

Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

May 2024





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Cover: Bridge End in the spring sun on bin collection day.

Deadline for June Dorchester News



email:

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

A DoT view

May, a busy month in Dorchester this year. But first a quick reflection on the Spring Flower Show in April. After all the rain and cold weather I had been fully prepared for a rather poor turn out of flowers being exhibited. So I was delighted when I walked into the Village Hall and found a wonderful display of flowers, far beyond my expectations. Not too many daffodils, admittedly, which usually dominate this show, but an even wider variety of colour and styles than usual. Congratulations to the organisers, and also to all the exhibitors who did not lose heart and found joy in the Spring blooms.

So, May this year has two festivals. First the biennial Dorchester Festival, 64 events spread over ten days. A triumph of organisation that offers something for everyone in the good cause of raising money for Dorchester Abbey and for the charity 'Restore'. A couple of weeks to rest and then the annual English Music Festival; four days of English music in the Abbey, showcasing pieces by English composers that are not often heard elsewhere. A real treat for music lovers.

This is why I look forward to May—and to hope that the weather changes from wet and cold to warm and dry. Wouldn't that be nice.

Ian Brace

Editorial Team
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Christianity can be described as a belief system; we believe in Jesus and therefore we are Christian. But there's a bit of a problem with the word 'belief' in the western world. In our context, belief has often become a statement of what we think or feel to be true; it's about a cognitive understanding. This is not wrong, we need a cognitive understanding in faith, but in-and-of-itself that is not enough. In fact, there is a risk that this manifestation of belief turns our expression of faith into a wordy response: I think this, I say this, therefore I believe this.

Pete Enns talks about belief in the Old and New Testament as being a 'trust in'. When reading the Bible, if we switch the word belief for trust it becomes not about what we say but what we do, who we trust in. It's a trust in someone: Jesus. It challenges us to not only say what we believe but to have a relationship with a living God. That transforms our everyday life as trust requires not just our minds but our whole selves. As Enns states

'Believing is easy. It gives us wiggle room to think our way out of a tight spot. But trust doesn't have any wiggle room. It explodes it. Trust is about being all-in.' Christian trust is about being all-in with Jesus.

Who is this Jesus that we are being all in with? I am a sucker for reality TV shows, and *Married at First Sight* is my current favourite. In this show, individuals are paired up by experts with a potential husband or wife. They meet at the altar for the first time and spend the next few weeks and months getting to know each other. Each week, along with the other couples, they sit opposite the experts and talk about how their relationship is going. During one such gathering, one of the ladies in the experiment sat next to her new husband who, after being originally guarded, was beginning to let his walls down. He was vulnerable and nervous; something that most of us will relate to. She sat next to him patiently giving him the space and time he needed to express himself, and at all the right moments rubbing his shoulder saying

'you're doing so well'. I watched this man visibly soften because someone patiently loved him. This is the Jesus I trust in, our God who patiently walks with us, who knows exactly who we are and what we need, lovingly giving us the space to understand and grow, gently encouraging us at the right moment and helping us to be kinder towards each other. He is of course all those things that we preach at church: generous, forgiving, abounding in love, peaceful, full of justice and able to heal the sick. As this Pentecost season of May so wonderfully shows us, God is with us, full of love and encouragement. The 'belief' that the Christian faith requires is a trust in this very God. What a God to trust in!

If you regularly read the bible, when you come across the word belief or believe, why not replace it with trust and invite the Spirit to 'explode your faith' this month. If you don't and this Jesus stuff has never been for you, take a moment and ask yourself is this encouraging, patient God worth trusting in?

Service Information

See service list in *Dorchester Diary*, page 34 but please check with your minister.

Most parishes send 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

Contact the Abbey Office

If you are feeling fragile or alone at home, and would like to have a home visit or Communion at home, please contact Sandie or Sam at the Abbey Office on **01865 340007**.

Abbey Clock Update

The clock hands and mechanism were removed on 22/23 April by Cumbria Clock Company and taken to their workshop for a full refurbishment. The work is estimated to take three to four months and so the clock should be back and fully operational by the end of the summer.

Canon Rachel Carnegie



On Monday 8 April it was announced that after 10 years as Executive Director of Anglican Alliance, Rachel will be stepping down from the role in October. Here in the Dorchester Team we are hugely grateful for both Rachel's worldwide ministry and her local ministry. We pray for Anglican Alliance as they seek to make a new appointment, and for Rachel as she continues with development work on a freelance basis.

For more information go to anglicanalliance.org

Events in the Abbey

Fri 3 May- Sun 12 May

Dorchester Festival

Dorchester Festival is an amazing 64 events raising money for Dorchester Abbey and, in 2024, Restore, a local mental health charity. Come and see The Tallis Scholars, sing with John Rutter, folk with Sam Kelly, dance to Jazz, race ducks, find scarecrows, laugh with Marcel Lucont, cook and do historical trails and much much more! **Full details can be found at dorchesterfestival.com**

Sat 18 May- 7.00pm- 9.00pm

OSJ: Schumann and Mozart

Mozart Marriage of Figaro overture, Schumann Piano concerto and Mozart Symphony No 41 'Jupiter'. Mozart's popular operatic overture sits hand-in-hand with his triumphant final symphony, a work of huge breadth which showcases his sheer brilliance at every turn. OSJ Artist in Residence Rupert Egerton-Smith performs Schumann's only piano concerto, a glorious piece where the composer's great love for his wife Clara shines through.

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

Fri 24 May - Mon 27 May-

The English Music Festival

The English Music Festival celebrates the music of British composers of all eras, with a strong focus on the Golden Renaissance of English Music: the late- nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries. Full details of each concert can be found at englishmusicfestival.org.uk

10% discount on all tickets available for local residents when entering a valid postcode on the website

For programme details see:

www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/2024-may-festival

Chiropodist

Wednesday 8 May

Village Hall

Appointment only

Call **07850 196714**

Advertising in Dorchester News

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DorchNews.advertising@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

one week before the deadline for editorial copy given on page 2. 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.

Dorchester Abbey



Sunday 5th May,

10.30am

Festival

Circus Service

with

Juggling John

Come and join us in the tent for a fun, café-style Family Service with songs and circus tricks!

Breakfast style refreshments from 10am.

All warmly welcome!

If you need disabled parking or access, please contact the Abbey Office on 01865 340007 - we'd love to help you!

Dorchester Abbey

Sunday 12th May, 10.30

Festival Service



Join us for our special Festival Service with your favourite hymns. Joining us is this year's Junior BBC Chorister of the Year, Belinda Gifford-Guy.

And learn about the life-saving work of

tearfund

Tearfund from our Guest Speaker as they tackle poverty & injustice through sustainable development.

All warmly welcome!

If you need disabled parking or access, please contact the Abbey Office on 01865 340007 - we'd love to help you!



Hempcroft Allotments May



The National Allotment Society has an interesting article on cauliflower. Once a soggy side at school dinners, this bland brassica is now the highlight of many a modern restaurant menu. And whilst edible trends tend to come and go, the craze for cauliflower seems to be here to stay. In culinary terms, cauliflower is often treated as a blank canvas, partly because it is fairly flavourless on its own. However it is a versatile vegetable; useful raw in salads, puréed, mashed, grated, roasted and it freezes well, and let's not forget the classic comforting cauliflower cheese. Don't throw away the stems – they are equally nutritious and can be used as a base for soup bases and in slaws.

Cauliflowers have a reputation for being tricky to grow, but with the right planning, growing conditions and care, you can cultivate a cauliflower to rival any of those in the shops.

There are hundreds of varieties of cauliflower. A reliable variety is 'All The Year Round', one of the easiest to grow and can be harvested from spring through to autumn. But to make the extra effort worthwhile, the Society recommend having a go at a stand-out variety.

Here are 3 cauliflowers to wow:

Graffiti F1

This variety has stunning deep purple cauliflower curds - perfect for adding colour to any summer or autumn dish. This variety is sweeter, nuttier and without the bitterness sometimes found in white cauliflower. The colour intensifies with exposure to light.

Sow February to May. **Harvest** July to October

Green Trevi F1

This autumn variety has striking lime green curds and curled leaves. It has a fine, subtle flavour and stands in good condition for several weeks. Great for cauliflower cheese.

Sow April to May. **Harvest** September to November.

Romanesco (Amoresco®) Amo 125 F1

A breeding breakthrough and new to the UK, this variety is the first orange Romanesco. It even retains its colour after cooking. The spears are more tender than ordinary cauliflower, is perfect for piccalilli, makes a tasty cauliflower cheese and is delicious eaten raw due to its delicious nutty flavour.

Sow May to June. **Harvest** September to November.

All of these varieties are available to purchase from Kings Seeds.

Try growing cauliflowers with mint to deter flea beetles. Nasturtiums planted nearby will help to draw cabbage white butterflies away from your crop.

Edward Metcalfe
340160
edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk

Dorchester Historical Society

Wednesday 22 May 2024 at 7.30pm

Dorchester Abbey Shrine Chapel

Members free, Visitors welcome (£5)

Bill King on *Mount Farm, Berinsfield:*
its wartime history



This talk covers the short but significant life of the RAF airfield which became RAF Mount Farm. As war clouds gathered during the mid-1930s the Royal Air Force expanded and sites for new airfields were surveyed. The area around Mount Farm was selected as suitable and the land requisitioned. Building commenced in 1938 and the site was ready for use by July 1940, Originally known as Dorchester but quickly renamed Mount Farm it was designated as a satellite of RAF Benson. Throughout the war RAF Mount Farm played host to bombers and later to RAF photographic reconnaissance aircraft, and from February 1943 to the photographic reconnaissance squadrons of the US Eighth Air Force who remained until the end of the war in Europe in May 1945. Aircraft from Mount Farm contributed immensely to the successful strategic bombing campaigns and the preparation for the liberation of Europe. As the war ended flying ceased and the base was quickly run down returning to agriculture and in 1957 to gravel extraction. Today little remains of the site from which so many sorties were flown but the story of its short life deserves to be told.

Bill King, now retired from a busy career as an independent management consultant, came from a naval family. Starting from a keen early interest in Britain's history, his research on military and political history ultimately focused on WW2 with particular reference to the role of Airborne and Special Forces and clandestine warfare, including the British Resistance Organisation (Auxiliary Units). He has published many book chapters and articles, is a former Chairman of the Ridgeway Military and Aviation Research Group (RMARG) and a member of The Western Front Association and of the Military Vehicle Trust. He has also taken part in local radio, acted as historical adviser and appeared in several television programmes, and gives talks on a wide range of topics.



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Dorchester Abbey Museum News

We are open!

The Museum is now open until the end of September. Opening times: Wed, Thurs, Sat and Sun (and Bank Holiday Monday) 2.00 to 5.00pm.

Come and see our new pop-up exhibition on Shops, Pubs and other businesses from Dorchester's past. This complements the Dorchester Festival themed walk on **5 May** exploring Dorchester's history.

Visit our popular shop to buy small gifts and cards.

Volunteers Needed!

Please come and join our friendly group of volunteers

As well as

- People to meet and greet visitors (full training provided)

We are also seeking

- Help to look after our social media, especially the Museum's new Facebook page
- Help to set up and develop our new website

For further information and a chat please email: museum@dorchester-abbey.org.uk



Gilbert Scott Hall

The village hall of Dorchester-on-Thames

Dorchester Village Hall 200 Club Prize Draw

Congratulations to the winners of the March draw.

1st Prize	£75	No.88 Mr M Grayson
2nd Prize	£45	No.189 Mrs E Williams
3rd Prize	£25	No.25 Mrs Y Lawden

The next draw will be in June, 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 multiple tickets.

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



Win fabulous prizes in our online auction to give as presents or to simply treat yourself. Please do take a look and support our Festival charities by putting in a bid or two before midnight 12th May. 42 prizes so something for everyone! Scan this QR code or take a look at: app.galabid.com/2024festival



Two badges for the Stewards Enclosure at Henley Royal Regatta for Sunday 7th July

A £1,620 package of concept garden design and plants from Horted



Private Dining Experience for eight with The Yafo Kitchen

Truck Festival
Two weekend tickets
26-28th July



Massage & afternoon tea at The Randolph



£80 red wine



A 2 day space for a Little Explorer (age 4-7) either the 8/9 or 15/16 Aug

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Oxfordshire Libraries

May events at Berinsfield Library

Half term fun – colourful craft table all week during library opening hours!
Drop-in fun for all the family!



Children's Book Club
Thursday 23 May 3.30pm
For children ages 8 to 11. Discover new books and enjoy fun activities.
Booking essential.



Rhymetime Wednesdays 10.30am during school term
Singing and rhyming fun for under-5s with bubbles!



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



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St Birinus Primary School News

Although we've had a couple of weeks off school for the Easter break, our little school remains a busy and exciting place to be as the summer arrives.

We are really proud that our Year 3, 4 and 5 children are taking part in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Opera in the Abbey just before the festival in Dorchester.

We're also looking forward to singing with Nick Cope and we're really grateful to the festival organisers for giving us these opportunities. Keep an eye out for our scarecrow too.

Our mini ox for the Sobell House Ox-trail has been decorated. One of our wonderful parents came and helped the children to paint a beautiful Dorchester landscape on him and all the children have left their own unique fingerprint on

the ox somewhere. He will be placed in a public space over the summer with other mini oxen from schools and community groups around Oxfordshire. The Oxtrail will be taking place over the summer and we are really proud that our little school is playing a part in this fundraiser. We will share the exact location with you when we know it.

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



Dorchester Pre-School



What a wonderful term we have just had. We ended the last day of term celebrating Easter with a very successful Easter bonnet parade, Easter songs from the children with a great little fundraiser of a raffle and the sale of some cakes. We will soon have an Abbey tea room take over with lots of home-made cakes and pastries made by the parents of the preschool so please do try to get down and support our local preschool.

Our new term has started well and we have welcomed lots of new children, they have all settled in as if they have always been here, making lots of new friends. We have been enjoying the better weather and still loving the new pergola where we enjoy snacks, lunch and outside learning. Our topic this term is mini beasts and is proving to be a huge hit with all. We have been making lots of 3D models of bugs and even designing our own bugs using recycling resources. We loved making our scarecrow for the scarecrow trail in the Dorchester Festival. We are going to be very busy now with the run up to Graduation, Sports Day with some scavenger and bug hunts added in!

Some children have extended their hours at the setting, so we are now full until July and the end of the term and school year. If you would like to have a look around or would be interested in adding your child's name to the waiting list please do get in touch - contact Helen on **01865 341805**.

We would like to once again thank Helen and all of the staff for their continued hard work and support towards the preschool, without them it simply wouldn't exist. Lastly I would like to remind everyone the setting is a charity and relies solely on fundraising so if you can help or would like to help please get in touch.

Sarah Egan

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Dorchester Safari Supper

Saturday July 13th

£30 per person incl all food & 3 glasses of wine
Fundraising for Dorchester Abbey

7pm drinks & canapes

Main course (at a house in Dorchester)

Pudding (at another house in Dorchester!)

Coffee (in Dorchester Abbey)

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



THE HURST WATER MEADOW TRUST

Charity number 1191096. Website: www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk



Richard Farrant retired as Hurst Trust chair on 30 April, succeeded by Roger Seabrook. Roger's position as Treasurer is filled by Chris Smith, whose position as Secretary is filled by Sally Bell, newly appointed as a trustee. We also have another new trustee, Sandra Harding, whose long tenure as a teacher at our village primary school will bring us a wealth of educational experience. We now have a very good balance of the experience needed to enable the Trust to prosper.

The list of trustees, with their special interests, is now:

Roger Seabrook	Chair
Sally Bell	Secretary
Chris Smith	Treasurer
Thom Airs	Media
Graham Beland	Land and tree management
Louise Beland	Volunteer co-ordinator
Sandra Harding	Education
Sophia Stewart-Liberty	Arts
Richard Tilley	Ecology
David Wilkinson	Archaeology and ecology

Richard has been chair for 7 years, during which time there have been some significant changes. Management of the meadows now follows a 20 year plan, based broadly on a three year cycle rotating between active and less active management. The Trust has changed its legal status to be an incorporated charity, so that trustees are no longer exposed to

personal liability. A feature of the last few years has been increasing collaboration with other bodies in projects which are beyond our own financial resources and volunteer skills. Our partnership with the Earth Trust enabled development of the backwaters in Old Bridge Meadow and Overy Mead Piece. Partnership with the River Thames Conservation Trust and Environment Agency will provide assurance that water continues to flow down the Mill Stream and through the Mill, with an unchanged balance of flow between the main river and mill stream. At present this relies on the hatchway at the top of Bucks Pool, which is so dilapidated that we fear it could collapse. Thanks to funding by the FCC Communities Fund, information boards on this project are now at the entrances to the Hurst meadow and at Bucks Pool. The projected fish pass will remove the first and thus key barrier to fish migration up the River Thames.

But some things don't change, notably our reliance on volunteers, from trustees through specialist hedge layers and tree pruners to scythers and gatherers of nettles and scrub. We also rely on government grants, which may become a challenge when the government decides the detail of the new regime to replace the old European Union based regime. Above all, we rely on the restorative power of nature to make good the damage humanity inadvertently causes, with the water meadows acting as a vehicle to help that process along while providing recreation for all.



Community Meeting

Bishop's Court Farm would like to invite you to the next Community Meeting on Thursday the 30th of May 2024 at 2.30pm and 7.00pm at Snug, Bishop's Court Farm. (tea and cake included)

This will be a question-and-answer session and an update on previous community meetings.
Look forward to seeing you at Snug!



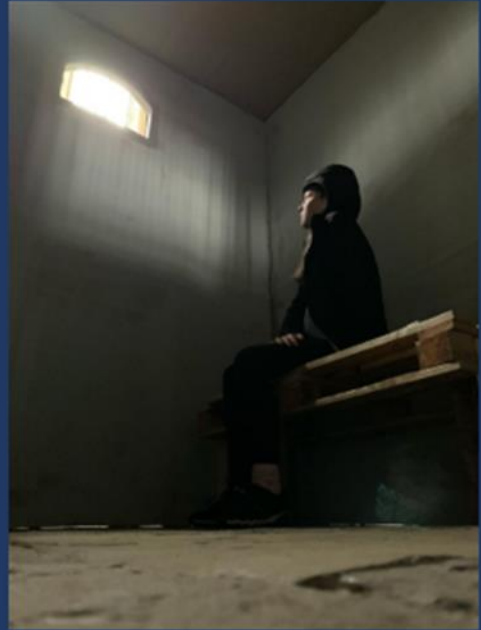
CELL- A recognition of Prisoners of Conscience

Constructed by Adrian Brooks and Tim Cook
Dorchester Abbey 11th Feb to 11th Mar 2024

Alexei Navalny June 1976 – February 2024

*For what is a man, what has he got?
If not himself then he has naught.
Not to say the things he truly feels,
And not the words of someone who kneels.
Let the record show I took all the blows
and did it my way*

Lyrics by Gilles Thibault and Claude François
chosen by Alexei Navalny to be played at his funeral
1st March 2024



As a record of the installation in the Abbey in February we have prepared a twelve page booklet with pictures and summaries of the Prisoners of Conscience illustrated on CELL, including Alexei Navalny whose tragic death was reported during the exhibition.

The pictures also show the flowers and expressions of sympathy from the UK and overseas, following Navalny's death.

There are some moving comments from the visitors' book, with some from children and some from overseas visitors, including Russian and Ukrainian.

The booklet also shows a series of pictures taken during the construction as well as details of the public awareness and response, including a visit by a BBC film crew which appeared on the local news.

Visitors were invited to light a candle and make a donation to Prisoners of Conscience, a charity which, since its inception in 1962, has provided rapid financial and practical assistance to more than 10,000 prisoners of conscience and their dependants.

Where can I get a copy?

Copies of the booklet can be obtained from Adrian or Tim for a donation of £2 towards the cost of their production.

Adrianhbrooks@hotmail.com tim.cook12@btinternet.com



Dorchester Tennis Club

Adult Tennis Lessons

Sunday Afternoons on the following dates:

12th May, 19th May, 23rd June, 30th June

2:30 - 3:45pm = Beginner / Improver

3:45 - 5:00pm = Club / Advanced

Pay as you go is £11 a session or sign up to all four for £35

Private Junior lessons also available, please contact Andy on the details below to arrange

TO BOOK, OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email Andy at andy@aatennis.co.uk



Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 1st May

7.30pm in the Abbey



Take part in the launch of our Dorchester 2030 action plan.

Discuss our key priorities with your Parish Councillors in small workshops.

Hear the Parish Council's report on the past year.

Visit dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk for more info or contact Jenny Welham on 07444 239077 or parishclerk@dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk

Free refreshments will be provided



Football Results

North Berks League Div 1



13/03/2024	Dorchester First	3	2	Compton 1st
02/04/2024	Dorchester First	1	3	Steventon First
06/04/2024	East Hendred AFC First	1	4	Dorchester First
09/04/2024	Drayton First	2	2	Dorchester First



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Warborough & Shillingford WI

British Summertime begins when the clocks go forward, giving us longer days and hopes of better weather, although this is not always guaranteed. What is certain is the choice of interesting speakers at WI members' meetings.

At our April meeting we were visited by the talented florist Diana Mitchum, who practises sustainable techniques, this means using only seasonal British flowers and herbs in her arrangements. This is not an easy position to take as during the winter months there are few flowers available and dried flowers must be used with interesting structural stems such as twisted hazel and honesty. Valentines Day, when red roses are often the favourite flower, Diana will substitute red or pink tulips sourced from Lincolnshire & the west country. When she explained that roses imported from Kenya generate approximately 2.4kg of CO₂ per stem, due to chemicals, transport and chilling, compared to 0.2 kg of CO₂ per stem for the British roses, I think we realised why it was important to aim for sustainability. As Diana said, 'the rose is a symbol of love but if you look at these statistics it becomes a symbol of all that is wrong with the way we look after our planet'. The atmosphere in the hall was Zenlike while Diana created a beautiful arrangement as she talked. Diana has a shop called Callie and Thyme, but you can find out more about this inspirational florist from her website

www.callieandthyme.co.uk.

Future programme: Marie Christine Fawcett-Livage will reveal the important skills needed for 'Art Restoration' at the meeting in May and Sue Dyke will explain what talents a bell ringer needs to hit the right note in June. Personally, I am really looking forward to 'Seated Zumba' on **10 July**. Also, in July, we hope to be at the Swan Upping in Benson, fingers crossed there will be swans, unlike 2023 when there were none. Scam emails and texts are all too frequent these days and are so sophisticated even the most careful person can get caught. With that in mind our programme team has organised a member of Oxfordshire Trading Standards to come to our September meeting and tell us what to look out for.

Being a member of the WI offers so much more than our local monthly meetings: the Oxfordshire Federation organizes outings to places of interest, workshops to learn new skills and even holidays. These include a holiday to Castle Howard and York, a day trip to Bletchley Park, famous for codebreaking in the second World War, and a must if you have never been there. A very useful lecture, at a time of rising prices, is the talk about growing our own food, 'From Garden to Plate', which promises to introduce us to vegetables from Roman times to the present day and should help our budgets.

We look forward to another interesting year at the WI. Our members come from Shillingford, Warborough and Dorchester and meet on the second Wednesday of every month in the St. Laurence Hall. We are a friendly group and would love to welcome you, so get in touch or just come along for a chat.

Contact email: warboroughwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

President - Sarah Allan **01865 858673**
or Secretary - Vicky Hart **01865 416437**

What goes on at the Village Hall Something to stretch you



Go to the Village Hall each Wednesday at 5.30pm and you'll find people stretching themselves in all sorts of ways.

They are attending the pilates class run by Claire Willetts of Millstream Pilates.

These are mixed ability classes and courses designed to help pilates work for everyone – all ages, genders and fitness levels. The youngest client is 16 and oldest is 93.

People attending these classes may just be simply looking for an effective way to exercise, strengthen the core muscles of the body, improve flexibility and their posture.

But pilates can help manage on-going spine and joint problems including arthritis and osteoporosis. These classes create movement strategies for clients with neurological conditions such as Parkinson's disease, improving mobility and motor skills.

Pilates also helps people to recover from sports injuries, teaches them to use their body more effectively to minimise risk of injury and strengthen the body to enhance performance.

'I have been attending Claire's classes for many years. Every one is different, fun and challenging. Highly recommended.'

Claire Willetts describes pilates as being like a wardrobe for life - there is an outfit to suit anyone for every event, whatever gender you identify with or condition you're managing. As movement specialists, there are always options they can apply to make sure clients are working safely within their bodies and challenged appropriately.

It is important to be in the right class though and people with similar abilities are kept together to make sure everyone's needs are addressed as well as possible. Sometimes this may mean that private sessions are more appropriate.

A typical session starts with checking for any new injuries and how clients are feeling (this helps pace the class correctly). They then go through an initial warm up, a release from whatever the day has delivered so far, following which there are progressively more challenging exercises until towards the end the nervous system is relaxed.

Each class is different so as to keep the brain challenged with new movements. Each joint of the body is moved in all planes of motion, increasing or supporting range within the joints.

Some weeks props are used; such as foam rollers, spikey balls, bands, weights or everyone's favourite - the magic circle!

Clients are encouraged to work with their own version of an exercise rather than competing to complete whatever a

'I have an 84 year old in advanced class - we exchange a few of her exercises for 'bone friendly' options but otherwise, she gives my 30 year olds a run for their money!' Claire Willetts

teacher's body or neighbour's is presenting - we are all different and what one skeleton likes, another won't!

Claire also hopes that they'll have fun along the way of discovering bits of their body they didn't know existed!

'Ability is not age-determined' says Claire, 'more 'stage of life' or condition of body as we all experience physiological changes at different times. Some are long term and some are short term.'

If a client is managing a short term change to their body, then they may be swapped out temporarily to a healthy backs class. Healthy backs classes are designed for clients with osteoporosis and long term chronic conditions.

Importantly, all new clients get a one to one induction. This ensures that the teacher knows how their body works, any medical issues that will need the adaption of exercises to ensure they're working safely and to gain the most out of what the client is trying to achieve. It provides them with the basics so when they join an established class they know what is being talked about and can happily slot in.

Plus we introduce them to all the other class members. So that everyone knows who is who.

Claire has 10 years of experience and a wealth of qualifications in all areas of movement, menopause and breathing, and aims to help her clients to become the best version of themselves.

As well as Dorchester, Claire runs classes in Benson and Radley and they range from health backs classes, beginners, mixed ability to advanced.

So 5.30pm on Wednesdays in the Village Hall for something that is not just going to stretch you but make you the best version of yourself.

'Just attended a summer drop in session. It was a great session, felt well stretched by the end and lots of opportunity to work at a level to suit each individual.'



Dorchester Show

On Saturday 6 April, we were treated to a spectacular display at the 165th Annual Spring Flower show held in the Village Hall. Despite the challenging weather during the early part of the year there were a record number of entries. This was testimony to the stoicism, skill and determination of our village community. The resulting riot of colours and perfume in the floral and vegetable categories created an uplifting and joyous display. Similarly, the cookery classes and handicrafts demonstrated the rich talent across all ages of entrants and the fun that can be had by simply 'having a go'. We enjoyed sharing some delightful photographs of Wittenham clumps across the seasons and celebrated the craftsmanship of the knitted 'Twiddle muffs'.

We congratulate this year's cup winners:

- Short Trumpet Daffodil Cup – Honor Juniper
- Spring Flower Cup – Janet Delaine
- Vegetable Cup – Jill Corran
- Mary Tame Handicraft Cup – Pauline Townson
- Blackwell Photography Cup – Ian Brace
- Domestic Classes Cup – Ellie Ribeiro-Beaman
- England in Bloom Cup – Honor Juniper

Tea and cakes were enjoyed by many, and the plant sale proved as popular as always. The show enjoyed a great send off with the closing raffle. We welcomed Finn



Finn MacLaurin of The Fleur talks to Geoff Russell



Andy Pay address

Spring Flower Show 2024

MacLaurin, (manager at the Fleur de Lys), who generously donated the First Prize of a meal for two with drinks. Thanks also to Elsie and Ava Morris, (aged 3 years) who so expertly and helpfully drew the tickets from the raffle basket.

The Village owes a vote of thanks to the judges who give freely of their time and to the organisers for their energies to perpetuate such a time-honoured village event, first held in 1859! The Flower Show takes place in Autumn and Spring as a non-profit making event. We would like to encourage newcomers to consider submitting an entry at the next show, or simply come along to the viewing in the afternoon to join in the fun.

Many of the cups awarded at the show have a historical legacy and provenance with cup winners' names engraved on the bases or plates. Some of the cups have unfortunately started to run out of space for new names. This year, the committee has had to put out a special appeal towards the upgrade of the Cups, so that this legacy can be perpetuated. Please contact christinastores@gmail.com if you could consider making a donation. We are most grateful to those who have already kindly offered financial support to date.

The next show dates: **September 14 2024** and **April 12 2025** – so do make a note in your diary.



Three gentlemen who have all been regular prize winners over the years celebrate their successes this year.

Matthew Bernard Siarey Husband 18 February 1967 – 17 February 2024

Those of you who knew Matthew will remember that he often responded to an enquiry about his health with his favourite line 'I live day by day but I'm still smiling'. This was despite all the challenges he faced during his life.

Matthew was only two years old when he developed an aggressive form of rheumatoid arthritis which significantly impaired his mobility and led to the need for multiple joint replacements over many years. In his late teens he sustained a severe head injury resulting in loss of speech taking 18 months to recover. He battled on through all the ups and downs of his life but tragically was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease just over four years ago.

Matthew's first job was with American Express in Brighton where he developed an interest in Sports for the Disabled. He took up competitive swimming reaching national level. After a couple of years, he came back to London to work for the British Sports Association for the Disabled which is where he met April.

Throughout his life Matthew has always showed immense courage coupled with a strong determination to live life as fully as possible, thus in 1993 Matthew and April gave up their jobs and travelled all around the world for a year. He had a wonderful sense of humour, wicked at times. He never complained and his glass was always 'Half Full'.



Matthew and April came to Dorchester in 1994 having acquired the Post Office and shop. They settled into their new life and soon knew everyone in the village. Some of you may even remember the large turnout for their wedding in the Abbey 29 years ago. Their son, Kieran was born in 1996 and later on Katie bounced in just in time to be a millennial baby. Due to Matthew's increasing disability, running the Post Office became impractical.

In 2001 Matthew and April took up new roles in the health sector. Matthew worked as a laboratory technician at the John Radcliffe hospital for 18 years eventually retiring four years ago. From then on the White Hart became

increasingly important for Matthew. It was his second home - a place to meet his friends, a place where he was always welcomed.

Matthew's children Kieran and Katie were always a very special part of his life particularly so during the last few months. It gave Matthew great happiness to see them both settled in their Maritime careers.

In the last few years, as travelling became more difficult, Matthew and April developed a love for cruising, their final cruise being onboard the ship on which Katie was working as an Officer Cadet. A highlight of the trip for Matthew was meeting the Captain on the bridge- a huge honour rarely

extended to visitors.

Matthew was described by many as brave, funny, kind, clever and inspirational. Yes, indeed he was all of these. Over the years so many people have been kind and supportive to Matthew and his family thank you all for this. Dorchester will always be a truly special place.

Matthew died peacefully at home on 17 February 2024 with his family around him.

Matthew's family are most grateful for all those who generously contributed to raising over £5,500 to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.



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Gordon Allnutt

7 March 1934—23 February 2024

Gordon Allnutt, was a devoted husband, a great dad, a grandfather, a great grandfather. He loved us unconditionally and we loved him the same and he lived a long and happy life.

He was born in Dorchester on the 7 March 1934 and passed away on the 23 February 2024 and in his lifetime only moved as far away as Warborough and Shillingford.

He was the youngest one of four children to Albert and Edith Allnutt.

Gordon married his wife Linda in August 1967 and went on to have two children, Simon and Julie. In time he had a daughter in law and son in law, then four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. He was a self employed painter/ decorator for most of his life, although he worked at British Leyland for a few years and also ran the Nags Head public house in Warborough until his retirement.

Gordon enjoyed playing and watching



both football and cricket. He played for Dorchester and Clifton Hampden, and was besotted with both sports. They took

up every weekend nearly as far back as I can remember, playing the games, oh and mum also having an important role as 'the tea lady'. But Gordon didn't only play. He also supported all the planning and preparations for both sports. He dedicated himself to helping and supporting others wherever he could in whatever he did.

Gordon/Dad, we love you, we will miss you, but guaranteed you will never be forgotten and you will always hold a special place in all our hearts, god bless you.

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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.

Edward Newton Potterton

24 September 1931—15 January 2024

Edward was born and raised in County Meath, Ireland. He was the son of Edward and Eileen Potterton (née Tong), and the third eldest of eight siblings with whom he enjoyed good relationships throughout his life.

Edward grew up on a farm with early schooling split between Athboy and Trim National schools. He would tell us how he and his brothers and sisters took it in turns to ride the family bicycle part of the way to school, before leaving it for the next person. Until relatively recently he was never quite sure why someone would choose to go on a cycling holiday - bicycles in those days had not been for fun!

Early summer holidays were spent at his (Tong) grandparents' house 'Kilgolan' near Tullamore where his Aunt Olive lived. Picnics and picking blueberries on the peat bogs of County Offaly were a highlight. Later, as a teenager he would spend the month of August by the sea in Kilkee, County Clare with the rest of the family.

Edward enjoyed sports, in particular tennis and hockey, and was selected for the Leinster Schools Junior hockey team while at Kingstown Grammar School.

Go-karting was a favourite hobby in his thirties - usually undertaken with brothers David and Alan. No doubt he was 'inspired' by his father's tendency to drive at no more than 25 miles an hour (and that was only if he was feeling reckless!). Edward's excellent driving skills resulted in his winning many races.

Edward had great curiosity and a keen intellect. It was this curiosity and interest in the wider world that led to him travel extensively in the 1950s. He spent time on a farm in Denmark in 1953 learning different farming methods from those at



home, and later that decade worked in Canada, the United States and Australia. While in the United States he drove from Toronto to California, visiting Las Vegas when it was but fourteen years old.

On his return from abroad in 1958 Edward started to farm in County Meath. He married Pamela (née Wakely) in 1962, and in time they went on to have three children: Sarah, William and Adam. As well as his own farm, he was also manager of a local stud business which sometimes entailed accompanying horses on aircraft to places such as Cairo or Khartoum. Having gone to cattle fairs with his father when young, he had a great understanding and compassion for animals, and was an adept and fearless handler of them.

In 1982 Edward and Pamela moved to Oxfordshire with their children. Life in England brought new opportunities and

areas of interest and he started a small landscaping business here which he continued into the 1990s. They moved to Dorchester in 2002, having lived in Berinsfield for the previous eleven years.

A great sense of humour was one of Edward's most endearing qualities. He enjoyed comedians such as The Two Ronnies, and Dave Allen - whose occasional irreverent sense of humour amused him. But it was Dave Allen's parting words at the end of a show that had great resonance with Edward: 'May your God go with you.'

This gives an insight into Edward's faith. He was a true Christian. In the Eighties and Nineties, and beyond, this manifested notably in the work he did - formally for such organisations as Age UK and South Oxfordshire Housing Association, and voluntarily, outreach work for those suffering with addiction problems or homelessness.

Twelve years ago Edward was diagnosed with two cancers which were swiftly followed by other serious illnesses. He bore the pain that ensued so bravely. Pamela cared for him at home during this time with support from the family and, from 2022, extra help was obtained from the 'Care with Dignity Partnerships'.

Towards the end of his life, Edward was looked after in the John Radcliffe Hospital, by his GP at Berinsfield Health Centre and, for the last couple of months, at The Close Care Home in Burcot where he ended his days.

Edward is survived by his wife, Pamela, daughter Sarah, and sons, William and Adam who are all very grateful for the wonderful care he received, particularly in recent years.

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



Community meeting No.4 Feedback

We would like to thank all those who attended our fourth community meeting on the 30th November 2023 to discuss the Bishops Court Farm masterplan vision and progress since our last meeting in April 2023. It was lovely to see 40+ people over the two events, as well as the 11 completed questionnaires and emails received.

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



Facilities/ space to benefit the community
27%



Inclusivity
of the
Village
9%



Sustainability/ conscious to wildlife and
ecology/ organic farm
45%



Low-cost housing for local people
18%

New Access Road
18%

Everything – 55%

What people would like to see changed/concerns?

91% did not have any concerns with the vision.

How we will address concerns....

9% Car parking on farm for farm events



BCF is in the process of discussing parking arrangements on the farm for farm events to reduce impact on the village.

Other comments/ suggestions...

- Dorchester is incredibly lucky to have this amazing project and vision on our doorstep.
- Can't wait for it all to come to fruition!
- Interested to have a tour around the farmhouse
- Fascinated by the solar, organic and farm to plate concept and completely understand need for extra houses to fund development
- My only concern is that I will not live to see the result of the excellent plan.
- Car parking on farm for farm events to be considered
- Accessible pedestrian access to Snug from High Street necessary
- Looking forward to browse the Education website
- Disable toilet for the Snug welcomed
- Existing access for horses down the High Street
- Can you consider issuing permits for bird watching around the lake in the winter?
- Fleur de Lys menu and opening times (non digital) to be displayed outside the pub
- Not clear on purpose of the Community Park – to be discussed with neighbouring residents and village.
- Manhole cover on Abingdon Road to be checked as rattling since BCF did drain connection.
- Love that the farm is improving accessibility for all to enjoy the footpaths and the farm as a whole by enlarging kissing gates, replacing stiles etc.
- Love how Bishops Court Farm is embracing new technology, is sensitive to nature, serving the community, providing local jobs and giving life/energy to the farm and 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: 30th May 2024

Email: survey@bishops courtfarm.com



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Dorchester News Crossword No.31 Solution

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From the Chair of the Parish Council



My first act this month is to acknowledge the passing of Maurice Day, Dorchester's longest serving parish councillor, having served for 40 years by the time he retired last year and one of my predecessors as Chair. There will be many other tributes made to Maurice but he was the mainstay of the council for all those years alongside his other significant roles in the village and therefore deserves our gratitude and thanks for his long service.

As you read your Dorchester News, the Annual Parish meeting is imminent. **Wednesday 1 May** in Dorchester Abbey at 7.30pm. As well as updating residents on what your Parish Council has been doing in the past year and also on our finances, we will be asking those who come along to agree the priorities that your council believe are the right ones in light of the Dorchester 2030 survey. So, please do come along and take part as this will be setting the plan for both the next three years of this council and possibly the following one, all the way to the 2030s.

If you want to remind yourself of the survey you can do so on the village website at www.dorchester-on-thames.co.uk/posts/dorchester-2030-and-beyond-results-of-survey/

To remind you, as John Taylor laid out in last month's update, the recommended priorities are:

- Develop a Nature and Wildlife plan, including water quality
- Develop solutions to the traffic issues, including noise, safety and car parking
- Assess and progress future potential uses of the Pavilion plus refurbishment plans
- Develop a plan for additional 10 to 20 Affordable Homes
- Transform Dorchester Parish Council's operations including governance, finance, grounds maintenance and emergency planning

Your councillors have assigned themselves to these various initiatives but, assuming they are agreed, each initiative really needs members of the wider Dorchester community to join the councillors to provide ideas, energy and expertise. Without you involved the plans may not be as good and will probably go at a slower pace, the councillors can't do it all themselves. So, please do offer to get involved, as some people already have. Come along on the evening to find out how you can get involved or contact John Taylor or myself direct.

It has been wonderful this past few weeks to see so many visitors come to the village for the popular lambing days at Bishops Court Farm. It is great they have been a success. However we are aware that the volume of cars did cause some issues and the farm and the council have been working on how things will work more smoothly in future on those rare occasions when we have busy events. Over the next year, when the farm completes its new track in from Abingdon Rd,

then there will be parking spaces put in at the same time which should significantly reduce pressure on the wider village.

I think we were all shocked and disappointed that someone chose to raid the Co-op. The Co-op team and their shop are a wonderful part of our community and they know they have our full support. It is a mark of their commitment that the shop reopened the same day and as I write this the replacement windows are in. I was impressed to see a number of police officers up there, taking it seriously, lets hope they get a result. My response will be to show my support for them by buying something extra, so the bad guys don't win, feel free to join me.

Finally, enjoy the festival, as well as enjoying the events I will, like many others, be doing my bit to help behind the scenes. I will also be abseiling down the tower along-side others to raise money, so do come and watch and hopefully sponsor one or more of the abseilers. See you there.

Mike Corran
Chair, Dorchester Parish Council

Parish Council Notices

Monthly Meetings May and June 2024

The May Parish Council Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 8 May** and the June meeting will take place on **Wednesday 12 June**.

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



Empty Homes Policy

The council's commitment to tackling our social housing waiting list and to making sure local families have somewhere to live has led to the approval of a new Empty Homes Policy.

The focus will be on working positively with the owners of empty homes to bring homes back into occupation, in particular for those in most need.

There are reasons why a property might be empty in the short-term but long-term empty properties are not a good use of a valuable resource and may have a negative impact on their local area.

The empty homes policy sets out the incentives available to home owners to bring homes back into use to the benefit of the owner, potential tenants, and the wider community. Enforcement action will normally only be considered as a last resort when empty home owners are unwilling to engage and the property is causing problems for the community.

If you are the owner of an empty property and would like to discuss the incentives available to bring your property back into use, please email our private sector housing team at psh@southandvale.gov.uk

You can also email our private sector housing team at the address above to report any issues concerning empty homes. Please provide us with both your details and the details of the property.

Police and Crime Commissioner election

Many people don't realise the Police and Crime Commissioner even exists, others believe it shouldn't. The post is democratically elected and pays £86,700 a year. The job of the PCC is to make sure Thames Valley Police is an effective police force that delivers on the priorities of local residents. A large chunk of your council tax goes to Thames Valley Police so do have your say in the PCC elections!

The election takes place on **2 May**; full details on the SODC elections webpage.

Remember, to vote at a polling station you must bring photo ID - a wide range of photo ID will be accepted, including passports, driving licences and cards with a PASS Mark.

Some council car park fees have changed

New fees for car parks in South Oxfordshire have been introduced.

The car park fees are being simplified and rounded to the nearest whole pound while all car parks will continue to have a period of free parking. This means some of the fees are being reduced by up to 16% while other will see modest increases. Parking permits rates have also been frozen.

The additional parking income means we can match the cost of managing and running our car parks, otherwise we'd have to divert funding from other services to subsidise car parking.

All funds from car parking fees and permits are invested back into providing the service and making improvements to car parks, highways, public conveniences and public open spaces, as well as developing infrastructure to encourage active travel – such as cycle paths and bike storage. Parking for the first hour remains free in all Didcot, Thame and Henley public car parks.

There is a growing body of evidence that shows that while business owners believe that as cost increases, footfall decreases, in fact, the towns/cities with the highest footfall generally have higher than average parking charges. Furthermore, fair car park charges can help ensure that parking spaces frequently turn over, increasing overall footfall. You can see the full fees on our parking policy webpage:

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/parking-roads-and-streets/parking/parking-policy/>

Council signs up to Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership Charter (and your business can too!)

South Oxfordshire District Council have pledged their commitment to Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership's (OIEP) charter.

It means when the council agrees contracts they will assess what support the supplier can offer the local community, as well as the value for money of the contract. The council will look wherever possible to buy goods and services from local organisations, including SMEs, social enterprises, and cooperatives.

By looking to buy from local organisations first, we aim to reduce our carbon footprint while better supporting suppliers in the area to bid for council contracts and boosting the local economy.

We'll also be supporting our staff to volunteer at local community projects, which we hope will enable them to build new skills and links with their communities, benefitting all involved.

We'd like to encourage our many fantastic local businesses of all sizes to follow suit and make their own pledges. Find out more about the charter at <https://www.oiep.org.uk>

One of the OIEP's highlighted projects is Growing Minds, a project supporting children and parents which has been piloted successfully at The Berin Centre:

<https://www.oiep.org.uk/actions/growing-minds>

Berinsfield Garden Village Steering Group

I chair this group quarterly, we are working to ensure new facilities and other public space improvements are delivered in Berinsfield. You can see the delivery plan and sign up to the newsletter here: <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/berinsfield>

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m. 07979 646815

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



Surface dressing to improve road surfaces and help prevent potholes

Nearly 100 roads across Oxfordshire will be improved as part of a £7 million highway maintenance programme beginning this spring.

Oxfordshire County Council and its contractor Milestone Infrastructure Ltd will be visiting more than 50 locations between 8 April and 3 June to carry out surface dressing work. The programme is part-funded by the government, with £2.629 million coming from the Department for Transport's road resurfacing fund.

Around one million square metres of carriageway will be treated, making it the biggest surface dressing programme undertaken in Oxfordshire for at least 20 years. This method enables large amounts of road to be treated with minimal travel disruption and helps to prevent potholes.

Motorcycle safety training coming to Kidlington and Thame

Motorcyclists are being encouraged to sign-up for specialist training sessions, designed to improve their safety awareness and riding skills. The Be a Better Biker workshops are provided as part of road casualty reduction work by Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service and neighbouring local authorities (Bucks).

Training covers a range of advanced techniques including:

- Manoeuvring
- Overtaking
- Cornering techniques
- An on-road assessment with a qualified observer
- A review of the on-road session.

The next session will take place at Kidlington Fire Station on **Saturday 11 May**.

The day includes classroom based learning and a two hour practical ride out. Anyone wishing to take part must hold a full and valid motorbike licence and have access to their own vehicle to use during the course.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/travel-safe-bucks-41365202613>

River levels in Oxfordshire

As you'll be well aware, river levels in Oxfordshire have remained generally high and responsive to rainfall. Find links to relevant agencies here:

<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/high-river-levels/>

Service Changes at Oxford Bus Company

Oxford Bus Company has announced they are making some changes to services in Oxford City and South Oxfordshire from 14 April 2024. Find out more and view the changes services

on the Oxford Bus Company website. The changes to the X40 River Rapids service may affect you so do check before you set off.

<https://images-oxfordbus.passenger-website.com/downloads/X40%20booklet%20apr24%20v2%20web.pdf>

Fly tipping

If you see fly tipped waste, please report it to Biffa – FixMyStreet no longer accepts reports of fly tipping.

Please call Biffa on 03000 610 610 or email: admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk with details of where you saw the waste, the type of waste and when you spotted it. There is a form you can fill in (if you like forms) on the fly tipping pages on the council's website.

SODC's Envirocrime team can then be dispatched to investigate. The council has a successful track record of prosecuting fly tippers so please do report!

Road safety etc.

Following recent incidents and concerns raised by residents, I have met again with County officers about, in particular, the Dorchester bypass stretch of the A4074, and the A415/Tollgate Road crossing by Europa School. I have asked for updates on what can be done to bring forward safety improvements and will report back as soon as I have more info.

Robin Bennett

robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk

tel. 01865 858680

m. 07979 646815

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From your MP...

...John Howell



The quality of our water courses is something that I know concerns many constituents. It concerns me too. This is why I recently joined with my local colleagues to write to the Chief Executive of Thames Water to seek more action to tackle the sewage pollution in our waterways across Oxfordshire.

We appreciate that Thames Water have confirmed an additional

investment of at least £815 million to help tackle sewage pollution and cut sewage overflows by 84% by 2050. However we feel that this time frame is too long, and we would like to see more investment and thus quicker results. We have asked to meet to discuss this further.

Alongside this I am pleased at the recent Government announcement of a tough new inspections and enforcement regime, increasing their oversight of water companies with the Environment Agency carrying out inspections. Some of these are planned but some are also unannounced where officers have the power to gain forcible entry where needed. The Government has also introduced legally binding targets which mean that water companies now face strict limits on when they can use storm overflows and must completely eliminate the harm any sewage discharges cause to the environment.

On a completely different subject, anyone who has ever got caught up in expensive legal proceedings may appreciate that Alternative Dispute Resolutions can be helpful. This area of resolving disputes is something with which I have been involved and is a growing area. In 2021 I introduced a Private Members Bill to Parliament to allow an apology to be given that is genuinely and sincerely meant without creating a legal liability. This bill did not complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the 2019-21 session, but the Lord Chancellor confirmed the Government would consult on the issue when Parliamentary time allowed. I was therefore

delighted to receive a recent letter from the Lord Chancellor to let me know that he was launching a consultation that could see the essence of my Bill become law. The consultation will run until early June and I look forward to the feedback from that later in the year.

Another area that has generated contact from constituents of late is around the increase in the use of vapes by young people. I have been advised that the number of children using vapes has tripled in the past three years, with 20.5 per cent of children having tried vaping in 2023. While the use of vapes is not risk-free, they have been useful as a means to help adults stop smoking. However the increase in use by young people is worrying. I fully understand the concerns that have been raised with me on this. The Government is seeking to address this through the Tobacco and Vapes Bill which would prohibit the sale of vapes to young people. The Bill is currently going through parliamentary process. I do appreciate that some adults who are smokers are content to be so but there are many who seek to quit especially given the known health risks. The Government's Swap to Stop Scheme is helping people give up and the Bill seeks to ensure that this is not an issue for younger generations. Whilst accepting personal freedoms there is no getting away from the health risks and the subsequent pressure on the NHS from related health problems.

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.

You can find updates and replies to standard campaigns run by lobby organisations on my website: <https://www.johnhowell.org.uk>



Wallingford Museum News

The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) once again are offering their popular guided walks programme. Led by an expert guide you will gain insights into Wallingford's fascinating history. Joining a walk is easy, they are run every Saturday morning until the end of September. Meet up under the Town Hall, no booking required, £10 per person, cash please.

This year, the Museum has opened 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.

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

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.

A third exhibition features and celebrates 100 years of firefighting in Wallingford, then as well there are new displays and old favourites like our 'archaeological' sandpits for our younger visitors.

We also have a guided trail of activities for families, from quirky quizzes to making mammoths.

Looking forward, watch out for details of the Museum's contribution to the national Festival of Archaeology, on **Saturday 20 July**. Another family programme of archeological discovery is being planned!

Sue Wright

Wallingford Museum

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk



The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society

Wednesday 8 May

St Mary's Church, Wallingford.

Meetings are at 7.45pm for 8.00pm

Visitors very welcome (£5)

Peter Adamson: 'A Town Called Wallingford'

Peter Adamson will be presenting some highlights of his new book — a wide-ranging collection of nineteen essays with Wallingford as the common starting point. Topics will include 'The great coffee shop takeover', 'The bridge of time', 'An impregnable castle', 'Why Agatha Christie is both loved and scorned', 'The worldwide impact of Wallingford enterprises', 'The story of Richard of Wallingford', 'The Haylar sisters', 'The glory that was Wessex', 'The submarine plot', and 'Why William Blackstone has a right to be considered one of the most influential people ever born in these islands'.

Peter Adamson's previous book was *'Landmark in Time – The World of the Wittenham Clumps'*.

Retired from a career spent mainly with UNICEF, Peter is the author of three novels and a collection of short stories. He is married with two children, both educated at Wallingford School, and lives in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell.

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

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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

May	
Wed 1	Vindication Swim (PG)
Thurs 2	Vindication Swim (PG)
Fri 3	Quintessentially Irish (U)
Sat 4	Barbie (12A) 10.30am
Sat 4	Baltimore (15) 7.30pm
Sun 5	Baltimore (15)
Mon 6	Fantastic Machine (15)
Tues 7	Fantastic Machine (15)
Wed 8	That They Face the Rising Sun (12A) 2.30pm
Wed 8	The Trouble with Jessica (15) 7.30pm
Thurs 9	That They Face the Rising Sun (12A)
Fri 10	Back to Black (15)
Sat 11	Back to Black (15)
Sunday 26	Loves Lies Bleeding (15)
Tues 28	Loves Lies Bleeding (15)

Live Screening

Wednesday, 29 May, 2:30pm and 7:30pm

42nd Street, The Musical

from the Theatre Royal, London

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

42nd Street, the legendary Broadway musical theatre classic, is a 'glorious' (Express) and 'utterly moreish extravaganza of glitz' (Times). Telling the story of Peggy Sawyer, a talented young performer with stars in her eyes who gets her big break on Broadway, this is the largest ever staging of the Tony Award-winning musical and it was filmed live at the magnificent Theatre Royal in the heart of London's West End.

Starring national treasure Bonnie Langford as Dorothy Brock and featuring iconic songs 42nd Street, We're In The Money and Lullaby of Broadway, this is pure magic on the big screen.

Thursday, 30 May, 7:20pm
Sadler's Wells and Universal Music UK –
Message in a Bottle

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

Message In A Bottle is a spectacular new dance–theatre show from five–time Olivier Award nominee, Kate Prince, inspired by and set to the iconic hits of 17–time Grammy Award–winning artist Sting, including Every Breath You Take, Roxanne, Walking On The Moon and more. With a mix of exhilarating dance styles, high–energy footwork and breath–taking athleticism, Message In A Bottle tells a unifying and uplifting story of humanity and hope.

Live on Stage

Tuesday 21 May to Saturday 25th May, 7:30pm

Saturday 25 Matinee, 2:30pm

Sinodun Players present *The Invisible Man*

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Day by day

Wed
1 May **Dorchester Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting**
7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Fri
3 May **Dorchester Festival**
Begins
Until Sun 12 May
Various locations

Sun
5 May **Easter 6**
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am (from)
Festival Circus Service

Wed
8 May **Chiropodist**
Village Hall
Appointment only; see page 5

Parish Council Meeting
7.30pm
Village Hall

Sat
11 May **Cherwell Cricket League**
Dorchester 2 v East and West
Hendred 2
Recreation Ground

Sun
12 May **Easter 7**
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am
Festival Service

Dorchester Tennis Club
Adult lessons
From 2.30pm
Recreation Ground

Sat
18 May **Cherwell Cricket League**
Dorchester 1 v Bletchley Town 1
Recreation Ground

OSJ Concert
Schumann and Mozart
7.00pm
Dorchester Abbey

For current information about other
services at Dorchester Abbey see

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



Sun
19 May **Pentecost**
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am
Sung Eucharist

Dorchester Tennis Club
Adult lessons
From 2.30pm
Recreation Ground

Wed
22 May **Dorchester Historical Society**
Bill King
*Mount Farm, Berinsfield: its wartime
history*
7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Fri
24 May **English Music Festival**
Various times
Dorchester Abbey and Village Hall

Sat
25 May **Cherwell Cricket League**
Dorchester 2 v Didcot 4
Recreation Ground

English Music Festival
Various times
Dorchester Abbey and Village Hall

Sun
26 May **Trinity Sunday**
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am
Morning Worship

English Music Festival
Various times
Dorchester Abbey and Village Hall

Mon
27 May **English Music Festival**
Various times
Dorchester Abbey and Village Hall

Thurs
30 May **Bishop's Court Farm**
Community Meeting
2.30pm and 7.00pm
Snug

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.

Parish Registers

Baptisms

24 March Amelia Ellen and Phoebe
Grace Osbourn

Funerals

13 March Matthew Bernard Siarey
Husband

19 March Gordon Allnutt

4 April Maurice John Day



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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Berinsfield Health Centre: **01865 340558**
Clifton Hampden: **01865 407888**
Millstream Benson: **01491 838286**

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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

HIRE OF DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL

To hire our Village Hall, contact Emily Moore (interim) bookings@dotvh.org.uk or **01865 689452**.

Please telephone at least 24 hours in advance to arrange collection of the key.

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Abandoned vehicles, dog fouling, flyposting or graffiti, flytipping or litter, street cleaning, such as broken glass in a cycle lane, unlit lampposts, potholes can be reported on fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk. In an emergency, call **0345 310 1111**.

BLOCKED DRAINS

Ring Thames Water for blocked drains on **0800 316 9800**. Callers will be asked for the postcode of the address where the drains are blocked.

REFUSE COLLECTION

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

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If you suffer a power cut call **105** to get **National Grid** who will put you through to the network operator.

ANIMAL WELFARE

RSPCA (wildlife): **0300 123 0206**
St Tiggywinkles animal rescue: **01844 292292**
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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. She can be contacted on parishclerk@dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk

SODC CONTACT

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

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ABBEY E-MAIL:

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ABBEY WEBSITE

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www.stbirinus.co.uk

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



REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Wed 8 May **Black**
Tues 14 May **Green**
Tues 21 May **Black**
Tues 29 May **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/

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3rd-12th May

www.dorchesterfestival.com

As you read this the Festival will just be starting 64 brilliant events right on your doorstep in Dorchester. Do come along and enjoy the fun; there really is something for everyone and some events are completely free!

Get bidding in the Online Auction

Solve all your present problems or simply treat yourself to these great items at a good price! 42 amazing prizes, including days out, paintings, private tours, workshops and cake. Two Henley Regatta stewards enclosure tickets for Sunday, a garden design & plants, wine, nails —this is well worth a look! PLEASE take a look and support us—it's also really good fun! See the website or scan this QR code & get bidding.....



Sponsor a genuinely terrified abseiler



A brave group (including me) are abseiling down the 100ft Abbey tower for sponsorship. From our Rector Revd Jane Willis and Gavin, Bishop of Dorchester to Hugh Norris (at 92) they all need sponsorship to encourage them on their way. Many of them are pretty frightened of heights so PLEASE follow the links on the website to show your support. Cheer them on at 12noon on Sat 4th May.

Essential Village Events

Dorchester Dog Show

Sat 4th May

The dog show is fun day out for the whole village with categories to suit all ages of dogs and people from child handler to veteran & fancy dress. Prizes awarded for friendly cared for dogs rather than CRUFTS rules! Dog agility display at lunchtime.

Dorchester Duck Race

Sun 5th May

Ducks available from the Coop or tent. Buy now and start decorating!



Scarecrow trail

Fri 3rd—Sun 12th May

Scarecrows should already be in position around the village. Buy a trail map from the Coop or the tent, see how many you can guess and vote on the best scarecrow.

5k Fun Run (/walk)

BH Mon 6th May 11am

Take part in the hugely popular 5k Fun Run (or walk) along the river & through the Hurst. Bring the whole family – you can even bring the dog.

Food & Gift Fair 11th & 12th May

Come to eat fantastic street food for lunch and browse at our best fair yet! Completely packed with stallholders and live entertainment on our outside stage

Mad Hatters Tea Party 11th May 2/3.15/4.30pm

Book yourself in for a top quality cream tea full of surprises including many familiar characters played by DADs



Vicar Custard Walk

BH Mon 6th May 2pm

The now traditional vicar walks on custard (not water) at the kids science afternoon—yes really!

Local Artists Exhibition & Sale

4th-12th May

Support this amazing exhibition of work by artists living in and around Dorchester. Free entry.

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 at festival@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

March 2024



Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

November 2023



Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

February 2024



Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

May 2024



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May 2024

