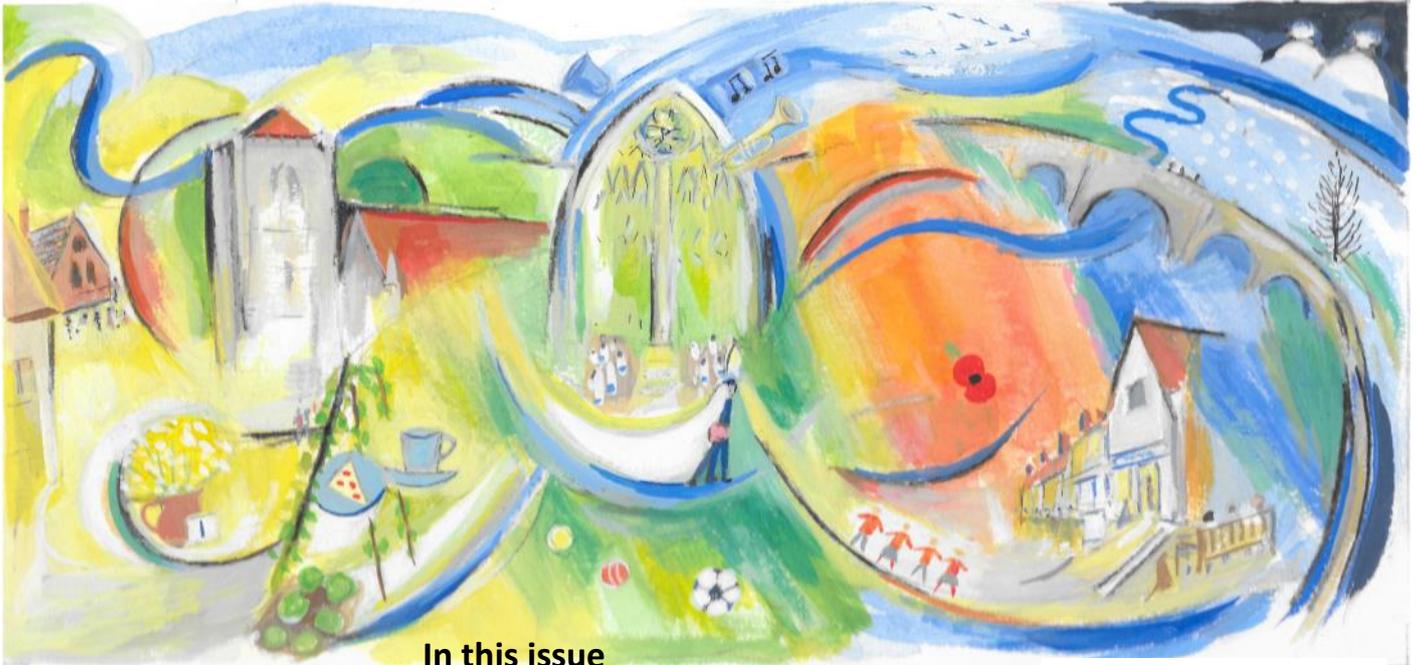


Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

December 2023/January 2024





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Cover: On the 'Blue Bridge' over the Thame, a robin puffs out its chest to keep warm

**Deadline for
February 2024
Dorchester News**



email:

dorchesternews@dorchesteronthames.co.uk

A DoT view

Time. It's a funny commodity. We mark its passing with fairly arbitrary measurements that work because they fit in with the position and passage of our planet through the universe. It goes round our sun every 365 days (and a bit, nearly a quarter) and a day itself is one rotation of the planet on its axis, which is logical. And we arrange our calendar so that somewhere near the shortest day we start a new year with a new number and with lots of celebrations.

Why then? Logically it is just another day, but about 2100 years ago a Roman, Numa Pompilius I am given to understand, decided that this is when the new year should begin, moving it from March.

And most of us have kept to this ancient convention or imposed it on others over the last 2000 years (although the Chinese cling to an alternative one).

But there it is. By convention, January 1st marks the New Year, with the up-coming one being labelled 2024. And there is nothing left for me to do but to wish you a Happy (if arbitrary) New Year, hope that you enjoy your less than arbitrary celebrations, (I shall, despite the arbitrariness of the occasion) and wish that the next arbitrary year is a good one for you.

Ian Brace

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Megan Parry

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As I write it's not quite Advent, but Christmas lights are already appearing everywhere. Christmas in the northern hemisphere comes at the darkest time of the year - with short days and long nights. Christmas lights are beautiful and decorative – but arriving home on a dark evening the first thing we will reach out for is the light switch. We will need that light for us to be able to do pretty much anything.

Our Christmas lights are symbolic of the one true light who has come into the world – and a world which seems to be becoming increasingly dark. In the epilogue to his gospel, John writes of Jesus: *'The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.'* (John 1:9) Jesus himself declared, *'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'* (John 8:12)

What does that mean? As a confused and rebellious teenager, my

experience of coming to faith in Christ was like the light being turned on in a dark room. By that light we can see God. Jesus is Emmanuel: 'God with us'. By that light we can also see the world better – in all its beauty and brokenness. CS Lewis wrote 'I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.' We see ourselves better: as beloved children of God, and yet falling so far short of his glory. Which leads us from the manger to the cross – Christ has come to be our saviour, taking upon himself the sins, the brokenness of the world. When Jesus died on the cross, darkness fell over the land (Matthew 27:45). The Light of the world descended into darkness in order to bring us into God's wonderful light. This is God's gift to us, which we celebrate at Christmas.

*The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep
darkness*

a light has dawned...

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on
his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty
God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace.
Of the greatness of his
government and peace
there will be no end.*

So this is to offer the warmest invitation to any of our Christmas services and events across the Dorchester Team. There will be candles and fairy lights... But above all else may we discover or rediscover the wonder of light of Christ, in our world and in our lives.

Every blessing for Christmas and the New Year

*Jane
Team Rector for the Dorchester Team*



**Dorchester Abbey
Family Service**

Sunday 10th December 10.30am
(Pastries & coffee from 10.00am)



Posada Party

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Café style Family Service

You are warmly invited to join us
for breakfast (from 10.00am),
fun and craft activities
as we prepare for Christmas



**Come to our Posada Party
All welcome**



'Posada' (Spanish for 'inn') is a way to welcome Mary and Joseph into your home at Christmastime. It is a tradition originating in Mexico and our wooden Posada figures of Mary and Joseph will travel around Dorchester staying with different families, the Pre-school and the

Primary School from **Advent Sunday 3 December**, until they return to the Abbey at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

On **Sunday, 10 December**, our Family Service is a Posada Party to celebrate Mary and Joseph as they continue on their travels. We will have coffee and pastries from 10.00am followed by our service with Christmas crafts and activities from 10.30am.

Services

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

Most parishes are sending a weekly email with service information; if you want to receive this email – and for up to date information about services - please call the Team Office on **01865 340007** or email admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

Team Services

31 December- 10.30am Toot Baldon
28 January- 10.30am Culham

Events in the Abbey

Sat 2 Dec 10.00am–5.00pm. Dorchester Abbey Christmas Market. Come and enjoy our lovely Christmas Market in the beautiful surroundings of Dorchester Abbey. Loads of stalls full of gifts and Christmas food, with Wreaths to order or take away, all surrounded by the smell of Bratwurst and mulled wine and Christmas music. As always, the highlight of the Market is the Tea Room stall packed full of home made Christmas cakes and food to take away!

Sun 3 Dec 7.30pm to 9.30pm. A Jazzy Christmas at Dorchester Abbey with Jo Harrop and Paul Edis. A feast of festive favourites and jazzy Christmas classics performed by singer Jo Harrop and pianist Paul Edis alongside a world class nine-piece band. £22 - £27 www.eventbrite.com/e/a-jazzy-christmas-at-dorchester-abbey-tickets-717968602417?aff=oddtcreator

Mon 4 Dec 7.00pm-9.00pm. Church Conservation Trust Gregoriana Concert. Join the Churches Conservation Trust for a festive evening, and a glass of wine in the breath taking surroundings of Dorchester Abbey, before listening to a performance from the Gregoriana choir. Tickets start from £17.50 per person and include a wine reception. All proceeds from this event will go towards supporting vital roof repair work to the nearby St Bartholomew's Church in Lower Basildon. Tickets can be purchased from: www.visitchurches.org.uk/DorchesterAbbeyChoir

Fri 8 Dec- Queen Anne's School- Private Event

Saturday 9 Dec 7.00pm–9.30pm. OSJ: Britten, Saint Nicolas Cantata. Written in 1948, Britten's captivating Cantata conjures the adventures of St Nicholas, depicting the exploits, magic and miracles of this most beloved character. With its inclusion of popular hymns, OSJ Voices will join together with the audience to raise the roof in song, ensuring that the Christmas gift of music is delivered in perfect harmony. We start with a Sequence of Carols orchestrated by Jeremy Lubbock. Free tickets available for NHS workers and for the disabled. Please email admin@osj.org.uk. Tickets £5 to £30 from www.osj.org.uk

11 and 12 Dec- Cranford House- Private Events

Thu 14 Dec, 6.00pm-9.30pm. The Coming of Christmas 2023 Home Farm Trust. Hft's festive celebration event, The Coming of Christmas, returns on Thursday 14th December for its 27th year, in the historic setting of Dorchester Abbey, Dorchester-on-Thames. See the historic Abbey bathed in the glow of candles and Christmas lights at this special evening of festive music and readings. Featuring: The Donaghue Choir and guest speakers. Tickets £20 to include a programme and festive refreshments. Or treat yourself to an extra special experience with a VIP ticket: enjoy pre-reserved priority seating and VIP refreshments. www.hft.org.uk/coming-of-christmas

Sat 16 Dec 7.00 pm–9.30 pm. OSJ: Handel's Messiah Christmas wouldn't be complete without Handel's great oratorio. This seasonal classic will be performed by renowned soloists and backed by the full forces of the Orchestra of St John's and OSJ Voices. Free tickets available for NHS workers and for the disabled. Please email admin@osj.org.uk. Tickets £5 to £30 from www.osj.org.uk

Decorating the Christmas Tree Saturday 9 December from 10.00am



Do join us from **9.00am** on **Saturday 9 December** to raise and then decorate the Abbey Christmas Tree. Can you help to put on the decorations? Can you help lift the tree into place – it takes about five strong people. As usual there will be tea, coffee, biscuits and cake to help us.

Village Carol Singing Monday 18 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 in the courtyard at The George 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



Dorchester Abbey

Vacancy for a Verger-Estate Manager to assist the Churchwardens with

*Worship, Services and Visitor Experience
General Maintenance and Minor Repairs*

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

Please apply with CV and covering letter to admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

Wed 20 Dec 7.00pm–9:00pm. Nadia Eide: Winter Light-Soprano. A Classical Christmas Concert. This truly is a show for the whole family, featuring well-loved classic songs sure to bring the festive cheer! Tickets £25 (£20 concessions) www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/winter-light-a-classical-christmas-concert-dorchester-abbey-tickets-746103213797?aff=oddtcreator

Sun 31 Dec. 6.00pm-8.00pm. OSJ: New Year's Eve Concert. Get ready with the fizz! We welcome in 2024 with our ever-popular New Year's Eve concert – a highlight of our orchestral year. Full of toe-tapping favourites, this much-loved event with orchestra and choir is always a delightful way to usher in the New Year. Free tickets available for NHS workers and for the disabled. Please email admin@osj.org.uk. Tickets £5 to £30 from www.osj.org.uk



Dorchester Abbey Museum News

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Saturday 2 December 10.00am-5.00pm

Sunday 3 December 2.00pm-5.00pm

Tuesday 5 December 10.00am-12.30pm

Come to the Museum Gift Shop and buy your Xmas presents and cards!

We have lots of lovely Xmas gifts: including books, jewellery and stocking fillers for children. Abbey Xmas cards and others. Also our popular range of greetings cards for birthdays and other occasions.

Toys of the past – handling display

Come and see and try out our collection of toys from the past. Volunteers will show you how these inventive and imaginative playthings were used.



Hempcroft Allotments December

The year is coming to an end and winter has approached and so it is time to prepare for next season and reflect on this year's efforts on your allotment. When you reflect on the past growing season remember that there are no failures; it is always down to the weather, pigeons, slugs, or various Acts of God. It is now time to tidy up your plot for the winter.

It is worth reminding people 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; Watling Lane follows the course of the ditch outside the ramparts. A Scheduled Ancient Monument has particular legal restrictions associated with it.

There is on-going legal consent for the use of the area as allotments and for soil disturbance to a depth of up to 30cm, but no deeper. 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 has a preferred procedure. Waste can only be burned in an incinerator raised from the ground. It is noted that a number of allotment holders have their own incinerator and some allotment holders may also be prepared to share their incinerator.

It is also worth reminding non-allotment holders that people who walk their dogs on the two public footpaths that cross the allotments must keep their dogs on a lead and also clear up any dog mess that they and their dogs are responsible for. This also means removing the little plastic bags from the allotment site.

Edward Metcalfe
340160

edmetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk

HUGE THANKS! To All our Wonderful Volunteers

For all your work this year, behind the scenes and in welcoming 3057 visitors from all over the world

Wallingford Food Bank

Thank you to everyone who brought gifts to our Harvest service. We took three huge bags of your donations to Wallingford, and they were very gratefully received as the demand has increased by over 40% since this time last year. In October 157 households (including 237 children) were given food.

If you would like to give special Christmas themed gifts this month, please do so as soon as you can so that there is plenty of time to distribute them before Christmas Day.

If you shop in Waitrose in Wallingford, please use the app called 'Bank the Food'. You can download it on to your phone, register, and 'follow' the food bank. It will tell you what they need as you arrive in the store. For those of you who shop locally please leave your contribution in the yellow box in my garage and we will make our usual Thursday morning delivery.

Judy Parker

DADS Spring Production

Surprise! Surprise!

by
Philippa Smith

25, 26, 27 April 2024

Join us for a read-through (and a glass or two of wine) on
Monday 15 January

With auditions on **Thursday 18 January**

Rehearsals start on **Monday 29 January**

7.30pm in Dorchester on Thames Village Hall



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lettings@inhouseestateagents.co.uk

If not now, when?

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

Hedges will ensure you protect your loved ones in the event of the unthinkable happening.

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

HEDGES

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

30 November to 1 December

Don't forget to book your tickets for this year's DADS pantomime, Goldilocks and the Three Bears by Tom Whalley. Performances on **Thursday 30 November** and **Friday 1 December** start at 7.00pm and there are two shows on **Saturday 2 December** at 2.00 pm and 6.30pm. Tickets cost £12 (£9 for under 12s) from www.ticketsource.co.uk/dads



Dorchester Historical Society

Wednesday 24 January 2024 at 7.30pm

Dorchester Abbey Shrine Chapel

Members free, Visitors welcome (£5)

Julia Atkins, Denise Line and Margot Metcalfe will talk, respectively, on

The life and times of four remarkable Dorchester women: Lettice and Dorothy Godfrey, Edith Fyleman and Mary Tame.



The Godfrey sisters ca 1975

These four women all brought considerable talents and energy to Dorchester. For Julia, the Godfrey sisters were 'family' and she is calling her piece 'growing up with the Monday mums'. Rather like the biblical Mary and Martha the sisters, who came from an eminent clergy family, were very different, but their many talents gave us music and quiet reflection (Dorothy), Brownies, the tearoom, lunch club and pill run (Lettice).

Edith Fyleman is remembered for her vital work with Dorchester's Mount Farm community as it developed from a redundant World War II airfield into the first new 20th century village in England – Berinsfield. And Mary Tame came as a young teacher to Dorchester in the 1930s, married a local man, Thomas Tame, went as headmistress to Marsh Baldon during World War II, and especially after retirement threw herself into all aspects of village life, including developing and sharing her love and knowledge of local history through the Historical Society and the Museum. Do come and find out more and share your own special memories of these remarkable women.

Date for your diary: **Wednesday February 23 2024**, John Stevenson's long-awaited talk on Oxford buildings, exact title tba.

Dorchester Lunch Club

The next lunch will be on **Wednesday 6 December**, and in January the lunch will be on **Wednesday 17 January**. Please let me know before the preceding Mondays if you wish to come. Wishing all those who are unable to attend on 6th December, a very Happy Christmas.

Susan Jupp

(co-ordinator for the Lunch Club)

Phone: **01865 341066**

Football Results North Berks League Div 1



04/11/2023	Dorchester First	1	0	Woodcote First
28/10/2023	Dorchester First	3	1	East Hendred AFC First
21/10/2023	Dorchester First	4	5	Long Wittenham Athletic First

Oxfordshire FA Intermediate Cup

11/11/2023	Graven Hill FC	2	4	Dorchester First
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Chiropodist

Wednesdays 13 December, 10 January

Village Hall

Appointment only

Call **07850 196714**



THE FLEUR

Sunday Roast

**COMPLIMENTARY DRINK
WITH EVERY ROAST**

175ml of House Wine / Bottle of Beer / Soft Drink

OFFER ENDS 17th DECEMBER

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Bishops Court Farm organic pork
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WOODBURNING STOVES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Dorchester Abbey Christmas Cards

All profits to Dorchester Abbey

**New cards
for 2023
by
local artists**

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



*Round Dorchester
by Claire Cross
14.8 x14.8cm*



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



*Robin
by Christine Ellis
14.8 x10.5cm*

*Happy
Christmas*

Abbey Cards



*Shrine Nativity
12x12cm*



*Annunciation
20x9cm (blank inside)*



*East End Nativity
10.5x14.8cm*



*Angels
9.7x21cm*



*Christ Child
13x13cm*



St Birinus Primary School News

As our school year is whizzing by, we have so much to look forward to.

So far this year our children have enjoyed a variety of experiences such as a trip to the Ashmolean Museum, Open the Book assemblies, weekly forest school, considering why people wear poppies, a science workshop, a tag rugby tournament and supporting Children in Need.

We are starting to think about our Christmas celebrations too and children are busy learning songs for the 'Coming of Christmas' event in the Abbey which we are proud to be a part of.

Our younger children are also getting ready for their Christmas Nativity performance. We have parties, Christmas dinners, a panto trip and we're hoping that we get a visit from the big man with a white beard and a red suit as well!

This year our PTA are raising money to improve our outside areas; buying play equipment and getting a new shelter for our key stage one playground We are very grateful for all the sup-

port we receive from our community.

If you would like to donate a book to our school library as a Christmas gift, please see our Amazon wish list www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3EAI7Q6N5EB2E?ref=wl_share or pop into Wallingford Book Shop where they are curating a list for us too. Thank you!

We had a really successful and busy open morning in November. If you missed it but are looking for a place for your child from September then please call us to arrange a tour where we can show you around our wonderful school.

Have a look on our website for further information. www.st-birinus-pri.oxon.sch.uk/

Finally, on behalf of everyone at school I would like to wish our wonderful community a peaceful, safe Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Jo Staples
Headteacher



Dorchester Pre-School

We have welcomed lots of new children this school year that have all settled in really well. The Pre-school is now full at the moment, but please do get in touch if you would like to come and look around and get names on the waiting list. The pre-school is open Monday to Friday 9.00am until 3.00pm term time only. The waiting list really is a testament to the wonderful nurturing environment the setting offers, managed by Helen and her wonderful team. If you would like to see up to date weekly activities please do like our Facebook page. www.facebook.com/dorchesterpre-school.

It has been a very successful year at the pre-school and we have had two wonderful fundraisers. We had a sponsored walk to the local farm when the children and families got to visit the Alpacas. We also supplied and served cakes back in the summer in the Abbey tea rooms. If you would like to help fundraise for the local pre-school or have any ideas for fundraising activities please do get in touch. We are a charity organisation and rely solely on funds raised to give the children the extra equipment they really benefit from. We have a few fundraisers planned in the future to include a nativity and party for Christmas where we will be selling raffle tickets and also some beautiful crafts the children have made. I am sure you have noticed our beautiful new pergola which we use daily for outside learning, we are looking for blankets/throws and some cushions to make it more comfortable if you have any to donate please. We are planning a movie night in it soon which should be fun!

We have been busy for the first half term getting to know everyone, celebrating Diwali and then having a fun Halloween week with a disco, costume competitions and then learning about Bonfire Night before breaking up for half term break. The start of this half term has been learning all about people that help us, we have had visits from nurses and other professionals in the community like a fireman. We will finish this term off with the topic of winter animals. Then lastly before we break up the Nativity which is always a huge hit being held in the village hall.

Lastly we have welcomed a new committee with our Chair person William Orr-Ewing staying on for another year. Will is very keen to support the setting in every possible way and was

very much involved with our new pergola. We are now thinking the garden needs a new climbing frame and some new equipment. If you know anyone or have any ideas to help assist this please do get in touch. The pre-school is run by a committee of volunteers, who all help with things like fundraising, posting in local papers, maintenance of the setting and even the website. If you would like to be involved we would be delighted to hear from you.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sarah Egan

Oxfordshire Libraries
December Events at Berinsfield Library

Christmas colouring competition & Christmas craft table
1 December to 23 December, library opening hours
Festive fun for all the family throughout the month



Clay Christmas decorations
Saturday 9 December, 10.30am – 12pm
Choose from a selection of clay Christmas tree decorations to decorate and take home.
Easy craft session for ages 4+ with a parent/carer



Christmas story time
Thursday 21 December, 3pm
Enjoy a selection of our favourite Christmas stories and choose some of your own!
Suitable for ages 3+ with a parent/carer



Monthly Book Club
Friday 22 December, 2pm
Discussion of this month's book over a coffee and mince pie, plus a review of our favourite books this year. New members very welcome!



[@oxonlibraries](https://twitter.com/oxonlibraries) [f BerinsfieldLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/BerinsfieldLibrary)
Telephone 01865 340771
email berinsfield.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk



BISHOP'S COURT FARM CHRISTMAS FAYRE 2023



FRIDAY

15TH DECEMBER
3PM - 11PM

CHRISTMAS MARKET
BRASS BAND
CHILDREN'S CHOIR
SANTA'S GROTTTO
FOOD STALLS
KARAOKE
BAR

SATURDAY

16TH DECEMBER
11AM - 2AM

CHRISTMAS MARKET
FOOD STALLS
SANTA'S GROTTTO
BISH BASH
CHRISTMAS PARTY
(Booking Required)
SILENT DISCO
(Booking Required)

SUNDAY

17TH DECEMBER
4PM - 5PM

ZOE GILBY'S FESTIVE
FAMILY JAZZ SHOW
MUSIC AND FUN FOR
EVERYONE FROM TODDLERS
TO GRANDPARENTS
(Booking Required)

A splendid time is guaranteed for all.

Bish Bash Christmas Party



Silent Disco



Festive Family



Bishop's Court Farm Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire OX10 7HP

Please go to: bishops court farm.com



Warborough & Shillingford WI

As Christmas approaches our thoughts turn to buying gifts and a popular choice is fragrance. So, it was no surprise that our November talk was very well attended by members hoping for some help in choosing the right perfume for a present. Help was certainly needed as we were told by Holly Cranmer that there were well over 20,000 different options. You could say that Holly is a perfume connoisseur, she certainly has a deep understanding and appreciation of perfume. There were a variety of scents for us to sniff and Holly explained the best way to shop for perfume in order to avoid costly mistakes. Training to become a 'Perfumer', otherwise known as 'a nose', takes many years and you must be able to recognise and name more than 3,000 ingredients before you can begin to create a perfume. This was a fun evening that went by much too quickly.

Future Programme: *December* Members' Meeting will host Trine Lucy, from Norway, talking about her home. There will be Norwegian themed Christmas food and drinks. In *January* 2024 we host Hayley Scott, who will speak about the 'Forensic Experience'. Also, in *January*, we shall be holding a Celebration Dinner to mark both Christmas past and the New Year, at St Cross College, Oxford. If you love your garden but despair of the way it looks in *February* our speaker, Avril Hughes, might be able to help as she will advise us on 'Making the most of your Winter Garden'. This brings us to the end of the WI year and our Annual Meeting in *March* 2024.

Our WI group meets on the second Wednesday of every month at the St Laurence Hall, in Warborough. Members come from the villages all around, including Shillingford and Dorchester. If transport is a problem, please get in touch, there will always be a member willing to offer a lift. There is a varied timetable of speakers, outings or events, organised by the programme subcommittee, who work very hard to create an interesting evening for our meetings. Should one month not be to your liking there is sure to be something to interest you in the future. We are a friendly group who would love to welcome you to a meeting where you can enjoy complimentary refreshments and the first three meetings are free.

Contact email: warboroughwi@oxfordshire.co.uk

Telephone: **Sarah Allan President**

01865 858673

Or **Vicky Hart**

01865 416437

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Culham & District Horticultural Club

Wednesday 17 January 2024 at 7.30 pm

Abbey Guest House, Dorchester-on-Thames



© Jenny Barnes

Jenny Barnes on *From Regimental to Ornamental: My Career So Far*

Jenny has been Head Gardener in some beautiful English gardens including Cottesbrooke and Daylesford. She will talk about the influence each garden has had on her gardening style and why she is known as the 'Rose Queen'

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



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Please help us plant 850 saplings on our meadow on Saturday 24 February.

As part of our ongoing conservation activities we will be planting 850 mixed hedge 'whips' on Overy Mead Piece (the meadow between Dorchester Bridge and the Thames).

This is a huge job for our regular Hurst volunteers so we are looking for additional help on the day. All you need to bring with you is some gloves, a spade, a hot drink & lunch, if you plan to stay all day. If you can't manage a full day then an hour or two would be great!

We will be planting dog rose, hazel, dogwood, elder, spindle, hawthorn, blackthorn.



Volunteers planting in March 2023

If you can help please contact : **Chris Smith, Hon. Secretary, at hurstwatermt@gmail.com M.0753 827 3129**

We look forward to hearing from you!



Dorchester's Living Advent Calendar



At 6.30pm every evening in December a window will be lit up. Gather to enjoy some refreshments or simply follow the trail with a map.



Christmas Eve light up in Dorchester Abbey at 4pm before the 4.30pm crib service

Maps £5 on sale in the Coop
In aid of Dorchester St Birinus School

Look for the baubles in the windows!

Light up Dorchester for Christmas!



The Last Supper Installation At the Abbey for six months

A sculpture made up of 50,000 keyboard keys, depicting one of Da Vinci's most recognisable paintings, has gone on display at Dorchester Abbey.

The keys create a mosaic effect on the artwork and also make up verses from the Bible as well as single words for visitors to discover. The sculpture, which took Peter Barnes five years to create, will be available during daylight hours at the abbey for the next six months.

Revd Jane Willis was delighted to welcome the artwork to the abbey. She said: 'It is slightly larger than life size. The outline is the shape of Jesus and his disciples sitting round the table. It's quite dynamic – the way they are all moving and responding to one another in it. It is very rounded, very flowing in its appearance so it leaves your imagination to fill in the detail. It brings together the ancient and historic right into the here and now. When I saw it in real life it blew me away – quite surprisingly.'

Revd Willis spotted the sculpture when she visited a church in Windsor and knew it was something she'd like to host at the Abbey. Plans moved quickly and within two and a half weeks she was watching it being unloaded! Using a system of winches, pulleys and ramps the sculpture was slowly manoeuvred into place – with just a few centimetres to spare.

Revd Willis added: 'I'm excited that we have the Last Supper with us for Lent, Holy Week and Easter. There's so much we can do for adult discipleship, working with schools and beyond, as well as for day-to-day visitors. I'm finding seeing people engaging with the sculpture as fascinating as the piece itself! Every time I go into the Abbey I find myself having great conversations about it – it's something you just want to reach out and touch.'



Photo: Rev'd Jane Willis





Tickets

Under-Fives: Free | 6 – 18-year-olds: £10 | Adults: £7.50

All kids are instructed to bring a responsible adult...as long as they behave.

Please go to bishops court farm.com

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Dorchester-on-Thames
Oxfordshire OX10 7HP



Dorchester What's On Evening Monday 16 October

As reported by Chairman of the Parish Council Mike Corran last month, the Dorchester What's On evening at the Village Hall in October was a great success with more than 40 stands and plenty of visitors who came along to find out what's going on and how they can join in.

In addition to recognised activity groups such as sports clubs, the Abbey bellringers, DADS and the Flower Show, there were the pre-school, John Masefield House, the Men's Drinking Club (who gave you beer) and the Co-op (who signed you up for discounts) amongst many others. A profitable evening for all.

Some came dressed to represent their organisation. In the picture right we see David Parker dressed for the Abbey choir and Rosemary Mills as the Queen of Hearts for DADS, and below, Andy Pay represents the Royal British Legion.



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- Removal (with replacement Gel Polish)...No Charge

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hour

8 - 10pm

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2024

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Act of Remembrance Sunday 12 November 2023

The annual Act of Remembrance took place at the War Memorial on an overcast and drizzly Sunday 12 November 2023. It was led by the standard of the Royal British Legion, and involved leaders of the Dorchester churches, the parish council and the chairman of the Dorchester RBL.

The Act was supported by the Abingdon Silver Band and RAF Benson provided a helicopter fly-past, coming over at precisely 11.06am at the conclusion of the ceremony.



Photo: Charlotte Bennett



Poppy Hedge

In the pictures above you can see behind the Abbey choir a remarkable 'poppy hedge'. This was made by Charlotte Bennett and Andy Pay especially to commemorate Armistice Day and the service at the memorial on behalf of the Royal British Legion.

It consisted of approximately 400 poppies made out of used plastic bottles. The bottoms were cut off, shaped and painted red, with the centres made from black-painted caps. Every one of these was made by hand by Charlotte and Andy with help from Guy and Tania Glover. What a wonderful and respectful way to recycle old bottles.

With thanks to Will and Izzy Orr-Ewing for kindly loaning their hedge for the display.



Photos: Andy Pay

FLEUR WELCOMES NEW HEAD CHEF

The Fleur De Lys pub which was reopened in May by Keith Ives (Bishop's Court Farm) has appointed a new head chef, Rob Woods.

A local to the village, with a family here spanning 4 generations, Rob brings a breadth of experience in Italian cooking having previously headed up a number of restaurants, as well as being a founder of the infamous White Rabbit Pizza Pub in Oxford.

His new menu focuses on authentic Italian, with a permanent offering of artisan pizza complimented by rotating sides and specials which shine a spotlight on locally sourced and seasonal ingredients. On Sundays he serves up a traditional roast but with an Italian twist.

Rob talks through his inspiration, influences and plans for the food at The Fleur.

What are your plans for the menu?

I think coming into a kitchen there's always a period of flux. The idea of taking on the kitchen was to firstly improve the offering of pizza by making everything from scratch, after that I'm planning on utilising as much of the produce that's been made available from the organic farm.

So you make the pizza from scratch. Can you tell us a bit about that process?

Yep the dough is made fresh every day. It's a sourdough. I named my starter 'Monk' which seemed apt being so close to the Abbey. It's slow fermented for a minimum of 48 hours which gives the dough tons of flavour.

You mentioned produce from the organic farm, is that where you source most of your ingredients?

Both David (Snug head chef) and myself are incredibly fortunate to be a part of what Keith is doing at Bishop's Court Farm. It's rare for a restaurant to have direct access to such high-quality produce. The organic rare breed pigs are ideal for charcuterie; David managed to find a curer in the Chilterns who we are able to work closely with to provide us with amazing cold cuts and influence over the final product to suit our needs, which has been invaluable. The farm raised lamb is a staple in our Sunday roast. I use the organic farm honey in everything from sauces to sweets.

If the menu focus is 'authentic Italian' how does a Sunday roast fit in?

I am serving lamb and pork direct from the farm. The pork is mostly belly / loin infused with rosemary salt, lemon zest, fennel seed, garlic and olive oil to make a traditional Italian porchetta. Lamb is an Italian staple, particularly in spring. I am slow roasting ours in hay which gives the meat a distinctive smokey flavour. There is also tons of seasonal veg. I think the beauty of Italian cooking is in its simplicity. They have a wonderful tradition of allowing the produce to do the talking. This is something I try to be mindful of whenever I create a dish.



Can you tell us more about where you get your influences and inspiration?

Some of my first memories surrounding food were with my grandma (Garb). We would walk around Blenheim Palace and then spend the afternoon baking in her kitchen after visiting the local bakery where I would invariably choose an iced finger bun. I had my own pinny, measuring spoons and cookbook. She gave me a love of food and the confidence to have a crack and if it didn't work out she'd pretend to like it anyway!



Is there anything upcoming for Christmas?

I will be serving pizza at the Bishop's Court Farm Christmas Fayre on the 15th & 16th December and will also be supporting the catering for the village Christmas party on the evening of the 16th.

As well as doing takeaways, we have just introduced a free pizza delivery service for the village on Thursday evenings which will run from now until March.



The Fleur
9 High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames
Email - info@thefleurdorchester.com
Tel - 01865 818475
www.thefleurdorchester.com

Words & images by Hattie Walters
marketing@thefleurdorchester.com



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Tomato base with mozzarella & basil

Quattro Formaggi (v) £13

Tomato base with gorgonzola, mozzarella, parmesan & goat's cheese

Fungi (v) £12

White base with mozzarella, mushrooms in truffle oil & parmesan

Nduja £13

Tomato base with mozzarella, nduja & pickled chilli's

Salami £13

White base with mozzarella, salami & parmesan

Salsiccia £14

Tomato base with mozzarella, Bishop's Court Farm sausage meat, fennel seed, sourdough breadcrumb & parmesan

SPECIAL

Boschi £14

White base with smoked mozzarella, wood-fired mushrooms, wild boar salami & figs

**Please let us know of any allergies
Gluten-free bases available on request**

A message from Richard Farrant, Chair of the Hurst Water Meadow Trust

After six years as Chair it's time for me to retire from the post and I'm wondering if you, or someone you know, might be interested in taking up this role?

The Trust is a charitable incorporated organisation and the trustees meet three times a year with responsibility for some of Dorchester's much-loved green spaces i.e the Hurst Meadow, Old Bridge Meadow and Overy Mead Piece. There are occasional ad hoc meetings, when needed, to discuss specific project work. The role is to help the trustees deliver on our three objectives of **conservation and protection of the meadows; advancing public education; and providing a safe place for the public's enjoyment** as well as resolving any tensions which arise between these objectives.

The meadows are a much valued local asset and you will be inheriting a team of nine enthusiastic volunteer trustees,

each having specific responsibilities within the Hurst charity. Experience of chairing meetings, working with volunteers and some facilitation skills would be useful, more importantly an interest and passion for the local environment is key.

If you'd like more information about the charity why not have a look at our website, details below, or contact Chris Smith and of course, I'd be happy to have a chat if you'd like to call me on **07952 887531** or email richard.farrant@icloud.com

Richard Farrant

Chris Smith
Honorary Secretary
07538 273129

www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk



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Peter Taylor 22 Jan 1927-17 Sept 2023

Peter and Iris Taylor decided to put their roots down in Dorchester on Thames in the mid/late 1950s. They spent a long time searching the surrounding areas before deciding that the village of Dorchester was for them and their then young family.

Having found the plot of land in Martins Lane they designed and had built the house that is there today.

Peter Taylor was born in Kilburn, North London in 1927. He was the youngest of six children one sister and four brothers. His mother died when he was just fourteen years old in 1941. Peter's father died in 1953 when he was 26 years old. We were lucky to have had our parents a lot longer.

The London home they lived in was owned by the London Underground and if you went down to the basement, the tube line doors could be heard opening and closing with a cry of 'mind the doors' (the gap came later).

Peter went to an Anglo Catholic primary school and was awarded a scholarship to St Marylebone Grammar School. He enjoyed languages, sports, especially rugby and tennis. With the onset of World War II, the school was evacuated to Redruth in Cornwall. He also began singing with the St Andrew's Redruth Choir.

He enjoyed Cornwall and the beaches and said they were infinitely preferable to schoolwork! Thereafter he was sent to



Haberdasher's Aske School in London with a lot of catching up to do between 1941 and 1943.

Peter's first job was as Junior Clerk at Lloyds Bank Covent Garden which included overnight fire watching duties which often were harrowing after the doodle bug raids devastating London. He also worked for the famous bookshop Foyles on Charing Cross Road and knew Christina Foyle daughter of the co founders William and Gilbert.

In 1944 Peter joined the Royal Navy and was drafted to Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, but two atom bombs later over Japan Hiroshima and Nagasaki finished the war soon after.

Demobbed in 1947 he went into advertising and ten years later joined Pressed Steel in Cowley promoting Prestcold, the motor industry and Beagle aircraft.

He met his wife of over sixty five years in 1948, and in 1949 they were married. The family of two sons and a daughter came along in the 1950s.

Peter was always interested in village organisations and a past member of the Parish County Council, he was Church Warden for several years. He remembered the thatched cottage being ablaze in the grounds of Dorchester Abbey and receiving a telephone call from the Vicar telling him the cottage was on fire and it was his responsibility to call the Fire Brigade! Time was lost and the cottage couldn't be saved.

Both Iris and Peter Taylor helped to establish the Dorchester Festival. Peter was a long-standing member of the Village Hall and other committees and later on President of the British Legion. He was also the Standard Bearer.

Peter enjoyed making his own wine and beer from all sorts of wild ingredients such as elderflower and elderberry and would experiment with practically any combination. Chateau Neuf du Pa (his name from the grandchildren) and Valpollipeter featured regularly in the Taylor household. Really it was a vin de table, but if you had too much you would soon be sous la table!

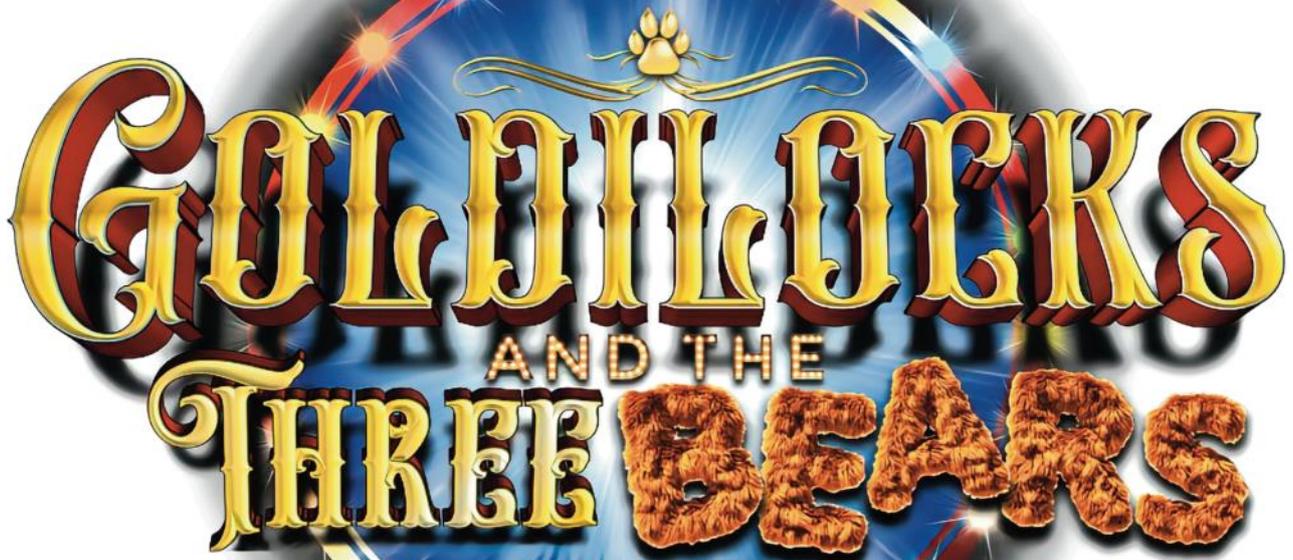
He also loved travelling to Italy and loved all things Italian and enjoyed many holidays there over the years and amongst many other foreign climes. Both Peter and Iris worked a local allotment for many years yielding lots of produce.

Mum, Ris, Ma passed away in 2014. She and Peter had enjoyed over 65 years of married life.

Dad was a true gentleman always smartly turned out and latterly having spent the last almost twelve years in care wore a shirt tie and jacket every day. One would definitely say he was very dapper, very polite and courteous and often when we returned him to the care home he was in he would say 'Thank you for all you do'. God Bless Him. We will miss you.

Russell Taylor





GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS

A pantomime by Tom Whalley

30th November - 2nd December 2023

Thursday & Friday 7pm

Saturday 2pm & 6.30pm

Dorchester-on-Thames Village Hall
Queen Street, Dorchester-on-Thames OX10 7HR

Tickets £12 (Under 12s £9)

www.ticketsource.co.uk/dads

www.dads.org.uk

DADS
Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society

HENGE at the Cornerstone

Surely this is one of the more unusual exhibitions held at the Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot. Originally designed as a community procession under Wittenham Clumps, now compressed into an indoor gallery space.

As guests entered the exhibition gallery, they were greeted with a lively performance of Welcome Drumming performed by Yolande and Zoe Nye. Yolande is a drumming teacher and experienced at creating a unique atmosphere. Drinks were graciously served by Jane Brooks, Maxine Russell, and Hayley Poole.

Jill Battson then performed her poetry, originally presented beneath the Clumps in 2022. Jill's performance recalled Paul Nash's famous words about the Clumps, "a beautiful legendary country haunted by ghosts long forgotten".

Adrian Brooks introduced the exhibition as a "distillation" of the HENGE Settlement performance in 2022 when a community procession of 300 people followed a giant mammoth, created by pupils of Wallingford school to a double ring henge in which dancers and actors from St Helen and St Katharine's, Didcot Girls' and St Birinus schools led by Michelle Uezzell and Maria Robertson beautifully enacted the life cycle of our first ancestors. The performance area of sarsen rocks, inscribed with David Burns' poetry and Adrian Brooks' illustrations slowly glowed blue as darkness settled.

Sited nearby were a large Pentangle for contemplation, by Philip Koomen; a glowing stained glass of early plant forms by Nic Hamilton and high above, capturing the wind were windsocks and kites by Cally Shadbolt. In the gallery a large projection of the HENGE Settlement event created by Christopher Baines conveyed the sense and feel of HENGE Settlement.

A rich variety of collages, paintings and prints by Dionne Freeman, Jane McDonald, Sophia Stewart-Liberty, Anna Dillon and Adrian Brooks showed what a rich source of inspiration this area provides for artists in all media.

Inside the Cornerstone Gallery, The Governors with Steve Eyre, Sara Passmore and Ian Salisbury played music with a contemporary vibe where guests could sit in club chairs, drink, enjoy the atmosphere and discuss artwork and music.

Thanks, are also due to Tim Cook and Ed Metcalfe for their work on administration and construction, to Jerald and James Pratt for transportation and the Cornerstone for their support, and finally our thanks to soldiers of the army of Fiji for help in moving the sarsen stones!



Dionne Freeman , Dyke Hills walk, mixed media on wood



Philip Koomen, Pentangle, Cedar of Lebanon



Jane McDonald, Solstice 1, Monoprint, Chine colle



Nic Hamilton, Line and Space, Wood, brick, glass, cyanotypes

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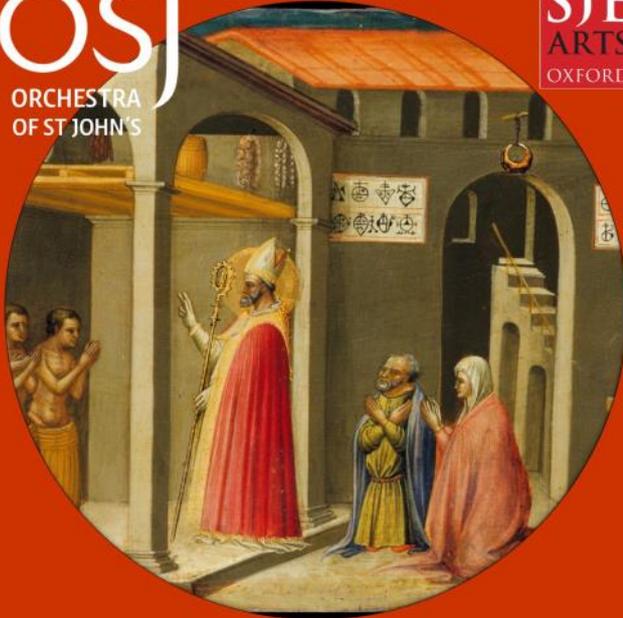
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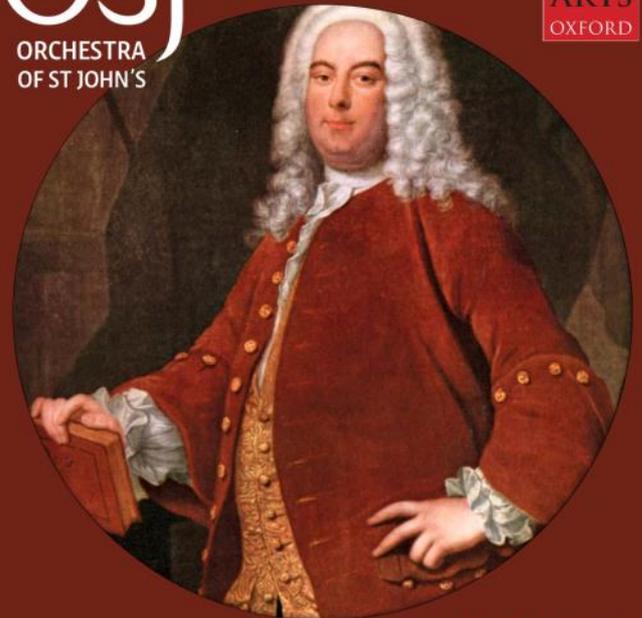
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From the Chair of the Parish Council



Thank you to the over 260 residents who completed our Dorchester 2030 survey. That's a great effort. Your contributions will give us a clear idea of what matters most to us as residents and how you see Dorchester in the years ahead. The survey forms are being reviewed by Community First Oxfordshire on our behalf, this will take a few weeks as they have to input the paper submissions to add to the electronic ones, bear with us. Of course we will be making sure we share what the survey tells us, probably in a public meeting as well as in Dorchester News. And then the real fun starts, as we agree which things we believe we can take forward, how we fund those that need funding. Important in this will be who amongst us is able to help on particular projects that come out of it, we have a wonderful and energetic bunch of councillors but even they have their limits so I hope a good number amongst us will offer to bring their ideas, skills and passion to make things happen. So, watch this space, in the meantime thank you for getting us started.

In the meantime, the playground work is pretty well complete now. Added to the adult exercise equipment and football goals this means that our vision for more and better facilities on the rec has met a major milestone. We know the pavilion is an outstanding issue, we will see what views the village survey gives us to guide what we might do. And the free exercise classes on the adult exercise equipment, paid for by the Parish Council, have been a great success and well attended. Keep it going!

You may have noticed the increase of weeds on our kerbs and verges as the rain has encouraged autumnal growth. This is despite the great work by the 'bridge gang' a while ago. These weeds make the village look scruffy but also can damage the kerbs etc. So, rather than wait for the intermittent action from other council authorities who we know are under lots of pressure at the moment, the Parish Council will be arranging for some work on our roadsides in the next

few weeks whilst we consider whether it is something we want to prioritise on an ongoing basis. That said, we can't realistically cover all areas so, for those who already do, or could, maintain the roadside near their properties, please do so, every little helps.

There are always little jobs that need doing in the village. One such is the management of our three defibrillators. We now have a single design for our devices (it always bears repeating where they are – the phone box at Bridge End, the White Hart and the Pavilion) and they are in good condition. But there is a role for someone to oversee them, its a very gentle role, nothing onerous, and you get to understand them even better. You never know when that might be useful. So, if you can help then please do contact Geoff Russell and ask your question and/or offer your services. Thank you. And to finish off this subject if you want a map of all defibrillators then I would urge you to load the 'Save a Life' app on your phone, it is free and easy to use if ever the need arises.

A few weeks ago, I had the honour, as Chair of your Parish Council of laying a wreath at the war memorial on Remembrance Day. Very humbling. And so, I'd like to pay tribute not only, of course, to those who made the real sacrifices for us but also to the ongoing work of the British Legion and, in particular Andy Pay, Charlotte Bennett and Chris Hill who keep the memories alive for us. The amazing poppy display by the war memorial, which I hope you saw, was just wonderful.

Finally a correction from me. Last month I got too excited about the extension of our conservation area and got it slightly wrong. So, what I should have said is that the conservation area boundary has indeed been extended to cover the whole of 'Cook's Field' in Overy and the area between the Thames Water Treatment Works and Meadside to give Overy extra protection from proposals that it should be used for gravel extraction, for example. However, contrary to what I said, the Desmesne Field has not been added to the Dorchester Conservation Area but has been designated as an Area of Special Local Interest which is something at least and gives a bit of protection. Apologies.

Enjoy your Christmas and time with friends and family, the sun will come back soon as it always does!

Parish Council Notices

Monthly Meetings December 2023 and January 2024

The December Council Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 13 December** and the January meeting will take place on **Wednesday 10 January**.

Council meetings commence at 7.30pm and are held in the back meeting room of the Village Hall.

The agenda will be posted on village notice boards and on the new Parish Council website

www.dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk - three clear days in advance of the meeting.

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

Contacting the Parish Council

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

Telephone (during normal office hours, please, unless an emergency) **07745 311439**. Direct Line **07752 900716** Texts are always welcome.

The Clerk's new e-mail is:

parishclerk@dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk

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

The Parish Council's new website is

www.dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk

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



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



Local Plan

Before the next issue of Dorchester News, SODC will begin consultation on the 'preferred options' for the next Local Plan, which is being prepared jointly with Vale of the White Horse council (meaning it can cover the whole of Didcot which is split between the two districts). This will include draft site allocations and policies. We've put a lot of effort into making the consultation process accessible, so I hope you'll get the chance to comment when this goes live (around 10 January). I'll share the link online when it does. The graphic below shows the timetable for the plan.

Grant scheme for people without mains gas

Do you know of residents in properties which aren't on the gas network? All homes at Meadside, for example, don't have access to mains gas. The good news is that they may be eligible for energy efficiency upgrades for their home, such as insulation, solar panels and heat pumps, all funded by the Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 (HUG2). These upgrades can help to reduce energy bills and make homes easier to keep warm. The grants are available to homeowners and landlords whose properties are not heated by gas boilers, with a household income of less than £39,000 and with a lower energy rating (D-G). Spread the word and visit welcomethewarmth.org.uk to find out more.

There are a variety of grants and schemes if you are interested in retrofitting your home. I'd recommend www.cosyhomesoxfordshire.org to find out more about how you could reduce your energy bills cost-effectively.

Thermal Imaging Camera and emissions calculator loans

As the weather gets colder, SODC will be lending out our thermal imaging camera again to community groups and parishes. They can use the camera to identify spots in buildings where heat is escaping and where energy-saving measures could help make a place more comfortable and reduce fuel bills at the same time.

SODC can also supply parishes with a free simple-to-use **carbon emissions calculator tool** (a spreadsheet) designed to help town and parish councils to measure their current carbon emissions. It makes it easy to keep track of the energy used by buildings and vehicles and work out where carbon and cost savings can be made.

For more information on either of these, contact climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk

Continued on page 29





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



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities service update

Steps are being taken to improve the support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Oxfordshire following Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission's local area partnership inspection of SEND services in July.

Progress is already being made in improving the timeliness of education, health and care plans for those who need them. As of September 2023, 48 per cent of assessments were being processed within statutory time frames compared with 4 per cent in January 2023.

The local area partnership members have been working, together with the county's parent carer forum and professional subject matter leads, to develop a priority action plan with clear and measurable service improvements.

A new director of children's services has been appointed by Oxfordshire County Council. Lisa Lyons, who will begin her new role in early February, will be coming to Oxfordshire from Stoke-on-Trent City Council, where she is director of children and family services. She has nearly 30 years' experience in children's and adults' safeguarding, SEND, education and inclusion services.

Climate action

In a recent independent process run by Climate Emergency UK, Oxfordshire was the highest-rated county council in the

UK for its work on tackling climate change, which is great news for the council. You can read about it in more detail at <https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/scoring/county/>

20mph zones approved in Nuneham Courtenay and Newington

At a recent highways decision meeting, after public consultation, 20mph zones were approved for the village centres of Nuneham Courtenay and Newington villages. The decision for Dorchester is pending in phase 2, which should be in early 2024.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/traffic/20mph-scheme/20-limit-project-progress>

County of Sanctuary

I was glad that council voted through a motion at its November meeting agreeing to become a 'County of Sanctuary' for refugees, on a day when refugees were being evicted from an Oxford hotel to be transferred to the infamous Bibby Stockholm barge. This committed the council to work closely with the excellent refugee organisations in Oxfordshire and to promote the inclusion and welfare of people who are fleeing violence and persecution.

robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk
tel. 01865 858680
m. 07979 646815

SODC report continued from page 27

Affordable Housing Grants now made simpler

The council recently approved a new affordable housing policy to enable funds from 'Section 106' developer contributions to be used for grants to build affordable homes, in particular those that are energy efficient and cheaper for residents to live in and heat. The policy includes a revamped application process which includes clear guidelines and free expert consultation services for applicants.

This policy is part of the district council's work to help meet the urgent need for genuinely affordable rental housing in the region; local developers, Community Land Trusts and self-builders can now apply for a grant to build affordable homes that meet the council's climate criteria.

Recent motions passed by SODC Full Council

At its meeting in October, the Council unanimously passed two motions brought by members. The **first** was to ensure that all contractors employed by the Council sign up to paying the Real Living Wage to their employees. This means that

the Council can apply to become a Real Living Wage certified employer (direct staff are already paid at least this amount) and will ensure that, where contractors are benefiting from index-linked increases in their fees, they will reward their own employees accordingly. (It was discovered recently that Saba, the firm which operates the SODC car parks, only pays the national minimum wage and is struggling to recruit operatives.)

The **second** motion regretted the Government's recent reductions in its climate targets and called on the Leader of the Council to write to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, requesting a regulatory impact assessment of the outcome of their policy changes, and to seek an assurance and rationale for how they consider these policy changes to be compliant with their statutory obligations to meet current and future carbon budgets.

Robin.Bennett@southoxon.gov.uk
tel. 01865 858680
m. 07979 646815

Logs for Sale

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Cinema: All regular performances normally start at 7:30pm unless stated otherwise. Please note that we will start on time and that latecomers will only be allowed in after the start of the film where there is no disruption to sitting patrons. This means that we may have to reseat some latecomers. For Live Screenings we reserve the right to seat latecomers in the Curtis Room where there is a large screen relay. The bar and auditorium will open from 7.00pm so there's plenty of time to collect drinks beforehand.

Films with subtitles will be shown on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons at 2:30pm. Please see website (www.cornexchange.org.uk) for updates.

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

December

Fri 1	Love Actually (15)
Sat 2	Love Actually (15)
Sun 3	Love Actually (15)
Mon 4	The Royal Hotel (18)
Tues 5	The Royal Hotel (18)
Wed 6	Dance First (12A)
Thurs 7	Dance First (12A)
Fri 8	Journey to Bethlehem (PG)
Sat 9	Journey to Bethlehem (PG) 2.30pm and 7.30pm
Sun 10	Journey to Bethlehem (PG)
Mon 11	The Red Shoes (PG)
Wed 13	The Red Shoes (PG) 2.30pm and 7.30pm
Thurs 14	The Red Shoes (PG)
Fri 15	Napoleon (15)
Sun 17	Napoleon (15)
Tues 19	Napoleon (15)
Wed 20	Napoleon (15) 2.30pm and 7.30pm
Thurs 21	Napoleon (15)
Fri 22	Wish (PG) 2.30pm and 7.30pm
Sat 23	Wish (PG) 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Live on Stage

Saturday 16 December 7.30pm

Sinodun Players' Punchbowl

Tickets £12

The Sinodun Players present an evening of seasonal readings, sketches and songs, with a second half of music from their own talented band, Outliers. The evening will be rounded up with a singalong of some Christmas carols. All funds raised will be donated to charities.

Monday 18 December 7.30pm

Nettlebed Folk Club – St. Agnes Fountain

All Tickets £22 bookable from Nettlebed Folk Club on 01628 636620 or 01628 603670

Since their first get together, to record the eponymous St Agnes Fountain album in 2001, the quartet; David Hughes, Fairport Convention's Chris Leslie and multi award winning duo Chris While and Julie Matthews, have brought musical invention and laughter to the star-dust atmosphere of the season. Sadly David died earlier this year. He was simply a one off. His vision to create traditional Christmas carols with a curve led to the creation of St Agnes Fountain. He was our founding father but he was so much more than that. Chris, Chris and Julie will be keeping the Christmas Aggie spirit alive and working as a trio celebrating 22 years together again this year. Christmas, as they say, starts with... St Agnes Fountain... Fa la la la la la la la.

Friday 12 January 7.30 pm

Saturday 13 January 2.00pm and 6.30pm

Tuesday 16 - Friday 19 January 7.30pm

Saturday 20 January 2.00pm and 6.30pm

Tuesday 23 - Friday 26 January 7.30pm

Saturday 27 January 2.00pm and 6.30pm

The Sinodun Players present their annual pantomime **The Adventures of Sinbad**

A new exotic stage design by Jason Atomic and a colourful atmospheric lighting design by Poul Alexander will heighten your enjoyment of this time honoured story. This brand new production has all the magic and fun of a traditional pantomime so come along and follow Sinbad on his epic journey across the seas with Captain Kippa, Fatima, his Mum, Prince Kassim, Sheikh Ya Booty and his beautiful daughter Soraya.

Live Screening

Tues 12 December 7.15pm

The Royal Ballet — The Nutcracker

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

Live from the Royal Opera House.

A revival of the Ivanov/Wright production, Choreography: Peter Wright after Lev Ivanov | Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Julia Trevelyan Oman's period designs bring festive charm to Peter Wright's beloved Royal Ballet production, as fairytale magic comes together with spectacular dancing in this unforgettable classic ballet.



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A Jazzy Christmas

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



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

Tickets : £22 - £27

Please go to bishops court farm.com
Doors: 6.30pm. Concert: 7.30 - 9.30pm

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



Day by day

Fri
1 Dec
Living Advent Calendar
Daily openings begin
6.30pm
Various locations

DADS
Goldilocks and the Three Bears
7.00pm
Village Hall

Sat
2 Dec
Christmas Market
10.00am to 5.00pm
Dorchester Abbey

Dorchester Abbey Museum
Open
10.00am to 5.00pm

DADS
Goldilocks and the Three Bears
2.00pm and 6.30pm
Village Hall

Sun
3 Dec
Advent Sunday
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am
Advent Carols

Dorchester Abbey Museum
Open
2.00pm to 5.00pm

The Snug Sessions
A Jazzy Christmas
7.30pm
Dorchester Abbey

Mon
4 Dec
Gregoriana Concert
Church Conservation Trust
7.00pm
Dorchester Abbey

Tues
5 Dec
Dorchester Abbey Museum
Open
10.00am to 12.30pm

Wed
6 Dec
Dorchester Lunch Club
12.30pm
Village Hall

Sat
9 Dec
Christmas Tree Decorating
10.00am
Dorchester Abbey

Orchestra of St John's
Britten Saint Nicholas Cantata
7.00pm
Dorchester Abbey

Sun
10 Dec
Advent 2
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am
Family Service, Posada Party

Wed
13 Dec
Chiropodist
Village Hall
Appointment only; see page 7

Parish Council Meeting
7.30pm
Village Hall



Thurs
14 Dec
Home Farm Trust
The Coming of Christmas 2023
6.00pm
Dorchester Abbey

Fri
15 Dec
Christmas Market
3.00pm-11.00pm
Bishop's Court Farm

Sat
16 Dec
Christmas Market and Bish Bash Party
11.00am to 2.00am
Bishop's Court Farm

Orchestra of St John's
Handel's Messiah
7.00pm
Dorchester Abbey

Sun
17 Dec
Advent 3
8.00am
Holy Communion (BCP)

10.30am
Sung Eucharist

6.00pm
Nine Lessons and Carols

Festive Family Jazz Show
4.00pm
Bishop's Court Farm

Mon
18 Dec
Village Carol Singing
6.00pm
Meet outside The George

Wed
20 Dec
Nadia Eide: Winter Light
A Classical Christmas Concert
7.00pm
Dorchester Abbey

Sun
24 Dec
Advent 4/Christmas Eve
4.30pm
Crib Service

11.00pm
Midnight Mass

Mon
25 Dec
Christmas Day
8.00am
Holy Communion

10.30am
Christmas Communion

Tues
26 Dec
Boxing Day
Rest and recovery
All day
At home

Sun
31 Dec
Orchestra of St John's
New Year's Eve Concert
6.00pm
Dorchester Abbey

Weekly events

Tuesday
Coffee Morning
11.00am
Dorchester Abbey

Abbey Bell Ringers
Practice
7.30pm

Wednesday
New Baby and Toddler Time
9.30-10.45am
Dorchester Abbey

Mobile Post Office
2.00-3.00pm but may vary
Outside Co-op

Thursday
Wellbeing Walks
10.00am
Outside Co-op

Friday
Abbey Junior Choir
Practice
6.00pm

Abbey Senior Choir
Practice
7.00pm

Saturday
Pickleball
2.00pm-4.00pm
St Birinus School playground

See also the Parish Council website:
www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

Weekly events in the Village Hall

Tuesday
Move Together
1.30pm

Yoga
7.30pm

Wednesday
Busby Dance for children
3.15pm

Pilates
5.30pm

Tango
7.30pm

Thursday
Yoga for Beginners
6.15pm

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

Parish Registers

Baptisms

15 Oct Oscar Buley-Harinek

For current information about other services at Dorchester Abbey see
www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

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



Mon 1 Jan	New Year's Day
Sun 7 Jan	1st Sunday of Epiphany 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Sung Eucharist
Wed 10 Jan	Chiropodist Village Hall Appointment only; see page 7 Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall
Sun 14 Jan	2nd Sunday of Epiphany 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Family Service 5.00pm Choral Evensong
Wed 17 Jan	Dorchester Lunch Club 12.30pm Village Hall Culham Horticultural Society Jenny Barnes <i>From Regimental to Ornamental</i> 7.30pm Abbey Guest House
Mon 15 Jan	DADS Read-through <i>Surprise! Surprise!</i> 7.30pm Village Hall
Thurs 18 Jan	DADS Auditions <i>Surprise! Surprise!</i> 7.30pm Village Hall
Sun 21 Jan	3rd Sunday of Epiphany 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Sung Eucharist
Wed 24 Jan	Dorchester Historical Society <i>The life and times of four remarkable Dorchester women</i> Juila Atkins, Denise Line and Margot Metcalfe 7.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 28 Jan	4th Sunday of Epiphany 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)



Dorchester News Crossword No.29 Solution

Compiled by Slider

1	G	H	A	S	T	L	Y		5	P	A	6	C	K	7	A	G	8	E		
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CONTACTING THE POLICE

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

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**

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ABBEY GUEST HOUSE BOOKINGS

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

HIRE OF DORCHESTER VILLAGE HALL

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

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

FAULTS AND COMPLAINTS

POTHOLE, STREET OR ROAD PROBLEMS

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

BLOCKED DRAINS

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

REFUSE COLLECTION

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

POWER CUTS

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

ANIMAL WELFARE

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

MOBILE POST OFFICE

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

Useful Information

BUS SERVICES

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

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

From Wallingford: Mon - 09.23, 11.50, 13.35; Wed - 11.50, 13.35; Fri - 09.25, 12.00, 12.15, 14.05.

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

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

See: www.goingforwardbuses.com

Other Bus Services

Service X40 every 30 minutes from the bypass at the end of Drayton Road to Oxford and Wallingford. Information about bus services, is available from www.traveline.info and **08712 002233**.

AGE UK

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

WALLINGFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE

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

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Clerk is Geoffrey Russell of The Pigeons, 5 & 7 High Street, Dorchester on Thames OX10 7HH; **07745 311439** (office) , **07752 9007116** (direct)
parishclerk@dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk

SODC CONTACT

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

ANGLICAN PRIEST

Dorchester Rectory
01865 340007

ABBEY E-MAIL:

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

ABBEY WEBSITE

www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

VILLAGE WEBSITE

www.dorchesteronthames.co.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST

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

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



REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Tues 5 Dec **Black**
Tues 12 Dec **Green**
Tues 19 Dec **Black**
Thurs 28 Dec **Green**
Thurs 4 Jan **Black**
Wed 10 Jan **Green**
Tues 16 Jan **Black**
Tues 23 Jan **Green**
Tues 30 Jan **Black**

Weekdays from 7.00am

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

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

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Dorchester Abbey Christmas Market

*Saturday 2nd December
10am-5pm*

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



*Father Christmas Grotto
& Elves!*

*Book slots to see Father Christmas
from 1st Nov*

www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

Raising money for your Abbey