

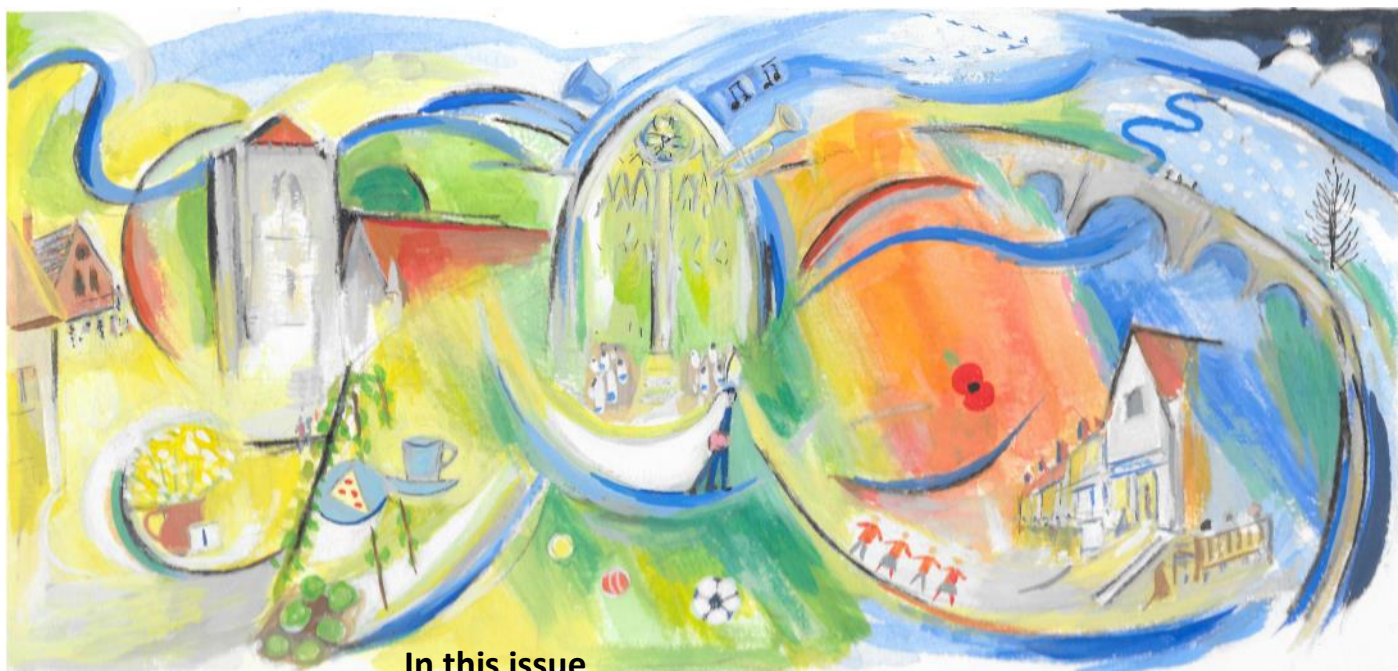
# ***Dorchester News***

*Free to every home in the parish*

*May 2022*







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Cover picture: The inner porch doors of Dorchester Abbey before one of them was recently replaced. Photo Gaynor Roberts..

## Deadline for June Dorchester News



email:

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

### **A DoT view**

As this issue of Dorchester News goes out towards the end of April, the ninth Dorchester Festival will be shortly to begin. Having been delayed by a year because of covid, giving a three year gap, there will be more people than usual in the village who have not experienced the Festival.

Well I can tell you now it is amazing. More than 50 events packed into ten days, with something for everyone. Entertainment of all sorts, comedy, all types of music including jazz, folk, big band, opera and the fabulous King's Singers. There's even pot luck at the open mic night. Loads for families and children such as Tentertainment, Science Mad!, the duck race, Mad Hatter's Tea Party and the Scarecrow trail, not forgetting the Fun Run for everybody and their dogs, who also have their own show. If its browsing you are after the Food and Gift Fair is always great.

And it is of course all in a good cause, or rather two. The money raised will be shared between Dorchester Abbey and Daybreak, a local charity that supports people with dementia.

As I write I can see that some events, such as some of the cookery demos are already sold out, so make sure you get your tickets, join in and have fun. And if you want to be a part of it, just offer to shift some chairs, or do some clearing up. All help will be much appreciated.

**Ian Brace**

### **Editorial Team**

Ian Brace, Gillian Johnson

**Distribution Co-ordinator**

Maurice Day

### **Printed by**

Artisan Print Solutions

The first of May is exactly half way between the Spring Equinox and the Summer Solstice and as the first day of summer its celebrations welcome the season for growth and fertility with many traditions across the world. It seems the month of May was always a time for festivals and in some places there is still maypole dancing, Morris Dancers, and the crowning of a May Queen. Locally of course in Oxford the choir of Magdalene College sing from the top of the tower to welcome May morning.

In 1889 1<sup>st</sup> May was chosen as International Workers Day to commemorate the struggle by workers

for an eight-hour working day. It seems ironic that this has developed into the current May Day parades that show off military might and the means of destruction rather than improved working conditions. What a contrast!

In the church May is a season of transition and transformation. The Easter season draws to a close with Ascension Day when the resurrected Jesus leaves his disciples to tell his story and, with the subsequent coming of the Holy Spirit, the early church emerges. Preceding Ascension Day are rogation days which often include prayers of protection for growing crops and, when the ceremony of beating the bounds

takes place, local communities.

A late Easter means Ascension Day does not fall until 26<sup>th</sup> May and therefore Whitsun (or Pentecost) not until the beginning of June. By then hopefully we can expect nature to be in full bloom. The coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church echoes this fullness of life. The Spirit that is a transformative gift and shows us the right path to tread. A path that surely does not include an endless show of military might, not only on parade but also used against neighbours. Let us, therefore, continue to pray, not only for protection of our crops and communities, but also for peace with justice for all.

### Festival Services

#### Sunday 1 May 10.30am Festival Teddy and Puppet Service

A Special celebration for families to wake up the Teddy Bears who slept over in the Abbey on the Saturday night! You can bring any Teddy Bears who were too shy or too little to sleep over to enjoy the service as well. Featuring the amazing Puppet Pedlar and her friends with fun, songs and prayers for all the family! Breakfast style refreshments from 10am.

#### Sunday 8 May 10.30am

Come to this special **Dorchester Abbey Festival service** with guest speaker Patrick Watt, current CEO of Christian Aid. Patrick will reflect on the challenges in our world today while also sharing stories of hope. Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. Patrick has degrees in theology and development studies and has previously worked for Oxfam, Action Aid, and Save the Children on issues of education, global health, debt and trade, and aid policy. This service will be packed with favourite hymns and a lovely anthem from our amazing Dorchester Abbey choir. A bit of peace and quiet in the middle of the Festival madness!

#### Sunday 5 June 10.30am

##### Pentecost Service and Jubilee Sunday picnic

A special service at the Abbey for Pentecost Sunday when we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples and the birth of the Church.

All are welcome to join a celebratory picnic for the Queen's Jubilee in the Cloister Garden at noon.

### Team Services

#### Wed 11 May 7.00pm

Team Confirmation Service in the Abbey If you are considering confirmation, or would like to know more please contact Emma Firth, our Youth and Families Minister via [dorchestersteamfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:dorchestersteamfamilies@gmail.com) or call the office. You can be confirmed at any stage on your faith journey - there are no age limits.'

#### Sun 22 May 10.30am

Our Team Service will be in St Paul's church, Culham, we are delighted that Archdeacon Judy will be joining us for the morning.

#### Thurs 26 May 7.00pm

Ascension Day at Toot Baldon 'You are witnesses of these things...'

The disciples were commissioned to witness to the death and resurrection of Jesus and we too are called to be His witnesses. Our service of Holy Communion is an opportunity to reflect on this and pray for our whole community as we look out across the surrounding fields.



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## Dorchester Team Community Meeting

We would value your views as we recruit our new Rector

We invite members of the village and representatives of the communities that are in the Dorchester Team to join us to consider the qualities needed in our next Team Rector.



SATURDAY 14th May, 2022 10am – 1pm

Dorchester Village Hall, 7 Queen St, Dorchester, OX10 7HR.

Coffee and tea will be served from 9:45am for the start of the meeting

Parking is available near the village hall.

Please RSVP to: [admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

For questions about the meeting please contact Amy Herlihy on 01865 400864 or [a.herlihy@btinternet.com](mailto:a.herlihy@btinternet.com)

More information can be found on <https://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk/dorchester-team-churches-contacts/>



## Hempcroft Allotments May

Between 29 April and 8 May the 2022 biennial Dorchester Festival will take place. There will be quite a few additional visitors to the village during this time. As part of the Festival there will be a Scarecrow Trail and a Dorchester Quiz & Treasure Hunt. Both of these will, or could, take people along the public rights of way footpaths across the Hempcroft Allotments. This is an opportunity to show off the allotments in their best light and so can I urge people to do a little bit of 'spring cleaning' of their plots in preparation for the Festival. A little bit of 'spring cleaning' after the storm damage in February/ March is also a little overdue in some areas.

**Edward Metcalfe**  
340160  
[edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk)

## Friends of Dorchester Abbey Visit to Southwark Cathedral

Please note that the Friends of Dorchester Abbey visit to Southwark Cathedral planned for 9 May has been cancelled due to lack of uptake.

## 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

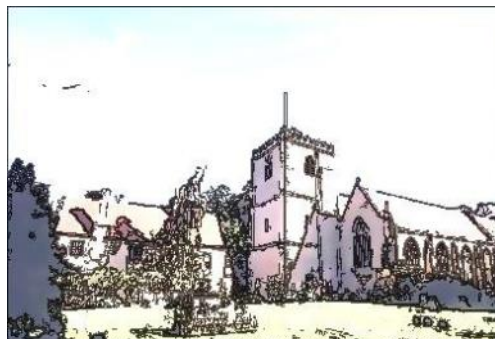
From 8.30am in the Abbey

## 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](mailto:tim.cook12@btinternet.com) or  
[www.dorchesterfestival.com](http://www.dorchesterfestival.com)



## T.W Hayden Heating Services

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15 Fane Drive, Berinsfield,  
Wallingford, Oxford, OX10 7NB

## DADS start rehearsals for their summer production

Director Mark Wilkin had a particularly difficult task auditioning prospective performers for DADS' next production as everyone gave such strong performances. He has now announced a cast of nine for this summer's outdoor production, the Jane Austen spoof, *Mansfield Park & Ride*. The cast includes a mix of DADS regulars and new faces. DADS welcomes new members and there are lots of ways to get involved even if you don't want to act in a production. Contact [membershipdads@gmail.com](mailto:membershipdads@gmail.com) for more information.

### JOHN MASEFIELD HOUSE Burcot OX14 3DP **SUMMER FETE** SATURDAY 21 MAY 2022 2 - 4.30 PM

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[jssimpson@btopenworld.com](mailto:jssimpson@btopenworld.com)



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Quotations by appointment      References available  
Wallingford and surrounding villages covered

## Dorchester Historical Society

7.30pm Wednesday 25 May 2022

Dorchester Abbey Shrine Chapel

Members free, Visitors welcome (£3).

**Keith Parry will talk on**

*An A to W of Bridges, from Abingdon to Wallingford*



Bridges across the Thames have an important role in the river's history. Some, notably Abingdon and Wallingford, are very old, built initially to support the wool industry: they were the only stone structures across the river between Oxford and London Bridge until the middle of the eighteenth century. An early bridge at Shillingford is more speculative and could be one of the very few bridges across the Thames that ceased operation for several centuries. It was rebuilt, along with those at Clifton Hampden and Sutton Courtenay, as part of the road transport revolution late in the eighteenth century.

**Keith Parry**, after thirty year's research experience in the agrochemical industry, 'retired' to develop his interest in history, gaining a Diploma and then an MSc in English Local History at Oxford University. As a voluntary researcher for the Maidenhead Heritage Centre, he worked with the Stanley Spencer Gallery on the history of beer and malt manufacture in Cookham, based on the remaining buildings and the paintings and writings of Stanley Spencer. This research was published as 'Stanley Spencer and the Cows of Cookham', *Berkshire Old and New* 2019, pp.16-33. As well as lecturing at Oxford, Keith wrote on 'Parliamentary Enclosure in Oxfordshire' for *The Historical Atlas of Oxfordshire*, building on his MSc dissertation: 'The Defence of Cookham Commons from 1800 to 1850'. Current research includes the history and maintenance of early wooden bridges over the river Thames, an article on Marlow's Wooden Bridge 1180 to 1820 is forthcoming in *Construction History*. Keith is also Treasurer and Trustee of The Historic Towns Trust; an atlas of Oxford has recently been published.

Visitors and new members are always very welcome to our talks and outings.

**Margot Metcalfe**  
Chairman







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## St Birinus School News

A couple of weeks ago we spent a lovely morning painting a giant thumbs up for the Dorchester Festival Art installation. Children of all year groups came into school on a Saturday morning with their families and enjoyed a collaborative and creative time together. We hope you have seen it on display in the village. We're also looking forward to creating a scarecrow for the scarecrow trail.

Our children are considering the value of 'knowledge' in the Summer Term. They will have opportunities to think about how we know and remember things, consider what sort of knowledge is important and they will acquire skills to help learning, such as having a growth mindset.

We are also thinking about the importance of knowledge of current affairs and how we can have an impact on our wider world by being courageous advocates.

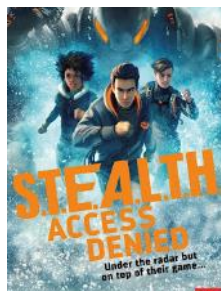
Our children are working really hard here in school and we are very proud of what they are achieving.

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/>

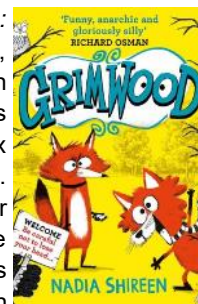
**Jo Staples**  
Headteacher

## Two books for younger readers



*Grimwood* by Nadia Shireen (pb fiction, £6.99) is one of Wallingford Bookshop owner Ali's best new recommendations for 7-9 year olds. It's choc-a-block with hand-drawn illustrations and has a *Tom-Gates*-esque feel. Laugh-out-loud funny, the story is about two fox cubs, Ted and Nancy, who are on the run from a scary cat in the big city and who seek sanctuary in the woods. On arrival, they meet a host of quirky animal characters whose help they need when the scary cat, Princess Buttons, arrives on the scene. Caitlin Moran described this book as 'Like *Watership Down*, but funny'. Marvellous.

Aimed at the 8-12 age range, *Stealth: Access Denied* by Jason Rohan (pb fiction, £7.99) offers action and adventure in abundance. This is the first in a new series and is similar in theme to Horowitz's Alex Rider and Muchamore's *Cherrub* books. Arun and his best friend Donna are regular school kids, with a big secret – they are secret S.T.E.A.L.T.H agents whose job it is to solve crimes and save lives. When Arun's dad goes missing, Arun discovers that his dad also kept secrets: he was working on a classified technology project and has been kidnapped by those who want to steal the ideas. This fast-paced story is sure to tempt even the most reluctant reader.



**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:

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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](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries)



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## Dorchester Tennis Club Spring Tournament 10 April 2022

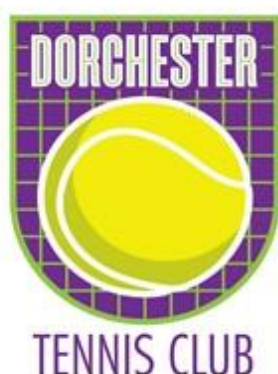
On a sunny afternoon, but one with still a nip in the air, Dorchester Tennis Club assembled for their annual Spring Tournament. In a change of format couples were paired at random, resulting in what most agreed made for a more interesting competition as the strongest players were not necessarily drawn together.

After a hard-fought tournament, the winners were declared as Rikkard Andersson and Maggie Martin, a pairing who last won this tournament in 2012.

Chris Smith, chairman, said that the new format had been a great success and with the increase in the number of members in the club, was one that would be used again.



Chris Smith presents the trophy to the winners  
Photo: Mark Jones



## *Junior Tennis Lessons continue in May & June*

Thinking about starting, or improving your tennis skills *and* have fun?  
Or maybe you'd like to be the next Emma Raducanu or Cameron Norrie

Whatever makes you feel like swinging that racquet – come and join our *fantastic* and friendly junior lessons – tennis is **fun**, is **energetic**, and **cool**...



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5.45pm - 6.30pm 9-11 year olds  
6.30pm - 7.15pm 12+ year olds



Enquiries to coach Andy – [andy@aatennis.co.uk](mailto:andy@aatennis.co.uk)



## Old Herbaceous Saturday 2 April 2022 Dorchester Village Hall

‘You can’t stay angry for long can you, not in a garden?’

This one man play is a sensitive adaptation of Reginald Arkell’s novel of the same name and is a nostalgic delight from beginning to end. It cleverly conveys not just its gentle story but also the essential niceness of a Head Gardener, Herbert Pinegar, who lived and worked on a country estate his entire life after a childhood spent as a slightly crippled orphan, adopted by a truly kindly lady who inspired in him his love for gardening.

As we see Pinegar pottering around his greenhouse, he recalls his life from that caring start to being Head Gardener - a life story of two loves - for the garden he tends and will eventually manage but also, and more importantly, the unfolding story of his warm, mutually respectful and loyal relationship with the lady of the house; a bond both profound yet understated.

It is a tale of a bygone era, gently dismissive of modern ways, of an ordinary man who is actually quite remarkable and deserving of his employer’s respect and collaboration. We are transported to a time long gone of a simpler life, lived in a calmer world.

Giles Shelton’s highly skilled performance is perfectly timed, full of humorous anecdotes and not for one moment are we



Photo: E Metcalfe

bored listening to him chattering on! A tour de force, expertly and beautifully told, at times funny yet at others full of pathos and bringing us to tears.

I am so glad that I was able to experience this delightful play. It is on tour and highly recommended.

‘How kind Pinegar, how very kind’

**Kathy Glass**  
April 2022



### Village Hall 200 Club Prize Draw

Congratulations to the winners of the March draw.

1st Prize	£75	No. 101	Mrs A Wells
2nd Prize	£45	No. 14	Mr N Forman
3rd Prize	£25	No. 75	Mr G Baxter

The next draw will be in June, so join now for a chance to win!

The 200 Club is a quarterly prize draw to reward supporters and raise funds for the village hall. We need new members to keep the draw worthwhile but there are good odds of winning as there is a maximum of 200 tickets in the draw. A ticket for the year (four draws from when you join) only costs £12 and you can have as many tickets as you wish.

To join, contact Elaine Williams on **340441** or email **200club@dotvh.org.uk** for a form. You can pay by cash, cheque or standing order.

Thank you for your support and good luck!

**Elaine**

### Village Bus Services

Please note the following changes have been made to the Go Ahead bus services through Dorchester:

- All Saturday services have been withdrawn due to a shortage of drivers
- A new service to Didcot has been introduced on Wednesdays at 09.38, giving two services to Didcot at 09.38 and 11.53.

There are also minor changes in the timings to some other services. See page 31 for new bus times.

### St Mary’s Dental Practice

Dr Ash Ratti (BDS Hons) Kings College London  
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For further information, or make an appointment, please call my Receptionist on **01491 825252**

# Dorchester Safari Supper

## Saturday 18th June

£25 per person incl all food & 3 glasses of wine  
Fundraising for Dorchester Abbey

7pm drinks & canapes

Main course (at a house in Dorchester)

Pudding (at another house in Dorchester!)

Coffee

Tickets from:  
Steph Forman  
[steph@forman.org.uk](mailto:steph@forman.org.uk)  
340434

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Full Circle Travel, 59 St Marys Street, Wallingford, OX10 0EL

[www.fullcircletravel.co.uk](http://www.fullcircletravel.co.uk)

T: 01491 833227

E: [holiday@fullcircletravel.com](mailto:holiday@fullcircletravel.com)





All photos by Gordon Roberts

## The 2022 Spring Flower Show 9 April 2022

On a peach of a sunny day (in between all the frosts) we held the first in-person spring show since 2019. It was great to be back and see the Village Hall filled with the yellow from a fine show of late daffodils. Other highlights were the huge spread of marble cakes and a very high standard of handcraft / needlecraft that made the judge work really hard.

Thank you to all those who entered or came to see. Thanks also for buying raffle tickets and plants – this all keeps the show in good financial health. As usual we will make a donation to a local charity and details of that will appear in Dorchester News.

The hard work of the committee (and some of their significant others) is much appreciated. We will see you on **Saturday 10 September** for the Autumn Show.

David Wilkinson

### Roll of Honour

#### Children's classes

Aged 9 and over: Cake Monster Gabriella Grant

#### Adult classes

**Robert Soffe Cup:** Long Trumpet Daffodils Janet DeLaine

**Short Trumpet Daffodil Cup** Margaret Broadbent

**Helen Belcher Cup:** Best pot plant Catherine Paul

**Spring Flowers Cup:** Best non-daffodil flower exhibit Janet DeLaine

**Vegetable Cup:** Best vegetable in show Richard Juniper

**Mary Tame Handicraft Plate:** Best handicraft/needlecraft Pauline Townson

**Blackwell Photography Cup:** Best photo in show Jenny Trinder

**Domestic Classes Cup:** Most points in domestic classes Steph Forman

**Britain in Bloom Cup:** Most points in all flower classes inc. arrangements Janet Delaine

Some of the winners receiving their cup from committee member Candy Madeley



Jenny Trinder

Janet DeLaine

Richard Juniper

Margaret Broadbent

Steph Forman



**29th April - 8th May**  
[www.dorchesterfestival.com](http://www.dorchesterfestival.com)

As you read this the Festival will just be starting—62 brilliant events right on your doorstep in Dorchester. Do come along and enjoy the fun; there really is something for everyone and some events are completely free!

### Get bidding in the Online Auction

Solve all your present problems or simply treat yourself to these great events at a good price! Amazing prizes, including holidays, private tours, workshops and cake. An Oxford United VIP box experience, a camper van for a long weekend—this is well worth a look! PLEASE take a look and support us—it's also really good fun! See the website & get bidding.....



### Sponsor a genuinely terrified abseiler

A brave group of locals are abseiling down the 100ft Abbey tower for sponsorship. From Layla Moran and Robin Bennett to Jo Staples (our local primary school head) they all need sponsorship to encourage them on their way. Many of them are pretty frightened of heights so PLEASE follow the links on the website to show your support. Cheer them on at 12noon on Sat 30th April

## Essential Village Events

#### Dorchester Dog Show Sat 30th April

The dog show is fun day out for the whole village with categories to suit all ages of dogs and people from child handler to veteran & fancy dress. Dog agility display at lunchtime.

#### Dorchester Duck Race Sun 1st May

Ducks available from the Coop or tent. Buy now and start decorating!



#### Scarecrow trail Fri 29th April—Sun 8th May

Scarecrows should already be in position around the village. Buy a trail map from Lily's or the tent, see how many you can guess and vote on the best scarecrow.

#### 5k Fun Run (/walk) BH Mon 6th May 11am

Take part in the hugely popular 5k Fun Run (or walk) along the river & through the Hurst. Bring the whole family – you can even bring the dog.

#### Vicar Custard Walk BH Mon 2nd May 2pm

The now traditional vicar walks on custard (not water) at the kids science afternoon—yes really!

#### Live History Challenge BH Mon 2nd May

This amazing theatre company play characters from Dorchester's History spread around the village. Interview them to find clues, solve the puzzle and save lives!! You may just discover things about Dorchester that you never knew!

#### Plants for Free at Dorchester's Potting Shed Sat 7th May

Find out how to make plants for free at the brilliant propagation workshop and then bring your trickiest garden problems to a Q&A session with local gardening experts

#### Food & Gift Fair 7th & 8th May

Come to eat fantastic street food for lunch and browse at our best fair yet! Completely packed with stallholders and live entertainment on our outside stage



#### Mad Hatters Tea Party 7th May 2-5pm

Book yourself in for a top quality cream tea full of surprises including many familiar characters!

### 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](http://www.dorchesterfestival.com)

Do email us with any queries at [festival@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:festival@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)





# 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](http://www.dorchesterfestival.com)  
or entries on the day



# ART MUSIC & DEMENTIA

live music with saxophonist George Haslam

**Friday May 6<sup>th</sup> 10.30-11.30 Dorchester Festival marquee**

Learn more about the power of art to reach those with dementia

Join our dementia friendly event – open to anyone

Come and meet some of the Daybreak team - dementia day care with centres in Greater Leys, North Oxford, Kidlington and Littlemore

Daybreak is working with Oxford University as part of *Science Together*: connecting researchers with community partners across Oxfordshire



Helping people with dementia live brighter lives

[www.daybreak-oxford.org.uk](http://www.daybreak-oxford.org.uk)





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## Community meeting Feedback

We would like to thank all those who attended our community meeting on 8th February 2022 to discuss the Bishops Court Farm masterplan vision. The feedback is based on the surveys received from the meeting date up until the end of February when the display boards were taken down. It was lovely to see 70+ people over the two events attend the meeting, as well as the 31 completed questionnaires received. We are grateful for the numerous positive comments submitted and we are aware of some concerns of residents who did and did not attend the meeting or submit any comments and would advise those people to please attend the next meeting..

### What people like about the proposed plans. . . . .



48%

Facilities/ space to benefit the community



Inclusivity  
of the Village  
34%



45%

Sustainability/ conscious to wildlife and ecology/ organic farm



24%

Low cost housing for local people



17%

Cafe/Restaurant at Bishops Court Farm

### What people would like to see changed/concerns?

### How we will address concerns....

62% did not have any concerns with the vision.

17% Traffic impact on the village



A traffic impact assessment is in the process of being produced to assess the overall impact of the development on the village and will be shared with the Parish Council and the village.

10% Parking issues



Landscaped parking will be providing to discourage offsite parking.

10% Proposed housing will have a visual impact on Abingdon Road



A pre-application will be done for the houses along Abingdon Road, along with community consultation and a housing survey to establish what is needed in the village.

13% Scale of developments becomes too big

10% Commerical aspects outweighing Village



Agriculture makes up 85% of the overall site, with the rest of the proposal being community park and village green at 12%, residential 2%, commercial 0.5% and tourism 0.5%. The commercial aspect is very much a minority percentage, we will be retaining the agricultural function of the farm and making it viable for years to come.

### Other comments/ suggestions...

- Should have been done years ago to help people stay in the village.
- Gym/ pilates/ yoga/ exercise studio.
- Co-ordinate with the Earth Trust, the Hurst and River of Life to ensure all conservation projects match up.
- Would like to see how education programmes can be built into future planning, with links to local schools and opportunities for young people in the wider area.
- Space to host events.
- Cherry blossom trees in the park. For picnic areas/ walks.
- Riding lessons and BSJA/ pony club events
- Development of market garden with the shop selling the organic produce.
- Possibly a few bigger houses options (4/5 bedroom & detached)
- Some jobs have been created on site for local people, can we have more of this please.
- Better communication between Bishops Court Farm and the village. Alternative options other than social media (electronic mailing list, posters etc) to update on progress at Bishops Court farm.



The Bishops Court Farm team is encouraged by the feedback and exciting ideas and look forward to further consultation and meeting with you in the future. We are looking to incorporate a notice board in/outside the cafe for any comments and updates.

The Snug cafe is now open and we look forward to seeing you there!

**Next meeting: Autumn 2022 (Date to be confirmed)** Email: [survey@bishops court farm.com](mailto:survey@bishops court farm.com)



# The English Music Festival is Back

Imagine, if you will, a tranquil English village perhaps in Oxfordshire. A river meanders gently through on route to the sea. The largest structure in the village is the ancient abbey church; there are pubs, a delightful cafe, a convenience shop and plenty of local walks to explore. Above our heads, the Red Kites soar and call. Now, add to this mix, a music festival so right and appropriate to the location that you have the ingredients for a perfect late spring weekend. Fortunately, readers of the *Dorchester News* don't have to imagine this as you already live here.

That festival is the English Music Festival (EMF) and it is back in Dorchester-on-Thames from **Friday 27 to Sunday 29 May 2022**. After an enforced two-year absence, the Fifteenth EMF returns to the magnificent Abbey Church, the Silk Hall at Radley College and the historic All Saints' Church at nearby Sutton Courtenay; and it is better than ever. Festival Director, Em Marshall-Luck has curated a varied programme featuring the works of more than thirty British composers, three orchestras, three choirs and some world-class soloists. This year the events take place as usual on the final weekend in May to avoid clashing with celebrations for HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee over the (moved) bank holiday weekend.

And what a splendid weekend it promises to be; fascinating music in beautiful surroundings, an opportunity to catch up with old friends, some of whom we have not seen during the past two pandemic-dominated years and, between events, time to soak up the local atmosphere.

On **Friday 27 May**, conductor Martin Yates directs the BBC Concert Orchestra in the first performance of a new edition of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's Violin Concerto in G minor. Sometimes referred to as the 'African Mahler', Coleridge-Taylor was the London-born mixed-race composer of the *Song of Hiawatha* and arranger of the African American spiritual, *Deep River*. First performed 110 years ago, the Concerto was Coleridge-Taylor's final composition, and full of gorgeous melodies and soaring beauty.

The BBC Concert Orchestra will also give the World Premiere Performance of Sir Edward Elgar's *The Spanish Lady: Comedy Overture* and the First Professional Performance of the *Petite Suite pour Orchestre* by Frederick Delius. Reginald Morris may not be a familiar name, but R. O. Morris (as he was known professionally and to his friends) was not only a composer but also a celebrated teacher who counted such notable composers as Gerald Finzi, Michael Tippett, Constant Lambert and Ruth Gipps among his students. His exquisite setting of Cristina Rosetta's *Love Came Down at Christmas* is probably the only work of his to be regularly performed so a rare opportunity to hear his *Sinfonia in C* should not be missed. Members of the Thame Chamber Choir and The City of Oxford Choir will join the orchestra in a rousing finale, in the form of Vaughan Williams's *Old King Cole*.

On Saturday morning, winner of the Kathleen Ferrier Award, tenor Gareth Brynmor John performs a varied programme of English song accompanied by pianist Christopher Glynn. Works by such familiar names as Elgar and Vaughan Williams are featured as are lesser-known works by Havergal Brian, Granville Bantock and Harold Truscott (described by *The Independent* newspaper as 'one of Britain's most outstanding and least adequately celebrated composers'). The duo performed to an enthusiastic audience at last year's Autumn EMF in Horsham, so Dorchester is in for a real Saturday morning treat.

On Saturday afternoon, the EMF pays tribute to Her Majesty the Queen with a programme entitled *A Garland for the Queen* at All Saints' Church in Sutton Courtenay. The Elysian Singers are one of the UK's leading chamber choirs, and they will be



**Rupert Marshall-Luck**





travelling up from London for a varied programme of works by no fewer than 17 British composers including such luminaries as Vaughan Williams, Tippett, Holst and Finzi together with less-familiar names such as Rawsthorne, Milford and Armstrong-Gibbs. I am also hoping that another EMF tradition will be maintained in the form of the wonderful interval tea that the All Saints' volunteers prepare for the audience. Great music and delicious cake. Who could ask for more?

In fact, there is a lot more and, for many, the highlight of the Festival will be the very welcome return of the nation's favourite baritone, Roderick Williams OBE.

Williams is one of this country's most sought-after artists and is constantly in demand on the concert platform and in recital, encompassing a repertoire from the baroque to World Premieres. At the EMF he will perform Vaughan Williams's luscious *Willow Wood* in a programme that also includes music by Finzi, Ireland, Howells, Delius and Holst, with the Holst Orchestra and the Godwine Choir under the baton of another Festival favourite, Hilary Davan Wetton. So, if you weren't able to catch Williams's performances at the Proms or Covent Garden, with the English National Opera or any of the world's great orchestras, be sure to be at the Abbey Church on Saturday for a very special concert.

But it's not time for bed yet! The EMF's traditional late Saturday night recital will feature guitarist Michael Poll in a programme of works ancient and modern featuring compositions by John Dowland, Benjamin Britten and William Walton. Another well-travelled artist, Poll has performed across Europe, North and South America. The *Gramophone* magazine described his debut recording, *7-string Bach* as 'masterful' and the Abbey Church will provide a beautiful acoustic for his recital.

On Sunday morning we head to the Silk Hall in the immaculate grounds of Radley College where violinist Rupert Marshall-Luck and pianist Nathan Williamson will be performing three exquisite and much-loved works by Sir Edward Elgar - *Salut d'Amour*, *Chanson de Matin* and *Chanson de Nuit* - as well as giving rare performances of Robin

Milford's Sonata in D major and Cecil Armstrong Gibbs's *Lyric Sonata*. Excitingly, the programme concludes with the World Premiere Performance of the magnificent Violin Sonata in D major by Ivor Gurney.

The EMF Lunch, held in The New Pavilion at Radley, is always a convivial and high-spirited occasion. Overlooking the school's extensive playing fields, there may even be an opportunity to watch some cricket before returning to the Silk Hall for the afternoon's concert given by the Addison Singers who, under the direction of David Wordsworth, present a diverse programme of pieces from Arthur Bliss to Ralph Vaughan Williams.

We will be back at Dorchester Abbey on Sunday evening for the final orchestral concert and a rare performance of Holst's glorious *The Cloud Messenger*. If you are only familiar with the composer's legendary suite, *The Planets*, let the Indian-inspired *The Cloud Messenger* take you on a magical journey in the company of the English Chamber Orchestra, the Choir of King's College, London and conductor Joseph Fort. The programme will also include Holst's Five Part Songs, Vaughan Williams's *Five Mystical Songs* and Hubert Parry's *Blest Pair of Sirens*.

The Fifteenth English Music Festival concludes on the lighter side with songs by Noël Coward performed by Michael Law in the late-night slot. Michael Law, founder of the world-famous Piccadilly Dance Orchestra, is a highly-acclaimed singer and pianist, with a special affinity for the superb comic and sentimental songs of Coward. Describing his show, *the London Evening Standard* raved: 'Noel Coward's songs were all flawlessly performed by singer-pianist Michael Law'. It promises to be a fitting conclusion to a superb weekend of music.

For full details of the 2022 English Music Festival please visit the EMF website at [www.englishmusicfestival.org](http://www.englishmusicfestival.org). Tickets are on sale so book now, you won't be sorry. Promise.

**Graham Wiffen**

**Editor, *Spirited* - the Gazette of the English Music Festival**



**Roderick Williams**

THE  
FIFTEENTH

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Book at [www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/2022-may-festival/box-office.php](http://www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/2022-may-festival/box-office.php). For a postal booking form or further information please contact Festival Director Em Marshall-Luck on 07808 473889 or email [em.marshall-luck@englishmusicfestival.org.uk](mailto:em.marshall-luck@englishmusicfestival.org.uk).

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**[www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk](http://www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk)**



## Warborough & Shillingford WI

20 March marked the first day of spring, or the vernal equinox, to give it its more formal name. A time when we look forward to what is to come with optimism. This is the start of the new year for the WI and our members can look forward to outings, interesting talks in our monthly members meetings and the celebrations for our centenary in the coming months. Reaching 100 years is quite an achievement at a time when many WI groups are disbanding.

**Programme 2022:** As a relatively new member I have been surprised and delighted by the diversity of the speakers I have listened to at the monthly members meetings. This year alone we have heard Peter Adamson talk about his fascinating book *A Landmark in Time*, Bea Drury explain the importance of drone technology in modern life; and Lorraine Lindsey Gale speak about the Archaeology of our area. In April the WI will welcome Stephen Dawson, whose talk is entitled *A Tour of Oxford Preservation Trust's Work*. Founded in 1927, its aim is to preserve the buildings and green spaces and maintain the character of the beautiful city of Oxford.

Also, at our next meeting the Centenary Bunting will be on display, made by talented member Wendy Rapp. Wendy and Clare Dewell intend to start the *Craft Group* as soon as a suitable venue can be found where they can meet freely, once a month, without worrying about Covid.

**Community Project:** As I announced last month Warborough Parish Council have awarded funds to the Shillingford Bus Shelter Replacement Project. Clare Dewell and Rachel

Walker are now liaising with the bus shelter company and are checking the location will be suitable to install solar-powered lighting. They plan to arrange for overgrown vegetation to be cut back in the vicinity of the bus stop to expose the full width of the footpath along the Henley Road. The autumn bulb planting effort by Clare, Rachel, and Cynthia Felstead on the verge of the A4074, has been rewarded with a lovely show of golden daffodils. Many congratulations go to Clare and Rachel who worked so hard for this.

*The Walking Group*, under the guidance of Chris Tilley, continues to encourage our members to get out into the fresh air. This is a very friendly group, where conversation is just as important as exercise.

Before I end this month's update I must say how shocked and saddened we all are to witness the suffering of the Ukrainian people. We wish that peace and self-determination may soon return to Ukraine.

**Membership:** We would be delighted to welcome new members to our WI from Warborough, Shillingford and Dorchester. Contact details below.

**Vicky Hart, Secretary,**  
**vicky\_hart\_northwood@hotmail.com**  
**tel: 01865 416437**  
**Liz Eaton**  
**President,**  
**lizmeaton@gmail.com**  
**tel: 01865 858534**



**Gilbert Scott Hall**  
The village hall of Dorchester-on-Thames

## 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](mailto:admin@dotvh.org.uk)**

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## Goings-on at Wallingford Bookshop

Bookshop customers are the best! Young or old, we welcome everyone to our community. Today, we were visited by a family of Ukrainian refugees who have recently arrived in Wallingford. Hearing just a small part of their story gave me goosebumps. We did our best to help. Also, today, we were visited by an alert three-year old with a precocious reading ability. He is a regular customer and is always good for a chat about what's happening in the world. 'Toodle-oooh' he says as he leaves, often offering up a merry wave. What a wonderful turn-of-phrase that is. We should use it more often - perhaps say it to Carol as we leave the Co-op. I might try it!

Soooo, books. What's new? It's only a short selection this month, I'm afraid, because I'm in the middle of a blitz of big family birthdays. Back to normal next month.

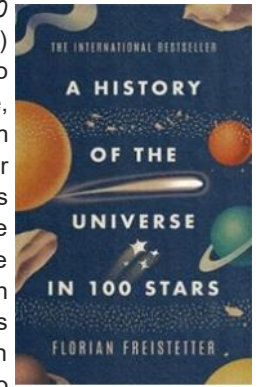


*Lean. Fall. Stand.* by Jon McGregor (fiction pb, £8.99) is a book of three parts. Opening in Antarctica, the book finds the lead character, Doc, battling a polar storm. Having lost contact with his fellow team members, Doc is desperately trying to reconnect. The writing is noisy and frantic. Doc is disoriented - something isn't right inside his head. Stylistically, the words and punctuation reflect this cognitive fragmentation - it's the onset of stroke. Then, all is quiet. Doc wakes to find

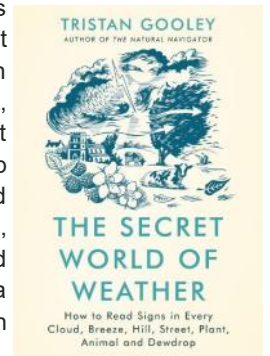
himself in a sterile, still, hospital. He's suffering from aphasia, meaning he struggles with language - with finding, or saying, the right words. Together, Doc and his wife must learn to find a new way to communicate, and to slowly tread the long path to recovery. The story belongs to both partners - their feelings about the situation in which they unexpectedly find themselves, and their feelings about the new roles they have been forced to take on - carer and cared-for. Not an easy read, but immensely rewarding.

In non-fiction, two books have recently caught my eye. The

first, *A History of the Universe in 100 Stars* by Florian Freistetter (pb, £9.99) is one of those books that is written so well that it can be enjoyed by anyone, not just science/physics fans. Each short chapter describes a different star and is liberally sprinkled with snippets of fascinating facts. For instance, 'The Pole Star isn't the brightest star in the sky, even if people keep saying it is. In the list of the brightest stars, it comes a paltry 47<sup>th</sup>.' Apparently, the reason we think the Pole Star is bright is to do with the fact that the Earth 'wobbles'. Want to know how the star got its name? This book will tell you.



The second non-fiction book that elicited an 'oooh' as it came out of the box was *The Secret World of Weather* by Tristan Gooley (pb, £10.99). The book's subtitle sums up the content perfectly: 'How to Read Signs in Every Cloud, Breeze, Hill, Street, Plant, Animal and Dewdrop'. That sentence pretty much does my job for me. For good measure, I'll add that the science is well explained, often with the aid of illustrations, and the personal anecdotes, amuse. It's a book about weather, and we live in England. Enough said.



Karen Gurney

## Dorchester News Crossword No.21 Solution

Compiled by Slider

1R	A	2S	P	3U	T	4I	N		5S	6C	O	7T	C	8H
E		P		N		N				L		Y		A
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12R	O	C	K	E	T	S	H	I	P	S				
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15A	V	E	R	16S		17O	U	T	E	R	M	O	S	T
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24L	O	V	I	N	G			25G	R	A	N	N	E	X
A		I		K				M		D		R		D
26M	U	L	I	S	H			27E	S	P	O	U	S	E

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## From the Chairman of the Parish Council



The **Annual Parish Meeting** takes place at **7.30pm** on **Wednesday 11 May** in the Village Hall. It's not a parish council meeting, it's the meeting where parishioners (that's all of us) have the right to meet and speak. It's your chance to have a say and listen to the Parish Council's update on what we have been doing on your behalf and our priorities for the next year. As I've been highlighting in my monthly updates there is a lot going on in Dorchester at the moment and I know that many residents have views on the various topics we have on our plate and the decisions we make as you stop me and other councillors in the street to give us those views; my walk to the Co-op is rarely one without a conversation on some topic or another! So please do come and participate and share your views more widely, the Annual Meeting does have an influence on our decisions as a Parish Council. Put the date in your diary, don't miss out.

The other big date for Dorchester diaries is the Platinum Jubilee. Whilst the main celebrations in Dorchester will, as I updated you last month, be undertaken in conjunction with the Abbey, I am pleased to report that the Parish Council will be funding a Jubilee picnic bench, to be sited near the tennis courts and play ground, to mark the occasion. Please do enjoy using it.

**Mark Williams**  
Chairman DoT Parish Council

## Parish Council Notices

### 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 village website on **Wednesday 4 May**. Business will include reports from the County and District Councillor 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 in order to conduct urgent matters like planning and finance.

### Monthly Meeting June 2022

The June Council Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 8 June** 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 the meeting.

**All** Parish Council meetings are open to the public and any resident who wishes to raise any matter of concern is welcome to do so at the start of the meeting.

### Contacting the Parish Council

The Parish Clerk is Geoffrey Russell of The Pigeons (next to The Fleur de Lys), 5 & 7 High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames OX10 7HH

Telephone (during normal office hours, please, unless an emergency) **07745 311439**. Texts are always welcome.  
e-mail: **parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk**

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

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

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



### Homes for Ukraine

Local councils are collectively supporting the government's Homes for Ukraine scheme as part of a joint approach across Oxfordshire. The government has published a welcome pack for arriving refugees to signpost people to the help that is available, including advice about universal credit and job support. Our joint team will be supplementing this with local information as well as providing clear signposts to help and support online.

The county council's website [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukrainesupport](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukrainesupport) is being used as the central host for this information. Sponsor information has been published on this site along with local information for Ukrainian guests. South and Vale's website will signpost people to these pages.

The county council's customer services team has started to make first contact phone calls to hosts and letters will begin to be distributed as part of this process outlining next steps for hosts and guests. In partnership, councils (including us) have begun initiating the accommodation and safeguarding checks required.

**Berinsfield Grants Scheme** launched on Wednesday 6 April.

A special grant scheme as part of the Garden Village project is now ready to go. There are substantial sums available, and all proposed projects/services/activities must take place directly in Berinsfield and be able to demonstrate direct benefits to meet a clearly identified need for Berinsfield residents. The team will be on hand to support local groups in applying and getting through the process.

We will encourage organisations who are actively exploring partnership/joint working with other voluntary organisations, businesses or the public sector and who want to invest in becoming more sustainable, plus those organisations having a greater impact in Berinsfield. The council recognises the value of local community organisations delivering projects and key services to our residents and their need for grants that extend for more than a one-year period. More info at <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/berinsfield-garden-village-grant-scheme/>

Please note this is separate and additional to the council's general Community Grant Scheme, which is separately funding some Berinsfield organisations, and also separate to the councillor grant scheme.

### Household Support Fund – Spring Statement announcement

The government has announced a further £500m to support households struggling to afford essentials, though we're still awaiting guidance on how this will work, including

detail on how much we'll be allocated and the timescales. In the meantime, we are in discussion with our voluntary sector partners and the county council to prepare for the re-launch of the scheme which is now closed in both districts. We will share plans as soon as we can.

We've now allocated all of the previous fund.

### Cornerstone Arts Centre presents a jam-packed summer programme

This summer, Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot presents a jam-packed line up of live shows and activities for all to enjoy. From science extravaganzas to mesmerising magical illusions, Pride celebrations to live blues music – there's something for everyone in this new season. Activities will also take place at the café Nourish and gallery this summer. Visitors can find inspiration in the gallery exhibition as they celebrate Artweek's 40th anniversary. From 3 May to 1 June, the Oxfordshire Artweeks: Inspired By Nature exhibition will be on display, focusing on two artists' responses to their love of nature and the local landscape.

For those looking to try something new, summer classes are now on sale too. From crafts and painting to street dance and youth theatre there is something for children of all abilities and ages to enjoy. Children can explore their creativity in Cornerstone's Mess Makers classes. Or for adults looking to learn something new they can try An Introduction to Drawing.

To book tickets or find out more visit [www.cornerstone-arts.org](http://www.cornerstone-arts.org) or call the box office on **01235 515144**.

### Community Governance Review

We're carrying out Community Governance Reviews for the district, which involves reviewing the arrangements for parishes on things like parish boundary areas, ward areas, the number of councillors, and local electoral arrangements. We do this review every four years to give parish councils the chance to request changes which could benefit their local area.

Last year, all parishes were invited to put forward their proposals, and requests for the following areas have now been taken forward for formal consultation -

- Cuddesdon and Denton
- Henley-on-Thames/Bix
- Sonning Common
- Thame/Great Haseley
- Thame
- Wallingford/Brightwell-cum-Sotwell
- Didcot

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

### **County Council calls for government review of adult social care funding**

OCC called on the government to review its funding allocations for adult social care, following publication of a review into the cost of care by the County Councils Network. The report estimates that, nationally, an extra £854 million is needed in the allocation fund each year to make care sustainable and avoid large-scale closures and ensure ongoing investment into the social care sector.

### **County Council to pursue detailed discussions on stadium proposal**

Oxford United FC's bid to lease 18 hectares at Stratfield Brake in Kidlington for 250 years to develop a new 18,000 capacity football stadium is set to be discussed, based on objectives that have been guided by extensive public feedback. In January the council conducted a public engagement exercise on the stadium proposal, and a total of 3,740 responses were received. Cabinet has agreed that the council should enter discussions while seeking maximum environmental, transport and education benefits.

**Oxfordshire's £32.8m Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) bid to the Department for Transport (DfT) was successful.** Along with £6m from the council and £43.7m from bus companies Go Ahead and Stagecoach, the funding will deliver 159 electric buses and the infrastructure to charge them in a package worth £82.5m.

The electric buses will be rolled out starting from summer 2023 and will be used on bus routes operating wholly within the Oxford Smart Zone. They will save an estimated 9,200 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year – the equivalent of taking more than 6,000 cars off the road – and will mean that approximately 70% of bus miles driven in the Smart Zone area will be operated by electric buses.

This is **in addition** to the £12.7m secured (out of the £56 million originally requested) as part of the National Bus Strategy fund - 31 areas across England were awarded money under the latest round of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) scheme. Many areas received nothing at all.

Separately, Oxfordshire County Council has received £500,000 to support Oxford to become a zero emission transport city, as part of a government pilot programme. The Department for Transport invited cities who are keen to

decarbonise their transportation systems and make zero emission travel more accessible to apply for funding. Oxfordshire County Council is one of just three local authorities to receive this funding, selected because of our commitment to deliver extensive bike lanes, an all-electric bus fleet, restrictions that discourage petrol and diesel vehicles, and initiatives that increase the use of electric cargo bikes (e-cargo) and vans for deliveries.

Of immediate local interest, I have received confirmation from cabinet member Tim Bearder that the routing of the X39/X40 service remains under review, and there is optimism that the 3<sup>rd</sup> hourly service may return in September.

### **HIF1 Didcot/Culham/Clifton Hampden bypass project**

After representations from local councillors, OCC cabinet have delayed their final decision on the HIF1 project, requesting assurances from government before final approval. The project budget has increased to £296million from the original planned £235m, meaning the council now has to borrow to fund some of the costs. The council has asked for-

- An extension to 31 March 2026 and assurance that risks to the delivery timeframe caused by exceptional circumstances will be mitigated.
- Confirmation that the Council has flexibility to design and deliver infrastructure that will reduce the carbon impact and reduce the need to travel by car.
- The draft of any amended GDA (Grant Determination Agreement) to be presented to OCC Cabinet for approval.
- A Cabinet Advisory Group (CAG) to be set up to oversee the detailed design and development of HIF1, consistent with OCC's new strategic priorities.
- Development of a new Didcot area transport strategy and masterplan

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## Wallingford Museum News

Wallingford Museum is experimenting in new forms of interpretation, namely podcasts and YouTube films.

Our first YouTube film is of Judy Dewey, Curator of Wallingford Museum, describing how the castle model fits within the present day town.



The Museum's latest acquisition, GD Leslie's painting *A Thameside Conversation* is the subject of an Anthony Wilder podcast. If you listen to the podcast at home we hope you will be inspired to come to the museum to see this superb painting for yourself.

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.

The good news is that Wallingford's Guided Historic Town Walks have started again, every Saturday morning at 11.00am from 16 April until 24 September. There is no advance booking, so just meet the guide under the Town Hall in Wallingford Market Place at 11.00am any Saturday. The round tour takes approximately an hour and a half.

The cost is £10 per person (cash only please) which includes an open season ticket to Wallingford Museum for 2022. All walk proceeds help to support this splendid volunteer-run museum.

Each walk is led by an expert guide from The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society, exploring the backstreets and bringing to life the history of the town and its buildings from Saxon times to the present day.



To request special group tours and find out about all museum events, please visit [www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk](http://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

## The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society

**Wednesday 11 May**

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

**Wednesday 8 June**

Gabor Thomas: *The Marlow warlord and the rediscovered church at Cookham.* A review of early medieval archaeology of the Middle Thames.

<https://www.twhas.org.uk/meetings-programme.html>

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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](http://www.cornexchange.org.uk).

#### May

Sun 1	<b>Operation Mincemeat (12A)</b>
Mon 2	<b>Operation Mincemeat (12A)</b>
Tues 3	<b>Operation Mincemeat (12A)</b>
Wed 4	<b>Operation Mincemeat (12A)</b>
Thurs 5	<b>Operation Mincemeat (12A)</b>
Fri 6	<b>The Outfit (15)</b>
Sat 7	<b>The Outfit (15)</b>
Sun 8	<b>The Outfit (15)</b>
Mon 9	<b>Hive (15)</b>
Tues 10	<b>Hive (15)</b>
Wed 11	<b>Don't Look Up (15)</b>
Thurs 12	<b>Don't Look Up (15)</b>
Fri 13	<b>Paris 13th District (18)</b>
Sun 29	<b>Downton Abbey: A New Era (PG)</b>
Mon 30	<b>Downton Abbey: A New Era (PG)</b>
Tues 31	<b>Downton Abbey: A New Era (PG)*</b>

\* **Downton Abbey: A New Era** continues until Thurs 2 June

#### Live on Stage

**Wednesday 25 May to Saturday 28 May**

**7.45pm**

**Sinodun Players present Nell Gwynn by Jessica Swale**

The time is the 1660s. Charles II has ascended the throne. Nell Gwynn, an orange seller turned actress who was to become the King's mistress, probably his favourite. He had a secret passage built between his court rooms to her house in Pall Mall so that they could rendezvous away from public eyes. And the people loved her because she was one of them. The play is an entertaining homage to Nell rather than an attempt at documentary style historical accuracy. And its great fun.

**Tickets £12 (special offer of £9 on the first night)**



The Ewelme Watercress Painters will be playing their part in the upcoming Festival of Ewelme over the Jubilee weekend, 2-5 June 2022, with an exhibition along the theme 'What Ewelme means to me' with artworks depicting various aspects of this historic South Oxfordshire village as well as other paintings and arts and crafts by Ewelme villagers.

Also featured will be the delayed unveiling of their huge composite of David Hockney's *Spring Tunnel* consisting of 12 x A3 parts of this painting in different media. This started as an idea in 2019 when members brought along copies of paintings which they each felt a passion for and a vote was held. The winner turned out to be one of David Hockney's depictions of the Yorkshire Wolds – the joyful *Spring Tunnel* celebrating Spring in all its glory. He completed large canvasses of the same scene in winter, spring, summer and autumn and each was shown at his exhibition *A Bigger Picture* held at the Royal Academy in 2012. We can't say that it will sell for £20.3 million as per the sum paid a couple of years ago for his wonderful painting *The Splash* but it will hopefully bring some joy!

The exhibition will be held in the beautiful village church of St Mary's, Parsons Lane, OX10 6HS Friday, Saturday, Sunday 3, 4 and 5 June from 10-4. The Watercress Painters look forward to welcoming you over what we hope will be a glorious and memorable weekend.

More details: Trisha Scott – Watercress Painters – [trisha.watercress@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:trisha.watercress@hotmail.co.uk)

#### Professional Theatre comes to Benson

Benson Players are bringing Badapple Theatre Company to the Parish Hall on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 pm. York-based Badapple, who have now been touring for over 21 years, will be performing their brand-new musical comedy, *Elephant Rock*.

*Elephant Rock* is set in a theatre at the end of a pier in a fading seaside resort. Come and watch us as we watch the comic yet heartfelt attempts of the mismatched team who are determined that the Palace doors stay open.

The songs and music have been written by Jez Lowe who is a regular performer locally at Nettlebed Folk Club and festivals both as a solo artist and as a member of The Pitman Poets together with Bob Fox of Warhorse fame, Billy Mitchell (Lindisfarne) and Benny Graham. He is a featured presenter for BBC Radio 4 Open Country, has contributed to the BBC Radio Ballad Series and his work has been exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Although Jez won't be performing in this production, it will be intriguing to hear the songs that he has written specifically for this show.

Tickets for *Elephant Rock* are available from Derry's Den in Benson and [www.badappletheatre.co.uk](http://www.badappletheatre.co.uk). There is no bar but, you are welcome to bring your own refreshments.

## Day by day

Sun 1 May	<b>3rd Sunday after Easter</b> 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  10.30am Festival Family Service  <b>Dorchester Festival</b> Until Sunday 8 May For details see leaflet or website <a href="http://dorchesterfestival.com">dorchesterfestival.com</a>
Mon 2 May	<b>Dorchester May Morning</b> 8.30am Dorchester Abbey
Sun 8 May	<b>4th Sunday after Easter</b> 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  10.30am Festival Sung Eucharist
Mon 9 May	<b>Friends of Dorchester Abbey</b> Visit to Southwark Cathedral Cancelled
Wed 11 May	<b>Chiropodist</b> Village Hall Appointment only; see page 27  <b>Annual Parish Meeting</b> 7.30pm Village Hall
Sat 14 May	<b>Dorchester Team Community Meeting</b> 10.00am-1.00pm Village Hall  <b>OSJ</b> Opera Gala 7.00pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 15 May	<b>5th Sunday after Easter</b> 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  10.30am Sung Eucharist
Sat 21 May	<b>John Masfield House</b> Summer Fete 2.00-4.30pm



Sun  
22 May **6th Sunday after Easter**  
8.00am  
Holy Communion (BCP)

Wed  
25 May **Dorchester Historical Society**  
*An A to W of Thames Bridges*  
7.30pm  
Dorchester Abbey

Fri  
27 May **English Music Festival**  
Dorchester Abbey and elsewhere  
Until Sunday 29 May

Sun  
29 May **7th Sunday after Easter**  
8.00am  
Holy Communion (BCP)  
  
10.30am  
Reflective Service

## Parish Registers

### Marriages

12 March Lutufyo Lusambagi and Rachel Stores

### Funerals

24 March Kenneth Spindler

For current information about other services at Dorchester Abbey see [www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk](http://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

For St Birinus RC Church go to: [www.stbirinus.co.uk](http://www.stbirinus.co.uk)

## 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](http://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.

## Sunday 1st May World Laughter Day



Plenty of laughs to be had at Tentertainment!  
12.30 to 4.30pm in the Festival Marquee.

## 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](mailto:dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk) one week before the deadline for editorial copy given on page 2.

One-time adverts, please send a cheque, payable to 'Dorchester Abbey PCC', to Nick Forman, Willoughby House, 73 High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames, OX10 7HN.



## CONTACTING THE POLICE

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

## HEALTH SERVICES

### DIRECT LINE TO URGENT LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

## MINOR INJURIES

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

## A&E

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

## SURGERIES

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

## ROOM HIRE

### ABBEY GUEST HOUSE BOOKINGS

To hire the Abbey Guest House for private functions, meetings, exhibitions, etc, contact Kate Herbert on **01865 340007**, email [admin2@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:admin2@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

### HIRE OF DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL

To hire our Village Hall, contact Emma Shrimpton [bookings@dotvh.org.uk](mailto:bookings@dotvh.org.uk) or **01865 689452**.

Please telephone at least 24 hours in advance to arrange collection of the key.

## FAULTS AND COMPLAINTS

### POTHOLE, STREET OR ROAD PROBLEMS

Abandoned vehicles, dog fouling, flyposting or graffiti, flytipping or litter, street cleaning, such as broken glass in a cycle lane, unlit lampposts, potholes can be reported on [fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk). In an emergency, call **0345 310 1111**.

### BLOCKED DRAINS

Ring Thames Water for blocked drains on **0800 316 9800**. Callers will be asked for the postcode of the address where the drains are blocked.

### REFUSE COLLECTION

If your rubbish is not collected on the due date contact the contractor direct. Call **03000 610610** and the website: [www.morerecycling.co.uk](http://www.morerecycling.co.uk)

### POWER CUTS

If you suffer a power cut call **105** to get **National Grid** who will put you through to the network operator.

## ANIMAL WELFARE

RSPCA (wildlife): **0300 123 0206**  
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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

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From Wallingford: 09.30, 11.45 (Mon, Wed), 11.50, 12.15 (Fri)

To Didcot Station: 09.38, 11.53 (Mon, Wed),  
From Didcot Station: 10.05, 12.26 (Mon, Wed),

### 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](http://www.traveline.info), and **0871 200 2233**.

### AGE UK

The UK's largest charity working with older people For help and advice etc. go to [www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk)

### WALLINGFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE

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[www.wallingford.volunteercentre@gmail.com](mailto:www.wallingford.volunteercentre@gmail.com)

### CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

### RAF BENSON

For information on flying schedules and night flying, [www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/stations/raf-benson/documents/raf-benson-flying-programme/](http://www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/stations/raf-benson/documents/raf-benson-flying-programme/).

## USEFUL CONTACTS

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**01865 340007**

### ABBEY E-MAIL:

[admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)  
Contact details for Church Wardens and other Abbey information are on the notice board in the Abbey.

### ABBEY WEBSITE

[www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk](http://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

### VILLAGE WEBSITE

[www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk](http://www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

### ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST

The Presbytery  
**Fr. John Osman**  
Bridge End  
**01865 340417**  
[www.stbirinus.co.uk](http://www.stbirinus.co.uk)

Dorchester Abbey Museum E-mail  
[museum@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:museum@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)



## REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Sat 7 May **Green**  
Fri 13 May **Black**  
Fri 20 May **Green\***  
Fri 27 May **Black**

\* Extra garden waste for brown bins

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

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Box office 0333 666 3366

[www.dorchesterfestival.com](http://www.dorchesterfestival.com)