

Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

June 2023





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Cover and back pictures: The Coronation street party in Queen Street.

A DoT view

There is a brilliant book called *Five Days in London—May 1940* by John Lukacs (2001) about the appointment of Churchill as Prime Minister and his insistence in fighting on against Nazi Germany. *Five Days in May—DoT 2023* might not have quite the same international significance, but weren't they important to the village?

Day One, Thursday 4 May. 65% of electors turned out to vote in the Parish Council elections – an extraordinary figure. Compare that to 37% for the SODC elections overall and the national turnout of 31%. That showed a real interest in the affairs of the village by a majority of residents.

Day Two saw the re-opening of the Fleur de Lys, another potentially important milestone, with a packed pub all evening, many of whom were awaiting the results of the election of the day before.

Day Three was the Coronation. Relatively quiet in the village apart from the Abbey bells being rung twice (the second time for a wedding).

Day Four was magnificent. Around 600 people went to the street party and adjacent activities. Surely unprecedented.

Day Five, the Big Help Out when nearly 100 people volunteered for one of the organised, and sometimes mucky, tasks.

Okay, it wasn't Winston Churchill but what a demonstration of community spirit and involvement that must be the envy of so many other villages.

Ian Brace

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Megan Parry

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**Deadline for
July/August
Dorchester News**



email:

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

'Happy and glorious' proclaimed the Guardian and the Sunday Express headlines after the Coronation last month, and what a pageant and display of all things British it was! This month we look forward to the King's official birthday on 17 June and the Trooping of the Colour at Horse Guards Parade which will prove to be another showcase of all things British.

The first time the ceremony of the Trooping of the Colour was performed was during the reign of King Charles II. In later years it was decided that this parade would be used to mark the official birthday of the King or Queen and it became an annual event after George III became King. The format of the Trooping of the Colour has its origins in the discipline of troops on the battlefield. The 'colour' is a regimental flag displaying the uniform colours and insignia worn by soldiers of different units. The role of a regiment's 'colours' was to provide a rallying point on the battlefield, to make sure that all the troops could recognise their own regiment's 'colours' and so gather at the correct point during a battle. There

was a daily parade of regimental colours up and down the ranks of troops formed up in lines. Today this annual ceremony has come to symbolise all that is great about British culture and the significant role of the Sovereign as a national figurehead.

There was much discussion at the time of the Coronation about the role of the monarchy in modern Britain, with some commentators suggesting that events such as the Coronation and the Trooping of the Colour are displays of our 'soft power' to the world. Other commentators however decried such displays as a sugar coating of our national history and culture which includes the conquest and colonisation of commonwealth countries and, to our shame, the slave trade.

In 2020 the Church of England apologised for its links to slavery and called these links a 'source of shame'. In October 2022 the new King Charles gave explicit support to the commissioning of a report into the monarchy's involvement in the slave trade; this was after a document was discovered showing the 1689 transfer

of £1,000 of shares in the slave-trading Royal African Company to King William III, from Edward Colston, the company's deputy governor.

The church teaches that all of us have skeletons in our proverbial cupboards, we all have done things of which we are ashamed; we live in an imperfect world, and we behave imperfectly. Jesus encourages us not to judge one another but to acknowledge our shared 'brokenness': "first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye" (Matt 7:5)

So, as we celebrate great national events like the Trooping of the Colour, of course there are questions for us to answer about our shared past, about our shared experience of justice or injustice in the present, and the direction we are travelling together as a nation into the future. But our celebrations can still be 'Happy and Glorious' if we are willing to acknowledge our 'brokenness' and to grow together in love.

Events in the Abbey

Sat 3 June 7.00pm
Brahms Double concerto
Beethoven Eroica

Beethoven's mighty third symphony strikingly marked the end of the classical era. Tonight's concert sees it perfectly paired with the final orchestral work of his worthy successor, Johannes Brahms. Soloists Charlie Lovell Jones and Yoanna Prodanova come to the stage alongside OSJ Voices for this evening of seminal works from the German masters. The concert starts with Agnus Dei, Barber's own arrangement for choir of his Adagio. Tickets £5 to £30 from www.osj.org.uk

Weekly Service information

Most parishes are sending a weekly email with service information; if you want to receive this email – and for up to date information about services - please call the Team Office on **01865 340007** or email admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk



Dorchester Abbey Family Service

Sunday 11th June:
10.30am

FAMILY SERVICE



All are warmly invited to join our Family Service for Bible stories,

Sermon in celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III

Sunday 7 May 2023, Dorchester Abbey

Revd Sorrel Shamel- Wood

Yesterday, Saturday 6th May 2023, history was made before our very eyes! A new king, King Charles III, was crowned in Westminster Abbey by the Archbishop of Canterbury. I imagine that the majority of us watched the ceremony, and that many of you have made some commemorative purchases. A tea towel, or a biscuit tin, perhaps. Many people celebrated in the village, and some will have travelled to London to catch a glimpse of the new king and queen.

Why? Because a Coronation is a historic event. And human history is momentous. Being part of it matters. Marking the passing of time and acknowledging both a change, a fissure between the before time and the after time. But also giving thanks for continuity across different reigns: for peace and prosperity. And of course, being the established church in this country, and the Coronation including anointing, and prayers, we have a particular relationship to this historic event.

History matters. And the way we understand history matters. One way of looking at history, and at the Coronation, is to say that it is a series of coincidences. A combination of luck and chance. By the accident of his birth, Charles is our new king. And if it weren't for the abdication of his great Uncle Edward VIII, or the fact that the great Queen Elizabeth I never had children, or a series of other historically contingent events, he never would have been king in the first place. Luck. Chance. Coincidence. Life as a chaotic, random explosion of possibilities upon which we must attempt to impose some kind of order in order to feel in control.

Or, the Christian worldview. History is evidence of the outworking of an abundance of grace and providence in a world which God created and called 'good'. Because of the work of Christ, through whom the world was created at the dawn of time, the arc of history curves towards redemption, salvation and grace. Let's not forget that King Charles was crowned yesterday, on Saturday 6th May 2023 anno domini: in the year of our Lord. God is working his purposes out as year proceeds to year, as the hymn goes. Or, as we will sing later: Lord of the years, your love has kept and guided, urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way. It's very cheesy, to say about Jesus Christ: history is his story. But it's true! The arc of human history bends towards good from the centre point of the cross.

Does that mean that everything is perfect in the world? No, of course not. Evidently we can see around us, and we know from the experience of our own lives, that the world is filled with hurt, and injustice. We do not need to look far to see evidence of the corruption and chaos of sin. Does it mean that we can sit back, and say... o well... God is in control... what will be will be. Absolutely not! That is fatalism and it is not a Christian worldview. On the contrary, we see where God is at work in the world, where the Spirit is moving and we join together with that work, as partners and servants in God's mission for God's world. Sometimes, often in fact, that work of re-orienting the world towards goodness and grace starts within our own hearts.

So, where does King Charles III and the Coronation fit into all this? Well, Charles has been crowned king of this nation, the United Kingdom, and king of the commonwealth. He has been set aside for a specific task and, as a priest in the Church of England, I have sworn an oath of allegiance to him. He's not a perfect man. We only need to read in the bible in the great history of Israel's kings, that earthly kings are not perfect. The only perfect human being to ever walk this earth was Jesus Christ.

King Charles III is a human being. And actually, that really matters. In a recent lecture, the canon theologian at Westminster Abbey, the Revd Dr Jamie Hawkey, stated that 'the presence of a human being as the embodiment of the State, and the State's head, might help to remind leaders who exercise power over others that political decisions and policies should spring from a person-centred approach'. To put it another way, history is all about people. The decisions we make, and the way we treat each other. The bible tells us that every human being is made in the image of God. This was a radical departure in ancient Israel from other ancient mythologies. The ancient Egyptians believed that only the king bore the image of the divine. In the Jewish and Christian worldview, it is every single one of us.

At the end of the day, History is about people and how we treat them. As Christians, we are called to help shape the arc of human history by loving God, and loving each other, and spreading good news. Today is a good day. Today is a day to be thankful. For peace, for prosperity, for the providential working of God in human history. Today, we will give thanks, and we will celebrate.

And tomorrow, tomorrow we will start to ask some pertinent questions. Where is God at work in our nation, today? And how will history judge us? Where is the love of Christ most desperately needed, in our village and in our nation? What is God doing afresh in this church, the abbey church of St Peter and St Paul? What is God stirring in my heart?

For most of us here, maybe all of us, we won't make it into the history books. We aren't royal, or aristocratic. But we have an important part to play in joining in with bending the arc of history towards the good and the holy, with a lot of help from God's grace, through our efforts and through our prayer.

Today, on this historic weekend, we will give thanks, and we will celebrate. And tomorrow, we will get on with the holy work of making history in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Chiropodist

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Hempcroft Allotments June

Early sunshine has given way to intermittent wet stormy weather, and as with May, we really need to keep on top of the weeds or they will quickly take over at this time of year. Hoeing them off as small seedlings will make the job far easier than waiting for them to grow and send their roots down. Hoeing is best done on a dry day (assuming we get a number of these) so that the weeds do not have a chance to recover.

Continue thinning out your carrots, parsnips, beetroot etc. If not already planted then you should be able to plant out brassicas, broccoli and calabrese, Brussels sprouts, and summer cabbage. If you have started beans in pots, both runner and French, these can go outside too. Celery can go out now as well.

Water when required. Your best measuring instrument for water is your finger. If the top of the soil looks dry, insert your finger into the soil. If it's dry at the tip, then you need to water. Don't just sprinkle a few drops on the surface, it probably won't penetrate and do any good. Far better to give a good soaking (using your watering can of course) less frequently that will get to the roots of your crops.

We have very few useable plots available for rent at the moment and we are receiving enquiries from prospective tenants. It is time to approach some of the allotment holders who are not cultivating their plots and request that they give up part of their plot.

Edward Metcalfe
340160
edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk

Mayday Concert in Dorchester

TWO A PART first got together for the Dorchester Amateur Dramatic Society's Christmas concert in December 1988, and on 1 May 1991 they sang their first Mayday concert from the Abbey tower.

A local boy, called William, needed a special wheelchair and Phil Greenaway, a singer in the group, suggested we could raise some money to help. Thirty-two years later, (and rather older), TWO A PART are still giving Mayday Concerts which, over the years, have supported several local charities!

This year TWO A PART sang from the tower at 9:00, (much more civilised than a similar event in Oxford that is rumoured to start at dawn), then gave a short concert in the abbey for about 100 people enjoying a continental breakfast. Phil, who has now retired from TWO A PART, joined in to sing the final item, My Grandfather's Clock, which was encored by popular demand. The event raised £600, this year donated towards the Abbey's expenses, now running at £550 per day.





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Knit and Natter at it again

The Coronation was celebrated by the Knit and Natter group with a decoration of the bus shelter on Dorchester High Street.

Unfortunately it lasted only a few days before being vandalised, but long enough to celebrate the Coronation and the Street Party.



Re-opening night in the garden of the Fleur de Lys, Friday 5 May.
See page 15

Express Manicure - File & Polish...£20.00

Luxury Manicure - File, Cuticles, Hand Massage & Polish...£27.00

Deluxe Manicure - as above + Exfoliation...£35.00

Express Pedicure - File & Polish...£20.00

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Dorchester Abbey Museum News

Dorchester Abbey Museum celebrates the Coronation of King Charles III

Exquisite hand-made replicas of the Coronation's Regalia - Crown, Crown Jewels, Orb and Sceptre, Ermine Robe and Throne were displayed at the Museum. Not just displayed, but available, with supervision, to try on, hold and have a souvenir photograph taken.

It was fascinating to hear about the meaning and history of the objects and the stories behind them. A great hit with visitors was the opportunity to try to hold a 2.23kg weight on their head – as heavy as the Crown!

An all-age craft workshop was also judged 'good fun'. Coronation themed keepsakes were created using recycled materials – Jar lids, jewels and broken crockery mosaic pieces.

Grateful thanks and congratulations to all Museum people who crafted and supervised the stunning regalia and led the keepsake workshop. What jewels Dorchester's Abbey Museum and its gifted volunteers are!

Denise Line

Help with cataloguing

We have a grant to introduce a new museum collections management software system, so we will need help with cataloguing and data entry. Further details in next month's Dorchester News. If you might be interested in helping with this, please contact the email below for further info.

museum@dorchester-abbey.org.uk







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Oxfordshire Libraries

June events at Berinsfield Library

Stories & craft Saturday 17 June 10.30am
An eco-craft and stories themed around the natural world to celebrate Great Big Green Week. For ages 4+



Book Club Friday 30 June at 2pm
Contact the library for this month's book or turn up to say hello and help choose the next one. All very welcome



Knit and Natter – Tuesday 6 June 2.30pm
First Tuesday of each month. Enjoy a chat while spending time working on your latest project. All crafts welcome



Rhymetime Wednesdays at 10.30am
Singing and rhyming fun for under 5s and their parents/carers. Every Wednesday during school term.



@oxonlibraries BerinsfieldLibrary





St Birinus Primary School News

On behalf of our school, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who made the Coronation event such a special day. We are so grateful to have received a significant amount of money from the event organisers to help us with our library refurbishments and I'm looking forward to sharing pictures when the library is finished.

We loved opening up our school grounds to the village and welcoming in young and old to join us on our stalls. Thank you so much for all your generosity.



Summer term is always a busy one for us with lots of assessments but also exciting things going on too. We loved the fly past from RAF Benson and hope you enjoy seeing the pictures from above that they sent to us. We tried to make the shape of a crown!

We also have a sports afternoon and a Key Stage 2 show to look forward to.

We run a breakfast club and an after-school club. We have places available and if you would like to see what we could offer your child please give us a call to arrange a tour. You can find out more from our website here: <https://www.st-birinus-pri.oxon.sch.uk/>

Jo Staples
Headteacher



Dorchester Preschool

What a busy Spring term Dorchester Preschool has had! Our topic this term has been all about life cycles. The children have absolutely loved this topic, we have even been visited in the setting by chicks, learned all about gardening club and even planted new plants in our spruced up gardens. We have been learning the cycle of butterflies and caterpillars and even did a beautiful display in the school on the wall. We have even learnt a new poem about butterflies. As I said, very busy indeed.

The Coronation party was a huge success and was enjoyed by so many. The children and parents really appreciated the very lovely memorabilia mugs that were donated by the parish council. The preschool stalls on the day were very busy and the preschool managed to raise over £250 alone with their inventive ideas. A huge thank you to Helen and the team for organising this. The money that will be kindly donated to the preschool from the tea party will be very much appreciated in buying some new equipment for the garden and some new cameras for the children to use. We also got an invite to join the school for an afternoon Coronation party which the children loved, they got to meet the teachers and children already at St Birinus who made our preschoolers feel very welcome indeed. We waved at helicopters for photos and really enjoyed a very momentous time in our history.

From September 2023 we will be looking for a nursery nurse to join our team, we will be very sadly saying goodbye to Zoe the supervisor. If you would like more info about joining the team please call **01865 341805**. Spaces in the setting are now very limited, but we do have a waiting list. So please call for a visit or a look around.

We will continue to keep busy and always learning with new topics ahead. Looking forward to our Sports day in July and school leavers' party! I would like to remind everyone that the Dorchester Preschool is a charitable organisation run entirely by volunteers. If you have any ideas for fund-raising or would like to help please get in touch!

Sarah Egan



I am looking for a house in Dorchester

Cash buyer, no chain

I have fallen for the charms of Dorchester, and would like to make this lovely village my permanent home.

If you are thinking of selling a property, I would love to hear from you.

Any property type considered, price in the region of £500k.

I am a cash buyer, renting locally, no chain, moving date flexible.

Please call Fran on **07787 357457**



Warborough & Shillingford WI

The Coronation celebrations in Warborough and Shillingford were a triumph. Our members were involved in many of the events including the exhibition of Royal Memorabilia, St. Laurence History Hunt, Monday's Big Help Out, the Big lunch and more. In Dorchester WI members transformed the bus shelter into the balcony at Buckingham Palace complete with royal figures of the King and Queen and the Prince and Princess of Wales. I am sure a few people did a double take when they saw the Royals waiting for a bus. Dorchester WI members also contributed food for the street party and barbeque. On the Green in Warborough the sun came out just as our party of older residents and helpers sat down to enjoy delicious food and wine at the Big Lunch on Sunday, all prepared by WI members, a lovely time was had by all. On Monday the community came together to help where help was needed. Clare Dewell and Rachel Walker spent a few hours cleaning the new bus shelter at Shillingford roundabout until it gleamed. The existence of this shelter is the result of the Community Project led by Rachel and Clare last year.

The WI monthly Members' Meeting in May hosted Matt Williams, who is Senior Programme Manager for Mental Health within the Oxford Academic Health Science Network, he is also Director of Oxford Samaritans and is engaged with the dedicated male suicide prevention charity the 'Campaign against Living Miserably', CALM. Matt has volunteered with the Samaritans since 2009 and has considerable experience. He explained what skills are needed to be a Samaritan and told us some interesting facts about the service. Importantly, it

is a listening service, confidential, anonymous and non-judgemental. What was shocking is the fact that 75% of all those who take their own lives are male. Not everyone has what it takes to become a Samaritan but we can

all make eye contact and smile, that may be the only interaction some people have in a day, and, don't forget, talking can change someone's life. If you need to talk you can speak to a real person at the Samaritans 24/7 on **116 123**. For a young person who is not coping with life there is *Papyrus*, dedicated to the prevention of young suicide **0800 068 41 41**.



Future Programme: Inspiration for knitters from Linda Scurr, who will give a demonstration on spinning; WRVS 1938 – 45; The Magistrates Court and outings.

The Walking Group: Back in action our bi weekly sociable group of walkers led by Chris Tilley. A friendly group to join while getting fit and enjoying the fresh air and scenery.

If you would like to make new friends, hear good speakers or try new activities our WI would love to welcome you. We are part of the Oxfordshire group which gives our members the opportunity to join group outings, holidays and other interesting events.

Sarah Allen
President
01865 858673
warboroughwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Vicky Hart
Secretary
01865 416437
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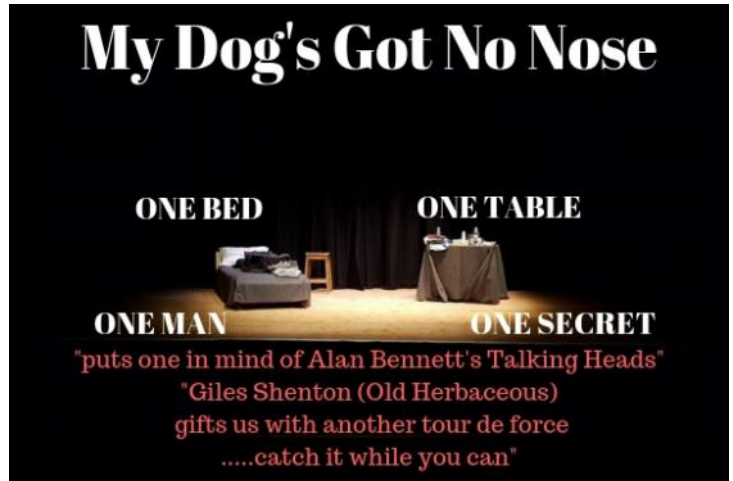
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My Dog's Got No Nose

He's back with another amazing theatrical production



Dorchester Village Hall

7.30pm Saturday 10 June

Doors and bar open at 7.00pm

Tickets £12 from ticketsource.co.uk/dotvh

'Saw 'My Dog's Got No Nose' yesterday at The Stables Theatre. Can't tell you what an impression Giles Shenton had on my husband and myself. From thinking we had a not very good stand-up, to one of the best acted and produced shows we have seen in a long time is an understatement'.

Giles Shenton ('Old Herbaceous' and 'Three Men in a Boat') returns with a 'thought provoking' and 'cleverly constructed, wonderful piece of theatre' about a man preparing to fulfil his lifelong ambition to be a stand-up comedian. But the man and the performance are not what they seem!

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!

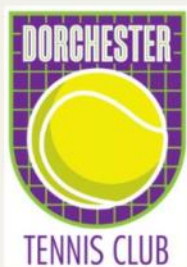
Dorchester Safari Supper

Saturday June 24th

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

7pm drinks & canapes (in the Manor House Garden)
Main course (at a house in Dorchester)
Pudding (at another house in Dorchester!)
Coffee (in Dorchester Abbey)

Tickets from:
Steph Forman
steph@forman.org.uk
07711 046818



Dorchester Tennis Club

Junior & Adult Tennis Lessons

Come and Join us this Summer



Juniors & Adult Coaching

Sunday 4th June
Sunday 25th June
Sunday 9th July

1 - 2pm	10 & Under
2 - 3pm	11 - 16 years
3 - 4:30pm	Adult Beginners
4:30 - 6pm	Adult Improvers / Club

60mins sessions are £8 each or £20 for all three
90 mins sessions are £12 each or £30 for all three

To book on or for further details please contact Andy

andy@aatennis.co.uk

Or message through the Facebook page

www.facebook.com/aatennisdtdc



Dorchester FC Round Off A Stunning Season

Dorchester Football Club finished last season by winning the Division Two Championship of the North Berks League, by the wide margin of ten points.

In the last game of the season, sadly, the club lost 3-1 to Drayton in the final of the North Berks Cup, in front of a crowd of about 350.



Celebrating winning the Division Two Championship



Manager Dave Lyne and Secretary Mike Stimpson with the Division Two Championship Trophy



Dorchester FC line up before the North Berks Cup Final



Captain Kyle Carrigan (No 8) heads Dorchester's goal in the North Berks Cup Final



Striker Ashley Stevens with the Division Two Golden Boot award, after scoring 24 goals in the season

North Berks League Div 2 2022-2023

Pos	Team	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	GD	PTS
1	Dorchester	16	14	1	1	53	43
2	Compton	16	10	3	3	5	33
3	Woodcote Development	16	10	1	5	30	31
4	Burghclere	16	7	2	7	4	23
5	Letcombe Reserves	16	7	1	8	-12	22
6	Sutton Courtenay First	16	5	4	7	5	19
7	Lambourn Sports	16	5	2	9	-29	17
8	Long Wittenham Athletic Reserves	16	3	1	12	-38	10
9	East Hendred AFC Reserves	16	2	3	11	-18	9

Football Results North Berks League Div 2		North Berks Cup Final	
22/04/2023	Compton 5	2	Dorchester
19/04/2023	Woodcote Development 0	2	Dorchester
29/04/2023	Drayton First 3	1	Dorchester

The Bishop's Court Farm Sessions

On 27 April two meetings were held at The Snug on Bishop's Court Farm as the third in a series held by the farm to inform and consult villagers about plans and developments there.

The first meeting was held at 2.30pm and attended by about 30 people. The meeting was then repeated in the evening at 7.30pm, with a similar attendance. The meetings were each addressed by architect Trevor Avery, director of lapd architects, and Keith Ives, the owner of Bishop's Court Farm. The main difference between the two meetings was that the afternoon attendees received tea and cake whilst something slightly stronger was available in the evening.

A review of the current situation started with the findings of the survey of attendees to the previous meeting in September 2022 and previously published in the February 2023 Dorchester News. The number of survey respondents who had some concerns about the farm's plans had decreased from 38% to 25% since the first meeting, and the two main concerns now related to the impact of the commercial activities of the farm on the rest of the village, and the potential impact of the proposed eco pods on wildlife. Regarding the first of these, Keith said that a meeting had been held with representatives of the Village Hall and Dorchester Abbey, to try to ensure that their activities and revenues would not be affected by the farm's plans and that following that meeting BCF's plans were being reviewed and would be developed in consultation with the Abbey, the Village Hall and Parish Council. In relation to the proposed eco pods it was stated that ecological reviews had been put in place and would be included in the planning for the pods, with the application for these expected to take place in the next six months.

The status regarding livestock is now that there are 31 goats, 57 alpacas and many sheep, including 294 lambs born this year, as well as pigs, with 29 piglets born that week, 26 beehives (producing 650 kilos of honey pa) and the lake had been stocked with 1.6 tons of trout. There was some difficulty in turning this figure into numbers of fish, but it is a lot.

Two lambing open days had been held recently. Keith apologised for the traffic issues that occurred with the first of these. The number of people trying to attend had been higher than any of the forecasts, but lessons had been learned and the traffic for the second lambing day was managed differently and better.

Employment

- c.30 employees, mostly from this and surrounding villages
- Apprenticeships and work experience on the farm, in construction and the cafe
- Veterinary and agricultural students employed during lambing

Beekeeping experiences had proved popular as had alpaca walking and feeding sessions. Children from local primary schools and care home residents had also made visits.

A grant has been received to plant 12km of new hedgerows and trees. These will include areas along the Thames River

bank to replace trees taken out by the previous owner of the farm, and to create and regularise a 'proper' footpath on the 'one-way' system between the village and Day's Lock, first introduced during the Covid lockdown. This will take place in late autumn this year and Keith is happy, indeed keen, for villagers to get involved in the planting.



A yellow wagtail on the scrape: a bird with a UK red conservation status because of critical decline.

Something that has been completed is the creation of scrapes to the south of the lakes. These hold shallow seasonal floodwater and attract birds as feeding and roosting sites. In the five months since they were completed, bird visitors not seen for ten years have already returned. Indeed the sighting of a yellow wagtail caused quite a stir amongst the bird watching community.

Work is under way to introduce an interactive map of the farm on the website, together with QR codes on plaques at points of interest by which visitors will be able to access information about what they are looking at.



Also in the last six months construction work has continued on the farmhouse, which is nearly complete, the North Barns and the farm manager's accommodation, both of which are expected to complete in the next six months. Planning

approval has also been received for the access track to Abingdon Road and work has commenced on that.

The Housing Needs Survey conducted by Bishops Court Farm in conjunction with the Parish Council had identified that most villagers believe that there is a need for social housing, and the survey had identified some specific people who would potentially benefit from it. There was some discussion, at least in the afternoon session, as to whether this part of Abingdon Road is the right place for it to go. Keith explained that the proposal now is for single storey dwellings for both social and market housing, designed to blend in with the farm buildings, and divided from the road with hedges to reduce their visual impact. The market housing would pay for the social housing,

The Snug

- Opened just over a year ago
- Farm to table food with local producers
- Community café
- Shop selling items from farm, local businesses, artists and artisans.
- Plans for evening opening for dining, evening events and increased outdoor seating and improved parking

and Bishop's Court Farm would not significantly benefit financially from them. It was agreed that there is still a long way to go before this proposal can be realised, with a lot of consultations and approvals, and probably amendments to the plan, together with other factors such as the proposed

development at Allen's Pit, which whether or not or when that happens could have an impact.

In the coming six months it is planned to install geothermal electricity generation from the lake which would make the farm energy self-sufficient and possibly allow some sale back to the National Grid.

The Christmas Market had been well attended and was popular. The Snug Sessions, Sunday evening jazz concerts, had also proved popular both with people from Dorchester and from further afield. It was acknowledged that there had been sound disturbance problems for neighbours when they were housed in a marquee in the field opposite The Snug. Now, however, the marquee had been re-erected inside a sound proofed barn which should eliminate that.

The meetings ended with the announcement that the Fleur de Lys in the village, now run by the farm, would be re-opening at 5.00pm on Friday 5 May. This was welcomed enthusiastically by everybody.

At this, the third of these meetings, much of the concern, even hostility, of the previous meetings was not evident to the same extent, if at all. Most in the audience generally appeared to recognise that the farm had listened to previous concerns and made alterations and concessions to address these concerns. Indeed at the afternoon meeting the Q&A session ended with the question 'What can we do to help?' to which Keith replied 'Come and help plant the 12 kilometres of hedging in the autumn. We'll provide lunch and refreshments.'

The Fleur de Lys returns



At 5.05pm there was a queue to get in.

Many of us feared that we would never see the day when the Fleur de Lys not only re-opened but re-opened as a pub called the Fleur de Lys, rather than pretending to be something else with a fancy name. (Fans of *The Archers*—on Radio 4 for younger readers—well know what happened when someone tried to rename *The Bull* as *The B at Ambridge!*)

Mind you, it wasn't exactly clear that this was the case on 5 May at 5.00pm when the door re-opened—the front door no less! - given that the sign on the wall proclaimed *The Fleur de Lys*, but the sign on the pole showed a picture of King Charles III. A few people got in a tizz thinking that the pub had been renamed after a living monarch which, I am told, is illegal. Anyone who knows Keith Ives though will have realised that this tribute was what we might have expected from him.

What really mattered, though, was that it was open again as a village pub.

And people flocked in on that first evening. It might have been the free food on offer (which was delicious) but mostly there was a sense that at last

here was a real village asset returned to the community. It is some years since it was that, previous attempts a few years ago to make it a 'community asset' having come to nought.

After it lost its previous tenant at the turn of the year, Keith and the Bishop's Court Farm team stepped in, restored many of the features removed and sometimes destroyed during its last incarnation. We understand that the settles previously in the pub were burnt in an attempt to modernise by the last tenant, but Keith and the team acquired replacements from a church that was getting rid of its pews. So the hard uncomfortable seating is happily back.

There are plans to restore food, mostly simple pub food, and the Aunt Sally, but these will take time to staff up for and to organise.

In the meantime, it seemed that most of the village was there on that first night, crammed around the bar and spilling out across the large rear garden. Let's hope that it can continue to bring in sufficient business to rise once again to its former position.



Dorchester's Coronation Weekend



What a Coronation weekend for Dorchester!

The Dorchester Street Party was one to remember. The sight of Queen St dressed up in its finest union jack colours complete with beautiful Wolseley vintage car, the tables crowded with people enjoying the sunshine, food and drink, the school playground buzzing with kids - alpacas and bouncy castle centre stage - young and old playing pickleball and ending the day with our very own Dorchester version of Glastonbury (well nearly!) with the ceilidh team leading some great dancing. This was our community at its very best.

Oh, and the weather, the wonderful British weather, the rain stopped, the clouds parted, and it did us proud. Did anyone doubt it? Of course, we didn't!

And on the Bank Holiday Monday The Big Help Out saw over 70 volunteers working across the village, young and old, to do their bit to make our community even smarter.

Some numbers for you:

- 500 chairs and 90 tables put up and down and 500m of bunting
- 432 party tickets sold (over 600 people overall) raising £795 for the school and pre-school
- Over 1500 drinks served from the tea stall and bar
- 480 cup-cakes and 32 cakes and 100 rounds of sandwiches made

There are lots of thank yous of course. Lots and lots of them. Too many people to list and we'd only miss someone out, so we won't risk it! By our count over 100 people did a shift, aged 8 to 80+, from setter-uppers and taker-downers, decorators and rubbish collectors, bakers and barbequers, pourers and servers, bar staff and mug sellers, shoppers and transporters, musicians and ceilidh callers, school and pre-school activity runners. Thanks to all of you on behalf of the organisers and

more importantly, the whole village. Without you the party would have never happened.

Our special thanks to those very patient and generous people on Queen St whose houses we invaded and gardens we took over to run our tea stall, bar, barbecue and music and whose power supply and WiFi we used in large quantities. Also huge thanks to the farm team for coming to the rescue with chairs and equipment.

And, after a good sleep, we moved on to the Big Help Out which highlighted the wonderful, but often invisible, groups we have in our community whose work we all benefit from. Each and every month they manage the Hurst, tidy and improve our hedgerows, lanes, cemetery and allotments, they maintain and run the Abbey and they pick litter to make sure our village looks its best. It was great for over 70 of us to get involved for a day and give them a helping hand. We hope some helpers become inspired to get involved going forward.

A wonderful weekend all round which met our objectives to be focused on our Community, the Environment and Youth. With so many people joining in the party, our local environmental groups getting so much help from new people and £1000 in total raised for our school and pre-school through the ticket sales and the activities they laid on we think we can declare it a success all round.

Lastly, some advice for anyone inclined to organise a party in our wonderful community. You can do it with so many people willingly volunteering to help. But maybe, it's best not to decide to do it over drinks with your neighbours, it's far too late to back down by the time the second bottle is empty. Beware!

Thanks once again to everyone who helped us and to everyone who turned out.

**Steph and Nick Forman
Jill and Mike Corran**



There was the setting up... the barbeque to be fired up ...



Photo: Andrew Powell

...a young helper to set up the bar...



Photo: Alexa Johnson

...the Wolseley to be bedecked...



... and the tables to be laid.



Later on there was a band...



...with dancing(?)...



... and then Cèilidh dancing



The school playground hosted alpacas...



... and pickleball...



...exhibitions of work and competitions, and even the crowns.



There was a street name to change...



but most of all... pto

...there were hundreds of people just enjoying themselves



Photo: Charlotte Garside





The Big Help Out



Abbey Cleaners

The Big Help Out saw volunteers armed with dust pans and brushes, long handled dusters and cloths join together in a mission to clean up our beautiful village Abbey. The team of keen cleaners got chatting whilst they worked and many hands did make it so much easier to bust the dust and cobwebs. There was a break for tea, coffee and cake which was enjoyed by all and this made it a lovely sociable afternoon. The volunteers are keen to repeat the deep clean again in early Autumn so keep a look out for the date and maybe you can join in too. Thank you so much to all who came along.

Allotment Clearers



The allotment committee is keen to support the development of an area with improved accessibility for planting in raised beds.

During the help out Monday, a small team cleared a previously overgrown plot as the first step in this project. Please keep a look out over the coming weeks as the beds start to be constructed.

We are keen to hear from anyone in the community who would like make use of this facility once they are finished. With many thanks to: Mike Corran, Mike Rimmer, Alan Fairhurst, Sophia Stewart-Liberty, Charlotte Bennett, Andy Pay and Bill Howard

Tea Room Volunteers



We were delighted to welcome four new volunteers to the Abbey Tea Room working with some of our regular team for a busy afternoon serving our tea and amazing cakes to over 80 customers. We hope they enjoyed their afternoon and would like to help again.

Hurst Clearers



HWMT regular volunteers (Richard, Rachel, Graham, Jim and Louise) were joined by Vicky, Justin, Deepak and Andy.

The group rapidly moved a large pile of dead bramble material into new habitat piles set deep on a willow copse and cleared a large area of nettle growth to encourage grass and wildflower growth. The success of this approach is already evident from last year's work with cow parsley and comfrey thriving.

Graham also relocated two wildlife sign boards.

Hedge Caring



The Big Help Day coincided with the beginning of National Hedgerow week, so it was a good opportunity to be working on and caring for our newly planted hedge.

Our team of three regular volunteers were joined by Sarah who helped us weed and mulch in between the 300 new plants and inspect the new growth from the coppiced stems.

River Thame Litter Pickers



Two canoes, four children, three adults and a dog picked litter from the Thame - mainly debris from the recent floods. It was a good time to do it, before the reeds grow tall. The swan kept an eye on us but wasn't unduly bothered.

Dave Cutler collected a fishing net full of cans, bottles and plastic and the canoeists - Daniel (9), Owen (7) Joe (6) and Eleanor (6) - pulled out chocolate wrappers, rope, plastic bags, tin cans, a cap, and timber. Finding two balls made Meg the Labrador happy.

Volunteer Abbey Stewards



A group of potential volunteer stewards saw the rebuilt cloister gallery and learned about the organ which, due to lack of funds when it was installed in 1870, only had ¼ of

the intended pipes (It now has all of them). We saw the carvings of the devil in the East window and the Green Man in the Requiem Chapel.

Some, or possibly all, of the group will join the team who welcome visitors to the abbey at weekends. If you would like to join them, please contact tim.cook12@btinternet.com

River Thames litter picking



Not one of the advertised activities, but Penny White set out on the Thames and collected a big bag of rubbish. She is also offering villagers use of the White's kayaks if you want to go collecting river litter. Contact Penny White **07838 173627**

Cloister Garden Weeders



We were happy to be joined by nine adults and three children who arrived ready to help us with spades, trowels and a watering can. Jessica and mum Gemma and Thea with mum Siobhan, carefully planted rings of snapdragons around the hawthorn; David and Hilary, Steve and Lou, Nathalie, Jamaliah and Colin, made a major impact on the alkanet; Andrew prepared the semi-circular raised bed and all worked enthusiastically to clear the Herb Garden paths of weeds.

We hope to invite volunteers again to join in a bulb planting session in the autumn.

Litter Pickers

A wonderful group of 19, including four from our Co-op team, joined the Big Help Out litter-pick. Thanks to ongoing efforts by various individuals, litter levels were already encouragingly low, but we still collected over 10 bags full. Dorchester was left virtually litter-free and, provided even just a few people continue to pick up regularly, we can keep it that way. We all enjoyed helping make our village clean, it was sociable and we made new friends. A good day out!



Michael Edward Dyde 28 July 1936 - 14 April 2023

Mike was born on 28 July 1936, his parents were Wilfred and Eileen and he had an elder brother John.

They lived in Cirencester where he had a happy childhood, studying and playing sport. He passed the Entrance exam to the local Grammar school and played Rugby for the town team.

He left school with A levels in physics, chemistry and Maths and wanted to go to University, but sadly was unable to go as he couldn't get a grant.

Mike did not follow his brother John into their Father's printing business so not knowing what to do, was conscripted to do National service in the army. He was sent to the Army's Electrical and mechanical Engineers (REME) because of his scientific bias.

Firstly, he went to Salisbury plain to do basic military training, he then applied for a commission and was sent to The Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst to become an officer cadet.

After becoming a Commissioned Officer because of his love of rugby, Mike was invited to join the Welch Regiment. After two years training in 1958 he marched by Her Majesty the Queen in his passing out parade.

In 1959 he was posted to join the 1st Battalion in Benghazi, North Africa where their role was to protect the King.

His long term career path was to do a degree at the Royal Military College at Swindon, which he started in 1960. During this time Mike met Joey and they were married July 23rd 1963.

After many years at Shrivenham, Mike was posted back to the 1st Battalion in Warminster where he lived in the Officers' Mess. Joey was staying with



her parents in Long Wittenham awaiting the birth of Nicola their first daughter.

In May 1966 Mike, Joey and a two year old Nicola went to Hong Kong with the regiment.

Vicky and Jo were also born in Hong Kong, Vicky on Hong Kong Island and Jo in the new Military hospital over on the mainland. Mike and Joey spent several years there having a wonderful time. Mike was ADC to the General who was CBF – Commander of the British Forces and he had to accompany him on all his visits and sometimes be his body guard.

They returned to the UK in 1970 and went to Camberley where Mike was at Staff College; he was by now a Major.

Sadly one day he was playing cricket and looked up to the sky and realised he had lost the sight in one eye. This was a very sad time because instead of moving up the ranks in the army, like his contemporaries who went on to become

Brigadiers and Generals, he had to leave the army. Despite this terrible blow, Mike took it in his stride and never complained.

He worked for the Ministry of Defence for several years in Whitehall and then for other companies working in the military defence business. With his work he travelled to many countries including The Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, America to name but a few.

In 1977 Mike and Joey bought The Old Forge in Dorchester and their life in the village began. Mike played an active part including being Chairman of the Village Hall committee, The British Legion, and the Sports club.

One New Year's Eve, they were invited to a dinner party with a group of villagers who called themselves The Dobunnis, named after an ancient tribe on Wittenham clumps. All of the Dobunnis became dear friends to Mike and Joey and they have spent nearly every New Year's Eve with them since then. Mike liked playing golf at Frilford and also enjoyed many evenings playing Bridge with these friends.

Mike and Joey developed a love for horse racing and travelled all over the country going to race meetings. They bought Stage Fright a race horse and had such fun following its progress and were very lucky to win and be placed on several occasions.

Mike and Joey would have celebrated their 60th Wedding anniversary this year. They spent many happy years together and Mike always loved being with his family. His wife Joey, three daughters Nicola, Vicky and Jo and grandchildren Emma, Katie, Josh, Harriet and James will miss him very much.



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Yvonne Freebody
29 July 1922 - 11 April 2023

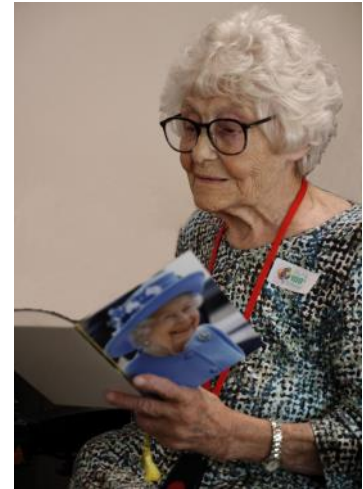
After spending most of her adult life in London and Surrey, Yvonne moved to Dorchester in 2007 to be closer to her grandchildren. Yvonne trained as physiotherapist at the Middlesex Hospital, London, qualifying in 1942. She joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and was posted to Palestine in 1947, where she met her husband, Douglas Freebody, an orthopaedic surgeon. The time she spent in the Middle East sparked a life-long interest in the region's culture and religions. Yvonne was also a passionate follower of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships and Formula One motor-racing. She cared deeply about the environment and she loved animals; the birds at her end of the village were very well fed!



Yvonne was a regular visitor to the village for some years before she moved here, and she loved Dorchester's history and sense of community. On becoming a resident, Yvonne threw herself into village life, joining the Dorchester Abbey congregation, becoming a volunteer at the Abbey Tea Rooms and attending all sorts of village events, from History Society meetings to the May morning breakfasts, and from DADS'

performances to the Dorchester Festival. Yvonne used to enjoy the lunch club organised at the Village Hall for those of a similar vintage, and to meeting her girlfriends for lunch at the White Hart Hotel. She was delighted to be introduced to John Nettles when Midsomer Murders was being filmed in Dorchester. After she was confined to a wheelchair, she was extremely touched by efforts to enable her to access the 2Hurst Meadow, a spot she loved, in her chair. Yvonne was so grateful for all the support she received as life became more difficult for her.

She spent the last few months of her life at The Close Care Home in Burcot, where she celebrated her 100th birthday on 29 July 2022. She was thrilled to receive, amongst her many birthday cards, one from HM The Queen. She died on 11 April 2023 and a small, quiet funeral, in accordance with her wishes, took place at the South Oxfordshire Crematorium on Thursday 11 May.



Yvonne on her 100th birthday with her card from HM The Queen



Dorchester Open Gardens

Saturday June 17th
1pm-5pm

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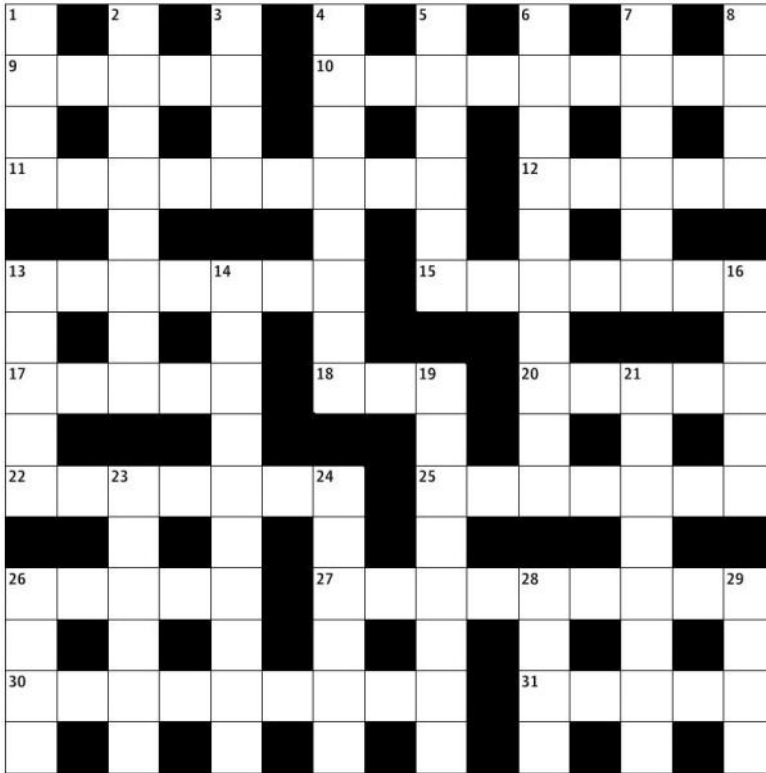
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Dorchester News Crossword No.27

Compiled by Slider



Across

- 9 Together we are ignoring the rule. (5)
- 10 Pearls Sir? This is a new arrangement for the counters. (9)
- 11 Spiky Erica is after British number one. (9)
- 12 Order! The chairman leads the partners and gets complaints. (5)
- 13 The odd Irish on board ship - they are behind the times. (7)
- 15 Nearness but not quite playing catch. (7)

- 17 The city begins audition. (5)
- 18 Striptease for a drink. (3)
- 20 Western aid for Ulster, another land... (5)
- 22 ...where meditation could show important riches within. (7)
- 25 Wander when the delta predator loses its head. (7)
- 26 Call on the best for city. (5)
- 27 A defensive position in the dark for a while. (9)
- 30 Destroy evil! Super! (9)
- 31 This girl is not too expensive. (5)

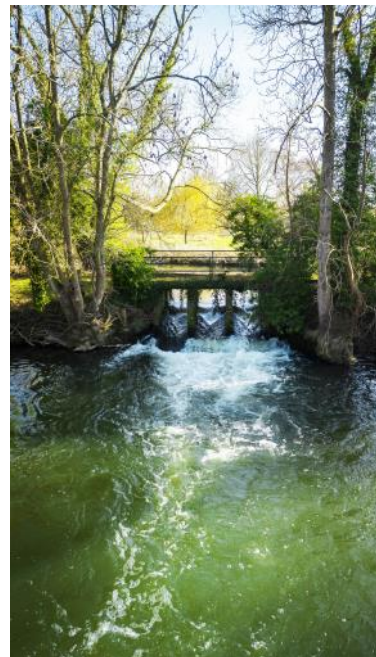
Down

- 1 Colourless sailor visited by a medic. (4)
- 2 Get dismissive, don't open the cheese and clear up inside. (8)
- 3 An insect's flavour can be uplifting. (4)
- 4 Pictures taken up with the smart lot's toy. (5,3)
- 5 Go ape with a drug to get to a peak. (6)
- 6 Getting rid of the lost detective. (10)
- 7 Some Western dream- a Napoleonic hat? (7)
- 8 Makes a request for short assignments. (4)
- 13 The odds settled for a division. (5)
- 14 Taught again to go round the bend, but quietly. (10)
- 16 Playing sax, me? Questions will be asked here.(5)
- 19 Officials could be tree people. (8)
- 21 Clearing channels but sounding as if afraid to use gravity. (8)
- 23 Can a rising priest (with a cake) be of marriageable age? (6)
- 24 The box is doubly strong and surrounded by money. (6)
- 26 Con gets to a party with a drug... (4)
- 28 ... to have a neck... (4)
- 29 ...and attempts a short romantic rendezvous (4)

Public Consultation Dorchester Weirs Fish Pass Project 19 June 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm Dorchester on Thames Village Hall

River Thame Conservation Trust (RTCT), in partnership with the Environment Agency and the Hurst Water Meadow Trust, is developing a project to remove the barrier to the movement of fish up the River Thame and connect the fish communities in the Thames with those of the Thame. The site of the project is Buck's Pool, at the top of the Hurst meadow.

We invite you to learn about the project and offer your views at a public meeting from 7.00 to 9.00pm on **Monday 19 June** in the Dorchester village hall. RTCT will make a presentation on the aims of the project, the options appraisal to date and the plan going forward. It will provide an early consultation opportunity for the residents of Dorchester-on-Thames to be informed and engaged in the design and planning of the scheme.



The weir structure over the Thame which acts as a barrier to fish movement





SODC Election Result

The result for the ward of Berinsfield (including Dorchester) is:

Candidate	Party	Votes	Percentage
Robin Bennett	Green Party	761	80.0%
Bob Dhillon	Conservatives	190	20.0%

Councillors elected by party:

Liberal Democrat	21
Green	8
Henley Residents Group	3
Labour	3
Conservative	1

Overall turnout was 37.4% on an electorate of 112,939 voters.

Parish Council Election Result

The result of the election for Dorchester Parish Council on 4 May 2023 is as follows:

Candidate	No of votes
Becky Waller	343
John Jeffrey Taylor	327
Mike Atkinson	316
Mike Corran	303
Charlotte Laura Garside	299
Chris Hill	284
Jonathan Steven Brydges	281
Mark David Williams	262
Michael Douglas Rimmer	237

The eight candidates with the greatest number of votes are elected.

On an electorate of 802 voters, 520 ballot papers were issued, giving a turnout of 64.8%.

Eight ballot papers were spoiled either by voting for too many candidates (2) or for being void or uncertain about for whom a vote was cast (6).

At the Parish Council AGM on Wednesday 12 May, Cllr Mike Corran was elected Chair and Cllr John Taylor Vice Chair.

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Parish Council Notices

Council Meetings

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will take place in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 14 June** commencing at 7.30pm. The agenda will be posted on Village noticeboards and on the Parish Council section of the Village website:

www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk – at least three clear days in advance. The July meeting will be held on **Wednesday 12 July**.

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.

Defibrillators

There are three Defibrillators in the Village. They are located on the Recreation Ground mounted on the front of the Pavilion; in the entrance lobby of The White Hart Hotel; and in the former phone box in Bridge End. They are all registered with the Ambulance Service which knows the locations and in an emergency will provide the access code of the nearest device. No training is required. When the unit is opened, voice instructions will guide the user through the process.

Please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like more information including links to view short on-line demonstrations.

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 Mike Corran, the Chairman, can be contacted via **chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk**

For information about the Parish Council go to:

www.dorchester-on-thames.co.uk/parish-council/

This includes the minutes of all Parish Council Meetings and financial information such as monthly bank balances and payments as well as a record of all planning matters upon which the Parish Council has been consulted and reports from our County and District Councillor.

From the Chairman of the Parish Council



As we all recover from the exertions of the Coronation weekend the new Parish Council you elected has met for the first time. I have been asked by the other councillors to be the Chair with John Taylor as the Vice Chair.

So congratulations to Mike Atkinson, Jon Brydges, Charlotte Garside, Chris Hill, Becky Waller and Mark Williams as well as John and myself who are your 8 parish councillors chosen for the next 4 years. A turnout of 64% shows that Dorchester really took an interest in who represents you. And we now have a far more diverse set of people, which can only be good. We hope to meet your expectations of us.

I would like to thank Mark Williams who served a full term as Chair through some challenging and complicated times for society and the village. I would also like to pass on the village's thanks to Mike Rimmer who was the unfortunate candidate who didn't make it through the election, Mike served the parish council for a good number of years and was always a wise voice in our discussions and deserves our thanks for his service on your behalf.

This first meeting of the new council had a record number of residents present, at least in my time on the council. Which is wonderful. But we want to see this continue, in future we will be running the meeting in a more focused way so the interesting stuff is earlier in the meeting and we can hopefully make you want to come along and listen or participate.

So, what is your new parish council going to do for you? Well, of course the councillors have their views and ideas, that's why they put themselves up for election. And some of those were aired in the hustings and leaflets that were distributed for the election. But we do want to get as much input as possible from you about how you both see the future and the more immediate priorities before the council fully agrees its plans for the next 4 years. So, we are working on ways to use the Annual Parish Meeting, which will be in June, to enable you to offer your thoughts. The more people who help us the better. You can find the date and time on the village website, on posters and on social media.

There are some things though that the parish council agrees will be on our priority list so we have kicked work off on those already; how to get the social housing needs of the village met; reorganising our website and communications with residents better; delivering the playground on the back of the wonderful grants we have secured. There will be more but this should get us moving.

When you see the date for the annual meeting, please do put it in your diary, help us shape what we try to do on your behalf.

I look forward to keeping you updated each month.

Mike Corran,
Chair



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

Firstly, thanks so much to everyone for their support in the recent SODC elections. It's a real honour to be re-elected so convincingly, and I look forward to working closely with the newly-elected Parish Council.

At the time of writing we haven't yet had the Annual Meeting, but the likelihood is the Lib Dem-Green partnership will continue to run the council, with an extended majority. My written SODC updates will resume next month.

OCC News: County Councillor priority fund for community projects.

The Councillor Priority Fund supports councillor priorities in their local areas.

Each Oxfordshire county councillor has a budget of £15,000 to award during over the course of two financial years from April 2023 until March 2025. Funding is awarded by councillors on a rolling basis. This is part of the council's commitment to supporting local communities across Oxfordshire to create a greener, fairer and healthier county.

The new online application form for my OCC councillor priority fund is now live:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/councillorpriorityfund

To be eligible for funding, applying organisations must have a committee and a constitution or appropriate rules setting out aims and objectives and how the group will operate. Eligible organisations include:

- Registered Charity
- Not for Profit Company (including Community Interest Companies, CIO)
- Constituted Community or Voluntary Group

- Non-Constituted Community or Voluntary Group
- Town/Parish Council or Parish Meeting
- School, Academy or Educational Institution
- Parent Teacher Associations

The types of projects that we fund include village hall refurbishment, purchasing of equipment, community activities open to all, play equipment for playgrounds, provisions for food banks or community larders, tree planting or community gardening schemes.

- All projects must address recognised needs of local communities of Oxfordshire.
- Project application forms must provide a breakdown of costs and anticipated timescales
- Projects will need to be completed by 31 March 2025
- Projects must benefit Oxfordshire communities, be inclusive and provide good value for money.

For more information on how to apply, contact me or email the Councillor Priority Fund team:

(councillorpriorityfund@oxfordshire.gov.uk). The final deadline for applications is **30 November 2025** but they will be considered on a rolling basis, so do get in touch.

robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk
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From your MP...

...John Howell

This month with the local elections we have seen people come and people go as councillors. Firstly my thanks to all those who have worked as local councillors, at parish and district in the last four years or more. Having been a councillor myself I know very well the work that is involved and that sometimes it can be a thankless task. You can never please everyone and there are always more people ready to complain than to compliment. Welcome too to new councillors. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Turnout figures show that local elections pass many people by or that many are simply not interested. I think this may be that they do not appreciate the work that is done at a local level and the decisions that local councils have responsibility for. Issues are often raised with me that I have to defer to local councils as the councils are fully autonomous and responsible for their own decisions. So perhaps it is timely to remind people what the different councils do and how elected representatives can help on the relevant issues.

Let me start with the most local level of democracy, the parish council. This is the elected body closest to the community. Parish councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. Probably the most common topics that parish councils get involved with are planning matters (as statutory consultees), and campaigning and delivering better services and facilities for the community. They often provide allotment space, manage community centres, play areas and equipment, and deal with issues such as litter, graffiti, dog offences and fly posting. As a formal body parish councils have the ability to influence other organisations that make decisions affecting the community such as the district and county councils, health authorities, police. As such parish councils have an important role in local democracy and can be a great resource to support a thriving community.

Some smaller communities do not have a parish council but instead have a parish meeting. These have fewer powers and are not required to meet as frequently as a parish council. However they are still formal bodies with a representative role for the community and can often help with relevant issues in the same way that a parish council can.

The next tier of local government in this area is the district council. The constituency is served by two district councils, Cherwell District Council and South Oxfordshire

District Council. They are responsible for local services, including planning, housing and associated benefits, rubbish collection. environmental services, leisure services, some car parks and council tax collection. This is the level which has been the subject of much discussion on its continuance or whether it should be merged with the County Council to create a Unitary Council.

Finally we have the County Council. This is a much larger council which is responsible for services across the whole of a county. This Council is responsible for local services, including education, social services, transport, roads (except trunk roads and motorways), public rights of way, libraries, the fire service, culture, trading standards, bus subsidies, minerals, waste and recycling (disposal) and the environment.

Each of these council has elected representatives who take decisions on the relevant issues and are there to help residents in the areas of their responsibility. These people should be the first port of call to raise concerns with as they have direct access to information and, in the case of the larger councils, the officers employed to assist. Contact details for local councils and councillors are usually widely published. However if anyone has difficulty in locating the details for our County or District Councils details are available on my website under the tab labelled 'The Constituency'.

From my own experience as a local councillor, and working alongside many other councillors, I know that most people who put themselves forward for these roles do it because they want to help and support their community. I would therefore encourage residents to take an interest in what they do and seek their support if necessary. In the same way that I have been elected to be part of the parliamentary decision-making process, so they are elected as part of the local decision-making process. Similarly as I can sometimes help with issues relating to central government departments, so local councillors can help with issues relating to their councils' areas of responsibility.

As always, if there is a particular issue that concerns you, please do share your thoughts. If you would like to know more about my work on behalf of the Government, and in the Constituency, please do look at my website. The address is www.johnhowell.org.uk. My contact details are also on the website.



Wallingford Museum News

House Detectives: history behind the door

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

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

Imagine a scene, some where near Wallingford, in about 1344 when King Edward 111 ruled England, a tree was felled that was to be used in the building of a house in Wallingford High Street. Fact or fiction?

Thanks to a small inconspicuous, slender piece of wood, a "core sample" from a house on the High Street, experts can tell through tree ring dating just when that tree was felled. The ring patterns reveal the growth of the original trees from which the beams were made. Each ring represents a year's growth which varies dependent on weather conditions etc.

You can discover the story of this house and others in this new exhibition.

Summer at the museum 2023 will kick off with the Museum's ever popular family Archaeology Day on **Saturday 22 July**. <https://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk/events>

Guided Walks

Wallingford's Guided Historic Town Walks are running again. 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

Wednesday 14 June

Paul Booth: 'Evolving ideas on Roman and early post-Roman Dorchester-on-Thames'

Dorchester-on-Thames is well known as an important regional focus of Roman and Anglo-Saxon settlement, despite which the overall extent of excavation is still small. Ongoing analysis of the results of work in the allotments carried out from 2008-2018 informs and is informed by other evidence old and new and contributes significantly to revised understanding of the development of Dorchester through the first millennium AD.

Although officially retired from Oxford Archaeology, Paul is leading the post-excavation programme for the publication of the joint Oxford University Institute of Archaeology/Oxford Archaeology training excavation undertaken at Dorchester from 2008-2018.

Sue Wright
Wallingford Museum



Walled Gardens of Wallingford

Fancy a peek into some of Wallingford's most beautiful gardens?

For the first time for 12 years you can. Many historical properties, some with Thames river frontage, will welcome everyone on **Sunday 11 June**.

In the centre of old Wallingford (including Thames Street, St Peter's Street and Wood Street) many walled gardens will be open, some for the first time. They provide a great day out for the family.

Beautiful historic St Peter's Church and its churchyard in Thames Street will also be open. The church was built in 1769 and the handsome spire was added in 1777.

There will be teas in some of the gardens, short electric boat trips, plant sales and stalls (including wine tasting and strawberries).

Car parking is available in the Cattlemarket car park (between Wood Street and New Road, with loos and EV charging) and in the Thames Street car park.

The event is to raise money for the charity Music for Autism, which, in conjunction with the Orchestra of St John's, provides accessible workshops for young people with autism.

We are grateful to our generous sponsors – Root One Garden Centre, PureBoating (for the boat trips) and PC Technicians (for all our computing support).

Visit www.walledgardensofwallingford.co.uk for details.

Tickets, including maps, descriptions and accessibility, are available in advance at £6 through the website and at Root One garden centre and KP stationers. You can buy tickets on the day at £7.50 at 11 Wood Street (children free). We are sorry but no dogs please, except assistance.



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

June	
Sat 3	Book Club: The Next Chapter (12A) 2.30pm and 7.30pm
Sun 4	Book Club: The Next Chapter (12A)
Mon 5	Book Club: The Next Chapter (12A)
Wed 7	One Fine Morning (15) 2.30pm and 7.30pm
Fri 9	My Fairy Troublemaker (U)
Sat 10	My Fairy Troublemaker (U) 2.30pm
Sun 11	Are you there God, it's me Margaret (12A)
Mon 12	Are you there God, it's me Margaret (12A)
Wed 14	Are you there God, it's me Margaret (12A) 2.30pm
Fri 16	Vermeer, the Greatest Exhibition
Sat 24	Mad about the Boy: The Noel Coward Story (12A)
Sun 25	Mad about the Boy: The Noel Coward Story (12A) 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Live Screenings

Thursday, 1 June, 7.00pm

Bess of Enemies (15)

Filmed live at the Noel Coward Theatre, London

David Harewood (Homeland) and Zachary Quinto (Star Trek) play feuding political rivals in James Graham's (Sherwood) multiple award-winning new drama. In 1968 America, as two men fight to become the next president, all eyes are on the battle between two others: the cunningly conservative William F. Buckley Jr., and the unruly liberal Gore Vidal. During a new nightly television format, they debate the moral landscape of a shattered nation. As beliefs are challenged and slurs slung, a new frontier in American politics is opening and television news is about to be transformed forever.

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

Tuesday 13 June, 7:15pm

Il Trovatore Live from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden

Passions run high as Manrico and the Count di Luna compete for the affections of Leonora. Little do they know, Manrico's mother Azucena has been keeping a terrible secret for decades. Soon a curse from the past will rise up from the ashes with devastating implications for them all. Antonio Pappano conducts Verdi's dramatic score, which features the famous 'Anvil' chorus. Sung in Italian with English subtitles.

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

Live on Stage

Friday 2 June 7.30pm,

doors open at 6:30pm, last entry 7:15pm

Recording of BBC's Any Questions

Tickets are free and can be reserved online at www.cornexchange.org.uk The reservations can be exchanged at the box office for tickets anytime after 10.00am on **Friday 2 June** and the box office will stay open until the start of the recording. The BBC paper tickets will have space to write and submit a question to the panel. The seating is unreserved and will be on a first come first served basis, apart from row A which is unavailable. No admittance after 7.15pm. The finish time is expected to be by 9.00pm.

Tuesday 6 June 6.00pm

doors open at 5pm, last entry at 5.45pm

Recording of BBC's Gardener's Question Time

Tickets can be booked online at www.cornexchange.org.uk. All children between 10 and 18 must be accompanied by an adult. No admission under 10. The box office will be open all day from 10am on **Tuesday 6 June** for ticket holders who wish to come in to write a question for submission to the panel. There are to be two recordings. No admittance after 5.45pm. The finish time is expected to be by 8.00pm.

All tickets: £4.50

Monday 19 June to Friday 23 June 7:30pm

32nd Corn Exchange Drama Festival

This festival is back again. Ten plays from eight groups (Branching Out Drama Society, Compton Players, Didcot Phoenix Drama Group, Drayton Players, HAODS, Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group, Newbury Dramatic Society and Sinodun Players) have been entered, making for a full week of performances.

Each group has one hour to build their set, run the play and remove everything, leaving a clear stage. So it's not just a judgement of the play, its actors, but the set and the expertise of the back-stage crew. And the direction as well of course. All this will be adjudicated by Cherry Stephenson, a member of GoDA (Guild of Drama Adjudicators) and a verdict delivered on the night. And the winners declared on the Friday night. There is an opportunity for audience members to make an award if they have seen every performance.

Tickets: £6 each night, £20 for all four nights

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.

Day by day

Sat 3 June **Cherwell League Cricket**
Dorchester 1 v Eynsham
1.00pm
Recreation Ground

Orchestra of St John's
Brahms' and Beethoven
7.00pm
Dorchester Abbey

Sun 4 June **Trinity Sunday**
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.15am
Sung Eucharist

Sat 10 June **Cherwell League Cricket**
Dorchester 2 v Wolvercote 3
1.00pm
Recreation Ground

Giles Henson
My Dog's Got No Nose
7.30pm
Village Hall

Sun 11 June **1st Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am
Family Service

5.00pm
Choral Evensong

Wed 14 June **Chiropodist**
Village Hall
Appointment only; see page 4

Parish Council Meeting
7.30pm
Village Hall

Sat 17 June **Cherwell League Cricket**
Dorchester 1 v Wootton and Boars Hill

1.00pm
Recreation Ground

Dorchester Open Gardens
1.00m-5.00pm
Various locations



Sun 18 June **2nd Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am
Sung Eucharist

The Snug Sessions
Ian Shaw—The Magic of Joni Mitchell
7.00pm
Bishops Court Farm

Mon 19 June **Dorchester Weirs Fish Pass Project**
Public Consultation
7.00-9.00pm
Village Hall

Sat 24 June **Cherwell League Cricket**
Dorchester 1 v Cairns Fudge 1
1.00pm
Recreation Ground

Dorchester Safari Supper
7.00pm
Manor House Garden

Sun 25 June **3rd Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am
Holy Communion

10.30am
Team Ordination Service

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

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

Weekly events

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

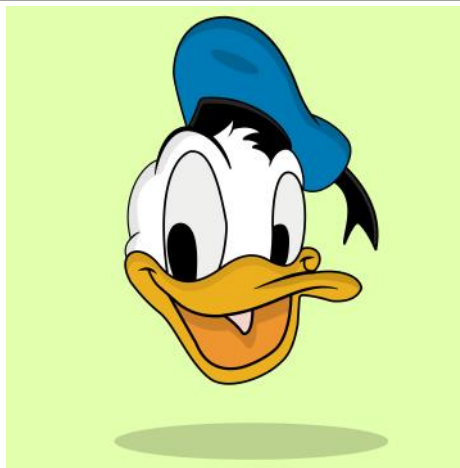
Busby Dance
3.15pm

Wednesday Pilates
5.30pm

Tango
7.30pm

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

9 June
Donald
Duck
Day



A happy
Donald
Duck.
9 June is his
birthday!

Parish Registers

Weddings

6 May Daniel Paul Elias and Sarah Jane Voller

12 May Matthew Andrew Barrett

Funerals

3 May Michael Edward Dyde

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**)

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Millstream Benson: **01491 838286**

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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 6 June **Black**
Tues 13 June **Green**
Tues 20 June **Black**
Tues 27 June **Green**

Weekdays from 7.00am

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

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

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Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

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