

# ***Dorchester News***

*Free to every home in the parish*

*December 2022/January 2023*







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Cover picture: Queen Street in winter by Gordon Roberts.

**Deadline for  
February  
Dorchester News**



email:

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

### **A DoT view**

The end of 2022 hoves into sight and it has been quite a year. Three prime ministers (so far) providing disruption; two monarchs, unfortunately, who have at least provided continuity; a war in Europe; increased energy prices (not unconnected); and increasing inflation (also not unconnected).

But here in Dorchester we have had two flower shows, one festival, two DADS performances, new owners at The George, an informal traffic calming measure on the Abingdon Road, and the Co-op has been refurbished. What more could we wish for? After a couple of Covidly-shaky years, Dorchester is back in business.

In the new year we shall look forward to the arrival of a new rector at Dorchester Abbey. They used to say before it reverted to being Chinese territory, that Hong Kong was run by three people: the Governor, the Chairman of the Hong Kong Shanghai Bank and the chief of police. For Dorchester we might substitute the Chairman of the Parish Council, the rector and the manager of the Co-op. Whilst she may not determine what brands of biscuits we can buy, the role of rector is pivotal to Dorchester, with the ability to influence and affect so much of what goes on here, both in and outside of the church. We look forward to welcoming Revd Jane Willis, see page 4, and integrating her and her family into Dorchester life.

**Ian Brace**

### **Editorial Team**

Ian Brace, Megan Parry

**Distribution Co-ordinator**

Maurice Day

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Dear friends,

I wonder what you are looking forward to at this time of year...

While the new year starts in January for much of the world, in the church the new year begins in Advent, as we look forward to Christmas, and also to Jesus coming again at the end of time. And this year, as well as all our Christmas hopes, across the Dorchester Team we are really looking forward to welcoming Revd Jane Willis amongst us in February, after a year of vacancy. We have been so grateful to everyone who has played a part in the smooth running of the Abbey during this time and in the recruitment of the new rector, and I know I am not alone in thinking it will be great to have a rector in place again!

Jane is looking forward to getting to know us all and to working with us here. She's also looking forward to being nearer to her family and perhaps to getting a dog again.

Of course, our hopes in this season may not all be realised – we all have recent memories of Christmas plans derailed by Covid. However, being ready to welcome is a key part of this season, as we remember the welcome given to the baby Jesus by shepherds and stargazers. I'm reminded too, of the story of the old man, Simeon (in Luke's gospel, chapter 2), who was waiting "for the consolation of Israel" (which was a country struggling and occupied by the Romans) and found it, when God gave him a nudge to go to the temple just as

the baby Jesus arrived with Mary and Joseph. He somehow knew that this baby was to be a source of wholeness and rescue for the whole world. Had he not been waiting expectantly would he have seen that this baby was special?

As we look forward and wait expectantly may we too get to see and welcome something good, something of God's presence and love in the year ahead, perhaps in surprising places.

Every blessing.

**Christmas Plans  
Tree Decorating  
Saturday 10 December**

Our Christmas Tree will be going up on **Sat 10 December** between 9.00am and 11.00am. Look out for more details.



**Christmas Services**

This year we are delighted our usual Christmas services are taking place. Have a look at the service calendar below and join us. We look forward to seeing you!

**Carol Service** 6.00pm on **Sunday 18 December**

**Christmas Eve**

**Crib Service** 4.30pm on **Christmas Eve**  
**Midnight Mass** 11.30pm on **24 December**

**Christmas Day**

**8.00am Holy Communion**  
**10.30am Family Christmas Communion.**

**Village Carol Singing  
Wednesday 21 December 6.00pm**



Come and have great fun singing carols around the village with the Abbey choir to raise money for ABCD - Action Around Bethlehem Children with Disability.

We will meet in the courtyard at The George at 6.00pm and finish with mulled wine and mince pies.

All ages and talents welcome. Even if you can't sing you can help by collecting money! Bring a torch and dress up warm. Please email/phone if you intend to come—occasionally we call it off if the weather is dreadful!

**Steph Forman**  
steph@forman.org.uk (01865 340434)



**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.30am**

(Pastries & coffee from 10.00am)



**Posada Party**

**It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas**

**Café style Family Service**

You are warmly invited to join us for breakfast (from 10.00am), fun and craft activities as we prepare for Christmas





## New Rector for Dorchester Abbey

We are delighted to announce the appointment of the Revd Jane Willis as our new Team Rector (subject to formalities). Jane will be licensed on Monday 13 February 2023, at 7.30 p.m. at Dorchester Abbey. Jane has written this to introduce herself to us all:

'Greetings to everyone in the Dorchester Team! It was great to meet some of you on the interview day and I'm really looking forward to serving as your new Team Rector. Nothing quite beats meeting face to face, but for now a few words of introduction...

I'm presently Rector of Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint – a large Sussex village just beneath the South Downs and north of Brighton. I've served here for eight years during which time the church has experienced new life and growth – as well as navigating covid times. Having felt the time had now come to move on, I'm delighted to have a deep sense of call to serve the Dorchester Team.

I'm married to Gerry and we have three adult daughters, four grandchildren – and we're presently 'between dogs'. I was born in Canada, spent my childhood in Hampshire, teenage years in Cheshire and moved to Sussex when I was 17. That was where I came to faith, met and married Gerry, had babies – and where my call to ordination began. Since then we've been on God's great tour of England – moving first to Northampton to a full time lay ministry post in a town centre church, then to Oxford for two years ordination training (we love Oxford!), curacy at Shrewsbury Abbey, first incumbency with a group of rural churches in North Devon along with being chaplain to the children's hospice, before being called back to Sussex. Gerry runs his own property maintenance business, which he's restarted every time we've moved! He is also a Reader (LLM/ Licensed Lay Minister in Oxford terms).

In our free time we enjoy walking, exploring new places and landscapes – and I'm a keen photographer. Family time is also precious to us – a real bonus for us is that in Dorchester we will be nearer to them all.

I have a feeling the next few months will fly by and we will soon be with you – in the mean time we will be praying for you, and would really value your prayers for good endings here and good beginnings with you all.

Every blessing'



**Dorchester Abbey  
Family Service**

**God**  
life, love, family, eternal plan, responsibility, man, individual, premortal, essential, responsible, one, physical, dec.

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January  
10.30am**

You are warmly invited  
to join our  
**Christingle  
Family Service**

Have fun with us making  
your own Christingle  
in support of  
The Children's Society

A colorful illustration of Christingle figures, including a baby in a manger, a star, and other symbols, set against a dark blue background with a starburst effect.

### Team Services January

**Sunday 1 January 10.30am at St John the Baptist, Stadhampton** – Join us for an special team service on New Year's Day at 10.30am followed by a prosecco breakfast.

**Sunday 22 January 10.30am at St John the Baptist, Stadhampton** – Come and worship as a team for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

#### CHEMISTRY TUITION

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## Results of the 2022 Ride and Stride for Dorchester Abbey

£1,729 was raised for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust 'Ride and Stride' event on 10 September. Half of that money is donated by OHCT to Dorchester Abbey. A sincere thank you to all the people who sponsored James Pratt, Richard Farrant and myself for our efforts on that day. James cycled, visiting 42 churches on his circular route and Richard and I walked, visiting 11 churches on our 20-mile circular walk. Also, a very special thankyou to Rosemary Byrd who patiently sat at the Lych Gate 'signing in' and welcoming other Ride and Striders from Oxfordshire throughout that day.

We do hope in future years, more Dorchester residents will join in this annual event, usually on the second Saturday in September, to raise money for the Abbey.

Susan Jupp

## Friends of Dorchester Abbey

The AGM of the Friends of Dorchester Abbey took place on Thursday 13 October in the Abbey. The meeting was preceded by drinks and canapés.

Richard Dick who is the Chairman of the Friends gave a report:



'I am pleased to present my report of the last year which has been one when more normal activities have resumed. Earlier in the year the Friends continued with their financial support towards the normal running expenses of the Abbey and it is encouraging to see that this type of support is no longer needed,

we will however be continuing to support specific projects and no doubt some items which will arise from the quinquennial inspection.

None of this would be possible without the continued support and membership of both the Friends and the Beauforest Society and I would like to thank all those members very much for all they do, of course we welcome new members, and these are largely gained through personal contacts, and we would welcome your help in additional recruitment. Our finances continue to be strong, and our Treasurer Nick Jenkins will detail this in his report shortly.

We have previously mentioned the so called West End and Guest House projects and some of you will be aware these are temporarily on hold pending a review of the designs and indeed the appointment of a new Rector. On that note we marked the retirement of Sue Buoy with a dinner given to her and Richard by the Trustees of what proved to be a very congenial evening in January.

During the year we were pleased to welcome Robert Plumb recently retired after 40 years of experience in the property and services sectors.

I would like to thank all the Trustees of their work during the year and in particular our secretary Hilary Warburton who has managed our meetings and various changes with great skill, Honor Juniper for her work in keeping our membership records up to date and to Nick Jenkins for his important work as our Treasurer. John Taylor has continued to provide wise counsel and great support to me as our vice chairman. I would also like to thank Linda Wastie in my office for all that she does to support the work of this Charity.

For various reasons we have not held a Dorchester lecture which has tended to wane in popularity in recent years, any suggestions of a vibrant speaker who would have wide appeal would be appreciated, with the help of Steph Forman we may have one in mind.'

On Sunday 6 November Beauforest Members were invited to tea prior to Choral Evensong in the Abbey. The members were given a short talk by Malcolm Lucas (Churchwarden).'



**Dorchester Abbey  
Museum**

**Edith Stedman's  
*Yankee in an English Village***

**The perfect Xmas present!**

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

Also available:

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

Both books available from Linda Hender, 11 Page Furlong, **07799 341375**  
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***Yankee in an English village* is also still available at Dorchester Co-op**





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## Lunch Club

The dates for the Lunch Club lunches in January and February are **Wednesday 25 January and Wednesday 22 February**. As usual it is very important that I know the names of everyone who would like to attend either or both dates shown above, to phone me before the **preceding Monday of each date**.

The lunches are held in the Village Hall, please come at 12.30 so we can start serving the lunch at 12.45. The cost is £5 to pay when you arrive. New residents who have retired and are living on their own would be most welcome to join the Lunch Club. It is a good way to meet others while enjoying a delicious home cooked lunch.

**Susan Jupp**  
**Organiser of the Lunch Club**  
**Phone: 01865 341066**

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## Thanks from the Metcalfes

Six months on from John's stroke, after a long spell in hospital and now three months back at home, we'd like to say a huge thank you to all the friends, neighbours and others in the community who have given us so much support and many acts of kindness during this time. From the good Samaritan who called an ambulance back in May, to those who walked or minded Ellie, to gifts of cakes, apples and blackberries, cards, phone calls and emails, the loan of a radio for John in Covid isolation in the Abingdon stroke unit, visits and calls from Abbey clergy, the great welcome at the Abbey and the museum summer social, drop in visits at home, and the way everyone stops to chat when we are out walking – all this adds up to an exceptional, caring community – who would want to live anywhere else!

**John and Margot Metcalfe**

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## Help Wanted!

*'Is there a "book worm" out there who would be prepared to spend an hour or so a week reading to an adult resident in a local care home?*

*Should you think that this is something you might enjoy, do please e mail me for further details at [gillread@thedoress.co.uk](mailto:gillread@thedoress.co.uk)*

The request above is from a lovely 86-year-old lady who lives in Somerset and travels by train and bus to visit her son who is in The Close at Burcot. Her son has had a major stroke affecting his eye sight and has caused hemiplegia. She stays with me here in Dorchester when she comes to visit her son, but obviously this can only be monthly visits, if that, so she would dearly love to find someone who could visit him more often and read to him. He is still very much 'with it' and is a very intelligent man with a great sense of humour. He was an consultant engineer working for the BBC. If anyone could help, it would be very much appreciated by him as he cannot easily read much himself, he also loves classical music and used to conduct a choir.

Please help if you can.

**Susan Jupp**



## Hempcroft Allotments November

Most of the rents and subscriptions for 2022/23 have now been paid so thank you to everyone for their prompt attention to this. It would be appreciated if outstanding rents and subscriptions could be delivered to our Treasurer, Jon Rosby at 51 Watling Lane, or to me at 1 Manor Farm Road. If you pay by cheque please make it payable to Hempcroft Allotments, Dorchester. This year most people have paid by bank transfer.

At this time of year we tend to lose a few members but also welcome some new ones. There is still no waiting list for allotments and we still have a few plots available which do not require too much work to bring into full production so if anyone is interested please contact me ([edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk)).

December and January tend to be quiet months on the allotments with regard to sowing and planting. Of course those of you who planted Brussels sprouts, cabbage, leeks and parsnips can continue harvesting through these months.

The water was turned off at the start of November and will be turned back on in the spring. The weather is so unpredictable these days and there may or may not be snow at some time. So can I offer a gentle reminder to those people with fruit cages to remove their top netting for the winter.

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

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## Wallingford Food Bank

Thank you to everyone for their generous donations to the food bank during the Abbey Harvest Festival service and also to others who donate in shops and on line.

Last month almost 300 people were fed by the food bank. It will soon be Christmas so please donate Christmas gifts as soon as possible so that they can be delivered to families in good time.

If you have a smart phone, Wallingford food bank has registered with a new, very helpful, app called "Bank the Food". If you download it to your phone, register on it and "follow" Wallingford food bank, it will tell you what is needed as you arrive at Waitrose in Wallingford.

There is no charge for this either to you or to the food bank.

Your generosity is especially appreciated at this time of economic hardship for many.

**Judy Parker**

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### Chiropodist

**Wednesdays 14 Dec, 11 Jan**

Village Hall

Appointment only

Call **07850 196714**





## Dorchester's Living Advent Calendar

From 1<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> December a newly decorated Christmas window/lit garden will be revealed in a different Dorchester house every evening at 6.30pm

Buy a map to see which openings are nearest to you and go along if you can. Mulled wine & mince pies may be on offer!

Follow the map trail over Christmas to see all the windows across the village. They will be open until Thursday 5th January (Twelfth night)

Maps will be on sale in the Coop from mid November for £3 in aid of Dorchester Pre-school



**Let's light up the village  
for Christmas!**

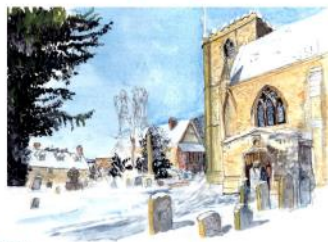
More info from:  
Steph Forman ([steph@forman.org.uk](mailto:steph@forman.org.uk))  
or Charlotte Bennett [charlotte.bennett28@icloud.com](mailto:charlotte.bennett28@icloud.com))

## Dorchester Abbey Christmas Cards

*All profits to Dorchester Abbey*

**New cards  
for 2022  
by  
local artists**

All cards in packs of 10  
for £4.50 with  
Happy Christmas inside  
Buy from the back of the Abbey  
or contact Steph Forman  
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[steph@forman.org.uk](mailto:steph@forman.org.uk)  
01865 340434



*Abbey snow  
by Elise Barnard  
10.5x14.8cm*



*Abbey Lych Gate  
by Sophia Stewart-Liberty  
14.8x10.5cm*

*Abbey Bridge View  
by Sophia Stewart-Liberty  
10.5x14.8cm*



### Send E cards!

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<https://bit.ly/3TMb6ZH>



*Shrine Nativity  
12x12cm*



*Annunciation  
20x9cm (blank inside)*



*East End Nativity  
10.5x14.8cm*



*Angels  
9.7x21m*



*Christ Child  
13x13cm*





## St Birinus Primary School News

As our new school year is whizzing by, we have so much to look forward to.

The current value we are considering in school is that of 'diversity'; thinking about how we celebrate our differences. We have our school council planning and running assemblies giving children with unusual hobbies and interests a chance to have their voices heard.

We have started learning songs ready for the BBC Radio Oxford carol service in the Abbey and we're very much looking forward to being a part of this. Our younger children are also getting ready for their Christmas Nativity performance. We have parties, Christmas dinners, a panto trip and we're hoping that we get a visit from the big man with a white beard and a red suit as well!

You will no doubt be aware of the tight budgets we have in school and Dorchester is no exception. Our PTA are doing a great job of fund raising and so far this year we have had a cake sale, a non-uniform day and a movie night. We are rais-

ing money to buy new non-fiction books and possibly some new more child friendly furniture in our library.

If you would like to donate a book to our school library as a Christmas gift, please see our Amazon wish list here: [https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3EAI7Q6N5EB2E?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3EAI7Q6N5EB2E?ref_=wl_share)

Thank you!

We run a breakfast club and an after-school club. 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/>

Finally, on behalf of everyone at school I would like to wish our wonderful community a peaceful, safe Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Jo Staples**  
Headteacher



### Dorchester Preschool

The preschool has had a great first half term. We waved goodbye at the end of the school year in July to many children who graduated to move on to reception, many to St Birinus. We have welcomed lots of new children this school year that have all settled in really well. The Preschool is now full at the moment, but please do get in touch if you would like to come and look around and get names on the waiting list. The preschool is open Monday - Friday 9am until 3pm term time only. The waiting list really is a testament to the wonderful nurturing environment the setting offers, managed by Helen and her wonderful team. If you would like to see up to date weekly activities please do like our Facebook page. [www.facebook.com/dorchesterpreschool](http://www.facebook.com/dorchesterpreschool).

It has been a very successful year at the preschool and we have had two wonderful fundraisers. We had a sponsored walk to the local farm when the children and families got to visit the Alpacas. We also supplied and served cakes back in the summer in the Abbey tea rooms. If you would like to help fundraise for the local preschool or have any ideas for fundraising activities please do get in touch. We are a charity organisation and rely solely on funds raised to give the children the extra equipment they really benefit from. We have some wonderful fundraisers planned soon to include a stall at the local farm Christmas fair on 2nd December. We will be selling lots of homemade Christmas decorations and cards all made by the children so do arrive early so you don't get disappointed. A raffle will also take place for some great prizes. The children will also perform some carols to get everyone in the Christmas spirit.

We have been busy for the first term getting to know everyone, celebrating Diwali and then having a fun Halloween week with a disco, costume competitions and then learning about Bonfire night before breaking up for half term break. We will finish this year off with our Nativity which will be the first one for a few years that parents will be able to witness onsite, which I am sure will be a delight followed by a party for the children and a visit from Father Christmas himself!

Lastly we have welcomed a new committee with a new Chair person William Orr-Ewing. Will is very keen to support the setting in every way possible and the first aim is to try to re-vamp the main garden for the children. This needs a new climbing frame and some new equipment. If you know anyone or have any ideas to help assist this please do get in touch. The preschool is run by a committee of volunteers, who all help with things like fundraising, posting in local papers, maintenance of the setting and even the website. If you would like to be involved we would be delighted to hear from you.

Oxfordshire Libraries

## December at Berinsfield Library

**Festive Coffee Morning**  
**Tuesday 20 December at 10.30am**  
 Coffee, Christmas carols and festive culinary treats! All very warmly welcome.



**Christmas Colouring Competition**  
**From Saturday 3 December**  
 Collect a colouring-in sheet from the library and bring it back for us to display by 23 December. Prizes will be awarded! For ages 3 to 11.



**Hide and Seek Robin**  
**From Saturday 17 December**  
 How many robins can you find hiding around the library? Come in and help us to find them all. Suitable for ages 3 upwards.



**Seasonal craft and games table**  
**Throughout the school Christmas holidays**  
 Drop in and enjoy a selection of Christmas crafts and family games. Suitable for ages 3 to 103!



[@oxonlibraries](https://twitter.com/oxonlibraries)
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 Email: [berinsfield.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:berinsfield.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

**OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**





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# CHRISTMAS FAYRE

# BISHOP'S COURT

# F A R M

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**Friday 2nd December 2022**

**Free Entry 5pm – 10pm**

**A Christmas cornucopia of mouth-watering, locally sourced festive food and delicious drinks, a magical Santa's grotto, friendly reindeers, affable alpacas, artisan gifts and a feast of traditional musical delights.**

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## Dorchester Abbey Museum News

Thank you to everyone who came to our half term workshops. We enjoyed teaching you how to make pictures out of felt, and necklaces inspired by the Stone Age.

If you are interested in volunteering with us, please email [museum@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:museum@dorchester-abbey.org.uk). We are looking for Front of House volunteers to welcome visitors and Education Officers to help out with activities such as the craft workshops and handling days.



Our Stone Age style jewellery

## Dorchester Historical Society

Wednesday 25 January 2023

7.30pm to include short AGM

Dorchester Abbey Shrine Chapel,

Members free, Visitors welcome (£5).

Anni Byard on:  
A Life in Ruins



Following on from David Wilkinson's fascinating talk about his life as an archaeologist in October 2022, we now hear about another archaeologist's work and areas of interest. Anni is an archaeologist who specialises in metallic 'small finds'. She has led archaeological digs on multi-period sites and was the British Museum's Find Liaison Officer for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire for 11 years. She works part time for Oxford Archaeology while studying for her PhD on Iron Age and early Roman coin hoards in Britain between the University of Leicester and the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. You may also have met her during the allotment dig a few years back.

Future meetings are still being planned, with the prospect of occasional afternoon events, and more talks from our own local historians.

**Margot Metcalfe, Chairman**

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## Remembrance Day 13 November 2022

A mild, almost warm, and sunny day greeted the Remembrance Service at the Dorchester War Memorial on Sunday 13 November.

As usual villagers gathered for the service a little before 11.00am. The service this year was led by Reverend Catherine Schneider assisted by Reverend Father John Osman and the Revd Canon Rachel Carnegie.

Wreaths were laid by Chairman of the Branch of the British Legion, Chris Hill, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Moira Darlington, and Chairman of the Parish Council, Mark Williams.

Just on the completion of the prayers, two helicopters from RAF Benson flew overhead, reminding us that combat is not necessarily a thing of the past.



## *Pearls before Poppies*

We are delighted to announce that thanks to the generous donations of jewellery items we have been able to raise an additional **£480 for the poppy appeal**. This included the sale of beautiful items made from repurposed and upcycled pearls and semi-precious stones. This sum will be submitted to the Royal British Legion along with the money collected by our hardworking volunteers, our local schools and from static collection boxes at various sites around the village. We have taken the opportunity this year to personally thank our volunteer collectors, and a certificate of appreciation has been presented to them and to all our collection points.



Please consider joining as a member. Membership open to All [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk).

Please reference 'Dorchester and District Branch'



A special mention goes to Vera Baker who has achieved a remarkable milestone as a poppy collector for the Dorchester Branch for over 50 years. She was awarded the Mary Galpin cup in thankful recognition of this outstanding service.



## Robin Oakley at The Village Hall

On Friday 11 November Dorchester resident, Robin Oakley regaled an audience of about 60 people in the Village Hall with stories from his years as a political journalist. After considering, and rejecting, careers as a war correspondent or an international affairs journalist, Robin started his career at the Liverpool Daily Post where he became Political Editor. From there he moved to London to work for the Sunday Express, The Daily Mail, The Spectator and The Times amongst others, before becoming Political Editor of the BBC, where he became a familiar face to us all on our television screens between 1992 and 2000.

Throughout his career it was his job to know politicians, and here he treated us to some of the stories of what some who he knew got up to and how they operated. Robin talked about how things changed over his career, with the rise of the spin doctor influencing the increasing priority given to image over substance. Of the prime ministers he knew, John Major was clearly his favourite, but Robin could still not resist telling us how the prime minister became known for having his shirt tucked into his underpants.

Robin's talk was followed by questions to which his answers were so enthralling it was difficult for the host of the evening, Geoff Russell, to bring proceedings to a close.

Thank you Robin for an informative and entertaining evening.

The event was designed as a fund-raiser for The Village Hall appeal.



## Dorchester News Crossword No.24 Solution

Compiled by Slider

<sup>1</sup> S	<sup>2</sup> E	V	<sup>3</sup> E	R	<sup>4</sup> A	L		<sup>5</sup> A	<sup>6</sup> T	T	<sup>7</sup> E	M	<sup>8</sup> P	T	
	X		V		R		<sup>9</sup> M		R		N		R		
<sup>10</sup> A	C	H	E		<sup>11</sup> T	H	E	D	E	A	D	S	E	A	
	R		N		I		L		A		E		C		
<sup>12</sup> H	E	A	T	H	S		<sup>13</sup> L	O	T	H	A	R	I	O	
	T				A		I		Y		R		S		
<sup>14</sup> J	A	C	<sup>15</sup> K	K	N	I	F	E			<sup>16</sup> S	I	N	E	W
			E				L				N				
<sup>17</sup> U	<sup>18</sup> S	E	T	H		<sup>19</sup> S	U	P	<sup>20</sup> E	R	G	I	<sup>21</sup> R	L	
	O		T		<sup>22</sup> W		O		J				A		
<sup>23</sup> A	F	T	E	R	Y	O	U		<sup>24</sup> E	X	<sup>25</sup> C	I	T	E	
	T		R		V		S		C		A		B		
<sup>26</sup> N	O	T	I	M	E	F	L	A	T		<sup>27</sup> V	E	A	L	
	I		N		R		Y		O		E		N		
<sup>28</sup> E	L	E	G	A	N	T		<sup>29</sup> C	R	E	S	T	E	D	





## SNUG CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU

6th, 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 16th December

**2 courses £22 | 3 courses £27**

### Starters

**Celeriac soup (vg) (celery, nuts)**  
with walnut gremolata

**Twice baked gruyere soufflé (v) (dairy, egg, gluten)**  
finished with cream & chives

**Port & thyme chicken liver parfait (dairy, egg, gluten)**  
brioche finger, textures of orange

**Baked field mushroom (v) (dairy, gluten)**  
Bath Blue crumb

### Mains

**Traditional Christmas lunch (gluten, dairy)**  
rolled and stuffed turkey breast, sausage meat stuffing, pig in blanket, duck fat roast potatoes, honey anise roasted carrots, mixed greens, turkey gravy

**Vegetarian Wellington (v) (gluten, dairy, egg)**  
butternut, courgette & wild mushroom Wellington, roast potatoes, honey anise roasted carrots, mixed greens, vegetable gravy

**Fillet of salmon (fish, dairy, gluten)**  
herb crust, crushed new potatoes, tenderstem broccoli and a dill butter sauce

**Wild mushroom risotto (dairy)**  
parmesan crisp, truffle oil

### Desserts

**Sticky toffee pudding (gluten, dairy, egg)**  
vanilla ice cream

**Crème brûlée (gluten, dairy, egg)**  
shortbread

**Christmas pudding (gluten, dairy, egg)**  
brandy sauce

**Cheese board (gluten, dairy)**

**Booking essential.**

**Please call Snug on 01865 590390 or email [claire@bishops courtfarm.com](mailto:claire@bishops courtfarm.com).**

**Pre-orders are required at the time of booking.**

**Please inform us of any dietary requirements or allergies.**





## Warborough & Shillingford WI

The WI organised a Christmas Craft evening for members in November. Members could choose from several tables filled with all they might need to create bespoke Christmas cards and gift tags, colourful paper baubles, or plump, felt tree decorations covered in sequins. A table of oranges and cloves gave out a lovely aroma which filled the room and the pomanders members took home will perfume their airing cupboard for months to come. All this accompanied by seasonal music, mulled wine and friendly conversation.

### Future Programme:

**Wednesday 14 December 2022** is the WI Christmas Party in the St. Laurence Hall, starting at 7.00 pm. We will be repeating our winning formula from last year, a meal of delicious, homemade soup followed by dessert donated by some of our members. Please bring your own wine. All members are welcome.

The 2023 programme is almost complete and promises to be an interesting mix of subjects. To start the year Liz Woolley will speak about Lord Nuffield, who was a generous benefactor of Oxford colleges. February couldn't be more different when Jane Abbott will give a talk on Alpacas.

### The Walking Group:

We all need to keep active, even during the winter months, and the walking group is the perfect way to do that. Join Chris Tilley's group which meets every other Friday.

### Community Project:

The addition of the bus shelter on the A4074, by the Shillingford roundabout, is the result of hard work by two of our members, Clare Dewell and Rachel Walker. Recently they have been out again planting more daffodil bulbs purchased by the WI which will give a lovely show in spring.

### Membership:

If you would like to come to one of our meetings you will receive a warm welcome and the first visit is free. We have members from Dorchester, Newington, Shillingford and Warborough and we would love to welcome you. Contact details below.

**Vicky Hart**  
Secretary,

vicky\_hart\_northwood@hotmail.com  
tel: 01865 416437

**Liz Eaton**  
President,

lizmeaton@gmail.com  
tel: 01865 858534

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Stuart Poole

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## Trustee vacancy

The Hurst Water Meadow Trust is seeking a new trustee to help manage some of the village's much-loved green spaces. The trustees, who are responsible for the Hurst Meadow, Old Bridge Meadow and Overy Mead Piece, formally meet twice a year, with additional ad hoc meetings of all or some of us when needed. The job is to deliver on our three objectives of conservation and protection of the meadows; advancing public education; and providing a safe place for the public's enjoyment.

The Trust is now a charitable incorporated organisation. That means we are no longer just a bunch of people with personal liability if things go seriously wrong. Being 'incorporated' means there is a body between us and the world which has the liability which formerly fell directly onto the trustees. Of course, we have no intention of allowing things to go seriously wrong, but incorporation is a nice to have protective feature for trustees just in case.

Another consequence of incorporation is that our trustees now have three year rather than undated terms of office. They can be reselected, but the expectation is that we will be regularly infused with fresh talent, new perspectives and energy.

The upshot is that we have two trustee vacancies at the end of this year. Mike Southon is retiring after over twenty years as a trustee, including a spell as our Hon. Secretary. More recently he has looked after our relationship with the Rural Payments Agency who administer our agricultural grants - ask any farmer how easy that is and you will appreciate Mike's contribution. Louise Aukland is our other retiree, who in mid summer decided she had to give priority to her professional career and family. She oversaw our objective to advance public education and understanding of the ecology of the meadow. St Birinus School in particular has benefitted from that.

Our two new trustees need not be clones of Mike and Louise. In fact we have already found one new trustee in Louise Beland, who has made an outstanding contribution this year in managing our weekly volunteer team. But it would be very helpful to have someone to replace Louise Aukland who has educational exposure.

So what can you expect to do as a trustee? Of course there is the usual routine administration of running a small charity. But the important part of the job is to deliver through practical action our

three objectives of conservation, public education and public enjoyment, and resolve the tensions which arise between them. For example, how radical should we be in restoring the hedge running across the centre of the Hurst meadow, which has become a riot of brambles and scrub? And at the eastern end of this hedge one of our finest ash trees is suffering from what appears to be serious ash die back disease, such that safety considerations may require considerable tree surgery. Ecologically many professionals advocate leaving things as they are and letting nature do its own thing. Recreationally, many would find the hedge uncovered from bramble and laid in the traditional manner to be more attractive, and the ash tree is magnificent even in its early stage of decay. But how safe is the footpath near to large boughs that may become brittle as a result of disease? Tree surgery becomes dramatically more difficult and expensive when decay takes hold.

If you appreciate the meadows, and would like to participate in resolving questions like this, do please consider applying to be a trustee. It's nice to be part of managing a much loved community asset. Please contact Richard Farrant (chair: **0795 288 7531** or [richard.farrant@icloud.com](mailto:richard.farrant@icloud.com)) or Chris Smith (Hon. Secretary: **01865 341946** or [chricssmith@btinternet.com](mailto:chricssmith@btinternet.com)) for more information.



*The Ash tree; how much to cut?*



## Fine start to the season for Dorchester footballers

Dorchester Football Club has made an excellent start to the season. As of early November, the club had won all of their opening five league games, to go into second place in Division 2 of the North Berks League.

The signing of four new players this season has been a significant factor for the fine start to the season. Of these new players, Brandon Burton has been outstanding and he marked another good performance by scoring a hat trick in the



Right: Brandon Burton



Left: Lewis Aprea

Since the club was re-formed in 2011, there have been many ups and downs, but thanks mainly to the dedication of manager Dave Lyne, prospects now look bright.

The core of the team has been with Dorchester for some time, many of them having played for the Under 17s side that the club ran a few years back. Jordan Lyne is the longest serving player and he is close to becoming the leading goal scorer since the club was re-formed. His younger brother Adam has become the regular goalkeeper this season and with mum Claire also working hard for the club, it is very much a family affair.

6-1 win over Letcombe Reserves in early November.

The one set back this season for Dorchester was being knocked out of the War Memorial Cup, losing a penalty shoot out against Compton, after the match had finished all square at 2-2.

It has been good to see some former Dorchester players come to watch matches and hear their stories of football in the good old days. Unfortunately, fixtures get chopped and changed at short notice so it is not possible to put out a reliable fixture list. Supporters are always very welcome and a good cup of tea is always on hand.



The Football Club is fortunate to play on such a fine Recreation ground, which is so well maintained by Ian Ferris of the Cricket Club. The Pavilion has seen some improvements over the last decade, but unfortunately is still in the dark ages in many respects, as anyone who has used the toilet facilities would surely agree! Nevertheless, football is thriving in Dorchester.

**Mike Stimpson**

Far left: Matty Brown

Left: Jordan Lyne

For the side's latest results, see page 30.



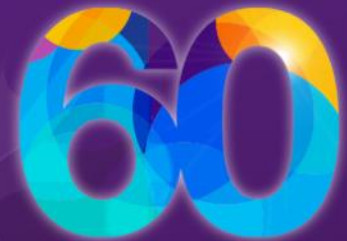


# The Coming of Christmas

15 December 2022  
at Dorchester Abbey



Celebrating people  
with learning disabilities



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## HfT—The Coming of Christmas Dorchester Abbey 15 December 2022

We are more than delighted to announce the return of The Coming of Christmas on the **15 December 2022** at **Dorchester Abbey**, celebrating the festive period and 60 years of HfT.

The Coronavirus pandemic meant we had to cancel this flagship festive event for the last few years, which deeply saddened us. This was, of course, the correct decision at the time to ensure the safety of the people we support, their families and our colleagues in social care. However, it left a very big hole in our annual calendar and we know the event was missed by all.

For the triumphant return of this wonderful event, the historic Abbey will be beautifully decorated for Christmas, bathed in the glow of candles and Christmas lights for a very special evening of festive music and readings. We are thrilled to be joined by guest speakers including a wonderful person we support and The Donaghue Concert. The Concert features an octet of up-and-coming young professionals, all of whom work as freelance choral singers and soloists.

We are incredibly proud to have delivered 60 years of life changing care and support to adults with a learning disability across the UK.

## The Mirth & Melody of Angels Music for Christmas and the festive season from medieval and renaissance Europe Saturday 3 December 7.30 pm Dorchester Abbey

Played and sung by  
**The York Waits with singer Deborah Catterall**

Celebrating the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the recreation of York's historic city band, the Waits explore the rich tapestry of seasonal music from the fourteenth to the seventeenth century. Angels abound, from the 1350s Angelus ad Virginem – or Gabriel from Heaven-King, to Orlando Gibbons' Thus Angels Sung from the late Elizabethan era. Familiar German chorales are followed by French Noels and Mediterranean songs from the folk tradition, all accompanied by the full array of period instruments – shawms, sackbuts, curtals, crumhorns, bagpipes, recorders, flutes, fiddles, rebec, guitar, hurdy gurdy and portative organ.

Tim Bayley  
Lizzie Gutteridge  
Anna Marshall  
Susan Marshall  
William Marshall  
Deborah Catterall

*'...a dazzling seasonal celebration...characteristically infectious and, as always, they brought the music of days gone by to vivid, brilliant life.'* Alice Masterson,  
[www.yorkpress.co.uk](http://www.yorkpress.co.uk)

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# Festive Wreath Making Workshop

Dorchester-on-Thames Village Hall

2-4pm

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022



Join Hayley Poole, professional florist and garden designer, to get festive, learn a new skill and create a beautiful wreath to make sure your door is the best dressed in town.



**Tickets: £45 to include all materials and festive refreshments or Early Bird Price of £40 if bought by November 25<sup>th</sup>**

To book: text Caroline at 07779539537 or email: [caro@i-go.uk](mailto:caro@i-go.uk)

*All proceeds go to Improving Generational Outcomes CIC*

*Improving Generational Outcomes (i:go) is a community interest company based in Oxfordshire, whose aims are to improve life outcomes, empower and raise aspirations for young people.*

<https://i-go.uk>



*Come one come all! Ho Ho Ho!*



## From the Chairman of the Parish Council



Change in Dorchester, like any other community, is complicated. Bishops Court Farm dominates the footprint of the village, with roughly half the land, so change there is always going to be particularly complicated.

It is fair to say that a number of residents on all sides ask us, as parish councillors, what our collective view is. Unfortunately, or perhaps inevitably, the views on the Parish Council reflect the diversity of views on both the wider plans and specific elements of them and it's fair to say we have lively debates! So, what is our role as a Parish Council in these circumstances? Well, we see our role as two fold; firstly to ensure transparency, working with Keith Ives and his team to ensure information is clear and public; secondly to give a voice to those who have strong views whilst recognising the diversity of views. This is not always easy as inevitably both sides of a debate pull at us and want us to come down firmly on one side or the other. So I'm pleased to report that this month we had a very long and productive conversation at the Parish Council with the architects working for Keith and whilst there were disagreements, of course, we felt it was a helpful session to lay out the various intertwined issues and opinions. As well as the sessions Keith runs at the farm to keep the village up to date, residents are always welcome to come to the Parish Council meeting to join the debate whatever their views.

I often update you on other progress with our local environment. This month is particularly noteworthy in this regard as, due to the hard work of a number of residents, especially Becky Waller who set the ball rolling back in 2016, the Village Green status of the Dyke Hills and the field besides Days Lock have been confirmed. The Parish Council could not be more pleased; as should all residents be. This status guarantees the access to those plots of land in perpetuity, a wonderful legacy for future residents. Thanks to all those involved.

Looking forward, councillors have been asked what practical steps we are taking to address the climate emergency. Clearly many of these issues affecting us are in the hands of central government, OCC and SODC and Robin Bennett and others will cover those in their updates to residents.

But as a village we can still try to do our bit. To that end we are in discussion with OCC about EV charging points to support the increasing use of electric vehicles and particularly for those who don't have off street parking. This discussion is in its early days but I want to let you know that we have set the ball rolling. If residents have other ideas that we can look at then please let me or other councillors know and we'll see what we can do.

I hope some of you who have children or grandchildren or indeed those who don't, were able to join Rob Ballantyne's presentation in the While Hart, on how we might update the playground. These things are fiendishly expensive and we are dependent on grants to make meaningful progress.

The next few months will tell us if we are successful, but in the meantime it is great to have had the input of older villagers to go with the excellent ideas from the school children. Time will tell if we can do what we want to do.

There are around eight orientation boards around the village to help visitors find their way. But they are a few years old and look both tired and are factually out of date so we plan to update them before the spring. This will cost us around £1,500, so if there is any local business that would like to sponsor these boards, in whole or part, in return for some appropriate branding on them then let the Parish Clerk, Geoff Russell, know and we'll see if we can agree on something.

Finally, the Coronation might feel some way off, but time will rush up on us. We would like to use this national event as an opportunity to come together as a community. That needs people and energy. So if you are willing and able to do your bit please do step forward and let me or other councillors know. The Parish Council will provide the funding for bunting, and other bits and pieces but its people that bring it to life.

Many hands make light work...

**Mark Williams**  
Chairman DoT Parish Council

## Parish Council Notices

### Monthly Meetings December 2022 and January 2023

The December Council Meeting will take place in the Village Hall (back room) on **Wednesday 14 December**. The January Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 11 January**. Council meetings commence at 7.30 pm.

Parish Council meetings are open to all residents. Anyone who wishes to raise a matter of concern is welcome to do so at the start of the meeting.

The Agenda for each meeting will be posted on Village notice-boards and on the Parish Council section of the Village website – [www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk](http://www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk) - three clear days in advance.

### 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](mailto:parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

Cllr Mark Williams, the Chairman, can be contacted via [chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk](mailto: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.

# Orchestra of St John's

## Mendelssohn

Another chance to hear Jan Schmolck's (leader of OSJ and section principal at the Royal Opera House) glorious performance of Mendelssohn's much-loved Violin Concerto, before taking a musical trip from the Highlands to Italy with two more of Mendelssohn's most evocative works.

**Dorchester Abbey Saturday 26 November 7pm. £30, £20, £15, £5**

*Mendelssohn Violin concerto*

*Hebrides overture*

*Symphony No 4 'Italian'*

## Night of Carols

Join OSJ Voices and baritone George Robarts for a night of Christmas favourites that are sure to spark seasonal joy through music from a range of great composers, including Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Christmas Carols.

**Dorchester Abbey Saturday 10 December 7pm. £25, £20, £15, £5**

**SJE Arts Sunday 11 December 6pm. £25, £20, £15, £5**

## Handel Messiah

Hallelujah, it's time for *Messiah*. Christmas wouldn't be complete without Handel's great oratorio. This seasonal classic will be performed by renowned soloists and backed by the full forces of the Orchestra of St. John's and OSJ Voices.

**Dorchester Abbey Friday 16 December 7.30pm. £25, £20, £15, £5**

**SJE Arts Sunday 18 December 6pm. £25, £20, £15, £5**

## New Year's Eve Strauss Gala

Join the Orchestra of St John's as they celebrate the New Year, with favourites including Strauss and Lehar Waltzes, Polkas and Songs but also a jazz medley with musicians from our Music for Autism programme

**Dorchester Abbey Friday 31 December 6pm. £20, £15, £10, £5**

Tickets [osj.org.uk](https://osj.org.uk)



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



## **Nearly £6.5 million awarded to help local businesses**

More than 2,000 businesses have received a much-needed relief award totalling almost £6.5 million to help reduce their business rates thanks to South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils.

In total, £6,471,842 was allocated to businesses, using the government's Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund, to help organisations that were unable to receive previous government Covid-19 grants despite having been badly affected by the pandemic.

## **South Oxfordshire calls Government's investment zone initiative 'disaster in making'**

Councillors in South Oxfordshire made it clear they wouldn't be happy to see the government's so-called 'investment zones' in the district, and welcomed the county council's decision not to bid for any in Oxfordshire.

As part of the recent disastrous mini-budget, the government announced plans that would seek to relax planning rules around development and 'remove burdensome EU requirements'. However, South Oxfordshire councillors resoundingly backed a motion I put forward in October, robustly objecting to this proposal. At the time of writing, it seems the new chancellor is about to scrap these 'investment zones', which would have bypassed local democratic control.

## **Claim a free tree for your garden**

The International Tree Foundation and Oxfordshire Trees Collaborate are working together this autumn to offer free tree saplings for people to plant in their garden in a scheme supported by SODC. For more information and to order a free tree please visit the International Tree Foundation's website.

<https://www.internationaltreefoundation.org/garden-tree-giveaway>

## **Council passes new Active Communities strategy**

This strategy, agreed last month, is a brand new approach to health and wellbeing developed to help residents come together to take part in sport, health and recreational activities that improve their physical and mental wellbeing, while forging stronger social links within their local communities.

Through coaching, communication, and engagement, and providing advice and access to external sources of funding, the council will work in partnership with community groups, local schools, sports clubs, children's centres, and leisure providers to significantly expand what activities are available to all parts of the community across the District.

The council also aims to encourage sustainable active transport methods like walking and cycling, and to make maximum use of green spaces and the districts' waterways as

it's widely recognised that spending time in the natural environment is beneficial for mental health and wellbeing.

## **Funds awarded to Berinsfield charities as part of the 'Garden Village' regeneration project.**

SODC have allocated £345,000 to help put on community events, to help buy new laptops, projectors, kitchen equipment, towards running costs and to help improve gardens and open spaces in Berinsfield. The money came from a special grant scheme just for Berinsfield that organisations and groups applied to earlier this year. The money will help them to continue to run events and vital services serving Berinsfield and our wider area. After a thorough and independent process, funds have been awarded to Berinsfield Adult Day Care Centre, Berinsfield Community Association, Berinsfield Parish Council, Early Years Pre-School, BIVC, Berin Centre, Oxfordshire Play Association, ARCh, Riverside Counselling Services, and the Berry Youth Centre

## **Study looking at community facilities**

Oxford Architects will be meeting with people from the charities, organisations and groups that use or own buildings and spaces in Berinsfield to find out how they use them now and what more they think they'll need in the future. The new findings will help us to look at how new or renovated community buildings and spaces could be designed so that charities, organisations and groups in the village can continue to offer services that residents want and need in the future. If you would like to comment on current and future use of Berinsfield's community facilities, please email: [BerinsfieldGV@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:BerinsfieldGV@southandvale.gov.uk)

## **A successful summer at Riverside Park, Wallingford**

This year the Riverside Park outdoor pool and campsite in Wallingford had a bumper summer season with nearly 21,000 visitors. On its busiest week, the pool had nearly 4,500 visitors, the highest number in over 20 years for a single week.

The pool and campsite opened for the season this year from late May through to early September and this season South Oxfordshire District Council in partnership with GLL, who manage the site and Better UK facilities for the council, introduced some new activities and initiatives for those using the pool and campsite. These included aqua aerobics classes, Swim Dr swimming lessons, the ability to book the campsite via the Better UK app and dogs were also allowed on to the campsite resulting in an increase in bookings.

**[Robin.Bennett@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:Robin.Bennett@southoxon.gov.uk)**  
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## From your County Councillor... ...Robin Bennett

### Household Support Fund update

OCC have used the government funded Household Support Fund to support locally based emergency welfare schemes, delivered in partnership with our district and city council partners.

Over the next two to three weeks, OCC are sending a one-off payment of £85 to 11,000 households to support energy costs this winter. This will go to households which include a pensioner in receipt of council tax reduction. Eligible residents will receive an Oxfordshire-branded letter from the Post Office with a bar code, redeemable for cash at all Post Office branches. Residents can ask a relative or friend to redeem the voucher on their behalf. We have chosen this low-administrative cost approach over alternative online options, with the intention being that residents who have not been able to access other schemes will be able to use this approach.

More info about other types of support can be found at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/help-rising-living-costs](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/help-rising-living-costs)

Ahead of the recent half term, we funded schools and colleges to provide children and young people entitled to free school meals with a £15 voucher to support with the costs of food. Equivalent support for early years children will be provided later in the term. Funding for this scheme is provided through a time-limited government grant, which is scheduled to come to an end in March 2023.

### Energy support scheme

We are currently making arrangements to announce a community building energy support scheme. The fund is designed to provide grants to community and voluntary organisations to help with the cost of their rising energy bills, so they do not pass on additional costs to users of those venues. The scheme will be delivered through Oxfordshire Community Foundation.

### Updated parking standards for new developments approved

Earlier this month our cabinet approved an updated guide for parking standards for new developments. It means developers will need to work collaboratively with us to help achieve the targets set in the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP), which was adopted earlier this year. The LTCP aims to create a net zero transport system in Oxfordshire by 2040, improving health and wellbeing, tackling the climate emergency, reducing private vehicle use, and prioritising walking, cycling and public transport.

### Hyperlocal care options continue to grow thanks to Oxfordshire business support

People in Oxfordshire who receive adult social care support at home are now able to choose from a wider range of services thanks to the success of a free scheme that helps people to set

up their own care micro-enterprise. Social enterprise group Community Catalysts is being funded by us and offers mentoring advice alongside practical business support, helping people to work for themselves by offering care and support in their local area.

### Homes for Ukraine update

As a direct response to feedback from hosts, we have committed to increasing the total amount they receive each month from £350 to £550. We will be funding this using the government's £10,500 support payment it is providing us with per guest.

This payment increase will be from November 2022 until March 2023 and will be payable in arrears from the 1 December 2022. It will be paid into bank accounts as a separate payment and will only apply when people host for more than half a full month. The increase will not be subject to tax and will not affect entitlement to any benefits.

This acknowledges and goes some way to address the increase in costs that existing hosts are facing. This increase will also apply to new hosts joining the scheme. For those who have indicated that they want to stop hosting after the six-month mark, we are also getting back in touch with them to let them know about the payment increase in case that helps retain more hosts on the scheme.

Please do spread the word locally. Existing hosts or potential new hosts can get in touch as detailed below:

- **Website:** [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine)
- **Oxfordshire Ukraine helpline:** +44 1865 966444 / 01865 966444 (opening hours: 8.45am - 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. Closed weekends and bank holidays).
- **Email:** [ukraineresponse@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ukraineresponse@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

**[robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk)**  
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From your MP...

...John Howell

Having been through a rather turbulent period I am pleased that we now have Rishi Sunak as our Prime Minister. He has had my support over the months, and I believe that he will be the person to get to grips with the key issues that we face.

It is interesting to reflect on the issues that have been before us in recent months and also the reactions that come forward in the media and indeed in the many emails that I receive. Understandably there are strongly held views and in this time of Remembrance it seems to me that there is plenty of room for shared understanding, moderation and mutual tolerance.

Take for example the attendance of the Prime Minister at COP27. Within a few days of taking office, at a time when there are huge national issues to address, his initial response was that he could not attend due to needing instead to focus on the immediate issues before him. He faced a backlash on that and, once he had been able to assess the workload on his desk, agreed that he could go. However rather than this being seen as a decision based on assessment of the situation it was dubbed as a U turn. If politicians 'stick to their guns' they may be accused of not listening. If they give serious thought to an issue and have a change of heart they are accused of a U turn. Either way there is an accusation to face.

It is good that the Prime Minister has pledged to return to the 2019 manifesto which was supported through the General Election. It promised an ambitious environmental programme with robust action on climate change and nature loss. It is important to note that protecting our environment does not mean sacrificing economic growth. Green measures can reduce the cost of living, create employment, investment and export opportunities, and safeguard our long-term prosperity and security. It is also important to ensure that measures taken are affordable and encourage people to make environmentally friendly decisions. It is precisely this need to bring people with us that protest groups overlook. It is not about who shouts loudest or makes the grandest gestures but about how we work together to resolve the important issues of our time.

Let us also consider the issue of storm discharges where untreated sewage is released into rivers. I completely agree that sewage pollution is not acceptable but when these

discharges of untreated sewage are released into a river it is when water levels exceptionally high and there is risk of flooding to properties. If you live in a property which, as things stand, would be flooded with raw sewage if these discharges were not made this might have a strong influence on your view and the realistic timescales for improvement.

In seeking to work together we need to get beyond the headlines. There will always be differing views on important issues and often some conflicting approaches to similar ends. There is rarely, if ever, a perfect answer. It is good to discuss issues, and sometimes discussion may be heated, but when disagreement turns to abuse and protest causes genuine difficulty to others we have lost our democratic compass.

If there is an issue that concerns you, please do share your thoughts. If you would like to know more about my work on behalf of the Government, and in the Constituency, please do look at my website. The address is [www.johnhowell.org.uk](http://www.johnhowell.org.uk). My contact details are also on the website.

### **Christmas Wishes from John Howell MP**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all constituents a peaceful Christmas and to send my best wishes for the year ahead. I know that for many life is not easy and personal and global struggles can weigh us down. I do sincerely hope that the peace of the Christmas season may bring some comfort and joy.

May I take this opportunity to pass on my heartfelt thanks to all who give their time to help others in their communities. There are some many different ways to support one another and our communities are strengthened by the generosity of so many people Thank you all.

Whatever your beliefs may I wish you the peace and joy of the season. John



**Live Screenings**

**Thursday 8 December, 7.15pm**

**Nutcracker with the Royal Ballet, live from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden**

A sparkling festive treat for the whole family.

Peter Wright's much-loved production, with gorgeous period designs by Julia Trevelyan Oman, and Tchaikovsky's brilliant score, combines the thrill of the fairy tale with spectacular classical dancing.

**Tickets: £18 (adults), £15 (senior citizens), £10 (under 18s)**

**Live on Stage**

**Saturday 17 December. 7.30pm**

**Punchbowl**

Sinodun Players' musical introduction to Christmas. An evening of seasonal readings, sketches and songs with a second half of festive songs from our own talented band Outliers. All funds raised will go towards chosen charities. Come along and join in the fun.

**All tickets £10**

**Friday 13 January to Saturday 28 January**

**Jack and the Beanstalk from the Sinodun Players**

*Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday evenings at 7.30pm, Saturday at 6.30pm*

Dame Dotty Dimple and her two sons (not forgetting Buttermilk the cow) will entertain you while they try to save their home from the Broker's Men. And of course there's that pesky Giant, Buster Gut Bucket making the poor villagers of Windy Bottom very scared – villagers keep disappearing to feed that ogre. But hopefully Fairy Sugardust will make everything alright in the end and the wicked Witch Piccalli will be defeated.



**Cinema:** All regular performances normally start at 7.30pm unless stated otherwise. Please note that we will start on time and that latecomers will only be allowed in after the start of the film where there is no disruption to sitting patrons. This means that we may have to reseat some latecomers. For Live Screenings we reserve the right to seat latecomers in the Curtis Room where there is a large screen relay. The bar and auditorium will open from 7.00pm so there's plenty of time to collect drinks beforehand.

We are also showing films on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons at 2.30pm. Please look at the website for updates. This is being done for an interim period but will continue if there is sufficient demand.

Tickets £10 for Adults and £5 for under 15s unless otherwise stated.

**December**

Thurs 1	<b>A Bunch of Amateurs</b> (12A)
Fri 2	<b>Watcher</b> (15)
Sun 4	<b>Watcher</b> (15)
Mon 5	<b>Three Day Millionaire</b> (15)
Tues 6	<b>Three Day Millionaire</b> (15)
Wed 7	<b>Three Day Millionaire</b> (15)
Fri 9	<b>The Menu</b> (15)
Sat 10	<b>The Menu</b> (15)
Sun 11	<b>The Menu</b> (15)
Mon 12	<b>Armageddon Time</b> (15)
Tues 13	<b>Armageddon Time</b> (15)
Wed 14	<b>Charlotte</b> (TBA) 2.30pm
Wed 14	<b>Armageddon Time</b> (15) 7.30pm
Thurs 15	<b>Charlotte</b> (TBA)
Fri 16	<b>Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical</b> (PG)
Sun 18	<b>Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical</b> (PG) 2.30pm
Sun 18	<b>Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical</b> (PG) 7.30pm
Mon 19	<b>Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical</b> (PG)
Tues 20	<b>Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical</b> (PG)
Wed 21	<b>Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical</b> (PG) 2.30pm
Wed 21	<b>Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical</b> (PG) 7.30pm
Thurs 22	<b>Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical</b> (PG)

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## Day by day

### Thurs Living Advent Calendar

1 Dec  
Until 24 Dec  
6.30pm  
See map

### A Fete Worse Than Death

DADS  
7.30pm  
Village Hall



### Fri Christmas Fayre

2 Dec  
5.00pm-10.00pm  
Bishop's Court Farm

### A Fete Worse Than Death

DADS  
7.30pm  
Village Hall

### Sat The Mirth & Melody of Angels

3 Dec  
The York Waits with Deborah Catterall  
7.30pm  
Dorchester Abbey

### A Fete Worse Than Death

DADS  
7.30pm  
Village Hall

### Sun 2nd Sunday of Advent

4 Dec  
8.00am  
Holy Communion (BCP)  
  
10.30am  
Sung Eucharist

### Thurs A Candlelit Christmas Evening

8 Dec  
Autism at Kingswood  
7.30pm  
Dorchester Abbey

### Sat Tree Decorating

10 Dec  
9.00-11.00am  
Dorchester Abbey



### Festive Wreath Making

Improving Generational Outcomes  
2.00pm  
Village Hall

### A Night of Carols

OSJ  
7.00pm  
Dorchester Abbey

### Sun 3rd Sunday of Advent

11 Dec  
8.00am  
Holy Communion (BCP)  
  
10.30am  
Family Service—Posada

### Wed Chiropodist

14 Dec  
Village Hall  
Appointment only; see page 7

### Parish Council Meeting

7.30pm  
Village Hall



### Thurs The Coming of Christmas

15 Dec  
HFT  
7.00pm  
Dorchester Abbey

### Fri Handel's Messiah

16 Dec  
OSJ  
7.30pm  
Dorchester Abbey

### Sat A Christmas Symphony

17 Dec  
Nadia Eide  
7.00pm  
Dorchester Abbey

### Sun 4th Sunday of Advent

18 Dec  
8.00am  
Holy Communion (BCP)  
  
10.30am  
Said Eucharist  
  
6.00pm  
Carol Service

### Wed Carol Singing

21 Dec  
6.00pm  
Meet The George courtyard

### Sat Christmas Eve

24 Dec  
4.30pm  
Crib Service  
  
11.30pm  
Midnight Mass



### Sun Christmas Day

25 Dec  
8.00am  
Holy Communion  
  
10.30am  
Christmas Communion

### Sat A Concert for New Year's Eve

31 Dec  
OSJ Voices  
6.00pm  
Dorchester Abbey

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

For current information about other services  
at Dorchester Abbey see  
[www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk](http://www.dorchester-abbey.org.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  
  
Move Together  
1.30pm

Busby Dance  
3.15pm

Wednesday Pilates  
5.30pm

Tango  
7.30pm

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

## Parish Registers

### Baptisms

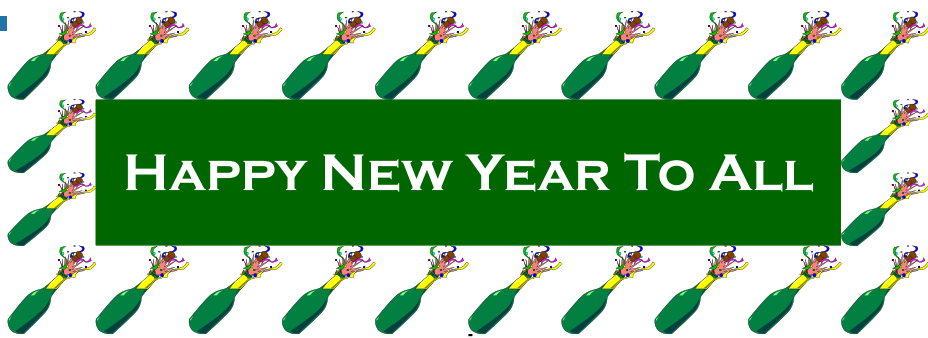
23 October Gala Orr-Ewing

### Marriages

5 Nov Patric Okumi and  
Virginia McFarlane-Watts

### Funerals

27 October Stuart Mucklow



# HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

## Day by day

Sun 1 Jan	<b>Naming of Jesus or 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas</b> 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
Sun 8 Jan	<b>Baptism of Christ or 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</b>  8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  10.30am Christingle Family Service  5.00pm Choral Evensong
Wed 11 Jan	<b>Chiropodist</b> Village Hall Appointment only; see page 5  <b>Parish Council Meeting</b> 7.30pm Village Hall
Sun 15 Jan	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</b> 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  10.30am Sung Eucharist

Sun 22 Jan	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</b> 8.00am Holy Communion
Wed 25 Jan	<b>Lunch Club</b> 12.30pm Village Hall  <b>Dorchester Historical Society</b> Anni Byard <i>A Life in Ruins</i> 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey Shrine Chapel,
Sun 29 Jan	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany</b> 8.00am Holy Communion  10.30am Reflective Service

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  Move Together 1.30pm Busby Dance 3.15pm
Wednesday	Pilates 5.30pm  Tango 7.30pm

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



### Football Results North Berks League Div 2

05/11/2022	Dorchester	6	1	Letcombe Reserves
12/11/2022	Sutton Courtenay First	3	4	Dorchester

### North Berks Cup

20/10/2022	Dorchester	2	2	Compton
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Pens 2-3

### Advertising in Dorchester News

Costs per issue are for an eighth of a page £12.75 mono, £13.75 colour; quarter page £25.50 mono, £27.50 colour; half page £38.25 mono, £41.25 colour and full page £51.00 mono, £55.00 colour. There are ten issues per year.

Please note that in response to rising costs our ad rates have been revised from October 2022.

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

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### 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

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Clifton Hampden: **01865 407888**  
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### HIRE OF DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL

To hire our Village Hall, contact Emily Moore (interim) [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

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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

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## ANIMAL WELFARE

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St Tiggywinkles animal rescue: **01844 292292**  
Swan Lifeline: **01753 859397**

## MOBILE POST OFFICE

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

## Useful Information

### BUS SERVICES

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

To Wallingford: 10.32, 12.48 (Mon, Wed), 09.46, 10.28 (Fri),  
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

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](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).

### SODC CONTACT

Telephone **01235 422422**  
Email: [enquiries@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@southoxon.gov.uk)  
South Oxfordshire District Council  
Abbey House  
Abbey Close  
Abingdon OX14 3JE

## USEFUL CONTACTS

### ANGLICAN PRIEST

Dorchester Rectory  
**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

Tues 6 Dec **Black**  
Tues 13 Dec **Green**  
Tues 20 Dec **Black**  
Thurs 29 Dec **Green\***  
Thurs 5 Jan **Black**  
Wed 11 Jan **Green**  
Tues 17 Jan **Black**  
Tues 24 Jan **Green**  
Tues 31 Jan **Black**

### Weekdays from 7.00am

Green\* = No garden waste collection

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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# A Fete Worse Than Death

A comedy  
by Richard James



1st - 3rd December 2022

7.30 pm

Dorchester-on-Thames Village Hall  
Queen Street, Dorchester-on-Thames OX10 7HR

Tickets £10

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/dads](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/dads)

[www.dads.org.uk](http://www.dads.org.uk)

**DADS**  
Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society

