

Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

February 2023





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Cover picture: A cold day on the way to the Thames.

Deadline for March Dorchester News



email:

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

A DoT view

My New Year's resolution was not to make any resolutions. When I have made them in the past they quickly get forgotten, which is okay, or get consciously broken, which just makes me feel bad and inadequate. So I came to the conclusion that resolutions should not be forced by some trick of the calendar. The change of year is only some convention that we've signed up to, it is not ordained anywhere, and indeed not everyone has signed up to it, including the Chinese. So resolutions should be made when it is right to make them, at a time when we know we can commit to them and see them through, and if we fail then we have real regret and must examine ourselves as to why.

A while ago I made a resolution to put something back into this community to balance all the good things that it has given to me, and I achieve that by, amongst other things, editing this newsletter. And surely this is the sort of resolution that we should all make, in order to make our community better for everyone.

This year in May we will enjoy the Coronation celebrations within the village. And in the same month there will be elections for the Parish Council. What better way to put something back than by becoming a councillor. I shan't be standing as I don't think it compatible with editing the newsletter, but what a wonderful way for any of us to put something back. If your resolution involves making your community better, see page 19 and find out what it involves. You may find that you will regret it if you don't.

Ian Brace

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Gail Thomas

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The last time I wrote a reflection for our magazines for February was in 2020. Little did we know what that year would bring just a few short weeks later. Not only for 2020 but also the following two years. What will 2023 bring?

Three years on has our view of the world changed. We are coming to terms with the aftermath of the pandemic and the effect it has had on all of us. However, February is still the month when at long last days are getting longer. Even though we are still faced with difficult times as winter is not yet gone can we greet the spring in a more optimistic frame of mind.

Those of us who are older have seen many changes over our lifetime and the previous generation even more.

My aunt, the last of that generation in our family, recently died aged 91 and like our friend Olive Garfoot who also died in December, she had lived through a war and many economic and political ups and downs. It is the nature of our world and our place in it.

'For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:' the writer of Ecclesiastes tells us. Thousands of years later we know that still to be true. I look out of my window as I write this on a gloomy morning in early January and can hope that the birds coming to feed will once again raise young. The trees and plants are already beginning to stir. The new season is promised.

We in the Church also follow seasons during the year. We began by

preparing for Christmas, the time when we remember again the birth of the Christ child and now, as the Christmas season once again draws to a close, we turn our attention to the promises of God in the teachings of Jesus the man. The promises of a new season to come, one that is not only for the future but also for now in this world, if only we learnt how to live in a way that treated each other and creation with respect and justice; love and compassion.

The sun has just broken through the gloom and I am reminded of the hope that however dark and thick the clouds, the sun is always there, just waiting to shine.

May the sun shine in your lives now and for each of the seasons to come.

Services in Dorchester Abbey

Ash Wednesday Wed 22 February: Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes Begin your Lenten journey with an act of Remembrance and a commitment to follow Jesus at **9.30am at Berinsfield Church, 11.00am at Long Wittenham or 7.00pm at Dorchester Abbey**

Sat 25 Feb 2.00pm Dorchester Abbey Celebration of the life of Greg Stores

Sun 26 Feb 11.00am Team Service at Berinsfield

Mon 27 Feb 2.00pm Dorchester Abbey Thanksgiving Service for the life of Mary Braybrooke

Lent

Lent leaflets for the Dorchester Team will be available in the team churches and details will be on the Dorchester Abbey website www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk. There will be Lent courses, a Friday bread and cheese lunch in the Abbey Guest House to support local charities as well as Compline and Meditations. The 'Come and See' Diocesan Lent Course exploring the sayings of Jesus in the Beatitudes is on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm in Dorchester, starting on **28 February**. Everyone is welcome! The course will be hosted by Sue and Malcolm Lucas. Please call **01865 341502** for venue and more details or email Catherine Schneider

dorchesterateamcurate@gmail.com. The Closeness of God Art and Inspiration in Lent course will run on Wednesdays at 2.00pm and 7.00pm in Berinsfield Church and will start on **Wednesday 1 March**. Please contact Rev Teresa revteresa@outlook.com for details.



Sunday 12th February 10.30am



God's Wonderful World!

Come and hear news from those who went to Kenya with the Nasio Trust in 2022 and their plans for this year

=====

You are warmly invited to join us for Bible stories, fun, craft activities and refreshments



New Rector for Dorchester Abbey

Licensing and Induction of Revd Jane Willis as Team Rector Dorchester Abbey Monday 13 February 7.30pm

We are delighted to welcome the Revd Jane Willis as the new Team Rector for the Dorchester Team. Jane will be based at Dorchester Abbey and with her husband Gerry moved into the Dorchester Rectory in January. Jane will be licensed on **Monday 13 February 2023**, at 7.30 p.m. at the Abbey by the Bishop of Dorchester. Everyone is welcome to this service and to stay behind afterwards to say hello to Jane and Gerry. Please reply to the Abbey office admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk or **01865 340007** if you are able to come.



Greg Stores

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of Greg Stores on 21 December 2022. Greg had lived in Dorchester on Thames since 1983 and we are pleased to announce that a celebration of his life will be held in Dorchester Abbey on **Saturday 25 February at 2.00pm**. All are welcome.

Christina Stores

Thank you from the Metcalfe family

Sadly, as most of you know, John died on 3 December last at the age of 89, and his funeral took place on 22 December in the Abbey. We have been overwhelmed by the number of cards, letters and emails from the village and far beyond, and would like to thank all the many Dorchester people who have written and stopped to talk about John, and who came to the funeral – we really appreciate how much he was loved in the community that meant so much to him.

His funeral was everything we wanted it to be - personal, moving, musical, and above all a tribute to the John we knew and loved. We should like to thank everyone involved, with very special thanks to Revd Canon Rachel Carnegie for helping to plan and for leading the service, Revd Catherine Schneider for the prayers, and Revd Canon Sue Booy for her moving and memorable address; Nick Forman and the bellringers (muffled bells and tolling 9+89); Jeremy Boughton on organ (especially the *Bach Toccata*); the Abbey choir (especially during such a busy season for them); Sarah Gauden for *'Walking in the Air'* on flute; Nick for his technical skills on screen, sound and Zoom, enabling the family to present their tributes exactly as they intended; Sandie Griffith for her skilful logistics and for creating a beautiful flower spray; and Steph Forman and her team for a wonderful tea.

Margot Metcalfe and the family

An obituary will appear in the March issue of Dorchester News

Lent Lunches

There will be six Lent Lunches held in the Abbey Tea Room to raise money for two charities; the **Wallingford Food Bank and Christians Against Poverty in Wallingford**. The lunches will be on Fridays between 1.00pm and 2.00pm on the following dates: **24 February, 3 March, 10 March, 17 March, 24 March and 31 March**. The lunch will be simple and frugal and everyone is welcome to come; all I ask from you is a donation to the charities to help people really struggling to live. Please come!

Susan Jupp



Abbey Christmas Tree 2022

Lunch Club

The next Lunch Club lunch will be on **Wednesday 22 February** in the Village Hall at 12.30pm. Please let me know before **Monday 20 Feb** if you would like to come.

New Dorchester residents who are retired and living on their own would be most welcome to join us, just let me know before the date of the lunch. The cost of the lunch is £5 payable when you come.

Susan Jupp
Organiser of the Lunch Club
Phone: 01865 341066



Gilbert Scott Hall

The village hall of Dorchester-on-Thames

Dorchester Village Hall 200 Club Prize Draw

Congratulations to the winners of the December draw.

1st Prize	£100	No. 66 Ms B Wilson
2nd Prize	£45	No.114 Mr M Lawden
3rd Prize	£25	No. 135 Mrs G Scambler

Christmas draw has taken place, with the first prize increased to £100. The next draw will be in March, with the first prize reverting to £75. 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 (preferred).

Thank you for your support and good luck!

Elaine

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Hempcroft Allotments February

Some of you will remember the recent DADS production of *A Fete Worse Than Death* which involved marrow envy at the local village fete and a subsequent murder, and some large papier-mache marrows were produced as props for the play. At the time I was asked a question; are marrows just big courgettes?

There are four species of the genus *Cucurbita* that are commonly referred to as pumpkins, gourds and squash. These plants came from America and the English settlers took the generic name 'squash' from the Algonquin Indian word *askutasquash*. The species we are familiar with in Britain is *Cucurbita pepo* and courgettes and marrows are both members of the same species. Both are *Cucurbita pepo*. That is like saying that both a Poodle and a Great Dane are dogs (*Canis familiaris*). The difference is that they are different cultivars of the same species, in the same way that Great Danes and Poodles are both different breeds of dog (in this context breed, variety and cultivar mean approximately the same thing). Courgettes and marrows are the same species but look different because they are different cultivars. Humans have selected them to exhibit different characteristics in the same way as we bred different breeds of dogs to do different jobs and they therefore look different. True courgettes, designated *C pepo var. cylindrical* are dark skinned and cylindrical. If allowed to grow large they will resemble marrows but they have much thinner skin and tend to be more bitter. A large courgette does not have the same flesh and texture as a variety bred specifically as a marrow such as *C pepo fastigata*.

By the way the word 'marrow' derives from the pulpy texture similar to bone marrow.

Edward Metcalfe

340160

edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk

DADS Next Production *One Man Two Guvnors* by Richard Bean

A farce where food and money are high on the agenda. It follows Francis whose pursuit of food leads him to seek employment with two guvnors at the same time. From there we get mobsters, slapstick, and the occasional audience 'volunteer' as we weave towards a conclusion where all's well that ends well.

Performance dates 17 May to 20 May, Dorchester Village Hall

Chiropodist

Wednesdays 8 Feb

Village Hall

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Dorchester Abbey Museum News

Volunteers needed! Please come and join us!

Our small museum, next to the Abbey, covers Dorchester's history, archaeology and aspects of village life. It is staffed entirely by a friendly group of volunteers. Please come and join us – it's a great way of meeting people and doing something worthwhile in the community, as well as finding out more about the rich history of our village.

The volunteers welcome visitors, briefly explain what the Museum offers, and sell items from our shop. All you need to commit to is one or two three-hour sessions each month (or more if you wish!) during the Museum opening period (Easter- end of Sept). Full training is provided.

For further info and to arrange a chat please contact museum@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

John Metcalfe, Museum Chairman and Curator for around 15 years until his retirement in 2015, who sadly passed away just before Christmas.

From all at the Museum, our very warm and grateful tributes to John for the major contribution he made to the work and development of the Museum.

During his tenure John was successful in getting outside funding (notably from Hidden Britain and the HLF), which enabled refurbishment and reorganisation (twice), setting up new exhibits, getting the museum accredited, starting the database, and getting the museum involved in the Digging Dorchester archaeology dig in the allotment. His work on the Abbey restoration included setting up the Cloister Gallery.

[Editor's note: there will be a full obituary for John in the March issue of Dorchester News]

Edith Stedman's books: *Yankee in an English Village* (price £9.99, also available at Dorchester Co-op) and *Monastery Guest House Cook Book* (price £7.50) available from Linda Hender, 11 Page Furlong, email lindakhender@googlemail.com

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 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.

Culham & District Horticultural Club



**Wednesday 15 February 2023 at 7.30 pm
Abbey Guest House, Dorchester-on-Thames**

**Nick Wray
The Gardens of Sicily**

Sicily has been cultivated for thousands of years and the talk will focus on key gardens across the island, rich in plants from around the world.

Nick Wray is Curator of the University of Bristol Botanic Garden where he has worked for over 30 years. In 2016 he was awarded the RHS Associate of Honour for services to horticulture and education.

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

Oxfordshire Libraries

February Events at Berinsfield Library

**Winter Wonderland with Harcourt Arboretum
Saturday 11th February 10.30am**

Object handling, stories and a craft suitable for ages 4+ with a parent/carer



**Half-term craft and games
all week 11th to 18th February**

Craft table and family board games all week in the library. All welcome!



**Lego in the Library
Wednesday 15th February 2.30-4pm**

Our popular holiday drop-in Lego play session for ages 6+ with parent/carer



**Library Book Club
Friday 24th February 2.30pm**

Join us for a chat about a good read – contact the library for this month's book (supplied free of charge)



[@oxonlibraries](https://twitter.com/oxonlibraries) [f](https://www.facebook.com/BerinsfieldLibrary) BerinsfieldLibrary

Telephone 01865 340771 for more information or our opening hours





Village Christmas Tree

On 7 December the Village Christmas Tree was decorated and erected by a small band of volunteers, some of whom are seen below hard at work.

The result was the impressive tree seen left.

A few days later the equally impressive Abbey Christmas Tree was decorated and erected in the Abbey, see page 4.



Football Results North Berks League Div 2



03/12/2022	Long Wittenham Athletic Reserves	Away walk-over	Dorchester
07/01/2023	Dorchester	3 2	East Hendred AFC Reserves

North Berks Cup

26/11/2022	Dorchester	8 2	Benson Lions
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North Berks Charity Shield

19/11/2022	Frilsham & Yattendon	2 2	Dorchester
Dorchester win 3-1 on penalties			

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St Birinus Primary School News

Our new spring term topics are well underway here in school and children are enjoying finding out about new things. Our younger children are looking at toys this term. They'll be investigating stories with toys in and making some toys of their own. Years three and four are learning about the Rainforest and the creatures that live there. They will also be considering the impact of humans on the rainforests. Years five and six are learning about Natural Disasters this term including floods, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes.

We would like to say a huge thank you to anyone who bought books for our school from our Amazon wish list. We are enjoying using the books to help us increase our knowledge and understanding of the world. We really appreciate your kindness. If you would like to buy a book for school our wish

list can be found at: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3EAI7Q6N5EB2E?ref_=wl_share

We enjoyed a lovely Christmas here in school. Highlights being a visit from Santa and a wonderful Nativity performance.

We have lots to look forward to in school and we are proud to be taking part in the NSPCC's National Number Day in February to help raise much needed funds to support the vital work of the NSPCC. We have delivered assemblies devised by the NSPCC to help teach our children how to stay safe and know who they can talk to if they have any worries.

Our value focus this term is compassion. We are considering what it really means to be compassionate and are thinking of ways to show compassion to each other, ourselves and the environment. Our children are rising to the challenge admirably.

We run a breakfast club and an after-school club in addition to extra-curricular clubs such as a stories club, a science club, board games and gym. 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



Dorchester Preschool

As we hit the new year running we have had another term full to capacity at the end of 2022. It really is a testament to the setting - Helen, Zoe, Val and Ella. The children love attending the nurturing environment jam packed with fun activities. We decided to take on a new member of staff to allow us to accommodate more children and increase the hours for the children that are already there and we welcomed Chloe the new member of the team at the beginning of term, who is proving to be a big hit with the kids.

We had a great fundraiser at Bishops Court Farm where we sold lots of handmade decorations made by the children. It was very magical and kicked off the Holiday season. The children even performed some Christmas carols in the bandstand led by Helen which was a huge success and the children sang their hearts out with old and new parents from the setting and even some children from St Birinus school. The money raised from the fair will go towards some new outside tricycles and scooters so all the children in the setting can benefit. We have also enjoyed another fundraiser towards the preschool with the living advent calendars windows in the village which included a lovely walk around the village with a map to find the windows. It was a really successful fundraiser and we would like to thank

everyone involved! The money raised from this will go towards a new shed roof and revamping the shed outside so the children can hang out in all weathers.

We have also had our annual nativity where the parents have been able to watch the children for the first time since covid in the local village hall. Enjoyed by all and a visit from Father Christmas himself to the Christmas party! It really was a wonderful December, celebrating with family and friends for the first time again in person.

We would like to remind everyone that the Preschool is a charity run organisation and operates purely on money raised to stay open. If you think you may be able to help raise important funds please do get in touch. We are currently on the lookout for a new climbing frame for the garden and would like to know of any businesses locally that may be able to help.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at the preschool for all their continued hard work and dedication throughout the year to the children. Without them all it just wouldn't exist and we wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy 2023!

Sarah Egan

Dorchester Living Advent Calendar 2022

Every day from 1 to 24 December a different Dorchester house turned on their lights in a window (or front garden) at 6.30pm and had a small street party to admire and celebrate their creation. We had everything from Circus to Nutcracker, skiing mice to Nativity, World Cup to a live Father Christmas – every one different and all amazing and fun! Thank you to all those who took part, everyone who came along to support them (special mention to Andy Walton), and particularly Charlotte Bennett, who had the idea, and Arabella Kilby, who collected almost every night. We raised a brilliant £700 for our village pre-school.

Steph Forman



Dec 1



Dec 2



Dec 3



Dec 6



Dec 4i



Dec 7



Dec 4ii



Dec 10



Dec 5



Dec 8



Dec 9i



Dec 9ii



Dec 11



Dec 12



Dec 13



Dec 16



Dec 20



Dec 21



Dec 14i



Dec 17



Dec 22



Dec 14ii



Dec 18



Dec 19



Dec 23



Dec 15



Dec 24

A tale of two Christmas markets: Dorchester Abbey, 27 November...



... Bishops Court Farm, 2 December



As soon as you saw the stage you knew exactly where you were: inside a tent at a village fete. Indeed the village of Thornton that could be glimpsed through the opening of the tent looked very much like one we had been to before, but maybe that was my imagination, and, as we know, a village is a



A Fete Worse Than Death

A Comedy by Richard

village. But this one apparently has no contact with the outside world, thanks to the council refusing permission for a mobile phone mast, and no-one appears to have heard of land lines here. So when a murder is committed, there is plenty of time for the pairing of actor Ray Martin, who plays a detective on television, and Miss Parmenter, who believes in Ray Martin's detection abilities, to uncover the plot before the police can arrive.

The murder is, ostensibly, all to do with the rivalry between Malcolm and Father Mike over who wins the largest marrow competition. But Malcolm is also in rivalry with Trish, for the chair of the fete committee, and is threatening Nigel with stopping his (one man?) historical re-enactments at future fetes. On top of that Malcolm's wife, Bunny, wants to leave him and run off with Nigel. It is no wonder,

then, that before the end of the first act, Malcolm is lying dead behind the marrow stand, stabbed from behind. But who done it?

Malcolm, before finding himself horizontal, was played by Alastair Trickett, a newcomer to DADS' stable of talent, and someone who I am sure we shall be seeing again, as a stalwart of village life, but with this marrow obsession that could have cost him his life. His marrow nemesis, Father Mike, was played as a boyish devil may care vicar by Ryan Fannin, last seen in *Mansfield Park and Ride*, who played him with just the right amount of bounce to show that his ministry must be innovative and possibly a little 'youthful' for some his congregation, with the chutzpah to cut a few corners – it was discovered that he had been feeding his marrows with coffee!

That would not have put off Trish, the young pretender to chair of the fete committee and organiser of this year's fete. From the moment that she first appeared, which was for the pre-performance statutory announcements, Trish was clearly in charge and with the energy to keep this show and the fete on the road. Another fine performance from Lucinda Kenrick, again last scene in *Mansfield Park and Ride*, who made Trish just the sort of organiser that every village has. But Trish's eyes were on Ray Martin, the actor hired to open the fete. Well done to Stephen Eyre on making this character vain and self-centred, interested only in how much money he could make from the day, particularly as Steve had stepped into the part only a few weeks before when DADS veteran Mark Williams sadly had had to pull out. From a dwarf in last year's panto to this central part was a

The men discuss their marrows...



...whilst the ladies discuss their jams and pickles...





be difficult to get a feeling of action on stage and easy to find you have just a static line of actors talking to each other. With the stage layout of two stands, vegetables one side and jams and pickles the other, angled to each other, and the way in which he had characters moving around when several were on stage simultaneously, he obtained movement that gave the set a sense of reality.

He was ably assisted by Rosemary Mills as Assistant Director, and Christine Jones must also be acknowledged for producing the very large marrows, around which so much revolved.

And of course Ed Metcalfe must be commended for the simple yet effective set design that landed you straight away in that particular point in England at that particular time.

Another great evening out with DADS.

There was a competition in the interval when the audience were asked to nominate who they thought had done it with a prize for the winner. This was a lovely idea that made us think carefully about the plot, and enter the second act keen for the story to unfold. But I am not going to reveal the ending, except to say that it wasn't the marrow what done it.

Ian Brace

big step up and Steve managed it superbly.

There was plenty of experience though behind Carol-Anne Tilley as Bunny and Mark Wilkin as Nigel. Carol-Anne's Bunny was appropriately fluffy and a little air-headed, subservient to Malcolm but in reality wanting Nigel. Mark's Nigel was somewhat self-pitying but played with energy, which often gave the performance on-stage movement that can be difficult in a single scene production.

But the real plaudits must go to Sally 'I only want a small part' Bell, who ended up as Miss Parmenter, the central pivot in the unravelling of the murder plot. Rather scatty with some extremely unusual varieties of pickles, she apparently found it difficult to distinguish between Ray Martin the actor and his on screen detective persona. Or did she? Some

nice ambiguity there. She took charge and dominated the stage whenever she was on stage. Miss Parmenter's first appearance was to threaten to hit Malcolm on the head with a jar of pickles for being obnoxious, which was so strongly done, that you knew that this scatty woman had grit, which, when the time came, she would use to ensure the murder plot was uncovered. We saw in Snow White last year, when Sally played the Fairy Queen and a yokel, that she had presence on stage, but she had never tackled as big a part as this before.

This was Russell Bailey's directorial debut for DADS, although he has appeared in five previous DADS productions and directed elsewhere, and it is to his credit that he got these good performances across the board from his cast. With just the one stage set, it can



... Miss Parmenter tells Ray Martin what he should be thinking...



...and Bunny tries to calm Nigel.



Community meeting No.2 Feedback

We would like to thank all those who attended our second community meeting on the 29th September 2022 to discuss the Bishops Court Farm masterplan vision and progress since our last meeting in February 2022. It was lovely to see 50+ people over the two events, as well as the 8 completed questionnaires and emails received.

What people like about the proposed plans.



Facilities/ space to benefit the community
25%



Inclusivity
of the Village
13%



Sustainability/ conscious to wildlife and
ecology/ organic farm
50% (5% more than previous survey)



Low-cost housing for local people
38% (14% more than previous survey)

New Access Road
25%

Existing masterplan
being kept to -25%

What people would like to see changed/concerns?

75% did not have any concerns with the vision.

(13% more than previous survey)

13% Commercial hub



BCF will be having discussions with the Village Hall committee and the Abbey to establish what facilities are required in the village to compliment the existing. Overflow parking for Abbey events to be considered on the farm. Restaurant, offices + education/exhibition facilities – pre-app with SODC + further consultation with the village and Parish Council

13% Eco pods and impact on wildlife



Several surveys have been completed by ecologists and measures will be put in place to avoid/mitigate any impact/harm on the birds and local wildlife.

How we will address concerns....

Other comments/ suggestions...

- Thank you for sharing the plans and information with residents and allowing us to comment.
- It's good to see a full integrated plan for BCF development and that it has not changed since the previous village meeting
- BCF newsletter/ mailing list for fresh produce
- Notice board at entrance to farm
- Increase dialogue with village, not just Parish Council – perhaps a focus group?
- Keep up the good work
- Development of Community Trust could be a real community asset
- Organic farm status and eco approach to new and refurbished buildings really positive
- Access off Abingdon Road – more gainers than losers
- People aren't clear what the commercial hub is and if this is needed with the current facilities available in the village
- Positioning of affordable housing along Abingdon Road to be discussed with people living across the road.
- Overall, very supportive and a much better alternative to the previous owner.

The Bishops Court Farm team is encouraged by the feedback and support and look forward to further consultation with the village.

Next meeting: March/April 2023 (date to be confirmed)
Email: survey@bishops courtfarm.com



Warborough & Shillingford WI

The weather was extremely cold in mid December when our Christmas party took place. Ice and below zero temperatures meant some of our older members could not venture out: but thanks to a member with a four by four and never say die attitude others were able to join us. The hearty soup was exactly what was needed and along with a glass, or two, of wine, delicious puddings (provided by some gifted cooks) and jolly entertainment the Christmas season got off to a good start for us. All the members received a Christmas card with a photograph of the WI Centenary Party on the Green, which took place in August, a memento of a lovely day and a reminder of warmth and sun in the darkest month.

Future Programme:

Now we look forward, to some excellent speakers in 2023: starting with Liz Woolley in January, who will introduce us to Lord Nuffield and talk about his philanthropy; in particular his generosity to the Oxford colleges. In February textile artist Jane Abbott will talk about Alpacas and March will be our Annual Meeting.

The Walking Group, organised by Chris Tilley, is presently suspended due to muddy and cold conditions which have adversely affected even these intrepid walkers. This is such a valuable asset for those who might not walk alone but greatly benefit from the conversation and exercise they get from the group. It is planned to restart the walks in February.

The Warborough and Shillingford WI meet in St Laurence Hall on the second Wednesday of every month and has members from Dorchester, Newington, Shillingford and Warborough. If you would like to come to a meeting please get in touch, our contact details are below, you will receive a warm welcome.

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

Liz Eaton
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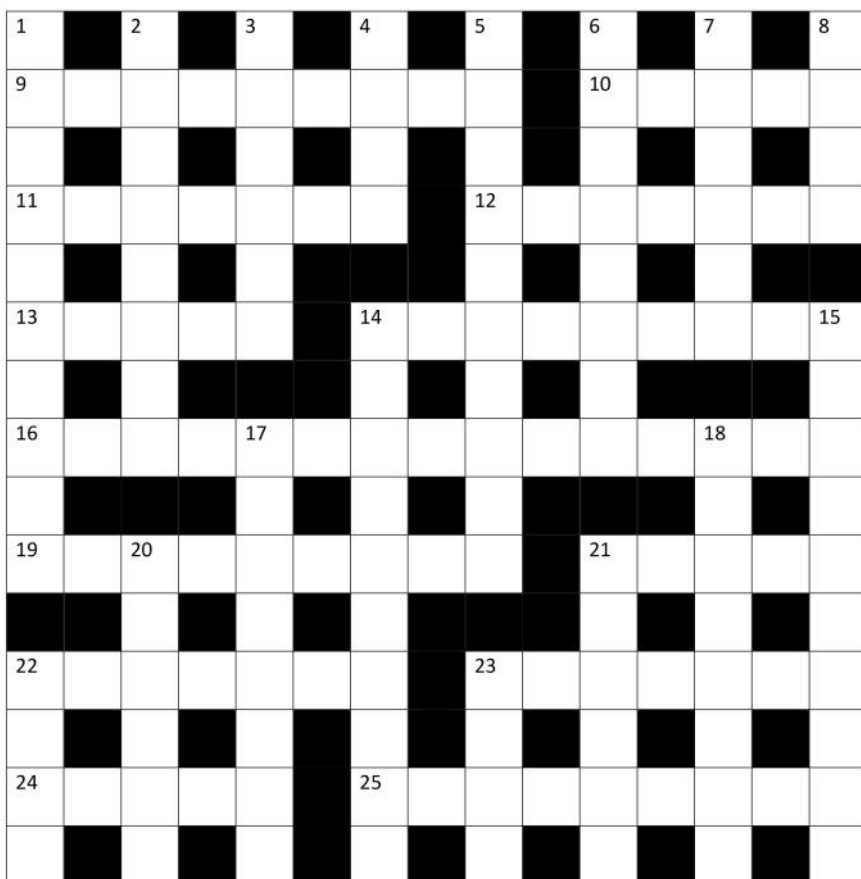
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Dorchester News Crossword No.25

Compiled by Slider



- 19 Inert nuts are good for you. (9)
 21 Point to part of the house for some music. (5)
 22 Emblematic part of the ground elevation. (7)
 23 A piece by the trio at the start of Italian musical form. (7)
 24 Ibsen loses a drug and with nothing added becomes wild animal. (5)
 25 The short story of an opened envelope quietly removed to make room for the Tourist Trophy. (9)

Down

- 1 Finish the match to allow one on. (10)
 2 Scripture lesson indicates building improvement. (8)
 3 A holy man tears his clothes off! (5)
 4 The old trains for instance, supplied some French food. (4)
 5 Confirms a strain case complication. (10)
 6 It sounds as if you are in favour of hearing the organ - bliss! (8)
 7 Catch a joke first, it's useful at pick your own. (6)
 8 The cyprinoid had a certain content... (4)
 14 ...and half the street are after one to be making a killing. (10)

Across

- 9 Voters rue complicated approaches. (9)
 10 An appendage as part of the spectrum with a turn followed by the French. (5)
 11 Come to an agreement without the leading trio and show potential. (7)
 12 Improve points on a shortage of cards before church. (7)
 13 A town in Ireland failing to start the game. (5)
 14 A start due but in confusion getting soaked. (9)
 16 Refusal to go along with the under water creation of priests? (15)
 15 A study one finds annoying and puts down. (10)
 17 A pancake the daughter gets into ends up no good but could be very good indeed. (8)
 18 One egg I consumed to start with. (8)
 20 It sounds like real practice and that's a fact. (5)
 21 The way to turn over it's easy when in the park. (6)
 22 Red after a massage? Voice a query at the end. (4)
 23 Use a flag for father at the end of the war. (4)

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Parish Council Notices

Monthly Meetings 2023

The next Council Meetings will take place on **Wednesday 8 February** commencing at 7.30pm and on **Wednesday 8 March** also commencing at 7.30pm. The Agenda will be posted on Village notice boards and on the Parish Council section of the Village website –

www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk - three clear days in advance of each meeting. **All** Parish Council meetings are open to the public and any resident who wishes to raise any matter of concern is welcome to do so at the start of the meeting.

Christmas Tree

The Parish Council thanks all those residents who contributed to the decoration of this year's Christmas Tree. Their work was much appreciated and admired. (See page 8.)

Annual Precept 2023/24

The Council has approved an increase of 4.8% which takes next year's Precept to £48,000. This averages out at approximately £98 per dwelling for the year.

Elections

Elections for both South Oxfordshire District Council and Dorchester-on-Thames Parish Council will take place on **Thursday 4 May 2023**. The Village Hall is the designated polling station and will be open from 7.00am until 10.00pm. The new Voter ID process will be in force. More information in due course.

Parish Council Vacancies

Those people who are interested in offering themselves for election to the Council are encouraged to attend some of the forthcoming Council meetings and to view one of the on-line sessions which the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) has organised on **13 February** from 10.00-11.00am and on **15 March** from 2.00 – 3.00pm. (Zoom joining instructions are on the Village website and Facebook pages and available direct from the Clerk). The OALC website www.oalc.org.uk includes some useful pages which are open to the public

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

Office Telephone **07745 311439** The Clerk's direct line is **07752 900716**

Texts are 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.

From the Chairman of the Parish Council



2023 marks the end of our four-yearly Parish Council cycle. The election for our parish and district councillors takes place on **4 May** so we will have a new council to look after our community. So now is a good time to appeal to all those with ideas, passion and energy to make Dorchester the best possible place to live to consider putting your name forward for election to your parish council.

Diversity of opinion on a council is vital to represent the range of experiences we have in our different lives and also to offer a voice on the range of topics that come our way. And I know from the comments many of you offer me on a variety of subjects that there are people who would make a valuable contribution to the management of our environment and the amenities we have in the parish. So why not put your name forward and give yourself a real voice. The Parish Council is not political, we just do our best to gel the various aspects of village life together, working with our colleagues at SODC, OCC and other stakeholders in the village and its surrounds.

We will publicise the process for putting your name forward in a few weeks' time on the village website, Facebook and posters. See right, **Parish Council Vacancies**, for on-line sessions to find out more about what being a Parish Councillor entails.

In my December update I said we would like to make the coronation weekend, **6-8 May**, a chance to celebrate Dorchester as a community. Ideas are forming under the joint leadership of the Abbey and Parish Council with a street party for everyone, young and old, on the **Bank Holiday Monday 8 May**, as a likely centrepiece, with perhaps a live screening of coronation in the village hall. If you have ideas or would just like to help then please contact Geoff Russell (**07752 900716**), Mike Corran (mikecorran62@gmail.com), or Nick/Steph Forman (treasurer@dorchester-abbey.org.uk) and we'll see how we can use your skills and energy to make the weekend even better. There is likely to be a get together of those who are interested in a few weeks' time, please come along. And more to follow on the festivities as we head towards Spring but, in the meantime, mark the weekend in your diary if you haven't already.

I received a lot of responses to my reminder before Christmas of where our defibrillators are situated, so we are looking to get some training organised in the village hall in March. Learning before the day you need to use one could save a life so I for one will be going along to make sure I know what to do. More info on social media and posters in due course.

Finally, Geoff Willis, who has been the Parish Council's handyman for over 25 years, will be retiring in February. The Council would like to thank Geoff for his wonderful service over so many years. And we are working on finding someone to take on the often-unseen role that Geoff performs to keep the village ticking along.

Mark Williams
Chairman DoT Parish Council

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



Cost of Living and Household Support Fund

A reminder that the Council has produced a useful guide to help residents struggling with the rising cost of living:

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/cost-of-living-crisis-advice-and-support/>

If you are in need of support, contact our Community Hub where officers can guide you to the support that's available:

01235 422600 or

communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

We've opened a third round of the Household Support Fund to support households who can't afford essentials over the winter months. Support will be tailored to individual needs but will focus on food and fuel vouchers. Details of eligibility will be published on our Cost-of-Living website pages, or contact the Community Hub for more info.

Rough Sleeping and Housing Support

We are receiving growing numbers of reports of people rough sleeping in the District and we can expect these numbers to increase further. Our Housing Team are expert at supporting people who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness and our Council follows the Housing First approach: first provide people with a roof over their heads and additional support follows.

Please contact: housing@southandvale.gov.uk or call **01235 422452** or let us know if you would like to discuss a housing issue or have concerns about a resident who is homeless or about to be.

Land and Buildings Available for Change

South Oxfordshire & Vale of the White Horse district councils have published the results of the Call for Land and Buildings Available for Change, part of the process in creating our Joint Local Plan. **The council has made a short video** to explain what the Call for Land and Buildings Available for Change is and what happens next, see it here -

<https://youtu.be/VaVAyYL-jyM>

It's important to note these are not proposals the Council is making for development. The Call for Land and Buildings Available for Change does not grant planning permission to any site submitted or confirm that the site will be suitable for development. You can view the full results on our interactive Call for Land and Buildings Available for Change website:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/83c42d77f9104794a8cb49a815ff2352>

[stories/83c42d77f9104794a8cb49a815ff2352](https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/83c42d77f9104794a8cb49a815ff2352)

CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) spending update

Our annual statement on how we spend infrastructure money raised from developers was published in December. A share of CIL goes to Oxfordshire County Council and local health authorities to spend, and also to parishes where chargeable development has taken place.

In line with the council's CIL spending strategy, 50 per cent of the infrastructure proportion is allocated to OCC for use on transport, education, libraries and household recycling centres. **£6,485,821** of CIL funds have been released to OCC in 2022/23.

We assign 20 per cent of CIL for health care projects supported by the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board. The balance of these funds awaiting use by the health authorities stood at **£7,299,658**.

The table below shows how SODC allocated its 30% share of CIL in the 2021-2022 financial year to maintain and improve local community and leisure facilities across the District, including **£267,000** towards new changing rooms at the pool and a new astroturf pitch at Abbey Sports Centre in Berinsfield. We will soon be making a new allocation in the February budget.

Robin.Bennett@southoxon.gov.uk

tel. **01865 858680**

m. **07979 646815**

Amount	Project
£296,450	Wallingford Riverside splashpad extension
£150,000	Wallingford Riverside campsite improvements
£100,000	Abbey Sports Centre, Berinsfield, swimming pool improvements
£200,000	Henley Leisure Centre sports hall floor replacement
£55,000	Henley Leisure Centre replacement sauna and steam room
£140,000	Didcot Wave Spin Studio
£250,000	Park Leisure Centre, Wheatley roof replacement
£55,000	Thame Leisure Centre sauna and steam room
£350,000	Thame Leisure Centre new gym area
£250,000	Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot roof replacement
£148,500	Wallingford Moorings access improvements
£25,000	Tiny Forests
£50,000	Strategic Partnership with Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment funding three environmental projects
£19,000	Henton Flood Alleviation Scheme
£167,000	Abbey Sports Centre astro turf pitch renovation
£3,000	Park Sports Centre roof light replacement
£126,000	Thame Leisure Centre replacement Combined Heat and Power (CHP) system
£45,000	Greys Road public toilets
£45,000	Didcot Wave pool filters

*details of funding to be included in the 2022/23 funding statement.

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

Reduced bus fares: For three months (Jan-Mar), bus passengers can enjoy a £2 cap on bus fares. Paid for by a government scheme, fares with participating bus firms will cost a maximum of £2 per adult single fare (includes Oxford Bus Company and Thames Travel). Concessions are unaffected.

Anti-sewage motion passes and water summit: A motion at Full Council in December condemned the practice of dumping sewage into waterways. Over the Christmas period, Thames Water released raw sewage multiple times into Oxfordshire rivers. A 'water summit' in December also looked at challenges facing water supply in Oxfordshire.

Rainfall and Oxfordshire's river levels: There are several flood alerts on Oxfordshire watercourses. Residents can monitor the situation in their local area on our news page, which signposts key information from the Environment Agency and Met Office. <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/rainfall-and-oxfordshires-river-levels/>

Tackling carbon emissions: OCC has reported on its carbon reduction plan. The council reports data from its own operational emissions (those included in our Net Zero by 2030 target), as well as a range of other data sources including maintained schools and some contractor emissions. The council intends to expand the range of emissions included in its reporting in future reports, particularly major suppliers.

There was an overall reduction of 11% since 2019/20 (Pre covid). This equates to an average reduction of 5.5% annually in the last two years and 74.6% reduction compared to 2010/11.

Over 75% of the 60,000+ street lighting assets in OCC control are now run with energy saving LED lights. Streetlighting is the largest source of carbon emissions in OCC's operations and is a growing cost due to rising energy prices. It's estimated this will save the council £77m over 20 years.

Tree planting: As part of the new Tree Policy for Oxfordshire, 450 trees are being planted on highways over the winter period.

Successful bid for children's homes: OCC has successfully bid for a £5.2m grant to part fund four new residential children's homes. The homes will provide accommodation and support for children requiring solo provision or who can only share with one other child, children with autism, and children who have had adverse childhood experiences.

Special Educational Needs: Families with children and young people with learning disabilities and special educational needs now have access to a refreshed website, designed to ease the process of transitioning into adult social services. The new Moving into Adulthood online handbook has been commissioned by OCC and has been developed by Oxfordshire Family Support Network in collaboration with parents and guardians who have had lived experience of children moving from children's services into adult's services. <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/digital-guide-putting-families-in-control/>

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From your MP...

...John Howell



I agree with the Prime Minister when he said that New Year should be a time of optimism and excitement and yet many look ahead to 2023 with apprehension. There are indeed many concerns at home and abroad. The concerns that dominate for each of us will vary according to our own circumstances and needs. Over the Christmas and New Year holiday period I had several conversations on the fallout from the pandemic with many people feeling that the negative effects, particularly in relation to mental health and well-being, are still taking their toll. The nervousness at the news that China would reopen its borders is an example of the fear that lingers, not only in relation to physical health, but also over the dread that life could be restricted once again. However we must remember that we are in a very different place to where we were at the start of the pandemic with knowledge, vaccines and medicines available to help prevent such devastating measures being taken again.

For those concerned at the continued cost of living issues I was pleased to see the Government announcement of further support this year for pensioners and those on low incomes. It is also good to see the continued support in relation to energy costs for business and non-domestic customers. This is subject to on-going review in a fast-changing situation.

I know that many constituents are concerned over issues relating to Thames Water. I have written previously on my concerns on storm discharges. I have also raised a number of other specific concerns with the company over time. I was saddened, although not entirely surprised, to read in the Ofwat annual assessment of water company performance that Thames Water fell amongst the worst performers. I am in touch with the Chief Executive of Ofwat on this. He has confirmed that they are very concerned over this and advised me that Thames Water have committed to spending an additional £2bn in the 2020-25 regulatory period on top of the £9.6bn final determination to turnaround their performance. He acknowledges that there is much to be done and has confirmed that they are monitoring the situation closely. We will be keeping in touch on progress.

Another concern that also tends to arise with the new year is changes to bus services when timetables are reviewed. I fully appreciate that when bus companies make changes some

people will be inconvenienced having got used to services running at particular times. Although buses are run on a commercial basis there are some subsidies available to support services in specific circumstances. These are administered by the County Council. Having investigated some of the concerns I understand that for bus companies there are many issues to consider when looking at the sustainability of services. In some cases it is simply a matter of low passenger numbers that makes a route unsustainable, and the companies need to divert resources to other routes where there is greater usage to keep these running. However sometimes the issues are wider. For example on one route up for change the bus company wanted to use double decker buses across the whole route and some of the rural roads included in the journey were not suitable for such vehicles. Whilst the Government does have a National Bus Strategy the challenges in rural areas are many. As we know all too well some routes are simply lost altogether due to lack of use.

There are, of course, many big issues which affect us all which are will rehearsed in the national media and which the government is already working to address. If there is a particular 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. My contact details are also on the website.



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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 7pm 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.

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

February

Wed 1	I Wanna Dance with Somebody (12A) 2.30pm and 7.30pm
Fri 3	Death of a Hollow Man (12A)*
Sat 4	Avatar, The Way of Water (12A) 2.30pm and 7.30pm
Sun 5	A Man called Otto (12A)
Mon 6	A Man called Otto (12A)
Tues 7	A Man called Otto (12A)
Wed 8	A Man called Otto (12A) 2.30pm
Wed 8	Envs Men (15) 7.30pm
Fri 10	Empire of Light (15)
Sat 11	Tar (15)
Sun 12	Empire of Light (15)
Mon 13	Empire of Light (15)
Tues 14	Tar (15) 2.30pm and 7.30pm
Fri 17	The Fablemans (12A)
Sat 18	The Fablemans (12A)
Sun 19	The Fablemans (12A)
Mon 20	The Fablemans (12A)

* *Special celebration of 25 years of Midsomer Murders with an episode filmed in the Corn Exchange in 1997. This is a Free Film courtesy of the President of the Sinodun Players, John Warburton*

Live Screenings

Monday, 30 January, 7:15pm

Like Water for Chocolate with the Royal Ballet recorded earlier this year

Christopher Wheeldon's new full-length ballet brings the magic of Laura Esquivel's modern Mexican novel to The Royal Ballet. A co-production between The Royal Ballet and American Ballet Theatre. The ballet reunites Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon with the creative team behind Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and The Winter's Tale, composer Joby Talbot and designer Bob Crowley. Inspired by Laura Esquivel's captivating family saga, where the central

character's emotions spill out through cooking to influence everyone around her in startling and dramatic ways. Mexican conductor Alondra de la Parra acts as musical consultant for Talbot's newly commissioned score and Wheeldon has worked closely with Esquivel to reshape her richly-layered story into an entertaining and engrossing ballet.

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

Thursday, 2 February, 7.00pm

The Crucible from the National Theatre recorded earlier this year

A thunderous new imagining of Arthur Miller's parable of power and its abuse, with Erin Doherty (The Crown) and Brendan Cowell (Yerma) as John Proctor and Abigail Williams. A witch hunt is beginning. Raised to be seen but not heard, a group of young women in Salem suddenly find their words have an almighty power. As a climate of fear, vendetta, and accusation spreads through the community, no one is safe from trial. Lyndsey Turner (Hamlet) directs this contemporary new staging, designed by Tony Award-winner Es Devlin (The Lehman Trilogy).

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

Wednesday, 15 February, 7.00pm

The Barber of Seville live from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden

Sung in Italian with English subtitles. With vocal fireworks, scheming lovers and one very busy barber, Rossini's comic opera is packed with fun and mischief. From the barber's opening number 'Largo al factotum' with its cry of 'Figaro! Figaro!' to Rosina's feisty aria 'Una voce poco fa' Gioachino Rossini's opera is a riotously entertaining affair. Rafael Payare makes his Royal Opera House debut conducting an international cast that includes Andrzej Filonczyk, Aigul Akhmetshina, Lawrence Brownlee and Bryn Terfel.

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

Thursday, 23 February, 7.00pm

Othello from the National Theatre recorded earlier this year. Shakespeare's compelling tragedy of boundary-defying love, thwarted by oppressive social barriers and meddling outside forces, is brought startlingly up to date by a stellar cast including Giles Terera (Hamilton). Directed by Clint Dyer with a cast that includes Giles Terera (Hamilton), Rosy McEwen (The Alienist), and Paul Hilton (The Inheritance).

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



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Day by day

Sat 4 Feb	Thames Consort Tudors & More 7.00pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 5 Feb	Third Sunday before Lent 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Sung Eucharist
Wed 8 Feb	Chiropodist Village Hall Appointment only; see page 5 Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
Sat 11 Feb	OSJ Tribute to Vaughan Williams 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 12 Feb	Second Sunday before Lent 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Family Service with presentation of the Pride of Nasio 5.00pm Choral Evensong
Mon 13 Feb	Licensing and induction of Revd Jane Willis 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Wed 15 Feb	Culham & District Horticultural Club <i>The Gardens of Sicily</i> —Nick Wray 7.30pm Abbey Guest House



Sun 19 Feb	Sunday before Lent 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Sung Eucharist
Wed 22 Feb	Ash Wednesday 7.00pm Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
Fri 24 Feb	Lent Lunch 1.00pm Abbey Tea Room
Sat 25 Feb	Celebration of the life of Greg Stores 2.00pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 26 Feb	First Sunday of Lent 8.00am Holy Communion
Mon 27 Feb	Thanksgiving Service for the life of Mary Braybrooke 2.00pm Dorchester Abbey For St Birinus RC Church go to: www.stbirinus.co.uk For current information about other services at Dorchester Abbey see 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

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.

Shrove Tuesday 21 February



Parish Registers

Baptisms

19 Nov	Scarlett Grace Rugg-Gunn
4 Dec	Isabelle Aurelia Garside
8 Jan	Esme-rose Angela Grindrod

Funerals

21 Nov	Margery Ann Johnson
22 Dec	John Russell Metcalfe

CONTACTING THE POLICE

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

HEALTH SERVICES

DIRECT LINE TO URGENT LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

MINOR INJURIES

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

A&E

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

SURGERIES

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

ROOM HIRE

ABBEY GUEST HOUSE BOOKINGS

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

HIRE OF DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL

To hire our Village Hall, contact Emily Moore (interim) bookings@dotvh.org.uk or **01865 689452**.

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

FAULTS AND COMPLAINTS

POTHOLE, STREET OR ROAD PROBLEMS

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

BLOCKED DRAINS

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

REFUSE COLLECTION

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

POWER CUTS

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

ANIMAL WELFARE

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

MOBILE POST OFFICE

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

Useful Information

BUS SERVICES

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

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, and **0871 200 2233**.

AGE UK

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

WALLINGFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE

WVC Volunteers provide help for the elderly, disabled or vulnerable, especially by giving lifts to medical appointments at hospitals in Oxford, Abingdon and Reading. You need to register as a client. Contact the Centre for more information. **01491 836345**
www.wallingford.volunteercentre@gmail.com

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Clerk is Geoffrey Russell of The Pigeons, 5 & 7 High Street, Dorchester on Thames OX10 7HH; **07745 311439** (office) , **07752 9007116** (direct)
parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk.

SODC CONTACT

Telephone **01235 422422**
Email: 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
Contact details for Church Wardens and other Abbey information are on the notice board in the Abbey.

ABBEY WEBSITE

www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

VILLAGE WEBSITE

www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST

The Presbytery
Fr. John Osman
Bridge End
01865 340417
www.stbirinus.co.uk

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



REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Tues 7 Feb **Green**
Tues 14 Feb **Black**
Tues 21 Feb **Green**
Tues 28 Feb **Black**

Weekdays from 7.00am

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/

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Tudors & More

with Thames Consort

Saturday 4th February 7pm

Dorchester Abbey

Directed by Jeremy Boughton
with Sharon Warnes (violin)

*Vocal & Instrumental
Music of:*

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Fayrfax | Phillips
Parsons | Corelli
Sweelink | Blitheman
Morley



Tickets £16 / £12 (16 & under free)
from dorchester-abbey.org.uk

Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

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