

Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish





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Cover picture: Dorchester Abbey in the snow, by Gordon Roberts

Deadline for February Dorchester News



email:

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

DoT view

December is when everything reaches a sort of crescendo of events and celebrations, community, spiritual and family, culminating in New Year's Eve, and then crashing back down to earth on New Year's Day with a jaded feeling and, just possibly for some of us, a hangover.

Looking at the Dorchester Diary on pages 29 and 30 it is clear that so much is happening in December that it barely fits onto the page, whilst in January the village events cover little more than half that. The events listed on these pages are just the public or society events, and many of us will find ourselves involved or inveigled into private functions, dinners and work parties as well. In the social media age, it is easy to think that everyone else is having a better time than we are, because few of us post, or should that be boast, the times that are not so good. There are, however, almost certainly people who will not be having such a busy time as you, and we should think about those. If ever there is a time of year to remember our neighbours it is now, especially if they are on their own. Whilst we may be attending carol concerts, music events, plays, and Christmas parties there are people in the village who will welcome just a visit and a mince pie with someone.

Add that extra appointment into your December calendar, and then come January you can just veg out, or you can make that visit again.

Ian Brace

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Megan Parry

Distribution Co-ordinator

Maurice Day

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I'm sure it's no mistake that the period of the

year that runs from the end of October to early March is riddled with Festivals that focus on light. These festivals come from all faiths and from the earliest days of our country – or the smaller kingdoms that made it up. Of course it depends on your perspective whether you regard this as evidence of a human response to the lack of light, believe that the old faiths were the true ones or acknowledge that all religions depend on the natural world for their inspiration. For me it is the last of these. If you are an inhabitant of the earth the light is important to you; the agents that bring light and the contract between light and darkness are important and significant. So, it follows that something which is special and good will be associated with light. In most places in our world light and darkness become motifs for what is special and hopeful and what is potentially threatening whether physically or spiritually.

Light is the common theme in all the accounts that try to explain the confused events of the first Christmas. The star that shines in the darkness is at the forefront of these – leading shepherds and

Talking Point

sages to the birthplace of a new and different kind of king. 'Follow the star' is a central theme for Christmas and those words occur in pretty much every Nativity play!

In John's account of the birth 'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it' mark the beginning of the earthly life of Jesus. John's story doesn't begin with shepherds, angels and stables nor even with the birth of a child to a virgin. Instead John draws his mystery from the cosmos, from what he perceives as an eternal battle between light and darkness. We have been reminded of the smallness of our individual journeys and the strength we can gain from one another as well as from solitude by Adrian Brookes' and Tim Cook's wonderful and thought provoking exhibition in Dorchester Abbey Cloister gallery which remains there until the Epiphany. As someone who knew the spiritual account of creation from the Jewish tradition in which God created light, John looks to explain the extraordinary nature of Jesus not in a back room birth in the 'hard but homely' Bethlehem slums but in the kindling of a

Canon Sue Booy



new kind of light in the context of the creation of the cosmos. This is a human light to shine in the darkest corners of human existence and of the human heart.

This new creation brings a new understanding of faith and the light it can bring to individual lives. At a christening service we say to the newly baptised 'Shine as a light in the world'. It is that simple. Jesus came to bring light into the dark places of the world so that we would know how to do it too!

Christmas in our day is characterised by two extremes – excesses of all kinds of unnecessary 'stuff' and a spike in generosity with people keen to give to others. This isn't the place to ask in detail why the inequalities between people that make this giving necessary cannot be ended – but the question *needs* to be asked.

For the moment I want simply to give thanks for the light shining in the darkness that brings people together, warms their hearts and seeks to shut out the dark and cold of a spiritual winter as well as the physical one.

LIGHT Epiphany Event

We are hoping to end the LIGHT exhibition with a special final Epiphany event with music, food wine, and a final opportunity to see the installation. Please look out for details on noticeboards, social media and in your inboxes! Do contact us if you would like to know more!

#FollowTheStar and The Posada Party

Every year the Posada – the Holy Family Mary and Joseph travel around our community (see details on page 4) in preparation for Christmas. At the Posada Party we'll welcome them to the Abbey before they begin their final journey along the High Street preparing for the birth of the Baby at Christmas.

#FollowTheStar will be our Posada theme as part of a special way of looking forward to Christmas and celebrating across the whole country. Look out for special #FollowTheStar pop up events here and everywhere especially on **21 December!**

From the Rector

I am really grateful for your support kind wishes and cards whilst I have been unwell. I am looking forward to a happy and healthy New Year and wish you one as well. I am expecting to be well enough for our annual 'Open House' on 21 December from 6.00pm – 8.00pm and hope to see you there.

Christmas Services in the Abbey

We are looking forward to welcoming you to celebrate Christmas with us this year whether we see you often or as occasional visitors. Come and celebrate in traditional style by listening to our Choir and singing **Carols by Candlelight** on **Sunday 23**, join in the excitement of the **Crib service** at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve or the awe of **Midnight Mass** which begins at 11.30pm. Everyone is welcome to celebrate on Christmas morning quietly at 8.00am or with the whole family at 10.30am. As usual children are invited to bring a favourite present to show Reverend Sue – and you are welcome to come and go as suits your family needs - late arrivals and early departures are fine. We would love to see you to say Happy Christmas.

Christmas Tree

This year the Abbey Christmas tree will be put up on **Saturday 8 December** – please come along to help decorate from 10.00am. There's a real need for a team of 'strong arms' from about 9.00am please come and help – there will be people on hand to occupy children before decorating commences about 10.00am.

Service for the Team, 30 December

We'll be having a quiet Sunday on **30 December**. There will be the usual service in the Abbey at 8.00am and at **11.00am** a service for the whole Team family at Berinsfield Church.

Village Carol Singing Wednesday 19 December 6.00pm



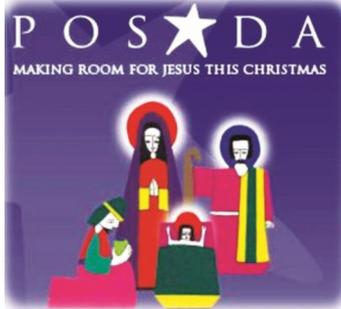
Come and have great fun singing carols around the village with the Abbey choir to raise money for ABCD - Action Around Bethlehem Children with Disability.

We will meet outside The Fleur at 6.00pm and finish with mulled wine and mince pies.

All ages and talents welcome. Even if you can't sing you can help by collecting money! Bring a torch and dress up warm. Please email/phone if you intend to come—occasionally we call it off if the weather is dreadful!

Steph Forman
steph@forman.org.uk
01865 340434

Posada



Posada is an old Mexican tradition where young people dressed as Mary and Joseph travelled from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling people about the imminent arrival of Jesus in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Modern day Posada uses nativity figures of Mary and Joseph who travel from place to place. This gives each 'host' the chance to create their own celebration reaching out to others with the real message of Christmas, making room for Jesus in their lives.

Look out for Dorchester's Mary and Joseph through advent, travelling to school and pre-school, and from window to window towards the Abbey where they will finally arrive at the 4.30pm Crib Service on **Christmas Eve**, enjoying a Posada Party at our 10.30am family service on **Sunday 16 December** along the way

Steph Forman

Dorchester on Thames Historical Society

Wednesday 23 January 1999
7.30pm, Village Hall Back Room
Members free, Visitors welcome (£3)
To be followed by a short AGM

Professor Gregory Stores will talk about *Hospitals and Infirmarys in Medieval England*
Hospitals of one type or another have existed from early times, the terms used for them reflecting somewhat the nature of those for whom help was provided. In England care of those in need increased with the coming of Christianity and development of monasticism especially following the Norman invasion. Religious conviction and practice was the basis of care for the ill, elderly and infirm (hence 'infirmary'), the destitute and also travellers including the wandering poor and pilgrims. Sometimes education was provided for the poor.



Specific aspects covered in the talk will include the influence on European clinical practice of medieval Islamic medicine, views of lepers and special provision for them, effects on hospitals of the Black Death, Poor Law punitive attitudes to vagabonds, and the consequences of the Dissolution of the Monasteries at the time of the Reformation.

Illustrations will be used throughout with reference to examples of local and national medieval hospitals.

Professor Stores, an Emeritus Professor in the University of Oxford Medical School, is well-known for his informative and entertaining talks to the Historical Society and elsewhere

Margot Metcalfe
Chairman



Dorchester WI

Our December meeting will be a Christmas Tea Party on Thursday

13 December at 2.30 for members only. At this meeting a WI Advisor from the Oxfordshire Federation will hold a ballot to decide if the Dorchester WI is to be suspended due to lack of members being prepared to form a Committee to run our WI.

If members vote to suspend our WI, we will miss the companionship

that the WI meetings give us and therefore we will consider the possibility of starting up an informal 'Friendship Group' for a 'natter and cup of tea' in the back room of the Village Hall, meeting on the same day and time that we would have held our WI meeting. More news about this will be in the February Dorchester News when we know for certain the outcome of the ballot.

Susan Jupp

Dorchester Lunch Club

The dates for the Lunch Club lunches from January to Easter are on Wednesdays: 9 January, 23 January, 13 February, 27 February, 13 March, 27 March and end of season Easter Lunch on 10 April. The lunches are held in the back room of the Village Hall at 12.30 for 12.45pm.

It is always nice to welcome new people to attend, but please phone me the week before you would like to come so I can be sure I can fit you in, as it is only possible to accommodate 24 people each time.

Susan Jupp
01865 341066

Hempcroft Allotments December



Not everyone may be aware that the whole of the Hempcroft Allotments stands on a Scheduled Ancient Monument site. The Allotments are within the boundary of the old Roman town and indeed the southern part of the allotments are where the southern ramparts used to be, and Watling Lane follows the course of the ditch outside the ramparts. A Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) has particular legal restrictions associated with it and there have been recent meetings between the Parish Council, the Allotment Association committee and David Wilkinson, who is an Ancient Monuments Inspector for Historic England, to clarify how the allotments can be used whilst remaining within the legal restrictions.

There is on-going legal consent for the use of the area as allotments and for soil disturbance to a depth of up to 30 cm, but no deeper. The Association asked for increase in the 30cm disturbance depth because a few people still double dig for runner bean beds etc. David indicated that 45cm would be considered as a possibility if a blanket application is made

to Historic England because the archaeological deposits on the Hempcroft site are relatively deep compared with many other SAM sites. It was agreed that an application would be made by the Association. Other works, such as driving in posts for signage, and digging trenches for water supplies (to take two examples that have happened) have no legal consent and it is important that Historic England are consulted before any other such works take place in future.

Burning should not take place on a Scheduled Ancient Monument as it can affect scientific dating of the archaeology therefore burning allotment waste on the ground is forbidden. The Allotment Association will decide the preferred procedure. This could be by designating a central site or by mandating that waste can only be burned in an incinerator raised from the ground. It was noted that many allotment holders have their own incinerator and some allotment holders may also be prepared to share their incinerator.

Edward Metcalfe
Chairman

Culham & District Horticultural Club



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

Wednesday 16 January 2019
Grasses: why we can't do without them by John Graham

John Graham is a well respected plantsman who, until recently, ran the Steventone Road Nursery at East Hanney.

Our membership comprises keen amateur gardeners, professional horticulturalists and those who just enjoy beautiful plants and gardens.

We meet on the third Wednesday of each month during the winter, at 7.30pm in the Abbey Guest House, Dorchester on Thames, for fascinating and diverse talks by specialist horticulturalists.

During the summer there are organised garden visits and a three day garden tour by coach in June.

Membership is open to all those who have a keen interest in horticulture and visitors are welcome at the meeting. For more details telephone **01235 850381** or email judy@tiggercat.me.uk

Fishmonger

Kim, the Fishmonger is changing the day of the week and the time of day that he will be in Dorchester starting in December 2018.

From December 2018 the Fishmonger will be at the **War Memorial every Monday at 3.30pm** for a short time. The fish he sells is fresh and excellent, so Dorchester residents who love fish but do not regularly buy fish from him, please make your way to the War Memorial in the High Street at 3.30 on Mondays to do so. If you then become a regular buyer he will come to your house instead of you having to come to the War Memorial.

Susan Jupp



Sophia Stewart-Liberty
Tamsin John
Rosie Southon

Paintings and Pots

66, High Street, Dorchester
30 Nov, 1 Dec, 2 Dec
11.00am – 5.00pm

A combined exhibition featuring the work of Debbie Farrell, Chris Ellis and Claire Houghton is being held at 1 Abingdon Road, Dorchester-on-Thames on Saturday 1 December and Sunday 2 December from 11.00-4.00pm.

Beautiful box-framed hand made embroidery, silver jewellery, individually designed and hand knitted garments and a selection of attractive snoods/wraps and costume jewellery will all be available.



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St Birinus Primary School News

During the term, the KS2 children had a visit from the PSCOs to talk about the excitement and the risks for Halloween as well as answering some interesting questions about the police.

Angelina, Jessica, Megan, Jake, Kodie, Orvil, Oakleigh, Leo, Cecily and Olivia headed off to the Oxford Academy to take part in a Tchoukball Tournament – a change to the normal selection of sports and I think I can still explain the rules if I was asked. The children really worked as a team and although we did not win, I was really proud of their achievement and I am sure they can explain the game to you if you ask.

the Foundation children prepared some smaller poppies with the names of the soldiers who came from the village.

Rev. Sue led our special assembly in the Abbey on the Thursday prior to Remembrance Sunday to present our Poppy Banner. It was a very moving time especially hearing the names of soldiers from the village who lost their lives during the wars. The banner was on display in the Abbey and also was part of the Remembrance Service.

Don't forget your invitation to come to our Community Open Mornings on the **6 and 7 December**. We look forward to seeing you.



Pre-School News

How quickly Christmas has descended upon us! It seems only moments ago that we welcomed back old and new faces to Pre-School after the wonderful summer. Something of a distant memory now, with the term focusing on 'winter is coming' and of course Christmas.

The children have had a great term celebrating Halloween and Guy Fawkes, with lots of pumpkin carving and apple bobbing and also a spooktacular Halloween party enjoyed by all showcasing some fabulous costumes and raising much needed funds for the Pre-School charity. The children also have a preschool Christmas concert which they will be practicing for, before showcasing to their parents in December and a Christmas party to enjoy before breaking up for the Christmas holidays.

A lucky couple have bought the Pre-School rocking horse for their grandson. It had been languishing in the shed and was lovingly restored by the original craftsman. I'm sure the lucky new owner will get endless pleasure from it and the sale of it will buy something new and delightful for the children at Pre-School.

If you know of any families that might be interested in a place at our wonderful preschool, there are places available for January. Further information can be found on the website dorchesterpreschool.co.uk.

The Pre-School AGM was held on 18 October. Two committee members, Kristina Palm and Michal Antoniak, resigned from the committee. We had two new members join the committee - Lauren Collett (who is also our new Secretary) and Francesca Keogh. Our other continuing committee members are Caroline Scott, Nigel Scott (Treasurer) and Louisa Margison (Chair).

Finally, from all the staff and children at Dorchester preschool we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2019. Many thanks for all your support during 2018, it is much appreciated.

Lauren Collett
Secretary
Dorchester Pre-School



The October's 'Writer of the Month' children for each class were as follows:

Squirrel Class: Delilah Budd, Poppy Line
Fox Class: Reilly Newport, Max Pottinger
Owl Class: Jacob Clewley, Sian Wilson.
Well done to them for their great writing work.

We were asked to prepare a Poppy tribute to complement the installation within the Abbey. The older three classes wrote some words or a poem about the First World War presented on big poppies and

As you read this, we would have started to think about Christmas with our Nativity play, Christmas meal etc. As usual we have our Christmas Service at 1.15pm on **19 December** in the Abbey – this is open to anyone that would like to join us and it will be great to see you as we sing our carols and read the Christmas story together.

Russell Leigh
Headteacher
Dorchester St Birinus
CE Primary School



Angels from the Shrine Chapel window
21 x 9.7cm



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



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.

Dorchester Abbey Christmas Cards

Sold in aid of Dorchester Abbey

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



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Birthday Greetings; Maurice Day, born 23 October 1928

The Parish Council joins the rest of the Dorchester community in congratulating Maurice Day on his 90th birthday and wishing him many more active and fulfilling years.

Since moving here in early 1966 Maurice has served this village in so many ways: as policeman, member of the Abbey PCC and of its fabric committee, churchwarden for 10 years, parish councillor for 35 years (and still going strong!), Chairman of the Parish Council (1991 - 1995), as well as being on the Neighbourhood Planning Group and the committees of the Historical Society, the Short Mat Bowls Club, the Village Hall, the Sports Club and sundry other activities, including many years of organising the distribution of 'Dorchester News'.



We have all come to rely on Maurice's peerless knowledge of the village, its past, its organisations, and its people. In a Parish Council meeting he only has to open his briefcase and you know immediately that you will get chapter and verse of past events and decisions, with key documents in support. At Abbey coffee when he starts showing photographs and telling historical anecdotes you know you are in for a treat. Probably no-one knows more about the fabric of the Abbey, from the chandeliers to the drains.

While his caravanning days may be over, he relives those wonderful holidays with Rosemary and other key times in his life by organising his massive photograph collection and has mastered the internet to become an accomplished family historian.

Tenpenny Friends

Tenpenny was built in 1952 and families were moved by Bullingdon Rural District Council into the twelve dwellings at a rate of one per week to cause each one the minimum of disruption. Recently, a reunion tea party was held in the Back Room of the Village Hall (where most of those residents had also been educated between the ages of seven and nine!). Friends from original numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12 were able to attend and had a lovely time over tea and cake catching up with each other's news and reminiscing about the days when children could safely play in the almost traffic-free cul de sac!

Denise Line



Footpath re-opened

A new footpath has been opened, or rather an existing and overgrown footpath has been cleared, alongside Watling Lane. The work was carried out by Vale Path Volunteers, pictured below, www.ramblers-oxon.org.uk/vwh/vale-path-volunteers.html at the request of DoT Parish Council.

All it needs now is for people to use it, so that it won't grow over again!

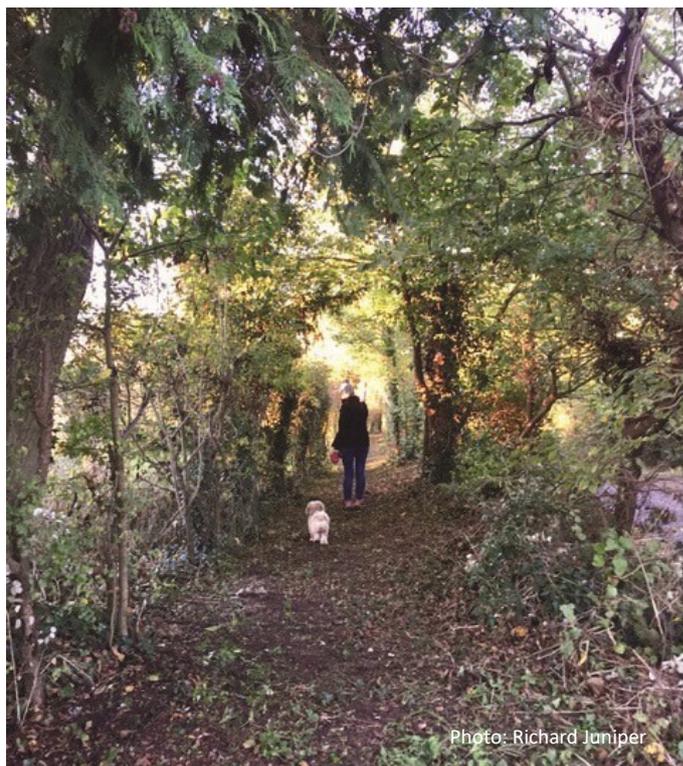


Photo: Richard Juniper

Fireworks

We have been busy at Footsteps after another successful fireworks event. Thanks to the Parish Council for all the help with the event. Thanks to all the volunteers who came and gave their time to make a successful evening – we are so very grateful and it would not have been possible without your help. The fire was roaring, the mulled wine flowed and the weather stayed clement. As ever, the fireworks display was spectacular. We are very pleased that the fundraising on the night reached around £4,000, similar to 2017.

Christmas Raffle at Footsteps

We are holding a raffle that will be drawn on the 10 December. 1st prize an i-pad; 2nd prize £100 Ashmolean restaurant voucher; 3rd prize a case of fine wine. Please pop in to buy tickets at £1 each or email maggie@footstepsfoundation.com and we can deliver them to you.



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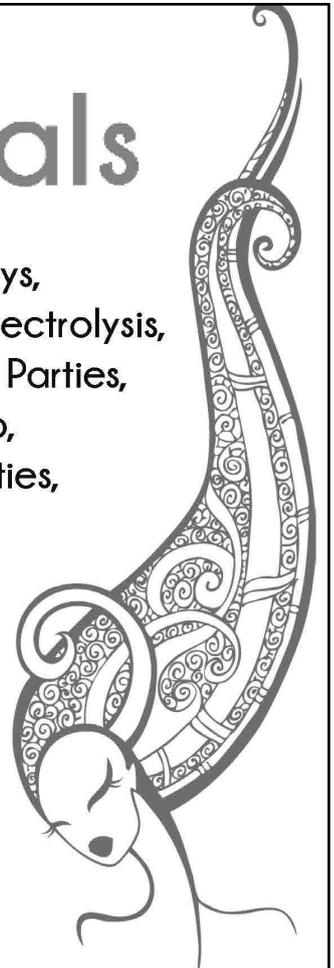
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all welcome from 10am - music starts at 11am



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farnham maltings

Brilliance



The night the light came

Thursday 6 December 2018

Written by Kevin Dyer Directed by Gavin Stride

Professional Touring Company Theatre in Association with
Dorchester on Thames Village Hall Committee

A Show with Music – One Performance Only

Doors/Bar Open 7.00pm Performance starts 7.30pm

£10 Full; £8 Concessions (16 and under; 60 years +)

Tickets available to order via **01865 340792** and from
Dorchester Co-op



Approaching the end of a seven-week national tour, The Farnham Maltings Theatre Company arrives in Dorchester on Thames with a new production made especially for performance in village halls. Audiences from East Sussex to Aberdeenshire have sat 'in the round' enjoying an excellent production where

everything was brilliant, the writing, the production, the music, wonderful instruments, the setting, and the intimacy.

'It was bittersweet and wonderful, such accomplished musicians/music and lighting added to the atmosphere. We shall certainly follow Farnham Maltings to other village halls. How wonderful for the villages. It certainly "lit up" our night.'

National Lottery Funded - Supported by Arts Council of England

Fishmonger

The travelling fishmonger comes to Dorchester every Monday and will stop at 3.30pm in High Street near the War Memorial.



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A 'Harty' Sunday

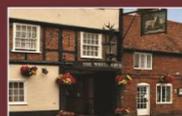


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Football Results North Berks League Div 3



20/10/2018	Dorchester First	1	4	Faringdon Town Reserves
27/10/2018	Dorchester First	1	1	Ardington & Lockinge Reserves
Cup				
03/11/2018	Letcombe First	1	0	Dorchester First

Patients Participation Group (PPG) Clifton Hampden Surgery

An update for patients who attend this surgery

Dr.Lynch-Blosse will be reducing his hours after Christmas and will be working on Wednesdays,Thursdays and Fridays. We are happy that Dr.Rubin is going to join as a regular doctor working Wednesdays and Fridays. Dr.Steinbrecher will continue to work on Mondays and Tuesdays and Dr.James will be changing her days to Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Dr.Delfosse is currently on sick leave and it is hoped will return to work on Thursdays early in 2019 after recovering from an operation.

There is a great emphasis these days on improving prevention of ill health but also improving care for people with long term conditions as well as trying to meet the needs of an ageing population. More information is available at the Oxford Clinical Commissioning Group website. Our chairperson regularly attends the South West Oxon Locality Forum and we are part of the Abingdon cluster of surgeries.

We welcome comments and would be delighted for more participation from patients. Our next meeting is **Wednesday 5 December** 7.30 pm at the surgery and the speaker will be from **Healthwatch** which operates in Health and Social Care. Any patients interested will be very welcome but please let us know to enable us to ensure sufficient space is available.

Mary Braybrooke (Chairperson)
01865 407566

For further information please contact Gerry Moscrop (Secretary)
geraldmoscrop@btinternet.com

Warm home discount contd.

eligible if you have a low income and receive certain means-tested benefits. Bear in mind that energy suppliers could have different eligibility rules.

Applications for the discount open at different times for each supplier and people who are not auto-enrolled need to apply as soon as possible to improve their chances.

Further details are available from <https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme>

Citizens Advice can help. Contact us in person during opening hours or on the telephone (Adviceline **03444 111444**). For locations of offices and opening hours see www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale

Dorchester Golf Society (The DOGS)



The final outings of the season for Dorchester Dogs were at Newbury & Crookham and Studley Wood.

The outing at Newbury was for the Peter Crawshaw Salver. This was a very closely fought teams competition with all five teams scoring well. Mike Rimmer and Joey Joseph being the eventual winners by the narrowest of margins.

This was a new venue for DOGS, certainly one we would wish to revisit in the future.

The final event of the year was the Andy Kent trophy held at Studley Wood on October 26. 15 players turned out expecting a balmy autumn day, it turned out to be the coldest October day in 10 years, with a biting wind buffeting the fairways. The scores undoubtedly reflected the conditions, abetted by greens that would not have been out of place at Augusta. The best score was returned by one of our visiting players, John Dauphin, from Deddington, with 31 points.

DOGS closed the year with our annual dinner at the White Hart, a black-tie affair, one of the few occasions most of us have to dress up anymore. We were regally entertained by Sean and his staff, with a champagne reception and an excellent three course meal. Trophies for the year were presented and the opportunity taken to thank all who had contributed to an enjoyable and successful year.

John Edwards

**citizens
advice**

Warm Home Discount

People who have difficulty paying their energy bills might be able to take advantage of the Warm Home Discount, a new kind of grant offered by the government and energy suppliers.

The Warm Home Discount is a scheme that provides people on low incomes with a single discount of £140 on their winter electricity bill. (You might be able to get the discount applied to your gas bill instead - contact your supplier to find out.)

The discount will not affect your Cold Weather Payment or Winter Fuel Payment.

Not all energy suppliers are part of the scheme. You can contact your supplier to see if they offer the discount. (If the supplier doesn't, you might want to switch to a supplier that does.)

Most people who are eligible will receive the discount automatically, without having to apply. This will be the case if, on 8 July 2018:

- They were with an energy supplier that is part of the scheme; and
- They were receiving the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit; and
- Their name (or their partner's name) was on the bill.

If you don't receive the discount automatically, you might be

← Continued left.

**Dorchester on Thames
Oxfordshire**



**1918
Commemoration Trail**

**Dorchester on Thames during
the First World War**

The pay of British soldiers tended to be lower than what the men would have earned in civilian life. Moreover, the loss of the main bread winner sometimes left families back home in a state of considerable hardship, obliging women to do additional, paid work, for example by taking in washing. Here is information about some of the women of the village, and the lives they led in the absence of their men.

Mrs Edith Atkins, Queen Street, Dorchester
Edith Atkins (née Pugh) first came to Dorchester as a spinster maid to the Latham family at Bishop's Court. She married George Atkins of Dorchester in November 1913. George was wounded, was sent to Norfolk in convalescence, returned to the war and was then held prisoner. The war years were therefore very hard for Edith, although her experience was not unusual. She helped the extended family by working on the allotment at that time a crucial source of food for the local community, and took in washing to make ends meet.

Mrs Agnes Cherrill, Millhouse Row, Dorchester

Agnes Thornehill was born in Kingston, Berkshire. She married Edward Cherrill, a Dorchester man, in 1910. She worked as a housemaid at Bishop's Court and the family lived in Millhouse Row. Edward Cherrill enlisted in 1916, into the OBEI. He served in Mesopotamia (now Iraq) and Southern Russia, contracting malaria, which would affect him for the rest of his life.

During the war, despite financial hardship with her husband away at war, Agnes managed to contribute to the care of a family of Belgian refugees in the village with



Mrs Agnes Cherrill with her daughter, Edith, Dorothy, and Edith, in a photograph taken in Dorchester while he was serving abroad.

gifts of vegetables, clothing, and money subscriptions. She was also a member of the Red Cross Society and made clothes for soldiers, including 'pillows for wounded limbs made with rags cut up by the children'. *Dorchester Parish Magazine, November 2014*

Miss Rosa Greenaway, The Plough, Dorchester
Rosa Violet Greenaway was the eldest child of Charles Edward Greenaway of Dorchester and Charlotte (née Gatteridge). The Greenaways lived in Martin Lane, Dorchester, before moving to 'The Plough', the pub at the junction of the High Street and the Abingdon road.

Rosa was a cook, earning £24 per year. When a new voluntary service, the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (W.A.A.C.), was established in January 1917, she enrolled and served as a cook in this country, but according to her family was prepared to go wherever she was sent, at home or abroad. As well as cooks, women served as clerks, telephonists, waitresses, and as instructors in the use of gas masks. Between January 1917 and the Armistice over 27,000 women served in the W.A.A.C.



Miss Greenaway in her W.A.A.C. uniform.

Acknowledgements

Written and created by Dr Viviane Quake in 2018, with support from Dorchester Parish Council. Thanks to Chris Hill, to members of the Dorchester Historical Society, and especially to Dorian Lane, Marge Metcalfe and Steph Forman for material and permissions.



Remembrance

On the 100th anniversary of the armistice that brought the fighting in the Great War of 1914-18 to a close, Dorchester, like most communities, remembered those who had given their lives, not just in that conflict but in all conflicts since, particularly those who had lived and possibly grown up in the village.

Prior to the day itself, the 'Unbroken Glory – Hidden Radiance' project had seen many villagers making poppies, mostly out of wool. Inspired by *The Dead* by Rupert Brooke, around 400 poppies were used in the display, with different colours to represent animals and conscientious objectors with 20 doves representing the Dorchester men who died on active service. Their names were woven into the cloth. The children of St Birinus Primary School also created a panel (see the school report on page 7) which was included in the display and in the procession to the war memorial.

On Saturday 10 November and on the Sunday, the Abbey Museum was open, particularly to allow visitors to see the exhibition of Dorchester women in the First World War.

Sunday 11 November started with piper Angus Whitfield, Dorchester's own piper, outside the Abbey at 6.00am bringing in the day.



The Remembrance Service at 10.00am at Dorchester Abbey was followed by the service at the War Memorial, with the Abbey Choir and City of Oxford Silver Band. The service included a two minute silence and a fly past by two RAF helicopters from Benson.

At 12.30, church bells rang out across the country with the ringers of Dorchester Abbey part of that, giving a national 30 minute celebration of the armistice signing. The bells rang out again on the afternoon of Monday 12 November, when a team of ringers from the Oxford Diocesan Guild rang a full peal, lasting three hours.

In addition a Commemorative Trail leaflet has been produced as a guide to the village's connections to the Great War including the names of those who died and those who survived.

Top left: Commemoration Trail leaflet
Left: The Armistice Tribute in Dorchester Abbey



Below: The Abbey ringers, about to





ance 2018



Left: The RAF passes overhead as the standard-bearer stands to attention.

Right: The City of Oxford Silver Band sound the last post.

Below: The museum's tribute to women in the Great War, several of whom are also referred to in the Commemoration Trail.



join in the national ring at 12.30pm



THE GREAT WAR, 1914-1918
THEY ALSO SERVED...

2014 marks the anniversary of the start of the Great War. To commemorate this we have focused on the lives of three 'typical' Dorchester women whose wartime stories include financial hardship, coping without menfolk, and the desire to enlist and serve during the period 1914-1918. Their lives and activities were mirrored in communities throughout the country. In the display case below this panel are artefacts, documents and cherished family items from this time.

Edith Atkins's Story
Edith's story tells how local families endured financial hardships throughout the war. Edith Flux was an upstairs maid at Bishop's Court. She married George Atkins of Dorchester in November 1913 and resided in Queen Street. War times were very hard for Edith and her experience was not unusual. 'A British infantry soldier earned 1shilling a day, often less than men earned in civilian life. Consequent hardship was not uncommon for wives and families, scant thanks for the sacrifices made.' D P McGregor *Lest We Forget*. 2004
Edith was obliged to help the extended family on the allotment and had to take in washing to make ends meet.

Menkey: A day of hard physical work. Water had to be drawn from the well, or pump, and the copper filled. Washing was done in a small bath or tub with a little soap or soda which often made hands very red and painful.
Tuesday: Ironing day. Flat irons were heated on the stove. Clothes were aired on the clothes horse around the fire.

Extracts from "Dorchester Life, 1912" by Mary Tomer

Rosa Greenaway's Story
Rosa's story depicts the desire of many women to serve. Rosa was born in 1898 and her family lived in 'The Plough' on the High Street, Dorchester.
Rosa in her WAAC uniform
Rosa joined the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), a new voluntary service established in 1917. She served in the UK as a cook, but was prepared to work at home or abroad. Character references were needed for women who wished to enlist; they were not allowed to enlist, like soldiers were. Rosa enrolled late in the war, with a reference from Dorchester's Vicar, and her employer. She was a domestic cook, earning £24 a year. In the WAAC she would have earned 24 shillings a week.
In 1916, after heavy losses on the Western Front, it was decided to use women to replace men doing certain jobs (women served as clerks, telephonists, waitresses, cooks, and as instructors in the use of gas masks). The War Office stipulated that any job given to a member of the WAAC had to result in a man being released for front line duties.
All members of the WAAC had to do daily physical exercises. This included Morris dancing and hockey. Between January 1917 and the Armistice over 57,000 women served in the WAAC.

Agnes Cherrill's Story
Agnes's story shows that despite hardships local women often supported and gave generously to local charities. Agnes Titcombe married Edward Cherrill, a Dorchester man, in 1910. Agnes worked as a housemaid at Bishop's Court, and the family lived in Malthouse Row. Despite hard times financially, Agnes still managed to contribute to the community's care of Belgian Refugees in the village with gifts of vegetables, clothing, and 'subscriptions' (small cash donations).
Agnes Cherrill with her daughters, Edna, Dorothy, and Sybil, in a photograph sent to Edward while he was serving abroad.
Thanks were expressed to 'Those who have kindly and generously come forward to help our Belgian families in their distress, and our people who have lent useful things to furnish the house.' There were 104 weekly subscribers in Dorchester, giving amounts varying from one (old) penny to 2s 6s (12.5p). Mrs Ted Cherrill (Agnes) appears on the list of subscribers.
Dorchester Parish Magazine, December 1914

Every object tells us a story...

Mark Mattock 1929-2018

Mark was born on 29 May 1929 to parents John and Marita Mattock. John Mattock was a noted grower with a general nursery at Charity Farm, Littlemore. Mark was the second of their four children, three boys and one girl. All were educated at Our Lady's Convent and Southfield Grammar School. The Littlemore nursery must have been an inspiring start for Mark and his brothers, witnessing and assisting in the cultivation of plants of many kinds, not only flowering plants but also vegetables and fruit - sold at their Covered Market stall. Crucially, roses of many kinds became an important and valuable crop.

On leaving school Mark left for a walking tour of Algeria, taking photographs of battle sites of the Algerian War, which he later sold to finance his next venture. On his return, he arranged to visit the United States and there he met his future wife Jean in New York. Jean was American by birth and was the President's Secretary at the offices of the US Steel Export Company, where Mark's uncle worked. Mark and Jean were married at Headington on the 28th May 1960. The marriage was blessed with the arrival of two children, James and Peggy, both the pride and joy of their parents through school, university and their subsequent careers. At the Abbey School, Berinsfield Jean took an active part in the Parent Teacher Association and became a member of The Board of Governors.

Towards the end of the Second World War, John senior had moved the nursery and the family from Littlemore to a plot of land off the Windmill Road at Headington. The propagation and sale of roses had become so important that this became known as the Mattock's Rose Nursery. Mark served in the Royal Navy where he was based at Mevagissey in Cornwall but he obviously disliked military matters and it seems rarely discussed this period of his life. The ending of hostilities saw the three brothers assisting John senior in the new Nursery but this was also the subject of a compulsory purchase order. However, with the proceeds John senior acquired a new site from the University at Nuneham



Courtenay. There he established a specialist Rose Nursery and later a Garden Centre.

By 1973 John senior had died and the three brothers took on Mattocks Roses with Mark's wife Jean joined them in the office. This was the high point of the rose growing business and I can recall their contribution to the year-on-year Gold Medal exhibits at Chelsea and other prominent national flower shows, always preceded with mock-ups in the packing sheds, of the displays they intended to create. At its peak the nursery was estimated to be producing approaching nearly a million roses annually.

It was about this time that Mark took an active interest in the Culham and District Horticultural Club and was soon a valued member of the Committee and quickly became Treasurer. The Club, approaching its foundation date of 50 years, found itself without a suitable venue for its meetings. Mark stepped in and arranged for them to be held in the restaurant of the Mattock's Garden Centre. Mark was a staunch and industrious club member and with his wide knowledge of horticultural professionals he found speakers and excellent venues for the Club's visits. The two visits to gardens of Northern

Ireland which he organized, will long remain in the memories of those who took part.

With the fluctuating fortunes of nursery businesses the Nuneham Courtenay Nursery fell on hard times and was eventually sold to the Notcutt's Garden Centre chain. Mark and Jean continued to be employed by the new owners, Mark producing the firm's catalogues and dispensing advice to customers on 'Rose Open Days'. Sadly, Jean and daughter Peggy pre-deceased Mark, Jean following an accident in 2005 and Peggy with cancer treatment complications in 2014.

No account of Mark's life would be complete without a consideration of his role in Britain in Bloom. In semi-retirement he was head-hunted by the organization and soon became Chairman of the Judges Panel, travelling the length and breadth of the British Isles over many years organising and judging cities, large and small towns and villages. For this work he was presented with the Queen Mother's Birthday Award Commendation by Britain in Bloom. He was also given a 'Life Achievement Award to Horticulture', presented by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Mark also enjoyed membership of a shooting syndicate and painting - the latter giving him much pleasure until with failing eyesight he had to lay down his palette and brushes. And now Mark has gone from us and all we have are memories of our time and events with him, these are all the more precious for his passing. You and I know that because of this, we shall treasure those memories all the more.

Ken Burras
29 October 2018

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Can you help?

Does your business sponsor events or would they advertise in the programme? Please get in touch before Christmas.

Could you help to organise an event or spend some time online helping with marketing? There's lots to do to get the Festival up and running!

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16 April 2019 – letters offering places will be posted second-class. Those who applied on-line will receive an email and will be able to review the result of their application on-line.

Parish Council Notices

Monthly Meetings

The November Parish Council Meeting will take place in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 12 December** commencing at 7.30 p.m. and the December Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 9 January** also commencing at 7.30 p.m.

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.

Parish Council Elections

Please note that these elections will take place on **Thursday, 2 May 2019**. Residents wanting more information should contact the Clerk (details below)

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

Dorchester News Crossword No. 6 Solution

Compiled by Slider

1P	A	2R	T	3S		4C	H	5I	M	6N	E	7Y
A		H		T		O		N		A		U
8P	O	E		9A	S	P		10U	P	P	E	R
Y		U		R		I		I				T
11R	E	M	I	T		12E	13S	T	A	14T	E	S
U				15E	16A	S	T			W		
17S	A	18T	Y	R	S		19E	20N	T	O	M	21B
		O			22K	23I	T	E				O
24S	O	P	H	25I	S	M		26I	D	27I	O	M
W				D	P		T		N			B
28A	M	29I	T	Y		30A	S	H		31I	R	A
M		L		L		R		E		G		S
32P	I	K	E	L	E	T		33R	O	O	S	T

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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.

Our Village Primary School is opening its doors

Community Open

Mornings at

Dorchester St Birinus CE Primary School

Both for children starting school in September 2019 or later and also for all members of the community to visit

We would like to invite you and your friends to visit our friendly, welcoming and hardworking school on

**Thursday 6th December and
Friday 7th December**

Please arrive from 9.30am to 11am for coffee to meet our Headteacher, Mr Leigh, followed by a tour of the school given by the Year 6 children with an opportunity to spend some time in classrooms meeting staff and pupils

If you can come along please let us know, thank you. office.3186@st-birinus-pri.oxon.sch.uk or 01865 340081. Alternatively, do just drop in.

We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to Dorchester St Birinus CE Primary School

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From your County Councillor...

...Lorraine Lindsay-Gale



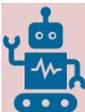
Salting, gritting and snow clearance

OCC is committed to keeping the network of major roads free from ice to minimise the risk of accidents and ensure the smooth flow of traffic. Precautionary salting (sometimes called 'gritting') helps achieve this aim. OCC usually salts between 2 November and 5 April. Live updates can be found here: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/street-maintenance-z/salting-and-snow-clearance



OCC trading standards & police conduct Operation Rogue Trader

Rogue traders and aggressive doorstep sellers were targeted during October by OCC Trading Standards as part of ongoing work to protect residents and business people. Working in collaboration with Thames Valley Police, Operation Rogue Trader aims to stop rogue business practices and raise awareness of the dangers linked to hiring cold-callers. Fourteen Trading Standards staff and around 30 police travelled around the county when 67 traders were approached and checked; ten warning letters were issued; five waste offenders were fined by district councils; and an overloaded vehicle was investigated along with seven doorstep crime offences and two police offences. Those who suspect someone of being a rogue trader, or find themselves accosted by uninvited doorstep sellers should contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on **03454 040506**.



Council to invest in technology to improve and reduce running costs

Plans to completely overhaul the county council were given the go-ahead by the county council's Cabinet on 16 October. They agreed a major investment in digital technology to improve customer service and reduce council running costs. The redesigned council will enable residents to report faults or book appointments online, freeing up staff time to help to service users who cannot go online or have complex care needs. Staff will be given the tools they need to do a better job and spend more time on delivering services to residents.



Boost for a 'full fibre' future in Oxfordshire

Hundreds of businesses and homes across Oxfordshire are set to benefit from faster internet connections, following the launch of the UK Government's nationwide Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme (GBVS). The £67m investment is in addition to the £200m allocated to the Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) programme, and will provide future-proof full fibre connections for businesses and the residential communities around them. It follows a successful pilot scheme launched in four areas around the country late last year, which has already seen nearly 1,000 vouchers used up to date. ThinkBroadband statistics show that 8% of homes and businesses in Oxfordshire already have a full fibre internet connection. Superfast broadband reaches almost 97% of premises, and even-quicker ultrafast broadband covers 51.3% of the county. The vouchers, worth up to £3,000 for a SME and £500 for a resident, provide a one-off contribution to subsidise the installation cost of gigabit-capable infrastructure. In addition to providing a boost to the 95% of the UK that can already get superfast speeds (24Mbps or faster), the vouchers could also help those not yet able to do so, helping to narrow the diminishing digital divide even further. The scheme launched at the end of March 2018 and will run until March 2021 or until all available funding has been allocated. For more information [visit https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/](https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/).



In all types of weather OCC crews are out repairing the roads

Earlier this year OCC put an extra £10m into fixing the roads – effectively doubling the amount of money invested in repairs – and crews are out and about every day in all types of weather doing the job. Their work has already resulted in £1.6m worth of surface dressing with around 33km of roads being surfaced. Work is also under way on a £700,000 programme of surfacing sealing projects around the county. As well as the extra cash which is going into some larger projects, the county council has also increased the amount of relatively small-scale work it does to put right local roads that are suffering from potholes, cracks and worn out tarmac. The number of completed defect repairs between January and September this year is 35,127.



Carers can show badge for a free jab

Flu season is coming and the army of front line carers across Oxfordshire are being urged to make having a free jab a key priority. More than 8,500 staff employed in residential care, nursing homes or with registered domiciliary care providers, who are directly involved in the care of vulnerable people, are entitled to a free flu jab. Keeping this valuable workforce fit and well is essential to easing winter pressures across the county's health and social care system. Being immunised not only reduces the chances of carers them-

selves and their families becoming unwell, it also means that the health of the most vulnerable people in Oxfordshire's communities is not compromised.



Celebrated actors support charity Christmas concert

Acclaimed actors, Juliet Stevenson CBE and Michael Pennington, will return to Dorchester Abbey on **6 December 2018** as special guest readers at *The Coming of Christmas*; a candlelit evening of music and readings in aid of Hft. Now in its 24th year, *The Coming of Christmas* is a much-loved event that raises valuable funds and awareness for Hft; a national charity supporting adults with learning disabilities.

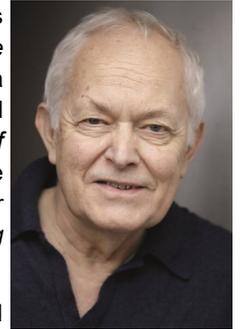
This magical festive event, for which the Abbey is transformed by the light of more than 1,000 candles, features music from the internationally renowned Choir of Magdalen College Oxford, conducted by Mark Williams, as well as readings inspired by the season. The evening will be rounded off with mince pies and mulled wine.



Juliet Stevenson is one of the most respected actors of her generation, well-known for her work on both stage and screen. Most recently,

she has starred in the feature film *Let Me Go*, delivered sparkling performances in *Mary Stuart* and as Gertrude in *Hamlet*, both at the Almeida, and played the leading role in *Wings* at the Young Vic, widely acclaimed as a tour de force.

Michael Pennington is known for films *Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi*, *Fragile* and *The Iron Lady*. He was a triumphant *King Lear* in New York and before that played Edgar in *The Dance of Death* in London. He is co-founder of The English Shakespeare Company and author of several books, including his recent *King Lear in Brooklyn*.



Tickets are now available to purchase and all proceeds will go to Hft's two services in Oxfordshire, helping to ensure that local people with learning disabilities receive the practical help, support and encouragement they need to find more enjoyment and satisfaction in life.

Tickets are £23 online (£25 on the door), including refreshments and a programme, and can be purchased at www.hft.org.uk/comingofchristmas18.



On Tuesday, 4 December, **Wallingford Community Fridge** will open its doors. The Community Fridge will be situated at The Fountain Bookshop, 21b-22a St Mary's Street and will be open Tuesday – Friday 9.30 am – 4.30 pm and Saturday 9.30 am – 1.00 pm.

Community Fridges are communal places where surplus food is shared between people in a community, by local businesses and individuals. It is estimated that the average UK family wastes £810 a year by throwing away food and drink which could have been eaten by others. In addition up to £3 billion is wasted by food sectors. Despite growing awareness of food waste, there are few easy ways for people or businesses to get food near its 'sell by' date to others.

Alongside the desire to better share our resources and reduce our detrimental environmental impact, it is hoped that the Community Fridge would provide another life-line for those who are in need. Wallingford Community Fridge Coordinator, Tracey Lloyd-Jones says 'I am really excited about this venture and would encourage anyone and everyone to come and be a part of what we are trying to achieve.' The Community Fridge is therefore looking for people to bring (and take) fresh food, particularly fruit and vegetables (sorry, no meat or fish), as well as volunteers able and willing to sustain the service.

Wallingford Community Fridge is being launched by Ridgeway Community Church and is proud to be supported by Oxfordshire County Council (who have provided help with initial costs), Sustainable Wallingford, Waitrose (who have agreed to provide food through Fare Share), along with Wallingford Emergency Food Bank (who have agreed to provide produce specifically for those in need).



Have you been a victim of crime or abuse?

Being a victim or a witness of a crime can be an emotional and difficult time.

Victims First provides free emotional and practical support to all victims and witnesses of crime or abuse, as well as family members of victims. It is available across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire and can provide help regardless of whether or not the crime has been reported to the police.

A Victims First Officer can discuss any emotional or practical needs you may have and work with you to put a tailored support plan in place. This could involve referring you to a specialist service such as services for victims of sexual violence and domestic abuse.

The type of assistance available includes telephone and face to face support, advocacy including help to access other services such as sexual health clinics, drug and alcohol services and legal services, support through the criminal justice system (if you have reported the crime to the police) and therapeutic counselling.

A Young Victims Service is also available to anyone under 18 and works with young people to help them cope with the effects of crime.

To speak to a Victims First Officer about any of the services and to receive support please call **0300 1234 148**.

You can also find more information or make a referral for support online at www.victims-first.org.uk



From your MP...

...John Howell



For those involved in the world of politics late September and early October is 'Party Conference Season.' For most people, other than a few newsworthy headlines, it could easily pass by unnoticed. There are, of course, the keynote speeches from Ministers and some new policy announcements. For people who go to their Party Conference there is much, much more. In addition to an extensive programme of fringe meetings, where a wide range of issues are debated, there are individual briefing meetings. There is also an Exhibition Hall where various organisations, including many charities, take the opportunity to raise awareness of issues and particularly lobby MPs to support their cause.

It is particularly interesting each year in the run up to Conference to hear from constituents who encourage me to visit specific exhibition stands so that I can be briefed on an issue which is important to them. I always do my best to follow up on these specific requests and thought readers may be interested to know a few of the concerns that were raised with me in this context.

Guide Dogs: As well as a general demonstration of the ability of trained dogs to guide someone the charity had a specific campaign on pavement parking. Whilst this is a problem for blind and partially sighted people I am also aware that this is a problem for wheelchair users and for adults with pushchairs. I am very happy to add my support to the campaign to make parking on pavements illegal.

Alzheimer's Society. When a relative suffers with Alzheimer's there are many issues to tackle and I know that this can be very distressing for relatives and friends. Among the concerns are the difficulties and the cost of care. There was a helpful briefing on these issues from representatives from the Alzheimer's Society.

The Children's Society. Just as we are concerned with things that affect us in later life, so I am often contacted about concerns for our young people. The Children's Society is always active in raising awareness of particular issues. The focus this year for them was teenagers and the risks associated with social media and also loneliness in young people.

International Development is an issue that often crops up in my mail with some people wanting the government to do more and others wanting to see the budget cut. I met with Save the Children who were keen to look at how the Government can maximise the impact of its commitment to aid. I was reminded that pneumonia continues to kill more children than any other disease despite being easy to prevent, diagnose and treat and how relatively low cost the vaccines and antibiotics can be.

The issues around autism are often raised with me both by parents seeking a diagnosis for a child within the education system and for adults with a late diagnosis. A representative from the National Autistic Society briefed me on issues and developments over the 10 years of their work.

A general health issue is Diabetes and Diabetes UK briefed on the future challenges of Diabetes on the NHS. With the huge publicity that we have had on the growth of the number of cases of diabetes it is good news that there will be more focus on this in the NHS going forward. The ability of people to reverse the onset of the condition through diet and self-help is enormous and can not only help reduce costs to the NHS but also hugely improve quality of life and life expectancy for people who develop the condition.

I hope this gives you a flavour of the range of issues that are raised with me. If there is an issue that concerns you please do let me know. 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 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 constituents' views on the proposals before the House.

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



**CORN
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WALLINGFORD

Cinema: All regular performances start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.
Tickets £8 for adults, £5 for under 15 unless otherwise stated.

December

Sat 1	The Nutcracker and the Four Realms (PG) 2.30pm.
Sun 2	The Nutcracker and the Four Realms (PG) 7.30pm
Mon 3	The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (U) 7.15pm Live from the Royal Opera House. Adults £15, Seniors and U18 £12.50
Tues 4	The Madness of Geaorg III: NT Live (12A) 7.00pm Adults £12.50, 16 and under £10
Wed 5	The Nutcracker and the Four Realms (PG) 7.30pm
Thur 6	Antony and Cleopatra: NT Live (12A) 7.00pm Adults £12.50, 16 and under £10
Sat 8	The Children Act (12A)
Mon 10	Allelujah!: NT Live (15) 7.00pm Adults £15, Seniors £12.50, Uner 18s £10.
Wed 12	Everybody's Talking About Jamie : As live (12A) 7.00pm Adults £8, U15 £5
Thur 13	They Shall Not Grow Old (15) Adults £8,
Fri 14	Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindewald (12A)
Sat 15	Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindewald (12A)
Sun 16	Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindewald (12A)
Mon 17	The Girl in the Spider's Web (15)
Tues 18	The Girl in the Spider's Web (15)
Wed 19	The Girl in the Spider's Web (15)
Thurs 20	The Grinch (PG)
Fri 21	The Grinch (PG)
Sat 22	The Grinch (PG) 2.30 and 7.30pm

LIVE SHOWS

Fri 7 Dec 8.00pm Comedy Night: Robin Morgan
Fresh from two sell-out runs at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the writer for BBC's Have I Got News For You and The Now Show will perform both critically acclaimed shows, back-to-back. In addition to his solo shows and work as a writer, Robin is the support artist for Ellie Taylor's national tours and BBC1's The Graham Norton Show, with television credits from BBC Three and Comedy Central to his name. **Tickets £12**

Sat 8 Dec 7.30pm, Sun 9 Dec 2.30pm

The Lady's Mad. Live theatre.

An original story based on a collection of true anecdotes and written by up and coming playwright Rebekah King, *'The Lady's Mad'* illuminates one of England's most turbulent periods through the lives of its extraordinary women. The piece touches on many relevant themes including family loyalty, the struggle of women and political unrest.

Performances are in the Club Room – upstairs venue, not suitable for



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Wallingford U3A

At our November meeting David Barker spoke about Swan Upping. Mr. Barker, by Royal Appointment Swan Marker to the Queen told us that it is good to feed bread to the swans, the extra calories can help them through the winter.

Our December meeting on the **5 December** will be Our Christmas Party. There will be a raffle for a local charity and a collection of Christmas goods for the local food bank. Our Christmas Lunch is on 16 December at Goring and Streatley Golf Club. (Phone Mike on **01491 680505**)

Forward Dates:

- **Jan 9** Gary Jordan --- The Spanish Classical Guitar A Talk and Recital.
- **Feb 6** Jane Stubbs ----101 years on – sex, Power and Politics –how women won the vote

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

people with mobility problems. Seating is unreserved. **Tickets £12 (adults), £10 (seniors and under 18s)**

Tues 11 Dec Sinodun Players' Punchbowl

Sinodun Players provide a lively, family-friendly evening of seasonal readings, sketches and the like for the first half, followed by our local favourite Cholsey Silver Band playing Music from Musicals and Carols. Come and join in with some of your favourite Carols.

This Fundraising event will include a raffle and all profits will go towards the continuing refurbishing and re-equipping of our theatre – we appreciate your support.

Adults £10. Under 16 £5

Fri 18 Jan to Sat 2 Feb Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves

The Sinodun Players' Annual Pantomime. Booking opens online and at the Box Office on Friday 30 November at 10.00am.

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

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



Wallingford Museum Bookshop

As usual, Wallingford Museum will close for its winter break (Dec, Jan and Feb) to prepare exciting new exhibitions for next year. The Museum will re-open on 1 March 2019.

In the meantime, book-lovers and present-seekers should make a point of visiting Wallingford Museum's bookstall while the museum is closed for its winter refurbishment.

We have an excellent selection of good second-hand books (both fiction and non-fiction) at sensible prices. We'll be open through December, January and February - every Friday from 10.30 to 3.00, and every Saturday from 10.30 to 1.00.

We look forward to seeing you - it's free to browse!

Harry Chapple

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

What's on in Wallingford



The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society Women at War

There will be no TWHAS talk in December.

Wednesday 9 January 2019

David Beasley will be returning to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) to show his 'Women at War' presentation. It will be lavishly illustrated from David's extensive photographic collection, and feature much local interest covering both World Wars, enabling a comparison to be made between the two eras.

David lives in Crowmarsh Gifford, is well known throughout southern Oxfordshire, and has an in depth knowledge of the locality. He has written several local history books, all using his own research from photographs and postcards of the past.

This talk will be held on Wednesday 9th Jan, 7.45 for 8.00pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford.

Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

Katharine Keats-Rohan

www.twhas.org.uk



Wallingford Museum – New Visitor Facilities and Archaeological Store

Wallingford Museum is extremely pleased and grateful to announce that it has been awarded a grant by the LEADER fund to extend and improve its facilities.

The Museum is in great need of additional space, to achieve improved exhibition and archive areas, accommodate group visits and larger school parties, provide a visitor toilet and better access and facilities for disabled visitors. Many of the Museum's resources are currently needing to be stored in unsatisfactorily crowded conditions.

To address these issues the Museum received planning permission in December 2017. The work covers proposals to modify the ground floor of the Museum to provide a public disabled WC and create a space that can be used by groups visiting the Museum. Additionally, the works cover the replacement of two timber storage sheds, located in the rear yard of the Museum, with a larger single storey timber unit which will enable purpose-built housing for part of the Museum's collections and archaeology equipment.

Groundworks have commenced, and the building works are planned to be completed during the winter, when the Museum will re-open on 1st March 2019 with a new exhibition, '**Once upon a time**' - a time-line showing the changing face of Wallingford through photographs.

The Museum is run entirely by volunteers who provide a particularly valuable resource for Wallingford's history for local people, schools and visitors. In the future it will contribute more significantly to the tourism attraction of the town.

Steve Capel-Davies

Wallingford Art Club

Wallingford Art Club are once again holding their 'Affordable Art Exhibition' just in time for Christmas. This year we will be at 45 St Mary's Street, Wallingford, the blue shop, which used to be Castle Cycles, next door to the Methodist Church. We shall be open 10.00am to 5.00pm on **Saturday 1 December** and 10.00am to 4.00pm on **2 December**, which is the day of Wallingford Christmas Festival.

Lots of original art to buy for Christmas presents or treat yourselves, or of course just browse. We hope to see you.

We have no demonstration evenings this month but the usual untutored painting evenings on **4 and 18 December**, 7.30 to 9.30pm at Centre 70, Goldsmith Lane. Wallingford

Members are free of charge. Non members very welcome for a small fee. Bring your materials and join us. Tuesday daytime classes will continue in January at Centre 70.

For further information on the above or about the club please phone 01491 681400 or www.wallingfordartclub.org.uk/

Doreen Smith

www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

Santa Specials - 8 & 9, 15 & 16, 22 & 23 December 2018

<https://www.cholsey-wallingford-railway.com/running-days>





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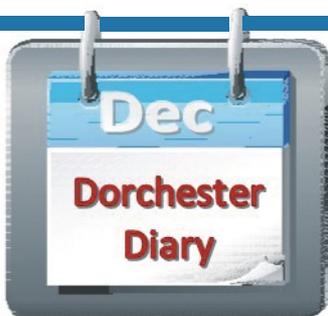
CLEARVIEW STOVES



WOODBURNING STOVES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Day by day

Sat 1 Dec	Light: A Spiritual Journey Multimedia exhibition Dorchester Abbey Until 6 January 2019
	Benson Choral Society A Plea for Peace Concert 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 2 Dec	Advent 8.00am Holy Communion (1662) (Revd Rachel Carnegie)
	10.30am Morning Service
	6.00pm Advent Team Service
Thurs 6 Dec	St Birinus School Community Open Morning 9.30-11.00am
	Brilliance Farnham Maltings Touring Company Village Hall 7.30pm
	HFT The Coming of Christmas 8.00pm Dorchester Abbey
Fri 7 Dec	St Birinus School Community Open Morning 9.30-11.00am
Sat 8 Dec	Abbey Christmas Tree Erecting tree 9.00am Decorating tree 10.00am
	OSJ Carols in association with Clear Sky 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 9 Dec	Advent 2 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662) (Revd Jon Roberts)
	10.30am Sung Eucharist
	PACT Carols 5.00pm Dorchester Abbey
Mon 10 Dec	Cranford House School Junior Carol Service 4.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Tues 11 Dec	10.15am Short Communion
	Cranford House School Senior Carol Service 7.00pm Dorchester Abbey



Wed 12 Dec	Lunch Club 12.30pm Village Hall
	Parish Council Monthly Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
Thurs 13 Dec	WI Christmas Tea Party 2.30pm Village Hall
	Queen Anne's School Carol Service 3.00pm Dorchester Abbey
Sat 15 Dec	OSJ Handel's Messiah 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 16 Dec	Advent 3 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662) (Revd Jennifer Morton)
	10.30am Family Service
Wed 19 Dec	Chiropodist Village Hall (see p18)
	St Birinus Primary School End of term service 1.15pm Dorchester Abbey
	WI Christmas Lunch Springs Golf Club
	Classic Car Show, 1.00-4.00pm George Hotel
	Village Carol Singing Meet outside Fleur de Lys 6.00pm
Sun 23 Dec	Advent 4 8.00am Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booyes)
	10.30am Said Holy Communion with hymns
	6.00pm Carol Service



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

Mon
24 Dec
Christmas Eve
4.30pm
Crib Service

11.30pm
Midnight Mass



Tues
25 Dec
Christmas Day
8.00am
Holy Communion (1662)
(Canon Sue Booyes)

10.30am
Christmas Communion

Sun
30 Dec
Christmas 1
8.00am
Holy Communion (1662)
(Canon Sue Booyes)

Mon
31 Dec
OSJ
Strauss Gala
7.00pm
Dorchester Abbey

Weekly events

Monday	Tai Chi 2.00pm Village Hall
	Fishmonger 3.30pm by War Memorial (page 13)
Tuesday	Coffee in the Abbey 10.30am-12noon
	Bellringing Practice 7.30pm Abbey
Wednesday	Holy Communion at Berinsfield Church 9.30am
	Keep Fit Senior Circuits 10.00am Village Hall
	Mobile Post Office 10.30am Outside Co-op
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

1 Nov Mark Mattock

Baptisms

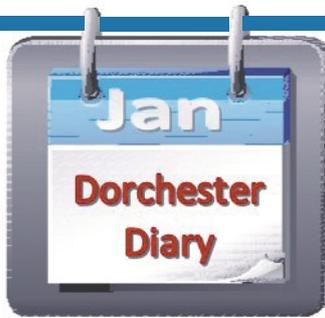
27 Oct Amelia Rose Elise Lakey
Ava Grace Sheila Lakey

4 Nov Stanley Joseph Flower

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

Day by day

Tues 1 Jan	Light: A Spiritual Journey Multimedia exhibition Dorchester Abbey Until 6 January
Sun 6 Jan	Epiphany 8.00am Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booyes) 10.30am Eucharist
Tues 8 Jan	10.15am Short Communion
Wed 9 Jan	Lunch Club 12.30 for 12.45pm Village Hall Parish Council Monthly Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
Sun 13 Jan	Baptism of Christ 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662) (Revd Jon Roberts) 10.30am Sung Eucharist
Wed 16 Jan	Culham Horticultural Society <i>Grasses: why we can't do without them</i> John Graham 7.30pm Abbey Guest House



Thurs 17 Jan	Chiropodist Village Hall (see p18) Classic Car Show, 1.00-4.00pm George Hotel
Sun 20 Jan	Epiphany 3 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662) (Canon Sue Booyes) 10.30am Family Service 5.00pm Choral Evensong
Wed 23 Jan	Lunch Club 12.30 for 12.45pm Village Hall DoT Historical Society <i>Hospitals and Infirmaries in Medieval England</i> Professor Greg Stores 7.30pm
Sun 27 Jan	Epiphany 4 8.00am Holy Communion (1662) (Revd Rachel Carnegie) 10.30am Sung Eucharist

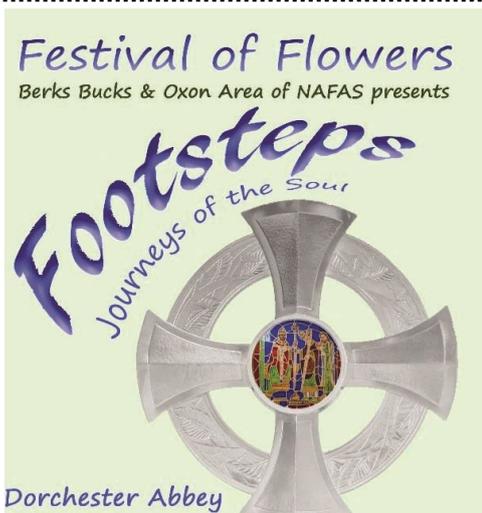
Weekly events

Monday	Tai Chi 2.00pm Village Hall Fishmonger 3.30pm by War Memorial (page 13)
Tuesday	Coffee in the Abbey 10.30am-12noon Bellringing Practice 7.30pm Abbey
Wednesday	Holy Communion at Berinsfield Church 9.30am Keep Fit Senior Circuits 10.00am Village Hall Mobile Post Office 10.30am Outside Co-op
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

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



Festival of Flowers 28-30 September

I am delighted to report that this amazing event raised **£14,720.00** which will be split between Dorchester Abbey and the Footsteps Foundation. The NAFAS Festival committee undertook a huge task in organising this and it was extremely hard work but so very worthwhile with the money raised.

Flower arrangers from the following churches in the Dorchester Team, St Paul's, Culham, St Peter's, Little Wittenham, St Mary's, Long Wittenham, St Laurence, Warborough, St Mary and St Berin, Berinsfield, St Peter's, Marsh Baldon, St Lawrence, Toot Baldon, St Leonard & St Catherine, Drayton St Leonard, together with Dorchester Abbey flower arrangers, designed an installation in the St Birinus Chapel.

Our theme was 'Like a Mighty River Flowing' in celebration of the Dorchester

Team Churches and their journey over 40 years. As all our churches are in villages alongside the River Thames, it seemed suitable to interpret our designs as 'walking along the river bank'. If you had an opportunity to visit the Abbey during the festival you would have seen that these arrangements were natural, thoughtful and suitable for this tranquil and restful space.

It was brilliant for myself and all the flower arrangers to have an opportunity to work together as a team in such a creative way and be part of such a successful event.

We also were extremely grateful for the generous financial support of Darwin Escapes in sponsoring our flowers.

Sandie Griffith



www.darwinescapes.co.uk

CONTACTING THE POLICE

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

HEALTH SERVICES

DIRECT LINE TO URGENT LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

MINOR INJURIES

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

A&E

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

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 7 Dec **Green**
Fri 14 Dec **Black**
Fri 21 Dec **Green**
Mon 31 Dec **Black**
Mon 7 Jan **Green***
Sat 12 Jan **Black**
Fri 18 Jan **Green**
Fri 25 Jan **Black**

* No garden waste collection

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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OSJ50

ORCHESTRA OF ST JOHN'S

Dorchester Abbey Christmas 2018



Saturday 8 December 7.30pm
OSJ Ashmolean Voices with
Shillingford & Warborough choir
Popular carols

Saturday 15 December 7.30pm

Handel's Messiah

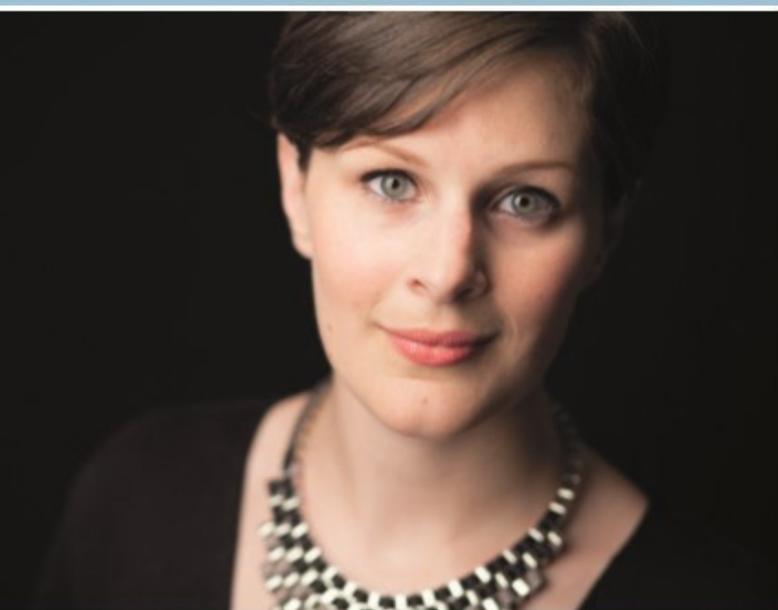
OSJ Voices
Orchestra of St John's



Monday 31 December 7.00pm

Strauss Gala

Waltzes and Polkas
Songs and Arias
Hannah Davey soprano
Christopher Turner tenor



Tickets osj.org.uk 07775 904626