

Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

April 2023





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Cover picture: Spring colours return to Watling Lane.

A DoT view

As I write, I can hear the chatter of a ride-on mower as my neighbour sees to his grass for the first time this year. The chattering lawnmower is surely the first and most certain sound of spring. I could never identify birds from their calls, but the sound of the mower confirms that the grass is once again growing.

But then I have to ask myself whether it is a sound that I should want to hear? The sound of the petrol-driven lawnmower. That is surely something that will disappear in coming years as we all individually get more to grips with combatting climate change. We increasingly know that each of us needs to act —on top of last summer's record temperatures we have just had the driest February on record. Good news then that the car park in Bridge End is in the running for vehicle charging points (page 25). For a village with so much street parking that will be a real boon.

Talking of records, is Dorchester FC's thrashing of Lambourn Sports by 22 goals to one (see page 9) a record? What an extraordinary score and it cements the team's position at the top of their league, now with a hefty goal difference. Whether or not it is a record, well done for a hugely successful season.

Ian Brace

**Deadline for
May
Dorchester News**



email:

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

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You don't believe me.

YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME!

I tell you I saw him. It was our Lord.

The men are silent. She makes to leave.

Women's fantasies says a voice from the back.

She turns back in anger.

Fantasy! Was his death a fantasy? I saw him die. I wept at his feet.

Why should he not appear to me?

He is risen.

The men are silent and expressionless.

She gives up, utterly frustrated, and

turns to leave.

He told me to tell you.

(she shrugs) – and I have done so

She leaves, slamming the door.

The scene above is from Franco Zeffirelli's film 'Jesus of Nazareth' (1977)

One of the most convincing cases for the authenticity of the resurrection, is that Jesus' first resurrection appearance was to a woman – whose testimony, in that day, was not even valid in court. Reading this through the lens of the 21st Century, we may miss how astonishing that was.

Now after he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene... She went out and told those who had been with him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

(Mark 16:9-11)

May we know, with Mary, the reality of the risen Christ this Easter. And if Christ is risen, that changes everything.

Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed.

Alleluia!

Jane

Remembering Mary Braybrooke

Many of those who attended the Service of Thanksgiving for Mary have said how special it was to be in the historic and beautiful Abbey of Dorchester-on-Thames, with the sun shining through stained glass windows. The family and I are very grateful to so many people: the clergy, especially to Catherine; to Jeremy and the Choir; to Nick for making it possible for people in many parts of the world to share in the service; to Sandie for the flowers and many others.

Mary and I loved the Abbey from the moment I was licensed there in 1993. She served on the PCC and the Diocesan Synod, often led the prayers and assisted at Communion, helped with the Coffee morning, welcomed visitors, and made so many good friends.

Mary was brought up as a Methodist, and never thought she would marry an Anglican clergyman and was always impatient with denominational labels. A visit, as a teenager to Berlin – still then a divided city - inspired her to work tirelessly for peace. She was a social worker for some fifty years; a magistrate; she loved acting and singing and was interested in everyone she met.

She left me this card to find as a message to us all:

If I should die and leave you here awhile, for my sake turn again to life and smile, nerving thy heart and trembling hand to do something to comfort other hearts than thine. Complete these dear unfinished tasks of mine, and I perchance, may therein comfort you.

Marcus Braybrooke

Events in the Abbey

Downlander Events Presents: Tenebrae

Sat 1 April- 7.30pm

Tenebrae, under the direction of Nigel Short, are one of the greatest a cappella choirs currently working anywhere in the world. We are delighted to welcome Tenebrae to the magnificent Dorchester Abbey with a programme of works by J.S. Bach and James MacMillan to mark the start of Holy Week. Tickets £30.00 **01235 849063** or **downlander.co.uk**

OSJ Mozart Requiem

Fri 7 April- 6.00pm- 8.00pm

Celebrate Easter with an evening of Mozart's most sacred music, including his magnificent oratorio, performed by renowned soloists and backed by the full forces of the Orchestra of St. John's and the OSJ Voices. They are joined by award-winning sisters Fiona and Jean Kelly, who will perform Mozart's divine Concerto for Flute and Harp, the only piece he wrote for the harp. Tickets £5 to £30 from **www.osj.org.uk**

OSJ Concert of classical and jazz music by autistic artists

Sat 22 April- 6.00pm

An inclusive evening of music-making with Derek Paravicini and friends featuring young musicians across the spectrum of neurodiversity. Derek Paravicini has been blind from birth and has autism and severe learning difficulties, yet he can play almost any piece by ear in any key and style and is one of the most extraordinary pianists and musicians of his generation. Explore his YouTube channel to find out more about Derek's incredible journey and musical abilities, and to hear his truly unique stylistic interpretations. Tickets £5 to £15 from **www.osj.org.uk**

EASTER LILIES 2023



Volunteer Curator (Part-Time) for Dorchester Abbey Museum

This is an exciting opportunity to take Dorchester Abbey Museum into the next phase of its development, and make a valuable contribution to the local community. The post would suit an enthusiastic, creative person with a keen interest in Dorchester, its people and history – perhaps someone working part-time, seeking to develop a career in museums, or recently retired.

Dorchester Abbey Museum is a small, accredited and highly-regarded museum located in the Abbey Guest House adjacent to Dorchester Abbey, Dorchester on Thames, Oxfordshire. It is open to the public from Easter to end of September (3-4 afternoons per week), but its work goes on throughout the year.

The Museum is managed by a small committee which includes the Curator, and run day-to-day by a team of 30 committed volunteers. The Curator is responsible to Dorchester Abbey's Parochial Church Council and works closely with the Museum Committee team. Our previous Curator has been appointed to a salaried museum post, so we need a replacement.

Time commitment: 1-2 days a week (7-15 hours approx.). The appointment is not for a fixed term, but will be reviewed after 3 and 6 months, and annually thereafter. We seek someone who is able to take up the post as soon as possible.

For further details and how to apply please contact The Administrator admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk or tel. **01865 340007**

Closing date for applications: **Friday 12 May 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

Dorchester May Morning Monday 1 May

TWO A PART will again welcome May by singing from the top of the Abbey tower and then give a short concert in the Abbey. There is no admission charge but donations will support the Abbey.



Continental Breakfast £5 will be served in the Abbey from 8:30. Please buy tickets in advance from Dorchester Co-op or from

www.ticketsource.co.uk/dorchesterabbey

Two A Part

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

Chiropodist
Wednesday 12 April
Village Hall
Appointment only
Call **07850 196714**

Dorchester Historical Society

Wednesday 26 April 2023 at 7.30pm

Dorchester Abbey Shrine Chapel,

Members free, Visitors welcome (£5).

Ben Ford of Oxford Archaeology on: 'Recent discoveries at Frewin Hall, Oxford – a lost college and so much more'

This highly illustrated talk will bring you up-to-date with some of the highlights and latest thinking from archaeological excavations undertaken by his team from Oxford Archaeology at the start of 2022. Originally partially excavated and researched by Prof. John Blair in the 1970s the central Oxford site of Frewin Hall (formerly St Mary's College) has thrown up significant new evidence from recent archaeological work in advance of construction for Brasenose College student accommodation. Initial interpretation suggests that a large Bronze Age burial mound influenced the occupation of the site 3,000 years later, as a focus for pagan burial before Oxford existed, and later in the first century of Oxford's development as a defended Saxon border town. This influence carries through to when the site becomes part of a large post-Conquest urban land-holding for local Norman elites. Frewin Hall itself is from this period and is probably the oldest secular building still in use in Oxford. Subsequently, under the promotion of Cardinal Thomas Wolsey the Cistercians finally realised the completion of their teaching school - St Marys College...but this is only a short time before the Tudors enacted the Dissolution and all was lost, to be buried over the next 500 years under many feet of rich garden soils.



Ben M Ford BA MCIFA SMSTS FSA is Senior Project Manager, Oxford Archaeology, and was Manager and Director of 'Westgate Oxford' which won Best Archaeological Project of the Year at the British Archaeological Awards, 2016. He has a wealth of experience over a broad range of archaeological projects both in the office and on site, and has been with Oxford Archaeology (OA) since 1996 and worked as a Senior Project Manager since 2004. Over the last 13 years he has predominantly worked in, and around, the City of Oxford. His recent excavations at Frewin Hall (the subject of his talk) won the 2022 Oxford Preservation Trusts Temporary Projects Certificate.

Looking forward: **Wednesday 24 May:** Malcolm Graham (formerly Head of the Oxfordshire History Centre) on the photographer Henry Taunt and his photographs of Dorchester.

Margot Metcalfe
Chairman



Hempcroft Allotments April

Part of Dorchester's Coronation weekend over 6-8 May is the 'Big Help Out' on Monday 8 May. This is about volunteering in our community and spending a few hours on that day supporting a local group. A number of groups in the village have agreed to take part and the Hempcroft Allotments are also planning to participate.

The project is to build some raised beds on one of the easily accessible plots. These would be for use by the elderly of the village who no longer have the mobility or flexibility for the usual allotment activities. They may be retired plot holders or any member of the village community who would appreciate the opportunity to continue to benefit from the healthy activity of growing some of their own food in a friendly environment. The raised beds will be about 80cm (2½ feet) high to enable comfortable working



Anyone is invited to help with this, not just current members of the Hempcroft Allotments. Charlotte Bennett will be leading this project and more details will be available later.

Edward Metcalfe
340160
edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk

'Thank you' from Christina Stores

I would like to thank everyone who has contacted me, emailed me, sent cards and letters, and generally supported me after Greg died in December; you will never realise just how much your words and actions mean to me and the family.

A number of people need special mention following Greg's 'Celebration of Life' event held in the Abbey on 25 February: first of all, thank you so much Catherine Schneider, who helped with so many details of organisation and then on the day to 'top and tail' with such sensitivity and love; the speakers, who all contributed so beautifully and made the day, albeit poignant, as much about celebration and laughter. Thank you to Two A Part, who took my rambling ideas for a musical interlude and made it exceptional. And finally, a huge thank you to Nick Forman, who so expertly (and patiently!) produced the slide show which enabled us to enjoy some lovely lasting photographic memories of Greg. It was, I feel, a fitting tribute to Greg and he would be so pleased that it took place in the Abbey, in his beloved Dorchester on Thames.

Christina Stores

For an appreciation of Greg's life see page 18.

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.

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Dorchester Abbey Museum News

Celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III

Come and take part in our handling exhibition of replicas of the Crown, Crown jewels, Orb, Sceptre, Ermine Robe and Throne used in the Coronation Ceremony

Exhibition open:

15 April-19 May (during museum opening times - Thurs, Sat, Sun, 1 May, 2.00-5.00pm)

Handling workshops: (children and adults welcome):

Sat and Sun 29 and 30 April, 2.00-4.00pm

Sat and Sun 13 and 14 May, 2.00-4.00pm



Crown jewels, Simon Greig
Photo, CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Come and try on the Crown and Robe, hold the Orb and Sceptre, and have your photo taken on the Throne (a small donation for photos would be appreciated).

Hear about the meaning and history of the objects used in the Coronation, and the amazing stories behind them.

Craft workshops for the four sessions above also planned - to make Coronation-linked keepsakes.

Please see village Facebook page for update.

Culham & District Horticultural Club

Wednesday 19 April 2023 at 7.30 pm
The Snug Café, Bishops Court Farm,
Dorchester on Thames

Please note new venue.

Marina Christopher Umbel-ievable Umbels! Cow parsley and its relatives



Marina says "umbels are a vast group of plants that create a froth of delicate flowers and foliage to suit many garden styles". She will use plant material as props rather than a Power Point presentation. She will also bring plants for sale and difficult to source gardening tools and pots.

She started Phoenix Perennial Plants in Hampshire in 2002. Her background is in ecology, and wildlife is her main consideration when selecting plants for the nursery. She is also an expert in propagation and supplies top garden designers with unusual plants for Chelsea Flower Show.

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





Read Easy Oxford
Help Adults Learn to Read



Read Easy
Helping adults learn to read

Volunteer with us

Our coaches and readers are supported by a wider team of volunteers. We are recruiting committed, reliable volunteers to help us reach more adults in Oxford. If you could offer a few hours a week of your time please get in touch.

Get in touch: oxrecruiter@readeasy.org.uk

Dorchester's Coronation Weekend – 6-8 May



Saturday 6 May

The Coronation itself. Nothing extra is planned in the village.



Sunday 7 May

3.00pm – 8.00pm Dorchester's Big Street Party

A massive long table for you to party with friends and family

Free tea and a coronation cake when you book your places, sandwiches, more cake, BBQ and bar, entertainment stalls, live music and ceilidh

Tickets for the event itself, pre-ordering picnic/BBQ food and ordering your Coronation mug are all now available on line at www.ticketsource.co.uk/dorchesterabbey

Funds raised will be used to support village youth groups

Monday 8 May

The Big Help Out - volunteering in our community

People across the nation are being encouraged to volunteer on this bank holiday.

In Dorchester we have some fabulous people who have set up brilliant volunteering opportunities; something for all ages, interests and energy levels.

And no experience necessary to volunteer.

What do you need to do? It's simple. Just look at the activities below, choose the one you fancy and contact them to get more details and sign up.

They're waiting to hear from you.

Book your slot early. And thanks for volunteering. Enjoy it.



Activity	What will we be doing?	Timing	Restrictions	Contact	Contact e-mail
Litter picking	Removing litter accumulated along main routes into Dorchester!	10-12	All ages welcome	Matthew/Maggie Grayson	matthew_grayson@hotmail.com
Thame litter collection	Take your own trip on the Thame to clear up litter – meet afterwards at 12.30 in the cloister garden for a photo	10-12.30	Self guided activity using your own form of waterborne transport and life jacket	Becky Waller	beckywaller01@gmail.com
Abbey tea room	Help run our wonderful tea room for an afternoon – and you get to try the cake!	2-5pm	All ages welcome	Jill Corran	jillcorran@hotmail.com
Accessible allotments	Help the Allotment Association build some raised beds for residents with limited mobility	2-5pm	All ages welcome	Charlotte Bennett	charlotte.bennett28@icloud.com
Cloister garden weeding	Help the GreenDoT team tidy our beautiful garden ready for planting	10.30-12.30	All ages welcome. Bring a trowel or spade if you can	Shona Lewis	srlewis@tiscali.co.uk
Caring for hedges	Help to improve some of our hedges with the wonderful GreenDoT team	10 -12	16+ only please. Bring shears, spade or trowel if you can	Andrew Clements	aclem19dot@aol.com
Hurst Projects	Support our Hurst team to help improve this wonderful village asset	TBC	All ages welcome	Graham Beland	belandgraham@gmail.com
Dorchester Abbey clean up	Help to clean and polish up our beautiful but dusty Abbey with tea breaks	2-4pm	All ages welcome. Bring a duster/cloth/brush and a smile	Catherine Paul	catherine.e.paul@gmail.com
Abbey stewarding	Learn how to be a steward for this amazing building, some gems about the Abbey's history how we welcome visitors	2-4pm	16+ only please	Tim Cook	tim.cook12@btinternet.com

Thanks to all those who have volunteered to help organise and run the street party. If you'd also like to help do please contact any of us – Jill & Mike Corran, Nick & Steph Forman, Geoff Russell

Register for a Free Coronation Mug



These exclusive Commemorative Coronation Mugs have been designed for the Parish Council by Aston Pottery of Aston, near Bampton, Oxfordshire where they will be made and hand-painted.

The mugs are safe for use in both microwaves and dishwashers. The heights are 9.5cm and 7.5cm.

The Council will present one free 7.5cm tall mug to everyone who is aged 16 years or under on Coronation Day, 6 May 2023 and who either lives in the Parish or attends one of our Schools.

The Parish Council needs to know all those people who are entitled to receive a free mug and asks that these names and street addresses are sent as soon as possible either in writing and delivered to:

Geoff Russell, Parish Clerk, 5 & 7 High Street, OX10 7HH
or by email to parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

In case further information is required please include your contact email or phone number.

Additional mugs will be available for purchase by any resident or visitor. The selling prices are £12 for the regular size mug and £15 for the larger one.



2023 Tennis

Socialise & shape-up on court this year

Who can resist the springy, thwack sound of a tennis ball against racquet strings in the glow of the spring sunshine? We can't at Dorchester Tennis club, so do come and join us for some fun and friendly competition.

We offer social tennis, coaching sessions and competitive tournaments. Whatever gets you moving - relaxed rallying or more intense competition, we have something for you in our warm and friendly club atmosphere.

Family £50, Individual £32 and Junior £5 – don't miss out!
All abilities very welcome.

Save the date - Spring tournament – Sunday 30 April

Wednesday

9.30 am – 11.00 am - Adult Coaching
11.00 am to 12.30 - Club mixed session

Friday

10.30am – 12.30pm Ladies morning

Saturday

Gentlemen's morning

Sunday

10.30 am to 12.30 - Club mixed session

enquires to rachelamarriott@btinternet.com
Tel. 07817 592391



Football Results North Berks League Div 2



04/03/2023	Burghclere	Away walk over	Dorchester
11/03/2023	Dorchester	22	1 Lambourn Sports

North Berks League Cup

18/02/2023	Dorchester	2	2	Long Wittenham Athletic First
Dorchester win 6-5 on penalties				
25/02/2023	Dorchester	4	0	Sutton Courtenay First



Community Meeting

Bishop's Court Farm would like to invite you to the next Community Meeting on Thursday the 27th of April 2023 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm at Snug, Bishop's Court Farm. (tea and cake included)

This will be a question-and-answer session and an update on the initial presentation held in February 2022 and follow up meeting in September 2022.

Look forward to seeing you at Snug!





St Birinus Primary School News

As the spring term whizzes by, we continue to be proud of everything our children are achieving here in school. There has been so much going on. Our younger children have visited the Science department at Abingdon School where they took part in some exciting space workshops.

We took some of our older children into the Abbey to watch a brass band play and find out all about the different instruments.

We continue to send two groups out to Forest School every week and the children have experienced lighting fires and making and eating stick dough to try and stay warm!

We also celebrated World Book Day by sharing one book across the whole school. Each class completed work based on a beautiful story called 'The Missing Piece' written by Jordan Stephens and illustrated by Beth Suzanna. There is a colourful display in the corridor to celebrate some of the work inspired by the book.

As the weather improves we have much to look forward to as we have trips out planned to the Mosque in Oxford, the Living Rainforest and the lambing at Bishops Court Farm.



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



Dorchester Preschool

Dorchester preschool has had a busy start to the year with lots of activities and new starters. We have been enjoying lovely walks around the village and looking for signs of spring, we have found snowdrops and daffodils lining the roads making us eager for spring and some sunshine. We celebrated world book day and decided to dress in our pyjamas instead of book characters so everyone could participate and we must say they all looked very cosy indeed sharing stories from their favourite books. We are currently looking towards Mothering Sunday preparing crafts and also looking forward to our easter bonnet parade at the end of the month before we break up for Easter term.

We will be saying a very sad farewell to Val Beesley who joined the preschool in 1997! Val has decided (I'm sure not an easy decision) to retire but we hope to keep in close contact with her as she was such a huge part of so many children and parents' lives throughout her 26 years at the preschool. She has so many memories and stories to share with so many staff coming and going. Helen the manager was actually a nanny in Rotten Row, Dorchester on Thames 26 years ago and met Val for the first time whilst dropping children off at the setting. They continued to keep in touch and Val worked in a nursery in Didcot that Helen managed. It was Val who called Helen to let her know the manager position had come up in Dorchester preschool so we owe Val a huge thank you for so much! We wish her every happiness and a peaceful retirement enjoying her grandchildren, but do hope she won't be a stranger.

We would also like to remind you that we will be having a fundraiser in the Abbey Tea rooms on **Easter Bank Holiday Monday 10 April**. Fresh homemade cakes and delights, please do join us to support the setting which operates purely as a charity. Thanks again for the continued support of the staff for making it such a lovely and inviting setting.

Sarah Egan

Oxfordshire Libraries

April at Berinsfield Library

April 1st to 15th library opening hours
Easter activity table, family board games and colouring competition in the library all holiday.



Bunny Story Time Wednesday 5th 11am
Bring your toy bunny along and enjoy a selection of stories featuring rabbits of all shapes and sizes! Suitable for ages 2-8



Spring animals craft Thursday 13th 2.30pm
Chick, duck, bunny, lamb!
Make a menagerie of spring animals to take home with you. Suitable for ages 4+



Book Club Friday 28th 2pm
Enjoy a chat about a book over a cup of coffee and a biscuit. Come along, say hello and join in the conversation!



@oxonlibraries BerinsfieldLibrary

Telephone: 01865 340771

Email: berinsfield.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Day Trip by coach to the National Memorial Arboretum



©thenma.co.uk

Set in a 150-acre site the National Memorial Arboretum is a living, growing tribute to those who have served and continue to serve our country. The Arboretum is home to over 400 thought provoking memorials each diverse in nature and rich in symbolism. The memorials represent a broad population of society, from military associations and charities, to the emergency services, fraternity groups and individuals. An inspirational and deeply moving experience, with a special take-home message for everyone who visits

Date: Saturday 3 June 2023

Cost: £30 per person

Coach trip with pickup and drop off in Dorchester. 8am- 5pm (approx. tbc)

Please contact Charlotte Bennett or Andy Pay if you would like to book a place.

charlotte.bennett28@icloud.com
andypay1@btinternet.com

RSVP by Friday 21 April



A message from Wallingford food bank

Wallingford food bank benefits from a number of volunteers from your village as well as support from a number of residents and organisations. Thank you all very much. Wallingford food bank regularly helps those in need in your village.

We wanted to let you know about a way you can support the food bank even more.

We are now using Bank the Food, an app that will 'ping' you a notification as you arrive at a donation point, to give you an up-to-date list of urgent needs – so you can be sure you are donating exactly what is needed. If you have a smart phone, 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 on it and 'follow' our food bank (you can easily find us if you enter OX10 in postcode search). You will then find a choice of donation points to follow. Currently they are in the Co-ops in Benson and Woodcote and Waitrose in Wallingford.

It is already a great help to us that people are using the app. This means we can help more people, local to you, that are in need. If you need food, please visit our website to see how we can help. <https://www.wallingfordfoodbank.org.uk>

Thank you.
Alice Penney
Manager
Wallingford food bank







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Dorchester News

April 2023

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The Abbey's Candlemas Candle Appeal for Ukraine

Candlemas Sunday, held in February, is traditionally a day for the blessing of church candles. This year, to mark Candlemas, villagers across the several communities that comprise the 'Dorchester Team' were invited to bring candles to be blessed as messengers of hope to people in Ukraine, who are struggling to find light in the darkness.



A sampling of candles

The Abbey's 'Candlemas Candle Appeal for Ukraine' resulted in hundreds of candles, small and large, being donated. The candles have now been taken from a distribution centre in Reading to Ukraine by an organisation called Vans without Borders, which takes emergency supplies into villages isolated by the war.



Candles packaged for delivery to Reading

Large candles donated by the Abbey and other churches in the team will help provide light for medical procedures, meetings, and ceremonies. Smaller candles may light a family meal or provide light for a child's homework session. All the candles will bring

moments of sacred peace and illumination, of comfort and of hope – the spiritual warmth that only a candle can give!

If you couldn't contribute a candle to the appeal, you can donate to Vans without Borders crowdfunding page online or to the Disaster Emergency Committee, DEC, which takes food and warmth to the people of Ukraine.



Candle delivery in Ukraine

Thank you to Dorchester Abbey for making the candle appeal possible and for inspiring other churches on the team to do the same, and a warm thank you to so many of you for contributing.

May the candles we have sent to Ukraine reassure those who light them that they are not alone, that they are remembered in our thoughts and prayers.

Melinda Powell
Appeal organiser



Vans without Borders in Ukraine

Friends of Dorchester Abbey Visit to Malmesbury Monday 15 May 2023

Cost:

£30.00 per person for Friends of the Abbey, for coach travel.

£32.00 per person for non-Friends of the Abbey

Plus optional extra

£7.00 for the guided tour of The Abbey House Gardens

This will be donated to the funds of the Malmesbury Carnival

The coach will leave from Bridge End car park in Dorchester at 9.00am to arrive in Malmesbury about 10.45am.

Malmesbury is said to be the oldest continuously inhabited town in England and England's oldest borough, with a rich history of over 1000 years. Its charming medieval streets have over 400 listed buildings, and the thriving High Street has unique independent shops and places to eat. It is a hill top town, but all the main attractions are within easy, level walking distance of the coach drop off point.

The beautiful 12thC Abbey, which can be seen for miles around is the "jewel of the town": Rich in history and religious prominence. *One of the abbey's retired ministers has offered a guided tour at 12 o'clock.* No charge, but a donation towards the abbey would be welcomed.

It has a café, open until 3.30pm, and book shop until 4.00pm.

The Town Hall houses the Athelstan Museum, named after the first "King of all England" and tells the history of a town built to a Saxon road plan on the site of a 2,800 year old hill fort.

The Abbey House Gardens surround the Abbey were made famous by Ian and Barbara Pollard AKA the 'naked gardeners', frequently featured on Gardeners World. Ian died

in 2015. The family

was unable to cope with the upkeep of the gardens. New owners bought the house and gardens last year with the ambitious vision to make it, once again, one of the most important gardens in the world.

For the past 16 months it has been undergoing a massive renovation. It is still very much a work in progress, with building work continuing. But we have the unique opportunity to tour the gardens and see this "work in progress".

Optional Guided tour of The Abbey House Gardens at 2.15pm.

NB You may prefer to visit the Abbey after 11.30 following a children's session.

The coach will leave Malmesbury at 5.00pm. Traffic permitting, we should arrive back in Dorchester by 6.45pm.

Friends of Dorchester Abbey will receive this information in the Spring Newsletter.

If anyone else would like to come, please send a cheque for £32.00 or £39.00 (inc. Gardens entry) per person, payable to 'The Friends of Dorchester Abbey'

Your name, address, phone number and email address to:

Mrs Yvonne Lawden, 9 Queens Close, Dorchester-on-Thames, Wallingford, OX10 7LR by Friday 14 April.

(Please note: you will not be sent tickets or a receipt) if you have any queries please don't hesitate to phone Yvonne Lawden on **01865 340465**

Further details will be sent to participants before the visit.

Yvonne Lawden



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March is the month we hold our Annual Meeting, a time of transition, of beginnings and endings. Much like the Roman god Janus we look both back and forwards. The Committee Annual Report reflected on the WI over the past year, and it was quite an eclectic mix. Although I cannot mention everything, here are a few of the highlights of our year: there was a Centenary Celebration wine tasting at St Cross College; the 'Pets as Therapy' talk by Mike Pritchard accompanied by his adorable dog, Monty; learning to play the Ukulele with the Didcot Dukes; the Centenary Party on the Green with strawberries and Prosecco; the ex Bonhams' auctioneer, Leigh Gotch, talking about record breaking antique dolls; the new bus shelter on the A4074 at Shillingford roundabout; Centenary 33 foot bunting; a jolly talk about Alpacas and, the Walking Group. Not all meetings will appeal to everyone, but if you do not find one month to interest you there is sure to be one in the future that does. Our speakers are knowledgeable and passionate about their subject and the content can sometimes surprise but always enlightens. As a visitor you will be welcome to join three meetings for free, which gives plenty of time to decide if you would like to become a member.

As well as our local monthly members' meetings we are part of the Oxfordshire Group and can choose to join organised outings to such places as Windsor Castle, Iford Manor Gardens or a visit to the Forest of Dean and the Wye Valley. WI members can learn a new skill, Quilting, Croquet for Beginners or Day of Dance, which includes lessons in belly dancing. As a member of the WI you need never be lost for something to do and might discover a talent for quilting, or even, belly dancing.

At our Annual Meeting this month we were sad to see two amazing members step down from the committee, Liz Eaton, President, and Pat Norman, Vice President, they have both done a great deal to make this a thriving WI and we thank them for all their hard work. Now we look forward, a new and very capable President, Sarah Allan, has been elected and along with her committee will continue to work hard for this WI.

Future Programme: George McGavin 'It's a Wild Life: Tales from Television'; The Samaritans 'Listening for Life'; WRVS 1938-45; Forensic Psychology; Demonstration of Spinning and a Talk on Preserves (there is still jam in the WI).

We would love to welcome you to our meetings which take place every second Wednesday of the month in the St Laurence Hall, Warborough

Sarah Allen
President
warboroughwi@oxfordshirewo.co.uk

Vicky Hart
Secretary,
warboroughwi@oxfordshirewo.co.uk



Charity Bingo Evening and Auction at the White Hart

On Sunday 29 January the White Hart Hotel at Dorchester on Thames hosted a Bingo evening together with an auction in support of Matt Husband and the wider Motor Neurone Disease (MND) family in Oxfordshire. The White Hart was buzzing with a full house and over a hundred people from the village and surrounding areas joining in the bingo and then bidding enthusiastically for the array of fabulous gifts which were generously donated by hotel suppliers, local businesses as well as many individuals. It was great fun and a fantastic success with £1700 being raised for the Oxfordshire branch of MND.

We are most grateful to Sean, the hotel manager, who generously hosted the event and proved himself not only to be a brilliant bingo caller but also a splendid auctioneer. Our heartfelt thanks also to Dawn, Kaz and Jonathan for working so tirelessly in preparation for the occasion as well as to all the staff at the White Hart for their support and enthusiasm in making this such a memorable evening for us all.

Matt and April first came to live in Dorchester on Thames in 1995 where they ran the post office for several years. Matt developed MND three years ago and, although he is now wheelchair bound, the White Hart has become his second home with its warm and friendly atmosphere. So a huge thank you to everyone who has generously supported Matt and our local Oxfordshire MND Association.

Matt and April Husband
February 2023.



The Abbey Cloister A Haven for

Since moving to Dorchester on Thames eight years ago, I have been entranced by the Abbey's Cloister Garden, which, on quiet days, has the feel of a 'secret' garden, a real hidden treasure. Like me, you may have gone there simply to take solace in beauty or to rest in the sun while recovering from an illness. You may have also wondered if you could take a few sprigs of rosemary or thyme from the herb garden. If so, you will be as pleased as I was to learn that the herb garden and surrounding grounds were designed to be delighted in and developed by the community.

In the 1950s, the then Vicar, Harold Best, proposed the idea of turning what was, at the time, an orchard into a garden. Edith Stedman, an American and Dorchester resident, took up the call and set about transforming the grounds into a proper Cloister Garden. As part of her restoration efforts, she founded 'The American Friends of the Abbey', which eventually



Stalks of elecampane or 'horse heal'

became 'Friends of the Abbey', to raise funds for the care of the Abbey and its surrounding gardens. Whereas in Medieval times a cloister garden would have been enclosed by four buildings lined with an arcade around a garden courtyard, the Cloister Garden's 'walls' are now formed by the Abbey to the south, a beech

hedge along the west, and the gardens of the Manor to the north and east, which extend to where the river Thame runs behind the Abbey. The Cloister Garden features a herb garden, where you can help yourself to a few herbs to enhance a meal or simply avail yourself of a bench to take pleasure in the garden's harmonious design, the scent of roses and aromatic sage. Next to the herb garden, you'll find 'The American Garden', a little oasis of flowers graced by a weeping cherry, created in acknowledgment of the American servicemen, stationed nearby, who helped clear the grounds in the 1950s. In the copse bordering the herb garden, you can enjoy an array of spring snowdrops, aconites, and foxgloves, many recently planted by the local volunteer conservation group, GreenDoTs.

The cloister grounds offer a sanctuary for quiet reflection, rest, and recuperation. At other times, the garden's spacious greensward offers our local community a place to gather to mark religious observances, such as the Easter sunrise service and the Christmas Crib Service, as well as activities for the wider community such as outdoor receptions, fundraising events, and festivals, including the biennial Dorchester Festival, when the garden comes alive with music, shows, and market stalls.

During the pandemic, many Abbey Sunday services were held in the Cloister Garden, and the local drama society, DADS, set up a stage in the Abbey grounds to perform in the open air. There has also been an outdoor cinema and screening of national sports events, as when England played in the European Cup Final! Since last summer, on Wednesday mornings weather permitting, the garden has been filled with the sound of children playing – part of the Abbey's 'New Baby and Toddler Time' to which parents, grandparents and carers are all welcome.



Coffee break for the GreenDoTs Team and F

Traditionally, villagers have also congregated in the Cloister Gardens to celebrate special events like the Queen's Jubilee, and many of us will gather there again to mark the coronation of King Charles. On the 8 May Bank Holiday Monday marking the occasion, Dorchester will take part in the nationwide initiative 'The Big Help Out', designed to encourage the development of community volunteer groups.

One of the village's projects will be to refresh the cloister garden, especially the flowerbed along the beech hedge between the Abbey and Manor Farm Road. GreenDoTs is co-ordinating this project to further develop the grounds in support of the Abbey.

In the autumn of 2021, in conjunction with volunteers from the Friends of the Abbey, who have long been dedicating their time and skill to the upkeep of the Abbey Gardens, the GreenDoTs Team, under the guidance of Janet DeLaine and Petronella Rasmussen, began working in the Cloister Garden. Supporting such conservation efforts is a central aim of GreenDoTs, which works with local organisations in Dorchester to enhance green spaces, creating corridors for wildlife, while bringing people together.

Restoring the Cloister Garden to its original vision has involved trimming back some of the herbs that had overgrown the beds, weeding border areas, replanting herbs such as betony, hyssop and thyme, creating new signage, re-shaping the herb garden's border of germander, and pruning roses, shrubs and nearby trees. While clearing ivy, volunteers recently uncovered a semi-circular stone flowerbed along the outer edge of the herb garden, which will soon be restored and replanted.



Pruning Roses

Abbey Cloister Garden: All Seasons



GreenDoTs has also cleared the copse adjacent to the herb garden of debris and overgrowth, planting over 1000 wild daffodils, hundreds more snowdrops and winter aconites and dozens of foxgloves to make the copse even brighter! A commemorative plaque to President John F. Kennedy, installed a fortnight after his assassination, was re-discovered along with memorial plaques placed at the base of trees in memory of lost loved ones. A 'Spring Wildflower Trail' in the copse now invites those passing by to surround themselves with spring flowers or summer shade without damaging undergrowth. In line with a campaign to preserve Yew trees, GreenDots volunteers have been trimming back ivy choking the garden's Yews. More recently, we have assisted in weeding and pruning the American Garden.

For many years, a handful of Abbey volunteers, particularly The Friends of the Abbey, have generously tended the Abbey gardens, but more volunteers are

Friends



Autumnal clearing and planting

needed! Apart from coming along on 8 May, you can join the GreenDoTs team on Monday mornings from 10.00am – 12.00pm, when you will find us in the Cloister Garden or at other GreenDoTs sites such as the Dorchester Cemetery, the Drayton Road, Demesne Lane, or more recently, the Henley Road Hedge.



Taming tansies

If you'd like to volunteer for GreenDoTs and/or to help on May 8th, please contact Andrew Clements via email at aclem19dot@aol.com. If you can donate any plants, e.g. foxgloves, cowslips, snowdrops, etc., do let Andrew know!

Alternatively, to donate funds via the Parish Council please contact Geoff Russell, via email



A wintry Cloister Garden

(parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk). Keep your eye on the Village website and Facebook pages for more information on the village's planned 'Big Help Out' initiatives and on the Abbey Cloister Garden Project.

Meantime, true to Edith Stedman's vision, the Cloister Garden is a garden for all seasons, blooming year-round! The next time you're passing by, and, depending on the season, rest on a bench and take in the beauty of spring wildflowers, summer roses, autumnal myrtle, or winter savory and the evergreens on a still, wintry day. You might also like to take a few sprigs of rosemary from the herb garden to flavour a meal or some mint leaves for tea.



Cloister Garden copse in spring

In the Middle Ages, monks would bring herbs and plants native to their region as gifts when visiting an Abbey. You can help maintain the tradition and keep our community's gardens flourishing with a donation of herbs, wildflowers, or financial support. We look forward to seeing you at the Abbey Cloister Garden on a Monday morning soon, especially 8 May 8, to ensure the garden remains a shared treasure for future generations.

**Melinda Powell
GreenDots Volunteer**

Gregory Stores 1938-2022

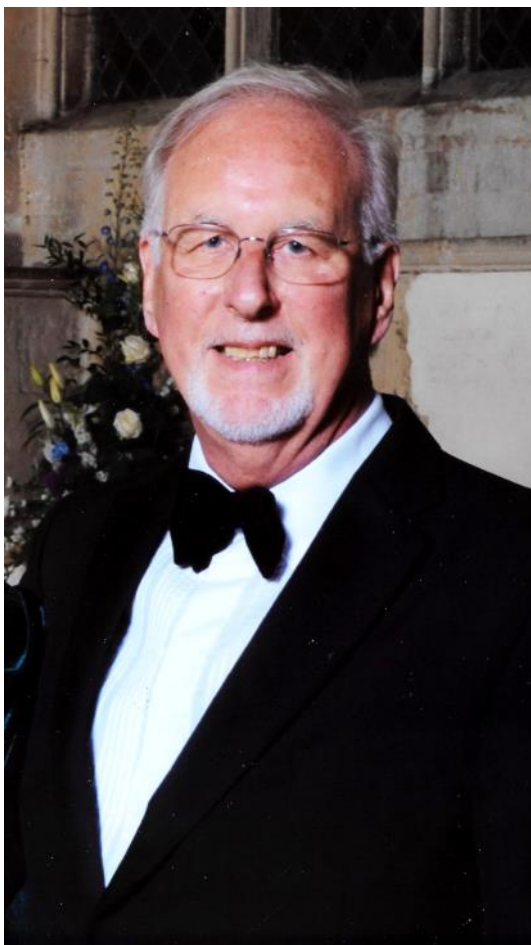
Greg Stores was born and raised in Stockport by parents William and Marion.

He was a remarkable man in so many ways and always full of the unexpected. Where he ended up, as an Oxford Professor, was in itself perhaps unexpected if one considers his relatively simple beginnings in Stockport... but he was clearly a boy who was going somewhere and had the ability to do this in a range of fields... not only was he Head Boy at St Bede's College and excelled academically, but he was also passionate about sport, particularly athletics, and competed in throwing events (in particular throwing the hammer) at County, Northern Counties and British Universities levels.

But he chose a more academic path and after achieving a first class degree in Psychology he decided to change direction and studied medicine at the



University of Manchester. Psychology's loss was medicine's gain. Greg went on to have a remarkable career as a neuropsychiatrist, working in various hospitals across the North of England and undertaking a Visiting Fellowship at Department of Neurology at Yale University, before becoming a Consultant and working at the Park Hospital in Headington. Here he ran both the sleep disorder and epilepsy services for patients of all ages referred from across the UK and was Director for the Oxford Regional Paediatric EEG Service. He was Fellow of both the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Royal College of



His work developing tools to measure brain activity in real life settings has become the worldwide standard for research and clinical investigation of epilepsy and sleep in patients of all ages. He was a pioneer of paediatric sleep disorders medicine, with his research helping to improve the identification and management of sleep disorders in a range of clinical groups – perhaps particularly those groups which had been relatively neglected. He disseminated his findings and clinical expertise widely, in academic journals, books, at international scientific meetings for researchers and clinicians and also to the general public via TV and radio appearances in the UK and overseas. He also frequently gave talks to patient groups. He was a big part of 'putting sleep medicine on the map', and has been referred to as 'the father of sleep disorders medicine in the UK'.

There were many, many times over his career that his kindness and sensitivity, as well as his extensive knowledge and careful investigation, will have changed the

lives of those that he cared for. He also

changed the lives of trainees and colleagues, who learnt from him. He had a really exceptional way of teaching and sharing his knowledge, always with humility, skilling the recipient and
Physicians.
He became Professor of Developmental Neuropsychiatry and Fellow of Linacre College at the University of Oxford in 1999 due to his extensive research and publications in epilepsy and sleep disorders. Greg taught undergraduate and postgraduate groups in medicine and allied disciplines. He both organised and was invited to be a keynote speaker at conferences around the world due to his international reputation and significant contribution in the field. He also made national and international television and radio appearances and press contributions. He was an author and editor of several books including "A Clinical Guide to Sleep Disorders in Children and Adolescents" and "Sleep and its Disorders in Children and Adolescents with a Neurodevelopmental Disorder", and wrote chapters in many more.

investigation, will have changed the lives of those that he cared for. He also changed the lives of trainees and colleagues, who learnt from him. He had a really exceptional way of teaching and sharing his knowledge, always with humility, skilling the recipient and





Dorchester Abbey, regularly taking groups on historical tours of the building and sharing his expertise and love of history.

What made Greg truly exceptional was not just all his brilliance and his achievements.... but that he managed to combine all that with being modest and grounded, always true to himself and able to slip effortlessly between the formal and informal. He was as comfortable sharing his expert knowledge and passion for early English oak as

He could always see the funny side in situations and that, combined with his natural ability as a raconteur, made him such a wonderful companion. From his mouth, there was an endless supply of amusing tales and not just relaying his many exceptional experiences.... His keen observations and eye for detail meant that even a trip to the Co-op or the hairdressers could become the very best dinner-party story! As all his friends and family know, Greg was just tremendous fun.... a warm, one-off, overflowing with a generosity of spirit and offers of hospitality including, of course, very good wine!

So Greg, we will miss you so very much but we will not dwell on that sadness but rather celebrate all that you were, all our memories of you, a remarkable and lovely man, and all the wonderful, enduring things that you have left for the world and left us with.

somehow increasing their confidence – never making them feel shrunk by all that they did not know... such a rare and wonderful ability.

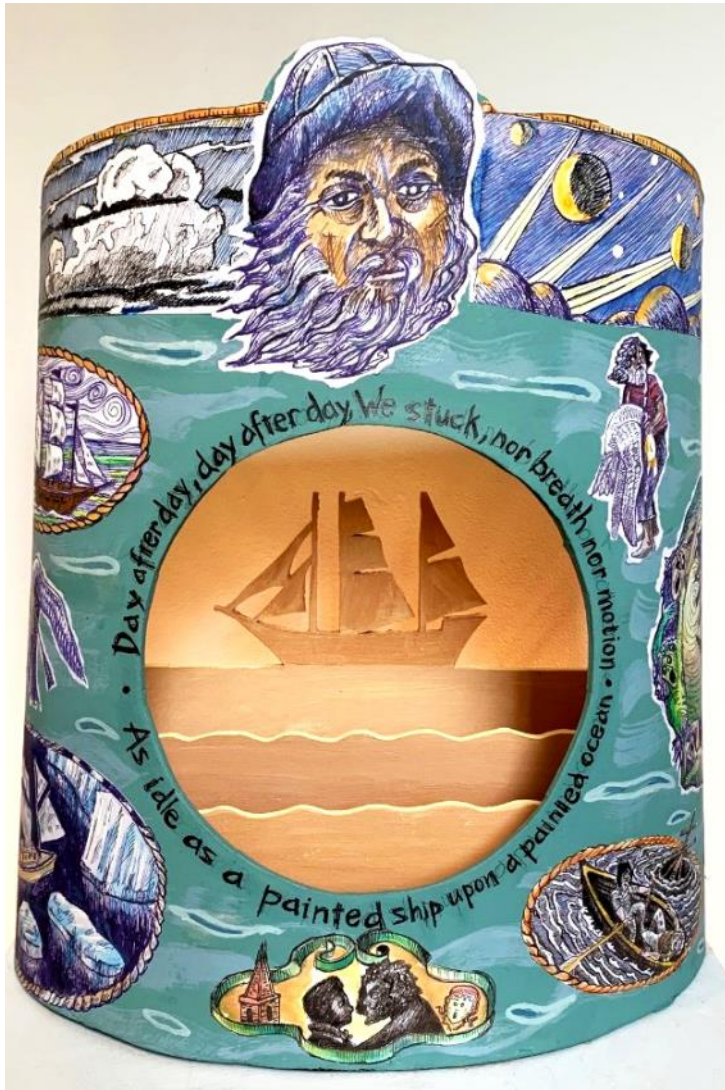
And exerting this kind of positive influence wasn't just confined to the realm of his professional life; in the cards sent to the family following his death it is striking that so many people have commented that Greg changed their lives, in varied but important ways. It's also interesting that, again, the cards and letters to the family really capture his apparently contradictory qualities, noting both his approachability and warmth along with his potential to be formidable at times – he certainly refused to compromise on matters he believed in strongly and that conviction and determination was always there beneath his soft exterior and likely helped him to excel, as he did.

It would be easy to have missed the fact that Greg did actually retire since, in retirement, he continued to be remarkable and achieved more than most of us might hope to do during our working lives; publishing books and papers, being a visiting lecturer at various Universities and undertaking medico-legal work all while completing postgraduate study in the history of medicine and delivering talks to local history groups, reflecting his long-standing interests, full of carefully researched, detailed knowledge of diverse and intriguing topics from 'witchcraft' to 'the maladies of Medieval monks'. He also was a steward of

he was his passion for gnomes and Micky Mouse. He was ready to step onto a stage to deliver a scientific paper or to step onto a different stage and perform YMCA, with full actions, dressed as a member of the Village People. The image of Greg looking sophisticated in his suit and gown at an Oxford dinner sits comfortably beside the never-to-be-forgotten image of Greg dressed as Elvis during his Vegas years, at Christina's surprise birthday party which he organised, complete with a very elaborate wig and one-piece spangled, Lycra, body suit!



The Ancient Mariner comes to Dorchester 9 September, Dorchester Abbey



TC: I expect many of us learned parts of it at school. I became fascinated by the three journeys described in the poem: The Ship, which sets sail, finally returning 'to my own countree', The Mariner, who is damned by his own actions and eventually receives redemption, and the Wedding Guest, who starts the poem happily on his way to a wedding, and by the end 'awakes a sadder and a wiser man'.

AB: How do you start setting a huge poem like the Rime, to music?

TC: I decided the Mariner would be represented by a singer accompanied by four stringed instruments, a violin, viola, cello and double bass. Fortunately, I know a violinist, a violist, a bass player, who live in the village, and a cello-playing organist.

AB: How would you describe the style of your composition?

TC: It's classical with unconventional twists. The violin plays unreasonably high notes for the Land of Ice and Snow. The viola imitates a banjo, for a song describing the Lady who plays dice with Death, and everyone has lots of notes representing the storms.

The wedding march and sailors' hornpipe also make an appearance. The structure is in an arch - starting and ending with similar themes, like a journey which returns to its origin.

The Art

TC: What attracts you to The Rime?

AB: Simply, it's a really great story, a ripping good yarn. A small vessel sets sail in a fair breeze, the wind changes and the helpless ship is ice-locked in the fog. Death dices for the life of the mariner, a ghost ship appears, the crew become becalmed at sea, dying of thirst. Then, of course, there is a dead albatross which is tied round the Mariner's neck, and some slimy sea monsters. This is high adventure.

It ranks alongside the greatest pieces of English literature of all time. Recorded by the greatest actors, including Richard Burton and Ian McKellen. It has been adapted for stage, screen, television, and orchestra; illustrated and painted by countless artists and poured over by storytellers and academics. It is 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' by Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

Now a composer and an artist, both living in Dorchester, have worked on a joint interpretation of the poem, set to music and art.

Tim Cook and Adrian Brooks have collaborated, with talented musicians in the village, to produce their own version, which hopefully, will have its 'world premiere' in September.

Here Adrian and Tim briefly discuss their fascination with The Rime.

The Music

AB: Why the Rime of the Ancient Mariner?



TC: How have you interpreted it?

AB: Unlike the dark etchings of the famous Victorian illustrator Gustave Dore, which have characterised the poem for a century, I've worked in a lighter vein. This is an adventure - worthy of a Boy's Own Annual. My illustrations are akin to an animation or graphic novel, closer to Steven Spielberg than Gustave Dore. I have been reminded of C S Lewis's 'Voyage of the Dawn Treader'.

Of course, my small theatres lend themselves to storytelling and stage setting, but because the poem is anything but small, I have added more illustrations to accompany Tim's final performance. The striking verse for me is:

Day after day, day after day,
We stuck, nor breath nor motion,
As idle as a painted ship
Upon a painted Ocean.

Central to my theatre therefore is a painted wooden ship, sitting idle, on a painted wooden ocean.

TC: Why does this story speak to you?

AB: Simply put; because it's a beautiful poem; it's a timeless tale, and the Mariner's journey is a metaphor for life. That's pretty good I think.

Tim Cook, Adrian Brooks



The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

Samuel Taylor-Coleridge

Dorchester Abbey, 2 pm September 9th 2023

Music – Tim Cook

Art – Adrian Brooks

Performers

Bass Solo – Giles Dawson

Violin – Hilary McElwaine-Johnn

Viola – Peter McElwaine-Johnn

Cello – Jeremy Boughton

Bass – Trevor Stevens

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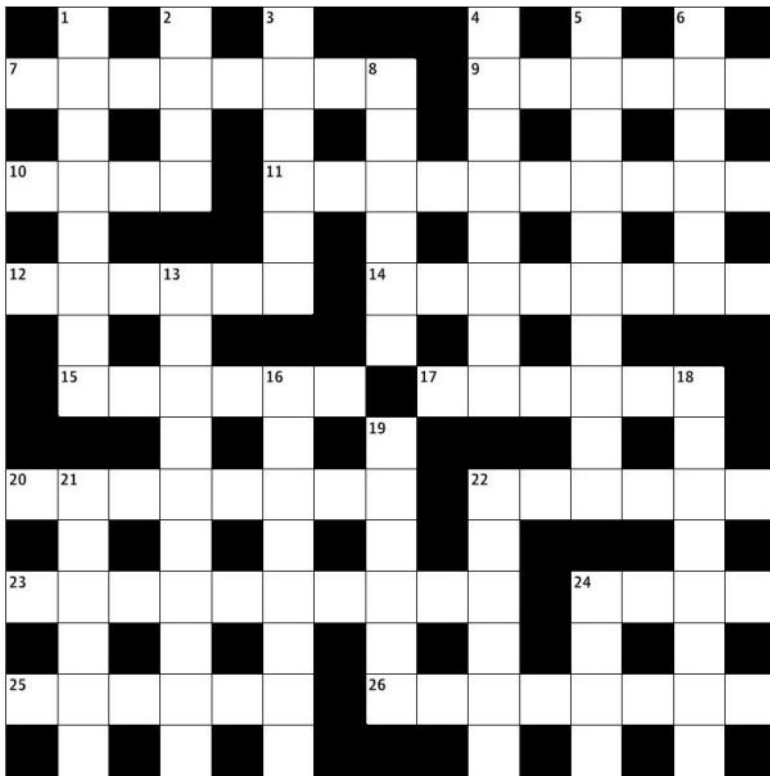
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Dorchester News Crossword No.26

Compiled by Slider



Across

- 7 Publicity, although first I give out hallelujah. (8)
- 9 Warm area down to Capri when corn finishes. (6)
- 10 Organise a current switch. (4)
- 11 Gather points, a red tooth and claw series of actions. (10)
- 12 Wild state when Herb comes round. (6)
- 14 Worn down King wears a manager long gone. (8)
- 15 Get past nurse to hold out. (6)
- 17 Crash site for return of insider proclivity. (6)

- 20 An old carrier calls for directions. (8)
- 22 A fastener for ladies without IT but having a horse. (6)
- 23 The carrier races with a sad song but second changes to a defensive position. (10)
- 24 A lawyer to bend in front of similar types. (4)
- 25 Two short of a complicated souvenir relating to a life support system. (7)
- 26 Make it easy for a card to work when it contains a poem. (8)

Down

- 1 Eat a drug in order to complete a course. (8)
- 2 Soldier's square thread. (4)
- 3 Drink up but no tip please, it's included. (6)
- 4 Odd to hold a pound and make very tight. (7)
- 5 Getting going on a test, I have shortly preceded an incomplete colouration. (10)
- 6 He's on a promise and troubled in face. (6)
- 8 Like a pig not colourful round the article organiser. (6)
- 13 Change key time with no IT reversal. (10)
- 16 With or without Nitrogen it's silly. (8)
- 18 Time for decay - FE or LI. (4,4)
- 19 Wastes saltpetre to get back valuable resources. (6)
- 21 Dodged Dave and Ed getting together. (6)
- 22 Signs to carry a horrible condition. (6)
- 24 Therefore see an aeronaut's big day (4)

Jerome K Jerome and Dorchester

Following on from Giles Shenton's performance of *Three Men in a Boat* at the Village Hall (see page opposite) we thought it would be interesting to see what Jerome K Jerome actually wrote about Dorchester. Remember, he was writing over 130 years ago. But we can't help feeling that much of what he wrote then would still be written today by a visitor to the village.

For the modern equivalent see '*The Cutest Village in England*' on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lg2j-BF2Hhg> posted by 'Every Further Mile', an American travel writing family, in September 2022. Thanks to Malcolm Corry for spotting this.

'I can't wait to introduce you to Dorchester on Thames, the cutest, quaintest village in England. This is exactly the vibe I was hoping to experience when coming to the UK. We've been to some great places, but none as sweet as this one.'

Every Further Mile, 2022

Three Men in a Boat

Dorchester stands half a mile from the river. It can be reached by paddling up the Thames if you have a small boat; but the best way is to leave the river at Day's Lock and take a walk across the fields. Dorchester is a delightfully peaceful old place, nestling in stillness and silence and drowsiness.

Dorchester, like Wallingford, was a city in ancient British times; it was then later called Caer Doren, 'the city on the water'. In more recent times the Romans formed a great camp here, the fortifications surrounding which now seem like low, even hills. In Saxon days it was the capital of Wessex. It is very old, and it was very strong and great once. Now it sits aside from the stirring world, and nods and dreams.

Jerome K Jerome 1889

On the last Saturday of February DoT Village Hall welcomed the return of Giles Shenton to entertain us with a one man rendition of *Three Men in a Boat*. Giles had previously entertained us with *Old Herbaceous* in April 2022 and his return was welcomed with a full hall of around 75 people.

And once again it was a tour de force as Giles told Jerome K Jerome's story of the three friends' trip along the Thames back in the 1880s, not forgetting Montmorency the dog, of course. For a round 90 minutes (with an interval) Giles as the narrator J kept us enthralled as he told us how the three friends felt the need for a holiday, the decision to take a boat up the Thames and the subsequent happenings and mishaps.

The script kept largely to the book, which being written in the first person translates well to being narrated. The first section of the show followed the hilarious first chapter almost word for word, as J told of his ailments and how, having read a book about illnesses, imagined that he had them all. *Three Men in a Boat* was written more than 130 years ago, but replace the reference book with the modern equivalent of going online, and the human foibles and susceptibilities remain exactly the same. Although the modern NHS might prescribe an 11.00pm bed time and even possibly a ten mile daily morning walk, I doubt whether the prescription would also include a beefsteak and a pint of bitter every six hours.

Inevitably the show had to omit much of the book. I had looked forward to the account of Hampton Court Maze, but in the book this was a retelling of a story by George and not something that happened on this journey, it did not make the cut.

Two additions to the original were spotted, though. The narrator described the walk up from Day's Lock to Dorchester as Jerome wrote it, but, much to the enjoyment of the audience, for one night only Giles added a reference to the delightful Village Hall to be found there.



Three Men in a Boat Village Hall 25 February 2023

Any one person show is a real feat. A stand up comic can vary the routine from night to night, ad lib, and respond to each audience differently, but the ability to narrate a story of this length is very different. Just to know the words, in the right order, (to misquote Eric Morecambe) is remarkable, even if he has been touring with this show for four years. To engage the audience for that length of time with a narrative tale is very difficult, especially as this script didn't have

the pathos of *Old Herbaceous* but Giles managed it well. We came away having had a good evening's entertainment, and looking forward to Giles's next visit to Dorchester in June, when he will play the part of a stand up comic.



The other addition was of a comic song at the end of the show. The book ends with the three friends snaking back to London by train and going to a restaurant for a quiet meal. But a show needs a bigger ending and the script, co-written by Simon Downing and Giles, introduced the propensity of George to get up and perform a comic song at the drop of a hat. Which he does, the rendition of which gave Giles the opportunity to end the show on a high.

My Dog's Got No Nose

Saturday 10 June 2023

Giles Shenton returns to Dorchester Village Hall to entertain us with the story of a stand up comic.

You join 'the man' as he prepares backstage for his first ever stand up comedy gig. Something he has waited over 30 years for. Find out how he got to this point in his life...but be warned...the man and the performance are not quite what they seem!

Parish Council Notices

Monthly Meetings 2023

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 12 April** commencing at 7.30 p.m. The Agenda will be posted on Village notice boards and on the Parish Council section of the Village website – www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk - three clear days in advance.

The date(s) for the Council's meetings in May will be announced in the next edition of Dorchester News. **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.

The Annual Parish Meeting will also take place in May on a date to be confirmed.

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 a.m. until 10 p.m.

The new ID process will be in force and voters will asked to show an acceptable form of photo ID. For more information contact <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id> or call the helpline on 0800 328 0280.

If you do not have an accepted form of photo ID you can apply

for a free document known as a **Voter Authority Certificate**. The deadline to apply for this certificate for the May elections is 5.00pm on **Tuesday 25 April**. More information is available from <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>

Election results will be announced on the afternoon of **Friday 5 May**.

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.



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From the Chairman of the Parish Council



It's fair to say there is a lot going on in and around Dorchester to update you on both now and in the next few months. So, here goes.

It's hard to think about it as I write this with snow on the ground, but the coronation weekend and our celebration of Dorchester as a community is just around the corner. There is a separate article in Dorchester News about how you can join in, both with the street party, dancing, music and BBQ on **Sunday 7 May** and the wonderful volunteering opportunities on **Monday 8 May**. There is something for everybody so book your places. And I'm delighted that much of what we raise from these events will be going to support both our school PTA and the pre-school with parents and pupils providing fun activities for those of all ages to run alongside the street party. See you there!

The hottest new of this week, for both young and old, is that after two years of grafting and filling in forms I am absolutely delighted to let you know that we have secured some substantial grants which will enable us to make a major upgrade to our playground as well as installing exercise stations around the recreation for those who want to get, or keep, fit. We hope to get these changes made over the next few months. A number of people in the village are already helping Councillor Rob Ballantyne with the detailed design, so if you are keen to add your voice then do contact him. And to cap it all we have acquired an outdoor table tennis table from SODC which, by the time you read this, should now be in place by the playground for anyone to use. Real progress I feel and I would like to recognise the efforts of Rob in particular for his relentless effort to bring this all together. It's fair to say he is quite chuffed with the result, and quite right too.

Thank you to those who turned up for the defibrillator training in March, we hope you found it useful. To add to this I'm pleased to let you know that the Parish Council have agreed to replace the slightly older defibrillator in the White Hart with one that matches those by the pavilion and in the phone box in Bridge End. Simpler for us to manage from a maintenance point of view and simpler for residents who many have to use one.

You may, like me, have noticed the substantial tidying of hedges and verges undertaken by OCC recently, particularly by the A4074. What that revealed of course is mountains of accumulated rubbish. A number of people have asked councillors what is being done about it. We have been assured that SODC are on the case, its a big job with miles of verge to cover. And they've started so hopefully it'll look much prettier before too long. And I have no idea why the County cuts the verges and the District picks the litter!

Another bit of progress, albeit a while away. This week we received notice from OCC that as part of their wider plans to install EV charging points in the county, they view installation in the car park in Bridge End as 'quite a high priority' given the relative lack of off-street parking in the village. Some more technical investigation is needed by OCC to check electricity supply etc but this is good progress and it looks like we are on the right list. Watch this space.

And finally, as I have mentioned a couple of times but make no apology for doing so again, Parish Council elections are due in May with applications to stand needing to be submitted by 4th April. I was delighted to see interest from some new faces at the sessions we have held over the last few weeks to give an insight into the role of a parish councillor. A Parish Council is only as good as the diversity and energy of its membership so its healthy to see this interest. We await the election outcome. But, don't forget, **4 April** deadline so ask the Parish Clerk, Geoff Russell, if you need any guidance on the process.

So, lots going on. And its only March...

Mark Williams
Chairman DoT Parish Council



Neighbourhood Watch's biggest recruitment drive in recent times launched



We are thrilled to launch our biggest recruitment campaign in recent years, termed a BETTER PLACE TO LIVE. We would all like to achieve a better place to live no matter our starting point – whether it be working together to reduce fear of and opportunities for crime, supporting our neighbours, reducing isolation and loneliness, or making new friendships. With 2.3 million members already, the campaign aims to:

- attract even more members
- encourage groups to be more active
- encourage all local group members to register their membership nationally

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



Community well-being, affordable housing and climate action in the council's 2023/24 budget

Action on climate change and key projects to enhance community wellbeing and support those most in need can progress thanks to South Oxfordshire District Council's improved financial position.

The council can focus on these priorities because councillors have approved a budget for 2023/4 that shows a financial position in a healthier state than previously forecast thanks to the careful budgeting work in recent years. It also means the council needs to draw over a million pounds less from its reserves to balance the budget than it had prepared for a year ago.

£1 million will be invested over the next two years to drive the council's priorities, including 'Everyone Active', an active communities grant scheme, and continuation of the Community Hub to support the district's most vulnerable residents. The Community Hub plays an important role in the council's ongoing work to support refugees and asylum seekers and works programmes to address inequalities. As well as providing wide-ranging support and advice for residents the Community Hub delivers cost-of-living help for those in most financial need.

The council is allocating £4.6 million towards providing a supply of 'move-on' and settled accommodation initially for refugees and asylum seekers. This is in addition to the £2 million of funding for council-owned social housing agreed in December, and £1m previously allocated for temporary housing, meaning the council plans to purchase and manage 30 houses by the end of the year to help tackle local housing issues – the first time it has done so since the 1990s.

The capital budget will be used to improve South Oxfordshire's infrastructure, including flood prevention, leisure centre improvements and resurfacing and lighting replacement at the council's car parks. Decarbonisation funding will contribute to retrofitting energy saving measures at Cornerstone Arts Centre and other council-owned buildings.

Retaining its investment in climate action, the budget includes funds to progress some significant outcomes from priority projects already begun, including tree planting and meadow creation, an extension of last year's No Mow May called 'Let it Bee' and supporting water quality work including the application for Bathing Water Status for a stretch of the River Thames.

This year the council will increase its share of the council tax by £5 a year for an average Band D property, so for 2023/24

residents will pay a Band D rate of £141.24 per household for the vital services provided by the district council. This represents a below inflation increase of 3.6 per cent. In 2022/23 the Band D rate was the ninth lowest in the country for a shire district council.

Whilst the short-term position is more positive, there is uncertainty around future local government funding, especially from 2025/26 onwards, in large part due to the lack of clarity on local authority funding from the government.

Community grants funding

One of the reasons we have carefully managed the council's finances is so that we can retain the council's valued grant schemes. I was very pleased that our Community Grants panel has decided to award the full £22,500 requested towards new accessible play equipment and trim trail for Dorchester recreation ground. I've already supported the project with just over £2,400 from my councillor community grant as well. Congratulations to Rob Ballantyne for leading the grant application process.

Bulky waste collections

Bookings have just opened again for our bulky waste collection service.

SODC normally pause this service during catch up collections after Christmas to allow for the crews to collect the extra Christmas waste presented. This year the suspension was extended to allow staff time to carry out necessary work behind the scenes.

Bulky waste collections will now take place during the week, Monday – Friday with both electrical and non-electrical items collected on the same day, these items will be collected separately by two different vehicles. This is because we have to dispose of electrical and non-electrical items at different locations.

For more information, and to make a booking, residents should visit

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/what-cannot-go-in-your-bins/bulky-waste-collections/>

Free mediation to help resolve a dispute

If you're in dispute with a neighbour but are struggling to resolve the issue, then you may wish to try mediation. The council is able to offer residents a free mediation service as a member of the South and Vale Community Partnership. More information at [southoxon.gov.uk/mediation](https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/mediation)

'From Your District Councillor' continues on opposite page...

'From Your District Councillor' continued...

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 422 600 or communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

£1 million boost for community and neighbourhood facilities

The Council has been allocated £1 million from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to provide better community and neighbourhood facilities and improve public open spaces to support the health and wellbeing of residents. The council are already starting work to support community facilities, including some in Berinsfield, to reduce their energy bills and lower their carbon emissions. Another study has begun to see where and how the councils can provide more arts and culture opportunities and leisure activities in areas that need it most.

Businesses will also benefit from the funding over the next two years. Plans include increasing access to green skills

courses to help residents gain a new qualification and advice for businesses to help them to move towards low-carbon operations. A new strategy is also being developed to promote tourism and encourage visitors to stay in the area to enjoy local attractions. The council will be offering opportunities for local organisations to tender for contracts to help deliver the projects taking place in both districts.

I will be chairing the steering group for this project. I'm confident we can use this fund to benefit our local businesses and community groups, helping them become more sustainable both economically and environmentally, and work in partnership with the community to tackle inequalities in our area.

To find out more, visit www.southoxon.gov.uk/UKSPF
Robin.Bennett@southoxon.gov.uk
tel. 01865 858680
m. 07979 646815



Household waste recycling centres closures in March and April

Anyone planning to use Oxfordshire's household waste recycling centres in late March or April are being warned about a series of short closures to enable essential work to be carried out.

For safety reasons, Oxfordshire County Council will be shutting each of its centres for two days – although never at the same time – to allow for deep cleaning and essential maintenance to take place. This includes jet washing the sites and structures, repainting lines and safety areas, as well as other general work to improve the customer experience.

The closing dates are:

- Drayton, near Abingdon: Thursday 30 and Friday 31 March
- Oakley Wood, near Wallingford: Thursday 20 and Friday 21 April
- Redbridge, Oxford: Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 April

All closures are on quieter weekdays to minimise disruption and sites will reopen at 8am the following day. Residents are asked to plan ahead, ideally holding on to their waste until the site reopens or, if that is not possible, visiting one of the neighbouring sites.

More information can be found on Oxfordshire County Council's website, including details of your nearest alternative site during the closures.

Residents with van or trailer permits can use these at any of the HWRCs.

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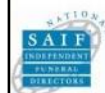
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From your County Councillor... ...Robin Bennett

Our 'Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance' successfully passed its 2023/4 budget last month, which included funding for:

- community transport initiatives in both rural and urban areas
- extension of the current (very well used) discount ticket at park and rides
- expanding the supported transport team to work with young people and their families to develop active travel options for getting to school, and expanding School Streets to make it safer to do so
- investment into transport hubs including e-bike hire, car club promotion, and improvements to travel information
- flood resilience across Oxfordshire 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.
- funding for SEND educational and health care plan (ECHP) assessments
- investment in community hubs to support children and families.
- A Council Tax Support Scheme to help those most in need in Oxfordshire – ensuring that they do not have to pay the full increase in council tax this year

The new CEO at the County Council, Dr Martin Reeves, has now started in his new post. Martin is very experienced at leading large council organisations. I look forward to getting to know him and making him aware of our local and rural issues.

Energy Bills Support Scheme

On 27 February, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) announced that households across England, Scotland and Wales will benefit from the government's

£400 help with energy bills, by applying through an online application portal. Households without a direct relationship to an electricity supplier, such as those living in **park homes** and **care homes**, can now apply through a secure online portal to receive the support as a one-off, non-repayable lump sum under the 'alternative funding' route of the government's Energy Bills Support Scheme. For those without online access, a dedicated customer helpline is available to assist eligible customers - 0808 175 3287. The government is urging all eligible households to apply as soon as possible for their support. The payment will be provided directly into people's bank accounts.

Supporting Oxfordshire careworkers: funds still available

We're funding the Care Workers' Charity hardship fund, which was set up last spring and offers quick financial support to people working in Oxfordshire's care sector. It has paid out

more than £260,000 to over 440 people and there are still funds available for those who need it. In response to the increased cost of living, the maximum individual funding allowance has now been increased to £750 for requests made by 31 March 2023.

For more information and to apply, go to thecareworkerscharity.org.uk/oxfordshire-grants

Looking for an affordable long term place to stay in Oxfordshire?

Our friends at Age UK Oxfordshire have an innovative programme for people who would enjoy living with an older person and are happy to lend a hand.

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/our-services/homeshare-oxfordshire/>

Oxford Station and area upgrade

The Oxfordshire Connect project is being led by Network Rail to increase capacity at Oxford Station from 2024. As the local highway authority, OCC are a key stakeholder and we are working with Network Rail to finalise plans for the work, which includes replacing Botley Road bridge. The county council is assessing the impact this may have on the timing of its own schemes in and around Oxford.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans for Abingdon and Didcot

Residents of Abingdon and surrounding areas are set to benefit from improvements that will encourage cycling and walking in and around Abingdon, now that OCC has adopted the town's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), which will set out how to improve the local active travel network and cut congestion. This will soon be complemented by the Didcot LCWIP and the Strategic Active Travel Network plans, currently in progress, eventually forming a coherent network for the whole area.

Have your say on new council ward boundaries

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is currently

reviewing the County Council's electoral arrangements. It is now looking to draw up a new pattern of divisions to accommodate an increase from 63 to 69 County councillors in Oxfordshire. You can contribute your thoughts here

<https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/686>

Current County Council consultations can be found at <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

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From your MP...

...John Howell



In order to meet the copy deadlines for many of the parish magazines published in communities across the constituency I have to write in the first part of the month. This month my deadline comes ahead of the Spring Budget which I know many await, hoping that some of the Government support towards the cost of living will continue. Much is widely heralded and I have no advanced insights beyond those already published in the media. However, I am optimistic that the energy support will be extended to get us through the rest of the colder months this year. As always there will be much comment in the public domain when the Budget Statement is made by the Chancellor and the Treasury publish the details.

Most people will have received the energy support automatically through their energy provider. However there are a number of households not on mainstream supply or who have other specific arrangements, such as Park Homes. In February the alternative scheme to ensure that support is available to such households went live for everyone and applications for support to the Alternative Energy Support Scheme can be made online.

With the coming of Spring we are perhaps a little more aware of the countryside around us and in recent weeks I have had a number of people contact me to comment on the litter that we see on verges and in other public places. I agree that this is an eyesore and we need to keep drawing attention to the need for people to take their rubbish home or use the bins provided. In recognition of the problem the Government published its National Litter Strategy in 2017 which set out a number of ways to tackle the problem. This has been regularly reviewed and initiatives such as The Great British Beach Clean and the Great British Spring Clean have been well supported by volunteers across the country. This year the Great British Spring Clean will take place between Friday 17

March and Sunday 2 April. Our District Councils take the lead on this and you can find full details on this, including health and safety advice, information on loan of equipment and collection of filled bags on SODC website. As far as I can see, Cherwell has yet to publish information.

Thankfully most of our children progress through mainstream education with little problem. However there are some children who have special educational needs and I know that accessing this is not always easy. The delays can cause considerable stress for children and their families and the time lost can be critical. This is not just a local problem and the Department for Education has been looking to see what changes need to be made to improve the system. Following consultation the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) Improvement Plan has just been published with the aim of ensuring that the right support is given at the right time and in the right place. This is fully supported by the Department for Health and Social Care. There is much work to be done in this area but the publication of this plan and the associated measures for improvement are an important step in the right direction. It is backed with substantial funding, and oversight of reform will be provided through a new national special educational needs and disabilities and alternative provision implementation board, chaired by senior ministers.

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.



Dorchester Abbey Tea Room

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Wallingford Museum News

50 Years - The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society-exhibition

This 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.

House Detectives: history behind the door

The Museum's main exhibition is family friendly, our younger house detectives are invited to discover the family living in our mystery house, by playing the mystery house game. Then we have an archaeological house themed finds tray, for budding archaeologists, a time line of houses, as well as an art trolley.

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

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.

Easter and Summer at the museum - do have a peek at the Museum's family events programme.

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

Guided Walks

Wallingford's Guided Historic Town Walks start again on Saturday April 8th. The walkers meet under the town hall, no booking required, just turn up for 11am start. The cost is £10 per head, for a tour lasting between 90 -120 mins and includes a season ticket to Wallingford Museum.

Museum Bookshop

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

The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society

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

Sue Wright
Wallingford Museum

Advertising in Dorchester News

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

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

Please send artwork to dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk one week before the deadline for editorial copy given on page 2.

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



Wallingford Country Market

Have you visited us yet?

Open each Friday morning in St. Mary-le-More Church, (situated just behind the Town Hall), between 9.30a.m. and 12noon. Fresh delicious Home-baked Cakes and Savouries, Local Honey and Seasonal Preserves, Plants, Flowering Bulbs and Hand-crafted items available each week.

Our Easter Market will take place on **Maundy Thursday, 6 April**, which replaces our usual Friday market, when Easter bakes and treats will be available. Orders taken for most items we sell.

New producers always welcome – if interested, please visit us one Friday morning and speak with our Market Manager, Alison Broadbridge, or phone her on **01491 681596**.



0345 450 1276

We enable older people in Oxfordshire to live life to the full. Whether you're on a quest to live well into old age or if you're going through tough times, we're here to help you.

Our Services

- Information and advice
- Dementia support
- Carer support
- Physical activity classes
- Telephone befriending
- Digital support
- Home support
- Homeshare
- Bereavement support groups
- Foot care
- Scams prevention advice
- Hospital discharge support
- Social activities and clubs
- LGBTQ+ groups
- Book groups

contactus@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk
www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire



Age UK Oxfordshire is an independent local charity. Registered charity (No.1091529) and company limited by guarantee (No. 4328143), registered in England and Wales. Registered office: 9 Napier Court, Barton Lane, Abingdon, OX14 3YT.



Cinema: All regular performances normally start at 7:30pm unless stated otherwise. Please note that we will start on time and that latecomers will only be allowed in after the start of the film where there is no disruption to sitting patrons. This means that we may have to reseat some latecomers. For Live Screenings we reserve the right to seat latecomers in the Curtis Room where there is a large screen relay. The bar and auditorium will open from 7.00pm so there's plenty of time to collect drinks beforehand.

We are also showing films on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons at 2:30pm. Please look at the website for updates.

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

April	
Sat 1	Pearl (15)
Sun 2	Allelujah (12A)
Mon 3	Allelujah (12A)
Tues 4	Allelujah (12A)
Wed 5	Allelujah (12A) 2.30pm
Wed 5	Everything, Everywhere at once (15)
Thurs 6	Everything, Everywhere at once (15)
Fri 7	My Sailor, My Love
Sat 8	Elvis (12A) 2.30pm and 7.30pm
Sun 9	My Sailor, My Love
Mon 10	Cassatt: Painting the Modern Woman (U)
Tues 11	Cassatt: Painting the Modern Woman (U)
Wed 12	Dreambuilders (U)
Fri 14	80 for Brady (PG)
Sat 15	80 for Brady (PG) 2.30pm and 7.30pm
Sun 16	80 for Brady (PG)
Mon 17	God's Creatures (15)
Tues 18	Vermeer, the Greatest Exhibition
Wed 19	Vermeer, the Greatest Exhibition 2.30pm
Wed 19	God's Creatures (15)
Fri 21	Dungeons and Dragons: Honor Amongst Thieves
Sun 23	Dungeons and Dragons: Honor Amongst Thieves
Mon 24	Dungeons and Dragons: Honor Amongst Thieves
Tues 25	Dungeons and Dragons: Honor Amongst Thieves
Wed 26	Dungeons and Dragons: Honor Amongst Thieves

Live Screenings

Wednesday 12 April, 7.15pm

Cinderella Live from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden A co-production between The Royal Ballet and National Ballet of Canada. A new production of the much-loved fairy tale classic. After over a decade away from the Royal Opera House stage, Ashton's timeless reworking of Charles Perrault's story returns, showcasing the choreographer's deft musicality and the beauty of Prokofiev's transcendent score

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

Thursday, 20 April, 7.00pm

Good (15) filmed live at the Harold Pinter Theatre,

David Tennant makes a blistering return to the West End in one of Britain's most powerful political plays, as an ordinary man who is swept into the Nazi regime. As the world faces its Second World War, John Halder, a good, intelligent German professor, finds himself pulled into a movement with unthinkable consequences. Olivier Award-winner Dominic Cooke (Follies) directs C.P. Taylor's timely tale, with a cast that features David Tennant (Doctor Who, Broadchurch), Elliot Levey (Coriolanus) and Sharon Small (The Bay). Filmed live from the Harold Pinter Theatre in London.

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

Thursday, 27 April, 6.45pm

Marriage of Figaro

From the Royal Opera House Covent Garden

Director David McVicar brings out the revolutionary elements in Mozart's great comic opera of intrigue, misunderstanding and forgiveness. Servants Figaro and Susanna are filled with excitement on their wedding day but there's a hitch: their employer, Count Almaviva, has dishonourable intentions of his own towards the bride-to-be. Sung in Italian with English subtitles.

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

Live on Stage

Tuesday, 28 March to Saturday 1 April at 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)

Saturday, 22 April, 7:45pm

Abba Sensation Tribute Band

Widely considered to be one of the best ever Abba Tribute Acts, they play to packed theatres and festivals throughout Europe. 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 (Female Gothic, I, Elizabeth, Christmas Gothic, and Austen's Women) 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

Day by day

Sat 1 April	North Berks Cup Dorchester v Stanford-in-the-Vale First TBA 2.00pm
	Downlander Events Tenebrae 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 2 April	Palm Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.15am Sung Eucharist Procession with donkey from War Memorial
	Lambing Open Day 11.00am-4.00pm Bishops Court Farm
	The Snug Sessions <i>The Songs of David Bowie</i> 7.00pm Bishops Court Farm
Thurs 6 April	Maundy Thursday 7.00pm Agape Meal, followed by Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar
Fri 7 April	Good Friday 10.00am Good Friday Family Trail and Crafts 12.00noon Good Friday Reflection Service
	Orchestra of St John's Mozart's Requiem 6.00pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 9 April	Easter Day 6.00am Dawn Sunrise from Cloister Gardens
	8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am Easter Family Eucharist with Easter Egg Hunt from 10.00am in the Cloister Garden
Wed 12 April	Chiropodist Village Hall Appointment only; see page 4
	Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
Sat 15 April	Dorchester Abbey Museum Museum opens for season with exhibition celebrating the Coronation See page 7 Abbey Guest House



Sun 16 April	Second Sunday of Easter 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am Sung Eucharist
	The Snug Sessions <i>An Evening with Freddie Benedict</i> 7.00pm Bishops Court Farm
Wed 19 April	Culham & District Horticultural Club <i>Umbel-ievable Umbels!</i> Marian Christopher 7.30pm The Snug Café Bishops Court Farm
Sat 22 April	OSJ Concert of classical and jazz music by autistic performers 6.00pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 23 April	Third Sunday of Easter 8.00am Holy Communion
	10.30am Team service at Long Wittenham
Wed 26 April	Dorchester Historical Society <i>Recent Discoveries at Frewin Hall</i> Ben Ford 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey Shrine Chapel
Thurs 27 April	Bishops Court Farm Community Meeting 2.30pm and 7.30pm Snug Cafe
Sun 30 April	Fourth Sunday of Easter 8.00am Holy Communion
	10.30am Reflective Service
	Dorchester Tennis Club Spring Tournament Recreation Ground
	The Snug Sessions <i>A Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong</i> 7.00pm Bishops Court Farm

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.

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

Parish Registers

No entries

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: 12.50, 14.59 (Mon), 10.36, 14.59 (Wed), 09.45, 12.08, 12.39, 14.10 (Fri),
From Wallingford: 09.30, 11.45 (Mon, Wed), 09.30, 11.45, 12.25, 14.00 (Fri)

To Didcot Station: 09.43, 13.44 (Mon) 12.00, 13.44 (Wed),
From Didcot Station: 12.26, 14.35 (Mon), 14.30 (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 4 April **Green**
Wed 12 April **Black**
Tues 18 April **Green***
Tues 25 April **Black**

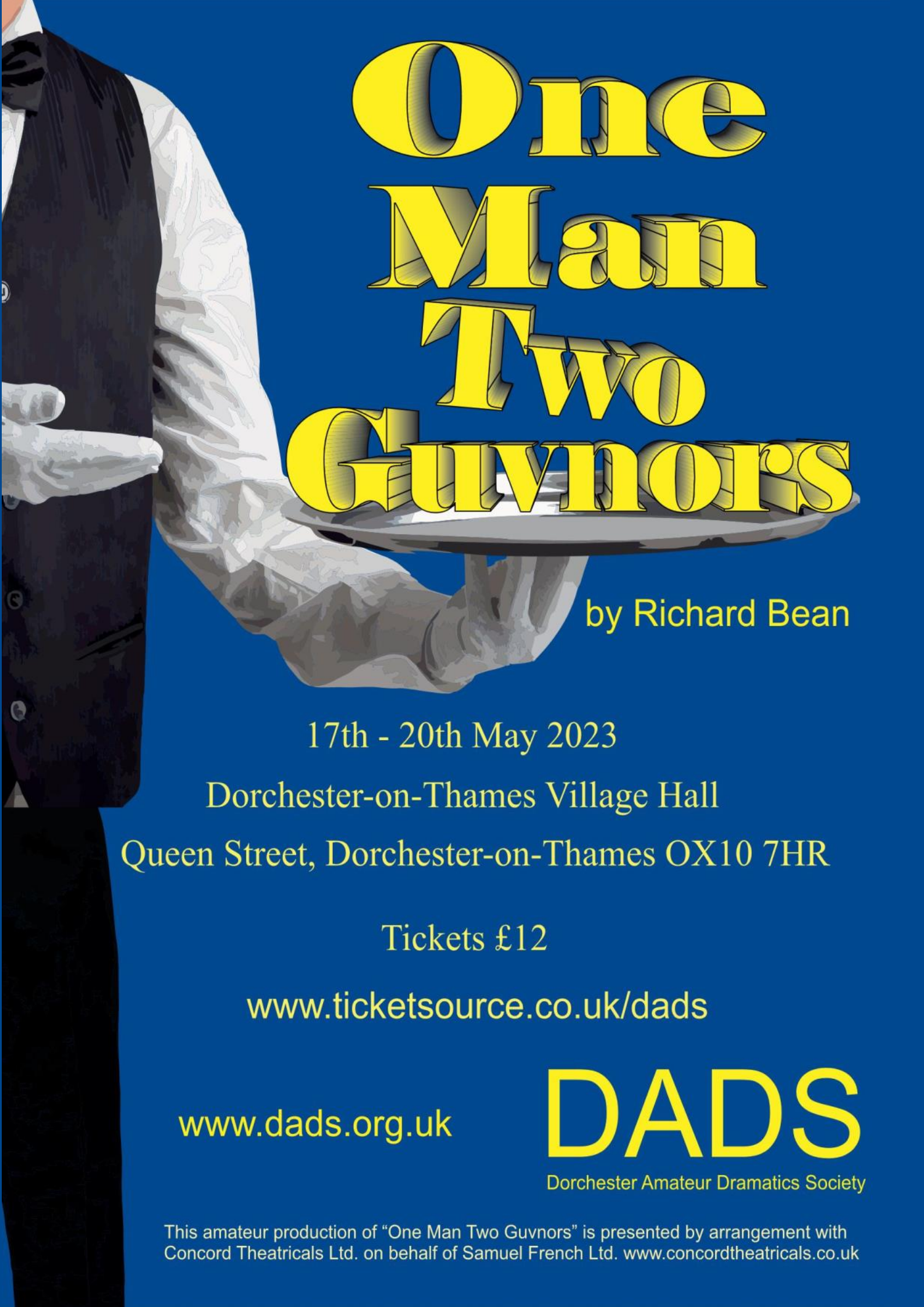
Weekdays from 7.00am
Green*: Additional garden waste

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

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

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One Man Two GUVNORS

by Richard Bean

17th - 20th May 2023

Dorchester-on-Thames Village Hall

Queen Street, Dorchester-on-Thames OX10 7HR

Tickets £12

www.ticketsource.co.uk/dads

www.dads.org.uk

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