

Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

March 2023





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Cover picture: The Abbey Lych Gate by night, by Mark Townson

A DoT view

Yesterday evening I attended the Service of Institution, Induction and Installation of the Revd Jane Willis in Dorchester Abbey. The title of the service may make her sound like a central heating system but at the end of the service she emerged as the new Rector of Dorchester and the Team. It used to be said that Hong Kong, before returning to Chinese rule, was run by a triumvirate of the Governor, Chief of Police and Chairman of the Hong Kong Shanghai Bank. Several triumvirates come to mind as being the prime influencers within Dorchester, and the Rector is in every combination.

As some of the speakers yesterday evening said, the Abbey is a central part of Dorchester life and as such is more than a church and church services. It is also an historic and important building which many venerate in its own right; it is also a key community hub, along with the Village Hall, for many aspects of village life, as some of yesterday evening's speakers reminded us.

All of us are affected in some way by the presence of Dorchester Abbey, and as such all of us welcome Jane and her family to the Dorchester community.

Ian Brace

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Steph Cook

**Deadline for
April
Dorchester News**



email:

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

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Talking Point

Hello Dorchester! It's so good to be here. In one way the time since my appointment was announced has flown, and in another it's seemed a long time coming. But we are delighted to be moved in, and have been working very hard trying to get somewhere near ship-shape for when I'm licensed and actually functioning. We've walked up to Wittenham Clumps, but apart from that our experience so far of our new place has been DIY stores, supermarket and the tip! I am so looking forward to actually getting to know the people and places where I will be ministering.

Moving shortly after Christmas has been in some ways challenging – but in other ways wonderfully fitting. It's

been a season of endings and beginnings – farewells in Sussex, and then a wonderful welcome as we've arrived. In our early days here the snowdrops and crocuses have pushed their way through the frosty ground, we've turned from winter to early spring – just as Christians turn their focus from Christmas to Easter. Some may be surprised that for many Christians Christmas just begins on 25th December and continues into February, concluding with Candlemas when we remember the infant Jesus being presented in the temple and recognised and proclaimed as the Messiah by two elderly, faithful people of prayer: Simeon and Anna. From Candlemas we do an about-turn and begin to face towards Easter as we

Revd Jane Willis

journey towards the cross and resurrection. That journey, through the weeks of Lent, is a season of preparation. Traditionally it has been seen as a time of fasting or giving up something and for many people that is the right thing, though maybe sometimes we should take something up – such as doing a Lent Course or reading a devotional book, trying a new prayer practice or giving in some way? As I take up a new ministry, I will be asking God what he wants to do both in my own life and among us during this new season.

It's an exciting time – and we look forward to all God has for us.

Every blessing
Jane

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

dorchesterteamcurate@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.



A Present for Kate Herbert

Our Abbey administrator, Kate Herbert, is, sadly, leaving her role due to serious health issues. After almost eight years in the Rectory office her efficiency, friendly approach and determination to finish any task have blessed people throughout the Dorchester Team. If you would like to contribute to her 'thank you' present you can do a bank transfer to the Abbey, ref: Kate (Dorchester Abbey, Sort Code: 200109, A/c: 20327603) or put money in a marked envelope through the door of 73 High St Dorchester.



Sunday 12th March: 10.30am
Turning.....



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

New Rector for Dorchester Abbey

On the evening of 13 February a full church witnessed and welcomed the arrival of Revd. Jane Willis as the Rector of the Dorchester Abbey Team.

In the Service of Institution, Induction and Installation, the Bishop of Dorchester, the Right Reverend Gavin Collins, together with the Area Dean and Acting Archdeacon presented the new minister and administered the declarations and oaths leading to the Revd Jane's installation. This concluded with Jane being escorted to the door of the Abbey where the churchwardens handed over the keys.

She was then welcomed by representatives of the church and community: Sir Tony Baldry, Sir Hugo Brunner, Robin Bennett, Jo Staples, Richard Dick and John Lubbock, who welcomed her to Dorchester and to the Abbey, or, in the case of John Lubbock, to 'his concert hall'. Symbolic gifts were presented to Revd. Jane by members of the congregation, which included a bible, water for baptism, bread and wine and, in case she gets lost, a map of the area.



The new Rector, Revd. Jane Willis, with the Bishop of Dorchester, the Right Reverend Gavin Collins



Photo: Nick Forman

Above: Revd Jane signs the declaration.
Below: She is presented with a map



Photo: Nick Forman



Above: Revd Jane reads her first notices.
Left: John Lubbock welcomes her to 'his concert hall'.

Women's World Day of Prayer Fri 3 March

2.00pm Berinsfield Church

The World Day of Prayer invites you to be personally enriched by contact with other Christians, as you share their faith experience to learn at first hand of the situation of women in other countries worldwide to share the hopes, fears, joys, sorrows, needs and opportunities of women around the world, to pray with them and for them to turn prayers into positive action.

Team Quiet Day at Cuddesdon College Sat 18 March 10am-4.00pm

'I have called you to bear fruit', to explore how God is calling the Dorchester Team of churches to grow it's mission and ministry in our communities. It will be led by Rev Jane Hemmings (Director of Ordinands, Oxford Diocese) We are eager to see our congregations grow. We have ideas how our churches can reach out to our village communities. We would like to share these ideas with you and hear your ideas too! So make sure you sign up for the day on the sheet that will be in the back of all the churches! For further information email revteresa@outlook.com

Lent Lunches

On Fridays 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 March there will be a simple Bread and Cheese lunch between 1.00 and 2.00 available in the **Abbey Tea Room** to raise money for the 'Wallingford Food Bank' and 'Christians Against Poverty in Wallingford'. Anyone and everyone are welcome to come, I just ask you to give a donation which will be divided between these two very worthy causes to help all those in our neighbourhood who are really struggling with debt and insufficient money to feed themselves and keep warm. **Please come.**

**Susan Jupp
(organiser)**

EASTER LILIES 2023



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

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

Please complete the form below and send it to me:
Sandie Griffith, 5 Rumbolds Close, Benson, Oxfordshire OX10 6NQ

Email: sandie@theflower.co.uk Mobile: 07957 867065
or hand it to one of the flower arranging team - Kathy Glass, Susan Jupp or Vera Baker

Name

Contact phone number

Amount of donation

Donation in memory of

Friends of Dorchester Abbey Visit to Malmesbury Monday 15 May 2023

We visited this town, said to be the oldest continuously inhabited town in England, back in 2014. As well as a tour of the beautiful 7thC Abbey we had the option of visiting the wonderful **Abbey House Gardens**, then owned by Ian and Barbara Pollard AKA 'the naked gardeners' which had recently featured on Gardeners World.



© visitheritage.co.uk

The garden now has new owners with the ambitious vision to make it one of the most important gardens in the world. For the past 16 months it has been undergoing a massive renovation but it is possible that we will be able to arrange a special tour.

Arrangements are in the early stages so this brief notice is just to put the date in your diary.

Yvonne Lawden

Dorchester Abbey Tea Room Needs YOUR Help!

Could you spare a few hours to serve delicious tea and cake? Do you enjoy baking?

Whether you can do a session/cake a month or just one in the season (April - Sept) we would love to hear from you! Helping at the tea room is a fun way to meet new people and get involved without a major commitment.

We are happy to support pupils for their DofE (volunteering or skills)

Do get in touch

Steph Forman
steph@forman.org.uk
07711 046818



If not now, when?

Like most people, you probably know how important it is to have a Will in place. So how has it ended up at the bottom of your to-do list?

Hedges will ensure you protect your loved ones in the event of the unthinkable happening.

Call 01491 839839, drop in to our Wallingford office in Market Place, or find us at hedgeslaw.co.uk to make an appointment to write or update your Will today.

HEDGES



In House
— Lettings —



EXISTING OR POTENTIAL **LANDLORD?**

With interest rates on the up, many of our potential buyers are turning into tenants. Call our Lettings Manager, Jon, to find out the potential monthly yield of your property.

Contact Us

01491 839 999

lettings@inhouseestateagents.co.uk

Dorchester Historical Society

Wednesday 22 March 2023 at 7.30pm

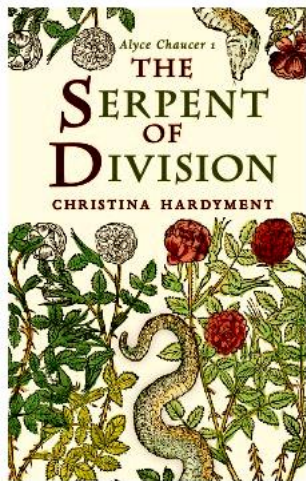
Dorchester Abbey Shrine Chapel,

Members free, Visitors welcome (£5).

A short AGM will precede the meeting

**Christina Hardymnt will talk on:
*Alyce Chaucer – Fact and Fiction***

Christina Hardymnt, a well-established Oxford author, will be giving an illustrated talk about her new book, *The Serpent of Division*, a historical novel about Alyce Chaucer, whose magnificent tomb in Ewelme Church attracts thousands of visitors. Tantalisingly little is known about her, but there is evidence that she was an independent-minded woman with decided opinions. Set in the 1460s, the politically rocky final years of the Wars of the Roses, *The Serpent of Division* features murder and mystery, Oxford's colleges and libraries, a charming pirate, a bumptious London bookseller reminiscent of the Wife of Bath and a Persian physician with a fondness for Rumi.



Alyce, only granddaughter of the poet Geoffrey Chaucer, grew up in her parents' Oxfordshire manor house in Ewelme, where she lived from 1404 to 1475, married profitably three times, but lost each of her noble husbands to a violent death. After the horrific murder of the third, William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk in 1450, she chose to spend the last years of her life as a widow. Christina has long been fascinated by Alyce (as she spelled her name in her signature), especially what she got up to in those 25 years of freedom. Tantalisingly little is known about her so rather than writing a patchy biography full of guesswork, she decided to allow her imagination full rein.

The Serpent of Division can be ordered on her website: <https://christinahardymnt.co.uk/book/the-serpent-of-division/>

Looking forward: **Wednesday 26 April:** Ben Ford of Oxford Archaeology on 'Recent discoveries at Frewin Hall. Oxford – a lost college and so much more'

Follow us on Facebook – Dorchester Historical Society..

**Margot Metcalfe
Chairman**

Culham & District Horticultural Club

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



Tim Stretton

Folly Farm: The restoration and reimagining of an historic garden

The talk will include a brief history of the past 150 years of Folly Farm focusing on the 1906 and 1912 house and garden development by Lutyens and Jekyll and the re-imagining of the garden by Dan Pearson in 2007.

Kew trained, Tim Stretton has been Head Gardener at Folly Farm since 2017 having previously been Head Gardener at Monserrate in Sintra, Portugal and Nanhoran in North Wales.

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



Dorchester Abbey Museum News

Re-opening at Easter for the summer season

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



RULES

1. The Show is open to any person residing in Dorchester-on-Thames, Burcot, Drayton St Leonard and Berinsfield.
2. No exhibitor may exhibit more than one exhibit in each class, excepting Classes 14 & 21, where three entries may be made.
3. **All entry forms and fees to be submitted no later than 7.00 pm on Wednesday evening before the show.**
4. Entries in Classes 16 & 17 must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least the previous 4 months. Other plant classes with the exception of Classes 23 & 24 must have been grown by the exhibitor. Classes 23 - 37 must be made by the exhibitor.
5. Exhibitors must provide their own dishes, stands etc. Every care will be taken of the exhibits but the committee will not be held responsible for loss or damage.
6. On the relative merits of the exhibits, the opinion of the judges shall be final, but the committee reserves to itself the decision on any other points in dispute.
7. The Committee reserves the right to inspect any competitor's garden or allotment before or after the day of the show.

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

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

Definitions

Class 1: Long trumpet: one flower on a stem; trumpet as long or longer than petals.
 Class 2: Short trumpet or cup: one flower on a stem; trumpet shorter than petals.
 Classes 23 & 24: Any natural material may be used.

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

**DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES
 SPRING FLOWER SHOW
 and
 Raffle**

**DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL
 on
 Saturday 25th March 2023**

Staging 9.00 am – 10.15 am
 Viewing 2.30 pm- 4.00 pm

Raffle draw and
 presentation of prizes from 3.40 pm

Exhibitors will be competing for:

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

**The first Dorchester Flower Show
 was held in 1859**

Class

- 1) Daffodils, long trumpet 1 variety - 5 stems
- 2) Daffodils/Narcissi, short trumpet or cup, 1 variety - 5 stems
- 3) Daffodils/Narcissi, miniature, 1 variety - 5 stems
- 4) Daffodils, double - 5 stems
- 5) Narcissi, multiple heads - 5 stems
- 6) Narcissi/short trumpet daffodils - 5 stems, 1 of each variety
- 7) Tulips, 1 variety - 3 stems
- 8) Blossom from a tree or shrub, 1 variety - 3 sprays
- 9) Blossom from a tree or shrub, 3 varieties - 1 stem each
- 10) Polyanthus - 5 stems, mixed colours allowed
- 11) Pansies/Violas - 5 stems, mixed colours allowed
- 12) Hellebores, 1 variety - 3 stems.
- 13) Hyacinths, 1 variety - 3 stems

- 14) Any other spring flower, 1 variety - 3 stems (up to 3 entries)
- 15) Mixed Spring Flowers, 5 stems
- 16) Plant, flowering or not, in pot no more than 10" - not exhibited in last 3 years.
- 17) Bulb or bowl of bulbs of same variety, not more than 10" pot.
- 18) Leeks - 3
- 19) Stored Onions - 5
- 20) Stored Shallots - 7
- 21) Any other vegetable or fruit (up to 3 entries)
- 22) Rhubarb - 3 sticks

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

- 23) Spring table centrepiece (46x46x46cm/18x18x18")
- 24) Yellow and blue in a container of Choice (15x15x15cm/6x6x6")

COOKERY

- 25) Simnel cake
- 26) Sausage rolls - 3
- 27) Cinnamon buns - 3
- 28) Lemon cheesecake
- 29) Florentines - 5
- 30) Pot of marmalade

PHOTOGRAPHS - all unmounted and not exhibited previously.

Conventional or digital camera
Must not be manipulated or enhanced in any way. Max 8" x 6"
 31) 'Sunrise, sunset'
 32) Subject beginning with 'I'

Image manipulation - up to A4
 33) Any subject

HANDICRAFTS

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

CHILDREN (Please state age on exhibit)

- Aged 9 and over:
 36) Treasure Map
- Aged 8 and under:
 37) Decorated pebble

ENTRY FORM

Please return no later than **7.00 pm Wednesday, 22nd March** to: Christina Stores, 55 High Street (post through letterbox)

Class Nos

Full name of Exhibitor

Address.....

Telephone No Entry Fee 10p. per Class

Email address (for Flower Show reminders and schedule only).....





Coach trip to National Memorial Arboretum

A coach trip is planned from Dorchester to the National Memorial Arboretum, (www.thenma.org.uk) organised by the Royal British Legion Branch committee. It is planned for **June 2023**. Free entry to the NMA.

Cost will depend on numbers. (Likely ~ £30 each)



© thenma.co.uk

Expressions of interest requested

If you are interested in going, please contact Charlotte Bennett or Andy Pay
charlotte.bennett28@icloud.com
andypay1@btinternet.com

Wallingford Food Bank

The food bank helped over 100 families in our area in December and an increasing number of families are seeking help.

Food inflation is in the news again and the cost of some basic staple foods such as baked beans and pasta has risen by 25% - 50%.

The food bank is extremely grateful for your generous gifts of both money and food. If you are thinking of donating food, do please consider getting the 'Bank the Food' app for your smartphone. You can download the free app from the 'App store' if you have an iPhone or from 'Google Play' if you have an Android phone. Then register it, and 'follow' the food bank (enter OX10 in postcode search).

When you shop at Waitrose in Wallingford the app will ping your phone with a list of the most urgent items we need **when you arrive**. Those using the app are already making a difference as they donate what is urgently needed. Do please try it.

If it is easier for you to leave a donation in the yellow box in my garage that's fine too. We deliver everything to Wallingford every Thursday morning. Please make sure that the foods you give have a shelf life of at least three months.

With best wishes and many thanks.

Judy Parker

Lunch Club

The last Lunch Club lunch before the Summer Break will be on **Wednesday 22 March** at 12.30 for 12.45 in the Village Hall Back Room. Please let me know before the preceding Monday if you would like to come.

Susan Jupp
Organiser of the Lunch Club
Phone: 01865 341066



Hempcroft Allotments March

The Hempcroft Allotment Association is a member of the National Allotment Society (NAS). From January 3rd the NAS has been promoting Natural Grower's range of liquid fertiliser, compost, plant feed and soil conditioner. A 10% discount can be obtained with a discount code that can be found in the members area.

Approved by the Soil Association, Biodynamic Association, and the Vegan Society NAS members can be assured that all their products are accredited organic and fully traceable. Their range of liquid fertiliser, compost, plant feed and soil conditioner are all suitable for outdoor and indoor plants.



All of their products are certified organic and vegan, completely natural, peat free and contain no chemicals.

Soil is full of organisms that work to create and maintain healthy soil. We need to feed and nurture these organisms to naturally improve our soil. Chemical fertilisers don't do this and serve no benefit other than providing a quick boost to the plants.

By adding organic matter in liquid or solid form we are supporting this ecosystem in a sustainable way. In return, the organisms will break down the organic matter and release the nutrients back in to the soil for the plants to absorb as they need them.

The NAS receives a percentage of every sale to help them continue to provide, promote and preserve allotments for all.

To find out more visit www.naturalgrower.co.uk, and to make your purchase and get 10% off enter the discount code which can be obtained from Ed Metcalfe or Jon Rosby.

Edward Metcalfe
340160
edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk

Lambing Season

at Bishop's Court Farm takes place between 28th February and 6th April 2023.



Lambing Open Days

Join us at Bishop's Court Farm for one of the most special times of the year when we offer visitors the unique opportunity of witnessing the magical wonder of nature during lambing season.

On **Sunday 12th March and Sunday 2nd April** (between 11am - 4pm), we will be holding lambing open days when you will have the chance to pet our new-born lambs and meet some of our other animals (alpacas, sheep, goats and pigs). A member of our staff will be on hand to answer any questions and explain what happens during this special time on the farm.

We are asking for a voluntary contribution of £5 per family which is payable on the day to help cover the costs of the event.



Bishops Court Farm
91 High Street
Dorchester on Thames
Oxfordshire OX10 7HP

Private Lambing Experiences

We will also be offering Private Lambing Experiences every weekday from **13th - 31st March**.

Watch one of our 200 ewes giving birth and assist our specialist staff in the lambing shed. **Each session will last for three hours** (from 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm). Maximum four people per session.

This is a unique opportunity to see a working sheep farm during the most special time of year. We have scheduled our Private Lambing Experience dates to give you the best chance of witnessing a birth during the day, but of course, nothing is guaranteed. If births do happen during your Private Lambing Experience, you will have the unique opportunity to assist in the birth or you may just want to watch closely from the sidelines.

£40 per person. Spaces on our Private Lambing Experience days are limited to ensure the well-being of our animals. **Early booking is advisable through our website.**

www.bishops court farm.com



St Birinus Primary School News

All our children continue to work hard and shine their lights! We have enjoyed a variety of exciting experiences across this term including a visit from 'Wheelpower' a charity supporting wheelchair sports, an Open the Book assembly and a children's disco.

Our Year 1 and 2 children enjoyed inviting their grandparents into school to share toys that they used to play with during their grandparents' day. What a great experience for all involved!

We would like to say a huge thank you to our volunteer helpers who come in to hear children read. If you have time to spare or a skill to share, please do get in touch if you would like to come into school as a volunteer. We always need people to support with hearing children read.

As you will be aware, we are fundraising for new library books. Our PTA have organised an **adult quiz night** in school on **Friday 24 March** from 7.00pm. We would love to welcome our community in to take part. Teams can be from 1 -6 people. Tickets cost £10 each. There will be a bar and you are welcome to bring your own snacks.

We would like to say a huge thank you to anyone who has already 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 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



Football Results North Berks League Div 2



Date	Home	Score	Away
14/01/2023	Dorchester	Home walk over	Long Wittenham Athletic Reserves
04/02/2023	Lambourn Sports	0 0	Dorchester
11/02/2023	Dorchester	1 0	Burghclere



NEW BABY & TODDLER TIME

Parents, grandparents & carers are all welcome!

Wednesdays 9.30 am - 10.45 am

Dorchester Abbey
(Cloister Garden when sunny)



Refreshments, Toys & Craft Activities

Music and Bible Stories

For more information, please email Catherine Schneider on dorchestersteamcurate@gmail.com

1978 • DORCHESTER TEAM • 2018

Oxfordshire Libraries

March events at Berinsfield Library

Rhymetime – Wednesdays 10.30am
Singing and rhyming fun with music, movement and bubbles for the under 5s



Mad Hatter's Tea Party – Friday 3rd 3.30pm
World Book Day celebration with stories and light refreshments. All ages welcome!



Knit and Natter – Tuesday 7th 2.30pm
All crafts welcome – bring along your current project & enjoy a chat and a coffee



Story time & craft – Saturday 18th 10.30am
Stories and a craft for Mother's Day celebrating the special people in our lives. For ages 3+



Book Club – Friday 31st 2pm
Contact the library for this month's book or come along, say hello and help choose the next one. All very warmly welcome



[@oxonlibraries](#) [Oxfordshire Libraries](#)

Tel: 01865 340771

 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

THE SNUG SESSIONS @ BISHOP'S COURT FARM

Hampstead Jazz Club proudly presents the second season of The Snug Sessions at Bishop's Court Farm, a series of nine very special shows featuring a line-up of some of the brightest stars in contemporary jazz and soul.



**Hampstead Jazz Club All Stars -
A Jazzy Mother's Day Celebration**

19th March 2023

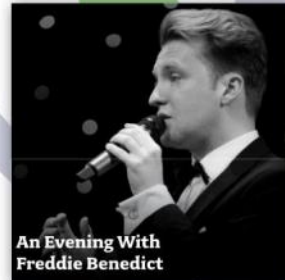
The sublime voices of Jo Harrop and Freddie Benedict performing a perfect mix of originals and Great American Songbook classics.



**The Songs of David Bowie...
Re-Imagined Featuring Oliver
Darley and Chad Lelong**

2nd April 2023

Covering every aspect of the Starman's career, this astonishing show is reassuringly familiar and yet utterly unlike anything Bowie fans might expect.



**An Evening With
Freddie Benedict**

16th April 2023

Stirring up a cocktail of jazz standards and Brazilian sambas, Benedict's velvet voice has been compared to everyone from Frank Sinatra to Chet Baker.



**A Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald
and Louis Armstrong Featuring
Jo Harrop, Andy Davies and
Alex Hutton**

30th April 2023

With a creamy voice that could melt the hardest of hearts, Jo Harrop is joined by her superb band to recreate the timeless music of Ella and Louis.



**Ian Shaw – The Magic of
Joni Mitchell**

21st May 2023

One of the finest voices in British jazz, the legendary Ian Shaw captures the poetry and emotion of Joni Mitchell's rich songbook like nobody else.



**Ciyo Brown's Acoustic Soul
Sessions Featuring Geraldine
Reid**

4th June 2023

Virtuoso guitarist Ciyo Brown is joined by singer Geraldine Reid to mix up a cool cocktail of jazz and soul classics in their own inimitable style.



**Claire Martin OBE with Rob
Barron (piano) – The Great
American Songbook**

18th June 2023

For this special Father's Day show, legendary jazz singer Claire Martin will be performing a sublime selection of Great American Songbook classics.



**The Ray Charles Project -
The Jeremy Sassoon Quintet**

2nd July 2023

Jeremy Sassoon swings his way through the classic Ray Charles songbook on a magical journey that goes from Hit The Road Jack to What'd I Say.



**The Music Of Bill Evans Fea-
turing The Paul Edis Trio with
Special Guest Noa Levy**

16th July 2023

Paul Edis and singer Noa Levy pay homage to the mesmerising and mellifluous music of Bill Evans - the most important jazz pianist of all time.



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THE SNUG SESSIONS @
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Stuart Mucklow 1968-2022

Stuart Mucklow was a Consultant Haematologist at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading from 2005 until his death on 12 October 2022. The eldest of four children of Lynn and Ted Mucklow, who were both paediatricians, Stuart was born in 1968 and grew up on the Isle of Wight. He was educated at Ryde School, where he quietly excelled at most things, gaining an entrance scholarship to Exeter College, Oxford to study Medicine, in 1987. The Island nurtured a deep interest in the natural world that was to last all his life, overlapping with his love of the outdoors, travel and adventure. He continued a high academic trajectory gaining one of the top Firsts in his year and embarking on an intercalated PhD in Oxford with Siamon Gordon and Paris with Paul Crocker, which culminated in the sequence of Sialoadhesin (CD169) the first member of the Siglec family of cell surface proteins. Time in the lab was lightened by the meeting of his future wife Lisa Walker and stretched a little thin at times by University Rowing where he achieved a place in the Blue Boat Trial



and lack of independence interfered with his ability to ensure the best course for a patient, based on decades of education and experience. He eschewed the higher academic echelons and settled for a beautiful spot to live with Lisa and Al, moving to Dorchester on Thames in 2007. Stuart took great pride in the achievements of his family; the model of a supportive husband and father. However, something would not be at peace within him and after wrestling for several years with a darkness

Eights, narrowly missing out on a place in Isis. He graduated BA DPhil BM BCh in 1997.

With such an important insight into leukocyte physiology under his belt, it was natural to gravitate towards haematology and Stuart moved to the North London Deanery, enjoying the London concert scene with Lisa, a budding Clinical Geneticist and talented musician. They were married in 2006 and Alastair came along in 2010.

Stuart rarely angered, except with himself, although he became increasingly frustrated as the modern consultant life of red-tape, form-filling

that few suspected, he ended his own life.

Stuart was a magnet of kindness. Young and old alike were attracted by his quiet reflective manner, his interest in others and appreciation of beauty in the world. At his memorial service, family members, old school buddies, college friends, his rowing crew, and half of Dorchester-on-Thames found that he had touched them all with the same unforgettable gentleness and generosity. For a man who had radiated such humanness of spirit to so many, it is a great sadness that he could not find contentment in his own unique nature.



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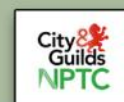
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Berinsfield Day Centre



It is not often that we feature organisations outside of Dorchester, this is, after all, the Dorchester News. However, we are making Berinsfield Day Centre an exception to this, and a very worthy one. Not only is it the closest day centre to Dorchester, but it is a fantastic place for our older residents to get out and meet people and take part in stimulating activities. I was introduced to the centre by Joe Seed, a Dorchester resident who goes there regularly, and thoroughly recommends it.

First the nuts and bolts. Berinsfield Day Centre is located in buildings adjoining Abbey Wood Junior School, just as you turn into Berinsfield along Wimblestraw Road and is open two days a week, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 9.30am to 2.00pm.

It is run by Aimee Hunt and Sophie Harris, together with a couple of helpers each day, including Aimee's mum Karen, who cooks the lunches, all of whom give up time from their already busy lives.

And what does the Day Centre offer? Essentially it offers a lifeline for people to get out of their homes. For those who live on their home that means sociability and company for a few hours a week. And for some of those an opportunity for a hot meal that they may not get at home. For those who live with family, it means a chance to be somewhere else, providing a change of scenery and company for them and some

sometimes needed respite for their family, to give them some time for themselves. And they know that their loved ones are going to a place that they really love to be, and are not just being 'parked' somewhere to get them out of their hair for a few hours.

On the day that I visited there were 17 users, which is about the most that they currently have, but there is space for more. Everyone was enjoying the activity of the day. There is an activity every day, organised by Sophie and Aimee, who come up with some very



Aimee and Sophie



imaginative things to do. At Christmas they made cards, decorations and candles, all in the spirit of the season. On this day it was to turn an empty jam jar into a tissue dispenser, with the tissues to be pulled out of a hole in the lid. There was a jam jar for each person, and the first task was to paint it. Some imaginative designs were certainly being applied, with great fun being had by all.

On other days the event may be a guest speaker. One of the most memorable of recent speakers was on falconry, complete with live birds, and I see that a demonstration of Irish Dancing was on the agenda last year.

Talking to the visitors, the praise for Sophie and Aimee was unanimous not just for the activities, but also the raffle and the bingo, at which the



The falconry demonstration.



Some Christmas craftwork

princely sum of £2 could be won, which gives it a competitive, but friendly element. They also go out of their way to help their regulars, with one visitor telling me how when she had wanted to buy flowers for her daughter without her knowing, Sophie had bought them for her, so making sure it stayed a surprise.

For many the conversation and the company is very important. Some, particularly the less mobile, rarely get out of their homes, and the community of the day centre brings them a level of human contact that they would otherwise forego.

And everyone loves the lunches. 'Good, wholesome home cooked food' said one. And the father of one visitor said he spurns her evening meal after a lunch at the day centre, because he has eaten so well. Fish cakes were on the menu when I visited, and they smelt great.

Several of the users that I spoke to made comparisons with other day centres they have been to, and Berinsfield always came out as the better, the friendlier, the more active, and they one they choose to go to.

The day centre is housed in a series of former classrooms on the site of, but separate from, Abbey Wood Junior School. They are part of a block abandoned by the school a few years ago. About 18 months ago these rooms were refurbished specifically for the day centre, which had previously been in part of the Adult Learning Centre. The premises, although a little smaller than where they were previously, have potential

to take more users than currently attend. And they know that more people would like to come. And not just from Berinsfield but from surrounding villages as well, including Dorchester. One of the main difficulties, though, is transport, particularly from outside the immediate area of Berinsfield. Currently the centre is able to provide transport from within Berinsfield for a small charge but are unable to extend that further, in part because the bus and driver that they use cannot provide the additional time that would be required.

Some of the centre users come from as far afield as Cholsey, which says a lot about how enjoyable it is, and they are able to do so because they can provide their own transport.

There are others, they believe, who would like to come to the Day Centre, but cannot afford the £15 a session that they have to charge, which includes the lunch and activities. Finding funding that would allow these people to come is important, which means that finding help with fund-raising is a priority for the Sophie and Aimee.

Some funding is received from SODC which supplements the charge that is made to users, as is usual for day centres. More users would mean more funding from this source which would provide more financial security.

Aimee and Sophie would also like to be able to expand to three days a week. However, there is some concern regarding whether their leasing agreement would allow that. The ladies would very much appreciate someone who knows about these things, probably from a legal background, having a look at this for them, and helping them to determine what they can and cannot do. So if there is anyone, preferably with a legal background, who has an hour or two to take a look, they would be very grateful.

Joe is a regular attendee from Dorchester, and is able to get to and from there thanks to his daughter, Caroline. But Sophie and Aimee would love to welcome more people from Dorchester. And if more Dorchester residents wanted to go, it cannot be beyond the resources of the village community to provide them with a means of getting there.

So if you can help with fund-raising, transport or with leases, or can come along and volunteer, Sophie and Aimee would love to hear from you: berinsfielddaycentre@outlook.com

The last word goes to Joe Seed. He says he thoroughly enjoys the centre, the activities and the lunches, but best of all is the conversation and the games of cards.



Joe, centre, enjoys a hand of cards



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Wednesday 8 March 2023

1.00pm - 2.15pm

This event is open to all - we look forward to seeing you!

There is no admission charge but a suggested donation to Dorchester Abbey of £2





Dorchester's Coronation Weekend

Sunday 7th May
Village Afternoon Tea on Queen St
3pm-8pm Big Street Party!
Free tea & a coronation cake!
Entertainment stalls
Live music
Ceilidh
BBQ & Bar

BH Mon 8th May
The Big Help Out
Volunteer for a community project
as an individual or family
There's a job for everyone!



Would you like to help?
Would your organisation like to set up a fundraising activity?
Book your seats (individual or group) at the Big street party
Go to dorchester-on-thames.co.uk

Dorchester's Coronation weekend

6-8 May

Mark the coronation weekend in your diary and celebrate our community in Dorchester with a fun weekend of street party, village fundraising and volunteering to improve our environment!

Sunday 7 May 3.00pm-8.00pm – The Big Dorchester street party in Queen St – Book your seats to simply claim your free tea and coronation cake or bring an elaborate afternoon tea to share with friends. Enjoy a pop up tea room, bar, BBQ and live music. £2 per adult and £1 per child raising money for the local groups who are running fun activities in the school playground to entertain all ages. Follow the link on the village website to book your tickets – why not organise a group for your street to sit together? www.dorchester-on-thames.co.uk

BH Monday 8 May – ‘The Big Help Out’ – Volunteering in our community. Support a local group, contribute to our community and have fun by volunteering for just a few hours. Activities from cleaning to gardening will be on offer with something to suit any age or skill! More details in the next DN, on facebook and the village website. Simply sign up on the village website for something that works for you and your family. www.dorchester-on-thames.co.uk

Can you help? Thank you to those who have already put their names forward to help with set-up and/or on the day. Please do contact the event organisers Nick and Steph Forman, Mike and Jill Corran and Geoff Russell – via parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

At John's 60th birthday party in 1993, his wife Margot assessed his life thus far in terms of Shakespeare's Seven Ages of Man – how many had he lived, and what might he do next? Little did we know what he would achieve in the next 25 years!

Life before Dorchester

John was born at home in Ruislip, Middlesex, on 27 June 1933. His father



Charles Russell Metcalfe had broken the family tradition of joining the Church to become an eminent botanist, Keeper of the Jodrell Laboratory at Kew Gardens. John's own career in science began as an enthusiastic lepidopterist, collecting butterflies (as boys did in the 1940s) while at Marlborough College, then as an entomologist, formalised through reading Natural Sciences at Cambridge (Downing College), followed by a Diploma of Imperial College, and a Diploma in Tropical Agriculture from the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture (ICTA) in Trinidad, training ground for the (then) Colonial Agricultural Service.

His first job was as Government Entomologist in Barbados, where his many responsibilities included dealing



At the Great Wall of China

with bats at Government House; his leisure was spent playing hockey for Barbados, singing in the cathedral choir, and taking part in amateur dramatics. He moved on to Jamaica, working as an entomologist in the sugar industry, specialising in biological control of sugar cane pests, a topic which he developed into a PhD awarded by the University of the West Indies.

Returning to the UK with his first wife, Denise, and their first son, Paul (tragically killed in a climbing accident in France in 1992), John taught ecology at Bangor University in North Wales (where Michael was born), and then joined the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux' (later CABI) Institute of Entomology at the Natural History Museum in London. He edited the prestigious *Bulletin of Entomological Research*, was secretary of the European Life Science editors, as well as doing insect identification. Tim and Natalie were born during the 1970s. John was appointed Director of Information Services at CABI's head office in Farnham Royal. He oversaw the computerisation of CABI's many scientific abstract journals in 13 Bureaux all over the UK, and then coordinated centralisation of Head Office and these Bureaux to Wallingford in 1987. CABI's retirement age was then 60 – John wasn't ready to retire in 1993, so went on to be Managing Director of the International Food Information Service (IFIS) in Reading, finally retiring in 1998. Meanwhile, John and Margot, who met working at CABI, had moved to Dorchester, where they married in the Abbey in April 1988.

John travelled widely all over the world (notably making his first trip to China in 1980) the aim being to improve information transfer and collaboration worldwide. His children were convinced he was a spy - why else would he travel so much? This love of travel extended to holidays, too, first with the children, introducing them to camping, climbing, sailing, hill walking and love of nature. Later, with Margot, he went anywhere with hills, archaeology and wild flowers - France, Italy, Costa Rica, Domenica, Ireland, New Zealand and their beloved Lake District, and, post-retirement, on more ambitious adventures (often with the Parkers and/or Gillian Johnson), to Nepal, Bhutan, Mexico, Galapagos, Egypt.

The Dorchester Years

Back to the Seven Ages, what did John do next? Having already become a bellringer in 1988 (see below), he spent two years learning furniture making and restoration and wood turning at Rycotewood College, fully expecting that this and the allotment would be his main retirement activities. He was immensely proud of his children's achievements, and revelled in his role as 'Papa' to his six grandchildren; all share his love for the outdoors and the environment. The children and grandchildren showed their great love for 'Papa' in their inspired funeral tribute.

However, John's life in Dorchester very soon took a different direction, as Sue Booy described in her funeral address. Referencing Ecclesiastes' 'to everything there is a season...', she considered that 'John has had a good season of his life here in Dorchester.....in these thirty odd years he has done more than his fair share of planting, building up and gathering together for the good of this community and beyond'. Indeed, as James Pratt once said to John – 'we never thought of you as an "incomer" – anyone familiar with South Oxfordshire village life understands exactly how much of a compliment those words represent!

Sue first met John and Margot when visiting them with her



Achieving



predecessor John Crowe. John asked incisive questions about the matter under review and Margot produced wonderful scones! Sue reflected that throughout the time she had known them John and Margot reminded her of the passage in Khalil Gibran's *The Prophet*, 'On Marriage' – each with their own enormous talents and varied interests, supporting one another but never overwhelming.



It was their marriage which brought John and Margot into closer contact with the Abbey because it drew John into bell ringing. Alf the postman delivered telegrams with the words 'I'll be ringing for you later', followed by 'come and join us'. John became a much respected member of the Abbey Tower, quickly learning the skill of bell handling. David Parker his great friend who was then Tower Captain says that 'with his understanding of teamwork and the need to practise regularly, he made rapid progress' as well as teaching and encouraging many new ringers. Nick Forman, David's successor, said that John's contribution to bellringing in Dorchester was immense. John remained active, attending practice and ringing regularly until 2017 – 'he must have called countless people to worship and celebrated the weeping and laughing landmarks of Marriage and Funeral many, many, times for the people of this place'.



a summit

Margot isn't sure how John was 'inveigled into becoming PCC secretary'; this was one of the many roles he held when Sue came to Dorchester. She particularly recalls his determination to streamline the work of the PCC with the introduction of committees for particular aspects of work, introducing and chairing both the Fabric and Museum committees – probably two of the busiest areas of work and ones to which John made a huge contribution. Along with Treasurer, Douglas Jupp and Team Treasurer Doug Turner, Sue considered John one of her very own three wise men when she joined the Dorchester community, offering great knowledge of the parish, time and support to this new Rector, while sharing a mutual love of a good glass of red wine! They took their responsibility to 'plant' and build up seriously but in the knowledge that companionship and enjoyment contributed to, rather than diminished, our effectiveness.

For all kinds of reasons John will and should be remembered particularly for his huge contribution to the Dorchester Abbey Campaign of the late 1990s and early 2000s, a time, quite literally, for gathering stones together and for building up. John's involvement began with the need to find (and likely cost of) a project director for this ambitious project and associated Campaign led by John Crowe and Sir Hugo Brunner, the former Lord Lieutenant. John offered, saying 'Well I have managed two successful projects'. He understood the principle of 'stewardship' and exercised his prodigious talents in the service of God and to the enormous benefit of this whole community. There were difficult decisions about what to keep and what to discard and much wisdom and judgement were expended in choosing when to speak and when to keep silent for best effect!

Amongst the results of his work on the Campaign are the wonderful architectural history written by Warwick Rodwell, the Cloister Gallery, longlisted for the Gulbenkian arts prize in 2006, the heating, the glass entrance, and a detailed archive detailing the work done. In the years immediately after the Campaign John met and advised others embarking on similar projects. Alongside this physical legacy John was responsible for enthusing and recruiting many other people – including Steph Forman - so that the Abbey Millennium



In the Lake District with Ellie

Campaign remains a gift that keeps on giving to the people who work and worship here and to the whole community!

John's involvement in this project was hard work but also brought many rewards – perhaps the obvious one being appointment as MBE - but Sue thinks that for him it was the opportunity to work alongside people of enthusiasm and skill from far and near, including Warwick Rodwell, Peter McCurdy, Chris Hudson and Mike Harvey and closer to home Kate Tiller, Malcolm Airs, Karen Selway, Karen Hadley and Mary Tame.

As the Abbey Campaign wound down, John and the village team from the Museum began work with Oxford University and Oxford Archeology on the Discovering Dorchester project with its annual allotment excavations, community involvement and learning that revealed so much about our past. John's enthusiasm and advocacy for this work was again infectious and its legacy long lasting.

John's passion for the Abbey was not restricted to the Church: he insisted that the museum was a *village* museum housed in the *Abbey* Guest House. He was a Trustee of the Hurst Water Meadow from its first year, described by current Chair Richard Farrant as a natural trustee for the Trust, a forceful defender of ecology when other objectives like public enjoyment clashed with the environmental objective. In 2016 he commissioned an ecological survey report and instigated a 10-year land management plan as a working document for the Trust and its

Continued on page 20

John Metcalfe continued

Munro bagging for his 80th birthday



volunteers. He also suggested the name Overy Mead Piece for that meadow, based on a field title on the 1840 tithe map. John's expertise was highly regarded by other Trustees; Mike Southon described his knowledge of plants as vast, effortless and joyful whilst Gillian Johnson, another early Trustee and Secretary, remembers the close

working relationships John developed with local professional ecologists who then willingly offered advice and assistance.

In considering John's contribution to our community, Sue reflected on the idea of the right time from Ecclesiastes; whilst John and Margot were the right people at the right time for the community here, it is also true that Dorchester was the right place at the right time for them – and for Margot now.

Sue also reflected on John's faith, one of the keynotes of the 'familiar and yet never repetitive' reading from Corinthians at the funeral. Both his faith and his passion for the environment were in part inherited from his clergy ancestors and botanist father, who also nurtured his love of prayerbook and the King James Bible. John's quiet faith was not worn on his sleeve but reflected in his regular presence at the 8am service in the Birinus Chapel, and his reordering of that space as part of the Campaign. His life demonstrated his appreciation of the intricate web of links between church and community. At the end of his life he and Margot hugely appreciated receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion together

from Rachel, a sacrament of hope and a commitment to share that hope with the world. At his baptism and confirmation John was called to be a person who lived that hope – those at his funeral heard the ways - mostly undeclared and the better for that – that he fulfilled that calling.

Finally, Sue quoted Mike Southon: 'He was happy to help, share and advise and was very practical and hands on. John got things done, big or small. If at first he didn't succeed, he'd surely try again. Behind his soft voice and polite manner there was determination and direction. He would say what was on his mind and didn't suffer fools gladly, or indeed some experts! I'll remember him as the smallish, energetic forceful man, with wry grin and smile in his eyes'.

Sue ended thus: 'John's time with us in Dorchester was at once exceptional and at the same time truly representative of this community which he loved and to which he contributed so much. It is my privilege to say 'Thank you Margot and all the family for giving him to us for so much time and thank you John for – everything!'

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Dorchester Open Gardens

Saturday June 17th 11am-5pm



We are looking for new gardens!
Could you open your garden to help us raise money for the Abbey?

Your garden does not have to be perfect, large or finished, just interesting!

Also looking for any donations of spare plants or seedlings for a plant stall

Contact Steph Forman
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Warborough & Shillingford WI

The year got off to a good start for the Warborough and Shillingford WI, with two very enjoyable but different speakers at our monthly meeting. In January Liz Woolley, a local, independent historian, shared her knowledge of William Morris, Lord Nuffield. From humble beginnings he rose to become the richest man in Britain. His industrial empire, centred on Oxford, transformed the city, causing him to be hated by some of the Dons, CS Lewis among them. Lord Nuffield donated huge sums to Oxford Colleges and founded Nuffield College as well as establishing various medical scholarships. This was a learned talk from a speaker who knew her subject well. February's meeting, in contrast, was light-hearted and jolly, our speaker, Jane Abbott, knew the subject through her experience of living with Alpacas. We learned a little about their origins and history and that they are all domesticated animals kept mainly for their wool. They are not aggressive, although they will spit if you upset them and they are charmingly protective of those more vulnerable. The wool from Alpacas is soft and warm and therefore, expensive. They are descended from the wild Vicunas, whose wool is even more expensive, a suit made from this wool will set you back £40,000. Jane uses the wool from her animals for felting and is a member of the Oxfordshire Craft Guild.

Future Programme: March is our Annual Meeting and this year, when the business is completed, we shall open the wine and wake ourselves up with a quiz. We also plan to have a

sales table in aid of WI funds. In the coming months we have a variety of subjects and activities planned. These include George McGavin 'It's a Wild Life - Tales from television'; Matt Williams 'The Samaritans Listening for Life'; plus talks about the WRVS and Forensic Psychology.

The Walking Group: As the weather gets warmer plans are afoot to get us moving (apologies for the terrible pun). Walking with friends is such a good way to motivate yourself after the inactivity of winter. Chris Tilley is keeping her eye on the weather and is anticipating starting the bi-weekly walks at the end of February or beginning of March.

The WI meets in the St. Laurence Hall, Warborough on the second Wednesday of every month. We have members from Dorchester, Shillingford, Newington and Warborough and we would love to welcome you.

Contact Vicky Hart (Secretary) or Liz Eaton (President) at warboroughwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

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

Liz Eaton
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One Man Two GUVNORS

by Richard Bean

17th - 20th May 2023

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DADS

Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society

This amateur production of "One Man Two Guvnors" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

Dorchester Safari Supper

Saturday June 24th

£28 per person incl all food & 3 glasses of wine
Fundraising for Dorchester Abbey

7pm drinks & canapes
Main course (at a house in Dorchester)
Pudding (at another house in Dorchester!)
Coffee (tbc)

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If you would like to know more about hosting a course let me know!

Car parking fees to change this Spring

Parking fees will increase in South Oxfordshire from **1 April** this year.

Residents using car parks, run by South Oxfordshire District Council, in Didcot, Goring, Henley, Thame and Wallingford will see between 20p and 60p added to charges for users parking their vehicle depending on how long they park for.

The rise to parking fees and permits was agreed in line with inflation by Cabinet members at a meeting last month. Members also agreed to continue to offer free parking for up to one hour in the district.

The increase was part of an annual review, which looks at costs of the parking service and considers the impact of increased charges on residents and local businesses.

The extra revenue, which is estimated to bring in about £70,000, will be used to help maintain the district's car parks and pay for ongoing costs for the service.

For more information on the council's car parks and fees visit www.southoxon.gov.uk/carparks

The changes for Wallingford car parks are:

	Current price	Increase from April 2023
Wallingford Thames Street		
Up to one hour	Free	Free
Up to 2 hours	£1.60	£1.80
Up to 5 hours	£2.60	£2.80
Over 5 hours	£3.00	£3.30
Wallingford Cattlemarket		
Up to one hour	Free	Free
Up to 2 hours	£1.60	£1.80
Up to 5 hours	£2.60	£2.80
Up to 8 hours	£3.00	£3.30
Wallingford Goldsmiths Lane (May be brought in at a later date)		
Up to 2 hours	Free	Free
Up to 3 hours	£1.80	£2.00
Over 3 hrs	£3.60	£4.00
Wallingford St Georges Road and Castle Street		
Up to 8 hrs	£2.30	£2.50

You will need photo ID to vote at the local elections

The government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station at some elections.

This will apply for the first time at the local elections on Thursday 4 May 2023, so please spread the word to your friends and family.

Accepted forms of photo ID will include, but are not limited to, passport, driving licence (including provisional licence), disabled parking blue badge, certain concessionary travel cards and proof of age cards with a PASS mark.

Anyone who doesn't have accepted photo ID can apply on the government's website

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate> now for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate.

For more information, visit the Electoral Commission website

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id> or call their helpline on **0800 328 0280**.

Play your part in the local elections

Would you like to earn money, meet lots of people and play a key role in our local democracy?

We're looking for people to work as poll clerks across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse for the local elections on **Thursday 4 May**.

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For more information, visit: southoxon.gov.uk/electionjobs

Please note, we are unable to offer the roles to people that work for or are connected with a political party.

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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.

Dorchester News Crossword No.25 Solution

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Help to support your Abbey.



The Friends of Dorchester Abbey and the Beauforest Society are charities that support the Parochial Church Council but have a separate legal identity. They raise funds to be used exclusively for the restoration, maintenance, and improvements to the structure of the

Church and the Abbey Guesthouse. Recently these have included new sound and lighting systems, and major repairs to the stonework of the Abbey.

The Friends and Beauforest Society have promoted and supported social events such as concerts, flower and craft festivals, lectures and visits to other cathedrals and abbeys. All members receive a regular newsletter and the Beauforest society members are invited to an annual event in the Abbey, usually in the autumn.

The annual subscription for the Friends is a minimum of £25 or Life Membership of £350. For the Beauforest Society the annual subscription is £100.

Details of the work of the Friends together with application forms can be found on the Dorchester Abbey website www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk and the Friends' notice board in the Abbey.

For further information contact the membership secretary, Mrs Honor Juniper. **01865 343228** or email friends@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

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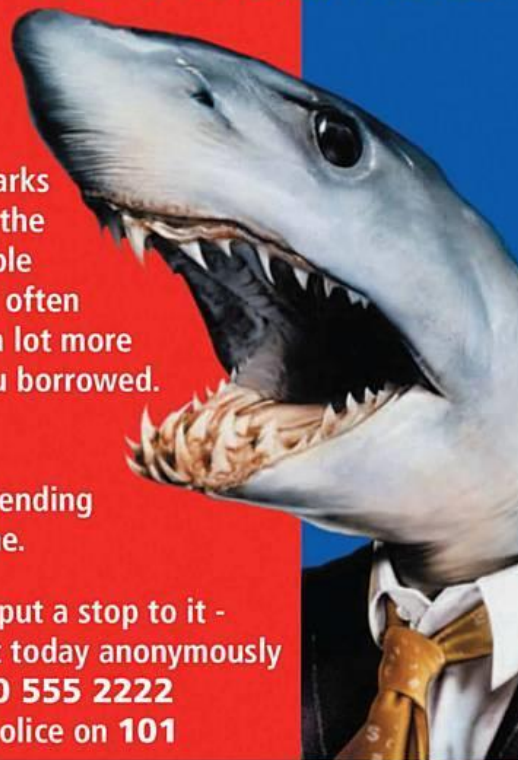
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Parish Council Notices

Monthly Meetings 2023

The next Council Meetings will take place on **Wednesday 8 March** commencing at 7.30pm and on **Wednesday 12 April** 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.

Coronation Celebrations

The Coronation of King Charles III will take place on **Saturday 6 May**. The Parish Council is working with Dorchester Abbey and several individuals to organise Village Celebrations, details of which will be announced over the coming weeks. Please contact the Clerk if you would like to be involved with any aspect of the organisation of the events.

Polling Day 2023

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 Elections

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 the on-line sessions which the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) has organised on **15 March** from 2.00 to 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



It was great this month to see a record number of residents at our monthly Parish Council meeting. Participation is a healthy part of our democracy so thank you to those who came along and listened and contributed to our debates. Which takes me nicely to the people who have contacted me and other members of the parish council regarding the looming council elections in early May. It's good to hear that a few new people are considering standing. The more the merrier, it makes us a better council to have this level of interest in what we do for the community. Good luck!

Our plans for the Coronation Weekend are coming along nicely with a clear plan of events. Firstly a correction, I said last month that the tea party would be on the Monday, it will now be on the Sunday with volunteering activities taking place on the Monday, to align to national plans which are becoming gradually clearer. More details of events are laid out in the separate entry in Dorchester News, things might change slightly again as we fill in the details but hopefully you get the idea.

Save the dates.

Our focus for the Coronation Bank Holiday weekend events in Dorchester are on Community, Youth and the Environment with a healthy dose of fun and volunteering thrown in! Hopefully that is something we can all join in and support in our different ways. And we can always use more help both before and on the day so please do contact Mike or Jill Corran, Nick or Steph Forman or Geoff Russell if you can help, I know a number of people have already done so. We will keep you updated in Dorchester News but we will use the village Facebook page and website as well as that means we can let you know plans much more quickly.

The more observant of you might have seen posters or a post on the village Facebook page about the proposal to extend the current Dorchester and Overy conservation area to better protect elements of our environment and history. The Parish Council are clear that the proposals are in the interest of the village so we hope to see them approved in the near future.

Those of you who visit Berinsfield may well have noticed the investment going in to the sports centre. I know a number of Dorchester residents make use of it already, the improvements are an even greater reason to use this convenient facility. Take a look. And maybe visit your local library next door at the same time.

A month or two ago I promised defibrillator training. I'm pleased to say that is now scheduled for **Thursday 16 March** from 6.00 to 7.00pm in the Village Hall. Put it in your diary; it's a great opportunity to learn a life saving skill.

Lastly, we are overdue a village information evening. These were traditionally to give new arrivals in the community the chance to understand what was on offer in the village with all the clubs and societies and activities. Like with many things Covid disrupted this cycle of events but with that largely over I'm pleased to say we will resume these evenings for all residents to come along later in the year when the council elections, the Coronation and summer holidays are behind us.

Mark Williams
Chairman DoT Parish Council

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



SODC to consider budget proposals on Feb 16

SODC Full Council was due to vote on the cabinet's budget proposals. These included

- Continued funding for the SODC Community Hub, to support vulnerable residents
- Continued funding for the council's nature, climate change and energy-efficiency work
- £4.6m towards buying homes for those fleeing conflict. Combined with government funding and £2m from our Housing Strategy, we will be investing a total of £10m in homes owned by the council, the first time the council has owned its own 'council houses' since the 1990s
- Tackling the council's funding deficit, which stood at several millions per year in 2019, after major efficiency savings, including bringing many outsourced services back 'in house' and our initiative to collect extra business rates to fund local services
- Major investment in energy efficiency in our community buildings like Cornerstone in Didcot
- A £750,000 CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) fund which local organisations will be able to bid for
- Continued support for the Everyone Active fund to support community sports activities

Review of the Dorchester-on-Thames and Overy Conservation Areas

SODC have been inviting comments on the Conservation Area Appraisal document for the village, with a consultation which runs until **Wednesday 1 March**. We'd love to hear from as many local residents as possible, so depending when you get your News, you may still have time to respond! You can email conservationconsults@southandvale.gov.uk

The 'conservation area' is a designated area of special architectural or historic interest which exists to protect the features and characteristics that make Dorchester and Overy historic and unique. There's also a proposed change to the Overy conservation area boundary, to include an area of high archaeological interest in the field to the south.

Property and land in the conservation area are covered by extra planning controls which help to protect the setting and provide a guard against inappropriate work. Trees are also better protected.

Search for Dorchester Conservation Area on the website (www.southoxon.gov.uk), or hard copies are available at **Dorchester Abbey** and **Berinsfield Library**. You will also find printed copies of the survey at these locations.

Funding for Dorchester recreation ground including accessible play equipment and trim trail

I've provided just over £2,400 towards this from my SODC Councillor Grant, and the SODC community grants panel has just awarded a further £22,500 towards this, meaning that

alongside other financial contributions, the project is now fully funded. Congratulations to Rob Ballantyne for putting together the plans and funding bids, and working closely with the school and parents on gathering ideas.

Abbey Sports Centre changing rooms to get eco-friendly refurbishment

Changing rooms for the swimming pool at Abbey Sports Centre in Berinsfield will be refurbished and modernised, with work aiming to complete by April 6. Environmentally friendly measures such as energy efficient LED lighting will be installed, as well as eco-friendly hand-dryers and new toilet flushes and showers that use less water.

The cost of the work is more than £130,000, which will be project managed by South Oxfordshire District Council. The money will partly come from funds paid by developers which have built homes in the area – known as section 106 funding. As schools regularly use the centre under a joint use agreement, Oxfordshire County Council will also be contributing towards the project costs. Updates on the progress of the work will be provided on the Better UK website.

You may experience some disruption while the work is being carried out and are advised to **come to the centre ready to swim rather than changing on site if at all possible**.

Berinsfield Garden Village project update

Head to www.southoxon.gov.uk/berinsfield for the latest updates, including our new delivery plan for the project, and where you can also sign up for the email list.

The first grant payments from the £350,000 Garden Village scheme have been paid to several local organisations, including The Berin Centre, the Day Centre, and Berinsfield Community Association. Funds that had been allocated to BIVC, which has sadly closed, are likely to be used to support Citizens Advice services for the local community.

A team are working on a study on plans for a new Community Hub.

Culham Science Village masterplan

I attended a session on this and reminded planners that the school there will be the new catchment secondary school for our area when built, so needs safe active travel routes and bus access from here.

Cost of Living 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/>

Contact our Community Hub on: **01235 422600** or communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

Robin.Bennett@southoxon.gov.uk

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m. **07979 646815**

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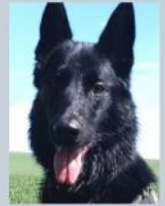
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From your County Councillor... ...Robin Bennett

Updated budget proposals for 2023/24 at Oxfordshire County Council include more funding than when proposals were first announced in late 2022, but also significant further pressures on services that stem from high inflation and growing service demands. The newly updated position and revised proposals were agreed by the county council's cabinet on 24 January. The annual budget setting meeting of all 63 county councillors will confirm the council's budget for 2023/24 on 14 February.

Since the autumn when OCC set out the proposed budget for consultation, we have seen rapid changes in a very volatile political and economic environment – both nationally and internationally. We learned in December that some government grants would continue into 2023/24, enabling spending to be increased in some key areas.

Responding to the feedback received during public engagement, a total of £4.9m is to be assigned to **improving roads, promoting access to public transport and encouraging cycling and walking for young people, including:**

- community transport initiatives in both rural and urban areas (£1.2m)
- extension of the current discounted ticket offer at park and rides (£500,000)
- expanding the supported transport team to work with young people and their families to develop active travel options for getting to their place of education (£300,000)
- expanding the School Streets pilot to make it safer and easier for children and parents to walk and cycle to school (£500,000)
- £500,000 investment into transport hubs including e-bike hire, car club promotion etc. There would also be improvements to travel information (£100,000)
- building flood resilience across Oxfordshire (£600,000), including practical projects with parish councils and proactive ditch clearance in areas prone to flooding
- £1m for local priority improvements to highways, cycle paths and pavements.

Support to children and families:

- £500,000 is proposed to be invested in additional capacity for SEND educational and health care plan (ECHP) reviews and assessments
- £500,000 to speed up the development of community hubs to support children and families.
- £2.3m will be allocated to Council Tax Support Scheme and cost of living measures to help those most in need in Oxfordshire – ensuring that they do not have to pay the full increase in council tax this year

Deal signed to bring 159 electric buses to Oxfordshire

The first vehicles in a fleet of 159 new battery electric buses are set to arrive in Oxfordshire in September, after an £82.5 million deal was finalised. Last March, Oxfordshire County Council was awarded £32.8 million from the government's Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme.

Along with £6m from the council itself and £43.7m from bus companies Stagecoach and the Go-Ahead Group, which includes the Oxford Bus Company, Thames Travel, and City Sightseeing Oxford, the scheme will deliver the electric buses and charging systems.

The scheme is expected to support a reduction in levels of nitrogen dioxides (NOx), reduce noise pollution, and will help make Oxfordshire a net zero carbon county ahead of 2050. Oxfordshire was one of only 12 local authorities to successfully apply for ZEBRA funding, and this is one of the biggest schemes in the country, and will mean that most services across the **Oxford Smartzone** will be operated by battery electric buses. All the new buses are being manufactured in the UK and are expected to arrive by March 2024.

Cabinet approves continued stadium discussions with Oxford United and commits to seek views before final decision

Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet has agreed to start negotiations with Oxford United FC on outline legal and commercial terms relating to the club's proposal to lease land for a new football stadium, while ensuring that residents are properly consulted as proposals are developed. The land in question is east of Frieze Way/south of Kidlington roundabout, known as "the triangle", close to the previously discussed land at Stratfield Brake and Oxford Parkway Station.

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From your MP...

...John Howell

As readers may know I lead the UK Parliamentary Delegation to the Council of Europe on behalf of the Government. Whilst this does take me away some of the time it also enables me to steer a positive contribution for the UK as well as all other Member countries. For example at the January meeting of the international delegation I put forward a paper for the introduction of a new International Convention or Treaty on the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict. Whilst this could seem remote, what it would mean is that we would have something with which to prosecute a crime such as deliberately exposing a community to chemical weapons. I have been working too with the UN on this. Something long needed.

Whilst on the subject of Europe there has been talk of the UK leaving the European Court of Human Rights. I am a firm believer that we should stay a member of the Court and of the Convention on Human Rights. The Court is not a foreign court but is an international body in which we share responsibility with the other countries who are members. I believe that leaving the Court would be disastrous for the UK. I am sure we will hear more on this in the coming months.

Much more locally I have been pursuing issues relating to our GPs. I fully appreciate that some constituents have been frustrated at issues around access and face to face appointments. At the same time many of our GPs are feeling under huge pressure. Towards the end of last year I met with some of our GPs to listen to their concerns and this month I called together a meeting with other Oxfordshire MPs and the Chief Executive of the local Integrated Care Board (ICB) which oversees primary care provision. Among the issues raised was that of some GP practices closing their books to new patients. My view is that this is an unfair move for other Practices and for residents who cannot register locally. Further it does not solve the problem. The senior ICB team agreed to meet with local GP teams and pursue this and other issues with them. I will be following up on this in due course.

Also working with other Oxfordshire MPs, I have been looking into the issue raised with me by a number of parents of the decision by the County Council to withdraw its 'spare seat scheme' for school transport on some services. This is essentially a scheme where any unallocated seats on school

buses could be offered to parents of children not eligible for free school transport for a fee. Removal of this scheme inevitably leads to a negative impact for working parents, but it also puts many more cars on the road. The latter flies in the face of the County Council's own environmental ambitions where they have promised to reduce car journeys by a quarter. There are also safety implications for those children who would have to walk along busy roads not served by footpaths to get to school. The County Council said that as it did not have a statutory duty to deliver such a scheme it did not need to involve parents in the decision making. We have urged them to reconsider this decision as a matter of urgency as it is causing huge stress to many families.

I have long supported the part that apprenticeships play in the transition from full time education to work as a robust alternative to a university or college course for some people. I am therefore delighted to see that for young people seeking apprenticeships as an alternative to university there is good news. Plans have been launched to allow young people to use the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, more commonly referred to as UCAS, to search and apply for apprenticeships alongside degrees. This will give them a better understanding of all the options available to them so they can get the best possible start in life. This will take time to get up and running and will be available from next year.

There are, of course, many big issues which affect us all which are well 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.

Wallingford U3A learn, laugh, live

I would like to introduce you to Wallingford U3A (University of the Third Age). Our name does not imply that members have academic qualifications. We are a branch of a national organisation which exists to advance the general education of people who are not in full time employment and membership is open to all.

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 2.00pm at Crowmarsh Village Hall. Speakers cover many topics of interest and members are encouraged to ask questions at the end of the talk. We then serve tea and biscuits giving an opportunity to chat and catch up with news.

Once a month, during Spring and Summer, we organise a day coach outing to places of interest. In June and December matinee theatre visits are arranged, usually to the Mill at Sonning. Annually we ask an Agent to arrange a 5 day holiday in the UK. This year we are visiting Chester and North Wales in July.



Members are encouraged to join our monthly Group activities which include Book Reading, Current Affairs, Scrabble & Poetry Reading. Meetings are generally held in members' houses. We also organise, at regular intervals, Sunday lunches at local pubs.

We pay an annual subscription which is currently £18. A monthly Newsletter is e-mailed to members and information is also available on our website u3asites.org.uk/wallingford

We would be very happy to welcome new members living in Wallingford and the surrounding villages. Why not come along, as a Visitor, to one of our monthly Wednesday meetings. Feel free to phone me on **01491 838478**

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Wallingford Museum News

We are looking forward to Wallingford Museum's opening on **1 March** for the 2023 season. Throughout the closure period, the team have been busy creating not one but two new exhibitions.

This year, 2023, The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) are celebrating 50 years since its foundation. Our first exhibition, reflects TWHAS's development from its early beginnings through to the establishment of the museum and the impact of the historical and archaeological research on the heritage of the town, all by volunteers, awarded in 2019 the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

House Detectives: history behind the door

The houses in this exhibition have been chosen to reflect the changing development and use of houses in Wallingford, from the medieval period to the 20th century.

(Including a fictional fun mystery house.)

On your journey through the museum you will discover how we became house detectives and how you could become one to!

Look out for **Wallingford's Guided Historic Town Walks** starting again.

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

To find more information, request special group tours and find out about all museum events, please visit www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

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The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society

<https://www.twahas.org.uk/meetings-programme.html> for the 2023 talks programme.

Sue Wright
Wallingford Museum



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

March	
Sun 12	The Son (15)
Mon 13	The Son (15)
Tues 14	Women Talking (15)
Wed 15	Women Talking (15) 2.30pm and 7.30pm
Thurs 16	Roman Holiday (U) 70th Anniversary
Fri 17	What's love got to do with it? (12A)
Sat 18	What's love got to do with it? (12A)
Sun 19	What's love got to do with it? (12A)
Mon 20	Saint Omer (12A)
Tues 21	Till (12A)
Wed 22	Till (12A)
Thurs 23	The Middle Man (12A)
Fri 24	The Middle Man (12A)
Sat 25	Marcell, the Shell with Shoes On (PG) 2.30pm and 7.30pm
Tues 28	Heathers, The Musical (15)

Coming Soon

Saturday 22 April, 7.45pm

Abba Sensation Tribute Band

Widely considered to be one of the best ever Abba Tribute Acts. A stunning stage show, which combines costume changes, lighting effects and a faithful reproduction of the Abba sound. A great evening's entertainment is guaranteed for all age ranges. The band love audience participation, so you can sing along, clap or even get up and dance.

Tickets £18

Saturday 29 April, 7.45pm

A Room of One's Own

Live on stage, Virginia Woolf's trip through the history of literature, creativity and sexual politics. Adapted and performed by Rebecca Vaughan. The award-winning Dyad Productions return with a twenty-first century take on Virginia Woolf's celebrated talk. Take a wry, amusing, and incisive trip through the history of literature, feminism, and gender. Meet Charlotte Brontë, Jane Austen, Aphra Behn, and Shakespeare's sister – Judith! Travel to the far-flung future of... 2028. But whatever you do, Keep Off the Grass.

Tickets £18

Live Screenings

Wednesday 22 March, 7.15pm

The Royal Opera – Turandot

Sung in Italian with English subtitles. Puccini's final opera is a glorious pageant of rich colour, dance and drama. In the court of Princess Turandot, suitors who fail to solve her riddles are brutally killed. But when a mysterious prince answers one correctly, suddenly he holds all the power – and a secret.

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

Live on Stage

Tuesday 7 March to Saturday 11 March, 7.45pm

Saturday matinee, 2.30pm

Chess

The collaboration between Crescendo and the Sinodun Players with recent successes; Guys and Dolls, Showtime and The Sherman Show is back... this time presenting the hit musical Chess. Written by ABBA's Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus with lyrics by Sir Tim Rice, Chess is a masterpiece of musical theatre featuring songs like *I Know Him So Well*, *One Night in Bangkok*, *Anthem*, and *Pity the Child*. If previous shows are anything to go by, this will be first class and one not to miss!

Tickets: £18 (adult), £16 (under 18s)

Launch of the New Corn Exchange Space

We are pleased to announce that the Club Room in the Corn Exchange is to become a second space in the theatre where we will host some theatre, music, open mic nights, talks, poetry readings and cinema. Watch this space in the months to come for announcements of events. The space is accessible via the stage door in Mousey Lane. The space is on the first floor via a staircase and unfortunately we are unable to provide access for those with limited mobility.

Tuesday 28 March to Saturday 1 April, 7.45pm

An evening of One Act Plays by the Sinodun Players

Three classic plays in an evening of comedy and pathos. *Indian Summer of an Uncle* by P.G. Wodehouse, has the theme of class, conflict, control, responsibility and escape. *A Talk in the Park* by Alan Ayckbourn deals with the failure of human communication and obsession as well as isolation. *Suppressed Desires* by Susan Glaspell satirizes the then-current obsession with dream interpretation: Henrietta is unable to stop overanalyzing the dreams of her husband, Stephen, and sister, Mabel.

Tickets: £10 (limited numbers)

Collectors Club

It is planned that a Collectors Club will be starting on the second Wednesday of each month in the Berinsfield Social Club and Community Association (BCA), behind Berinsfield Library, starting in February.

Day by day

Fri
3 Mar **Lent Lunch**
1.00pm
Abbey Tea Room

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

10.30am
Sung Eucharist

12 Noon
Unveiling Beauforest Plaque

Wed
8 Mar **Chiropodist**
Village Hall
Appointment only; see page 32

Big Band
1.00pm
Dorchester Abbey

Parish Council Meeting
7.30pm
Village Hall

Fri
10 Mar **Lent Lunch**
1.00pm
Abbey Tea Room

Sat
11 Mar **Orchestra of St John's**
Grieg and Rachmaninov
7.00pm
Dorchester Abbey

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

10.30am
Family Service

5.00pm
Choral Evensong

Lambing Open Day
11.00am-4.00pm
Bishops Court Farm

Wed
15 Mar **Culham & District Horticultural Club**
Folly Farm: The restoration and reimagining of historic gardens—Tim Stretton
7.30pm
Abbey Guest House

Fri
17 Mar **Lent Lunch**
1.00pm
Abbey Tea Room



Sat
18 Mar **Benson Choral Society**
Elijah—Mendelssohn
7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Sun
19 Mar **Mothering Sunday**
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am
Sung Eucharist

The Snug Sessions
Hampstead Jazz Club All Stars
7.00pm
Bishops Court Farm

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

Dorchester Historical Society
Alyce Chaucer—Fact and Fiction—Christina Hardymnt
7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey Shrine Chapel

Fri
24 Mar **Lent Lunch**
1.00pm
Abbey Tea Room

Sat
25 Mar **Spring Flower Show**
9.00am-10.15am Staging
2.30pm-4.00pm Viewing
Village Hall

Sun
26 Mar **Fifth Sunday of Lent**
8.00am
Holy Communion

10.30am
Team service at Warborough

Fri
31 Mar **Lent Lunch**
1.00pm
Abbey Tea Room

For current information about other services at Dorchester Abbey see www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

For St Birinus RC Church go to: www.stbirinus.co.uk

Weekly events

Monday Come and See
7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Tuesday Coffee Morning
11.00am
Dorchester Abbey

Abbey Bell Ringers
Practice
7.30pm

Wednesday New Baby and Toddler Time
9.30-10.45am
Dorchester Abbey

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 Move Together
1.30pm

Busby Dance
3.15pm

Wednesday Pilates
5.30pm

Tango
7.30pm

See dorchesteronthamesvillagehall.org.uk/#calendar for forthcoming events.

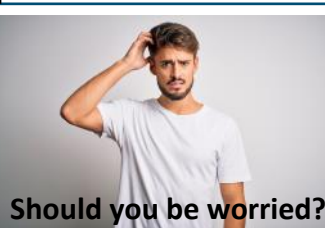
Parish Registers

Baptisms

22 Jan Barnaby Robert Paul Mole

Funerals

10 Feb Lucy Cecily Ruth Vandermin



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 **01865 340007**, email admin@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 Mar **Green**
Tues 14 Mar **Black**
Tues 21 Mar **Green**
Tues 28 Mar **Black**

Weekdays from 7.00am

Weekly: food waste (in biodegradable 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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osj
ORCHESTRA
OF ST JOHN'S

**Grieg Piano concerto
Rachmaninov Symphony no 2**

**Saturday 11 March 7pm
Dorchester Abbey**

**Rupert Egerton-Smith piano
Orchestra of St John's**

**Tickets £15-£30
Under 25s £5
osj.org.uk**