

Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

July/August 2023





In this issue

Dorchester Abbey

Talking Point	3
Family Service	3
Weekly Service Information	3
Friends of Dorchester Abbey visit	4
Dorchester Abbey Museum News	5
Dorchester Abbey Ride and Stride	14

Clubs, Societies and Sports

Warborough & Shillingford WI	10
Dorchester Cricket Club	12
Dorchester Tennis Club	13
Dorchester RBL News	15
DADS <i>One Man Two Guvnors</i> Review	16
Dorchester relished Pickleball	18

Village news/articles

Dorchester Autumn Flower Show	9
-------------------------------	---

Art Music and Entertainment

The Ancient Mariner and Kubla Khan	11
New book from Dorchester author	18
<i>My Dog's Got No Nose</i> , Review	19
Crossword No 27	

Community and Charity

Wallingford Food Bank	4
Berinsfield Health Centre	5

Local and national government

From the Chairman of the Parish Council	21
Parish Council Notices	21
From tour District Councillor	23
From your County Councillor	25
From your MP	27

Schools and education

Dorchester Pre-school	7
St Birinus School News	7

Wallingford

Wallingford Corn Exchange	28
Wallingford Vehicle Rally and Parade	28

Advertising

Advertising in Dorchester News	27
Index of advertisers	31

Cover: A busy summer's day at Day's Lock..

Deadline for September Dorchester News



email:

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

A DoT view

July. And as I write things are beginning to warm up. We have had some extremely loud storms, with some of the most magnificent cloud structures I think I have ever seen.

Of course there have always been storms triggered by heat, but these seem to me to have been exceptional in their ferocity. Are we in for another hot summer like alt year?

On page 20 of this issue we carry a warning from the Fire Brigade about some of the hazards of plunging into cold water when it is very hot, with advice about how to respond if you struggle to breath. It is worth knowing about.

With few village events coming up in July August, we are already looking at what will be happening in September: The Ancient Mariner and Kubla Khan at the Abbey; the Autumn Flower Show; and the annual Ride and Stride event. These all mark the coming of autumn, but let's not wish our lives away and enjoy the summer first.

I shall be taking some time off to enjoy it and I hope that you will be too.

See you in September.

Ian Brace

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Gail Thomas

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'It seems that every year there are more and more 'themed days' in the calendar. For example, this year July will include International Joke Day (1 July), World Chocolate Day (7 July), Shark Awareness Day (14 July), World Chess Day (20 July) and World Tiger Day (29 July). Of course, the Christian calendar has included special saints days for many centuries, and July includes St Swithun's Day on 15 July. Perhaps you have heard the legend that if it rains on St Swithun's Day it will rain for forty days, but if it is dry on St Swithun's Day then it will remain dry for forty days! Is the legend true? Well, perhaps you can test it this year and let me know.

However, the day which most captured my imagination when I was writing this article is 'Alice's Day' on 1 July. Alice's Day celebrates the story of *Alice in Wonderland*, and, of course, being so close to Oxford there are plenty of opportunities for us to celebrate. For example the Story Museum hosts a special programme of events including puppets, trails and games. Charles Dodgson aka Lewis Carroll (1832-98) was a fellow at Christ Church, Oxford and the idea for the story of Alice in Wonderland came to him while punting

past Christ Church on the river Thames (or Isis as it is known in Oxford) towards Godstow Abbey.

Some of Lewis Carroll's ideas for *Alice in Wonderland* were inspired by Medieval Christianity. For example, the way that Alice falls down a hole at the beginning of the story was inspired by the legend of St Frideswide and the holy well at Binsey. The alarming and aggressive 'off with your head!' refrain from the Queen of Hearts may have been inspired by Godstow Abbey at the end of Lewis Carroll's boat ride and its dissolution by Henry VIII during the Reformation.¹

Stories such as *Alice in Wonderland* capture the imagination and stand the test of time. Why? Because not only do they offer a glimpse of a fantastical reality beyond the normality of our everyday lives, but they also offer structure and resolution: they have a beginning, a middle and an end. As humans we can find life confusing and chaotic at times, so shaping it into a story and taking control of our own story can be very helpful. Who am I? Where am I going? What has brought me to this point? How do I hope things will

change and ultimately resolve?

The Bible is in my opinion the greatest story ever told. It follows the adventures of humanity from their beginning through many trials and challenges to the ultimate happy ending through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and his promise to return in the future. Much of Western literature has found deep inspiration in the pages of the Bible, from its deep poetry to its sacrificial, redemptive hero narrative and, like Lewis Carroll, many writers have also found inspiration in the history of Medieval Christianity. Here in the Dorchester Ministry Team we have many beautiful historic churches right on our doorstep. Why not pay us a visit this summer and find some inspiration for the start of your own story! Who knows? One day it may even get its own 'day'!

¹Some of the historical information for this article derives from *Alice in Medieval Oxford* by Andrew Dunning: <https://blogs.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/theconveyor/alice-in-medieval-oxford>

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

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Dorchester Abbey Family Service



Sunday 9th July & August 13th: 10.30am

FAMILY SERVICE



All are warmly invited to join our Family Service for Bible stories, fun, craft activities and refreshments

Friends of Dorchester Abbey visit to Malmesbury

On 15 May twenty-four people gathered at Bridge End to embark on a coach for the annual Friends' outing. This was the first time we had been able to arrange an event since the outbreak of Covid in 2020.



Our destination was Malmesbury, a charming north Wiltshire town. It was a cool day but dry and sunny and there was time to saunter round the town centre and have a cup of coffee before visiting the Abbey. There we were greeted by Catherine, a charming member of the congregation who gave a most interesting description of the Abbey and its history after which we had time to explore the artefacts and tombs including that of King Athelstan who reigned from 924 to 927 and was the first English king to be crowned.

After lunch we gathered at the gates of the Abbey House gardens. These were designed and built in the 1990s by Ian and Barbara Pollard, also known as the Naked Gardeners. Sadly, when they died the gardens fell into disrepair but in the past few years the house and garden have been bought by Texans Whit and Kim Hanks who are in the process of reinvigorating the gardens.

The gardens have been closed to the public for the past three years, but we were most fortunate that a friend of Hilary Warburton who is assisting in the refurbishment was able to arrange for us to have a private visit. Christine gave us a most inspiring tour of the formal gardens and explained some of the alterations the new owners are planning before taking us down a steep path to a wild garden with the river Avon running through it. We then had time to wander round on our own and adjourn for a cup of tea before returning to Dorchester.

Because we had the opportunity to visit the gardens the invitation to come on the tour was extended to the Culham Horticultural Society members, several of whom came. On our return they were keen to know when the next outing was!

The cost of coach travel has increased considerably since our last day out so we are considering planning an outing that would attract people with wider interests. The most important thing is that we would like to be able to continue running visits of this sort.

Finally, on behalf of everyone who was on the outing and the trustees of the Friends, my sincere thanks to Yvonne Lawden who arranged the whole day with her usual charm and efficiency.

Honor Juniper



Wallingford Food bank

The school holidays will soon be here and those families whose children receive free school meals will need extra help.

The requests received by the food bank in May this year are much greater than those in 2022 and demand is increasing.

If you shop in Waitrose, do please consider using the 'Bank the Food' app. You can download the free app from the 'app store' if you have an iPhone or from 'google play' if you have an Android phone. Then register it and 'follow' the food bank, (enter OX10 in the postcode search). When you arrive in Waitrose the app will ping your phone with a list of the items which are most urgently needed. Do please try it.

If you prefer to leave a donation in the yellow box in my garage, please do. We deliver to Wallingford every Thursday morning. Please ensure that the items have a shelf life of at least three months. Toiletries for both adults and children are needed in addition to food, and little treats are always welcome.

Thank you all very much for your generous donations of both goods and money. They will make a huge difference to the lives of many less fortunate people in our area.

Judy Parker



**Dorchester Abbey
Museum News**
See our new display!
Open until 31 July.

The Victorians - Master Makers

Please come in and have a look at our latest temporary handling collection of Victorian objects. The Victorian makers of these objects were very inventive, and their precision and craftsmanship were outstanding. These objects tell us so much about the lives of our Victorian ancestors.

I wonder how many of these objects you can name and whether you can explain how they were used?

Interesting Objects from Dorchester.

Open during August and September.

Our next temporary display project will show interesting objects that have been found in the Dorchester area, and tell their stories. We live in such a rich historical setting, I am sure many of you have treasures to share. These might be items you've inherited from your family, or found in the garden or bought locally.

If you have any interesting local objects that you would like to share and tell their stories, please contact Gill Whitten on **01865 341833**.

New Curator

We are very pleased to welcome Margot Metcalfe as our new museum curator!

Margot writes:

I am delighted and proud to be able to introduce myself as the new Curator of our museum. My late husband John fulfilled this role for 10 years to 2015, and although there have been four curators since, he is still a hard act to follow! I am a local historian, have chaired the Dorchester Historical Society for many years, and have been a member of the museum committee since 2015, looking after the archive, and answering queries about Dorchester history and archaeology.

The museum's theme is 'Dorchester through the Ages', some 6000 years of history, with a collection of objects and documents which reflect this. We are now embarking on an exciting new project to convert our existing database to a widely-used museum collections management software system, MODES. This will help in making the museum's collection more easily accessible to Dorchester residents and the wider public.

**Berinsfield Health Centre
Receptionist/Administrator Wanted**

We are looking for a receptionist/administrator to join our thriving South Oxfordshire practice.

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Salary will depend on qualifications and prior experience. Previous NHS experience desirable but not essential; reception and administration experience essential. If interested, please contact ritacabrita@nhs.net with a C.V. and outlining why do you believe you are suitable for the role.



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Oxfordshire Libraries

Berinsfield Library



Summer Reading Challenge 8 July to 9 Sept

Get active this summer with a FREE children's reading challenge! Read books, collect rewards, have fun!

Saturday 22 July 10am-12pm: In-library sports day

Wed 26 July 11am: Sports-themed story time ages 2-8

Tuesday 1 August 2-4pm: Board games & pop-up café

Friday 4 August 10am-1pm, 2-5pm: Lego Challenge:

Build a boat to float! All day drop-in session ages 5+

Sat 26 August 10am-12pm: Lego stay and play ages 5+

All events drop-in & free at Berinsfield Library, children age 11 and under must be accompanied by a parent/carer

@oxonlibraries BerinsfieldLibrary

Tel: 01865 340771

berinsfield.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk



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St Birinus Primary School News

There have been so many exciting things going on in our school across this year and we are very grateful for the continued support from the local community.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to share some of the extra-curricular activities that have been experienced by our children across this school year as we come towards to the end of another year at school.

We have tried to enable our children to experience a range of trips out and every class has been out at least once. Some of the trips experienced by our children are a visit to the mosque in Oxford, a day at Cotswold Wildlife Park, a day out at Hampton Court Palace, a morning at Pizza Express in Abingdon learning how to make pizzas, a trip to the Science labs at Abingdon School, Hill End Outdoor Activity Centre, a Young Citizens visit to the Fire Station in Oxford and a trip to the Pantomime.

We also continue to take advantage of our local area and we have enjoyed various activities in the Abbey and at Bishop's Court Farm.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to the Hurst Water Meadow Trust who have funded a specialist forest school teacher for us so all our children have had at least a term out at Forest School this year. We are so happy that this funding has been granted again and we will be continuing this provision for the time being. Learning to take risks and experiencing

what the outdoors has to offer is a valuable part of education here at Dorchester St Birinus.

Obviously with rising fuel costs, these trips do cost a great deal of money especially if coaches are needed. If you feel you are able to support us financially in any way in order to ensure that these enriching experiences can continue for all our children, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

We have been touched by the generosity of our community in helping to raise money for our library. We are in the process of ordering new furniture and books and we will share photos in due course.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our new children into our Reception Class in September.

We would also like to wish our Year Six children all the very best as they transition into secondary school in September. We know they are going to do us proud.

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer – it is fantastic to see the community using the Pickleball Courts.

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

We all can't believe we have come to the last term of our school Year 2022/2023! What a busy year it has been with a return to normal activities post covid. The children have been so steadfast and adaptable to all the change. This Summer term has been another fun one, we enjoyed exploring all that Dorchester village has to offer. We have been on walks to the park, the Snug and even the local shop. We appreciated the lovely flowers whilst out on our days exploring when the better weather arrived. Our main topic this term has been around here comes summer so it has been fantastic to get the lovely dry weather to enjoy this. We have have been role playing going to the beach, making ice creams and talking about holidays planned or where we have just been. We even have been identifying the places on a globe and learning about the locations.

The Preschool leavers have visited St Birinus getting them ready for 'big school' in September with a few visits which will make the transition an easy one for them. We have loved hearing their stories of what they enjoyed best. We have nine leavers this year and we will be saying fond farewell to them on graduation day, wishing them every happiness in all the schools they will attend. Our sports day will be on the Recreation grounds on 19 July which should be a great day for the children and families indeed, with lots of fun and races planned.

We would like to remind everyone that the Preschool is a charity and operates solely on donations and fundraising. We are kindly asking for any donations of metal

saucepans, spatulas, spoons or any kitchen utensils to use in our outside classroom for role playing. Also any cable reels of any size that anyone has. We also are very happy to accept good quality books, toys or anything that you may think the children would benefit from. We have a full class already for September but we do have a waiting list for any parent that would like their child to attend. Please get in touch through Facebook or by calling the setting.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at the Preschool and wish everyone and very enjoyable summer.

Sarah Egan



Chiropodist
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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?

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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



RULES

- The Show is open to any person residing in Dorchester-on Thames, Burcot, Drayton St Leonard and Berinsfield, or with a Dorchester allotment.
- No exhibitor may exhibit more than one exhibit in each class, excepting Classes 21, 26 and 27, where three entries may be made.
- The **number** of exhibits in Class 1 must be the same as in the corresponding class **where applicable** and **in a container**.
- All entry forms and fees to be submitted no later than 7.00 pm on the Wednesday evening before the show.**
- All exhibits in classes 1-40 must have been grown by the exhibitor. All exhibits in classes 41-55 must be home produced by the exhibitor. All pot plants must have been owned for a minimum of 4 months.
- Exhibitors must provide their own dishes, stands etc. Every care will be taken of the exhibits, but the committee will not be held responsible for loss or damage.
- On the relative merits of the exhibits, the opinion of the judges shall be final, but the committee reserves to itself the decision on any other points in dispute.
- The Committee reserves the right to inspect any competitor's garden or allotment before or after the day of the show.
- All exhibits for competition must be staged between 9.00 am and 10.15 am on the day of the show.**
- All competitors must leave their exhibits on show until after the Prize giving and raffle and **clear immediately afterwards**.
- Any protests must be made in writing before 3.00 pm on the day of the Show.
- Any exhibitor infringing any of these rules will be disqualified.

**DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES
AUTUMN FLOWER SHOW**

and
Plant Sale/Raffle

in
DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL
on
Saturday 16th September 2023

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

Raffle draw and
presentation of prizes from 3.40 pm

Exhibitors will be competing for:
The Amey Rose Bowl, The Rose Plate,
The Amey Tankard, The Fruit Plate,
The R Belcher Onion Cup,
The Floral Art Cup, The Runner Bean Plate,
The Britain in Bloom Cup, The Best Vegetable Award,
Vegetable Collection Plate,
The Best Kept Allotment, The Pat Cheese Potato Cup,
Victoria Sandwich Award, The HC Smith Dahlia Cup,
The Blackwell Photography Cup
The Jerry Nudds Fruit Cake Plate and
The Jenny Nudds Tomato Cup

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

Section 1 - Vegetables

- Collection of 4 different types of vegetables (see rule 3)
- Potatoes 5 white
- Potatoes 5 coloured
- Carrots 3, foliage 3" max
- Parsnips 3, foliage 3" max
- Onions 5
- Garlic 3 bulbs
- Shallots 7
- Beetroot 3
- Runner Beans 5
- Longest Runner Bean
- French Beans 5
- Any other beans 5
- Chilis 5
- Sweet peppers 2
- Tomatoes 5
- Tomatoes, Cherry type 7
- Cucumbers 2
- Courgettes 3
- Herbs - 4 bunches in water (space 12"x12")
- Any other vegetable (see rule 2)
- Squash 2
- A disaster vegetable

Section 2 - Fruit

- Apples, Cooking 5
- Apples, Dessert 5
- Berry Fruit (see rule 2)
- Any other fruit (see rule 2)

Section 3 - Flowers

- Flowering plant in pot, pot max 8" diameter
- Foliage plant in pot, pot max 8" dia
- Dahlia - 1, 6" diameter and over
- Dahlias - 3, 3" to 6" diameter
- Rose - 1 bloom any type
- Succulent in pot, pot max 8" diameter
- Flowering shrub - 3 stems, one variety
- Berried shrub, including hips - 3 stems, one variety
- Michaelmas daisies - 3 stems
- Annuals - 3 stems, one variety
- Annuals - 5 stems, all different plant families
- Biennials or Perennials - 3 stems, one variety
- Biennials or Perennials - 5 stems, all different plant families

Section 4 - Flower Arrangements

- 'Fireworks!' (max w18"x h24"x d18")
- Green Planet (max 12"x12"x12")

Section - 5 Domestic

- Carrot cake
- Fruit cake
- Victoria sponge, caster sugar topping, jam filling
- Brioche
- Traditional Welsh Cakes - 5
- Pot of jam - sealed with plain screw top lid
- Fruit liqueur

Section 6 - Photography and Art - All unmounted, not exhibited previously.

- Classes 50 & 51: Conventional or digital camera (*must not be manipulated or enhanced in any way*) Max 8" x 6"
- 'Village Life'
 - Subject beginning with 'J',
 - Manipulated photograph, any subject - up to A4
 - An unframed painting or drawing - max dimension 18"

Section 7 - Children All own work please - state age on exhibit

- A Disgusting Sandwich

ENTRY FORM

Please return no later than **7.00 pm Wednesday, 13 Sept** to: Christina Stores, 55 High Street (post through letterbox please)

Class Nos

Full name of Exhibitor Telephone no.....

Address..... Entry fee 10p per class.....

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





Warborough & Shillingford WI

The Warborough and Shillingford WI will welcome Linda Scurr to our members' meeting in June. Linda is a member of the Kennet Valley Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers. She lives in Cholsey where she keeps a flock of Wensleydale, Jacob and Manx sheep. Her spinning wheel in tow Linda will talk about processing a fleece and give a demonstration of spinning. She will explain how different breeds can make a difference to the spinning process; the heavier the fleece the less time it takes to spin. In research for this article I learned a fleece is not always white or cream, it can be silver, grey, brown or ginger. Linda is an advocate for British breeds because they are environmentally friendly and sustainable: by buying British wool we are supporting the farmers who do a valuable job maintaining the countryside the way we like to see it. Linda will also set up a display table with examples of things made from wool which will give members lots of ideas for crafts and knitting.

The subject at our next meeting, on **Wednesday 12 July**, will be The WRVS from 1938 to 1945. August is the month the members organise the meeting and in September we are planning an outing for all our members.

The WI walking group meets every other week and organiser, Chris Tilley, likes to vary the routes. At the end of May the

group tackled a 7km walk passing Swyncombe Church and trekked up along the ridge with views of the Oxfordshire plain and Britwell Salome to one side and the Ewelme valley to the other. Challenging, but the views were worth it. In contrast the next walk was more of a stroll, around Nuffield Place. The bluebells were still out, and, with the sun shining through the trees, it was quintessentially British. The walks can start from Warborough, Dorchester or a new location, such as Nuffield, but all offer a great way to exercise, with a friendly group in the beautiful Oxfordshire countryside.

If you would like to meet new people, listen to interesting talks or try new activities then come along to one of our WI meetings. You will receive a warm welcome and the first three visits are free.

Sarah Allen
President
01865 858673

warboroughwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Vicky Hart
Secretary
01865 416437

warboroughwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

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WOODBURNING STOVES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY



The Ancient Mariner & Kubla Khan

Samuel Taylor Coleridge



Please come to a free performance of two new compositions in the Abbey on
Saturday 9 September at 2:30 pm.

Music by Tim Cook with Illustrations by Adrian Brooks.

Soprano - Judith Ward, Bass - Giles Dawson
Oboe - Henry Bettinson, Violin - Hilary McElwaine-Johnn,
Viola - Peter McElwaine-Johnn, Cello - Jeremy Boughton,
Bass - Trevor Stevens

Raising funds for Dorchester Abbey

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner and Kubla Khan

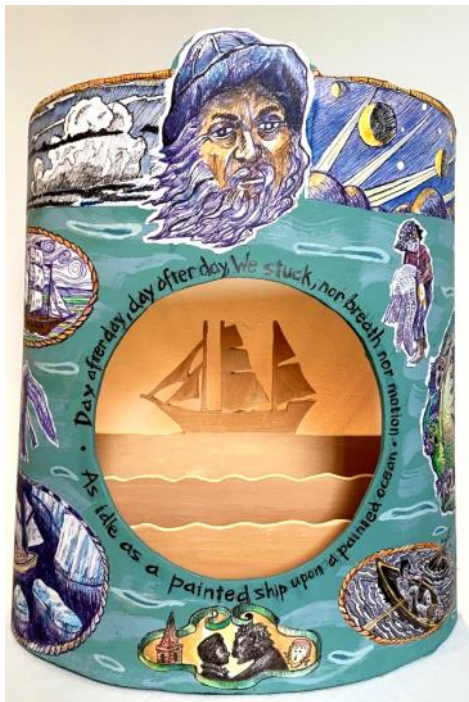
The Rime of the Ancient Mariner and Kubla Khan by William Taylor Coleridge are works of literary genius. They are the most influential poems of the Romantic Movement and although written in the 1790s their influence can be traced today in music, art, film and fashion. Orson Welles, Richard Burton and Ian McKellen have interpreted them, graphic artists such as Nick Hayes have reinvented them in Fantasy games and novels and countless movies draw on their themes.

William Taylor Coleridge himself was a richly complex person, attractive to all he met. He was a traveller, theologian, opium addict, scholar and revolutionary.

Now, a composer and an artist living in Dorchester have collaborated on a joint interpretation of both poems, set to music and illustration. Composer Tim Cook and artist Adrian Brooks have worked with talented musicians in the Village to produce their own version of The Rime of the Ancient Mariner and Kubla Khan.

Dorchester Abbey will provide the ideal setting, the music resonating within the ancient walls. Coleridge's texts, with their repeating verses recall medieval incantations, and the projected illustrations will hopefully reference the Abbey's frescos.

Adrian Brooks



Dorchester Cricket Club



Date	Dorchester 1 result	Dorchester 2 result
06/05/2023	Dorchester 1 v Oxford Downs 3. Match abandoned.	Oxford 4 v Dorchester 2 Match abandoned.
13/05/2023	Dorchester 1 beat Wantage & Grove 1 by 48 runs	Abingdon Vale 3 beat Dorchester 2 by 9 wickets
20/05/2023	Dorchester 1 beat Garsington 1 by 47 run	Didcot 3 beat Dorchester 2 by 8 wickets
27/05/2023	Risinghurst beat Dorchester by 16 runs	Dorchester 2 beat Kingston Bagpuize 2 by 7 wickets
03/06/2023	Dorchester 1 beat Eynsham by 94 runs	Dorchester 2 beat Uffington 1 by 3 wickets
10/06/2023		

Nails with Rachel

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

Luxury Pedicure - File, Cuticles, Foot Soak, Massage & Polish...£35.00

Deluxe Pedicure - as above + Exfoliation...£40.00

Gel Polish (including File & Cuticles)...£30.00
Gel (French) - £33.00

Removal only...£15.00
Removal (with replacement Gel Polish)...No Charge

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Sunday

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Dorchester and District Branch News

Please consider joining as a member www.britishlegion.org.uk

National Memorial Arboretum visit

Thanks to Hans Paul for the loan of his 'bus' we were able to take a small group to the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) at a reasonable cost. It was a glorious early spring day and the memorials looked spectacular set in lush green grass and nestled amongst the beautiful trees in new leaf. It was a deeply moving outing and we all returned with thoughtful reflections.

'A fabulous day out at the NMA, even the weather was as good as it gets. It is a visit we should all do, if given the opportunity. Moving, peaceful, thought provoking and memorable in equal measures.' Ann Wells

It is hard to pick a favourite, but magnificent bronze sculptures in the centre of the Armed Forces Memorial are quite spell binding.

Designed and built by Ian Rank-Broadley a shaft of light passes through the sculptures to illuminate the central bronze wreath on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.



© CC Bennett

Similarly, the new Police Memorial and the Hand of Peace for victims of PTSD were similarly deeply moving and inspirational.

We are hoping to organise a similar trip next year so please do look out for updates in the Dorchester News next spring.

Dorchester War Memorial

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Phil and Sally Greenaway for their hard work over many years tending the beds around the war memorial. The planting in this focal point amidst our community has been much appreciated. They have decided to retire this year.

Volunteer opportunity

Tending the Dorchester War Memorial

We are looking for green fingers residents who might like to take this forward either as an individual or part of a small group.

For further details or expressions of interest please contact Charlotte Bennett or Andy Pay.
07747 056644 / 01865 341959

New art installation for Remembrance 2023

A new art installation to commemorate Remembrance is planned for Autumn 2023.

We are hoping to create a poppy cascade from plastic bottles similar to the picture below.



Please can you save the cut ends from the bottom of plastic drinks bottles and the caps over the summer months so we can create a magnificent display.

There will be a crafting session organised in the autumn to paint the poppies and assemble them onto a length of camouflage netting. All will be invited to take part and we especially welcoming families and children to get involved.

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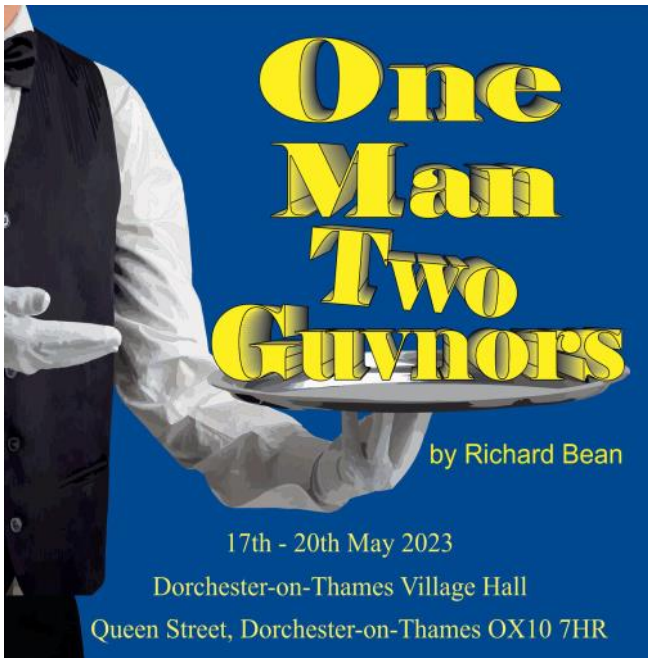
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One Man Two Guvnors is a modern version of the 18th Century Italian classic A Servant of Two Masters. Author Richard Bean moved the story forward to 1963 and set it in gangland Brighton. I first saw the show more than ten years ago at its West End debut at the Adelphi Theatre and was blown away: one of the best theatrical experiences of my life. The packed audience roared with laughter throughout and it was clearly as much enjoyed by coach parties from Bradford as by London's theatrical sophisticates.

Could the same show put on at Dorchester's modest Village Hall last month possibly match my earlier experience? Silly question! We're talking DADS here. They are not your average bunch of amateur thespians. They rose to the challenge with great style and produced a performance that was simply sensational. It was driven along at breakneck speed by the tremendous energy of all the players with the musical trio (Sara Passmore, Ian Salisbury and Steve Eyre) offering smooth and soothing nostalgic interludes of Sinatra Lonnie Donegan or Beatles hits before the frantic activity resumed on stage.

I could not find a weakness in any of the performances ...

No doubt the audience had some difficulty following the convoluted plot. I am not sure that mattered much. A brief resume was included in the programme but that probably added to the confusion. Francis Henshall is the man with two guvnors. An out-of-work skiffle player he is hired as a minder by Roscoe Crabbe, a small time hoodlum. Roscoe is in Brighton to collect £6,000 from his fiancée's dad. Only Roscoe isn't really Roscoe, he is in fact his twin sister Rachel posing as her dead brother who has been killed by Stanley Stubbers who also happens to be Rachel's fiancé. Stubbers subsequently becomes guvnor number two for Francis who needs to ensure that neither guvnor knows about the other.

DADS now has a nice balance of players with a wide range of age and experience. I could not find a weakness in any of the performances large or small. The tremendously demanding role of Francis Henshall - which made James Corden a transatlantic star - was taken on by Russell Bailey and he gave the part the masses of energy it needed. He somehow held things together in



Photos by Richard Winslet



Two Guvnors was simply sensational'

the anarchic scene where he provides lunch for himself and his two governors with the help of two incompetent waiters. But perhaps his best scene came towards the end when wooing Dolly the bookkeeper he takes on two roles at once: as Francis enticing her with a holiday in Majorca and as Paddy the dashing Irish lover who offers her a trip to Margate. You will not be surprised Dolly - a chirpy performance by Hayley Poole - plumps for Majorca.

Not your average bunch of amateur thespians

As a character actress Rosemary Mills once again showed her skills as Rachel Crabbe. In real life about as far removed from a cockney hoodlum as it is possible to imagine, she provided a cool contrast to the mayhem created around Francis.

Kate Phillips took on the male part of Charlie Clench (another small time crook who owes Roscoe six bags of sand*). She has the difficult task of opening the play. Even though she is only telling us to turn off our mobiles, her perfected South London accent sets the tone for the whole show and we know for sure she's from Peckham and probably personal mates with Del Boy and Rodney.

Charlie is holding an engagement party for his daughter Pauline (Christine Jones) and Alan Dangle (Ryan Fannin) - two suitably drippy star-crossed lovers. These two - brilliantly disguised - turn up later as the unhelpful waiters Gareth and Andy. Harry Dangle, Alan's dad, also happens to be Charlie Clench's crooked solicitor. Francis turns up to collect Roscoe's dosh but starts flirting with Dolly. Confusion reigns for the rest of the play.

Fresh from his success in the school nativity play at the age of six Andy Pay has obviously lost none of his innate acting skills. As Harry Dangle he put in one of the shows best performances on his debut with DADs. He also took on three other small parts with aplomb. His ultimate walking on part as the policeman who wanders on the stage and wanders off again without saying anything or making any impact on the plot gained some of the biggest laughs of the evening. He was impeccably costumed as indeed were all the players.

Now a regular DADs performer, Ian Brace perfected the role of Stanley Stubbers the upper class twit/gangster by wearing an ill-fitting wig which aged him considerably. I hope he kept it. If he wore it in the Coop he might get a discount.

Scene changes are always a problem in amateur shows as they can allow the pace to slacken. This one had more than most but the musical interludes provided the perfect cover for the stage hands to get smoothly on with the job.

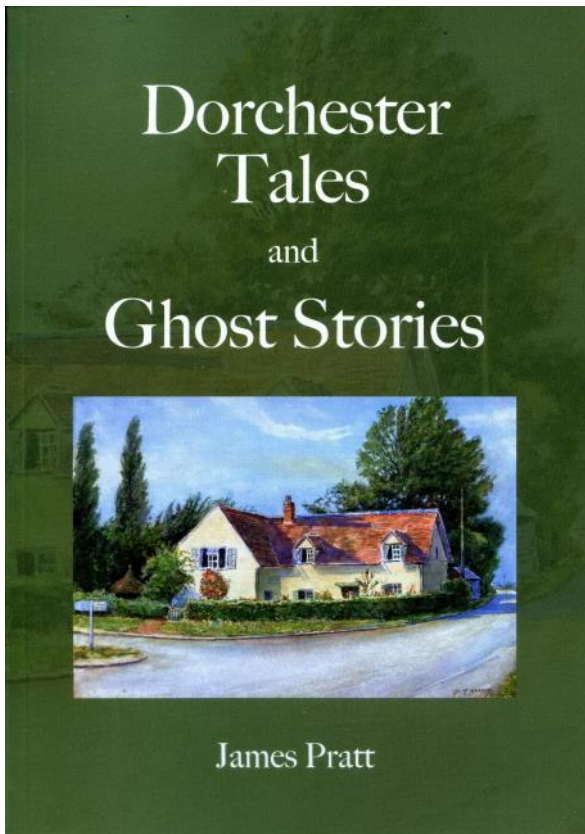
Finally a word of praise for the show's director Ed Metcalfe. This was Ed's debut as a director. Simply a remarkable achievement.

Jim Levi

'A bag of sand' is cockney rhyming slang for 'a grand' or a thousand pounds.



New book from Dorchester author



Dorchester author, James Pratt, has just released his fifth book, which is the third he has written about Dorchester. The previous two Dorchester books, *Dorchester Born and Bred* and *A Village in Verse* were both collections of poems that James had written about Dorchester and associated topics. This new book, *Dorchester Tales and Ghost Stories*, is a collection of 29 stories and anecdotes from the author's life together with some seven tales of the supernatural several of which James himself experienced, either in Dorchester or elsewhere.

In the 'tales' we learn about James's family, how his mother came to live in Clifton Hampden, and some of his father's black market antics, including the time he dumped a consignment of iffy watches in the river because of a premonition that something bad was about to happen. That turned out to be a visit by the Flying Squad a few days later! Then there are the times that the stagecoach outside of The George would disappear after a group of local lads had been on a pub crawl, only to be found half way to Warborough. It wouldn't happen now—mainly because it is chained up when on display.

And James himself liked to get up to a bit of mischief, like burrowing through the back seat of a car (when you could do that sort of thing) into the boot on a journey back from Reading, making his father think he had disappeared.

In the Ghost Stories section James recounts his experiences with ghosts both at the family home and elsewhere, which have left him gong to sleep with the bedroom light on to this day.

Available from Dorchester Abbey Museum for £9.50 this is a good read for anyone interested in the goings on in the village, and in James's family!

Dorchester relishes Pickleball

After a 'show session' during the Coronation celebrations on May 7, the pickleball courts at St Birinus School opened for general use on Thursday 25 May. Around 15 adults and ten children came along and played from 6.00pm to 8.00pm, most of them learning the rules as they went along under the guidance of Val Howells and Sally Bell. A complex system of pegs on a board ensured that the pairs of players and their opponents were mixed up between games which gave variety to each game.

Suitable for people of all ages and abilities, pickleball is like tennis in some respects (hitting a ball over a net, serving to opposing corners), like table tennis (the 'bat', known as a paddle, is solid and the size of a table tennis bat, and the ball



is plastic, although it also has holes) and badminton (the size of the court and the fact that you can only score when your team is serving). Add to that that all strokes are played underhand, the requirement that the ball must bounce on the serve and the next two strokes in any rally, and that you cannot volley from close to the net, means that it is suitable for playing at a variety of energy levels. Hence, possibly, its appeal across the age groups.

In the USA it has been the fastest growing sport for several years and now boasts 4.8 million players according to Wikipedia, and is now catching on quickly in this country.

By the middle of June the Thursday evening sessions have become well established, despite several, if not most, of the participants negating the beneficial effects of the exercise by making a restorative visit to the Fleur de Lys afterwards.



My Dog packs a powerful punch

Actor Giles Shenton returned to Dorchester Village Hall on 10 June for a third visit, giving us *My Dog's Got No Nose*, another of his one man shows. Previously we have seen *Old Herbaceous* and *Three Men in a Boat*, but this was something very different. The previous two performances had both been somewhat wistful; the gardener at the big house slowly unfolding his adoration of the lady of the house, and the comic narrative of J as the three men row up the Thames. This, however, was something completely different. *My Dog's Got No Nose*, written by Ron Aldridge, was a real and powerful drama.

There was little hint of this in the first half. In a spare setting compared to the intricate sets we had seen previously, we saw a man, name unrevealed, preparing for his first appearance before an audience as a stand up comic. He is full of nerves, which, to calm himself down, he tells us and himself is just the chemical reaction of adrenalin, along with rehearsing some jokes of variable quality. Also of variable quality is the narrative he begins to tell us of his life story. Stories of rejection by women when he was a young man were described in a way that clearly made some of the audience a little uncomfortable. His description of men of that age being led not by either their heart or their head but by their willy, and how it is difficult to tell when a woman says no she means no, maybe or yes, may be attitudes that pre-date the 'Me Too' movement. The play, first performed in 2009 predates the growth in prominence of that movement is some eight years later but that is where audiences are nowadays, and this was the dominant topic of discussion during the interval, and some people in the audience left.. (There is a comparison here with *One Man Two Guvnors*, which, set in 1963, parades many of the attitudes of that time, particularly

the sexism, only to attack and debunk them later on. This play never gets round to doing that.)

But those who gave up on the play missed a complete change in tone in the second half and one of the most powerful depictions of emotion that I have seen from an actor.

In the first half, in between the nerves and the sweating as he prepares himself to perform, we hear how he met and married his wife (the first woman not to say 'No' to him). The half closes after we see some of his stage performance of rather tired jokes and garish costume.

For the second half, he returns to the dressing room, pleased with the way the performance went and continues the story of how he had dreamed for 30 years of being a stand-up comic but that his wife was implacably opposed to it. We hear more about his loveless marriage, his attraction to his sister-in-law, and how that all turns out. We go on a roller coaster of emotion from violent anger and rage, so expertly depicted in Giles's face that you feel that the anger is directed at us, the audience; but then dropping dramatically to pathos, guilt and self-examination as the tale of events unfolds. And then doing it all again as things go wrong for him once more. Finally we realise where and how his dream has finally been played out, which is a long way from where we started.

Giles Shenton's performance is so powerful that I came out of the hall emotionally drained, although as someone said to me, imagine how drained Giles must be. He has been performing this play for six years now as part of his repertoire, and it surely must be one of the toughest to get through. A remarkable performance., and one that demonstrated the range and versatility of actor Giles Shenton.

Ian Brace





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Parish Council Notices

Parish Council Officers

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 10 May, Cllr Mike Corran was elected to serve as Chairman 2023/24 and Cllr John Taylor as Vice-Chairman 2023/24.

Coronation Mugs

Still available for purchase are a very few of the exclusive Dorchester -on-Thames Commemorative Coronation Mugs designed by Aston Pottery of Bampton.

So, in addition to being safe to use in both microwaves and dishwashers, these will soon become 'collectors' items'.

The mugs are priced at £12 for the regular size mug and £15 for the larger one. To make a purchase please contact the Parish Clerk using the contact information at the foot of these Notices.

Going Forward Buses

Bus Services through the centre of the village are provided on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The timetable is displayed at the bus stops and on Village Notice Boards. Bus passes can be used on these services.

'Fix My Street'

Residents who wish to draw the attention of County Highways to problems in the roadway outside their property – potholes, broken kerb stones etc – should contact <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/> This is an excellent service which is quick and easy to use. A short YouTube video is available which may be very useful to first time users.

Monthly Meetings July and August 2023

The July Council Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 12 July** and the August meeting will take place on **Wednesday 9 August**. Council meetings commence at 7.30 p.m. and are held in the back meeting room of the Village Hall.

The Agenda will be posted on Village notice boards and on the Parish Council section of the Village website:

www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk - three clear days in advance of the meeting.

All Parish Council meetings are open to the public and any resident who wishes to raise any matter of concern is welcome to do so at the start of the meeting.

Contacting the Parish Council

The Parish Clerk is Geoffrey Russell of The Pigeons (next to The Fleur de Lys), 5 & 7 High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames OX10 7HH

Telephone (during normal office hours, please, unless an emergency) **07745 311439**. Direct Line **07752 900716** Texts are always 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 <https://www.dorchester-on-thames.co.uk/parish-council/>

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



From the Chairman of the Parish Council

I'm pleased to say your newly elected group of parish councillors is up and running, full of ideas and energy on your behalf.

We have agreed that two of our early priorities are to improve the recreation ground including our big project on the playground and getting new momentum behind the delivery of affordable housing.

Alongside the grants we have for the playground we are taking the opportunity to build on the work started by Rob Ballantyne to upgrade other parts of the rec to make it more fun and easier to use for all ages.

As you may know we have already installed a new table tennis table and shortly we will be putting a box of bats and balls there for everyone to use on trust – please look after them! And there will be a 'Table Tennis Taster session' on **Saturday 8 July** from 10.00 to 12.00, supported by the SODC 'Active Communities' team - put it in your diary if you are a table tennis player. (See opposite page.)

We have also put new basketball nets up which looks much better. The next step is to install a three-quarter size football goal on the grass. And a new sign will be going up shortly by the multi use hard court to make it clearer when it can be used for games other than tennis. In addition, whilst we work on our new playground, we are cleaning the existing equipment as an English winter tends to make things a bit dirty. So lots going on already but watch this space, more to come! And, most importantly, get down there and have a go.

The actual delivery of affordable housing has been a challenge the Parish Council has been battling with for a number of years. So it needs new momentum so we were pleased to have an update at this month's Parish Council meeting on how we are going to do that. So, again, watch for more updates.

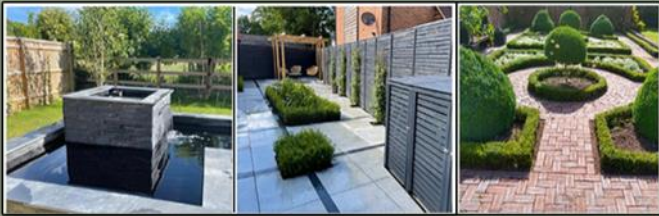
Talking of the Parish Council meetings, we wanted to make them more interesting for you, to encourage you to come along, so, we have changed them round quite a bit to make sure the interesting stuff is as early as possible in our meeting. So we hope that will encourage you to come along and listen or participate in our debates.

And by the time you read this we will have had our Annual Parish Meeting in a very different format. As well as reporting on the last year and giving residents a chance to meet the new Parish Council, we focused on getting as much feedback and as many ideas from residents as possible as part of a consultation on our future priorities so we have a clear vision of Dorchester over the next few years. I hope you came along and found it a good experience. We can't promise we can do everything people came up with but we will do our best to match our plans to the village's priorities.

Mike Corran
Chair



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Dorchester News Crossword No.27 Solution

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Apologies for some clues being left out in early editions last month.—Ed

JOHN MASEFIELD HOUSE
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SUMMER FETE

SATURDAY 8 JULY 2023

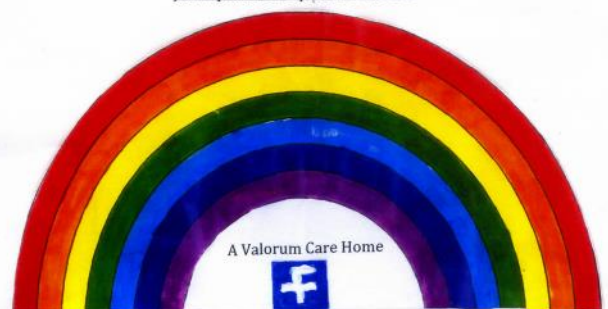
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From your District Councillor... ...Robin Bennett



New administration and my role on the council 2023-4

At the recent Full Council meeting, Cllr David Rouane was re-elected as Leader, and confirmed that the Lib Dem group will remain in partnership with the Green group and continue our successful joint administration at SODC. Having been re-elected as Green group leader for 2023-4, I am continuing in my role as Deputy Leader as well as Cabinet Member of Economic Development and Regeneration, and indeed there's only one change to the cabinet, which should enable continuity and mean current plans are not interrupted.

Our Community Hub team is here to help

They can offer cost-of-living help, including access to food support and advice and signposting on a wide range of issues. A vital part of our work is the Homes for Ukraine scheme so can offer guidance and information for anyone curious about becoming a host for the Homes for Ukraine scheme or offering support to guests on this scheme.

If you're struggling financially or just finding life difficult, we can help. Whether it's practical support or just advice, please get in touch on **01235 422600** or via email, communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

Berinsfield Garden Village Steering Group

This group meets regularly, including reps from SODC, OCC and Berinsfield Parish Council, as well as Ptarmigan, land promoters for the Mount Farm former airfield, which is allocated to provide 1700 new homes in the SODC local plan. We are looking at whether some 'small interventions' from our recent community facilities study can be put forward for funding from SODC's Shared Prosperity Fund, we had updates on the Abbey sports centre improvements, and a presentation on possibilities for community-owned energy from Low Carbon Hub. There's also a proposal for some outreach work in Berinsfield by Fusion Arts, and Citizens Advice Bureau are planning to run a Berinsfield drop-in session.

Help develop our local food action plans

We're calling for all local businesses, community growers, voluntary and community groups, food businesses and producers, and more to help us provide fairer, healthier and more sustainable local food systems for our districts. We recently helped launch the Oxfordshire Food Strategy with

partners, and we're also developing the South and Vale Food Action Working Group, which will work to shape local action plans. If you'd like to tell us about a local food-growing or related project email

communityconnectors@southandvale.gov.uk

Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership

I've joined the Steering Group for this new group. The Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership (OIEP) brings together employers, business, education, community groups and local government working to share knowledge, expertise and resources to address some of our greatest challenges. The idea is to work together to create opportunities and benefits for all people within the county, and to tackle some of our region's biggest problems to create a fairer environment where everyone can contribute and share in our success. The Partnership has developed a charter and pledges to help individuals, companies and organisations to set out ways in which they will help create an inclusive economy for Oxfordshire. One of its early programmes is to spread the successful 'Growing Minds' pilot from Berinsfield to new areas. **I'm also keen to hear from local businesses who would like to sign up for the Charter or be part of this in any way.**

Didcot Garden Party returns

Didcot Garden Party is back this summer with a great selection of free activities for everyone to enjoy, from creative and arts activities to sport, yoga and live music.

The party starts on **Saturday 22 July** and will run through to the end of August.

The free activities will take place across the 'garden town' area, day and night, weekends, and weekdays, with key events happening at Cornerstone Arts Centre and in the town and surrounding village's parks and community halls. The focus for this year's party will be health, wellbeing and the environment.

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

Oxford Utd new stadium proposal

Oxfordshire County Council’s cabinet has received updates on proposals for an Oxford United stadium near Kidlington – including a summary of stakeholder engagement so far and plans for more public engagement in June and July. Subject to receiving sufficient detailed information from the club, this timetable should allow the cabinet to make a final decision in September on whether or not to lease or sell the land to the club for the development of a stadium on council-owned land known as ‘The Triangle’, located east of Frieze Way and south of the Kidlington roundabout. You can take part in the latest survey at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/thetriangle

Plans for an Oxfordshire County Council Town and Parish charter

The county council will be surveying all town and parish councils in June/July to discuss your experience of contacting the council to access services and advice. There will also be a number of in-person events and discussions to inform the drafting of a charter, which will then be consulted on formally and then adopted in November. Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) are also involved.

Didcot ‘Central Corridor’ project

Oxfordshire County Council has just launched a consultation on proposals to improve access and the town environment in central Didcot, by improving travel and public space along three important routes – known as the ‘Gateway Spine’, ‘Cultural Spine and Foxhall Road’, and the town centre. The project is part of the Didcot Garden Town delivery plan.

The council has developed ideas for the three routes, focusing on five areas:

- A4130 and B4493 – Science Bridge to Didcot Station
- Didcot Road, Wantage Road and Foxhall roundabout

- Broadway
- Town and station connections
- Cow Lane, Jubilee Way roundabout and Hadden Hill.

The consultation can be found alongside other current consultations at <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

HIF1 planning application

The plans for the road(s) and bridge linking the A34 Milton interchange to Golden Balls roundabout are now scheduled to come to the OCC planning and regulation committee at the end of the month. Two days have been set aside for this meeting, on **26 and 27 June** at County Hall.

Councillor priority fund

A reminder that this is now live, and the application details can be found here:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/councillorpriorityfund

Schools transport

At the most recent cabinet meeting, some positive recommendations to improve the OCC schools transport policy were accepted, and the Leader committed to making sure solutions are found for any children who don’t get a bus place via the Spare Seats scheme to travel to their chosen school.

And finally... best-selling crime author comes to Abingdon library

The Oxford-based author of the Sunday Times bestselling ‘DI Fawley’ crime series, Cara Hunter, will be coming to Abingdon Library to talk about her new novel ‘Murder in the Family’ on **13 July**.

news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cara-hunter-abingdon-library/
robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk

tel. 01865 858680
m. 07979 646815

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From your MP...

...John Howell

In a month when the temperatures are rising, and many people are getting out and about more to enjoy the countryside it is good to see some recent announcements that will benefit the countryside and also support our farmers. Of course, this is not to suggest that these issues are of concern all year around!

In the middle of May the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) announced new funding for farmers and landowners to support projects to create new habitats for wildlife, help protected sites and boost efforts to reach net zero. It builds on the success of the first round of the scheme announced last year and will help with work to protect and enhance landscapes. It will deliver environmental benefits while also supporting farmers. Natural England and the Environment Agency will take the lead on the work and will select specific projects based on a number of criteria such as their environmental and social impact and, for the first time, there will be a food production criterion. This is important as it will be used to ensure that projects take food production into consideration and mitigate any negative impacts on this where possible.

Also announced last month was a commitment to protect the interests of our farmers in future trade deals. I know that this has been a concern within the constituency and am delighted that the Prime Ministers has brought together representatives from the whole food supply chain for the 'UK Farm to Fork Summit.' This will include representations from the UK's farming, horticulture and agri-food sectors and is welcomed by the NFU.

Then at the beginning of this month DEFRA launched another initiative with the publication of 'Unleashing Rural Opportunity.' This is a policy paper setting out plans to grow the rural economy and communities. It involves some key planning proposals which will involve consultation in the near future. Details of this are yet to be published. I hope that anyone with an interest in the growth of our rural communities will take an interest in this paper which can be found on the GOV.UK website by searching the title of the document.

Perhaps with a focus on the rural economy it is worth also mentioning the Procurement Bill which has its final reading in the House in this week that I write. The Bill was introduced last year and, among other things, seeks to bring forward more

effective Government procurement and to help smaller businesses (SMEs) win a greater share of government expenditure. I know from correspondence with constituents in business that some of the former complexities of the government procurement process has effectively ruled them out. I am pleased that this has been worked on to create easier access. If the Bill is passed there will be a duty on contracting authorities to have regard to the particular barriers facing SMEs throughout the procurement lifecycle, and to consider what can be done to overcome them. During the course of the progress of this Bill through parliament there have been some concerns on issues such as national security. However I believe that these have been dealt with at different stages. Although it takes some time to get a Bill through parliamentary process, one of the merits of the staged progress is that there is time for issues and concerns to be raised and for amendments to the original Bill to be made before it is passed into law.

There is always much going on in parliament, 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.

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.



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.

Please see website (www.cornexchange.org.uk) for updates.

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

July

- Mon 17 **Chevalier** (12A)
- Tues 18 **Chevalier** (12A)
- Wed 19 **Oklahoma the Musical** (PG) 2.30pm and 7,30pm
- Thurs 20 **Tokyo Stories** (PG)
- Fri 21 **Asteroid City** (PG)
- Sat 22 **Asteroid City** (PG)
- Sun 23 **Asteroid City** (PG)
- Fri 28 **Oppenheimer** (12A)
- Sat 29 **Oppenheimer** (12A) 2.30pm and 7,30pm
- Sun 30 **Oppenheimer** (12A)
- Mon 31 **Oppenheimer** (12A)

August

- Tues 1 **Oppenheimer** (12A)
- Wed 2 **Oppenheimer** (12A) 2.30pm and 7,30pm
- Thurs 3 **Oppenheimer** (12A)
- Fri 4 **Oppenheimer** (12A)
- Sat 5 **Oppenheimer** (12A) 2.30pm and 7,30pm

Live on Stage

Tues 11 July to Friday 14 July, 7.30pm

Sat 15 July and Sunday 16 July, 2.30pm

The Sinodun Players present *A Bunch of Amateurs* by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman

When a Hollywood action movie superstar comes to your village theatre to take the lead role in a production of King Lear, Hollywood Happens. This cannot be a good thing! Or can it? The Stratford Players, from a small, but charming village in Suffolk are frantically fundraising trying to keep their theatre alive and the developers from the door. In desperation they come up with a publicity plan to gain sponsorships and save their theatre. Enter stage left Jefferson Steel striding in to play Lear in Stratford. Imagine his surprise as it slowly dawns on him the reality that he is not in Stratford upon Avon!! Hilarity ensues as cultures collide, politely on one side of the equation, and he faces the reality of his vanity and insecurity. This culturally and very human observant comedy

drama comes from the pens of two of the UK's greatest satirical writers.

Tickets: £12, £9 (Tuesday night)

Coming Soon

Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny. This film will be showing at the Corn Exchange but Disney haven't released any **dates yet. Please look at the website (www.cornexchange.org.uk)** for updates.

**Friday, 1 Sept to Saturday 2 Sept
Bunkfest**

There will be events during the day in the auditorium and foyer and the bar will be open all day. Please feel free to pop in and enjoy the music. Bunkfest events are of course free.

Saturday, 9 Sept, 3:30pm

Lucy Worsley talking about Agatha Christie

As part of this weekend event to unveil the statue of Agatha Christie, there will be several events in the Corn Exchange remembering our notable president and Lucy Worsley will be headlining this on the Saturday afternoon

**Wallingford Vehicle Rally
and Parade**

The Wallingford Vehicle Rally and Parade on 14 May raised £25,000 for local charities and organisations.



Day by day

Sat 1 July **Cherwell League Cricket**
Dorchester 2 v Harwell International 1
1.00pm
Recreation Ground

Sun 2 July **4th Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.15am
Sung Eucharist

National Garden Scheme
Dorchester Gardens
2.00pm to 5.00pm
Various locations see page XX

The Snug Sessions
The Ray Charles Project— The Jeremy Sassoon Quintet
7.00pm
Bishops Court Farm

Sat 8 July **Cherwell League Cricket**
Dorchester 2 v Oxford 4
1.00pm
Recreation Ground

John Masefield House
Summer Fete
2.00 to 4.30pm

Sun 9 July **5th Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am
Family Service

5.00pm
Choral Evensong

Wed 12 July **Chiroprapist**
Village Hall
Appointment only; see page 7

Parish Council Meeting
7.30pm
Village Hall

Sat 15 July **Cherwell League Cricket**
Dorchester 1 v Wantage & Grove 1
1.00pm
Recreation Ground



Sun 16 July **6th Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am
Sung Eucharist

The Snug Sessions
The music of Bill Evans—The Paul Edis Trio
7.00pm
Bishops Court Farm

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

Sat 22 July **Cherwell League Cricket**
Dorchester 2 v Didcot 3
1.00pm
Recreation Ground

Sun 23 July **7th Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am
Holy Communion

Sat 29 July **Cherwell League Cricket**
Dorchester 1 v Risinghurst 1
1.00pm
Recreation Ground

Sun 30 July **7th Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am
Holy Communion

10.30am
Reflective 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
Outside Co-op

Thursday Wellbeing Walks
10.00am
Outside Co-op

Friday Abbey Junior Choir
Practice
6.00pm

Abbey Senior Choir
Practice
7.00pm

See also the Parish Council website: www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Weekly events in the Village Hall

Tuesday Move Together
1.30pm

Busby Dance
3.15pm

Wednesday Pilates
5.30pm

Tango
7.30pm

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

Parish Registers

Weddings

20 May Daniel Moore and Laura Ledger

And of course 3 July to 16 July is Wimbledon Fortnight



Day by day

Sat 5 Aug **Cherwell League Cricket**
Dorchester 2 v Uffington 1
1.00pm
Recreation Ground

Sun 6 Aug **9th Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.15am
Said Eucharist

Wed 9 Aug **Chiropodist**
Village Hall
Appointment only; see page 7

Parish Council Meeting
7.30pm
Village Hall

Sat 12 Aug **Cherwell League Cricket**
Dorchester 1 v Radley 1
1.00pm
Recreation Ground

Sun 13 Aug **10th Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am
Family Service

Sat 19 Aug **Cherwell League Cricket**
Dorchester 2 v Marcham 1
1.00pm
Recreation Ground



Sun 20 Aug **11th Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am
Said Eucharist

Sat 26 Aug **Cherwell League Cricket**
Dorchester 2 v Challow & Childrey 3
1.00pm
Recreation Ground

Sun 27 Aug **12th Sunday after Trinity**
8.00am
Holy Communion

10.30am
Said Eucharist

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

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.

Take care if temperatures rise to the levels of last summer.

Wear a hat when you go out...

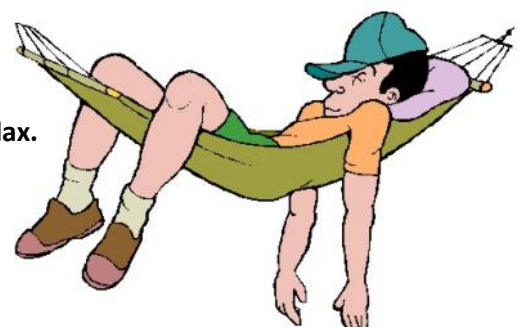


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DIRECT LINE TO URGENT LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

MINOR INJURIES

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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.

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

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

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ANIMAL WELFARE

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To Didcot Station: 09.35, 11.55, 13.39 (Mon) 11.55, 13.39 (Wed),
From Didcot Station: 10.06, 12.20, 14.25 (Mon), 10.06, 14.25 (Wed)

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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

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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
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Bridge End
01865 340417
www.stbirinus.co.uk

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



REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Tues 4 July **Black**
Tues 11 July **Green**
Tues 18 July **Black**
Tues 25 July **Green**
Tues 1 Aug **Black**
Tues 8 Aug **Green**
Tues 15 Aug **Black**
Tues 22 Aug **Green**
Wed 30 Aug **Black**

Weekdays from 7.00am

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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/

Index of advertisers Page

Acupuncture Barn	12
Arbocare	24
Bristow	15
Bryan's Locks	26
Dorchester Fireplaces	10
Four Winds	20
Fran	5
Graceful Gardens	24
Hedges law	8
Horted 1	6
Horted 2	22
Howard Chadwick Funerals	25
In House	6
JEM chimney sweep	26
Kate Launder	3
Larkmead Vets	26
LB Plumbing	12
Martin Drew Logs	25
Millstream Pilates	26
Mossinator	24
Nails with Rachel	12
Purely Plants	15
Q Self Store	8
Roy Passey Builders	24
St Mary's Dental	24
Steve Wilkinson	26
T W Hayden	24
The Landscape Group	
Oxford	26
Thimbles and Threads	24
White Hart	10

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