

Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

October 2018





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Cover picture: Autumn sun sets over the remaining cooling towers of Didcot Power Station.

Deadline for November Dorchester News



email:

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

DoT view

I see that the Co-op started putting mince pies by the till in the middle of September, a sure sign that Christmas is somewhere on the horizon. And with this month's issue we start looking ahead to it, with a reminder to get your abbey Christmas and an appeal from Host to bring an international student into your home who would otherwise be alone.

But before we get there. We have autumn ahead of us. The big event in the Abbey is the start of *Light: A Spiritual Journey* which will continue into early 2019. A collaboration of local people, Adrian Brooks and Tim Cook, this promises to be special. Adrian's artwork theatres were seen in the Narnia event and more recently at the Allotment story event in the Guest House, and are always magical. Tim regularly composes music for the Abbey choir and elsewhere. The combination is bound to be spell binding. It is on for some weeks but make a point to get along to it early so that you have the chance to go back again and again.

I find it very sad that the WI looks like it will fold unless some new people come forward to take it over. I believe that all over the country WIs are being reinvented as something relevant to 21st century, and it would be great to see that happening here. There is an infrastructure in place to support however you would like to mould it to meet your needs.

And don't forget to put your clocks back at the end of the month!

Ian Brace

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Kathy Glass

Distribution Co-ordinator

Maurice Day

Printed by: Higgs of Henley

Oh, how we can't bear loose ends! It has been a summer of loose ends in my house.

At the beginning of July, I set myself the target of removing all of the ivy from the stone wall between our garden and the neighbours. But I didn't count on two things: first, that the wall was a good deal shorter, and the ivy a good deal more substantial, than I had thought; second, that the heatwave would be as bad (or good if you like that sort of thing). The result? I only managed to get about half of the offending ivy from the wall, and I won't get a chance to look at it again until after New Year. And every day, when I look out at the garden, there it is: a job half done. It is driving me mad!

On a more positive note, summer has also seen some loose ends tied up. As I write this talking point, I have only just managed to complete a book manuscript I have been desperate to get off my to do list, and some family news I have been waiting for has just arrived. And I

Talking Point

Rev. Michael Lakey

dens and carry off what mean-

am utterly delighted about both of these results. But if I am honest with myself, there is part of me that is still obsessing about the unfinished job of the ivy, not to mention the sermon I haven't yet written, the person that I was going to ring about a visit and the emails I haven't sent.

If I stop to think about it, it occurs to me our obsession with loose ends is perhaps a sign of a deeper anxiety all of us experience from time to time about making sense of life. Loose ends aren't just evidence of work still to do; they are evidence of how limited our powers are to tame the little plots of earth we inhabit. If I can't tame the ivy in my garden, what does that say of my capacity to tame actual chaos—those events that threaten to unravel the fabric of life? What do I do when illness, unemployment, bereavement, death or a host of other common misfortunes come down like prowling beasts from their mountain

ing I have managed to wrest from the world, leaving only disorder and chaos behind them.

There is a line in the biblical book Isaiah that goes: 'You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you'. I don't think Isaiah the prophet had in mind a sort of innocent detachment from the world that was blasé about all of the horrible things that can befall any of us from time to time. I think he meant something more like 'when the bottom falls out of our world, that is when we are able to discover and depend upon what *or who* lies beneath our world, preventing us from falling indefinitely'. For Isaiah, and for Christians, that means two things: we cannot control the chaos of life, but the loss of our illusions of control is not as bad as it seems.

For me, this means the ivy stays . . . for the time being!

Dorchester Team Churches welcoming children and families

During the forthcoming months the Dorchester Team Council will be considering two very important items of business in connection with welcoming and encouraging families. The first half of the Team Council meeting at 7.45pm on 6 November (venue to be confirmed) will be an open meeting with the Diocesan Children's Advisor Yvonne Morris. Anyone with an interest in either of the initiatives below is warmly invited to attend the first half of the meeting, listen to Yvonne, ask questions and share thoughts with the Team Council. After the 'open' section of the meeting the Team Council will continue to meet and will be able to take into account the views expressed by our visitors.

Children and Communion

In many Church of England parishes in the Oxford Diocese and across the country children who have been properly prepared and are a part of their church community receive communion before they are Confirmed. This is all a part of including children in the life and worship of the church at an appropriate stage in their spiritual development. Often the children of students

assisting in the parishes or those of visitors elsewhere are used to receiving communion in their own parishes and they are welcome to do so here. However we do not currently have in place the permissions and teaching we need to extend this to our own children and young people and the Team Clergy would very much like to see this step taken. We have invited Yvonne Morris to come and outline what this would involve for us.

Families and Children Worker

For many years there has been an aspiration to appoint someone within the Team who is specifically qualified to work with children and young people. There is a real opportunity to make this a reality for our parishes and we are actively discussing the appointment of an individual with the skills to encourage families and their pre-teen children. Members of PCC's and of the Team Council have a draft job description which is under consideration. Yvonne will also be able to answer questions and offer advice about this at the November meeting to which all are invited.

Harvest

The Morning Service on **7 October** will be our Harvest Festival Service. We welcome gifts of garden and allotment produce for the Festival which will be used to decorate the Abbey in the Traditional Style – if you can bring contributions on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning that is most helpful. If you wish to bring gifts that can be given to the Food Bank in Wallingford or Oxford Porch, you will find a list of the most useful gifts on the right:

- Long-life fruit juice
- Sugar
- Corned beef
- Hot dogs
- Tinned fruit
- Custard
- Rice pudding
- Packets of cereal



Thefts from Dorchester Abbey

On 7 September Thames Valley Police issued the following statement:

'A man has been charged with theft following a Thames Valley Police investigation.

Martin Banyard, aged 68, of Peppard Road, Emmer Green, Reading, has been charged with four counts of theft.

The charges relate to incidents at Dorchester Abbey, Dorchester-on-Thames, in which cash was removed from a gift box between 4pm on Tuesday 31 July and 6pm on Tuesday 28 August.

He was bailed and is due to appear at Oxford Magistrates' Court on 21 September'

The arrest came after Abbey Treasurer, Nick Forman, spotted the man in the Abbey, recognised him from CCTV footage of the thefts and called the police. Nick followed the man to the bus stop on the bypass, where police picked up the suspect.

Memorial Service

Sun 4 November

The season of All Saints and All Souls is a special time to remember and pray for those whom we love and who have been examples for us and who have died. Each year at this time I send a particular invitation to the families of those for whom we have hosted Funerals and Memorial Services in recent years. This year the service will be held on **Sunday 4 November** at 10.30am – a list of remembrance is read, prayers are said and there is an opportunity to light candles. Normally people receive a letter of invitation for five years. If there is someone important to you that you would like to be included in the list of remembrance who died longer ago or whose funeral service was held elsewhere you are most welcome to contact the office (**01865 340007**;

admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk) or to sign the list which will be on the large table at the back of the Abbey.

Dorchester Lunch Club

This is a reminder of the dates until Christmas, for the Lunch Club lunches in the back room of the Village Hall, at 12.30 for 12.45: **10 October; 24 October; 7 November; 28 November; 14 December.** I hope all of you that came regularly in past times will attend again; you only need to let me know if you can't come. The cost of the lunch has remained the same at £5.

I would very much like to see new members joining us. Any Dorchester resident who has retired would be most welcome. If you have not been a regular attendee in the past, just phone me the Monday before any of the dates shown above to let me know you would like to come.

Susan Jupp
tel: **01865 341066**



Angels from the Shrine Chapel window
21 x 9.7cm

Dorchester Abbey Christmas Cards

Sold in aid of Dorchester Abbey



Nativity scene in the Shrine Chapel window.
12 x 12cm

Victorian wall painting of the Annunciation from the Lady Chapel
9 x 20cm
(blank inside)



Nativity scene from the East End window
17.6 x 12.5cm

Cards are sold with envelopes in packs of 10 for £4.50 and are colour printed on glossy quality card with 'Happy Christmas' inside and 'Sold in aid of Dorchester Abbey' on the back.



© Nick Forman

They can be bought from the back of the Abbey and the Museum.

Dorchester WI Decision time!

INSPIRING WOMEN The Dorchester WI is almost certain to close this December because no one wants to run it, unless a group of younger mums take it over and totally transform and rejuvenate it, and I can promise no existing members would stand in your way. You change the day of the week and time of day that meetings are held each month to suit you, you would plan meetings and activities that you wanted. This is what is happening in towns where young members are transforming the WI.

If our WI closes in December, all the money we have in our funds will have to be handed to the Oxfordshire Federation of the Women's Institute, and kept for a period of three years before being handed to the National Federation, but if young mums (and you don't have to be a mum) were to restart the Dorchester WI within the three year period, then these funds would be handed over to you to re-form the new Dorchester WI and make it as you wanted it to be. As the WI is a charity you would have to form a committee between yourselves to run it and be trustees of the charity while on the committee, but as I have already mentioned, you would decide what day of the week you want to hold meetings each month and whether you want these in the

morning, afternoon or evening and what speakers or activities you want, all that would be entirely your choice. So why not get together and think about doing this. If you think you might be interested in doing this and you would like to have more information about what would be involved, please contact me and I will do my best to help you (contact details below).

Over the 100 years the WI has existed, it has made a significant contribution to important decisions made by government and the laws passed. So if you have a burning issue about things you feel should be changed, then being a member of the WI could be a good way to get that done. **It's over to you young women!**

Our meeting on **Thursday 11 October** at 2.30pm has the speaker Liz Woolley telling us about *'Beer, Sausages & Marmalade, Drink & Politics in 19C Oxfordshire'*. Visitors are welcome, a small donation to cover refreshments would be appreciated.

Susan Jupp

tel: **01865 341066**. Email: susan@jupp13dot.force9.co.uk

Ann Johnstone

Ann Johnstone, née Holliday, who lived in Dorchester for 60 years, has died peacefully at her home in Hayling Island, aged 72 years.

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St Birinus Primary School News

As I write this we are just reaching the end of our first full week of the new academic year. As we start the term, we are looking forward to more exciting learning adventures.

Our whole school theme for the first two weeks of term is Russia, this year. The children will be exploring the language, stories and its culture – I am looking forward to hearing about that in our presentation assembly.

All Fox class are learning the violin together, which I know the children were very excited about – I think I can hear what you are thinking about 26 children learning the violin at once but I am sure it will be a welcome noise and a great skill for them all to learn. I believe Mrs Eade is also learning as well.

You will have noticed our new fencing within the playground that was fitted during the summer holidays; these have been included to help us meet our safeguarding requirement – keeping our children safe.

Thank you to the volunteers who responded to the request last month to support the school with reading. If anyone else is interested please do contact me at the school. Thank you.



Russell Leigh
Headteacher
Dorchester St Birinus
CE Primary School

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Wednesday 24th October 3.00pm

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Wednesdays 10.30am

Storytime Wednesdays 3.45pm

IT Drop in Thursdays 2.00pm

Knit and Natter

Tuesday 2nd October 2.30pm

Reading Group

Thursday 11th October

Coffee Morning

Tuesday 16th October

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries



Pre School News

The new school year started by welcoming five new children to Pre-school. Good luck to all our new starters and we hope that you all have a brilliant school year. Our term topic is 'All about me'; we will be studying numbers from 1 to 10 and letters this term will be A to G. The colour of the term is Orange and shape of term is Square. We have lots of visitors coming to see us this term. We will have a visit from a Grandma and the librarian will visit us from Berinsfield library. Mrs. Harding from the foundation class at Dorchester Primary school will visit us and tell us the news about the children who moved up and started big school this year. Hayley will be having a green fingers gardening session planting in our raised bed.

October brings our Halloween party fundraising event – watch this space for details! Posters will go up around the village letting you know when and where.

The Pre School AGM is coming up on the **18 October**, 8.00pm at Pre School. We would love to see anyone who would like to be part of the pre school management committee, we are always happy to have new members. You don't need to have a child at Pre School to join the committee. Contact Hayley at admin@dorchesterpreschool.co.uk

Kristina Palm
Secretary, Dorchester Pre School



Culham & District Horticultural Club



Meetings are held at the Abbey Guest House, Dorchester-on-Thames at 7.30pm

Wednesday 17 October 2018

'Plants and Plant Combinations for Summer Containers'
by Harriet Rycroft

Ms Rycroft spent nearly fourteen years working at **Whichford Pottery**, planning, planting and maintaining large displays of planted pots.

Membership is open to all those who have a keen interest in horticulture (annual subscription £15) and visitors are welcome at the meeting (suggested donation £3). For more details telephone **01235 850381** or email

judy@tiggercat.me.uk



Once again, we would like to give you an update on the museum's progress, and 'en devenir'

I have been the voluntary Curator for the last three years and I am stepping down in December.

It's been both a pleasure, and hard work, to find my way and apply my knowledge as I progressed with the Museum Project.

I would like to thank Rev. Sue Booy and the Abbey PCC - in the first place, to have entrusted this project to me - and to thank as well the museum volunteer team, who had to deal with my determination and new ideas in managing the museum.

Finally, I must thank all the museum professionals, our Museum Mentor, and my assistant, who gave me the tools and knowledge to perform in this field.

The museum is going to be assessed for official Museum Accreditation again in March 2019, and I will of course be honoured to bring the museum to the next Accreditation level.

History of the museum

Dorchester Abbey Museum was started in 1959 by Edith Stedman, an American lady, a member of the Friends of our magnificent Abbey. Edith was determined to showcase what this small village had to offer and in particular the most exciting archaeological heritage, including major Neolithic Monuments, an Iron Age town at the Dyke Hills, and an important Roman fortified town.

The village we see today has its origins in the Anglo-Saxon period. Dorchester-on-Thames became a major ecclesiastical centre after St Birinus established a bishopric in AD 635.

Our accredited museum has been managed by many curators and volunteers since, enriching displays and collections. As a Millennium project Ron Hawes brought together the Dorchester Historical Society archives to the museum collection. Today our collection has nearly 1,000 items.

Our museum today

The main challenge remains in showing our Archaeology, Local History, Natural History and Art collection to the public, as was required by the last Accreditation assessment in 2015.

Current projects

With the help of the BOB Museum Association, our Museum Mentor and museum professionals, we have been focusing on making the collection accessible in the first place, and retrievable through the management of our Access database. We also aim to make it retrievable by the immediate local community - who have been contributing to enlarge the local history archives - but also to a wider public, in transferring the museum collection onto an internet platform via a website. The museum has to care for and enrich its collection in order to hand it onto the future generation.

The museum database and collections project will be finalised by December with the contribution of two post-graduate students from the University of Oxford, their supervisors, myself and my assistant, a team of museum volunteers, as well as the department of Oxford Archaeology, the Ashmolean, and the Museum Resource Centre based in Standlake.

Recent changes

For the past three years, the museum has gone through major changes :

- We have improved the museum environment with better lighting, WiFi, and a more open, flexible space for activities when the museum is closed for the season.
- We have created a brand new gift shop which has proved to be very successful and involved many changes, introducing a till, credit card sales, and bar code records.
- We have introduced training sessions for volunteers on Health and Safety and museum procedures
- Our Education Officer has created an education program alongside the existing programmes run by the Abbey Education Department, in order to welcome more schools to the museum, and promote stronger links with our local school. The museum is presently working on an Anglo-Saxon display which will link to the existing Anglo-Saxon study days run by the Abbey, and two volunteers are creating two new school loan boxes,

one on the History of Light and the other one with Roman artefacts from the previous archaeological digs.

- We have an improved control over the museum's display and storage environments and humidity issues.
- We have opened the museum to a wider public, as well as to tour groups and various other visiting parties with the Abbey, concentrating on welcoming and guiding.
- And finally but not least, we have reconnected with Dorchester villagers who regularly pop round, to the volunteers' delight.
- We have re-structured our database last winter with IT experts, worked with the archaeologists, Museum Mentor and local history experts on all the database fields and in particular the inventory of artefacts in store, the inventory of our local archives as well as the documentation procedures.

This last project and exercise will demonstrate how a database should be managed effectively and the key role of the documentation procedures as well as the key role of computer experts.

This project is an excellent practice in collection management, collection care access and interpretation on a small scale.

Summer 2018 was the final year of the 'Discovering Dorchester' excavation project. Over the 10 years of this archaeological project, Oxford Archaeology and the University of Oxford team have excavated the Allotments trench site down to the 'natural', recorded levels of settlement and activity from the Anglo-Saxon period to the beginnings of Roman activity here, and retrieved 100,000 artefacts. During the post-excavation and publication phase of this project, we at the museum hope to be able to enhance our Roman Dorchester displays and showcase this unique and important site.

I would be very pleased to talk about what has been done over the past three years with anyone who is interested. If you are interested in applying for the role of voluntary curator and are curious to know what this would entail, please come to see me. The position of Curator will soon be advertised by the Abbey.

Anne-Marie Joffrin

**Dorchester on Thames
Historical Society
Wednesday 24 October 2018
7.30pm, Village Hall Back Room
Members free, Visitors welcome (£3)**

Change of Programme

We are delighted to announce that Lesley Best, from the Sylva Foundation in Long Wittenham, will come and talk about

The House of Wessex project

In 2016, the remains of an important Anglo-Saxon building were discovered on land at the Sylva Wood Centre in south Oxfordshire. Thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and with support from volunteers, there are plans to reconstruct the house and launch a series of exciting education activities. Lesley will tell us about the dig carried out in 2017 by Oxford Archaeology and the University of Oxford Department of Continuing Education, and their plans for the future. [See the announcement of an open weekend below and right.]



Visitors and new members are always very welcome to our talks and outings.

Margot Metcalfe
Chairman

**Sylva Foundation
Great House of Wessex Project
Anglo-Saxon Public Open Weekend
13 & 14 October, 10.00am-4.00pm *Free entry***

Sylva Foundation, based in Long Wittenham, have a very exciting programme of activities lined up for their first Anglo-Saxon open weekend, as part of the House of Wessex project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Over the two days they will offer opportunities for all the family to experience a wide range of Anglo-Saxon activities.

- Watch and learn about Anglo-Saxon treewrighting (not 'carpentry'!) including cleaving and hewing timbers, and timber framing techniques.
- Have a go at hurdle making and the opportunity to try your hand at mixing wattle and daub!
- A thatcher will be holding demonstrations on the thatching techniques to be used for our building.



- Children can join in milling, from start to finish, to help make bread using a rotary quern-stone.
- International award-winning living history society, the Wulfheodenas, will be demonstrating a wide range of Anglo-Saxon arts and crafts. There will be textile production, from fleece to fabric, bone carving, antler working, leather working, jewellery and material making and lots more.
- Children can listen to an Anglo-Saxon storyteller and learn and play games from this fascinating period in history. Each tent will have a mini display and people can see and ask questions about each activity. They look forward to welcoming you and your family. See the event on **Facebook**.

Location: Sylva Wood Centre, Long Wittenham, OX14 4QT

Read more about the House of Wessex project which has developed out of the exciting discovery in 2017 of the site of an Anglo-Saxon house at the Sylva Foundation site (Wood Centre) in Long Wittenham, reported widely in the local press.

Dorchester Historical Society will be contributing to this project as one of the local history societies helping to develop a heritage trail linking Dorchester, Sutton Courtenay and Long Wittenham, all important Anglo-Saxon sites in our area.

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'Unbroken Glory—Hidden Radiance' - *Rupert Brooke*

A project to honour those who fought and those who died. If you have the names of anyone you wish to commemorate, whether you, or they, have a connection with the village of Dorchester, and/or you would like to make a poppy, you are invited to join in.

Unbroken Glory – Hidden Radiance is part of Dorchester's Community Tribute, to mark the Centenary Anniversary of the Armistice of World War One, which will be on display in Dorchester Abbey from November 1st.

Details in the back of the Abbey, including a form to fill in with the names of those you wish to be commemorated and a kit to knit a poppy.

Thank you to everyone who has already donated red wool or black buttons. We would welcome further donations – please deliver to the Rectory marked 'for poppies'. To those of you who have knitted poppies – thank you very much; they are really beautiful.

Further details from Denise Line **01865 340905**; denise.line@btinternet.com.



Painting: Rosie Southon



We're nearly there! *LIGHT: A Spiritual Journey* is opening soon!

Mark Saturday 20 October in your diaries! After months of waiting in just a few short weeks this innovative art installation by our own local artist Adrian Brooks will be unveiled in the Abbey's Cloister Gallery. This is a first for Dorchester!

You've probably read a few teasers about this event in previous editions of the Dorchester News, now you'll finally get an opportunity to experience it for yourselves, to wander through this stunning new display of globally inspired art, in the context of projected images from outer space, whilst listening to the awe-inspiring music of Tim Cook. There are a series of 6 internally lit shrines of differing heights and colours which will be placed in the Cloister Gallery. As you enter the Gallery Tim Cook's music will begin to play and as you proceed down the space, each shrine will light up and enable you to study it more closely. You will be able to see how Adrian has been inspired by a wide range of sources, from the Abbey's own shrine history, to different types of religious shrines across the world, to even more contemporary commemorative 'shrines' signifying where people have

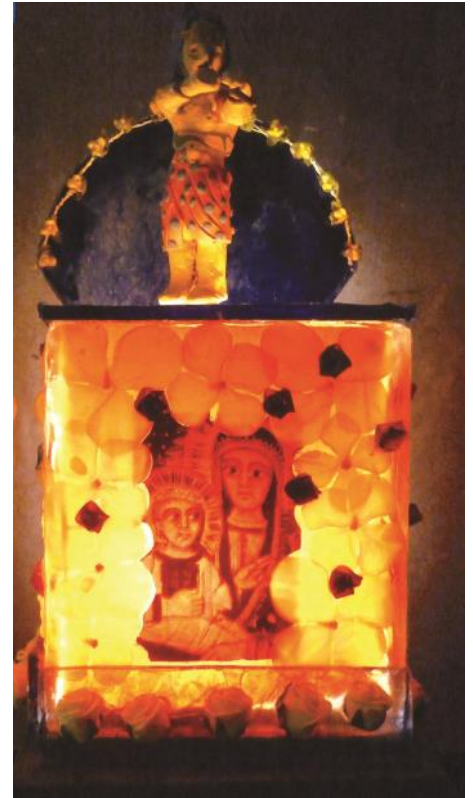
lost their lives. You will enjoy exploring the rich imagery Adrian has created, whilst being moved by Tim's musical score.

This exhibition has been many months in planning, preparation and completion. We are very much looking forward to welcoming visitors, groups and schools to have guided tours of this awe-inspiring exhibition. But we also have a special event linked to this next month on Thursday 28 November! We are staging an evening event entitled *The Science and Spirituality of Light* to explore some of the 'big ideas' this exhibition touches upon, with important speakers from science and the arts.

Don't forget that accompanying **LIGHT** will be a thematically linked education programme exploring the areas of history, RE, science, literacy, and design. As well as a guided tour of the exhibition, planned workshops will include themes such as *Pilgrimages and Shrines*, *Creation Stories in Science and Faiths*, *Shadow Puppets and Stories of Light*, amongst others. Adults can also arrange to have specially guided tours of the exhibition, to explore the iconography in more depth. Please contact the Abbey's Education

Officer, Margaret Craig, for further details or to make a booking!

Below: Indian Shrine



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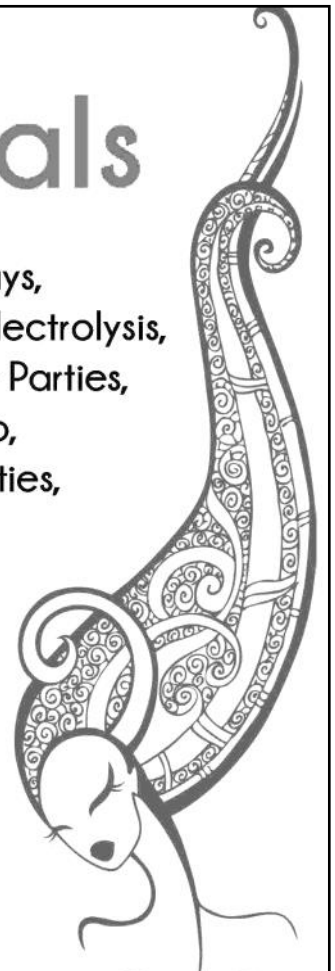
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The Autumn Flower Show

It seems that weeks of drought were not enough to deter the gardeners of Dorchester, Burcot and Drayton St Leonard. The entries for the show were as high in number as usual and there was, according to the expert judges, no decrease in quality either. special mention should also go to some amazing baking, and the continued strong interest in the photography classes. Thank you to everyone who entered and made the show such a success.

We are pleased to say that the show is on a good footing financially, and we will be using some of our funds to buy a new table for the village hall, and to support other good causes around the village.

The roll of honour is below –congratulations to all the prize winners. The trophy for the best-kept allotment is not included, as we are handing that over to the allotments committee who will judge and award it themselves.

The Committee

Roll of Honour

Children's classes

A Paper Boat Age 8 and under	1st Alistair Mucklow
	2nd Delilah Budd
	3rd Charlotte Bristow.
	Highly Commended Milo Budd

A Paper Boat Age over 8	1st Emilia Fordova
	2nd Tabitha Gauden
	3rd Cecily Gauden

Adult classes

Runner Bean Plate	Michael Kitson
--------------------------	----------------

Pat Cheese Potato Cup	Charles Dickerson
------------------------------	-------------------

Vegetable Collection Plate	Charles Dickerson
-----------------------------------	-------------------

R Belcher Onion Cup	Donna Watkin
----------------------------	--------------

Jenny Nudds Tomato Cup	Jenny Trinder
-------------------------------	---------------

Best Vegetable Award	Donna Watkin
-----------------------------	--------------

Fruit Plate	Donna Watkin
--------------------	--------------

Blackwell Photography Cup	Helen Russell
----------------------------------	---------------

Jerry Nudds Fruit Cake Plate	Maurice Day
-------------------------------------	-------------

Victoria Sandwich Award	Nick Forman
--------------------------------	-------------

Rose Plate	Steph Forman
-------------------	--------------

H C Smith Dahlia Cup	Michael Kitson
-----------------------------	----------------

Floral Art Cup	Hayley Poole
-----------------------	--------------

Britain in Bloom Cup	Margaret Broadbent
-----------------------------	--------------------

Amey Tankard	Charles Dickerson
---------------------	-------------------

Amey Rose Bowl	Charlotte Bennett
-----------------------	-------------------



The Sports Clubs of Dorchester



The value of sport to a local community like ours extends beyond sport itself. It can play a massive role in bringing our small community together, having a major social and cultural impact, whilst also reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

Regular involvement in sport benefits us as individuals, and it can contribute to a range of positive outcomes. Local people participating as volunteers, having a greater voice and influence over decision-making but also gives us a more sustainable community with a sense of local pride and place.

In our small community that is Dorchester-on-Thames, sport isn't the most popular hobby, but it's important to still get involved whether that is via participation or a social aspect, or even volunteering. In our village, the most popular sport is Cricket.

Cricket

'The senior sides play league cricket on Saturdays within the Oxfordshire Cricket Association and this season the first team are in division 3 and the second team division 6,' said David Rippington, who is the secretary of our Cricket Club here in the village. 'Friendly cricket is played most Sundays throughout the summer. We also play T20 matches on Wednesday evenings during the early part of the season in a local league so cricketers of all abilities are catered for.'

For a village like ours, giving the opportunity to anyone to play sport is important because of our notably older average population. Competitive sport isn't neces-

sarily what most of our village could be interested in, but giving everyone an opportunity to come down and socialise and participate is what brings a local community together.

'Unfortunately Cricket, like many sports, is going through difficult times in terms of the numbers participating and there has been a significant decline, evident from the fact there are currently 8 divisions within the OCA, with this number likely to drop next year whereas there were 11 divisions a few years ago,' David continued. Dorchester's strongest sport is most definitely Cricket, which means it is thriving in terms of a comparison to other local villages in our area.

Dorchester Cricket has been proactive in raising revenue via village quizzes, match ball sponsorships, etc. all to improve the facilities at the recreation ground. We have purchased a mobile practice net, which is available at all times for anyone in the village to use. 'This year, with the

help of some grant funding from the ECB [which is the board for English and Welsh Cricket], we have purchased mobile rain covers, which locals would have noticed at our recreation ground, so I think we can take some credit for the beautiful rain free summer everyone has enjoyed,' joked David.

Dorchester Cricket would like to thank their groundman, Kim Rockall, who can often be seen working on the pitch to make it one of the best playing surfaces in the Area. They are also always in search of new members and currently have a very broad age range of players ranging from 15 to 65. If you're interested in joining the local Cricket team at any level, you can pop along to the recreation ground on a Saturday, and introduce yourself.



Above: Dorchester FC in 2016 (Oxford Mail)

Below: Dorchester CC in action



Football

One of our other most popular sports in the village is Football, and it's been around for a long time. *'Dorchester Football Club was founded in 1887. The original pitch was on a meadow owned by Mr F Shrubbs in Overy, but it was prone to flooding and the players had to change [into their kit] behind a hedge,'* said Mike Stimpson, secretary of the club. *'In 1895, the club began playing at the Recreation ground, which had been given to the village by Thomas Michin.'* Mr Bullock gave the nice looking new pavillion to the village ground, which means that the players also now had somewhere to change. *'The club has had its ups and downs and was reformed in 2011. There is currently just one team which plays in Division 3 of the North Berks League. We have a young side with an average age of only about 21.'*

Dorchester Football is filled with players that aren't actually from Dorchester - so what actually brings them into the village to play? *'I think I'm the only one who actually lives in Dorchester,'* said Miles, a player in the team. Miles says that most of the players are from Abingdon, and some are from Berinsfield. This is likely the result of the core social group of the club's players all going to school together in Abingdon, so most of the new players that eventually come in will likely be from that area.

Dorchester's ageing population unfortunately means most residents are too old to play in the side, but Miles wishes they would get more involved in different ways, such as supporting the club and coming down to see games. *'When the season starts [at the beginning of September] we'll be playing every Saturday, with Dave Lyne as our manager. I've really enjoyed my time playing for the club.'* If you are interested in joining the Dorchester football team, contact Mike Stimpson on **01865 340385**.

One thing to be considered as a village would be to install a walking football team for players of all ages to get active and moving again into a sport that they are interested in. There are already several Walking Football activities in South Oxfordshire including Crowmarsh Gifford, Little Milton and Chalgrove, but having one in Dorchester for all ages could be a success.

Tennis

Tennis is a sport that has been popular in the village with everyone of all ages. The tennis courts at the recreation ground can often be seen being played on all throughout the day. The Dorchester Tennis club was founded in 1970s by local residents, and in 2014 was completely refurbished **and** opened by British Tennis legend Tim Henman. Their aim is 'to provide tennis facilities, at a reasonable price, to the residents of Dorchester-on-Thames and the surrounding area.' The club also provides access to coaching facilities for both Junior and Adult players.

'We have 65 members comprising 15 families and 14 individuals including juniors. It is run by a committee of four people,' said Chris Smith, a representative for the club. *'The club is a member of the Lawn Tennis Association which gives us a number of benefits including preferential access to Wimbledon tickets. We have two courts [in the village] which we choose not to lock. Our idea is to encourage as many people as possible to participate in sport,'* continued Chris. *'There is also a multi-use court, with a tennis hitting wall, as well as markings for five-a-side football and a netball court. Keeping the courts open to the public does provide challenges such as vandalism and litter.'*

Dorchester Tennis Club members have priority to the courts as their membership fees pay for upkeep and maintenance of the facility, for example, recent cleaning of the courts cost in the region of £500.

They have Spring and Autumn tournaments as well as competitive summer ladders including mixed doubles and Ladies. The club also have access to the pavillion whenever they need it, but actually only use it twice a year, for the use of the facilities during the tournaments.

'We provide coaching for Juniors on Thursday afternoons during school terms and Adult coaching runs throughout the year on Wednesday and Thursday.' For any enquiries contact Chris Smith at **chriscssmith@btinternet.com** or on **01865 341947**.

We have even more sports in the village to choose from, but also fitness classes as well. In a world these days where we spend a lot of time sat down in front of a



Tim Henman opened the courts in 2014

Tennis Club Schedule

Sunday

10.30am – 1.00pm - Open club session

Wednesday

9.30am – 10.30am - Adult coaching

10.30am – 12.30pm - Open club Session

6.30pm – 9.00pm - Open Club night (during the Summer)

Thursday

10.30am – 11.30 am - Adult coaching

11.30am – 1.00pm - Open club session

3.45pm – 6.15 pm - Junior coaching (school term only)

Friday

10.30 am – 1.00 pm - Ladies morning

television or on the internet, it's important to get daily exercise and our facilities and sports clubs down at the recreation ground offer a great opportunity for anyone in the parish to get involved.

Joey Poole

Cricket Results Oxfordshire Cricket Association



Division 3		Result
18/08/2018	Bampton v Dorchester	Bampton win by 3 wkts
25/08/2018	Dorchester v West Ilsley	Dorchester win by 136 runs
01/09/2018	Broughton and NN v Dorchester	Broughton and NN win by 7 wkts
09/09/2018	Dorchester v Kidlington	Dorchester win by 5 wkts

Dorchester finish the season 4th in Division 3

Division 6		Result
18/08/2018	Dorchester II v Middleton Chaney II	Dorchester II win by 75 runs
19/08/2018	Dorchester II v Risinghurst II	Dorchester II win by 143 runs
25/08/2018	Witney Swifts II v Dorchester II	Witney Swifts II win by 246 runs
01/09/2018	Dorchester II v Letcombe	Letcombe win by 66 runs

Dorchester II finish the season 7th in Division 6

Football Results

North Berks League

Div 3

01/09/2018	Letcombe First	3	0	Dorchester First
15/09/2018	Marcham First	0	3	Dorchester First

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Kathy's Strawberry Tea 2018

Another successful tea was held on Wednesday July 11, at which a splendid total of £625 was raised. This was split equally between the Thames Valley Air Ambulance and Macmillan Nurses. A huge thank you to all involved, especially cake makers and raffle prize donors, and of course to all those who helped, who generously made donations and who ate cake!

Kathy Glass



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End of Summer, moving into Autumn, nature's harvest has been enjoyed, and in some cases, is still upon us.

Nature itself has and will consume its share too. We humans seem to resent birds especially eating some of what we call 'our' gooseberries, 'our' strawberries, 'our' redcurrants.

It's a paradox, we want nature to share our gardens, but not share 'its' produce.

By growing the aforementioned fruits, we are already building a food chain. We are just one of many inhabiting those food chains. Every plant we grow, is a host to one creature or another. We can't stop that, yet, we put so much energy into trying.

As Autumn moves into Winter, remember to grow more berries for Winter feeding birds. We seem happy to share the produce we don't, or can't, eat with wildlife, but that's not so regarding 'our' own prized produce.

I challenge you to think of the food chains in your gardens and how you fit into it, not dictate it. There's enough food for us and the wildlife to live side by side.

Happy Gardening

Stuart Mabbutt
Wildlife Gardening Specialist



noticed a fuss being made of one man, and asked a nearby air hostess who it was. 'Oh, that's Sir Ranulph Fiennes,' she explained. 'He's on his way to run his seventh marathon, in seven continents, in seven days.'

And that was that. My mind was made up. Seven days might be a bit ambitious, but as a lifetime goal, running a marathon in each continent? Why not? What a great excuse to see the world, to keep fit, and to try to raise some money for some good causes at the same time.

Within hours of landing, I was researching different marathons all over the world, quickly discovering that the races weren't just limited to big cities.

Africa

The first that caught my eye was in Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, in the foothills of Mount Kenya. It was taking place in

other than a disposable, the photos from which did not seem to clearly show the animals I was sure were in view! Six years later, Prince William proposed to Kate Middleton at Lewa, having previously spent three months of his gap year there.

North America

My third marathon was in New York in November 2006. The crowds were almost as supportive as in London, and I was determined to get a new personal best time, hoping for 3 hours and 30 minutes. Completing the first half in 1:34, I was well ahead of schedule, and felt confident. However, the bridge into Manhattan was improbably steep, breaking my rhythm. I needed to run the last three miles in 30 minutes to achieve my goal, which should have been easy, but I hadn't banked on Central Park being quite so hilly, and I finished with a time of 3:38. I returned to the US in 2010 for the Chicago Marathon, and while I improved my time by 3 minutes, my target was still elusive.

Moving jobs, and then retraining as a teacher took priority for the next few years, and it was only after moving to Dorchester-on-Thames in 2014, that the next marathons were planned.

Europe (again)

In 2015, after running the London marathon again, I entered Marathon du Medoc, a race in Bordeaux that involved 'tasting wine' at different chateaux every mile or so, with oysters, croissants and steak provided en route too. Bizarrely, the following morning, I felt fine, this being the only marathon, I've not felt stiff after!

Europe

As a child, watching the London Marathon on TV was an annual ritual. Rather than be inspired, I was sure the runners were out of their minds. Why would anyone put themselves through 26 miles of pain and agony on a cold, wet Sunday morning? Yet on 14th April 2002, I somehow found myself at the start line, having convinced myself that the time was right for this once-in-a-lifetime challenge. I'd started work in London the previous September, wanted to raise money for Marie Curie, and needed a distraction from the trading floor that kept me otherwise occupied 60 hours a week. Training through the winter had been tough, but I felt ready. The crowds were incredibly supportive, but in the Docklands with nine miles still to go, I was struggling. To this day, I can't visit Canary Wharf without flashbacks. Finishing with very sore knees that would take weeks to recover, and enormous blisters replacing missing toenails, I swore that I would never, ever run a marathon again.

The following year, arriving late for an overbooked flight to New York, after a lengthy pause, I was relieved when the kind British Airways employee found me a seat. 'You've got 15 minutes to get to the gate... now hurry up, and make sure you take advantage of the free drinks, as it's in business class!' she ordered. My first ever upgrade! Upon boarding, I

June 2004, which gave me plenty of time to train for the heat, hills and high altitude. Unlike London, there were no cheering crowds along the route, and there were only a few hundred competitors, half of whom were Kenyan, and had run ten miles or more to get to the start line. The course was on dirt tracks through a wildlife sanctuary with cheetahs, giraffes, elephants, rhino and buffalo for company. After the first few kilometres, the runners dispersed, and I was alone in the savannah, except for a refreshment stall every 3 miles, an occasional steward armed with a rifle and a spotter plane circling overhead. Approaching the half way point, I was joined by some gazelle who ran alongside me, then a few miles later, I had to stop to let some zebra cross the track in front of me - very much a welcome break!

I was at first a little upset to find out after the race that they had shot a zebra the night before to feed to a pride of lions who had moved close to the course to ensure they weren't hungry, and the stewards had been located accordingly for our safety. On a safari drive the following day, we were lucky to see all of the big five, all a bit too close for comfort to the route we'd run the day before! It was a truly stunning, majestic location, my only wish being that I had been organised enough to bring a camera



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Antarctica

Continent number four was the big one. Antarctica. How do you train for running on snow in temperatures around -20 degrees? Running along the River Thames on a dark December morning wouldn't suffice, so I headed to the Alps for three weeks intensive high altitude training.

Visiting Antarctica in January 2017 was an adventure in itself. I flew to Santiago in Chile, then on to Punta Arenas, the southernmost city in the world. From there, we had to wait for the right weather conditions for our flight to Union Glacier, Antarctica. A Russian cargo plane with no windows would be transporting us on a 5 hour trip, landing on an ice runway, just a few hundred miles from the South Pole. We stayed for four days at a temporary campsite, set up for explorers and scientists. Going to bed at midnight, the sun was as bright as ever, yet my cup of tea was frozen when I woke the next morning. In the pre-race briefing, we were shown a map of the route, with deep crevasses dangerously close. Had anyone been thinking of taking a shortcut, this would certainly have convinced them otherwise!

A key danger was wearing too many layers, as this would cause you to get too hot, to perspire, and then become cold, which could quickly lead to hypothermia. Wearing full-body thermals, a fleece, a windproof outerlayer, gloves, goggles and a hat, I sprinted the first 100 metres of the race, taking the lead. While it only lasted a minute, it gave me my new claim to fame of having been ahead of US marathon record holder Ryan Hall (also competing) in a marathon. After a sunny first half, clouds appeared and strong winds made the last 10 miles really challenging, with invisible snow drifts tripping me up on several occasions. The cup of tea I had after finishing had never tasted so good.

Australasia

Deciding that I should aim to complete all seven continents before I was 40 created renewed urgency, and I booked my final three races, all within a year. Melbourne was to be next, in October 2017. Injury and illness during training put paid to hopes of breaking my 3:30 goal, and I finished with a time of 3:45, after a thoroughly enjoyable trip down under.

Asia

While running on roads was great, my preference was for something more unusual, and so in April 2018, I flew to Beijing for a marathon on the Great Wall of China. Much of the marathon was on the wall



itself, including some very steep sections. The total ascent of 1800 metres is comparable to running up 9000 stairs (and doing 26 miles at the same time!). Jogging up and down Wittenham Clumps dozens of times proved to be good training!

South America

The final continent to conquer was South America and the consensus of the runners I met in Antarctica was that the most beautiful and toughest marathon was in Patagonia, Chile. The hilly course ran North West along a gravel road towards Torres del Paine national park. The area, close to the Southern ice shelf, is renowned for very strong winds, and despite a few calm days beforehand, sure enough, on the day of the race, there was a steady 40-45mph headwind. It felt very much like 'two steps forward, one step back' and as hard as I tried to concentrate on the incredible backdrop of picturesque lakes, glaciers and majestic mountains, the wind was relentless and unforgiving. Fourteen miles in, at the bottom of a steep hill, I was suffering, and not sure I would finish, when I began talking to a man from Saudi Arabia, who was running a marathon a month. We chatted for a couple of miles, it taking my mind off the pain for just long enough to get to the top of the hill and to the next refreshment point.

By the time I approached the finish line, I was sure that this would be my last marathon. Never again would I put myself through this. Collecting my medal, I met Bob from Oklahoma, who it turned out had also just completed his seventh marathon in seven continents. As we shared a celebratory beer, we compared notes. The marathon at the base camp of Mount Everest sounded particularly interesting... And I

still have my target of 3:30 to beat one day... Perhaps Patagonia won't be my last marathon after all...

Raising money for charity

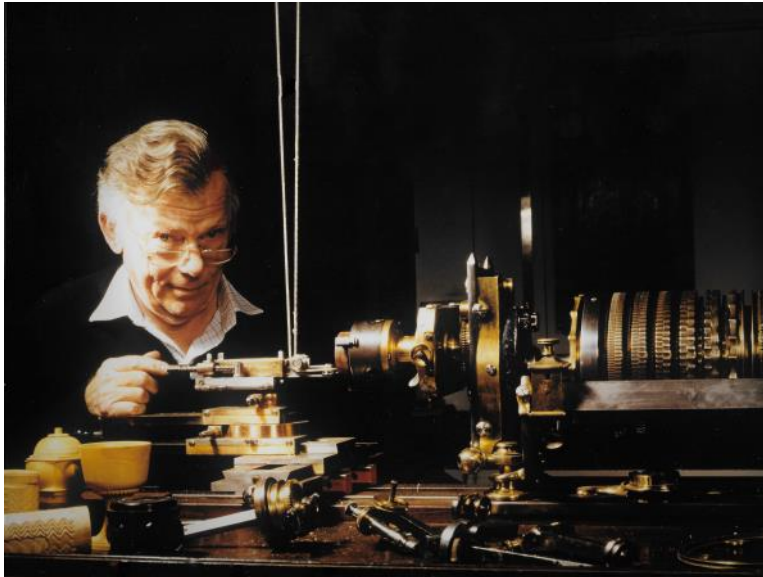
I've been really fortunate to have great support from local friends and family who have helped me raise almost £36,000 for some great charities in recent years. I've always covered my own costs of competing, so every pound goes straight to the charities. I'm currently raising money for Marie Curie, and upReach (the social mobility charity), and would greatly appreciate any donations, big or small, to help take me past the £36,000 mark. My fundraising page, www.virginmoneygiving.com/jcraven will stay open a few more days.

John Craven

Michael Brookes 1925-2018

The Brookes family held a gathering on August 28 to remember Michael Brookes. Sixty people from Dorchester, from Oxford, from The Close Care Home at Burcot and from further afield came together in the Upper Room at the Abbey Guest House and gave a toast to his life.

Michael was born in 1925 and grew up in Durham. His father and grandfather were civil engineers, and their ancestors were silversmiths and clock makers in Newcastle and Edinburgh.



Michael attended Durham School, an experience that left him unimpressed. On his eighteenth birthday, in 1943, he volunteered for wartime service. He was selected for officer training and took up a commission in the Royal Engineers. He trained in map-making and bomb disposal. As the war ended, he was posted to Egypt as a staff officer. There, whenever he could, he spent days wandering the great archaeological sites. The experience imbued in him a deep fascination for material culture, for art, tools, coins, buildings and engines, porcelain and pyramids. He remained a keen student of Egypt, the Middle East and archaeology all his life. He monitored events at Dorchester's summer dig, and allowed Oxford archaeologists to dig in the garden in search of Roman artefacts. On a family holiday in Spain in the 1970s, while the family cavorted on the beach, Michael was to be found in a ditch on a nearby building site, searching for shards of Roman pottery. Beaches never interested him unless there were fossils to find, or creatures in the tide pools. He was a passionately curious man.

Following in the family's footsteps, Michael became a civil engineer, graduating with a degree from Durham in the grim, austere post-war years. After a period in local government, he went to Canada to work for Bell Telephone, building communications across the frozen northern provinces. But a subsequent job, at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, was a turning point for him. He became a specialist in the planning and building of universities, first at Waterloo; then at Oxford; and later at the Sultan

Qaboos University in Muscat, Oman. He believed that universities should function as communities, and his designs strove for a 'village' feel, with complex, varied landscaping and student residences that felt like homes rather than dormitories. In Oman, he had to apply these ideas to a university that strictly segregated men and women. Every classroom had to have two entrances and separate walkways between them, the women's screened by lattices. He relished the challenge, while searching for small ways of encouraging integration. He was enormously proud of the Honorary Doctorate conferred upon him by the University of Waterloo. At Oxford, he was a Fellow of St. Cross College and was instrumental in moving the college into its beautiful premises on St. Giles.

One day in April, 1954, Michael was due to take a train from King's Cross to Newcastle. His watch was a full hour fast, and he caught the Flying Scotsman, leaving London earlier than he'd planned. In the dining car, a steward sat him at a table opposite the young Jill Dawson. The two began to talk, and arranged to meet at an upmarket restaurant in Newcastle called Tilly's. They were married three months later. Michael was a devoted husband to Jill for sixty-three years, and a wonderful father to Amanda, Sally and Adam, and grandfather to Tad, Lydia, Anna and Ned. In these roles, he was possessed of a quiet, fierce loyalty. His family was immensely important to him. And the grizzled Border terrier who can be seen sitting in the window of Michael and Jill's home is named Tilly in honour of that first date.

Later in his life, Michael became an immensely accomplished artist in wood turned on the lathe. He was a respected member of the Society of Ornamental Turners, and he pioneered techniques of engraving complex designs in hardwoods. The elegant simplicity of many of his pieces belies the complexity of their making. That is, perhaps, a reflection of something important about the man: beneath Michael's simple forthrightness, there was a great deal going on. He had a powerful urge to create, but never

called himself an artist. His creativity needed channeling through science and engineering before it could truly matter for him. His lathes allowed him that, and his luminous, delicate works in wood were born of the clutter and grime of a workshop and the mathematical precision of an engineer. He always had a great eye, and loved antiques. His severe colour blindness never seemed to make him any less discerning in his appreciation of art, though it did lead to some unfortunate clothing choices.

Michael loved living in Dorchester and took great pleasure in the friends he found here. The Abbey fascinated him, more for its embodiment of the past than of the faith. He marveled at the Jesse window and at the uncovering of the pre-Reformation wall paintings, even as he vigorously resisted participating in religious services. He often presided over the Museum in the summer months while Jill laboured in the Tea Room. At The Close Care Home, he was asked to characterize his religious beliefs. He responded with one word: 'feeble'.

The family would like to thank everybody who came to the gathering at the Abbey Guest House. It was a wonderful way of remembering him. We will miss him terribly and when we think of him we will think of the deep pleasure he took in beautiful objects and things you can handle, and whisky, and travel, and his love for his workshop, his dogs, and his family.

**Adam Brookes
September, 2018**

Christopher Gibbs

The death of Christopher Gibbs in Tangier at the end of July led to obituaries being included in a number of newspapers in Britain, notably The Times and The Daily Telegraph. Most of the content focused on his early life as a key figure in Swinging London in the 1960s, as an erudite antiques dealer, a friend of Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones and other celebrities who gathered to smoke dope and drop acid at his home in Cheyne Walk.

Only a few sentences mentioned his family home in Clifton Hampden and his time in Tangier where he was described as 'a pillar of the local Anglican church, St Andrew's.' But there was no recognition of all he had achieved over the last 40 years of his life in the UK and Tangier.

Sir Hugo Brunner has fond memories of working with him from 1985 on the Oxford Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches, where he found Christopher's expertise and wisdom regarding the realities of life in small rural parishes to be invaluable. In particular Christopher's focus on St Michael and All Angels, Clifton Hampden and on Dorchester Abbey was an enormous help. Thanks to Christopher St Michael and All Angels became once again a shrine aglitter with brass and mosaics.

After I became Rector of Dorchester Abbey in 1987 - later in the late 1990s - a campaign committee was formed to achieve what was later described as 'the most ambitious restoration and development target in the entire history of the Abbey'. Hugo Brunner was the chairman and Christopher Gibbs, then also vice-president of the Friends of the Abbey, were of vital importance and support in our raising the necessary Four Million Pounds Sterling to do this work.

Christopher's time in Tangier over many years was creative and caring in many ways to the whole community. He had first gone



out there in 1958. He found that St Andrew's Church, built during the reign of Charles II, was unique in North Africa, looking like an English parish church, whereas other Anglican chaplaincies had had to build more discreetly in order to not offend Muslim feelings.

After retiring from Dorchester in 2004 Una and I were invited by Christopher to spend three months in Tangier in 2009 where I was to be the chaplain in residence. We were there for the first three months of the year. Christopher had told us that the weather would be like that of July in the UK - we found the first two months to be the wettest and coldest weather Tangier had ever experienced! The main railway line out of Tangier was washed away. Christopher was our generous and hospitable host and we soon were introduced to the regular congregation and were able to feel at home during those months.

We found that on Sundays, about 50 people, more than half the congregation, were refugees from West Africa trying to cross into Europe. Some had been in Tangier for a few years, saving up money from lowly paid jobs. They were made most welcome by the regular congregation. As church warden, Christopher's charm, good humour and leadership helped to make this possible. Visiting UK prisoners in Tangier's prison and house-bound expatriates, glad to receive the Blessed Sacrament in their homes, were also tasks I was glad to do under the direction of Christopher.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen

John Crowe

Photo: Christopher Gibbs in Tangier (T Magazine, Photo: Will Sanders)

Langtree Sinfonia is a friendly, non-auditioning orchestra meeting on Wednesday evenings in Langtree School, Woodcote, whose aims are to provide an encouraging atmosphere in which to play classical music.

The orchestra was founded in 1971 and when the orchestra celebrated its 40th anniversary the orchestra combined with local choirs to perform Beethoven's Choral Fantasy, a work which combined vocal and instrumental soloists with the orchestra.

Our repertoire has always to appeal to our audience, of course, but also takes in the unusual, such as the *Symphony No. 1* by Sergei Borkiewicz and the contemporary, such as *Enigma* by Clive Pierce.

Pride of place for many, though, is probably the complete Beethoven Symphony cycle completed some years ago.

Langtree Sinfonia

Our conductor is Paul Cox, who is currently Professor of Strings at Southampton University.

As a cellist Paul has given numerous recital and concerto performances and has played the Beethoven Triple Concerto with the St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra in Germany.

We always welcome new members so anyone interested can contact our membership secretary, Nick Kiff, on **01491 833515** (nrkiff@tiscali.co.uk)

For more information :- www.langtreesinfonia.co.uk



We walked eleven miles and visited nine places of worship. For a group of three septuagenarians and two octogenarians that was quite a challenge! But it was fun, and the rain held off.

We set off from the Abbey lych-gate at 9.00am and called at St Birinus, the church of our Roman Catholic friends in Dorchester, where we were full of admiration for the refurbishment that has been carried out recently. The church has been beautifully decorated in a style reminiscent of how many churches were decorated before the Reformation. It is certainly worth visiting, and provides a peaceful place for spiritual reflection.

We then went via Day's Lock to Little Wittenham and reported at the church, another haven of peace. Further on, we reached Long Wittenham where we were welcomed by the vicar, the Revd Dr Michael Lakey and Mrs Haylett who were keen to show us the carved choir stalls which had been acquired from Exeter College in the past. This led to a discussion about how much of the land in these parts is still owned by Oxford colleges – but it was time to move on.

Our next objective was Appleford, a mile to the west, where we checked in at the church before we braved the traffic going through the village and over the railway bridge – not nice for the residents. Continuing west, we entered an area of damaged landscape, an example of what can happen to the countryside if gravel extraction is allowed. Our footpath marked on the map had been obliterated in some places and had become overgrown and impassable in others. We found a way round some huge pits and lakes and eventually relocated our footpath which took us into the large village of Sutton Courtenay where we paid our respects in the cemetery at the graves of E. A. Blair (better known as George Orwell) and the Hon. H. H. Asquith, former Liberal

Ride + Stride 2018

Prime Minister. Having been welcomed in the church by two nice ladies, who were unable to give personal opinions on the relative virtues of the local pubs, we moved on to The Swan for a light lunch.



Rosemary Byrde at the Abbey lych-gate greeting the Ride + Striders

[Photo: Kathy Glass]

Refreshed, we set off in the direction of Milton, but in order to keep to footpaths we had to take a complicated route, turning in one direction after another. This time it was not gravel pits we were negotiating, but modern housing estates, all looking rather similar and spreading out across the fields surrounding the villages around Didcot. Eventually we entered the village of Milton and visited the church. We discovered that nearby there was another place of worship which was open for us to visit, the Challenor chapel in Milton Manor, a large Restoration mansion. Again it was a privilege to visit a Roman Catholic

place of worship, but this one is having to wait for its refurbishment.

Our final destination was Steventon, and to reach the village we had to cross the A34 by a footbridge. The church was at the far SW corner of the village (it would be), but we were rewarded on the way with a very pleasant walk through this pretty village and its wealth of interesting houses which had been built over several centuries, in contrast to our modern housing estates. It was by now after 5.00pm and we were glad to pile into the car which we had left in Steventon the night before, and drive home.

On returning to Dorchester, we found Rosemary Byrde just leaving the lych-gate at 6'o'clock having been on duty all day welcoming walkers, cyclists and passers by all day long. She assured us she had had an enjoyable day and had met lots of lovely people who were interested to know what Ride and Stride was all about. Many of them had given donations for the cause. We learned that James Pratt had been riding his bike and had visited 42 churches! Many of you reading this will have sponsored him, and the money raised will benefit not only all the churches which the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust supports with grants for essential conservation work, but also our own Abbey church. So next year, why

don't you join in and take a day off and visit just as many churches as you can? Nine in a day can be a bit challenging, but if lots of people join in, and if they persuade lots of friends to sponsor them, a lot of money can be raised to help conserve our precious churches. And I guarantee you will have fun and an interesting time too.

Many thanks are due to Rosemary Byrde for her untiring energy, enthusiasm and commitment to the Ride and Stride project for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust.

David Parker

Fishmonger

The travelling fishmonger comes to Dorchester every Tuesday and will stop between 9.30am and 9.50am (9.40am in winter months when weather bad, but 9.30am in summer months) in High Street near War Memorial.

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Dorchester Fireworks, Saturday 3 November

This autumn, we have all been very busy at Footsteps, preparing for our winter events.

The fireworks this year will be the same great display, the same delicious food and full bar, with some added extras like more live music and a special carnival side-stall games area for kids (and adults) to add to the fun. We will also hold our annual raffle draw at the event, with excellent prizes of local meals and spa treats as well as a case of fine wine and a top prize, to be announced. We would like to say a special thank you to our sponsors, Darwin Escapes and James Gesner Estate Agents for helping to offset some of the event costs this year.

So save the date – come along and have fun! We would also love to hear from you if you can volunteer on the night. If you haven't already been asked and allocated a job, we need bucket collectors, stewards and people to help on the BBQ stall, so please drop us a line:

sarah@footstepsfoundation

Ico walks to the Co-op

The children have also been super-busy at Footsteps this year as they improve on their walking, strength and mobility: Frederico (Ico) Blanchard has attended Footsteps since 2012. Ico has cerebral palsy and has been using tripod sticks and wheelchairs to get around. In 2016, the family moved to Switzerland, but we were all very pleased at Footsteps when they decided to bring Ico back to Footsteps each summer to continue his work with us. This summer he had a real breakthrough. Before the session, Ico could only walk a few steps without assistance and then something just clicked and he got his confidence up and then there was no stopping him! After the second day at Footsteps, he took 604 independent steps and didn't stop walking since! He gained so much confidence that he is walking independently at home, around the house. Each Friday he walked all the way to the Co-op and back – small steps for most of us, but monumental for Ico.



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Dorchester News Crossword

Solution to Crossword No. 5

Compiled by Slider

	¹ S		² F		³ S		⁴ F		⁵ G		⁶ T	
⁷ S	T	R	I	C	T	E	R		⁸ A	G	O	G
	A	R		I		I			L		U	
⁹ G	N	O	M	I	C		¹⁰ G	I	L	E	T	
	D			¹¹ K	O	I			I			
¹² P	I	R	¹³ A	C	Y		¹⁴ D	E	P	O	¹⁵ S	E
	N		B						O		P	
¹⁶ A	G	E	I	N	¹⁷ G		¹⁸ P	E	T	R	O	L
			N		¹⁹ A	D	O				I	
	²⁰ B	E	G	A	T		²¹ R	U	²² M	P	L	E
	U	D	H				T	I			E	
²³ O	S	L	O		²⁴ E	V	E	R	M	O	R	E
	K	N		R		R		E		S		

The next crossword will be in the November issue of *Dorchester News*.

Just for Fun

You may think as you start to look at this paragraph that it is just an ordinary group of words, but as you study it slowly and thoughtfully you may soon find that it is no ordinary paragraph, in fact it is most odd. Whilst, as I said, it may not look unusual it has a distinct and uncommon factor not normally found in day to day writing. You will no doubt want to sit and try to find this factor so carry on, and if you do so within half an hour you must obviously fall into a class of man or woman (boy or girl) having an unusually inquiring mind.

(With thanks to V. B. for this.)

Advertising in Dorchester News

Costs per issue are for an eighth of a page £11.75 mono, £12.75 colour; quarter page £23.50 mono, £25.50 colour; half page £35.25 mono, £38.50 colour and full page £47.00 mono, £51.00 colour. There are ten issues per year.

Please send artwork to dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk one week before the deadline for editorial copy given on page 2.

One-time adverts, please send a cheque, payable to 'Dorchester Abbey PCC', to Nick Forman, Willoughby House, 73 High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames, OX10 7HN.

Club Bridge

About twenty years ago a couple turned up to play at an Oxfordshire County Bridge evening. They apologised and left at half time. The problem was that they were perfectly competent Bridge players but had never played the duplicate form of the game. I felt very sad because they had made an effort to try something new in a strange environment surrounded by fifty or sixty strangers. I doubt that they ever put their feet into a Bridge club again. That would be a loss to them and to Bridge.

I relate this experience because I know that there are a great number of other social Bridge players and some of them would like to try playing at a club. There are many courses introducing newcomers to the game but few if any that focus on introducing newcomers to clubs.

If you are already playing regularly with friends and family you would probably find doing a year-long course on the basics a waste of your time. But without some form of introduction you would, as the pair above did, find duplicate Bridge as played in most clubs a daunting experience. Not only are you in a room full of strangers but one in which apparently mysterious procedures and mystifying terminology are being used.

Wallingford Bridge Club has grown into one of the most active clubs in the country at least in part because it has an excellent set of courses teaching newcomers the game and refreshing the knowledge of those who played in their younger days and would like to return but do not feel confident that they remember enough to dive in.

We would like to reach out to those others who already play at home or with friends. The courses provided both at Wallingford Bridge Club and elsewhere in Oxfordshire and the neighbouring counties are not suited to their needs.

Wallingford Bridge Club actually has two sessions that might help experienced home players try the club game and familiarise them with the technology used these days..

Every Monday morning there is a session entitled 'Supervised Play'. An experienced Bridge teacher supervises the session with the intention of helping less experienced players with the mechanics of the game. However the session is organised as a duplicate bridge session and so it also introduces the way duplicate Bridge is played. It is a relaxed couple of hours of play and would let you try the club form of the game without embarrassment at not knowing the procedures and terminology. As and when a newcomer felt confident they can simply move over to play in the normal Monday morning Bridge session.

The second session is Tuesday afternoons which is described as 'pre-scored Chicago'. Chicago Bridge is perfectly ordinary Bridge except that a game is limited to four deals after which you change partners. The pre-scored element is that all the deals have been previously played elsewhere and a record of the results is available. This allows players to compare their efforts with what happened previously.

If you would like to try club play but these sessions are unsuitable please get in contact via the Wallingford Club Website and we will see what we can do to meet your needs.

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Oxford-Cambridge Expressway Update

As you may know already, the Government has now announced their chosen Corridor for the Expressway - Corridor B (which contains several subsidiary elements)

Following the official announcement in the House of Commons and the publication of a rather vague small scale map there has been further work by the Expressway Action Group members gathering as much detail as possible on what it all means, and this is what has been learnt. In summary, Government has studied the recommendations from Highways England's report in July, and rejected corridor A (via Thame and Aylesbury) and corridors C1, C2 and C3 (via Bicester and NE to Milton Keynes).

Further investigation following the announcement revealed that corridor B2 has also been rejected - so the choice now is between B1 (west of Oxford along the axis of the A34) and B3 south of Oxford through the Green Belt and along the line of the River Thames. We have confirmed that Otmoor is 'off the menu' for the Expressway, which is great news for supporters and residents in that area. A zoomable link to the map is available on line at the web location shown below.

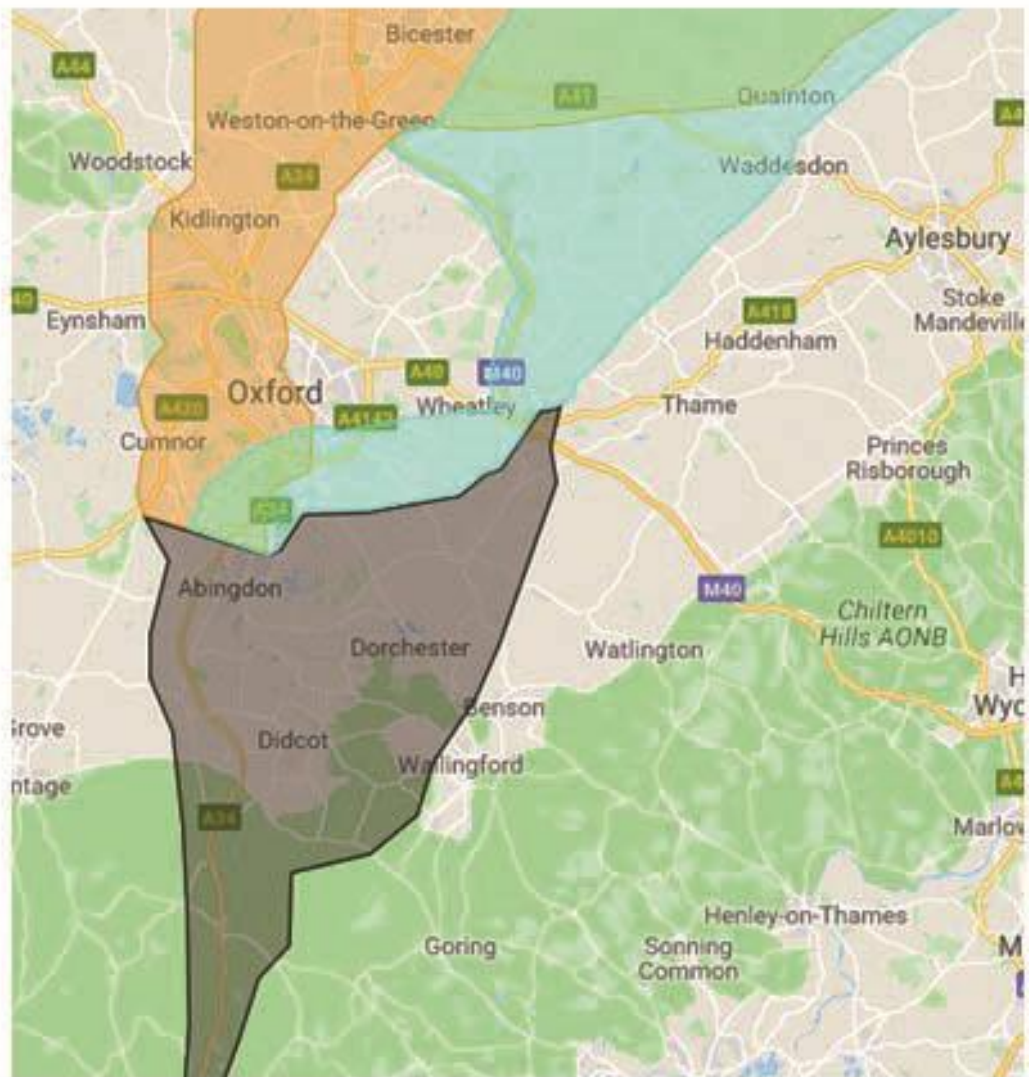
The amended map shows Corridor B, taken from an official Highways slide and with boundaries of B1 and B3 highlighted, B1 in yellow and B3 in light blue. However, there is another Corridor that has only recently been renamed as the Common Areas Corridor that includes some of

the previous sub routes linking the A34 to the Expressway. This is shown in grey.

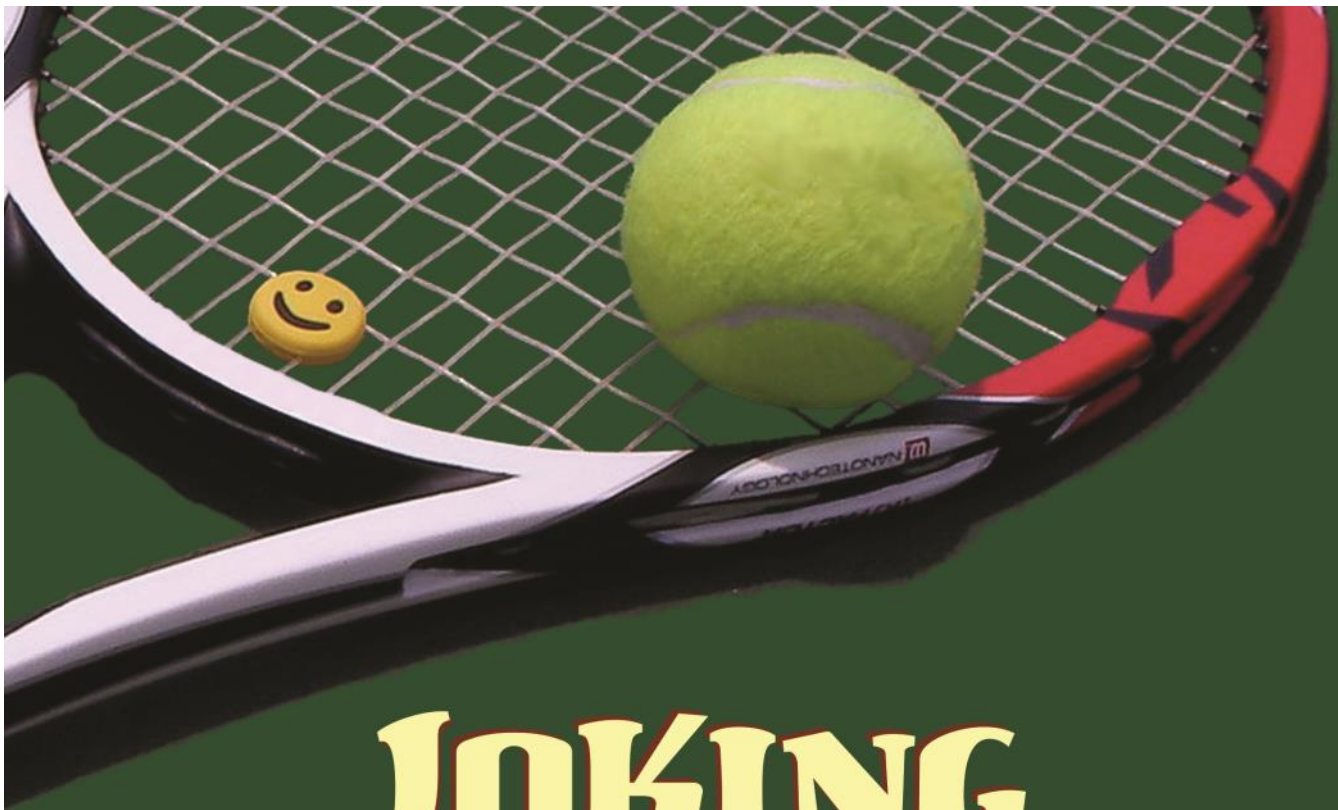
The proposed Expressway routes will run within the two corridors, somewhere between the marked boundaries (though these boundaries may shift if on-the-ground surveys find obstacles...). So it is advisable to treat this information with a degree of caution as it could possibly change.

At the present time the Expressway could still be very close to Dorchester and we should remember also that the other aspect of the project is for an additional 1m homes along the route (or 300,000 homes anywhere in Oxfordshire). This figure is in addition to the numbers being planned by the District Councils for 'natural' growth to meet local needs.

Chris Hill
Chairman
Dorchester Parish Council



Zoomable map at: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?usp=sharing&mid=17uH8uf93WtT1hs49DYcgRXJlyrj8xXkH>



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Parish Council Notices

Monthly Meetings

The October Parish Council Meeting will take place in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 10 October** commencing at 7.30 p.m. and the November meeting will take place on **Wednesday 14 November** also commencing at 7.30pm.

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

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

Contacting the Parish Council

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

Telephone (during normal office hours, please, unless an emergency) **07745 311439**. Texts are always welcome.

e-mail: parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Cllr Chris Hill, the Chairman of the Council, can be contacted via chairman@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

More information about the Village is available at www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Adopt a Grave

Following the announcement in September's Dorchester News we are pleased to say the scheme is now up and running. Already five volunteers have come forward and suitable graves in the cemetery for them to clear and tend are being sorted out. Some have asked for a specific site and these wishes will be accommodated wherever possible, whereas others prefer to have a grave allocated to them.

We will be recording their efforts with 'before and after' photographs along with background information on the occupants, if available, and publish these results in DN from time to time. However, there are still lots of opportunities for additional volunteers to devote a few hours of time and effort in tending their 'adopted grave'. This makes such a difference in confirming our respect and care for the people buried in such an important aspect of village life. Please contact our Parish Clerk, Geoff Russell, to find out .

Keith Russell

Parish Councillor
Cemetery and Closed Churchyard

Dorchester's Housing Needs Survey

Very many thanks to all those who filled in the Dorchester Housing Needs Survey, which was circulated with a recent edition of Dorchester News. 136 forms were returned, which is good for surveys of this type, and quite a lot more than in a previous survey in done 2012.

The survey showed that there is good support for a small development of affordable homes in the parish to individuals in affordable (social) housing need with genuine local connections to Dorchester on Thames.

81% of those who responded to this were definitely in favour, with a further 9% saying 'maybe'.

The survey found 18 households who wanted a new home in the village in the next five years. The main reasons given were:

- want to start first home
- to be near family
- unable to afford mortgage


Thirteen households stated that they needed an affordable home and want to live in Dorchester-on-Thames, though not all gave enough information to establish whether they would be eligible under existing rules. The majority of those who responded wanted one or two bedroom accommodation.

One of the objectives of our recently approved Neighbourhood Development Plan is:

'To increase the housing stock through a limited number of small developments, providing affordable housing, smaller dwellings, and dwellings suitable for older people, in order to meet the identified needs of local residents and allow the village to maintain a balanced community.'

This survey will enable the Parish Council to explore with South Oxfordshire District Council the options for some small-scale affordable housing in the village.

Rob Ballantyne
Parish Councillor



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Criminals setting up fake wi-fi hot spots Citizens Advice warning

It ought to be a time of the pleasantest relaxation, that moment when you slump down comfortably into a cosy chair in your favourite coffee bar, get out your cell phone and connect to the free Wi-Fi. But Citizens Advice has warned that just this simple leisurely action can be targeted by criminals, who are setting up their own Wi-Fi hot spots to try to get you to connect to them.

Typically, the fraudsters broadcast a Wi-Fi connection with a vague name like 'free_wifi' or 'coffee_shop_wifi'. If you connect your phone to this, any data you are sending can be captured.

Even if you log into emails using an 'app', without typing in the password, the phone will still send your password over the Wi-Fi and it could be intercepted. If you use automated passwords and do not enter your user name and password manually, these details can still be intercepted.

To avoid being becoming a victim of this scam, do one of the following:

- Make sure you are connecting to a trusted Wi-Fi hot spot, operated by the venue you are in - ask staff if you are in doubt.
- Do not use public Wi-Fi for online banking or anything else sensitive, but use your 3G, 4G or 5G connection instead (data sent over these connections is always encrypted).
- Use a VPN (virtual private network) when connecting to public Wi-Fi.

The updated Little Book of Big Scams [at http://bit.ly/2018-the-little-book-of-big-scams](http://bit.ly/2018-the-little-book-of-big-scams) has more details about this and other prevalent frauds.

And if you suspect that you've been scammed, contact Action Fraud on **03001 232040** or on the Internet at www.actionfraud.police.uk. Alternatively, get in touch with Citizens Advice on Adviceline **03444 111444**, or drop in to your nearest Citizens Advice. For locations and opening hours see

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale



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Full details at www.brannfordsgardens.co.uk



Cooking Oil News

Councils can now collect and recycle used cooking oil as part of the food waste service

Love chips? Roasts? Cooked breakfasts? Samosas and Sausages?

All are delicious, but they do leave greasy leftovers...which South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils can now take care of thanks to their new cooking oil recycling service for residents.

Oil is collected every week as part of both districts' food waste collections.

After cooking, any leftover oil should be allowed to cool before being poured into a plastic bottle no bigger than a 1 litre size. The bottle and its contents can then be placed into the resident's kerbside food waste caddy along with other food waste and put out for the weekly collection.

Cllr Caroline Newton, South Oxfordshire District Council cabinet member for environmental services said: 'We all know that cooking oil and fat shouldn't be poured down sinks as it can cause blockages, but it can be difficult to dispose of. This is why I welcome the start of this new service for residents, collecting cooking oil from their homes every week.'



One litre of cooking oil can generate enough electricity to make 240 cups of tea!

If you prefer not to use a plastic bottle, oil can also be poured straight into the caddy along with other food waste.

Communications
South Oxfordshire District Council
01235 422400
www.southoxon.gov.uk | @southoxon

From your County Councillor... ...Lorraine Lindsay-Gale



Continued improvement in delayed transfer of care numbers

The latest published figures on people who are unnecessarily in hospital while they await confirmation of care arrangements have been published. The figures for June 2018 show that on average 90 Oxfordshire residents had their hospital discharge delayed. This is 9% fewer than in May and less than half the number of people delayed than the same time last year. Oxfordshire's delays figure trajectory continues to be better than national improvement with a 0.3% improvement in the last month and a drop of a quarter in the last year.



New partnership approved by OCC and Cherwell District Council

Councillors at OCC and Cherwell District Council have approved a proposal for a partnership between the two local authorities, including the appointment of a joint chief executive. The partnership arrangement will offer long-term opportunities to join up services for residents, reduce the costs of providing services, and secure investment in Cherwell to enable the continued growth in homes and jobs. The partnership proposal came after the financial problems in Northamptonshire County Council, which has implications for Cherwell's existing partnership with South Northamptonshire Council, created an opportunity to explore closer joint working.



Active and healthy travel encouraged by OCC

Commuters are being encouraged to walk or cycle, for all or part of their journey, by OCC. The council is championing healthy alternatives to the car, which will also help to reduce congestion and pollution on the county's roads. Exercise is widely recognised as one of the best ways to improve physical and mental health. Daily physical activity lowers the risk of depression and dementia by around 30 per cent according to the Department of Health. Exercise also reduces the likelihood of cardiovascular disease, coronary heart disease and strokes. The council has appointed an active and healthy travel officer, using central government funding, to assess existing walking and cycling routes. Priority will be given to improvements and maintenance schemes designed to encourage active travel and reduce pollution. Over 85,000 new jobs and 100,000 new homes are planned in Oxfordshire by 2031. The council is committed to ensuring that as the population grows, infrastructure is in place to encourage healthy travel options. Streets and spaces will be developed to put first the needs of pedestrians and cyclists. For further information about the benefits of active travel, visit the website: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/whycycle



Students receive A-level results across Oxfordshire

Thousands of students are preparing to take their crucial next steps after receiving A-Level results at schools and colleges across Oxfordshire. Confirmed pass rates for the county as a whole will be confirmed when national figures are published later this year. In the previous two years the key benchmark of two or more A-Levels at the A*-E pass rate was achieved by around 95 per cent of students. For anyone unsure of their next steps after A-Level or GCSE exam results, further help can be found at the **Oxme website** and through the **National Careers Service** which has a helpline number - **0800 100 900**. Throughout the results period and beyond, county council staff will be available via the web chat service on the Oxme website or over the phone (**01865 328460**) to talk to young people and parents about the wide range of learning and employment opportunities available in Oxfordshire for 16-19-year-olds, and to help with applications.



£80K boost for kids' cycling safety


Almost every primary school child in the county will now be able to get free cycle safety training after the award of an £84,500 **Bikeability** grant which will pay for an additional 2000 places. The bulk of cycling training in the county is carried out by a 700-strong army of volunteer instructors under the Oxfordshire Cycle Training Scheme, which has been running for more than 40 years. Training is offered to children from nine-years-old and up and is a mixture of learning about the Highways Code and practical 'on the road' tuition. Parents and carers who want their children to take part in training should contact their school's head teacher.



Cabinet re-shuffle – change of roles for me

The Leader announced a re-shuffle to his Cabinet effective from 1 September. I have been appointed the Cabinet Member for Education. This is a completely new challenge for me, and I am looking forward to getting up to speed with all the issues. I continue to look after our Cultural Services which includes libraries, museums, the history service and the schools music service.

My previous responsibilities for Property and our Fit for the Future programme are being amalgamated and passed to Cllr Eddie Reeves under the new title of Cabinet Member for Transformation. Cllr Laurie Stratford adds Public Health to his existing role for Adult Social Care. Cllr Ian Corkin becomes the new Cabinet Member for the Cherwell Partnership agreement.



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From your MP...

...John Howell

Wherever you are in the constituency you have probably heard recent media reports on the proposed Oxford-Cambridge Expressway. For those communities near to potential routes I know that it has been on your minds for some time. The expressway is a major new road which will go across country to link Oxford and Cambridge via Milton Keynes. There are also calls for it to be extended to include Swindon at one end and the port of Ipswich at the other.

The proposed new road is part of a much bigger national infrastructure project being coordinated by local councils and Local Enterprise Partnerships in the different counties from Oxfordshire to Cambridgeshire under the umbrella of England's Economic Heartland. Much of the preparatory work for this was completed by the National Infrastructure Commission. Transport, including East-West rail, is but one aspect of the overall project. The Chancellor has given his support for growth in this area with money earmarked in the last budget.

The recent media interest is as a result of the Minister announcing the 'corridor' within which the road will run. Until now three broad corridors had been identified. Narrowing this down is a step in the right direction. The corridor now selected is the one recommended by Highways England and will broadly follow the new East-West rail line, however details of the route within this broad corridor have yet to be determined. The next phase of work will include public consultation this.

I am pleased that the government has ruled out construction in the area of the Otmoor nature reserve in the north of this constituency but remain concerned that some areas of the Green Belt could still be at risk. Planning policy does not exclude road building in Green Belt areas but where there are alternatives we should use them. In the absence of alternative information to date I have taken the view that the route should utilise existing roads where possible. For example, this project could provide a much-needed opportunity to upgrade the A34. The accident record alone suggests that we have to do something about this road. I am also aware that congestion on the A34 puts pressure on villages which can be seen as an alternative route to avoid the jams. The project could also allow for improvements to the A420 - another road that needs attention.

Improvements to the A420 would also take pressure off of the A34. The route of the new road around Oxford is a key issue and I would support taking it to the west which would enable the A34 to be addressed. We also need to look for measures to deter diversions through villages.

It is anticipated that the new road will be ready for 2030. This may seem a long way off but there is much work to do before construction starts. The public consultation is critical. It will draw out many of the local detailed issues that will help finalise the route and will also identify related issues that need to be addressed.

With an infrastructure project of this magnitude there will be campaign groups working across the area, some of local issues some on overarching issues. This is only to be expected and the views of all are an important part in the process. There is also much myth and speculation circulated which can cause unnecessary worry. I would like to think that all those with views on this project can work with the facts and avoid scare-mongering. For my part I will seek to ensure that the voices of all who wish to raise a point are heard and that some are not drowned out by those who have greater means to get their voice heard. I have already met with a number of parish councils in potentially affected areas and will do so again with those likely to be affected in the announced corridor.

If you would like to know more about my work on behalf of the Government and the Constituency please do look at my website which is regularly updated. The address is www.johnhowellmp.com. Further details of the work of Parliament is available on the parliament website at www.parliament.uk. As always, I am interested to hear constituent's views on the proposals before the House. If you would like to share your thoughts on an issue with me you can email me at howelljm@parliament.uk or write to me at the House of Commons (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA) or my constituency office (PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD).

If you would like to receive my periodic electronic newsletters and briefings on specific issues please email me at asking to be subscribed. You can also follow me on Facebook www.facebook.com/JohnHowellOxfordshire or on twitter [@JHowellUK](https://twitter.com/JHowellUK)



**CORN
EXCHANGE
WALLINGFORD**

Cinema: All regular performances start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

Tickets £8 for adults, £5 for under 15 unless otherwise stated.

October

- Mon 1 **The Children Act (12A)**
- Tues 2 **The Miseducation of Cameron Post (15)**
- Wed 3 **The Miseducation of Cameron Post (15)**
- Sat 6 **The Seagull (12A)**
- Sun 7 **The Seagull (12A)**
- Sun 21 **The Little Stranger (12A)**
- Mon 22 **The Little Stranger (12A)**
- Wed 24 **King of Thieves**
- Thurs 25 **King of Thieves**
- Sun 28 **The Wife (15)**
- Mon 29 **The Wife (15)**

LIVE SCREENINGS

Fri 12 Oct 8.00pm, Cliff Richard Live: 60th Anniversary Tour, Live from Manchester's Bridgewater Hall.

Britain's Ultimate Pop Star, Cliff Richard is celebrating 60 years in the music industry and he wants to invite you to the most fabulous big screen party of the year! 103 album releases, 123 single hits and the equivalent of 20 years spent in the UK charts. Featuring his greatest hits across six decades, this will be Cliff Richard's most exciting tour yet. His incredible energy and passion on stage will sweep you off your feet and be sure to have you swaying in the aisles.

Tickets - £25 (adults), £20 (seniors and under 18s)

Tue 23 Oct 7.15pm The Importance of Being Earnest, Recorded live from the Oscar Wilde Season at The Vaudeville Theatre, in London's West End

A new production of one of the funniest plays in English. Wilde's much-loved masterpiece throws love, logic and language into the air to make one of theatre's most dazzling firework displays. Jack, Algy, Gwendolyn and Cecily discover how unsmooth runs the course of true love, while Lady Bracknell keeps a baleful eye on the mayhem of manners. Don't miss the final instalment of Classic Spring's 'deliciously charming' (Sunday Times) Oscar Wilde Season, a year-long celebration of the brilliant Victorian playwright.

Tickets - £15 (adults), £12.50 (seniors and under 18s),

Fri 26 Oct 8.00pm, Cliff Richard Live: 60th Anniversary Tour, Recorded live at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall.

Tickets - £18 (adults), £15 (seniors and under 18s)

LIVE SHOWS

Fri 5 Oct 8.00pm Comedy Night: Lucy Frederick & David Mills

A double-bill from comedians appearing at the 2018 Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Tickets £12 (this show is unsuitable for those aged under 15.)

Wed 17 Oct 6.00pm Agatha Christie: Her Life and Local Connections. A talk by Judy Dewey.

Local historian Judy Dewey talks about Agatha Christie's life and local connections. Part of the celebrations of 70 years of the Sinodun Players and 40 years since the opening of the Corn Exchange, as Agatha Christie was President of the Players for 25 years from 1950 until 1975.

Tickets £5

Wed 17 Oct to Sat 20 October 7.45pm, Sinodun Players present A Murder is Announced by Agatha Christie.

An announcement in the local paper states the time and place when a murder is to occur in Miss Blacklock's house. The victim is not one of the regular occupants of the house but an unknown visitor. Come and enjoy a classic Christie puzzle of mixed motives, concealed identities and a second death as a determined Inspector follows the twists and turns, with Miss Marple on hand to provide the final solution

Tickets £10

Sat 27 Oct 7.45pm The Pole Fitness Academy Annual Showcase

A stunning compilation of Pole Fitness, Pole Silks, Aerial Hoop and Hula Hoop. Come and watch as both our students and instructors perform in a huge variety of styles, with every genre of music from big band to dubstep to West End musicals. All are welcome to join us at this family-friendly event.

Tickets £8

COMING SOON

Thu 1 Nov 7.00pm Filmed in front of a live audience at the National Theatre - Allelujah!

Alan Bennett's sharp and witty new play is 'just what the doctor ordered' (Daily Telegraph). Set in a local hospital facing closure as part of an efficiency drive, this state-of-the-nation piece is a 'rousing chorus line for the NHS' (Observer). It will be an Alan Bennett double bill for NT Live in November, with the broadcast of his famous The Madness of George III following shortly after.

Tickets Adults - £15. Seniors - £12.50, Under 18s - £10.00

Sat 10 Nov 7:45pm Purdy (aka Rebecca Poole)

Following the release of her long awaited debut album 'Diamond in the Dust', 2016 saw Rebecca support Jools Holland and his rhythm & blues orchestra on his UK tour – including appearances at the Royal Albert Hall, which gave rise to sensational reviews.

Tickets £12

Sat 17 Nov 8.00pm To Hell in a Handbag, Live theatre.

Written and Performed by Helen Norton & Jonathan White The Secret Lives of Canon Chasuble and Miss Prism. While others are preoccupied with cucumber sandwiches and railway cloakrooms, two minor characters from The Importance of Being Earnest are up to their necks in something else. A country rector and a governess, models of Victorian propriety in public. But in private? This is the play behind the play: a tale of blackmail, false identity ... and money. A subversively funny new take on an Irish theatrical classic.

Tickets £10 (adults), £8 (seniors and under 18s)

Tickets and further information, including late additions to cinema programme are available online.

www.cornexchange.org.uk or box office **01491 825000**



'Late Saxon and Early Medieval town life in Wallingford. Excavations at the Old Waitrose site, St Martin's Street, Wallingford'

Oliver Good (of Cotswold Archaeology) will talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) about the archaeological excavations on the former Waitrose site.

This talk will describe excavations at the Old Waitrose site by Cotswold Archaeology, which uncovered tantalising glimpses of Saxon and Medieval life in Wallingford. Evidence was found of medieval street frontages, with abundant evidence of occupation and economic activity, including multiple refuse and cess pits and wells. Particular interest related to evidence of tanning activity and two Late Saxon timber-lined cellars.

This talk will be held on **Wednesday 10 Oct**, 7.45 for 8.00pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford. Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

Katharine Keats-Rohan
www.twhas.org.uk



A Night at the Museum

Wallingford Museum will have a special one-off evening opening at half price (Adults £2.50, accompanied children free as usual), on Friday

26 Oct (6.00pm to 9.00pm) offering a chance to see our current exhibitions and also take a look 'behind the scenes' at a time when we are usually closed. You can also find out more about how the museum is run and what opportunities there are to join the team of volunteers!

Stu Darby
www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Wallingford U3A

At our next meeting, on **October 3**, Dr. Penny Billyeald will speak to us about 'Local poets of World War I'. Her talk promises to be appropriate and moving as this centenary year comes to an end.

There is a reserve list for 'Guys and Dolls' at Sonning Theatre for the Matinee on **8 December**.

Our 2019 holiday will be in Cornwall, five days from 6 October. These holidays are always great fun: plenty of laughter and some gardens and stately homes thrown in. Phone Jim on **07860 398069**.

The next visit to a local church of interest will be on **Thursday 11 October** to Waterperry Church. This is a lovely little church of Saxon and Gothic interest. Phone Hermione to book to join the noon pub lunch. **01865 858024**. Waterperry Gardens are not booked, but are worth a visit.

Our Meetings are held in Crowmarsh Village Hall at 2.00pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Visitors are always made welcome for the talk and tea. For more information please visit our website: u3asites.org.uk/Wallingford, or phone Jill on **01491 835994**



Your very last chance to see...

There is a last chance to see this year's special exhibition 'Treasures with Tales' at Wallingford Museum, as the Museum closes for the winter on the 30 November, to prepare for new presentations in 2019. There are a wide variety of fascinating objects brought in by residents, each with its own special significance - from exotic to fun to poignant - or just beautiful ! Visitors are able to follow the 'Treasures Trail' and discover these things for themselves throughout the museum. Each has its own 'tale' displayed and can be enjoyed by the whole family.

New documentary research is revealed in the exhibition 'Wallingford Castle - the Inside Story' which presents a closer look at different parts of the Castle.

There is also the 'Midsomer Murders' display and the growing 'At home with the Queen of Crime: Agatha Christie' where information has been presented that has been learned from several people in the town who came into contact with the famous crime writer.

The Museum is open until 30 November on Tuesdays to Fridays 2.00pm - 5.00pm, and Saturdays 10.30am - 5.00pm.

Judy Dewey
www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Wallingford Garden Club

At Wallingford Garden Club, on **Thursday 11 October** at 7.30pm, Jamie Butterworth will be talking about *Late Summer Flowering Perennials*.

The meeting venue is Ridgeway Community Church, Old Buildings off Wood Street OX10 0EW.

Visitors are most welcome, admission is just £3.00.

Aleck Harrison
07734 889717
gardenswallingford@gmail.com

Wallingford Country Market

Every Friday, St. Mary-le-More Church, 9.30 am – 12 noon (situated behind Town Hall)

Seasonal Plants, Produce and Baking now on sale. A special 'Apple Day' will be held on **Friday, 19 October**.

Let us help you with your Christmas preparations. 'Mince Pie Tasting' – **Friday 2 November**. Orders taken for most items sold, including Christmas baking, fresh wreaths/decorations and hand-crafted gifts.

Further enquiries, please contact Market Manager, (Tel: **01491 681596**) or visit us one Friday morning, you may be surprised.

Day by day

Sat 6 Oct **Apple pressing, Harvest BBQ and Barn Dance**
5.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Sun 7 Oct **Trinity 19**
8.00am
Holy Communion (1662)
(Revd Dr Michael Lakey)

10.30am
Harvest Festival

Tues 9 Oct **10.15am Short Communion**

Wed 10 Oct **Lunch Club**
12.30pm
Village Hall

Parish Council
Monthly Meeting
7.30pm
Village Hall

Thurs 11 Oct **WI**
Liz Woolley
Beer, Sausages & Marmalade
Drink & Politics in 19C
Oxfordshire.
2.30pm
Village Hall

Sat 13 Oct **OSJ Concert**
Handel and Bach
7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Sun 14 Oct **Trinity 20**
8.00 am
Holy Communion (1662)
(Revd Jon Roberts)

10.30am
Sung Eucharist

Wed 17 Oct **Chiropodist**
Village Hall (see p24)

Culham Horticultural Society
Plants and Plant Combinations for
Summer Containers'
by Harriet Rycroft



Thurs 18 Oct **Classic Car Show,**
1.00-4.00pm
George Hotel

Sat 20 Oct **Light: A Spiritual Journey**
Multimedia exhibition
Dorchester Abbey
Until 6 January 2019

Sun 21 Oct **Trinity 21**
8.00 am
Holy Communion (1662)
(Canon Sue Booy)

10.30am
Family Service

5.00pm
Evensong

Wed 24 Oct **Lunch Club**
12.30pm
Village Hall

DoT Historical Society
Great House of Wessex Project
Lesley Best
7.30pm
Village Hall

Sun 28 Oct **Last after Trinity**
8.00am
Holy Communion (1662)
(Canon Sue Booy)

10.30pm
Sung Eucharist

Church services in Dorchester Abbey appear in red. More details can be found at :
www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

For details of services at St Birinus RC Church go to: www.stbirinus.co.uk

Weekly events

Tuesday **Coffee in the Abbey**
10.30am-12noon
Bellringing Practice
7.30pm Abbey
Fishmonger
9.30am to 9.50am by War
Memorial (page 24)

Wednesday **Holy Communion at Berinsfield Church**
9.30am
Keep Fit Senior Circuits
10.00am
Village Hall

Thursday **Baby & Toddler Group**
9.30am – 11.00am
Village Hall: (term time only)

Friday **Choir Practice**
7.00pm Abbey

Regular events also appear in the Parish Council's website:
www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Parish Registers

Memorial Service

13 Sept Roger Mitchell

Baptism

12 Aug Lyon Lucifer Mitchell

Weddings

11 Aug James Patrick Collins and Hope Danielle Critchell

1 Sept Joshua Adam Taylor-Davies and Katie Louise Herman

8 Sept Ayokunnu Oluwaseun Aderkunle Adeniran and Oyinkansola Ayobami Adeniran

Clocks go back
Sunday 28 October
at 3.00am.



Wednesday 31 October Halloween



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**)

SURGERIES

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

ROOM HIRE

ABBEY GUEST HOUSE BOOKINGS

To hire the Abbey Guest House for private functions, meetings, exhibitions, etc, contact Kate Herbert on **01865 340007**, email admin2@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

HIRE OF DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL

To hire our Village Hall, contact Kate Harris bookings@dotvh.org.uk or telephone **07814 458729**.

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

FAULTS AND COMPLAINTS

STREET LIGHTING

Report any problems with a street light to **0800 317802**, available 24 hours a day. Callers will be asked for the address of the site and the nature of the fault.

HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

Ring Oxfordshire Highways on **0845 3101111**, available five days a week, with a 24-hour answering facility. Complaints can also be sent via e-mail to southernarea@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

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

BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

Green Furlong, Berinsfield **01865 340771**
Free Internet access. DVDs can be ordered.

OPENING HOURS

Mon - closed
Tues, Wed, Fri 10.00am – 12.30pm
Tues 2.00–7.00pm
Wed, Thurs 2.00–5.30pm
Fri 2.00–5.00pm
Sat 10.00am – 12.30pm

MOBILE POST OFFICE

The Mobile Post office stops outside the Co-op every Wednesday between 10.30 and 11.30 am

Useful Information

ANIMAL WELFARE

RSPCA (wildlife): **0300 123 0206**
St Tiggywinkles animal rescue: **01844 292292**
Swan Lifeline: **01753 859397**

TRANSPORT

DORCHESTER FLYER

The Dorchester Flyer runs every Friday from Dorchester to Wallingford at 10.00am and returning at 12.00 noon. Tickets must be bought from Lily's in advance.

OTHER BUS SERVICES

Services X38, X39 X40 go every 20 minutes from the bypass at the end of Drayton Road to Oxford and Wallingford. Information about bus services, both local and national, is available from www.traveline.info, and **0871 200 2233**.

OXFORDSHIRE TRAVEL ADVICE LINE

Free journey planning and advice for people over 65 and those needing a high level of support whilst travelling. **01865 323738**

AGE UK

The UK's largest charity working with older people For help and advice etc. go to www.ageuk.org.uk

WALLINGFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE

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

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Clerk is Geoffrey Russell of The Pigeons (next to The Fleur de Lys), High Street, Dorchester on Thames OX10 7HH; **07745 311439** (during normal office hours, please, unless an emergency); parishclerk@dorchesteronthames.co.uk.

USEFUL CONTACTS

ANGLICAN PRIEST

Dorchester Rectory
Revd. Canon Sue Booy
01865 340007

EDUCATION OFFICER

Margaret Craig
01865 343164
education@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

ABBEY E-MAIL:

admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk
Contact details for Church Wardens and other Abbey information are on the notice board in the Abbey.

ABBEY WEBSITE

www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

VILLAGE WEBSITE

www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST

The Presbytery
Fr. John Osman
Bridge End
01865 340417
www.stbirinus.co.uk

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



REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Fri 5 Oct **Black**
Fri 12 Oct **Green**
Fri 19 Oct **Black**
Fri 26 Oct **Green**

Weekdays from 7.00am
Saturdays from 6.00am

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.

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IT'S BACK WITH A BANG...

**Dorchester on Thames
Village Firework Display
Saturday 3rd November
at the Recreation Ground**



Food and drink served from 5.30pm
Locally sourced burgers and hot dogs, Winter Pimms
and tray bakes and much more

Bring the family for tea and enjoy a selection of stalls
Lighting of the bonfire at 6pm

Entrance by voluntary
donation with all profits
going to FOOTSTEPS



(Please...NO SPARKLERS)