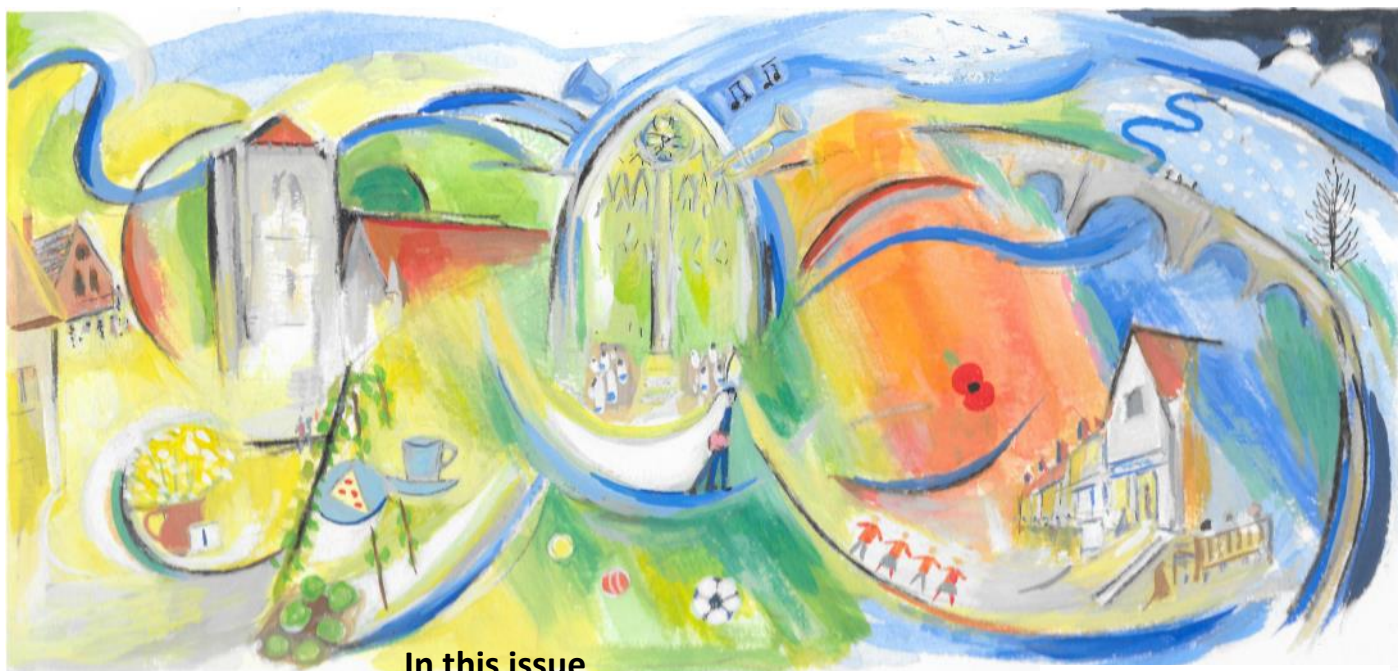


Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

March 2024





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Cover: Spring comes to the fields of Dorchester.

Deadline for April Dorchester News



email:

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

A DoT view

For the fifth year in a row, South Oxfordshire District Council is amongst the top five councils in England for the proportion of household waste that is recycled, and this year they are number one! SODC has even moved ahead of Vale of White Horse, who were pushed into third place by Three Rivers. In South Oxfordshire the household waste recycling rate in 2022/23 was 61.6% against an average of 41.2% for England overall.

Clearly this isn't a race, but it is important in the effort to combat climate change by reducing energy use and extraction of minerals, according to the United Nations. It reduces pollution and contributes to more sustainable lifestyles.

We may sometimes get frustrated when our bins are not emptied on due dates, as we see on social media. But the effort to properly sort our waste into the correct bins really does help the processes put in place by SODC to be England leaders in this.

As households we can also help by creating less waste by reusing and recycling whatever we can. And Dorchester is generally good at this. We see evidence all around Dorchester with unwanted items from one household being offered to anyone who can use them, whether that be through social media or simply by leaving them outside the door. Doing this is both a contribution to the village community and to reducing climate change. Let's keep it up.

Ian Brace

Editorial Team
Ian Brace, Steph Cook

Advertising Manager
Charlotte Garside

Printed by
Artisan Print Solutions

Easter is a time when we celebrate new life. The shops are filled with displays featuring pastel-coloured eggs, bouncing lambs and cheeky chicks. The festival coincides with the onset of Springtime, when the days become longer and brighter and our local farms are bursting with new life. Visiting the lambs is becoming an increasingly popular activity for families, rivalling the pumpkin picking craze that continues to soar in popularity during the October half-term holiday.

Of course, for Christians, Easter is the festival celebrating the resurrection life of Jesus Christ. Christians believe that, on Easter Sunday, Jesus rose from the grave, heralding a great celebration and a promise of new, glorious, eternal life. The image of the rising Sun is symbolic for Christians at this time of year, with many offering a dawn service to celebrate Easter Sunday as the first morning light creeps up over the hillside. For Christians, this is one of the holiest and most special times of year, and we give thanks to God not just for all created life, but for the

particular good news of Jesus.

However, Easter Sunday is the culmination of Holy Week, which is a dramatic and intense journey of intense ups and downs. On Palm Sunday (the Sunday before Easter), Jesus was celebrated by the crowds as a hero when he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. On Maundy Thursday, he shared a final meal with his closest friends before being betrayed by them. On Good Friday, he was crucified. On Holy Saturday, nothing happened: Jesus lay dead in the grave and his friends hid in fear, thinking that was the end of the story.

In the run up to the glorious celebration of resurrection life, there are many moments of despair, death and darkness. We know this to be true in the natural world as well: before Spring time bursts out in all its beauty and colour, first the Autumn leaves must die and rot into the ground. First we must go through the darkest and coldest time of year, when nothing seems to be growing. We know that death and darkness are part of the cycle of life.

I have found that, depending on where I am in the journey of life, different parts of the Easter story resonate with me in different years. Some years, I am most excited for the joyous celebration of Easter. At other years, it is the profound reality of Good Friday where I feel closest to God. During the lockdown of 2020, I felt that I was most compelled by Holy Saturday: the day when nothing happened. I wonder which day of the story most resonates with you this year?

A long and full life, and any great adventure story, is full of moments of excitement and celebration as well as times of boredom, frustration and grief. Pray that wherever you are on life's journey, you would find comfort, healing, strength and community. Please know that you are very welcome to come and journey with us as we remember the Easter story, at any or all of our Holy Week services across the Dorchester Team this year. Or if you are too frail but would like a pastoral visit or to receive communion, please do get in touch.

The Arrival of Revd Jo Allen

We were pleased to welcome Jo and her family at her Licensing on Wednesday 31 January. Jo is now Team Vicar in the Dorchester Team, with pastoral responsibility for the Bridge Group of parishes: Clifton Hampden and Burcot, Culham and Long with Little Wittenham.



EASTER LILIES 2024



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

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

Please complete the form below and send it to me:
Sandie Griffiths, 5 Rumbolds Close, Benson, Oxfordshire OX10 6NQ
Email: sandie@theflower.co.uk Mobile: 07957867065

or hand it to one of the flower arranging team - Kathy Glass, Susan Jupp or Vera Baker

Name

Contact phone number

Amount of donation

Donation in memory of

Events in the Abbey

Sun 3 March 3.00pm The Choir of The Thames Consort – Bach, Vivaldi, Bruckner All proceeds will go to Dorchester Abbey Tickets £16/£12 (16 and under free)

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/dorchesterabbey>

Sat 23 March 7.30pm- 9.00pm Benson Choral Society Benson Choral Society's next concert combines the new with the old – local composer Richard Blackford's recent *Pietà* and Gabriel Fauré's incomparable *Requiem*. Tickets are £20 (reserved) or £17 (unreserved) and are available online at

www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk

Sat 30 March 6.00pm- 8.30pm OSJ- Bach – St Matthew Passion A highlight of our musical year, we celebrate Easter with our annual performances of JS Bach's sacred oratorio. Featuring some of Bach's most delicate chorales and rousing choruses, this depiction of the last few days of Jesus's life is as powerful today as it was when it was written nearly 300 years ago. Free tickets available for NHS workers and for the disabled. Please email admin@osj.org.uk. Tickets £6 to £35 from www.osj.org.uk



**Grief is hard.
Death can impact
all of life.**

The Bereavement Journey
a place to talk

**7 Sessions of films
and discussion
for anyone bereaved anytime**

Topics include:

- Attachment, separation and loss
- The pain and responses of grief
- Anger and guilt
- Coping with others' reactions
- Delayed and suppressed grief
- Adjusting to change
- Moving forward healthily
- Faith questions – a Christian perspective (optional)

To find out more visit:
thebereavementjourney.org

Running soon:
Hosted by Dorchester Team of Churches

Online Course: Tuesdays
2nd April to 14th May 7pm

To book or for more info:
Contact Rev Teresa
07823 809 112
revteresa@outlook.com



Lent- Details of all our services and courses can be found at www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk under the services section or a printed copies can be found in your Church.

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



Hempcroft Allotments March

At the AGM in 2021 there was lively debate on a number of issues, and one concern discussed was the use of chemicals to control weeds on the allotments or on the pathways. There have been instances of the chemicals damaging crops on adjacent plots. Jon Rosby had contacted the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) to see if they had guidance on this issue. They have provided advice and a standard policy, and our insurers now also require a policy on the use of herbicides and pesticides. The NSALG policy is to allow the use of herbicides such as glyphosate at the strength level commercially available in garden centres in a carefully controlled manner. Because of past indiscriminate use by some plot holders there was a strong feeling that all herbicides should be banned and this went to the vote with the overall majority of those present supporting a ban. It was agreed that the whole membership should be consulted on this issue. After full consultation in with the membership in 2022 the consensus was that industrial strength glyphosate should be banned on the allotments but that the careful use of glyphosate at the strength level commercially available in garden centres is acceptable, and this is the current policy on the allotments.

There was a report in the papers a few weeks ago that one of the first councils in Britain to ban glyphosate weedkillers has dropped the ban after streets and footpaths became choked with weeds. Brighton and Hove was branded 'a city of trifids' after the council imposed the ban in 2019. Now, after five years of complaints, the council has admitted the situation has become untenable and has voted to reintroduce glyphosate. Councillors said that it was time to take back the streets from the plague of nettles, thistles and weeds that had taken over, and they had a duty to maintain safe streets for residents. Streets and communities that decide to weed their own streets will not be treated with glyphosate. However eco-conscious residents are reported to be furious and say the move will harm wildlife, particularly the starling population. The decision is set to receive final approval at a meeting of the full council in March.

So the wider glyphosate debate continues outside of Dorchester's Hempcroft Allotments.

Edward Metcalfe
340160
edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk



Dorchester Abbey

Vacancy for a Verger-Estate Manager
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

Wallingford Food Bank

During the last few months there has been a huge increase in requests for help, but thanks to your generosity, the food bank has received a good quantity of food and regular gifts of money.

There is now a collection point in the Co-op in Dorchester High Street and also one in the Co-op in Benson.

If you would like to donate food, toiletries etc. the app 'Bank the Food' will now prompt you when you enter the Co-ops in Dorchester and Benson as well as Waitrose in Wallingford. This app helps you to choose those items which are most needed.

As always, any donation, however small, is very gratefully received.

There is still a collection box in my garage for those of you who prefer to donate there.

Judy Parker



THE FLEUR

WE ARE HIRING

General Manager

We are looking for an experienced full time individual, with creative flair, enthusiasm, and a strong work ethos to take over the day to day running of the pub. Can be a live in or out position.
Good rates of pay & benefits.

Front of House Staff

Evenings and weekends, flexible hours.
Experience not necessary as training will be given.
Good rates of pay plus benefits.

Kitchen Chef / Assistant

Required for evenings and weekends.
1 year experience preferred, but training will be given.
Good rates of pay plus benefits.

Please send a CV or inquire for further details
of any position to :

catharine@thefleurdorchester.com

The Fleur De Lys, Dorchester-on-Thames. OX10 7HH

Chiropodist

Wednesday 13 March

Village Hall

Appointment only

Call **07850 196714**

Mothering Sunday @ Dorchester Abbey



a
chance
to say
thank you

for all the
mums and
honorary mums
in our lives

Sunday 10th March

8.00am

a simple service
of Holy Communion
in traditional language

10.30am

Family Service
a lively service
for all ages and stages!

Everybody's welcome



Dorchester Abbey Museum News

Volunteers Needed!

Please come and join our friendly group of volunteers

Greet visitors from all over the world, as well as local people

Make new friends, learn about Dorchester's fascinating history, and make a valuable contribution to the village community

Time commitment: six or seven afternoons between Easter and the end of September

Full training provided

For further information and a chat please email:

museum@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

New pop-up exhibition from Easter Shops, Pubs and other Businesses from Dorchester's past

Please can you help?

As part of the Dorchester Festival, on **5 May** three Museum and Historical Society volunteers are repeating their popular themed walk exploring Dorchester's past.

The Museum plans a pop-up exhibition to complement the walk.

Can you help by lending or donating objects related to Dorchester's businesses from bygone times, especially those which no longer function?

We have, for example, a painting of the George, a milk bottle from Belcher's dairy (lent by James Pratt), invoices from old shops, a shop ledger from Fletcher's store, some pub/hotel menus and several photographs. Please do contact me if you can offer any similar items:

Margot Metcalfe, Curator,
museum@dorchester-abbey.co.uk,
or phone 01865 340054.

Dorchester Historical Society

Wednesday 27 March 2024 at 7.30pm

Dorchester Abbey Shrine Chapel

Members free, Visitors welcome (£5)

Dr Rosemary Leadbeater of Oxford Brookes University will speak on

Smallpox in Oxfordshire: '... the constant terror of this loathsome and fatal disease': care, containment and conflict in managing smallpox in Dorchester and beyond.



Dr Rosemary Leadbeater is an Associate Lecturer at Oxford Brookes where she teaches social history and the history of medicine and health. She also teaches British social and cultural history on the Community Education Programme at the University of Oxford. In 2016 she completed her PhD thesis: *Experiencing Smallpox in Eighteenth-Century England*, focussing especially on Oxfordshire. She has published on inoculation and patterns of transmission of smallpox, investigated pauper letters as a historical source and written on Florence Nightingale

Looking ahead:

Wednesday 24 April 2024, Lord Nuffield, Liz Woolley, 7.30
Dorchester Abbey Shrine Chapel

Culham & District Horticultural Club

Wednesday 20 March 2024 at 7.30 pm
Abbey Guest House, Dorchester-on-Thames

Rachel Siegfried
Growing Perennials and Woody Plants for Cuttings

Rachel Siegfried has worked in horticulture for twenty-five years. In 2008 she founded Green & Gorgeous, a flower farm and floral design studio at Little Stoke near Goring.

On six acres she grows hundreds of varieties for cutting and is the author of *The Flower Book* and recently the *Cut Flower Source Book*, the basis of this talk. Copies will be on sale at the meeting..



© Rachel Siegfried

.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



www.qselfstore.co.uk

(by 'H' Café, Berinsfield
/Dorchester roundabout)



We store:

- * Secure units for household and business from ---£36.60 inc. VAT per week
- * Caravan, trailers and RV's from -----£86.00 inc. VAT per month
- * Fenced open storage with or without 20ft container-----POA

*** Access: 24/7 – 365 days

*** Entrance barrier

*** Tracking CCTV

*** Electronic coded gate

*** Padlock supplied

*** HGV access

*** Household removal quotes

*** Excellent access, straight to unit doors

*** HIAB collections for larger commercial items

Tel 01235 847164 any time to view or book.



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St Birinus Primary School News

Although this has only been a short term, it has certainly been another busy one as we head towards Easter.

Our children put on a beautiful festival of lights in school in early February. They each created a clay candle holder and sang songs and hymns by candlelight. We were also treated to some amazing poetry based around our vision of 'Let Your Light Shine'

This poem by Lacie particularly sums up our school ethos:

'Don't hide in the dark
You were born to shine
Like a baby's smile
Don't hide your talent
Don't be a bully.
Don't be scared.
You are a light in the world.
Let your light shine.'

We have all sorts of exciting events coming up in school this term with trips out to the Royal Festival Hall to watch the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Winchester Science Museum and sessions at the Abbey to look at the Last Supper sculpture.

We are also looking forward to our PTA quiz night in the village hall and we hope you can join us for a fun evening.

We have spaces in school and you are welcome to come and visit us to see what we can offer your child. You can find out more from our website here:

<https://www.st-birinus-pri.oxon.sch.uk/>

Jo Staples
Headteacher

James Pratt Fund Raising for Oxford Hospitals

On **24 March** one of Dorchester's best known residents, James Pratt, will be taking part in the OX5 Run at Blenheim Palace, helping to raise funds for the **Oxford Children's Hospital**. This is a wonderful cause and to support him with sponsorship please call him on **01865 341503**



James would like to thank all who supported him in last September's Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride'N'Stride event for which he raised £545.





St Birinus School PTA Quiz 2024

Saturday 2nd March 2024 at 7pm
Dorchester-on-Thames village hall

£10 per team member, teams up to 6 people.
Ticket includes a light supper.
Bar serving alcohol and soft drinks available.
Cash prize for top scoring team plus raffle.
All monies raised will go to upgrading the playground areas in the school.

For tickets and to book in teams please contact Claire Powers via email: elisaplate@yahoo.co.uk. Spaces are limited so book early

!!!





THE FLEUR

Mother's Day Roast

with Menu Specials

Sunday 10th March

12 - 4 pm

Book a table : 01865 818475

9 High St. Dorchester. OX10 7HH www.thefleurdorchester.com



Dorchester Football club presents..

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 9th March

7.30pm

Bar & Ploughmans

Location: Dorchester Village Hall

Max 8 people per team, £10pp entry

To enter a team please email

michaelwstimpson@icloud.com

or phone 01865 340385





RULES

1. The Show is open to any person residing in Dorchester-on-Thames, Burcot, Drayton St Leonard and Berinsfield.
2. No exhibitor may exhibit more than one exhibit in each class, excepting Classes 14 & 21, where three entries may be made.

3. All entry forms to be submitted no later than 7.00 pm on Wednesday evening before the show.

4. Entries in Classes 16 & 17 must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least the previous 4 months. Other plant classes with the exception of Classes 23 & 24 must have been grown by the exhibitor. Classes 23 - 37 must be made by the exhibitor.
5. Exhibitors must provide their own dishes, stands etc. Every care will be taken of the exhibits but the committee will not be held responsible for loss or damage.
6. On the relative merits of the exhibits, the opinion of the judges shall be final, but the committee reserves to itself the decision on any other points in dispute.
7. The Committee reserves the right to inspect any competitor's garden or allotment before or after the day of the show.

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

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

Definitions

Class 1: Long trumpet: one flower on a stem; trumpet as long or longer than petals.

Class 2: Short trumpet or cup: one flower on a stem; trumpet shorter than petals.

Classes 23 & 24: Any natural material may be used.

Please label varieties whenever possible

Please note Rule 4

DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES SPRING FLOWER SHOW

and
Plant Sale/Raffle

DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL

on
Saturday 6th April 2024

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

Raffle draw and
presentation of prizes from 3.40 pm

Exhibitors will be competing for:

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

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

Class

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

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

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

- 23) Simple multi-vase arrangement for spring (46x46x46cm/18x18x18")
- 24) Buttonhole

COOKERY

- 25) Coffee and walnut cake
- 26) Savoury palmiers - 5
- 27) Granary rolls - 3
- 28) Swiss roll with jam filling
- 29) Shrewsbury biscuits - 5
- 30) Pot of marmalade

PHOTOGRAPHS - all unmounted and not exhibited previously.

Conventional or digital camera
Must not be manipulated or enhanced in any way. Max 8" x 6"

- 31) Wittenham Clumps
- 32) Subject beginning with 'K'

33) Under 16 years – Subject beginning with 'K'. Email entry to christinastores@gmail.com

HANDICRAFTS – not exhibited previously.

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

CHILDREN (Please state age on exhibit)

- 37) Decorated Rice Krispie cakes - 3

ENTRY FORM

Please return no later than **7.00 pm Wednesday, 3rd April** to: Christina Stores, 55 High Street (post through letterbox)

Class Nos

Full name of Exhibitor

Address

Telephone No Entry fee of £1 to be paid at the door (includes entrance fee) Children free

Email address (for Flower Show reminders and schedule only)



BISHOP'S COURT FARM



LAMBING 2024

11am - 4pm

**SUNDAY
31st MARCH**

&

**SUNDAY
14th APRIL**

Join us for our lambing open days - a chance to meet our new-born lambs and other friendly farm animals (alpacas, sheep, goats and pigs). Our staff will be on hand to answer any questions and explain what happens during this special time on the farm.

£5 entry per family • Food & refreshments at the Snug Café

Bishop's Court Farm . Dorchester OX10 7HP

bishops courtfarm.com



Dorchester Pre-School

Well we have had such a lovely term, albeit short and we feel like we've just said happy new year! This term we have been looking at dinosaurs. The children have loved it very much. This term's topic was chosen by several children, and we have been exploring facts about dinosaurs, looking at dinosaur bones and we even had a visit to the local museum. To round it off we had a scavenger hunt to find dinosaurs around the pre school grounds. Lots of fun had by all!

Our Valentines fundraiser disco was a huge success and the children had a fabulous time dancing and sharing the love and friendships between them, which is always a very important ethos we have in the pre-school.

We have welcomed more children to join the setting and they have settled in amazingly! We do continue to show the setting off to many visitors and have a waiting list for September so do get in touch if you'd like to be on it! Check out our website to see what we have going on and our facebook page to look at some activities that happen in the setting.

We would like to remind everyone we are a charitable organisation and rely on fundraising. If you would like to help or think you can offer anything to us please get in touch!

Thanks to the amazing staff as always.

Sarah Egan

Oxfordshire Libraries

March events at Berinsfield Library

Digital Helper: Thursdays 2 to 5pm

Help in using smart phones, tablets and laptops. Support for those less confident with technology. Booking essential



Children's Book Club Thursday 7 March 3.30pm

NEW club for children age 8 to 11! Discover new books and enjoy fun activities. Booking essential. Contact the library for information



Berinsfield Local History Group

Tuesday 26 March 2.30pm

A talk with light refreshments followed by chat and a chance to reminisce. All welcome



Rhymetime Wednesdays at 10.30am during term time

Gentle singing and rhyming fun for preschoolers and toddlers with toys, instruments and bubbles!



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

Telephone 01865 340771
Email berinsfield.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk



£40pp

Experience the magic of spring

BISHOP'S COURT FARM

LAMBING EXPERIENCE

22nd March - 12th April 2024

Join us to welcome our baby lambs in a special private session

A unique opportunity to assist our specialist staff in the lambing shed during this hands-on magical time.

For more info & booking visit bishops court farm.com



DADS

Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society

www.dads.org.uk

Surprise! Surprise!

by Philippa Smith

25th-27th April, 2024

curtain up 7.30pm

Dorchester on Thames Village Hall

OX10 7HR

Tickets £12 from

www.ticketsource.co.uk/dads

or

The TicketSource telephone box office on 0333 666 3366

by arrangement with Lazy Bee Scripts



Warborough & Shillingford WI

At the WI Members meeting in January, we had a talk from a real-life CSI, which, as fans of the TV programmes based on this profession will know, stands for Crime Scene Investigator. I was fascinated as Hayley Scott described what her job involved. CSIs enter the scene of a crime, and work out what has actually happened, search the scene for evidence, identify unknown suspects and it is their job to see if those suspects are actually responsible. They will look for finger marks, footwear marks, bodily fluids, fibres and gunshot residue, among other things. As they are examining the scene they take copious notes, which will be important if the case gets to court, for as Michael Mansfield KC, the famous English barrister, said, 'If it is not written down, it didn't happen'. CSIs are civilians but will appear in court to give evidence on a case they have worked on for their force, for Hayley that was the Met. Hayley now has her own company based around her experience as a CSI, organizing talks, CSI workshops and murder mystery events. If you would like to find out more about her go to her website: **The Forensic Experience.com**.

Future Programme: March is our *WI Annual Meeting* when we reflect on the past year and organise the year to come. In April we welcome colourful flowers in our gardens, and Callie and Thyme: Sustainable Floristry to our monthly meeting. Marie Christine Fawcett will talk about Art Restoration in May and in June Sue Dyke of the Warborough Bell Ringers will tell us all she knows about bell ringing. In July there will be an outing arranged. There is such a variety of talks and activities available at Warborough and Shillingford WI, if one month does not appeal, the next might. There is even more available from the Oxfordshire Federation, courses to improve photography skills, making popup cards, a visit to Bletchley Park, the Learning Hub and more.

We are a friendly group made up of residents of Warborough, Shillingford and Dorchester but would welcome new members from the surrounding area. Come and join us one evening, we meet on the second Wednesday of every month and would love to welcome you.

Contact email: **warboroughwi@oxfordshire.co.uk**
Telephone: **Sarah Allan President**
01865 858673
Or **Vicky Hart, Secretary**
01865 416437

Dorchester Lunch Club

The last Lunch Club lunch before the summer break will be on **Wednesday 20 March** at 12.30 for 12.45 in the back room of the Village Hall. Price £5 to pay as you come in. If I have already told you that you are on my list to come, there is no need to phone me, but for anyone else please phone me before Monday 19th to confirm that you would like to come providing there is space.

Please remember that you would be very welcome to come to the Community Coffee Morning held every Tuesday in Dorchester Abbey between 11.00 and 12.00. Or after Easter come with your friends to the Abbey Tea Room for home-made cakes and tea. The Tea Room is open every weekend afternoons and also on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, from Easter to September.

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



Football Results North Berks League Div 1



03/02/2024 Dorchester First Abandoned Compton First

North Berks Charity Shield

27/01/2024 Dorchester First 3 1 Long Wittenham
Athletic First

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** 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**

DORCHESTER ON THAMES
FESTIVAL
2024

AWARD WINNING FEAST BY
NYAMA
CATERING

LIVE MUSIC FROM
THE TROUBADOURS



ADDITIONAL LATE
NIGHT BITES
WELCOME DRINK

LIVE DJ
TIL LATE

FRIDAY 3 MAY • ABBEY MARQUEE • 6.30PM TIL LATE • **TICKETS £55**
DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY AND LAUNCH THE FESTIVAL WITH A BANG!

MENU

THE MAIN EVENT

Tender Slow-Roasted Free-Range Suffolk Pork, or
Stuffed Butternut Squash with Crispy Quinoa,
Kale, & Caramelised Onions (ve)

THE SIDES

New Potato Roasties with Garlic & Rosemary
(ve available)

Cracking Crackling

Onion & Sage Stuffing Roasted in Hog's Juice (g)

Homemade Sweet Mustard (g) & Apple Sauces

Toasted Ciabatta Baps (g) with Farmhouse
Butter

THE SALADS

Crunchy Cabbage Slaw with Sweetly Sour
Vinaigrette

Charred Zucchini, Aubergine & Capsicum with
Garlic-Basil Dressing

DESSERT SHARING PLATTERS

Lemon Meringue Tart (g)

Coffee Opera (g)

Chocolate & Raspberry Ganache

LATE NIGHT BITES

(included in your ticket!)

If you're feeling peckish at around
10:30 then you'll enjoy

South African Braai Broodjie

(BBQ toasted sandwich with
tomato, onion, cheddar and Mrs
Ball's Chutney) (v)(d)(g)



THE unmissable village party of
the year!

Get your party clothes on, bring your friends
and join in the fun in our fabulously decorated
party tent. We are SO excited about the
fantastic food and band that we have booked
this year; you won't be disappointed!

Tables of 12 available. Book as a group or we
are happy to put individual bookings together.

The amazingly talented Troubadours will be
bringing their irresistible festival vibes
guaranteed to get you on the dance floor!

Booking details at:

www.dorchesterfestival.com/event/party



(v) vegetarian, (g) contains gluten, (d) contains dairy, (ve) vegetarian

In this copy of the Dorchester News you have a Festival programme hot off the press.

If this is your second programme **please** pass it on to friends rather than the recycling bin!

This is amazing entertainment right on your doorstep at a good price, so do book tickets, bring your friends and family, and support two very worthwhile local charities.

Launch party tickets are already going very fast so get your seats for this great fun evening before it's too late—see the advert opposite.

Claim your 10% early booking discount!

If you buy your tickets by 3rd March you get a 10% discount using the code DORFEST before you pay. You can book online and print your ticket at home or use the telephone box office **0333 666 3366**. We will also run a 'live' box office at Tuesday Dorchester Abbey coffee mornings 11-12noon through April.



Food & Gift Fair and Cookery Demos Sat 11 & Sun 12 May

With amazing food and gifts and live music on offer the Tent is the place for lunch over the second weekend! Come and

browse great stalls, experience our first ever Latte Art Throwdown and listen to producers be passionate about their food.

The demos are cosy sessions in some of the smartest kitchens in Dorchester. Book early as numbers are limited:

Plant based baking with **K.B Eats**

Seasonal cooking with **Five Little Pigs**

British Nostalgia with a twist with **Paul Welburn**

Tibetan specialities with **Taste Tibet**



Pour My Bluff Fri 10 May 7.30pm

Taste 8 special wines, see if you can tell which of the experts is telling the truth

about its provenance and win prizes! Brilliant fun!



Don't forget — Village Essentials!

Get training for the 5k fun run, enter your scarecrow for the trail and buy your duck from the Coop!!!!

More details on the website....

Book your tickets now

On line from the website or through the ticket hotline 0333 666 3366

More details of events at: www.dorchesterfestival.com

Do email us with any queries (or offers of help!) at festival@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

...we always need one more person to pour tea and volunteers get free tickets!



Comedy Club

Thurs 9 May 7.30pm

Always one of the best nights, always sold out!

Buy SoleLuna pizza, bring lots of friends and see the great **Marcel Lucont**, supported by Scott Bennett, Kate Martin & Ali Woods

Jazz Supper

Tues 7 May 7.30pm

Cate Cody and her incredible band return with the American songbook —just lovely well known jazz by amazing world renowned musicians. Dancing encouraged but optional. Paella supper.



Dog Show

Sat 4 May from 9.30am

Prepare your best friend for a great range of classes including Musical Sit and Fancy Dress All dogs welcome from mutt to pedigree, puppy to veteran!

Dog Agility demonstration over lunch



Geoff Russell retires

After 26 years in post, on 29 February 2024 Geoff Russell stood down as Clerk to Dorchester-on-Thames Parish Council.

Geoff has served seven chairmen or chairs of the parish council, starting with Jenny Nudds in 1998, running through to the current chair, Mike Corran, by way of Mike Smith, Ken Bryan, Margot Metcalfe, Chris Hill, and Mark Williams, and around 30 different councillors.

The Clerk, says, Geoff, is the Council's 'Proper Officer' which includes being the channel of communication between the Parish Council and the village.

Communication is a two-way process, with the Parish Clerk responsible for informing villagers of forthcoming meetings. These meetings are open for anyone to attend and to raise issues if they so wish. All new planning applications to South Oxfordshire District are referred to the Parish Council for comment and these comments have to be agreed at a Council meeting, which often draws a crowd!

One of the best attended meetings during Geoff's career was held in January 2015 when an estimated 140 people came to the Village Hall to discuss a proposal that the 'Demesne Field', running along the by-pass between Drayton Road and the River Thame, would lose its green belt status.

Another was the launch of the Neighbourhood Development Planning exercise in October 2012. The Plan was produced by a small group of hard-working and dedicated councillors and residents. The finished document was approved in a village referendum in 2018 when it received 95.9% of the votes when the turnout was 416 (51.16%)

In between the monthly meetings, the Clerk is often the preferred first point of contact for residents with a local government related question. Over the years Geoff has tried to keep in touch with a wide range of County and District Council departments and officials so that he is able to advise each resident how best to achieve the resolution of their problem – often something way beyond the power of the Parish Council.

One of the main changes that Geoff has seen in his time as Clerk, has been the advance of technology, albeit slowly at first. For example, it was only in 2012 that the practice of minutes being hand-written in a bound volume was dropped in favour of typed pages in a loose-leaf binder and going back to Geoff's



early days, the then chairman, Mike Smith, would knock on Geoff's door each evening to see whether Geoff had any messages or updates for him. All now replaced by email and WhatsApp!

Nowadays there are several training courses available for both councillors and clerks which are provided both on-line and in person, but back in 1998 when Geoff became Clerk his induction and training were provided by the experienced team of existing Dorchester councillors, including Maurice Day who had been a member of the Council since 1983 and had already served as chairman. Prior to being on the Council, Maurice had served as the local police officer, and this must have further enhanced his local knowledge! For many years, therefore, many council and village queries could be answered by referring them to Maurice, who knew exactly what had happened in a previous situation and how it was dealt with. 'We were asking Maurice,' says Geoff, 'for a long time before we started asking Google!' It has taken the internet to replace you, Maurice.

Responsibility for managing the Cemetery off Drayton Road falls to the Parish Council, which also owns the land. Only residents of the village and those who can demonstrate a connection with Dorchester have the right of burial, and the allocation of spaces for burials and the interment of ashes has been managed by the Parish Council for more than 125 years.





Geoff and Helen as Beefeaters for the 2002 Queen's Golden Jubilee

Under such circumstances it is hard to imagine innovation, but this was achieved back in 2004 when it was agreed that the old cemetery gatehouse building should be stabilised, and the interior walls made available for the fixing of commemorative plaques. With such spaces being made available on demand, this has proved to be popular with one family ordering a row of no less than five plaques to honour family memories.

During Geoff's clerkship there have been many occasions when the village has been used as a location for filming - not just Midsomer Murders but several others, too. As well as providing both the Parish Council and the hosting property owners with a useful income at the time, the amazing popularity of Midsomer Murder location tours continues to bring business to the village.

'It has been a huge bonus that I have had so much contact with these film companies and had the opportunity to watch them at work,' says Geoff. 'Great fun and very interesting to be involved. On one occasion, I recall, we even lent a bread knife to the props lady who was working on an Agatha Christie episode being filmed nearby. Was it used as the murder weapon, we wondered?'

'The attention to detail shown by the set designers was amazing to witness. When the Abbey Museum was used, for example, all things displayed on the shelves were replaced by similar items that were correct for the year in which the story was set and when 'The Shambles' was a butchers shop, the smell coming from the set at the end of the day was almost overpowering!'

One of the biggest projects in which Geoff was involved took place between 2005 and 2010 when Dorchester Parish Council received nearly £30,000 grant aid from DEFRA and their 'Hidden Britain' programme. Individual projects involved both Dorchester Abbey and the Abbey Museum and signage all over the village.

The Council continues to provide walks guides and other leaflets which are distributed through hotels and local tourist offices and are available to download from the Village website <https://www.dorchester-on-thames.co.uk/information/walks/> The five 'Orientation Boards' that were created in 2006/7 are all about to be refreshed and updated.

Another legacy of which Geoff is particularly proud is the series of village celebrations to commemorate national occasions. These include the Millenium, Queen Elizabeth II's Golden, Diamond and Platinum Jubilees, and the Coronation of King Charles III. As Parish Clerk, Geoff played a key role in organising many of the essentials that go to make up a successful event, such as getting road closures, hiring toilets, and sourcing commemorative memorabilia, often mugs sourced from Aston Pottery near Bampton, but including a bookmark in 2022 for the Platinum Jubilee.

The other source of satisfaction is the now established 'What's On' evenings, celebrating village activities and societies in the Village Hall with stands to allow them to display their prowess and recruit new participants which Geoff has organised for several years. Originally conceived back in 2005 as a 'Newcomers' Evening' to let recent arrivals to Dorchester know of the range of activities in which they could participate, they have now become open to all and a popular event in the village calendar.

Geoff says that an unexpected benefit of being Parish Clerk came well away from Dorchester. When travelling to China Geoff was able to obtain a visa rather more easily by describing himself as a parish clerk rather than by his other profession, journalist. 'I assured the official that the role was not in any way religious,' says Geoff.

Now Geoff has stepped down, although I am sure that he is not totally bowing out of village roles - there is still the Village Hall to be looked after. But we all, I know, want to thank him for so many years of service to the village, and being pivotal in making the community run so smoothly for all those years. Thank you, Geoff.

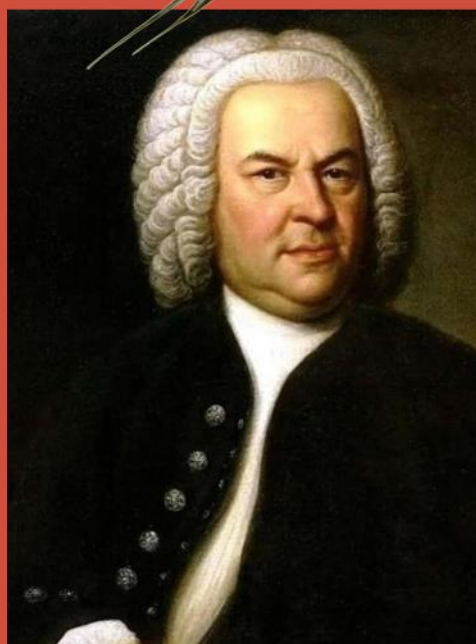


Bach, Vivaldi Bruckner & The Swallow

The Choir of The Thames Consort

Sunday 3rd March 3pm
Dorchester Abbey

Judith Dallosso – 'Cello
Jeremy Boughton
- Director, Organ



Bach
Vivaldi
Bruckner
Ward

Tickets £16 / £12
(16 & under free)
www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

All proceeds to Dorchester Abbey

Benson Choral takes a new turn

7.30pm Saturday 23 March
Dorchester Abbey

Many big choirs such as ours spend much of their time polishing up the jewels of the past, and my goodness, there are many of them! But then along comes something new, and with it the joy of discovery, learning and sharing.

Such a work is Richard Blackford's *Pietà* (2019). Richard is a distinguished local composer, prominent in many fields, and we were drawn to his *Mirror of Perfection* a few years back. His *Pietà* is based on the powerful and poignant mediaeval poem *Stabat Mater* which depicts Mary's suffering at the foot of the Cross. But he adds some graphic poems from Anna Akhmatova's *Requiem* which give a more modern twist. *Pietà* won Richard the Ivor Novello Composer Award, Choral Category, in 2020.

The other half of the concert is Gabriel Fauré's incomparable *Requiem*, a restrained and reflective work with some memorable melodies, particularly for our tenors, who often get the big tune first!

Directing us for the first time is Jonathon Cole-Swinard who brings his experience as Head of Music and Chorus Director at Garsington Opera, together with two of the soloists from *Pietà*'s Bournemouth première as well as local virtuoso saxophonist Huw Wiggin and the West Forest Sinfonia.

The concert is at **Dorchester Abbey on Saturday 23 March** at 7.30pm. Tickets £20 (reserved) or £17 (unreserved) and are available online at www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk. It will be a night to remember!

The Choir of the Thames Consort

3.00pm, Sunday 3 March,
Dorchester Abbey

The Choir of the Thames Consort
with Judith Dallosso – Cello
Jeremy Boughton – director and organ
Music by Bach, Vivaldi, Bruckner and Ward.

The Thames Consort return to Dorchester Abbey to give a Sunday afternoon concert. The centrepiece of their programme is one of Bach's most substantial motets: *Jesu meine freude*, a beautiful meditative work based on a Lutheran chorale. Cellist Judith Dallosso plays a sonata by Vivaldi and these two composers are combined in Bach's sparkling organ arrangement of Vivaldi's A minor concerto. Alongside the Baroque are a group of motets by Anton Bruckner (1824-96), whose anniversary falls this year and 'The Swallow' a setting by Judith Ward of poetry by John Clare. Judith is director of Music of Wallingford Parish Church Choir and has a growing list of compositions.

Tickets £16 & £12 (16 and under free)

www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

Proceeds to Dorchester Abbey

Earth Trust Appoints Inaugural Artist in Residence

Earth Trust is thrilled to announce the appointment of JC Niala as the environmental charity's first ever Artist in Residence.

Earth Trust launched its Artist in Residence programme last year to harness the power of creativity to reimagine our relationship with nature. By immersing an artist in the iconic landscapes and community of Earth Trust, the initiative aims to ignite wonder, appreciation and understanding of the local environment.

JC Niala, an award-winning interdisciplinary artist based in Oxford, was selected for her passion for collaborative, inclusive art that connects people more deeply with nature. As Artist in Residence, she will gather stories and inspiration from Earth Trust's community of staff, volunteers, members and visitors to the Wittenham Clumps landscape.



Top right: JC Niala and above an example of her work.



JC plans to facilitate creative workshops open to all, combining poetry, sculpture and other art forms to bring people together in appreciation of nature. She intends to create an inclusive space where creativity and environmental awareness can flourish.

To learn more about JC Niala's inspiring practice, visit www.jcniala.com. Follow her creative journey over the next three months via Earth Trust's website and social media channels.

THE ENGLISH MUSIC FESTIVAL 2024

The English Music Festival (EMF) has taken place in and around Dorchester for seventeen years. Now it is moving entirely to Dorchester, with all concerts to be held in the Abbey and talks and other events in Dorchester Village Hall. We hope to make this even more than ever a community event, with residents and local businesses involved and feeling part of the Festival.

But we urgently need the help and support of villagers to make this a success and to make the events run smoothly. Can you help us? We are looking both for people to host artists and interns and also to be involved on the ground during the Festival itself.

Volunteers will be invited to help with stewarding, refreshments and looking after artists. Not only will you be warmly welcomed by our affable and inclusive group of helpers, but you will have the chance to meet and work with our star artists such as the BBC Concert Orchestra, clarinettist Michael Collins, conductor Hilary Davan Wetton and pianist and Radio 3 presenter Paul Guinery, and the opportunity to attend any or all the concerts. We welcome help over the whole weekend if possible, but if not, then whenever suits your own timetable. Duties can be tailored to your own interests, abilities and preferences. The full programme can be seen at <https://www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/2024-may-festival/programme.php>.

Likewise, hosts will be asked to host artists for just a night before or after their concerts; or to host interns (music students) for the four days of the Festival. We would be so grateful for your help!

Please contact Festival Director, Em Marshall-Luck, at em.marshall-luck@englishmusicfestival.org.uk or on 07808 473889 for more information or if you are able to help.



THE SEVENTEENTH ENGLISH MUSIC FESTIVAL

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 - 🎷 Partsongs by Holst, Vaughan Williams, Elgar, Coleridge-Taylor and Cecilia MacDowall
 - 🎹 Light piano music from pianist and Radio 3 presenter Paul Guinery
 - 🎻 John Andrews and the English Symphony Orchestra perform string orchestral gems
- and much, much more!

24-27 MAY 2024

DORCHESTER-ON-THAMES, OXFORDSHIRE

www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk

Book online at: www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/2024-may-festival/box-office.php

Or contact Festival Director, Em Marshall-Luck, at em.marshall-luck@englishmusicfestival.org.uk or The English Music Festival, PO Box 123, Clunton, Craven Arms, SY7 7BP for more information or a postal booking form.

From the Chair of the Parish Council



Our Dorchester 2030 survey report is in from Community First Oxfordshire. And, as expected, it shows the passion people in Dorchester have for their community and its surrounding to make sure we have a thriving community and environment to live in in the future.

Around 30% of the village responded which CFO describes as a very good response. Thank you. The full report will be put on our Parish Council website shortly and there will also be a summary of it in next month's Dorchester News for those who don't want to wade through the whole report. To whet your appetite, you can expect to see comments showing real enthusiasm for environmental issues including the rivers, traffic and safety, transport links, affordable housing, our village hall and pavilion and access to the country side and footpaths.

In February and March the Parish Council meetings are sifting through the report and identifying priorities we believe we have the capacity, influence and funds to progress. That does of course, in all likelihood, mean there will be things that we don't prioritise for now. And, as we consider our priorities the Council will also reflect on other local changes which could impact on the development of Dorchester over the next 10 years such as the likelihood of further pressures on OCC & SODC funding of services and the proposed development of Berinsfield Garden Village with up to 1900 homes plus new community facilities.

So, feel free to come along on **6 March** if you want to take part in that debate. This will then lead up to us proposing and agreeing priorities, as a community, at the Annual Parish Meeting on **1 May** in the Abbey and getting started on launching those with the involvement of interested residents as well as councillors. So, please do put that date in your diary and come along as we make decisions and kick things off.

Implementing our vision is definitely going to involve a wider group than just the parish councillors. Plus we know there are skills and energy in the wider community to draw on. So, I would like to thank the 80+ people who have already volunteered to help bring our vision for Dorchester to life. A number of them already do lots of good work in the village so offering to do more shows their real commitment to our community. If you are one of that group who volunteered you should have received an email from me in the last few days, if you didn't then please do contact me on **chairman@dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk** as it means we have missed you or got your email address wrong. And, of course, if you want to get involved but forgot to say so in the survey, it is never too late, just drop me a line and we'll tell you how you can do your bit.

Residents will have seen the 20mph signs going up promptly after it was approved by OCC. A few people have asked when

the 20mph comes into force legally. The answer is it happened on 12 February. I know some queries have been raised about enforcement. That is something for us to discuss as a community, in reality we are unlikely to see increased police enforcement unless there is evidence of a significant problem and risk to the public. However the evidence that a limit itself does moderate the behaviour of most people is strong so that is a good start. Whether we want to look more creatively at how we enforce it will be something to consider as the limit settles in and we discuss traffic priorities as part of our wider Dorchester2030 vision.

Finally, as I flagged last month we are currently introducing our new Parish Clerk, Jenny Welham, to Dorchester. And therefore we are saying a goodbye to Geoff Russell in his role as our clerk after a quarter of a century. I'd like to offer my personal thanks alongside those of the other councillors for his support for me as he has done for so many councillors over the years. Rest assured the council will be agreeing a suitable way of saying thank you to Geoff (and Helen). And maybe he'll come to some parish council meetings to keep an eye on us!

Mike Corran
Chair, Dorchester Parish Council

Parish Council Notices

Monthly Meetings March and April 2023

The March Parish Council Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 6 March** and the March meeting will take place on **Wednesday 10 April**.

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** - 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 the start of the meeting.

Contacting the Parish Council

The Parish Clerk is Jenny Welham. She can be contacted on **07444 239077** or at **parishclerk@dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk**.

Cllr Mike Corran, the Chairman, can be contacted via **chairman@dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk**

The Parish Council's new website is **www.dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk**

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



Get ready for The Great British Spring Clean

SODC are once again supporting the Keep Britain Tidy 'Great British Spring Clean' with litter pickers, high-viz jackets and bags available for loan to community litter picking groups and individuals, from **Friday 15 March** to **Sunday 31 March**.

Equipment is limited and it's first-come-first-served, so bookings should be made as soon as possible by completing and returning the booking form and declaration document available at <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/litterpicking/> to waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk. We must receive completed forms at least two weeks before a litter pick takes place.

Do you know a business looking to be more 'green'?

We're urging local businesses and organisations to take part in a survey to find how best to help them find new markets, make potential cost savings as well as becoming more environmentally-friendly.

If you can, please help us spread the word. The survey, created in partnership between the councils and Oxford Brookes Business School, takes just 15 minutes to complete. Businesses, local groups, charities, town and parish councils, public sector, social enterprises and other organisations are invited to have their say via this link: https://brookes.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dcyRh6kNAmkuz0q

Introducing 'Join the Conversation'

The council is introducing 'Join the Conversation' – a new consultation and engagement system, making it easier for people to have their say – with everything now conveniently located in one place:

<https://theconversation.southandvale.gov.uk>

The new site is hosted on a system called Citizen Space – which is used by many other local councils and organisations.

We've launched with our first consultations including the Joint Local Plan preferred options for South and Vale, which is now staying open until February 26th.

If you are interested in finding out more contact the consultation and community engagement team:

Jointheconversation@southandvale.gov.uk

We will soon be consulting on the Council's corporate plan for the next 4 year period.

Berinsfield Garden Village

At the most recent meeting of the Steering Group, many updates were received on the Community Delivery Plan. The plan has helped us to get extra funding from the UK Shared Prosperity fund, which is funding community arts projects and decarbonisation reports for community facilities, and from OCC Public Health, which will be funding a part time Health Development Officer and launching a grant scheme (details tbc) in July.

Officers have also secured funding (around £250K) from UK Shared Prosperity Fund to construct a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) – site options are being explored and there will be engagement with local residents and groups on potential uses.

We also had updates on Berinsfield PC's Neighbourhood Development Plan and Ptarmigan/JTP's draft masterplan for the Mount Farm site.

Successful recycling district urges residents to reduce and reuse first!

Residents in South Oxfordshire are officially the best recyclers in the country, according to a government league table published yesterday.

The district council is now encouraging residents to further boost this good work by turning their efforts to reducing and reusing where possible and is now working to create a new waste strategy – which will aim to further this good work and move towards becoming as environmentally sustainable as possible.

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) officially published the **recycling performance league table** on 31 January. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils were placed in the top three of the recycling tables for English local authorities. South Oxfordshire had been ranked the highest for household waste recycling rates in 2022/23 at 61.6%, having already been in the top five for the last five years.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-collected-waste-management-annual-results/local-authority-collected-waste-management-annual-results-202223>

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

OCC budget

Oxfordshire County Council cabinet has proposed measures to close its remaining £900,000 budget shortfall for 2024/25. The proposals form part of the final budget which will be decided at the annual budget setting meeting of all 63 county councillors on 20 February.

Although a track record of responsible financial management means that Oxfordshire County Council has been in a more resilient position than many other authorities, the overall position remains extremely challenging.

Councils of all political hues throughout the country have made clear to central government that more funding was needed this year and in following years due to the high levels of pressures in areas such as social care, special educational needs and other services.

While the government has subsequently announced an increase to council funding of a further £600 million nationwide, following warnings of an impending crisis, we won't know how much Oxfordshire will receive or any further details until later this month.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy

More than a thousand people in Oxfordshire have helped OCC to prepare a **new strategy to improve health outcomes** for local people over the next five years. Three new principles for health success lie at the heart of the strategy: addressing health inequalities; preventing ill-health; and closer collaboration. It's been developed by Oxfordshire's Health and Wellbeing Board – the partnership between local NHS services, the county council, the city and district councils and Healthwatch Oxfordshire. This links well to the Community Profile being developed for Berinsfield, which comes with some public health funding.

Road safety and Vision Zero

I have met with officers and asked them to investigate ways to improve safety on the A4074 Dorchester bypass with urgency. Further, the county council has written to the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner (TVPCC) to call for more police action to improve road safety, after the number of people killed or seriously injured on Oxfordshire's roads rose in 2022 – the first increase for many years.

Oxfordshire County Council has made a commitment to **Vision Zero** – the elimination of road deaths and serious injuries by 2050 – and is currently progressing with a strategy and associated action plan to deliver this ambition.

Have your say (**before 10 March**) on the Council's Vision Zero strategy here:

<https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/vision-zero>

Fix My Street changes

Changes have been made to simplify and improve FixMyStreet. This remains the best way to report potholes, faulty streetlights and a host of other street defects and queries. <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

The updated version also includes an aerial map of the county, as well as a regular map, to help people pinpoint the location of the problem.

The changes will be monitored over the next three months to see what impact they have, and the views of users will be sought.

Current highways works including those by Thames Water, broadband providers etc can be located live at <https://one.network>

100 Together conference

In February, OCC organised a conference called '100 Together', investigating possibilities for investment needed to deliver environmental activity at scale in Oxfordshire, which featured a talk by acclaimed Oxford economist Kate Raworth.

In this article, Cllr Pete Sudbury reports that the day highlighted the massive opportunities that are available if we think differently about how we can finance a just, safe, and fair transition: <https://www.themj.co.uk/Oxfordshires-green-future-Failure-is-not-an-option/233636>

Didcot HIF1 planning inquiry

In July 2023, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities called in the planning application for the HIF1 Didcot and surrounding areas major infrastructure project, following the county council's planning and regulation committee's vote to refuse the application.

A conjoined planning and Orders public inquiry will take place at **Bee House in Milton Park**, and will sit for 26 days across a 12-week period. The remaining sitting dates of the inquiry are:

5 to 8 March

26 to 28 March

16 to 19 April

23 to 26 April

8 to 10 May (set as reserve days)

Sessions will start at 10am and run until 5.00pm Monday to Thursday, with finish times at 3.00pm on Fridays. Members of the public can attend the inquiry.

If you'd like to follow the government planning inquiry online, the streaming link is:

<https://gateleyhamer-pi.com/en-gb/didcot-garden-town/>

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From your MP...

...John Howell

I was interested to read a review of a discussion programme on Times Radio where people were asked what they thought their MP's role was. It was on the back of feedback from MPs who had been asked about their workload and who reported that the casework load had increased substantially in recent years. Something that I can certainly verify. The comments from listeners as to their expectation of MPs were varied with some thinking that they were there to resolve personal problems as a sort of super Citizens Advice resource. If that is your thinking, I am sorry to disappoint although, with the help of my team, we do our best to help constituents where possible.

As you might imagine the issues raised with me week by week are many and varied. Many emails are campaign emails drafted by a particular lobby group for constituents across the county to send to their MP. However a good number of emails are from constituents who have a particular problem that they want to raise. Some of these I can help with, others I have to steer elsewhere. Among the issues raised it is not infrequent for people to have concerns around NHS services, which is something that I can sometimes help with. Problems with accessing GPs are not uncommon nor are concerns with accessing NHS dentists.

I was therefore pleased to see recent Government announcements which I believe will help with both of these in due course. The Pharmacy First initiative is very welcome. This is an approach to make better use of the skills of pharmacists whereby they can offer treatment for some common health conditions themselves without the need to visit a GP or have a prescription. Pharmacists will be able to treat conditions including sinusitis, sore throat, earache, infected insect bite, impetigo, shingles, and uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women without the need for patients to see a GP or have a prescription. Following the assessment, the pharmacist can then supply the prescription-only medicines, including antibiotics and antivirals, to treat the problem. I have always felt that pharmacists have been undervalued and under used and so am delighted to see this avenue for treatment opening up. There has been a good take up across the country and I look forward to seeing many pharmacies in the constituency taking advantage of this to the benefit of all.

I was also pleased to see the launch of the NHS Dental Recovery Plan. I know that it has not always been easy to access NHS dental services in the constituency and this plan seeks to encourage more dentists to offer treatment on the NHS. As always these things take time to roll out and I look forward to seeing this implemented locally with greater access to dental services available through the NHS.

Another common issue raised with me is the state of our roads. Towards the end of last year the Government announced substantial additional funding for resurfacing roads. This money, £8.3 billion, is money redirected from the cancelled Phase 2 of HS2. The money has been fairly redistributed across the country so that the amount committed to the Northern leg will go to the North, the amount committed to the Midlands leg to the Midlands, and the amount saved from the new arrangement for Euston station will be spread across the other regions in the country. The bottom line for us is that Oxfordshire will get a total indicative additional funding allocation of £82,340,000. This will be spread over a period of time from 2023/24 to 2033/34, and in reality it will take that sort of time to plan for and resource the repairs needed. The money will be passed to local highways authorities to spend and, in order to ensure transparency on the spending, the local authorities are required to publish information on their websites on the spending. By mid-March we should see a summary of the plans for the next two years. I am sure many people will watch with interest, and I will certainly be looking to see a fair allocation to rural areas where I believe the state of the roads is particularly poor and where public transport is most lacking.

As always I am interested to know the issues that concern constituents. The best way to contact me is via email: john.howell.mp@parliament.uk.

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Wallingford Museum News

Wallingford Museum opens on **1 March** for the 2024 season with two new special exhibitions:-

Mammoths to Modern: the unfolding story of Wallingford's Landscape.

This special exhibition presents the exciting emerging evidence of what lies beneath our feet in the vicinity of Wallingford. The gradual development of the town has given opportunities for archaeology to reveal the fascinating story of the people who have lived here over thousands of years before us.

The exhibits take us on an illustrated timeline from the mammoth bones and stone axes left by earliest settlers some 10,000 years ago, through Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman remains, to the coming of the Saxons who eventually built our present town defences just over 1,100 years ago!

It also traces how the town itself has changed over 11 centuries, with evidence from archaeology, documents and numerous aerial photographs.

So whether you have lived here all your life, have only just moved into the area, or if you are just passing through, you are part of this story and this exhibition is a must for you and your family - with plenty to interest young and old!

Axe-heads to Agatha: a history of metal-casting in Wallingford

Examples of cast metal items can be seen all over Wallingford – from the iron drain covers in our streets, to the cast-iron roof supports of the Corn Exchange, and from the Bronze Age weapons in the museum to the new bronze statue of Agatha Christie in the Kinicroft.

This exhibition traces evidence of local metal-working through the centuries, from coin-making and medieval blacksmithing, to modern foundries. It features especially a superb collection of photographs of the working Walter Wilder iron foundry in Crowmarsh shortly before it closed in 1992.

Meet the Anglo-Saxons! An event for all the family!

Saturday 13 April 2024 Time 1100-1600 Normal admission charges to the Museum apply.

Please note-This Living History event is FREE as part of the Museum admission.

The Anglo-Saxons are coming to Wallingford Museum.

Come and discover more about the day to day lives of the people who lived their lives within the Anglo-Saxon burh of Wallingford. Weaving to writing, wheels to warfare, how would you manage without electricity, plastic materials or modern transport?

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Sue Wright
Wallingford Museum



The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society **13 March**

St Mary's Church, Wallingford.

Meetings are at 7.45pm for 8.00pm

Visitors very welcome (£5)

Parking is available nearby in the Waitrose car park - free at that time of the evening.

Graham Twemlow: 'Recording Britain - Celebrating the Country's Natural Beauty and Architectural Heritage'

At the outbreak of WW2 an ambitious scheme was set up to employ artists on the home front. The result was a large collection of watercolours and drawings that make up a fascinating record of British lives and landscapes at a time of imminent change.

This talk will highlight the works that featured Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire landscapes and landmarks, recorded by artists such as John Piper, Walter Bayes, Barbara Jones, Stanley Anderson and William Fairclough

<https://www.twhas.org.uk/meetings-programme.html> for the 2024 talks programme.

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.

Films with subtitles will be shown on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons at 2.30pm.

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

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

March

Fri 1	One Life (12A)
Sun 24	The Nettle Dress (12A)
Mon 25	All of Us Strangers (15)
Fri 29	Wicked Little Letters (15)
Sat 30	Wicked Little Letters (15)
Sun 31	Wicked Little Letters (15)

Live on Stage

Wed 13 to Sat 16 March, 7.30pm

Wed 20 to Sat 23 March 7.30pm

Crescendo Music in association with the Sinodun

Players presents Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang

Tickets £25 (adults), £19 (under 18s)

Crescendo Music is once again partnering with The Sinodun Players to produce the hit musical Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. This fantasmagorical stage version features all the classic scenes and songs from the 1968 movie and, yes, an actual flying car! Previous collaborations between Crescendo and The Sinodun Players have produced top-class sell-out shows, most recently Chess. This one-off production is sponsored by Chitty Hire – the official Chitty supplier to theatres across the UK – so audiences are in for a spectacular visual and musical treat! Book early for this classic, much-loved story featuring a stellar cast & crew of local talent, working in conjunction with a professional production company.

Live Screening

Tuesday 26 March, 7.15pm

Royal Opera – Madama Butterfly, live from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden

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

When the young geisha, Cio-Cio-San, marries American Naval Officer Pinkerton, she believes she is entering a real, binding marriage for life. Forsaking her religion and

community, she learns all too late that for Pinkerton, their marriage is merely an illusion – with tragic consequences. With a score that includes Butterfly's aria, ('One fine day') and the Humming Chorus, Giacomo Puccini's opera is entrancing and ultimately heart-breaking.

Wednesday, 27 March, 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Titanic The Musical

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

Winner of five Tony Awards (including Best Musical), Titanic The Musical is a stunning and stirring production focusing on the hopes, dreams and aspirations of her passengers who each boarded with stories and personal ambitions of their own. Unaware of the fate awaiting them, the Third Class immigrants dream of a better life in America, the Second Class imagine they too can join the lifestyles of the rich and famous, whilst the millionaire Barons of the First Class anticipate legacies lasting forever

Thursday, 28 March, 7:00pm

NT Live: The Motive and the Cue, filmed live at the National Theatre

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

This electrifying brand-new play directed by Sam Mendes brings Richard Burton and John Gielgud's infamous Hamlet rehearsals to the big screen, with Johnny Flynn and Mark Gatiss. Why would the most famous movie star in the world choose to do a play which everyone already knows? This fierce and funny new play by Jack Thorne offers a glimpse into the politics of a rehearsal room and the relationship between art and celebrity.

Dorchester News Crossword No.30 Solution


Compiled by Slider

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Day by day

Sat 2 Mar	St Birinus School PTA Quiz 2024 7.00pm Village Hall
Sun 3 Mar	3rd Sunday of Lent 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Sung Eucharist The Choir of the Thames Consort 3.00pm Bach, Vivaldi, Bruckner Dorchester Abbey
Wed 6 Mar	Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
Sat 9 Mar	Dorchester Football Club Quiz Night 7.30pm Village Hall
Sun 10 Mar	Mothering Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Mothers Day Service
Wed 13 Mar	Chiropodist Village Hall Appointment only; see page 5
Sun 17 Mar	Passion Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Sung Eucharist
Wed 20 Mar	Dorchester Lunch Club 12.30pm Village Hall Culham Horticultural Society Rachel Siegfried <i>Growing Perennials and Woody Plants for Cuttings</i> 7.30pm Abbey Guest House
Sat 23 Mar	Benson Choral Society Pieta and Requiem 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey



Sun 24 Mar	Palm Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.15am Family Service with donkey and Palm Sunday Procession. Gathering first at War Memorial
Wed 27 Mar	Dorchester Historical Society Dr Rosemary Leadbeater <i>Smallpox in Oxfordshire</i> 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Thurs 28 Mar	Maundy Thursday 7.00pm Agape Meal followed by a Eucharist and Altar Stripping
Fri 29 Mar	Good Friday 10.00am Good Friday Family Service 2.00pm The Last Hour at the Cross
Sat 30 Mar	Orchestra of St John's Bach's St Matthew Passion 6.00pm Dorchester Abbey Clocks go forward 
Sun 31 Mar	Easter Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Easter Family Eucharist Bishops Court Farm Lambing 2024 11.00am-4.00pm Bishops Court Farm

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

Weekly events in the Village Hall

Tuesday	Move Together 1.30pm Yoga 7.30pm
Wednesday	Busby Dance for children 3.15pm Pilates 5.30pm Tango 7.30pm
Thursday	Yoga for Beginners 6.15pm

See
dorchesteronthamesvillagehall.org.uk/#calendar for additional one-off events.

Wishing you a Happy Easter



Parish Registers

Funerals

19 Jan Michael John Selway

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

CONTACTING THE POLICE

To report a non-emergency crime, or to give information to Thames Valley Police, call **101**. Alternatively, call Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555111**. In the event of an emergency dial **999**.

HEALTH SERVICES

DIRECT LINE TO URGENT LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

MINOR INJURIES

The Minor Injuries Unit at Abingdon Hospital, Marcham Road, daily from 10.00 am to 10.30 pm: **01865 903476**.

A&E

The nearest A&E units are at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford (**01865 741166**) and the Royal Berkshire in Reading (**01183 225111**)

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To hire the Abbey Guest House for private functions, meetings, exhibitions, etc, contact **01865 340007**, email admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

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Swan Lifeline: **01753 859397**

MOBILE POST OFFICE

The Mobile Post Office stops outside the Co-op every Wednesday between 2.00 and 3.00pm but may vary.

Useful Information

BUS SERVICES

**Bus services by Going Forward buses
Dorchester to Wallingford and Dorchester to Didcot**

To Wallingford: Mon - 10.27, 12.48, 14.49;
Wed - 10.27, 14.49; Fri - 09.41, 10.43, 12.21, 14.15.

From Wallingford: Mon - 09.23, 11.50, 13.35;
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

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 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

WALLINGFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE

WVC Volunteers provide help for the elderly, disabled or vulnerable, especially by giving lifts to medical appointments at hospitals in Oxford, Abingdon and Reading. You need to register as a client. Contact the Centre for more information. **01491 836345**

www.wallingford.volunteercentre@gmail.com

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Clerk is Jenny Welham of 26 Folly Green, Woodcote, Oxfordshire RG8 0ND. She can be contacted on parishclerk@dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk Her telephone number will be available next month, in the mean time please email and she will call you back

SODC CONTACT

Telephone **01235 422422**
Email: enquiries@southoxon.gov.uk
South Oxfordshire District Council
Abbey House
Abbey Close
Abingdon OX14 3JE

USEFUL CONTACTS

ANGLICAN PRIEST

Dorchester Rectory
01865 340007

ABBEY E-MAIL:

admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

Contact details for Church Wardens and other Abbey information are on the notice board in the Abbey.

ABBEY WEBSITE

www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

VILLAGE WEBSITE

www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST

The Presbytery
Fr. John Osmon
Bridge End
01865 340417

www.stbirinus.co.uk

Dorchester Abbey Museum E-mail

museum@dorchester-abbey.org.uk



REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Tues 5 March **Green**
Tues 12 March **Black**
Tues 19 March **Green**
Tues 26 March **Black**

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/

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BENSON
Choral Society

**West Forest
Sinfonia**

Conductor
**Jonathon
Cole-Swinard**

**Dorchester
Abbey**

Saturday
23 March 2024
7.30pm

**RICHARD
BLACKFORD**

Pietà

GABRIEL FAURÉ

Requiem

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

Available online via www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk