

# ***Dorchester News***

***Free to every home in the parish***

***November 2023***







## In this issue

### Dorchester Abbey

Family Service	3
Services	3
Talking Point	3
Team Services	3
Dorchester Abbey Verger vacancy	3
Events in the Abbey	4
Abbey Tea Room	4
Dorchester Abbey Museum News	7
Dorchester Abbey Christmas Cards	13
Friends of Dorchester Abbey	16
Dorchester Abbey Christmas Market	20

### Clubs, Societies and Sports

DADS Goldilocks and the Three Bears	5
Dorchester Lunch Club	5
Hempcroft Allotments	5
Dorchester Historical Society	7
Culham & District Horticultural	9
Dorchester FC results	9
Village Hall 200 Club	9
Warborough & Shillingford WI	15

### Village news/articles

Dr Lucy Worsley at the Village Hall	4
Mystery babies revealed	7
Bishop's Court Farm Community meeting	10
BCF Community Meeting No.3 feedback	12
Dorchester's Living Advent Calendar	13
Dorchester Autumn Flower Show	18/19
Remembering the Coronations street party	24

### Community and Charity

MacMillan Carols at Christ Church Cathedral	22
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### Art Music and Entertainment

Benson Choral Society	22
Crossword No 29	25
Henge at the Cornerstone	25

### Tributes

Kate Herbert	16
Irene Hender	17

### Local and national government

From the Chair of the Parish Council	27
Parish Council Notices	27
From your District Councillor	29
From your County Councillor	31
From your MP	32

### Schools and education

Dorchester Pre-school	11
St Birinus Primary School News	11

### Wallingford

Wallingford Corn Exchange	33
---------------------------	----

### Advertising

Advertising in Dorchester News	32
Index of advertisers	35

Cover: A light settling of snow over the allotments and backs of Rotten Row as winter sets in.

## Deadline for December/January Dorchester News



email:

[dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk](mailto:dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

### A DoT view

If you are reading this before the end of October and have not yet completed your village life questionnaire, do so now, before you read on, by going to [surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DORCHESTER2030](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DORCHESTER2030).

Now that you have done that we'll take a look at what is going on in the village in November.

This is turning into a busy month with one or more musical events at the Abbey every weekend, the talk by Lucy Worsley at the Village Hall, and, just to show that Christmas is only around the corner, the DADS production of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* opens at the end of the month. That promises to be yet another of DADS wonderfully entertaining pantomimes with something for everybody of any age.

If you enjoyed the Henge event in September last year, then get over to Didcot where Cornerstone has an exhibition of the event from 2 to 26 November.

And that is all before we even get to December, which will be even busier. Don't you just love all that goes on in Dorchester? If you do, then I hope you said that in your survey questionnaire!

Ian Brace

### Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Kathy Glass

### Printed by

Artisan Print Solutions

'Someone once said to me that November was a difficult month for her. All the important anniversaries in her life seemed to be during this month. The happy and sad memories, the poignant and with that a sense of loss. As we get older I am sure that we all have times of the year when special memories are sharper.

However, November is also a particular time of the year for remembering within our communities. First at the beginning of the month our church communities remember the lives of the many saints that have been examples of faith throughout the centuries. Next there is the opportunity to remember those more personal to us whom we have lost, especially those who have died recently but not exclusively. Many of our churches hold special services when we can name our loved ones and

light a candle. Then, of course, there is the national remembrance of those who lost their lives serving their country during, not only two world wars, but also in conflicts since.

Our memories are what make us who we are both as individuals and as communities. It is important that we have the opportunities to share these, not only our personal experiences but also national and international events that require us to process the effect these have on all our lives. Can we learn from these experiences? From the examples we are set?

Without diminishing loss to the families and the communities affected, surely we hope that conflicts will not be part of our world in the future. How we hope that leaders of the world will understand that bullying and violence do not solve whatever issues they have.

The end of November brings to a close the Church's year. During these few weeks before once again we begin preparations for Christmas we get a glimpse of what our world should look like when it is fully renewed, 'a new heaven and a new earth'. We are promised a better more peaceful way.

*He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into  
ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against  
nation,  
neither shall they learn war  
any more.*

Yes, November can be a month for remembering past experiences and the special people who have played an important part in our lives, however today is always an opportunity to make new memories for the future.



Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November:  
10.30am  
Come down Zacchaeus!



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

## Team Service

Sun 26 November 10.30am: Warborough.

## Services

Please see service list in Dorchester Diary, page 34 but please check with your minister.

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](mailto:admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)



## Dorchester Abbey

Vacancy for a Verger to assist the Churchwardens with

Worship, Services and Visitor Experience  
General Maintenance and Minor Repairs

*This is a remunerated position and full job description and terms of employment will be sent on application.*

Please apply with CV and covering letter to [admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)



## Events in the Abbey

### St Birinus Festival 3 and 4 Nov

Single concert ticket £30.00 / Festival Ticket £80.00 <https://thedaveyconsort.co.uk/collections/st-birinus-festival-2023>

**Fri 3 Nov, 7.00pm- 9.15pm**

**The Davey Consort open the Festival with a Lecture Recital William Byrd: Faith and Music in Elizabethan England.**

In addition to the beautifully moving music we are honoured to have the company of Richard Rex, Professor of Reformation History at the Faculty of Divinity of the University of Cambridge, to guide us through the career of William Byrd which itself lights the landscape of Reformation history.

**Sat 4 Nov, 1.00pm – 3.00pm**

**Royal Academy of Music current students playing Mozart chamber music.**

The programme will include Mozart Wind Quintet K452 for Piano & Winds (joined by Ryan Wigglesworth), Britten Phantasy Quartet (solo oboe Ewan Millar) and Mozart Piano Concerto No.12 in A major with string quartet K414 (solo piano Bocheng Wang).

**Sat 4 Nov, 7.00pm – 9.30pm**

**Composer-conductor Ryan Wigglesworth and Sophie Bevan MBE.**

Recognised as one of the leading lyric sopranos of her generation. The evening will be a foretaste of their forthcoming Wigmore Hall appearance later in November with music by Franz Schubert, Johanna Muller-Hermann, and Gustav Mahler.

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## Tea Room 2023

Dorchester Tea Room is now closed until Saturday 30 March 2024. We would like to thank all our customers for their support and cake consumption through the 2023 season.

We have welcomed old friends and new and supported big events like the Coronation community street party.

Financially this year has once again set a new record—almost £25k – an amazing achievement given the mixed weather! Six village charities have run sessions, raising over £2k between them. Over £10k of this money will be given to charities proposed by the PCC and tea room volunteers.

Fifty people have served in the tea room this year with another 50 baking and making jam. Do join us whether you can manage just one cake or session or one a month – it's a great way to meet new friends and we really do need your help!

**Steph Forman**  
[steph@forman.org.uk](mailto:steph@forman.org.uk)



**Sat 11 Nov, 8.00pm-9.30pm**

**Rebecca Caine- Dividing Day**

Join soprano Rebecca Caine, for a journey of self-discovery with help from writers including Bernstein, Bucchino, Guettel, La Chiusa, Sondheim, Weill and Yeston. With Nathan Martin at the piano. Tickets £25/ £17.50 concessions. <https://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk/event/rebecca-caine-dividing-day/>

**Sat 18 Nov- 7.00 pm – 9.30 pm**

**OSJ - Tchaikovsky and Mendelssohn**

The wild beauty of mountains provides the inspiration for tonight's concert. Stollery's 2014 overture, in its first English performance. evoking the majesty of the Grampians, sits alongside the rolling romance of Mendelssohn's 'Scottish' Symphony. Jan Schmolck performs Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, composed in 1878 during a stay amidst the breathtaking Swiss Alps. Free tickets available for NHS workers and for the disabled. Please email [admin@osj.org.uk](mailto:admin@osj.org.uk). Tickets £5 to £30 from [www.osj.org.uk](http://www.osj.org.uk)

**Sat 25 Nov, 7.30pm- 9.30pm**

**Benson Choral Society- Bach's Mass in B Minor.**

We will be accompanied by the celebrated Baroque orchestra – Instruments of Time and Truth. Tickets £20 (reserved) £17 Unreserved from [www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk)

**Sun 26 Nov, 3.00pm-4.30pm**

**St John's Ambulance**

Carol Service and Installation of County Chaplain. Retiring collection

**Thu 30 Nov, 11.30am-12.30pm and 2.00pm-3.00pm**  
**Moving Music**

Concert for people living with dementia and their family, friends and carers. A Christmassy programme including instrumental performances by Christopher & Celia Redgate and sing-along songs led by Hannah Davey. £5 incl. refreshments half an hour before the performances, carers come free Reserve you places in advance and pay on the door **01865 215305 [movingmusicconcerts@gmail.com](mailto:movingmusicconcerts@gmail.com)**

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## Lucy Worsley at the Village Hall



Tickets for the presentation on Queen Victoria by Dr Lucy Worsley in Dorchester Village Hall on **18 November** sold out soon after the event was announced. However, Dorchester News hopes to include an interview with historian and TV personality Lucy in a future issue when we can hear her views on why she supported this fundraising event for our village hall.

Photo: © Hay Festival/Paul Musso





## Hempcroft Allotments November

The Hempcroft Allotment Society Annual General Meeting was held on 21 September 2023 in the Village Hall. About 40 members paid their rent and subscriptions for the coming year and about 30 stayed for the AGM.

Edward Metcalfe continued as the Chairman, Jon Rosby as the Treasurer, and Sharon Thorpe, Charlotte Bennett, Debbie Field and Chris Hill continued as committee members.

The trophy for the Best Kept Allotment was awarded this year to Matthew and Maggie Grayson for the sterling work they have put into their well structured and maintained plot.

Membership of the Society decreased to 81 members from 89 the previous year. We appear to be returning to the pre-covid membership numbers. The accounts of the Society were presented. These continue to be in a healthy state with £1,790 held in the account or as cash. There has been no need to increase the rent or the subscriptions this year. The rents are gathered on behalf of the Parish Council who pay for the water that is used on the allotments.

Seed catalogues were available for collection at the meeting and members were encouraged to order seeds from the catalogue because the Society derives some income from this. The Kings seed catalogue contains many colour photographs of the vegetables or flowers, which will be a great help in identifying which seeds one might wish to buy.

This is the time of year, i.e. rent collection time, when some people decide to give up their allotment. We now have some good plots available ranging from small squares to half size (5 pole) plots, to full size (10 pole). If anyone is interested then please contact me.

### Participation in a research project

We have been contacted by the School of Biosciences, University of Sheffield to invite participation in a research project on the Co-benefits of Urban Horticulture.

They are launching a study across England to investigate the seasonal impact of food growing participation on the diet of allotment growers. This study is following on from the work of the MYHarvest project, and will assess how diet (particularly fruit and vegetable intake) varies by season for food growers, and the impacts on nutrition. This study will help to feed into a larger body of work on the co-benefits (health, wellbeing, social benefits) of urban horticulture, and the potential of urban food growing to be used to improve public health. Participants would be asked to fill out an online food diary for a 72-hours period (three days) every month, for 12-months. This diary would be a list of everything the participant eats and drinks on each of the three days, and would be completed on the software myfood24. Participants would also be asked to fill in a short survey about their allotment and general access to food at the time of each monthly recall. For each fully completed recall period, you will be entered into a prize draw to win a £50 'love-to-shop' gift card.

The data will be used to produce an academic report with the aim of publishing this project in an academic journal. The works or portions of the work may be shared on organisation websites and through social media. Alongside this, the project's research findings will be presented at various conferences and events. If you indicate that you would like one, they will also mail or email you a summary of the research findings.

The contact person is Bethany Leake who is a 2nd year PhD student at the University of Sheffield, supervised by Dr Jill Edmondson. A link to the online registration survey and the advertisement poster has been provided :

[https://shef.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0GmMHR3w6YKK6bk](https://shef.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0GmMHR3w6YKK6bk)

Of course I imagine that participation could also be by anyone who has a large vegetable/fruit plot at home.

**Edward Metcalfe**  
340160  
[edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk)

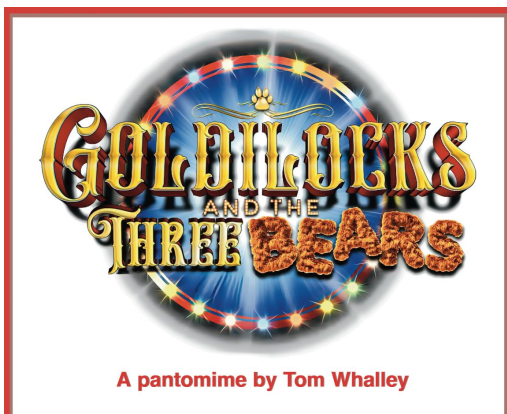


### Goldilocks and the Three Bears are on their way!

Tickets for this year's DADS pantomime, *Goldilocks and the*

*Three Bears* by Tom Whalley, are now selling briskly, especially for the Saturday matinee. Early booking is advised so as to avoid disappointment.

Performances on **Thursday 30 November** and **Friday 1 December** are at 7.00pm and there are two performances on **Saturday 2 December** at 2.00pm and 6.30pm. Tickets are now on sale from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/dads](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/dads) priced at £12 for adults and £9 for under 12 year olds.



### Dorchester Lunch Club

The next Lunch will be on **Wednesday 15 November** and the last one this year will be on **Wednesday 6 December**, both at 12.30 for 12.45 in the back room of the Village Hall, cost £5. Please make sure you tell me that you would like to attend by the preceding Monday of each date.

**Susan Jupp**  
(co-ordinator for the Lunch Club)  
Phone: **01865 341066**

**Chiropodist**  
**Wednesday 8 November**  
Village Hall  
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## If not now, when?

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

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

**HEDGES**





## Dorchester Abbey Museum News

The museum is open on  
**Saturday 28 October 2.00pm to 5.00pm**

### Christmas shopping

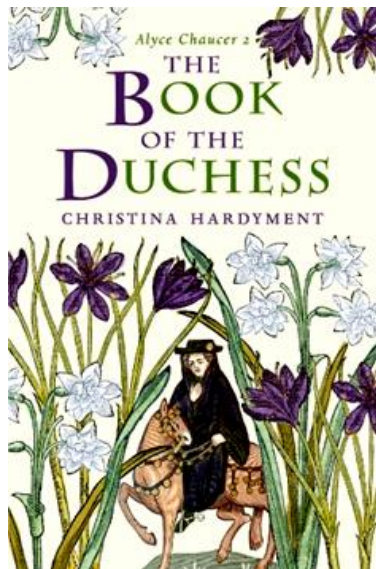
**Saturday 2 December 10.00am-5.00pm,**

**Sunday 3 December 2.00pm-5.00pm,**

**Tuesday 5 December 10.00am-12.30pm**

### Alyce Chaucer – the story continues

Alyce Chaucer was Geoffrey Chaucer's granddaughter and later became Duchess of Suffolk. She lived in Ewelme for many years and is buried in a fine alabaster tomb in St Mary's Church, Ewelme.



If you have read Christina Hardyment's novel about Alyce, *The Serpent of Division*, you'll want to know that Volume 2 of the series, entitled *The Book of the Duchess* (see right), will be published on October 22, and will be available in the museum shop and from Linda Hender ([linda.hender@gmail.com](mailto:linda.hender@gmail.com))

## Dorchester Historical Society

**Wednesday 22 November 2023 at 7.30pm**

**Dorchester Abbey Shrine Chapel**

Members free, Visitors welcome (£5)

Seasonal refreshments.

**Professor Malcolm Airs will talk on:**

***Sir Gilbert Scott in Clifton Hampden, Burcot and Dorchester***



George Gilbert Scott was the greatest architect of the Victorian age. He was a friend of the Gibbs family in Clifton Hampden and the Rev. William Macfarlane in Dorchester and over a period of nearly forty years he was commissioned to design many new buildings in both villages and to restore their churches. His impact is all around us and this talk will explore his significant contribution to the historic appearance of the locality.

### Date for your diary:

**Wednesday 24 January 2024** (with short AGM)

Denise Line, Julia Atkins et al. *Some remarkable women of Dorchester: Lettice Godfrey, Edith Fylman, Mary Tame.*



### Unidentified babies revealed

The September issue of Dorchester News included this photograph of two teenage babysitters together with babies in prams at the top of Martins Lane. We identified the girl on the right as Dar (Dorothy) Harvey. Denise Line (nee Atkins) has identified the other people in the picture not least because the baby in the pram on the left is

herself, and she is being pushed by her aunt, Margaret Atkins (later Belson). The baby being pushed by Dar is Johnny Brown. The photograph was taken in early 1948 when the Atkins lived in the house on the corner of Martins Lane now known as The Old Forge before moving to the newly-built Tenpenny a few years' later.



## Jane Elsworth Art

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## Culham & District Horticultural Club

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



©Janet Loughrey

### Diane Clement A Shady Garden

Diane has given many lectures to gardening groups including the Alpine Garden Society, Plant Heritage and the Hardy Plant Society.

She grows a wide range of plants in her shady Wolverhampton garden which gets no sun for six months of the year. She will provide practical information on growing shade-loving plants.

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

## The Gallery and Picture Framing

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Glass



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Little Baldon, OX44 9PU

We are open Tuesdays, Wednesdays  
and Fridays 10:30am - 3:00pm.  
Please make an appointment

gallerythe00@gmail.com  
www.janeelsworthart.com  
07841 590237



Gilbert Scott Hall

The village hall of Dorchester-on-Thames

## Dorchester Village Hall 200 Club Prize Draw

Congratulations to the winners of the September draw.

1st Prize	£75	No.55	Mr J Bell
2nd Prize	£45	No.52	Mr G Wells
3rd Prize	£25	No.148	Mr C Hill

The next draw will be in December with a first prize of **£100**, so join now for a chance to win!

The 200 Club is a quarterly prize draw to reward supporters and raise funds for the village hall. We need new members to keep the draw worthwhile but there are good odds of winning as there is a maximum of 200 tickets in the draw. A ticket for the year (four draws from when you join) only costs £12 and you can have as many tickets as you wish.

To join, contact Elaine Williams on **340441** or email **200club@dotvh.org.uk** for a form. You can pay by cash, cheque or standing order (preferred).

Thank you for your support and good luck!

**Elaine**



### Football Results

## North Berks League

### Div 1



16/09/2023	Abingdon United FC Development	1	1	Dorchester First
23/09/2023	Berinsfield First	7	1	Dorchester First
30/09/2023	Steventon First	1	3	Dorchester First

### North Berks Cup

07/10/2023	Dorchester First	1	2	Steventon First
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### Oxfordshire FA Intermediate Cup

14/10/2023	Dorchester First	4	2	Yarnton Reserves
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## Community Meeting

Bishop's Court Farm would like to invite you to the next Community Meeting on Thursday the 30th of November 2023 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm at Snug, Bishop's Court Farm. (tea and cake included)

This will be a question-and-answer session and an update on the initial presentation held in February 2022 and follow up meetings in September 2022 and April 2023.

Look forward to seeing you at Snug!







## St Birinus Primary School News

We have enjoyed a really positive start to our school year here.

All our children are working hard and learning lots. As we move towards Christmas we have lots of exciting things planned such as a visit to the panto and lots of Christmas singing.

We are really looking forward to supporting the HfT's Christmas celebration in the Abbey where we will be singing.

Our forest school provision continues to be funded by the Hurst Water Meadow Trust. Our children really value the opportunity to learn outdoors; getting muddy and having lots of fun with our specialised forest school teacher.

The lovely folk at Wallingford Book Shop are curating a wish list for our school. If you would like to purchase a book from our list as a donation we would be very grateful and the shop will give a discount. Just pop in and tell them you would like to buy a book from our list and they will show you what's available. Many thanks. This is in addition to our Amazon list that can be found here: [https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3EAI7Q6N5EB2E?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3EAI7Q6N5EB2E?ref_=wl_share)

If you would like to come and see what we can offer your child, have a tour and meet the staff and governors then please come to our open morning on **Thursday 9 November**. There is no need to book: just turn up any time between 9.30am and 11.30am.

We would love to see you.

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

You can find out more from our website here: <https://www.st-birinus-pri.oxon.sch.uk/>

**Jo Staples**  
Headteacher



## Dorchester Pre-School

Dorchester Pre-School has had an excellent start to the new school year, with lots of new starters all settling in well. It is wonderful to see the children so happy to go into the preschool each morning! We don't have any spaces left now but do have a waiting list, so please do get in touch with Helen the preschool manager at [manager@dorchesterpreschool.co.uk](mailto:manager@dorchesterpreschool.co.uk) for more information and to arrange a viewing of the setting. We have updated our website with relevant information and some new pictures of the children enjoying their days there so please do have a look. Our AGM is coming up shortly so please check the village notice board for the date, to be released shortly. We are always keen for local help and supporters to be involved so if you think you can offer any help please do get in touch! It takes a village to raise a child after all! We always need committee members to give advice and knowledge so dot be shy!

The children have been enjoying the beautiful late sunshine by going on bug hunts, local walks and still collecting apples to make apple crumble in school to take home. They did a sponsored walk which involved dressing up as their favourite farm animals and a walk to Bishops court farm to feed the alpacas and goats. It was very successful indeed and some of the money raised has already bought some new toys to be enjoyed. We have enjoyed celebrating Halloween with discos and parties, lots of arts and crafts involving Autumn and believe it or not starting to get ready for our nativity plays and Christmas fundraisers. Do keep an eye out for when this is all happening on our Facebook page, where you can find out all kinds of information and dates and activities.

Can you offer any voluntary work to the setting? We are looking for the grounds and the outside perimeter to be maintained every few weeks. Please pop in to the setting if this is something you could offer. We are always happy to accept donations of things that we might find useful; at the moment we are on the look out for old pots and pans for the children to use in the mud kitchen and any donations of books or toys.

**Sarah Egan**



Oxfordshire Libraries

### November events at Berinsfield Library

**Rhymetime Wednesdays at 10.30am during term term**  
Gentle singing and rhyming fun for preschoolers and toddlers with toys, instruments and bubbles!

**Saturday 4 November story and craft**  
Drop-in firework-themed craft session and a selection of festival inspired stories. Suitable for ages 4+ with a parent/carer

**Book Club Friday 24 November 2pm**  
Contact the library for this month's book or turn up to say hello and help choose the next one. All very welcome

**Digital Helper: Thursdays 2 to 5pm**  
Help in using smart phones, tablets and laptops. Support for those less confident with technology. Booking essential

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

Telephone: 01865 340771  
email: [berinsfieldlibrary.oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:berinsfieldlibrary.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



# Community meeting No.3 Feedback

We would like to thank all those who attended our third community meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 to discuss the Bishops Court Farm masterplan vision and progress since our last meeting in September 2022. It was lovely to see 70+ people over the two events, as well as the 12 completed questionnaires and emails received.

## What people like about the proposed plans. . . . .



Facilities/ space to benefit the community  
33%



Low-cost housing for local people  
25%

Café safety improvement 8%



Inclusivity of the Village  
25%



Sustainability/ conscious to wildlife and ecology/ organic farm  
42%

New Access Road  
8%

Existing masterplan being kept to -8%

## What people would like to see changed/concerns?

**92% did not have any concerns with the vision.**

(17% more than previous survey)

8% Commercial hub



BCF is in discussion with the Village Hall committee and the Abbey to establish what facilities are required in the village to complement the existing.

## How we will address concerns....

## Other comments/ suggestions...

- BCF is to be commended for its sustainability and energy strategy.
- Presentation was excellent!
- Thank you for contributing to the village
- Community involvement in hedge planting welcomed
- Discussions with new Parish Council welcomed in the development of the Vision for Dorchester 2030
- Improve appearance when arriving on farm
- Loads of positive comments and appreciation
- Introduce an odd evening of 60's music
- New access road should help to improve traffic flow
- Keep lake open to public + bird watchers
- The Snug has become vital to so many people. Great idea to make the outside safer.
- More comfortable seating for the Snug if possible
- Provide more information on the commercial hub
- Proposed estate fencing along High Street welcomed
- Delighted to have such a community friendly area within the village.

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

Next meeting: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
Email: [survey@bishops court farm.com](mailto:survey@bishops court farm.com)







## Dorchester's Living Advent Calendar

From 1<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> December a newly decorated Christmas window/lit garden will be revealed in a different Dorchester house every evening at 6.30pm to raise money for St Birinus Primary School  
 Buy a map to see which openings are nearest to you and go along if you can. Gather outside for mulled wine & mince pies and make a donation (do bring some cash!)  
 Maps will be on sale in the Coop from 1st November for £5 - follow the trail over Christmas to see all the windows across the village.  
 Here's a few of last year's amazing windows:



**Let's light up the village for Christmas!**

More info from:  
[steph@forman.org.uk](mailto:steph@forman.org.uk)

## Dorchester Abbey Christmas Cards

All profits to Dorchester Abbey

**New cards for 2023 by local artists**

All cards in packs of 10 for £4.50 with Happy Christmas inside  
 Buy from the back of the Abbey or contact Steph Forman for large quantities  
[steph@forman.org.uk](mailto:steph@forman.org.uk)  
 01865 340434



**Round Dorchester**  
 by Claire Cross  
 14.8 x 14.8cm



**Wittenham Clumps**  
 by Sophia Stewart-Liberty  
 14.8x10.5cm



**Robin**  
 by Christine Ellis  
 14.8 x 10.5cm

Happy Christmas

### Abbey Cards



**Shrine Nativity**  
 12x12cm



**Annunciation**  
 20x9cm (blank inside)



**East End Nativity**  
 10.5x14.8cm



**Angels**  
 9.7x21cm



**Christ Child**  
 13x13cm



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\* Offer ends 31st December 2023. Initial consultation worth £100





## Warborough & Shillingford WI

The WI September meeting welcomed Mark Stevenson to talk about his organic market garden. Mark is registered with the Soil Association who inspect his farm regularly, and to be accredited he cannot use chemicals, pesticides, irradiation, GM and artificial fertiliser to produce his crops. He told of the many difficulties he faced every day not least the unexpected changes in the weather, which affected his yields. Also, his battles with pests and vermin, especially pigeons. Organic food may be more expensive but when you learn of the benefits to wildlife and the care taken in food production, not to mention the taste, you know it is worth it. A wonderful talk. Mark sells his produce at East Oxford Community Market, every fortnight in Wallingford, South Oxford at Hinksey Park and Sandford Saturday Market.

There was a very different speaker in October when Tim Pocock, retired Magistrate, outlined the work of the Magistrates' Court. Tim described the different types of offences and punishments, Oxford Crown Court and the people who work full time to support the three Magistrates on the bench. He recounted some fascinating facts, one of which was the date Magistrates' Courts came into being – it was 1361, during the reign of Edward III. At that time Britain was a lawless place when innocence or guilt was determined by forcing horrible and painful tasks onto the accused. The Magistrates' Court was a definite improvement to that and still remains important to the whole of our system of justice as it is the court through which all those accused must be processed

initially. Amazingly Magistrates are volunteers, their only payment is for expenses and although they are trained, they are not legally qualified.

**Future Programme:** In November we will be discussing 'Perfume' with Holly Cranmer; On **13 December** 'A Norwegian Christmas' with Trine Lucy and festive food; **10 January 2024**, speaker to be advised and Christmas dinner at St Cross College on **17 January 2024**.

The **WI Walking Group** is still going strong, under the leadership of Chris Tilley, and meets every other Friday for friendly conversation and a walk in the beautiful Oxfordshire countryside.

WI members meet on the **second Wednesday** of every month at St Laurence Hall, there is always an interesting speaker or activity and is a great way to meet new friends. We would love to welcome you. There is complimentary tea and biscuits, and the first three meetings are free.

Contact email: [warboroughwi@oxfordshire.co.uk](mailto:warboroughwi@oxfordshire.co.uk)  
Telephone: **Sarah Allan President**

**01865 858673**  
Or **Vicky Hart**  
**01865 416437**



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# Katherine Victoria Louise Mellanby Herbert (Kate)

1971-2023

A year ago we as a family had just returned from our family holiday in the Scottish Borders. Little did we know the curveball life was going to throw at us and the strength Kate would show in facing death with dignity, humour, and love.

Kate was born to her parents in May 1971 in Stirling, Scotland before moving south of the border to grow up with her brother Alex in Amersham and Oxford. Kate was never swayed by public opinion, and she forged her own way never

taking no for an answer and the world was always her oyster. She also never forgot that the world was made up of more than herself.

Kate graduated with Psychology from The University of Surrey before undertaking teacher training in Southampton and life started! Kate met Stephen in London while living and volunteering at the Oxford Kilburn Club (The OK Club) in 1996 and married in 1999. Stephen and Kate forged their careers on London with Kate working in inner London schools as a reception and year 1 teacher. She wanted to share her love for knowledge with others, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds and moved onto teaching children with severe learning difficulties in Ealing. Although she only taught for 10 years, those years Kate held fondly with the memories of students and teachers she worked with, and she would often talk affectionately about them as if it were yesterday. As her family grew, Kate and Stephen decided to move out of London to Goring in 2003. Kate gave up her teaching career to raise her family and throwing herself into village life, making



lifelong friends across all walks of the village.

Kate was able to walk into a room full of strangers and leave with a room full of friends. I never understood how she did it, but it was because she was more interested in others than herself. She was able to strike up conversation with people without passing judgement, meeting them where they were and making them feel special.

In 2014 Kate took up her role as administrator at Dorchester Abbey. She very quickly established herself as a valued colleague, supporting those through their life events and making sure that things ran smoothly without incident. She was not one that wanted the limelight, nor did she seek praise but rather worked in the background to ensure success. Kate worried about the detail and wanted others' life events to be memorable and special. She took this too into preparing her own funeral in detail, and although she knew that it would be about her, she was more concerned about those she would be leaving behind. Almost 400 people attended her funeral on the 25 August, which was a testament

to how many people she touched in her life.

In 2019 Kate, after a hard journey, was diagnosed with Chronic Leukaemia which had resulted in her hospitalisation both in Turkey and at home. It was a difficult journey for her and her family feeling that the medical profession had made the journey more difficult than need be and was not afraid to articulate this to her clinicians, not to bring judgement but rather so

that others would not need to suffer the shortcomings of the clinical profession. Again, thinking of others before herself. She joined patient participation groups, worked with Oxford University Hospitals and The Royal Marsden on review of patient information leaflets emphasising the fact that a doctor patient relationship is not hierarchical, but rather one built on mutual consent and understanding.

In January 2023 Kate was diagnosed with Metastatic Pancreatic cancer and the last six months of her life were hard, both for her and her family, but she faced these with a strength and assurance that she had run a good race. She was, right to the end, wanting to make sure that all those she left behind were taken care of and that her family were to be looked after. Even in times of pain, fear, and sadness, she managed to always have a smile for those who visited her. She really was a woman who cared for all those around her.

Kate not only leaves her husband, Stephen and her two son's James and George, but a long list of those she affected with her life.

## The Friends of Dorchester Abbey and the Beauforest Society

The Friends of Dorchester Abbey and the Beauforest Society are charities that support the Parochial Church Council but have a separate legal identity. They raise funds to be used exclusively for the restoration, maintenance, and improvements to the structure of the Church and the Abbey Guesthouse. The Friends have undertaken to support the proposed major project to improve facilities in the Abbey including toilet facilities within the building. They have promoted and supported social events such as concerts, flower and craft festivals and lectures. Many of the Friends are not regular churchgoers but feel an affinity with the Abbey and wish to support it.



The annual subscription for the Friends is a minimum of £25 or Life Membership of £300 per person. For the Beauforest Society the annual subscription is £140.

Details of the work of the Friends together with application forms can be found on the Dorchester Abbey website [www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk](http://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk) and there are brochures on the Friends' notice board in the Abbey.

For further information contact the membership secretary,

Honor Juniper. **01865 343228** or email [friends@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:friends@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

## Irene M Hender (Rene) 1926-2023

Mum made it to 97! It all started in Charmouth where she spent her childhood. Her dad was a market gardener, and her mum ran a small guesthouse. She was quite shy as a child but started talking to compensate and never really stopped.

Mum and her family moved to Blandford where she worked in the post office. She met Allan, who was a bank clerk at the time. They married and then had Tim a couple of years later.

As Allan was promoted they had lots of moves around the South West to Gillingham, Tavistock, St Austell and finally Combe Martin. Mum left friends in all these places and regularly kept in touch. Sadly Allan died in 1987.

In 1993 there was better news as her granddaughter, Sara, was born, and then in 1996 a grandson, Allan. Rene decided to move to Oxfordshire. After 6 months living in Dorchester, she found a new home in Crowmarsh. She stayed in Crowmarsh until 2022, when she moved to Huntercombe Care Home.

That is the chronology of Mum's life but when we think of her, many things stand out.

Dogs - She was a dog owner for over 60 years. She had Honey the Beagle for 20 years and Patch the Jack Russel for around 15 years. In later years she acquired dogs that needed rehoming and gave them a loving home.

Puzzles - She loved doing puzzles and setting them too. Some were published in WI puzzle books and for many years she provided a monthly puzzle for



Combe Martin's local magazine.

Knitting - She was a very good knitter and many friends and relatives had personalized jumpers from her. She even made knitted swimming trunks for me, but that was perhaps a step too far.

Tea - Wherever we went the first thing mum wanted was a cup of tea. She also helped in the Abbey tearoom for many years and then made four cakes a week for them well into her 80s. She was proud to have her recipes in the Tearoom cookbooks and family and friends could be guaranteed a book at Christmas when they were published.

WI. - Rene joined Dorchester Women's Institute as soon as we moved to

Dorchester. She loved being a WI member and always wanted to go to meetings, group meetings and represented Dorchester at the National AGMs. Several times she went on courses at Denman, the WI college. She enjoyed going to learn new things and to meet new people. She was sad, as were many members, when the Dorchester WI closed in 2018.

Grandchildren - For the last 30 years her great love has been her grandchildren Sara and Allan, and lately her great granddaughter Cleo. She was always generous to her family and friends. Sara and Allan remember trips to Granny's on Christmas morning to pick up sacks of presents. When they look back at old family photos she was always in the background. From birthdays and Christmas to school plays and Mayday dancing. As they grew older it was graduations and Sara's wedding to Tom. When Cleo was born two years ago, Great Granny loved seeing her. When Mum moved into the home part of most visits was seeing Sara or Allan, and particularly Cleo, whether in person or on video.

I think I speak for us all when I say we will deeply miss you.

On behalf of the family I would like to say thank you for the cards and kind messages that we have received. Also our thanks to the Thursday tearoom team for kindly providing the refreshments after Rene's memorial service.

**Tim Hender**

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**Dates of future shows**  
**Spring Flower Show: 6 April 2024,**  
**Autumn Flower Show: 14 September 2024**

A small change in fees will be adopted in the Spring Flower Show 2024 and future shows with the aim to simplify the charges. There will no longer be any charge for class entries, but all exhibitors and adult visitors alike will be charged £1 on the door for the afternoon viewing and prize giving. Participation from the younger members of the community will be warmly encouraged including a new children's photography class and entry for the young people will remain free of charge.

Advanced warning for the Spring Show will also be a craft category to create a 'Twiddle Muff'. These are multisensory muffins designed to provide stimulation and warmth to patients with dementia or neuro-disability. You may like to view internet sites for ideas such as:  
[\*\*twiddle-muffs.pdf \(ouh.nhs.uk\)\*\*](http://twiddle-muffs.pdf(ouh.nhs.uk))

**Winners**



es Charles Dickerson Adam Potterton Jenny Trinder Claire Powers Charlotte Bennett

- Amey Tankard
- Fruit Plate
- Jenny Nudds
- Amey Rose-
- Floral Art Cup
- Pat Cheese Potato
- Tomato Cup
- mary Bowl
- Cup
- Vegetable
- Collection Pate



**Children's classes**

Thea Duke  
 and Ellie Petherbridge

A Disgusting Sandwich



# *Dorchester Abbey Christmas Market*

*Saturday 2nd December  
10am-5pm*

Gifts & Food Stalls  
Tea Room Home Baking  
Hot BBQ Bratwurst  
Mulled wine  
Teas  
Christmas Wreaths  
Gift & Food Stalls  
Museum gift shopping  
Live Christmas music all day!



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[www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk](http://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk)*

**Raising money for your Abbey**



# A Jazzy Christmas

at Dorchester Abbey  
with Jo Harrop and  
Paul Edis - Sunday  
3rd December 2023



A feast of festive favourites and jazzy Christmas classics performed by singer Jo Harrop and pianist Paul Edis alongside a world class nine-piece band.

**Tickets : £22 - £27**

Please go to [bishops court farm.com](http://bishops court farm.com)  
Doors: 6.30pm. Concert: 7.30 - 9.30pm

Dorchester Abbey  
High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames,  
Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 7HH





## Follow the Stars Christmas Carol Concert Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, Friday 8 December 2023

Our 27<sup>th</sup> *Follow the Stars Christmas Carol Concert* in aid of Macmillan Cancer

Support will be held at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, on **Friday 8 December 2023**.

The star-studded cast of celebrities will include Greg Wise, Jason Isaacs, Mel Giedroyc and Toby Jones who will be entertaining us with enthralling literary readings. These will be interspersed with breathtaking musical performances and gloriously uplifting Christmas carols.



Photo: Lizzie Patterson

This year we are thrilled and honoured to have the highly acclaimed, classical trumpeter Alison Balsom joining us to play for us in Christ Church Cathedral. Described as “simply divine” by The Sunday Telegraph, Alison has established an international reputation and is regarded as one of the finest soloists of this generation. She combines technical brilliance with penetrating musicianship – a true poet of the trumpet. Not to be missed at any cost!

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Around 97% of Macmillan Cancer Support's work is funded by people like

you. By joining us at Follow the Stars you will be literally amongst the stars - and at the same time actively helping towards Macmillan's services as they support people living with cancer.

So, don't hesitate: book your tickets online now at [www.followthestars-macmillancarols.com](http://www.followthestars-macmillancarols.com). The concert will be also live-streamed and free to view online at [justgiving.com/fundraising/follow-the-stars](http://justgiving.com/fundraising/follow-the-stars), where you can also donate if you aren't able to join us.

'An utterly magical evening – and for the best possible cause.'

*Kirsty Young, celebrity reader 2022*

'The music and the choir were outstanding - it was Christmassy and extremely beautiful.'

*Sally Phillips, celebrity reader 2022*



## The Best of Bach Benson Choral Saturday 25 November 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey

Johann Sebastian Bach's epic B Minor Mass is Benson Choral Society's next production in Dorchester Abbey on **Saturday 25 November** at 7.30 pm.

Bach assembled this work towards the end of his life in 1748-9, incorporating music he had written for various occasions up to 30 years earlier, and it can be regarded as a compendium of Bach's 'greatest choral hits'. Still, at a deeper level it makes a compelling and cohesive whole. A towering masterpiece, it has so many great moments from the plaintive opening 'Kyrie' to the bell-like tolling of the triumphant 'Sanctus' that every choir gets excited at the prospect of singing it – which we are sure will come across to our audience.

This performance promises to be special in a number of ways. As well as four distinguished professional solo singers, we have for the first time the Oxford-based period orchestra, Instruments of Time & Truth. We've had a glorious year with Steven Grahl as our Musical Director, and this will be his last concert with us before heading to Trinity College, Cambridge in 2024. So it will be a night to remember!

This concert is dedicated to Stephanie Martin, our much-loved Tickets and Front of House secretary who did so much to support the society until her early death in March this year.

Tickets are £20 (reserved) and £17 (unreserved) online via [www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk).

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# J.S. Bach

## *Mass in B minor*

Orchestra

**Instruments of Time and Truth**

Conductor **Steven Grahl**

**Dorchester Abbey**

**Saturday 25 November 2023**

**7.30pm**

Tickets: £20 (reserved), £17 (unreserved)

Available online via [www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk)



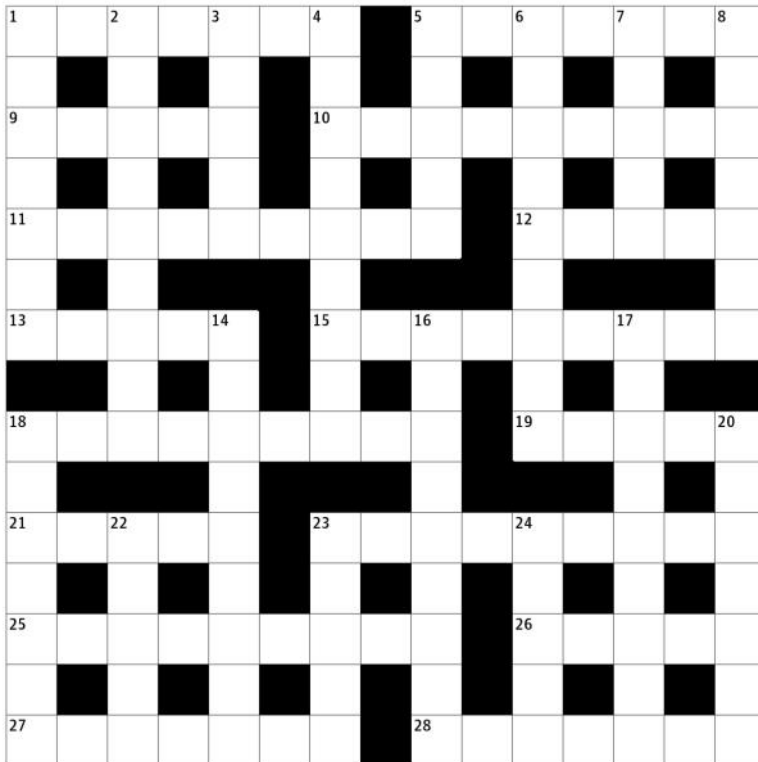
As we approach the end of the year and the days start getting colder, let's remember that glorious warm day in May and a wonderful street party to commemorate the Coronation, with some more photographs of that happy day.





# Dorchester News Crossword No.29

Compiled by Slider



- 8 We need less encephalograms to get to the heart (7)
- 14 Drunken pigs learn to be falling back into old habits. (9)
- 16 Get smart and toe the line. (5.4)
- 17 In the dark take no notice about the article on Charlie. (9)
- 18 Push back on the beat. (7)
- 20 His oath could make a promise to the Queen. (7)
- 22 A course of long body patterns? (5)
- 23 Support a one-time leader but not for long (5)
- 24 Scoring nil for being backward about the affair. (5)

## Across

- 1 Horrible force quickly removes the current. (7)
- 5 Wrap up the cards before time. (7)
- 9 Driving force of the doctor at a high point. (5)
- 10 Sir's match is off and it leads to a celebration. (9)
- 11 Lifts for the French (with six galleries). (9)
- 12 Went back and partly opened locks long ago. (5)
- 13 Get bad men to spin with this. (5)
- 15 Slider has a case and I am part of it when negotiating. (9)
- 18 Give again to the Northern church and there will be a memorable smell. (9)
- 19 Pulls those over there. (5)
- 21 A college with quiet growth. (5)
- 23 These men are there but don't ask for certainty. (9)
- 25 Strike gold and unite to reach a global position. (9)
- 26 An aiming point when a bad'un loses his head. (5)
- 27 Opponents' indications to the officers. (7)
- 28 We glare rudely and that's pants! (7)

## Down

- 1 Golf first then a walker gets better. (7)
- 2 Tax the editor after a play begins and then is brought to life. (9)
- 3 78 can be interpreted—thanks to the nonsense. (5)
- 4 Assemble Chay's mast to the North - he needs windpower. (9)
- 5 Stops getting to some green spaces. (5)
- 6 Around the bend get very cautious, there's a large bird! (9)
- 7 With extremities primed and ready for action. (5)





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## From the Chair of the Parish Council

As you read this article, our village survey will be just about closing. The closing date is the end of October. So, its your last chance to have your say about what we priortise in Dorchester for the next few years, don't miss the chance to contribute to the debate. Please either submit your views online via <http://surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DORCHESTER2030> or on the paper form that was delivered to you last month or is also available in the Coop. We will be sharing the results with residents when it has all been analysed and then we can move on to how, as a community, we get going on those things that emerge as priorities. We are also considering how we can canvass the views of young people in the village for whom filling in a survey may not quite be their thing, we don't want to miss out on their views, if you have any ideas then please let me know.

We have some pieces of good news for our community. Firstly, as you will likely have seen or heard, our new exercise equipment on the rec is up and running. If you haven't been down and given it a go or been along to the taster session, please do, its a great addition to our facilities for a range of ages and abilities. Thanks to all those who brought it to life, as I've said before, but it bears repeating, particularly Rob Ballantyne and Councillor Becky Waller. And our new football goals are in place for everyone to go and use. The final piece of this jigsaw is the enhancements to the kids' playground which are due shortly.

And we have just received confirmation that an extension of the conservation area around Dorchester has been approved by SODC to include Cooks Field in Overy and the Demesnes Field between the bypass and the track to the Hurst. These are important additions to help control the development of those areas so thanks to Malcolm Airs and Councillor Mark Williams in particular for taking the lead. Not everything the parish council does for you is visible, but these sort of initiatives are vital to retain the character of the area.

Thanks to everyone who came along to our 'Whats on in Dorchester' session a couple of weeks ago. We had a great turnout. I hope those who came along found something that interested them. And thanks to all those who ran over 40 stalls and made it such a successful event, a big increase on what we have been able to offer before. And thanks to all who provided bonhomie as well as cakes and ale for those who attended.

Lastly, but importantly, one thing your parish council is going to be focusing on in the next few months is modernising how we operate. To do this we have been comparing ourselves to other councils and have agreed a transformation plan to make sure we are up there with the best. This can feel like a dry topic but things like looking after 'your' money efficiently and accurately, making sure our management of trees, our playground etc is done well and safely and then making decisions correctly and legally are things you expect your parish council to do behind the scenes. So, we have a job of work to do to get us up to the pace of the best of other councils.

## Parish Council Notices

### Monthly Meetings November and December 2023

The November Council Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 8 November** and the December meeting will take place on **Wednesday 13 December**.

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 new Parish Council website

[www.dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk](http://www.dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk) - three clear days in advance of the meeting.

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

### 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.

The Clerk's new e-mail is:

[parishclerk@dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk)

Cllr Mike Corran, the Chairman, can be contacted via

[chairman@dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:chairman@dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk)

The Parish Council's new website is

[www.dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk](http://www.dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk)

This is at present under development so for the time being please continue to look at [www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk](http://www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk) for all Parish Council documents and reports. In due course these will be moved to the new website.



The new fitness equipment gets tried out by Andy Walton

Photo: Charlotte Garside





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



## **SODC Cabinet approves new Dorchester and Overy Conservation area boundaries**

At its recent meeting, the SODC cabinet agreed to adopt the Overy Conservation Area boundary, and adopt the joint Dorchester-on-Thames and Overy Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan, as amended following public consultation, as a Supplementary Planning Document as part of the Development Plan evidence, making it a material planning consideration. This provides very strong planning protection for much of the village.

## **Berinsfield Community Delivery Plan approved**

After consultation with officers and members of the Berinsfield Garden Village Steering Group, a comprehensive delivery plan has been developed which has a focus on a variety of different objectives to enable investment into the built environment, facilities, the people, and organisations within Berinsfield.

Officers have worked to identify and allocate funding to the 27 projects in the plan. While some are led by SODC, some such as the Neighbourhood Plan are led by the Parish Council, or the Mount Farm strategic site masterplanning is led by Ptarmigan Land/JTP, or indeed the County Council. Progress on the plan will be reported regularly to the Steering Group meetings.

The plan also allows SODC to accept £60,000 in additional public health funding for the work on community wellbeing, and to look for further funds from outside sources such as the Shared Prosperity Fund.

## **New Air Quality Website**

A new Oxfordshire air quality website has launched providing air quality guidance and resources for the county. The website ([www.oxonair.uk](http://www.oxonair.uk)) aims to integrate all relevant air quality-related information from all district councils in Oxfordshire under one single platform.

The website also continues to feature a map and real-time readings of monitoring stations across Oxfordshire including NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>, as well as general advice on air quality, why it is important, and how it is monitored across the county.

Across Oxfordshire in 2021, it was estimated that air pollution's effect on mortality was equivalent to 320 early deaths.

## **'Check it before you chuck it'**

South Oxfordshire District Council have launched a new campaign asking people to check before they chuck items in their recycling bins as part of a drive to increase the amount and quality of recycling in the district.

An estimated 3,340 tonnes\* – the equivalent of just over 200 double decker buses – of items that residents put in their recycling bins during 2022/23 were not actually recyclable – that's 11 per cent of all the contents of our green bins for the whole year!

It can be very difficult to remove non-recyclable items out of the large loads of recycling in our collection trucks or at the recycling facility; and if it's food waste or other messy items then it could result in whole truckloads of recycling having to be rejected.

You've probably noticed stickers on your green household recycling bin encouraging you to 'Check it before you chuck it'.

By ensuring you only put the correct items in your recycling bin, you will play your part in helping to keep us among the top recyclers in the country! Scan the QR code on the sticker or go to [southandvale.gov.uk/checkit](http://southandvale.gov.uk/checkit)

## **SODC Issues its latest 5-year Housing Land Supply Statement**

The latest statement indicates that SODC has a 4.2 year supply of housing and can be downloaded (all 381 pages) from the SODC website. Clearly this is a concerning, if not unexpected, outcome to this painstaking and time-consuming exercise, but we are confident that we can robustly defend any major speculative planning refusals because our Local Plan is up to date with a strong policy base and our recent record of delivery has been strong. Developer-side delays and market conditions mean that the build-out has been slower than hoped.

Indeed, recent appeals (e.g. one in Chalgrove) have been lost by developers, due to other factors which the inspector felt were more compelling.

We still await Government action on this inefficient and unfair rule, despite the Secretary of State's comments on scrapping it early in 2023. However, it is clear that Neighbourhood Plans will continue to be extremely important, and the Green Belt is still a very strong protection against unplanned development, as indeed is Conservation Area status.

**[Robin.Bennett@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:Robin.Bennett@southoxon.gov.uk)**

**tel. 01865 858680**

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

### Community tree planting opportunity

The tree planting season begins at the end of the year and Oxfordshire County Council is looking for community tree planting projects that will benefit people and nature. More information at [www.climateactionoxfordshire.org.uk/actions/gardenbiodiversity/start-community-tree-or-woodland-project](http://www.climateactionoxfordshire.org.uk/actions/gardenbiodiversity/start-community-tree-or-woodland-project)

### Special educational needs and disabilities Ofsted report

Oxfordshire's local area partnership (LAP), which includes both Oxfordshire County Council and local NHS agencies and hospitals, has apologised to families and has committed to significant change to improve support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) following an inspection of services by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission in July.

Inspectors identified that there are widespread systemic failings across the local area partnership leading to significant concerns about the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND, which must be urgently addressed.

Areas identified for improvement include:

- Agencies within the local area partnership need to work cohesively to ensure that children and young people get the right help at the right time.
- Too many children and young people are unable to access the education provision they need.

The inspection recognised that the timeliness of education, health and care plans (EHCPs) has recently improved, but frequently they do not describe the child or young person accurately enough to ensure that their needs are met effectively.

Given the report also stated better leadership is needed, OCC leader Liz Leffman asked the cabinet member for Children's Services, Liz Brighthouse, who is also Labour group leader, to step down from that particular role. Instead, Labour decided to leave the county administration, which is now led by the Lib Dem and Green group only. This has meant changes to OCC's Cabinet, including a new post focusing entirely on SEND improvement. The creation of this new cabinet role dedicated to SEND will ensure that the whole council has a constant and permanent focus on turning the situation around at pace.

### New OCC Cabinet members

Councillor Kate Gregory: Cabinet Member for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) improvement

Councillor John Howson: Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Young People's Services

Councillor Neil Fawcett: Cabinet Member for Community and Corporate Services

Councillor Nathan Ley: Cabinet Member for Public Health, Inequalities and Community Safety

Councillor Judy Roberts: Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Development Strategy.

Councillor Calum Miller has decided to step down from the role of cabinet member for finance and will be replaced by Councillor Dan Levy.

Green Party Councillor Pete Sudbury has been appointed Deputy Leader and continues as Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment.

### Oxford United proposal for use of County Council land for its new stadium

At its meeting on 19 September 2023, the council's Cabinet approved in principle the leasing of land at the 'Triangle' to the football club to develop a new stadium. The leasehold comes with several conditions:

- The club must be given planning permission by Cherwell District Council.
- The club must produce a net-zero plan that is fully costed and comes with clear timescales and outcomes from design, construction and full operation of the stadium.
- The club must provide details of how it will meet the commitments made in its submissions to the county council so far.
- Restrictive covenants will be put in place that will set aside the use of the land for football/community sports and leisure/sports stadia for the term of the lease, with limited commercial activities permitted only within the stadium footprint.

### HIF1 planning application update

Following a recent planning and regulation committee meeting, the council's Planning Authority has decided to take a neutral position at the forthcoming inquiry on the HIF1 road project, although maintaining some objections on specific planning issues. It has also emerged that the July call-in was requested by Defense Minister Grant Shapps on the basis of the growth plans for the UK's nuclear fusion industry at Culham Science Centre.

I have asked for details to be brought forward on how the scheme will connect to existing active travel routes and what will happen where the road ends (halfway along the road between Clifton Hampden and Golden Balls roundabout).

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From your MP...

...John Howell

The structure of Government, national and local, can be confusing. When someone needs help with something it can be difficult to know just who is responsible for what, and therefore who can help when things do not go as they should. I often receive requests from people to help them with issues that are not Parliamentary matters and with which I cannot help. I appreciate that this can be frustrating and so I thought that it might be helpful if I set out who does what.

It is often thought that an MP sits at the top of a hierarchy of Government and has power to direct local councils. This is not the case. Local councils are autonomous, and MPs do not have any jurisdiction over local council decisions. Hence local councils have their own elected representatives in the form of councillors. People elected to these councils have direct access to officers at the respective councils and so are better placed to take up relevant issues. I have found that referring to local councillors is the quickest way to get action. Some local council teams can be quick to respond to me but of late some have started treating concerns raised via my office as formal complaints and as such can take several weeks to be processed.

So, to help steer through the hierarchy let me set out who does what.

Essentially as an MP I can help with issues and concerns that relate to central government departments. For example this may include issues relating to the HM Revenue and Customs, Visas and immigration, the NHS, or pensions and benefit issues.

In Oxfordshire we have three tiers of local government, the County Council, District Councils and Parish Councils or Parish Meetings.

Oxfordshire County 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.

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.

Parish Councils and Parish Meetings deal with very local concerns and can influence the other councils on behalf of residents.

Whilst on the topic of what I can and cannot do it may also be helpful to comment on requests to attend specific events. When Parliament is sitting MPs are expected to be in Westminster from Monday to Thursday, unless on other parliamentary business elsewhere. During a week in Westminster there are many competing demands such as scrutinising legislation, attending debates, ministerial question sessions, committees, briefings and other meetings. These competing demands mean that it is not always possible to attend a particular debate or drop-in session that a constituent may ask me to attend. When I cannot attend something it does not reflect lack of interest, simply that I cannot be in two places at once.

I hope that setting this out is helpful and answers several questions that I have been asked of late.

On other matters, 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](http://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.

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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.

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Please see website ([www.cornexchange.org.uk](http://www.cornexchange.org.uk)) for updates.

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### October

Wed 1	<b>Klimt and The Kiss</b> (12A) 2.30pm and 7.30pm
Thurs 2	<b>Map of Midsomer; a John Nettles documentary</b> (free)
Fri 3	<b>The Great Escaper</b> (12A)
Sat 4	<b>The Great Escaper</b> (12A) 2.30pm and 7.30pm
Sun 5	<b>The Great Escaper</b> (12A)
Mon 6	<b>The Great Escaper</b> (12A)
Wed 8	<b>Fanny: The Other Mendelssohn</b> (PG) 2.30pm and 7.30pm
Thurs 9	<b>Dumb Money</b> (15)
Fri 10	<b>Dumb Money</b> (15)
Sat 11	<b>A Forgotten Man</b> (15)
Sun 12	<b>A Forgotten Man</b> (15)
Mon 13	<b>A Forgotten Man</b> (15)
Tues 14	<b>A Forgotten Man</b> (15)
Wed 15	<b>Killers of the Flower Moon</b> (15)
Fri 17	<b>Trolls Band Together</b> (U)
Sat 18	<b>Trolls Band Together</b> (U) 2.30pm and 7.30pm
Sun 19	<b>Trolls Band Together</b> (U)
Mon 20	<b>Beyond Utopia</b> (15)
Tues 21	<b>Beyond Utopia</b> (15)
Thurs 23	<b>Beyond Utopia</b> (15)
Wed 29	<b>On the Adamant</b> (PG)
Thurs 30	<b>On the Adamant</b> (PG)

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## Day by day

Fri 3 Nov	<b>St Birinus Festival</b> The Davey Consort Lecture Recital 7.00pm Dorchester Abbey
Sat 4 Nov	<b>St Birinus Festival</b> Royal Academy of Music Mozart 1.00pm Dorchester Abbey
	<b>St Birinus Festival</b> Ryan Wrigglesworth and Sophie Bevan 7.00pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 5 Nov	<b>4th Sunday before Advent</b> 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30am Family Service
	6.00pm Diocesan Vocation Service
	<b>The Snug Sessions</b> <i>Zoe Francis and the Jim Mullen Quartet, The Great American Songbook</i> 7.00pm Bishops Court Farm
Wed 8 Nov	<b>Chiropodist</b> Village Hall Appointment only; see page 5
	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b> 7.30pm Village Hall
Thurs 9 Nov	<b>St Birinus School</b> Open morning 9.30am to 11.30am
Sat 11 Nov	<b>Rebecca Caine</b> Dividing Day 8.00pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 12 Nov	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b> 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00am Remembrance Service
Wed 15 Nov	<b>Dorchester Lunch Club</b> 12.30pm Village Hall
	<b>Culham Horticultural Society</b> Diane Clement <i>Shady Gardens</i> 7.30pm Abbey Guest House



Sat 18 Nov	<b>Orchestra of St Johns</b> Tchaikovsky and Mendelssohn 7.00pm Dorchester Abbey
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**Dr Lucy Worsley**  
Queen Victoria  
7.30pm  
Village Hall

Sun 19 Nov	<b>2nd Sunday before Advent</b> 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
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10.30am  
Sung Eucharist

**The Snug Sessions**  
*Jordan Jackson  
The American Soul Train*  
7.00pm  
Bishops Court Farm

Wed 22 Nov	<b>Dorchester Historical Society</b> <i>Sir Gilbert Scott in Clifton Hampden, Burcot and Dorchester</i> Professor Malcolm Airs 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey
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Sat 25 Nov	<b>Benson Choral Society</b> Bach's Mass in B Minor 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey
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Sun 26 Nov	<b>Christ the King/Next before Advent</b> 8.00am Holy Communion
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**St John's Ambulance**  
Carol Service  
3.00pm  
Dorchester Abbey

Thurs 30 Nov	<b>Moving Music</b> 11.30am and 2.00pm Dorchester Abbey
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**Bishop's Court Farm**  
Community Meeting  
2.30pm and 7.30pm  
The Snug

**DADS**  
*Goldilocks and the Three Bears*  
7.00pm  
Village Hall

For current information about other services  
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For St Birinus RC Church go to:  
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## 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
Saturday	Pickleball 2.00pm-4.00pm St Birinus School playground

See also the Parish Council website:  
[www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk](http://www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

## Weekly events in the Village Hall

Tuesday	Move Together 1.30pm
	Yoga 7.30pm
Wednesday	Busby Dance for children 3.15pm
	Pilates 5.30pm
Thursday	Tango 7.30pm
	Yoga for Beginners 6.15pm
	See <a href="http://dorchesteronthamesvillagehall.org.uk/#calendar">dorchesteronthamesvillagehall.org.uk/ #calendar</a> for additional one-off events.

## Parish Registers

### Funerals

15 Sept	Irene Mary Hender
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## 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**.

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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.

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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](http://www.morerecycling.co.uk)

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Swan Lifeline: **01753 859397**

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Wed - 11.50, 13.35; Fri - 09.25, 12.00, 12.15, 14.05.

To Didcot Station: Mon - 09.33, 12.00, 13.44  
Wed - 12.00, 13.44.

From Didcot Station: Mon - 10.04, 12.25, 14.25; Wed - 10.04, 14.25.

See: [www.goingforwardbuses.com](http://www.goingforwardbuses.com)

Other Bus Services

Service X40 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](http://www.traveline.info) and **08712 002233**.

### AGE UK

The UK's largest charity working with older people. For help and advice etc. go to [www.ageuk.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk).

### SODC CONTACT

Telephone **01235 422422**  
Email: [enquiries@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk)

### VILLAGE WEBSITE

[www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk](http://www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk)

### ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST

The Presbytery  
**Fr. John Osman**  
Bridge End  
**01865 340417**  
[www.stbirinus.co.uk](http://www.stbirinus.co.uk)

Dorchester Abbey Museum E-mail  
[museum@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:museum@dorchester-abbey.org.uk)



## REFUSE COLLECTIONS

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

### Weekdays from 7.00am

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

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

## Index of advertisers Page

Acupuncture Barn	30
Arbocare	28
Bishops Court Farm Jazz	21
Bristow	30
Bryan's Locks	30
Dorchester Fireplaces	28
Four Winds	26
Graceful Gardens	28
Hedges law	6
Horted 1	15
Horted 2	26
Howard Chadwick Funerals	30
In House	6
Imogen Dental	14
Jane Elsworth Art	8
JEM chimney sweep	30
Kate Launder	25
Larkmead Vets	26
LB Plumbing	28
Martin Drew Logs	17
Millstream Pilates	30
Mossinator	17
Purely Plants	30
Q Self Store	8
Roy Passey Builders	33
St Mary's Dental	28
Steve Wilkinson	30
T W Hayden	28
The Gallery and Picture Framing	9
The Landscape Group Oxford	8
Thimbles and Threads	33
White Hart	15





**GOLDILOCKS  
AND THE  
THREE BEARS**

**A pantomime by Tom Whalley**

**30th November - 2nd December 2023**

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**Saturday 2pm & 6.30pm**

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Queen Street, Dorchester-on-Thames OX10 7HR

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**[www.ticketsource.co.uk/dads](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/dads)**

[www.dads.org.uk](http://www.dads.org.uk)

**DADS**  
Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society