our February issue on the farewell service to say farewell to Reverend Sue Booy in January, and announced the farewell drop in Café in the March issue, which was postponed because of covid, this month we have the third, and probably final farewell event in the Abbey to report..

On the evening of Saturday 12 March, dozens of people assembled in Dorchester Abbey to say farewell to Sue and Richard at an event that had twice been postponed due to illness. Drinks and canapés supplied by friends were served as people milled around and talked to each other of how Sue's presence in Dorchester Abbey had affected their lives over the last 17 years.

Entertainment came from Alison Brucker singing to piano accompaniment, a turn from Caroline Seed about vicars, followed by members of the Abbey choir, sometimes augmented by others, performing several pieces, including the beautiful Ave Regina.

Sue gave a short talk about what being rector of Dorchester had meant to her, how she had done it her way. Just like Frank Sinatra.

On the right, Sue and Richard have written an open letter to thank all their friends.



Dear Friends

I wanted to write and thank you all for the wonderful party in March, the amazing memory book and the many cards, gifts and personal good wishes I have received to mark my retirement. It has been so moving to receive messages from many people whose journey I have been privileged to share during my time here. It is a particular joy to be thanked for doing the things that I have set out to do as part of my understanding of parish ministry. I remain convinced that to be a parish priest is to be available to everyone in the community as far as it is possible.

Richard and I also want to thank you for the generous collective gift that was presented to us at the farewell service. We had hoped that we would use it to establish a small 'orchard' for our new home, sadly our plans have gone awry and this isn't going to be possible though we still hope it may be used to establish a new garden. I do know that, having lost mine, I plan to buy a new fountain pen which will regularly serve to remind me of you and of our time here. When we have news of a new address and a good use for your kind and generous gift, we will be in touch.

Thank you and God Bless

Sue and Richard





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Visit our website to find out when Gigaclear will be live in your area.

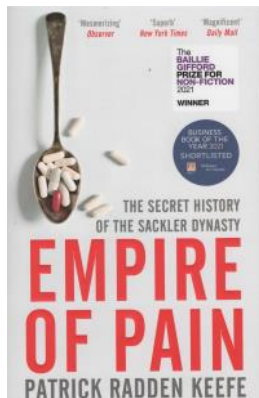
FIND OUT MORE AT
gigaclear.com/mycommunity

Gigaclear®

Goings-on at Wallingford Bookshop

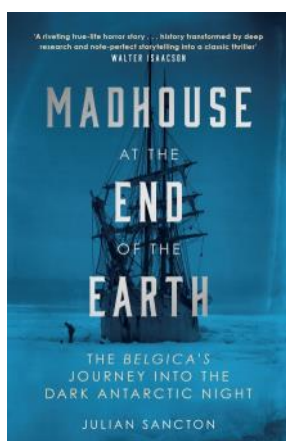
It's been 18 months now since I started working at the Wallingford Bookshop, and the bookshelves in my house are complaining. In fact, they are absolutely groaning. It's a funny thing – I can arrive at the shop in the morning, completely content with my lot, then spot a new book and know that I can't possibly leave the building without it. It's reaching the point where I am starting to smuggle books into the house so that my husband won't say, 'So, how many books have you bought *this* week?'.

A case in point is *Empire of Pain* by Patrick Radden Keefe (pb, £9.99). It is, quite simply, jaw-



-dropping. Cataloguing the history of the Sackler dynasty's pharmaceutical-based business in America, the book unveils layer after layer of corporate deceit, sustained over three generations. Keefe opens the book by detailing the business dealings of Arthur Sackler and his two brothers. The children of Jewish immigrants, all three brothers became physicians, prescribing drugs whilst also influencing their marketing and regulation. Immense wealth followed,

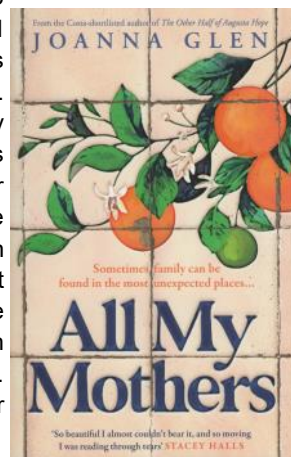
and the Sackler name became synonymous with philanthropy in both the arts and the sciences, with Sackler wings appearing in the V&A and Harvard, etc. However, it is Keefe's account of more recent events, namely the manufacture and promotion of the drug OxyContin by the family's Purdue Pharma company, that had me repeatedly muttering in disbelief, 'They did *what*...?'. An opioid painkiller, OxyContin was aggressively promoted as being less than 1% addictive due to an alleged slow-release formula that would **last 12 hours. The evidence for this was sparse at best, and yet somehow the drug was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration. This book explains how and why that came about. It is investigative journalism at its best, with Keefe exposing the morally and legally questionable decisions that helped fuel America's opioid crisis.** Rich on detail, *Empire of Pain* charts the rise of the Sackler Family, but also its fall, with Purdue Pharma filing for bankruptcy and the removal of the Sackler name from renowned institutions internationally.



Going much further back in time, and focusing on a cold climate rather than cold-blooded ruthlessness, is *Madhouse at the End of the Earth* by Julian Sancton (pb, £9.99). This account will likely appeal to those whose interest in polar adventure has been piqued by the recent discovery of Shackleton's *Endurance*, which sank in the Antarctic in 1915. In 1897, long before Shackleton set sail, the *Belgica* journeyed to the South Pole. Sancton's account brings together first-hand crew

diaries and entries from the ship's logbook to describe what happened when the ship became stuck in the ice of the

Bellinghausen sea. Forced to overwinter, the ship's crew endured months of polar darkness and was plagued by a mysterious illness. Amongst their lot, and desperately trying to help release the vessel was Dr Frederick Cook, who later claimed (disputedly) to have reached the North Pole. Also on board was Roald Amundsen, best known to us today for his race against Captain Scott to the South Pole. This book reads like a thriller. It is a bold tale about even bolder adventurers.



Finally, there is just enough space left for me to mention some beautifully written fiction: *All My Mothers* by Joanna Glen (pb, £8.99). At the centre of this story is Eva. When Eva starts primary school, her teacher asks all the children to bring in a baby photo of themselves. But there are no photos of Eva as a baby, and Eva knows that something about this can't be right. Her mother is emotionally absent, and her father, often physically so. Over time, Eva tries to uncover answers, chipping away at the mystery that is her full identity, but most of all learning the many and varied meanings of motherhood. This book is not without heart-rending moments, but it is ultimately uplifting and, truth be told, there's a place in our world for warmth and love right now.

Karen Gurney

Durufle

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Warborough & Shillingford WI

February 2022 was an important month for the **Warborough and Shillingford WI** because **22.02.1922** was the actual

date on which the first meeting of this group took place 100 years ago. The village and WI members then were very different from what we see today; emerging from the first World War they came together to support each other and make a difference to their community. Maybe not so different though, because the WI today aims to support both members and community in any way we can, just as they did. We will begin our centenary celebrations in June with a visit to New Cross college and are planning a **Centenary Party** on the Green in August.

Our **Annual Meeting** occurred on 9th March and we remembered events throughout the past year and the determination of the committee to keep the connection with members through Zoom, during Covid. Our WI is thriving, and the President welcomed members, guests and potential new members. We look forward to seeing them again at future meetings.

After all the formalities, we listened to a riveting talk from Bea Drury, a member of our WI who works with a company developing Drone technology. The extent of the usefulness of Drones cannot be exaggerated. Drone technology is used by industries as diverse as the NHS, construction companies, oil companies, Network Rail and estate agents. Invaluable to assess dangerous situations where human life might be at risk (although not in Estate agents). Drones gather information where there is a problem so solutions can be developed. The

favourite anecdote must be Millie the Jack Russell-whippet cross who slipped her lead and found herself in a perilous situation as the tide rose on mudflats in Hampshire. Unable to catch her, rescuers attached a sausage to a drone, which Millie followed to safety.

At the next Members Meeting we will listen to Stephen Dawson whose talk is entitled '*A Tour of Oxford Preservation Trust's Work*'.

February will be remembered for its storms and our intrepid **walking group** had to be abandoned because of storm Eunice. Walkers continue to meet every other Friday under Chris Tilley's guidance.

Our **Community Project** spearheaded by Clare Dewell and Rachel Walker has been a huge success and they have been awarded money by the Parish Council to improve the Shillingford end of our community. Further details will be forthcoming in our next monthly update.

Unfortunately, the setting up of the **Craft Group** has been delayed due to safety concerns. However, the **Centenary Bunting** created by Wendy Rapp has been completed and will be displayed at our next monthly meeting.

Membership: If you would like to join our WI, we would love to welcome you. Get in touch and have a chat.

Vicky Hart, Secretary,
vicky_hart_northwood@hotmail.com

tel: 01865 416437

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



In Springtime Wednesday 6 April 19.00

Tickets including aperitif on www.ticketsource.co.uk/inspringtime

Join us for a joyful musical celebration of the awakening of nature. This programme for piano, voice and oboe reflects on Easter and joyfully moves into Spring, with music by Bach, Schumann, Haydn and Mozart interlaced with more contemporary composers such as Golijov, Respighi, Vaughan Williams and Poulenc.

Susanne Mecklenburg - voice

William Hancox - piano

Sophie Hebden - oboe

<https://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk/whats-on-2/>

From the Chairman of the Parish Council



Traffic again - we have now formally applied to the county council for a 20mph zone. It will take a while to get to the stage of confirming the boundaries, but at least we are on the list. A quick word about parking on the pavement in the High Street. There have been complaints on and off on this subject for many years, more than the 22 years I've lived here. There are occasions when cars block pushchairs or disability scooters, but car owners on both sides of the High Street respond that if they don't put two wheels on the pavement, the road would be too narrow for lorries and buses. So nothing changes. A solution might be to remove part of the pavement along towards the hairdressers, thus widening the road and enabling cars to park fully on the road, leaving the pavement opposite completely free for pedestrians. I'm sure there are points both for and against! However, at the last PC meeting we were staggered to see a photo of a car parked 100% on the pavement, and not at a pinch-point. I do hope there was a good reason, (not that I can think of one) otherwise that is just obnoxious behaviour. The number plate was clearly visible so the photo has been sent to the local Police Community Support Officer.

To a different subject, that of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Some residents have suggested a street party, but there seems to be a lack of 'buzz' and general interest compared to that at the time of the Diamond Jubilee, where there was a large party on the recreation ground. At the moment, the PC is leaning towards supporting the picnic in the Cloister Garden being organised by the Abbey for the Jubilee weekend, rather than organising a separate event. Let me know if you think otherwise.

Mark Williams
Chairman DoT Parish Council

Parish Council Notices

Monthly Meetings 2022

The next Council Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 13 April** 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.

Annual Parish Meeting 2022

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 11 May**. This meeting is open to all residents and will include the Chairman's Annual Report together with the presentation of the Council's Draft Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The Agenda will be posted on Parish notice boards and the website on **Wednesday 4 May**. Business will include reports from the County and District Councillors and a representative from Gigaclear will provide the latest information about the availability of the Company's services in Dorchester. The meeting will include an opportunity for residents to raise any other business.

The May Parish Council meeting will take place after the Annual Parish Meeting has concluded.

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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Football Results North Berks League Div 1



26/02/2022	Berinsfield First	16	1	Dorchester First
12/03/2022	Dorchester First	2	2	Long Wittenham Athletic First

Healthwatch Oxfordshire is recruiting new Trustees

Do you want to help us make health and care better in Oxfordshire?

Healthwatch Oxfordshire is the independent champion for people who use health and social care services across the county. We are here to find out what matters to people and help make sure their views shape the services they need.

If you care about the way local health and care services are run and **can spare some time to help get the right services to the people who really need them**, please think about joining us as a Trustee.

This is a voluntary role and a really exciting opportunity to make a difference!

To find out more about the role and how to apply see www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk/news/becomeatruster

You can also contact us for more information on **01865 520520** or at hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk

Old Herbaceous Saturday 2 April 2022 Dorchester Village Hall



**Door and bar open at 7.00pm
Performance at 7.30pm**

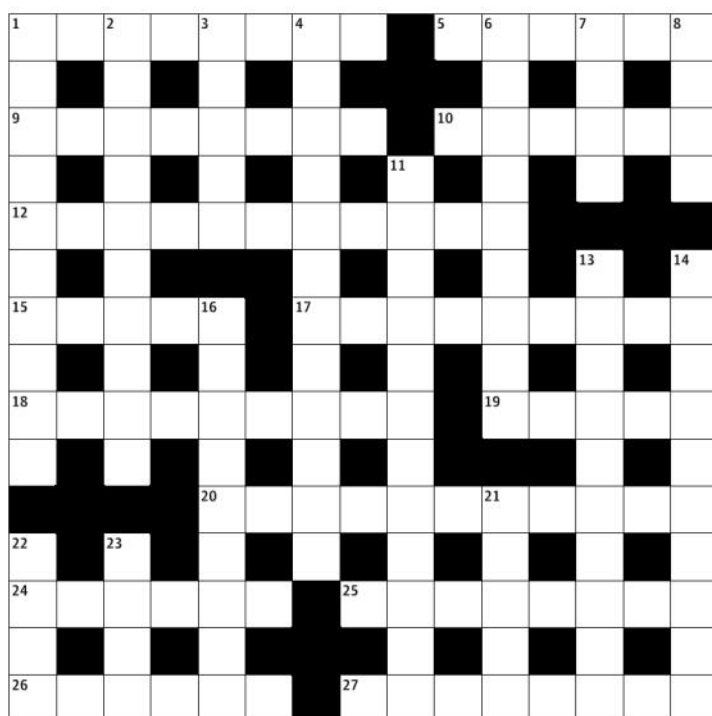
Tickets £12 available from Ticket Source:

<http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/dotvh>
(Further information Jane Brooks, **01865 340792**)

All proceeds to the Village Hall modernisation and restoration fund

Dorchester-on-Thames village hall is a Registered Charity no.900244

Dorchester News Crossword No.21 Compiled by Slider



Across

1. The artist's inserted an old character of royal influence. (8)
5. Stop the drink! (5)
9. Not the best press, bosses get good quality materials. (8)
10. A coat of muntjac ketchup? You won't need all of it. (6)
12. They could get you to the moon Spock, re this mixture. (11)

15. Nigel has no heroin, or so he says. (5)
17. Seldom in, the Queen is confined peripherally. (9)
18. Get ready for the bill, i.e. in waiter's possession. (3,2,4)
19. Sound like an operatic character ending in panic. (5)
20. The heads of British industry had a last minute improvement on both sides (11)
24. Really keen to see a Beaujolais with gravity? (6)
25. Getting into viagra Ann exercised her right to some added accommodation! (8)
26. Setting the dogs going (around 50) and I will be recalcitrant. (6)
27. Married with uncommon sense on the river delta. (8)

Down

1. Make lower, break apart to get going again. (10)
2. Early odds shot up with gearing. (10)
3. Cast loose the short relative. (5)
4. At home a princess can sit (and can't do without). (12)
6. Santa has most of the card lining the cortex. (9)
7. Stepney's money received for the guttersnipe. (4)
8. Dislike and laugh at the note. (4)
11. The crime solvers are up to the gallery conditions and lay it on the line. (7,5)
13. The battle unfortunately riles wine experts. (10)
14. Difficult, bit of a gardening nuisance (6,4)
16. To make smooth relies on an expensive address. (9)
21. Reagan on party piece. (instrumental) (5)
22. All the tricks of the tennis finals. (4)
23. Be up to no good. (4)

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



Support for Ukraine

We at South Oxfordshire District Council stand by the people of Ukraine in the face of the invasion by Russia and our thoughts are with everyone affected by this action. We will help in any way we can, working too with our local partners, including resettling refugees locally should our help be needed. Guidance on government support available to Ukrainian nationals and their family members, including the Ukraine Family Scheme, is available on the www.gov.uk website

Making a donation

Many people in the county want to do whatever they can to help, and one way is to make a donation. The best current route to donate and support is via the Disasters Emergencies Committee. The UK Government has said it will match fund up to £20m. DEC works with 15 charities including Oxfam, Christian Aid and Save the Children.

- There are a number of other recommended international charities you can support:
- The British Red Cross has launched a Ukraine Crisis Appeal to support the work of the Ukrainian Red Cross to fund food, water, first aid, medicines, warm clothes and shelter.
- The UNHCR refugee agency is collecting monetary donations for humanitarian assistance, emergency shelter and relief items like blankets. It will also fund psychological support for refugees.
- The UN's children's charity, UNICEF, is accepting donations to help ensure child health and protection services are sustained and families have clean water and food.
- If you're looking to donate to other causes working in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, you should make a few simple checks before giving. You can look up the charity's name and registration number at www.gov.uk/checkcharity

135 reception open to the public

The reception to the District Council offices at 135 Milton Park re-opened to the public on Monday 21 February. A reminder that they are open with slightly reduced hours: Open 9.30am to 12.30pm, closed for lunch and then open again from 1.30pm to 4.00pm

A district-wide tree planting drive to help tackle climate change begins in Wallingford

We have granted an application from **Friends of Wallingford and Cholsey Green Spaces** to plant trees at Radnor Road and Wilding Road.

The applications are the first to be approved following the launch of the council's new tree planting policy, which outlines how it will support local tree planting initiatives as well as how it will protect, plant and manage trees on council land.

The Friends have planted approximately 45 trees at Radnor Road, including a community orchard and walnut, sweet chestnut, oak, rowan and hawthorn trees, while a new community orchard on Wilding Road will feature ten apple and plum trees; a hornbeam, oak, field and horse chestnut; and a new hedgerow.

Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere so this work will play an important role in helping to reduce local emissions. We welcome proposals for planting trees on council land across the district – for more information visit southoxon.gov.uk/trees

Tackling the climate emergency is a major priority South Oxfordshire District Council which is aiming to become carbon neutral within its own operations by 2025. The council's new **Climate Action Plan** outlines the steps it will take to achieve this aim, as well as how it will support local efforts to tackle the climate emergency. This includes identifying sites for new tree planting and wilding opportunities on council land or through partnership opportunities on privately owned land to support natural carbon capture.

Reducing food waste (and keeping it out of landfill)

It is estimated the majority of food waste (70 per cent) which is thrown away in the UK comes from households - so we can all do our bit. In South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts it's estimated that residents put around 700 tonnes of food* into their black bins in one month alone, emitting nearly 150 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e)** into the atmosphere. As well as wasting valuable resources, it is estimated the average family of four could save £720*** a year by wasting less food through reducing their food waste. Of course, home or allotment composting is also a great way to deal with suitable food waste.

Robin.Bennett@southoxon.gov.uk

tel. 01865 858680

m. 07979 646815

*Measurement Evaluation Learning Research

**OECD

***www.lovefoodhatewaste.com

More information on home composting is on Oxfordshire County Council's website

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/waste-and-recycling/household-waste/food-and-garden-waste>

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Welding, you break it we will try and repair it, and not just your car!!

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

Large majority offered first choice secondary school place for 2022/23

Parents and children across Oxfordshire have been offered their first choice of secondary school for 2022/23 in the vast majority of cases.

A total of 88.27% (6,606) of applications have been awarded their first choice (up from 80.9 per cent last year). A total of 96.42 per cent (7,216) have been offered one of the four choices they listed on their application. The county school admissions team has done an excellent job in ensuring that so many parents and children have been offered their first choice. Our aim as a council is to give every child a good start in life and our school admissions team certainly plays its part in that, year in, year out.

Oxfordshire County Council receives award for commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusion

The Council has received a bronze award for its commitment and efforts to become an LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning and others) employer. The award comes as part of equality charity Stonewall's 'Bring Yourself to Work' campaign, which highlights the importance of inclusive work environments. Oxfordshire County Council is proud to stand with everyone in our LGBTQ+ communities. According to Stonewall's research, more than a third of LGBTQ+ staff (35%) hide who they are at work, while one in five (18%) have been the target of negative comments because they're LGBTQ+.

Second car park to have EV chargers installed – Wallingford

Work is due to start next week at a second car park in Wallingford as part of the Park and Charge Electric Vehicle charging scheme. The project proposes a total of up to 62 new charging points in car parks across the South Oxfordshire district. Engineers are installing electric chargers at Goldsmith's Lane car park in Wallingford. All work is due to be completed by the end of March. This project is part of a county-wide scheme to install hundreds of EV charging points in council-owned car parks.

Public Health advice: use caution and consideration as pandemic enters new phase

People in Oxfordshire are being urged to act with caution and consideration following the prime minister's significant announcement about COVID-19 rule changes.

Despite recent welcome declines in the number of people contracting COVID-19 in the county, thousands of people are still doing so each week.

Ansaf Azhar, Oxfordshire County Council's Director for Public Health, said:

'We're now at a point where we can start to look forward, to live with COVID-19 and be confident about making plans. But my advice is to do this with caution and consideration for others. COVID-19 has not gone away. For some – the medically vulnerable and the elderly – it remains a threat. For those who have not had the vaccine, the virus still has the potential to cause serious illness.'

- Be considerate. If you feel ill, then you should still stay away from others and remain at home while you have symptoms. As with any other illness, no-one will thank you for sharing it.
- Be aware. There will be many in our communities who will be extremely nervous about the recent news. Be conscious of other people's situations and what they are comfortable with and adjust your behaviour accordingly.
- Be cautious. Our rates are still high and will remain so for some time to come. Making sensible decisions, such as wearing a face covering in crowded places and letting fresh air into indoor spaces, does not mean restricting what you do.
- Be mindful of the fact that our health and social care system remains under huge pressure. So please only visit hospital emergency departments in genuine emergencies.

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From your MP...

...John Howell

As I write at the beginning of this month the issue that is most dominant is the dreadful situation that has been unfolding in Ukraine. I have added my voice to the many who unequivocally condemn Russia for the action that it has taken and continues to take. Our government has joined others across the world in imposing sanctions against Russia and through my own work as Leader of the UK delegation to the Council of Europe I have helped lead the way in getting Russia suspended from the Council. It is also the Council of Europe, which has a remit for displaced people in Europe that is best placed to assist.

Perhaps foremost in people's minds is the humanitarian situation that arises from the hostile action. I know that for many constituents it is the effect on the lives of innocent people that such situations bring that has stirred them to offer support in whatever way that they can, and I thank all those who have contacted me on this for their concern. Most of the refugees want to stay close to Ukraine. I have volunteered to work with the Home Secretary to liaise with the countries neighbouring Ukraine to provide aid and assistance. In terms of aid, what is most needed is money. The Government has given £220 million in aid within the region and a further £175 million to bolster the Ukrainian economy, reduce Ukraine's reliance on Russian gas imports and to mitigate other financial pressures created by the invasion. Although I know that some people want to send goods I would encourage financial support first and foremost. There are complexities in sending goods and much does not get to where it is most needed. Recognised aid organisations have established mechanisms to get things to where they are most needed and have staff who can be deployed to assist. Financial donations support their work and allow for flexibility to meet changing needs as circumstances change. Many people crossing into neighbouring countries are going to stay with family and friends and need financial assistance rather than material aid. Food is needed for those in Ukraine, but there is the complexity that it is difficult to deliver aid to a war zone without direct conflict with Russia. This is best done through recognised agencies where safe passage can be negotiated.

More formally, the Home Office has set up a series of measures to support people in the region. For British Nationals and relatives of Ukrainian people settled in the UK in the region there is the Ukrainian Family Scheme and people in this region should contact **0300 3032785**.

There is also a Ukrainian sponsorship scheme for Ukrainians who do not have family ties with the UK. At the time of writing details on this are awaited. The Ukrainian Humanitarian Pathway has also been set up to help refugees.

The Home Office has also set up a customer hub in Parliament for MPs and their staff to raise concerns in relation to Ukrainian issues such as access to the UK. I have dedicated one of my staff to be available to make sure we can raise cases whether I am in Parliament or elsewhere on Parliamentary business. We currently await details of the personal information that will be required in relation to individuals wanting to come to the UK. If anyone would like to raise an individual case please email me with details at the address below.

This is a continually evolving situation and I will do my best to keep my website updated with new information as it becomes available.

While this terrible situation unfolds Parliament continues with its ongoing programme of business. 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). Please note that correspondence sent through the post can take a couple of weeks to reach me as it has to go through offsite security scanning before being delivered.

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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Wallingford Museum News

We are delighted that the museum is now open from 1 March 2022 with the exception of the Wallingford story, which is under development. Please check the web site for opening times. <https://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk>

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.

If you are interested in joining our custodian team at the Museum, we still have a few volunteers vacancies, everyone at the Museum is a volunteer! Custodians work in pairs for one session every four weeks. Sessions are Tuesday to Saturday afternoons and Saturday mornings. If you'd be interested in sharing the history of Wallingford by helping out please email jenacarpenter@hotmail.co.uk. We are also interested in finding a volunteer, volunteer co-ordinator to organise our custodian rota. Again chat to Jenny about this.

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

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 at Riverside in Thames Street 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.

The Museum will be running Easter holiday workshops for families. Please watch the web site for details.

<https://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk>

Museum Bookshop

We have an excellent selection of good second-hand books (both fiction and non-fiction) at sensible prices. We look forward to seeing you - it's free to browse!

Sue Wright
Wallingford Museum



Petanque Wallingford are holding 'come and try sessions' on **Tuesday 5 April** and **Sunday 10 April** at **11.00am** at Wallingford Sports Park, Hithercroft Road, Wallingford, OX10 9RB.

The Club was formed in 2010 and has a thriving membership of enthusiastic players. Petanque is one of the most inclusive sports. It can be played on equal terms by practically everyone, all ages, whole families, people with reduced agility and even some disabled. We can provide the introduction and boules so if you are interested in playing recreationally or competitively come and join us. Further information can be found on the Club web site www.petwal.co.uk or by contacting petanquewallingford@gmail.com

The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society

Wednesday 13 April

Marie-Louise Kerr: 'Oxfordshire on Canvas'

Marie-Louise's presentation 'Oxfordshire on Canvas' is a visual tour of Oxfordshire which looks at how artists, both national and local, have captured our beautiful area and been influenced by it. Some of the artists included are:

- George Dunlop Leslie (who lived and painted in Wallingford)
- Paul Nash (who created many works featuring The Wittenham Clumps)
- John Piper (whose works are celebrated at the River & Rowing Museum)

Wednesday 11 May

Melanie King: 'Can onions cure earache? Medical Advice in the 18th century.'



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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 still asking patrons to 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.

April

Sun 3	Cyrano (12A)
Mon 4	Cyrano (12A)
Tues 5	Cyrano (12A)
Wed 6	Cyrano (12A)
Thurs 7	Cyrano (12A)
Fri 8	Phantom of the Open (PG)
Sat 9	Phantom of the Open (PG)
Sun 10	Phantom of the Open (PG)
Mon 11	Phantom of the Open (PG)
Tues 12	Phantom of the Open (PG)

Live Screenings

Wednesday, 13 April 6.45pm

La Traviata (live from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden)

Richard Eyre's time-honoured production of Verdi's most popular opera. The beautiful score contains some of Verdi's most inspired arias and duets. The superficial glamour of 19th-century Paris contrasts with scenes of great intimacy, culminating in the memorable, heart-breaking final act.

Alfredo Germont and the courtesan Violetta Valéry fall in love at a party in Violetta's Paris salon. Alfredo is determined to cure Violetta of her tuberculosis, and the couple leave Paris and begin a contented life in the country. But Violetta's happiness is destroyed when Alfredo's father Giorgio Germont pays her a visit.

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

Thursday, 21 April 7.00pm

NT Live: Henry V (filmed live at the Donmar Warehouse)

Kit Harington (Game of Thrones) plays the title role in Shakespeare's thrilling study of nationalism, war and the psychology of power. This exciting modern production directed by Max Webster (Life of Pi) explores what it means to be English and our relationship to Europe, asking: do we ever get the leaders we deserve?

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

Sunday, 24 April 2.30pm

Northern Ballet: Merlin

Discover how the world's most famous sorcerer mastered his magic to unite a warring kingdom. Inspired by the story of the mythical wizard, Northern Ballet's Merlin will take you on a sweeping epic adventure of heartbreak, hope and more than a little magic. Choreographed by Olivier Award-winning Drew McOnie (Broadway's King Kong and Baz Luhrmann's Strictly Ballroom), expect an enchanting spectacle.

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

Live on Stage

Tuesday 29 March to Saturday 2 April,

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Sinodun Players present *The Constant Wife* by W Somerset Maugham, directed by Chris Harris

A Fizzing Comedy exploring Sexual Independence

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One of Maugham's most captivating creations, the play is as fresh and relevant today as it was in 1926. It holds up a mirror to the audience: how much have our social attitudes really changed, nearly 100 years on, from those of the late 1920s?

Tickets £9 (first night), £12 (all other performances)

Saturday, 23 April, 7.45pm

The Bootleg Shadows (the top UK tribute band)

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All Tickets £15

Musical theatre is coming to Benson

Mark Wilkin of DADS is having a busy few weeks as, on the behalf of the Benson Players, he has booked Badapple Theatre to bring their latest musical comedy, *Elephant Rock*, to Benson Parish Hall on **Saturday, 7 May** at 7.30 pm. It is set in the old Palace Theatre, once perched proudly on the pier in sight of the mighty Elephant Rock. The mismatched team are determined that the Palace doors stay open, and unwittingly discover a family history that stretches across a hundred years and five thousand miles from the rocky coast of England to the sweeping grasslands of Sri Lanka.

Tickets for *Elephant Rock* are available from Derry's Den in Benson and www.badappletheatre.co.uk.

Day by day

Sat 2 Apr	Old Herbaceous Village Hall Doors open 7.00pm Performance 7.30pm
Sun 3 Apr	5th Sunday of Lent 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Sung Eucharist Annual Church Meeting 12.00noon Dorchester Abbey
Wed 6 Apr	In Springtime Concert 7.00pm Dorchester Abbey
Sat 9 Apr	Spring Flower Show Staging 9.00am-10.15am Viewing 2.30pm-4.00pm Village Hall OSJ Concert St Matthew Passion 6.00pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 10 Apr	Palm Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.15am Palm Sunday Service starting at War Memorial 5.00pm Choral Evensong
Wed 13 Apr	Chiropodist Village Hall Appointment only; see page 27 Lunch Club 12.30pm White Hart Hotel Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
Sat 16 Apr	Dorchester Museum Opens for season 2.00pm to 5.00pm Dorchester Abbey Tea Room Opens for season 2.30pm to 5.00pm



Sun 17 Apr	Easter Day 6.00am Easter Dawn Service Cloister Garden 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Easter Family Service
Wed 20 Apr	Culham Horticultural Club <i>Painting with Plants</i> 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 24 Apr	Second Sunday of Easter 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Wed 27 Apr	Dorchester Historical Society <i>Oxford's Forgotten Jewish Quarter</i> 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Fri 29 Apr	Dorchester Festival Opens The Getaway Bash 7.00pm Festival Tent
Sat 30 Apr	Dorchester Artists Exhibition Until 8 May 10.30am-6.00pm Dorchester Abbey Guest House

Parish Registers

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20 February Felix James White

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:
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Weekly events in the Village Hall

Tuesday	Zumba Gold 9.30am Busby Dance 3.15pm
Wednesday	Tango 7.30pm See dorchesteronthamesvillagehall.org.uk/ #calendar for forthcoming events.

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Bus services by Going Forward buses Dorchester to Wallingford and Dorchester to Didcot

To Wallingford: 10.30 (Mon, Wed), 12.45 (Mon), 09.46, 10.28 (Fri), 12.29, 16.03 (Sat)
From Wallingford: 09.30 (Mon), 11.45 (Mon, Wed), 11.50, 12.15 (Fri), 09.30, 14.15 (Sat)

To Didcot Station: 09.38 (Mon), 11.53 (Mon, Wed), 09.38, 14.23 (Sat)
From Didcot Station: 10.05, 12.25 (Mon, Wed), 12.15, 15.42 (Sat)

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.

RAF BENSON

For information on flying schedules and night flying, www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/stations/raf-benson/documents/raf-benson-flying-programme/.

USEFUL CONTACTS

ANGLICAN PRIEST

Dorchester Rectory
01865 340007

ABBEY E-MAIL:

admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk
Contact details for Church Wardens and other Abbey information are on the notice board in the Abbey.

ABBEY WEBSITE

www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

VILLAGE WEBSITE

www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST

The Presbytery
Fr. John Osman

Bridge End

01865 340417

www.stbirinus.co.uk

Dorchester Abbey Museum E-mail

museum@dorchester-abbey.org.uk



REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Fri 1 April **Black**

Fri 8 April **Green**

Sat 16 April **Black**

Sat 23 April **Green**

Fri 29 April **Black**

Weekdays from 7.00am Saturdays from 6.00am

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

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

Index of advertisers Page

Acupuncture Barn	32
AKT Planning	30
Aniko Dioszegi	30
Arbocare	30
Bell Motors	26
Bristow	19
Bryan's Locks	32
Clive the Handyman	26
Dorchester Fireplaces	30
Dorchester Tennis Club	12
Four Winds	28
Full Circle	13
Gigaclear	20
Graceful Gardens	19
Horted	6
Howard Chadwick Funerals	32
In House	6
JEM chimney sweep	31
Jenks	26
Larkmead Vets	28
LB Plumbing	32
Martin Drew Logs	30
Mediation Zone	32
Millstream Pilates	23
Purely Plants	9
Roy Passey Builders	27
St Mary's Dental	32
Steve Wilkinson	32
T W Hayden	32
The Landscape Group	
Oxford	28
Thimbles and Threads	30
White Hart	26

St Matthew Passion

JS Bach

A stained glass window depicting the Mocking of Christ. Christ is in the center, wearing a red robe and a crown of thorns. He is surrounded by four men in green, yellow, and blue robes, who are mocking him. The background is blue with red and yellow floral patterns.

OSj

ORCHESTRA OF ST JOHN'S

Saturday 9 April 6pm

Dorchester Abbey

Tickets £30-£15 www.osj.org.uk