

Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

November 2025





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Cover: A frosty autumnal morning at Dorchester Abbey.

Photo: Richard Juniper

Deadline for December Dorchester News



email:

dorchesternews@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

A DoT view

Winter draws on as they say, and we have already experienced the season's first frost, which some early risers will have noticed.

That means that the festive period is nearly upon us, with the initial Christmas event in the village scheduled for Saturday 29 November: The Abbey Christmas Market. This annual occasion transforms the Abbey into a vibrant market which always makes me think of a traditional medieval street scene. Children will also have the opportunity to visit Father Christmas and his elves; however, advance booking is required. Further details can be found on page 32.

Lastly, we apologise for any confusion caused by last month's bin collection schedule, which mixed up black and green bins. This month's schedule has been thoroughly reviewed and is accurate..

Ian Brace

Editorial Team

Ian Brace, Gillian Johnson

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'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.'
Matthew 5:9

November nights draw in fast and the darkness settles in early. We love to come in from the cold, snuggle under a blanket with a cup of coffee and watch our favourite series. There's nothing like crisp winter nights. Soon, however, the atmosphere will change and the skies will be full of fireworks, brief, brilliant flashes of light.

Bonfire Night has its odd mix of celebration and caution. We gather round the flames to remember history, to enjoy a bit of spectacle, and to share hot chocolate with neighbours. For one night, darkness is pushed back, not by floodlights or technology, but by sparks, laughter and a sense of belonging. A single spark is enough to draw people together, and it's a reminder that light and warmth often start small.

I've been thinking about that as I follow the news from Palestine and Israel. I'm not sure where we will be by the time

this comes to print, I hope at peace. The suffering caused by this war is beyond words. Ordinary families are caught in something vast and violent, and the images on our screens can leave us feeling helpless. But 'Blessed are the peacemakers,' said Jesus, not the powerful or the perfect, but those who, in whatever way they can, bring calm where there is anger and hope where there is despair.

Jesus showed what that looks like in practice, bringing light into dark places, crossing boundaries, and loving those everyone else had written off. His way of peace wasn't loud or forceful, but steady and kind, like the glow of embers that refuse to go out.

Most of us can't change global politics, but we can tend the small fires of peace in our own patch: listening before judging, speaking kindly when it's easier to sneer, forgiving when it costs us something. Peace making begins close to home, at the kitchen table, in the village hall, at work, at school, even online.

Bonfire Night itself began with division, gunpowder and plots and the failure of understanding between neighbours. Centuries later, perhaps it can remind us to do better: to be sparks of peace, not sparks that ignite more conflict.

So as we wrap up warm and watch the fireworks this month, perhaps we can pause for a moment. Between the bangs and bursts of colour, look around at the faces beside us, friends, strangers, the whole muddle of humanity gathered for warmth and wonder.

May we each, in our own small way, be lights in the darkness and peacemakers where we are planted, following the one who first lit the way.

Abbey Concert Managers Required Are You Interested?

The demand for Events to be held in the Abbey has been steadily increasing this year and we need to increase the number of volunteer Concert Managers who play a vital part in helping to make the events run smoothly. This is an opportunity to find out more about what goes on behind the scenes, meeting interesting artists, hearing lovely music and being the welcoming face of the Abbey to the audience.

Training will be given. For further details please contact the Office Manager, Dorchester Abbey, Samantha Turner; sam@dorchester-abbey.org.uk and **01865 340007** (Mon, Wed and Fri mornings)

Team Events

A Team Service for the 5th Sunday of November (**30 November**), Advent Sunday, will be held at the Abbey at 10.30am with Archdeacon David Tyler. At 5.00pm there will be a special service of watching and waiting in the Abbey which all are welcome to attend.

Service Information

See service list in Dorchester Diary, page 30, but please check with your minister.

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

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Contact the Abbey Office

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

Chiropodist

Wednesday 12 November

Village Hall
Appointment only
Call **07850 196714**



Events in the Abbey

Saturday 8 November - Illuminated Orchestra Present: A Tribute to Hans Zimmer & Film Favourites. Two show times 17.45 (SOLD OUT) and 20.30. An immersive tribute to Hans Zimmer and cinema's most iconic music with a live chamber orchestra illuminated by light! 1 hour jam-packed including • Avatar• Dune• E.T• Gladiator• Harry Potter• Inception• Indiana Jones• Interstellar• James Bond• Jaws & many more! Tickets from £37+ www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tribute-to-hans-zimmer-film-favourites-illuminated-dorchester-abbey-tickets-1364285307079?aff=oddtcreator

Please note at time of going to print show one is already Sold Out – Tickets remain for the second show

For all ticket and event enquiries visit

www.illuminatedorchestra.co.uk

Sunday 9 November Abingdon Remembrance Concert 7.00pm Musicians of Abingdon School will perform a concert at Dorchester Abbey commemorating those lost in conflict. Performance of the Fauré Requiem by the Chapel Choir will be the central item in the programme but the concert will also include further choral items alongside reflective chamber music. All Welcome. Tickets: £6/ £4

www.abingdon.org.uk/sports-and-leisure/performance/remembrance-concert-2/

Saturday 15 November 7.00pm Orchestra of St John's Ravel and Stravinsky with Jeneba Kanneh-Mason.

Ravel Mother Goose Suite

Ravel Piano concerto in G - Stravinsky Pulcinella complete -

Jeneba Kanneh-Mason piano -Suzzie Vango soprano-Dominic Bevan tenor - Alex Jones bass - Orchestra of St John's Tickets £15 - £30 <https://www.osj.org.uk/osjevent/ravel-and-stravinsky-with-jeneba-kanneh-mason-7pm-at-dorchester-abbey/>

Free tickets available for NHS workers and for the disabled. Please email admin@osj.org.uk

Thursday 27 November 2025 - RAF Benson Charity Christmas Concert. Doors open 5.15pm, event 6.30pm to 9.00pm. Join the Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment for an evening of festive music in the magnificent setting of Dorchester Abbey, in support of the RAF Benevolent Fund. The Band will play by permission of the Royal Air Force Board of the Defence Council. This is a Free ticketed event fundraising for RAF Benevolent Fund. Donations can be made at the venue on the day via cash or card/electronic. Pre-registration is required Tickets <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/raf-benson/t-lnyvoqr>

For all above ticket links and for further information on all events including full listings for November, December and Christmas at the Abbey please visit: www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk/whats-on/ #DorchesterAbbeyEvents

Dorchester Abbey

Vacancy for Part-time Caretaker

We are seeking a practical, conscientious and self-motivated individual to join our dedicated team who look after the life and activities of our historic Abbey.

You will help us to provide a welcoming, presentable and safe environment for our many visitors.

Duties will include, but not limited to:

- minor maintenance of buildings, furnishings and grounds
- setting up tables and chairs for some events, activities and week-day services
- ensuring the tidiness and security of buildings
- monitoring the cleaners and managing waste disposal and recycling
- managing the Abbey for pre-booked events and ensuring the Abbey is left in good order
- ensuring the grounds are litter-free and weed-free
- overseeing external contractors
- conducting regular safety checks and risk assessments
- occasional unlocking and locking the Abbey
- responding to emergencies and safety issues

This is an interesting and varied, part-time, remunerated position.

Contact Sandie in our Admin Team at admin1@dorchester-abbey.org.uk or phone **01865 340007** for more details.

Advertising in Dorchester News

To advertise in Dorchester News please contact Dorchesternews@dorchester-abbey.org.uk one week before the deadline for editorial copy given on page 2. Please note new email address.

Costs per issue are for an eighth of a page £12.75 mono, £13.75 colour; quarter page £25.50 mono, £27.50 colour; half page £38.25 mono, £41.25 colour and full page £51.00 mono, £55.00 colour. There are ten issues per year.

Dorchester Village Hall 200 Club Prize Draw

Congratulations to the winners of the September draw. The next draw will be in December, with a first prize of **£100**, so join now for a chance to win!

1st Prize	£75	No.156 Mrs A Myres
2nd Prize	£45	No.38 Dr D Parker
3rd Prize	£25	No.96 Mr E Metcalfe

The 200 Club is a quarterly prize draw to reward supporters and raise funds for the village hall. We need new members to keep the draw worthwhile but there are good odds of winning as there is a maximum of 200 tickets in the draw. A ticket for the year (four draws from when you join) only costs £12 and you can have multiple tickets.

To join, contact Elaine Williams on **01865 340441** or email **200club@dotvh.org.uk** for a form. You can pay by cash, cheque or standing order (preferred).

Thank you for your support and good luck!

Elaine

Lunch Club

Wednesday 5 November and Wednesday 19 November are the final two dates this year for the Lunch Club. There will no Lunch Club in December (the lunch on 8 December originally planned has been cancelled).

In 2026 the lunches will be on **7 January, 4 February, 4 March and 1 April**.

Susan Jupp,
co-ordinator of the Lunch Club.
tel: **01865 341066**
mob: **07907 778774**
email: **susanjupp13@gmail.com**

Dorchester Festival Art Exhibition

The Festival returns in May next year with an art exhibition by Dorchester artists in the Abbey Guest House.

Join us for a meeting on **Tuesday 2 December** at 6.30pm in the Abbey Guest House to establish interest in exhibiting, review the event format, and address past glitches. There are no specific fees for exhibiting but at this meeting we will agree the donation percentage from sales to Festival charities, previously 20-25%. There will be a follow-up meeting in April for final details and to allocate preparatory tasks. To participate, contact Bill Maish at **w.maish10@gmail.com** or come along to the meeting.



Hempcroft Allotments November

The Hempcroft Allotment Association held its Annual General Meeting on 2 October at the village hall, with an excellent turnout from members. It was heartening to see so many allotmenters actively participating in discussions and showing their continued commitment to the success of our community.

The current committee includes Edward Metcalfe (Chairman), Jon Rosby (Treasurer), Charlotte Bennett, Ian Ford Batey, Matthew Grayson, and Roger Seabrook. At the meeting, Jon Rosby announced his decision to step down after ten years as Treasurer. His dedication and behind-the-scenes work have been instrumental in keeping our finances on track and the allotments running smoothly. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Jon for his significant contribution.

All other committee members stood for re-election and were unanimously approved. We're also pleased to welcome two new members to the team: William Yates, who will take over as Treasurer, and Matilda Fisher. Their enthusiasm and fresh perspectives will be a great asset to the Association.

Jon presented the annual accounts, which show a healthy financial position and a modest surplus. All rent payments are passed directly to the Parish Council, while the £10 subscription fee covers insurance and our statutory membership with the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners. Rents and subscriptions remain unchanged for the coming year and are now due. Members are encouraged to order seeds through the National Society catalogue, which offers discounted prices and provides a small financial benefit to our Association.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Best Allotment 2025 award to Matilda Fisher. Having taken on an overgrown plot earlier this year, Matilda has transformed it into a thriving space full of vibrant vegetables and flowers—no small feat given the dry weather this summer. Congratulations, Matilda, on a well-deserved win!

The meeting also addressed plot utilisation, noting that a few plots are currently vacant. If you're interested in joining our allotment community, please contact a committee member.

A lively discussion followed on several issues. Concerns were raised about plots left untended despite rent being paid, resulting in weed spread to neighbouring plots. It was agreed that such tenants should be contacted and reminded of their responsibilities under the tenancy agreement. Other topics included site parking, hosepipe usage, removal of waste and the overgrown hedge on the footpath between Rotten Row and Samian Way. The committee welcomes further input and will be working on these matters in the coming months.

Looking ahead, the focus shifts to clearing spent crops and weeds. It's the perfect time to dig in organic matter—manure, compost, or leaf mould—to enrich the soil for next year's growing season.

Happy digging, and here's to a productive winter ahead

Roger Seabrook
seabrr01@hotmail.com



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Balls, Bats, Bronzes, Battleaxes, Medals, Paintings, Prints, Photos, Puppets, Sportswear, Scarves, Swords, Tea Towels, Toys and many others!

Jane's studio is now open in Dorchester, many weekend afternoons or by appointment; email or see www.janeelsworthart.com or call on 07841 590237

Dorchester Historical Society

Thursday 20 November 2025, 7.30pm,

Dorchester Village Hall

(Note: not regular night nor venue.)

Members free, Visitors welcome (£5)

Educating Dorchester: A journey through school records, photographs and memories.

An illustrated talk by Denise Line and Patsy Smith



This talk about the history of education in Dorchester highlights the life of Gladys K Atkins née Holliday (1903 -1992) and her lifelong connection as pupil, monitress, and teacher.

There will be a small exhibition – if you have school memories or items to lend, please contact Denise Line by **9 November**: uptheclumps@icloud.com

Culham & District Horticultural Club

Wednesday 19 November 2025 at 7.30 pm

Abbey Guest House, Dorchester-on-Thames



Please note this talk was originally scheduled for October

Ben Pope

Containing the Unconventional

A talk focussing on the joys of container gardening and what can be achieved with a little imagination and inspiration. Ben will talk about the practicalities of selecting unusual containers, growing media and locations, before discussing plant combinations that will help to display texture and colour. Throughout the talk Ben will show images of specific plant details and container planting schemes, concluding with 'mood boards' of different combinations, that should hopefully fill your head and your pots with new ideas.

Ben is head gardener for a private estate in West Sussex, maintaining the gardens whilst growing fruit vegetables and cut flowers. He regularly speaks for the charity Perennial and other organisations, and enjoys teaching at the English Gardening School and West Dean. He writes for various publications including Gardens Illustrated. He is also a member of the RHS herbaceous committee.

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 remains unchanged at £20. Visitors are welcome (suggested donation £5). For more details telephone 01235 850381 or email judy@tigercat.me.uk

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Order online to collect at
the Christmas market



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Abbey website
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All proceeds to Dorchester Abbey



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ITS THAT TIME... BOOKING NOW OPEN!

CHRISTMAS PARTY SEASON IS HERE

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Dorchester Abbey Museum News

Accreditation success!

We are thrilled to announce that the Museum has just been awarded Full Accreditation by Arts Council England. To achieve this our policies, plans and activities in a wide range of areas have been assessed and approved against a set of national standards for museums. This is the Museum's third such award, having first been accredited in 2011.

Dates for your diary.

Christmas Craft Workshop

Saturday 15 November

10am-12.00 noon and 1.00-3.00pm

Come and make your own festive wreath! For you or a gift for someone special.

Using colorful fabrics, £20 per person, including all materials. For adults and children over 10. Please bring your own scissors and any small Xmas baubles you'd like to include.

Places limited to 10 per workshop. Book early!

Email museum@dorchester-abbey.org.uk to book your place.

Christmas Shopping

A large range of cards, stocking fillers and Christmas gifts for children and adults.

Saturday, 29 November 10am-5pm at the Abbey Christmas Market and in the Museum

Tuesday 2 December, 10.30am-12.00noon at the Abbey Coffee Morning

Festive wreath: Craft Workshop Saturday 15 November



If you haven't already visited, do explore our new website at www.dorchesterabbeymuseum.org.uk and let us know what you think – you'll help boost our user statistics!

Follow us on Facebook.

Enquiries: We're now closed for the winter until Easter 2026, but if you'd like to buy any books from Christina Hardyment's 'Alyce Chaucer' trilogy or are doing some local research we'd be happy to help, just contact us by email: museum@dorchester-abbey.org.uk.



Warburton & Shillingford WI

If you've ever talked about penicillin, you've likely heard of Alexander Fleming. In 1928, Fleming famously discovered penicillin when he noticed that mould growing on an unattended petri dish killed the surrounding staphylococcus bacteria. However, achieving penicillin's clinical use was far from immediate—it took a dedicated team of Oxford scientists over a decade to get there, as explained by historian and museum curator Marie-Louise Kerr at our monthly meeting. Fleming himself wasn't able to isolate and stabilise the substance, but he wrote about its potential benefits.

Fast forward to 1938, Howard Florey and Ernst Chain began searching for a chemical that could kill harmful microbes without harming patients. Discovering Fleming's paper, they worked with Norman Heatley to stabilise penicillin and initiated testing. In their experiments, eight mice were infected—four were treated and survived, while the untreated ones died. The first human patient to receive penicillin was in 1941 and saw significant improvement, commemorated today with a blue plaque at the JR hospital. The challenge then became mass-producing penicillin during wartime. Florey and Heatley decided to fly to the USA, where a woman named Margaret Hutchinson created an innovative system for large-scale production. Penicillin became available in Britain in 1946. For their work, Fleming, Florey, and Chain received the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1945. Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin, who determined penicillin's atomic structure and advanced its

therapeutic use, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1964—her bust is displayed at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Marie-Louise Kerr's talk was both captivating and informative.

Future Programme: In November Lucy Gasson will talk of 'Saints, Stunners, Marmalade and Medicine'. Our December meeting will feature Pandemonium, a Ceilidh Band, a lively start to the Christmas celebrations, there will be wine and canapes too! In January Peter Tickler's talk is entitled 'Jam and Murder' and we are planning a New Year Meal at a local restaurant in addition. February will see Sarah Turton talking about 'Food as Medicine' which brings us to the end of the WI year and our Annual Meeting in March 2026.

It is always a lovely friendly atmosphere at our monthly meetings. Seeing old friends, making new ones, coffee, cake and a chat, followed by an interesting talk or activity. We would love to welcome you, come and join us, we have members from Dorchester, Shillingford and Warburton. The first meeting is free!

Contact email: warburtonwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

President - Kim Tompsett **07958 536319**

Secretary - Vicky Hart **01865 416437**
or **07817 634709**

DADS *present*
Dorchester Amateur Dramatics Society

Robinson Crusoe

A pantomime by Tom Whalley



4TH TO 6TH DECEMBER,

Thursday & Friday 7pm | Saturday 2pm & 6.30pm

Dorchester-on-Thames Village Hall

ADULT £12

CHILD (13 & UNDER) £9

ADULT & CHILD (13 & UNDER) £20

WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/DADS



St Birinus Primary School News

All our children continue to work hard here as they settle into their new routines and get to grips with their class topics.

As we begin the second half of term we can reflect on all the wonderful achievements in our school so far.

Willow Class have had a super start to the year with Year 1 enjoying Forest School this term for which we are, once again, incredibly grateful to the Hurst Water Meadow Trust for continuing to help us to fund our forest school teacher.

Hazel Class have been learning about schools in the past. We are grateful to the Museum staff for providing an enrichment day for them to really immerse themselves in the history of our school.

Oak Class have been working incredibly hard to improve their writing and they have written some super ghost stories as part of the local competition.

We are so grateful for all the support we get from our community to enable our children to have such a variety of experiences.

We have an open morning for prospective families on **Wednesday 19 November**. Please do come along and see what we can offer. There is no need to book. Just come any time between 9.30am and 11.30am. You will be offered a tour of the school and the chance to chat to children, staff and governors.

You can find out more about our school from our website here: <https://www.st-birinus-pri.oxon.sch.uk/>

Jo Staples
Headteacher



Dorchester Pre-School

As we creep around to the final weeks of 2025 we have had a very busy term. We are looking forward to remembering the 5th of November and activities for Remembrance Sunday. We will have fun learning some songs and making a lovely display about poppies.

The children have been busy playing with some new toys that we purchased from holding a pirate and princess day where the children enjoyed dressing up, hunting for the treasure, making princess wands and walking the plank. We purchased some Small World items that the children have had fun playing with.

The pre-school is run by staff and we have a committee which continues to fundraise and support. We rely on donations and the generosity of the community and appreciate that people in the village continue to support us and give us items of interest.

We have very few spaces at the moment but always get in contact to be shown round and get your child's name on the waiting list - contact manager@dorchesterpreschool.co.uk or **01865 341805**.

Jessica Morris

Compassion | Knowledge | Diversity



Open Morning

Wednesday 19 November, 09:30am - 11:30am

Opportunity to tour the school and meet the staff and governors

Come and see what we have to offer:

Wraparound Care available from 08:00am - 06:00pm

Forest School for all pupils

A caring and nurturing environment with high expectations

No appointment needed



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Your Ghost Stories...

Written by local authors and told in
the Village Hall around an **open fire**
with live music and bar

Saturday 15th November
7pm

(doors open at 6.45pm)

Adults £10

Under 18 £5

(or tickets on the door if still available)

www.ticketsource.co.uk/dotvh

Dorchester Abbey Christmas Cards

All profits to Dorchester Abbey

New cards
for 2025
by local artists



Abbey Tree
Sophia Stewart-Liberty
14.8 x 21cm (A5)
£6



Night Service
Tracy Lester
14.8 x 10.5cm (A6)
£4.50

All packs of 10 cards
with envelopes
Happy Christmas inside
Order online on Abbey website
or buy from the back
of the Abbey



Abbey
14.8 x 10.5cm



Shrine Nativity
12x12cm

Robin
10.5 x 14.8cm



Other Abbey Cards £4.50
available from previous years



Dorchester's Living Advent Calendar



At 6.30pm every evening in December
a different advent window will be lit up.
Gather to enjoy the countdown & 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 £3 on sale in the Coop
In aid of Dorchester St Birinus School

Light up Dorchester for Christmas!



Playing for the Pavillion



of Bishops Court Farm and all the bands meant that all the ticket proceeds were donated, raising £1,972 in total.

Dorchester is home to not only one of the newest and best live music venues in the South-East but also home to many musical talents. Robin Bennett's band The Dreaming Spires have a new album titled *Normal Town* (on Clubhouse Records) and Only the Brave and stringman are both working on new material in the studio.

It was a pleasure opening the show with local piano legend David Gentleman joining me to play the barn's beautiful grand piano. Drawing on my songbook our set included reworked versions of songs from my band days like 'Edge of the River' before we rounded things off with a foot stomping boogie-woogie version of 'Friday Night' mashed up with Petula Clark's big hit 'Downtown'. Arms

Local bands and musicians (The Dreaming Spires, Only the Brave and stringman) were joined by The Annie Keating Band, all the way from Brooklyn, for a sell out fundraising gig at The Snug Barn on 26 September. The concert was the idea of The Fleur's Sunday Session regulars as a way of raising some money for the sports pavilion building project, which is aiming to rebuild the clubhouse to provide much-needed facilities for the local cricket, football and tennis clubs.

The gig was also a great opportunity to showcase the incredible live music venue we have in Dorchester and open the autumn season of musical events at The Snug. The generous support

aloft and phone lights swaying it was obvious the crowd were warming up for a lively night!

It was a real treat to hear Steve Eyre and Tara Herman with their full band providing the perfect big Americana backing for Steve's bittersweet songs and guitar hooks. Every song Steve introduces sounds the title of a classic American film from days gone by evoking epic road trips and big western skies. Steve sang 'Sky is Falling', 'Hurricane', 'Lost and Found in Reno', then Tara took over on lead vocals for a resounding rendition off 'Tallahassee', before Steve closed things out with the melancholic 'Stare Down the Night'.





Next up was The Annie Keating Band – rockabilly roots all the way from the USA! We were so lucky that Annie's band took a small detour to swing by Dorchester on the eve of their upcoming UK tour promoting their new live album. Coming straight from their final rehearsal, they hit the ground running, and in no time the crowd were up on their feet again fuelled by some high-octane country blues and maybe a few pints of Bunny Hop too!

For the final band of the night, Robin and Joe Bennett were joined by their band for a set packed full of The Dreaming Spires greatest hits and a few other classics too. Whilst their sweet harmonies and the chiming Rickenbacker guitar owe a lot to the 60s, their set included songs from '*Normal Town*' that feel destined to become modern classics. Songs such as 'Normalisation' and '21st Century Light Industrial Park' offer a unique songwriter's perspective on Milton Park and Didcot no less! The band gave us glimpses of their musical influences playing a fantastic version of Bangles-influenced '*September Girl*' and then finally '*A Hard Day's Night*'. With everyone now firmly on their feet wanting to dance the night away, the band called the singers back on the stage for a final singalong of '*The Weight*' by The Band. After a few extra choruses thrown in, everyone had sung their hearts out and time was called on a fantastic night out.

5 stars!

**Aled Bath
aka stringman**

About the artists

The Dreaming Spires new album '*Normal Town*' is available for pre-sale and will be released on 7 November 2025. You can catch them at the launch gig at Cornerstone Arts Centre <https://www.cornerstone-arts.org>.

The Annie Keating Band are currently touring the UK supporting their new live album. See www.anniekeating.com for more details.

Only The Brave will be playing at the Jericho Tavern on 30 November 2025 and promoting their upcoming EP soon. See www.onlythebraveband.com for further details.

Follow **@stringmanofficial** on Instagram for news of releases and gigs.

Please come along to the Sunday Sessions at The Fleur on the second Sunday evening of every month if you want to hear more local musicians!

Many thanks to all the supporters and The Snug Barn, Bishops Court Farm for making it possible. Details of more gigs can be found at: www.bishopscourtfarm.com/music-events-at-bishop-court-farm/

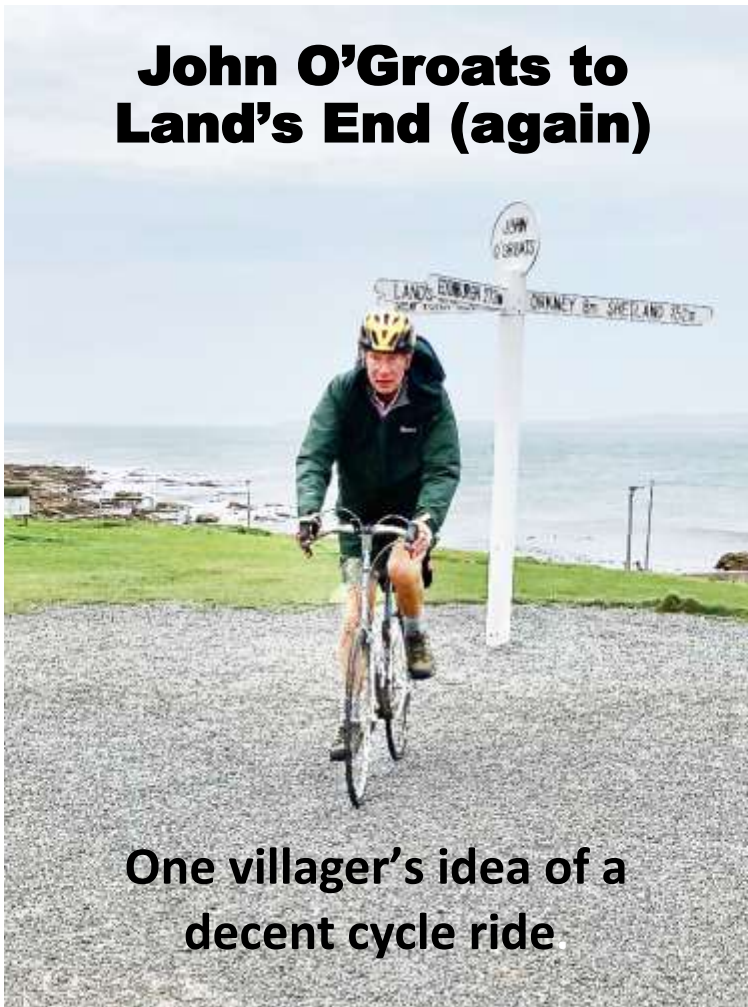
I had toyed with the idea of going from John O'Groats to Lands End as an 80th birthday challenge for several months, but there was no going back when son William announced at my birthday celebration I was doing it in a month's time. Partner Tina generously agreed to act as vehicle back up, and I signed up the Prisoners Education Trust as designated charity. We would take three weeks and pre-book accommodation, which required at least roughly identifying a route of minor roads and paths. Son Albert declared he would borrow a bike and join me for the last week to make sure I survived the notorious Devon and Cornwall switch back hills.

A week before departure my fund raising went live, and donations poured in in astonishing quantity. It was clear from accompanying comments that most thought

I was wildly but amusingly over ambitious, and two days into the ride I heartily agreed with them, without the amusement.

At John O'Groats the car door was almost wrenched off its hinges by the wind on opening it. But at least it wasn't raining, and after battling the wind for half a mile the road turned right and I was enjoying a very strong tail wind. Too strong in fact, as side gusts alarmingly unbalanced me. My first lesson: keeping one's balance when hit by a cross wind requires faster reactions than this 80 year old can always deliver. However, the journey to Thurso was safely accomplished - a good start.

John O'Groats to Land's End (again)



One villager's idea of a decent cycle ride

The next day the wind had reversed into a less strong head wind, but although overcast it was not raining and the sun soon came out. Several steepish hills against the wind took a lot of effort. Despite a good lunch stop in Bettyhill and a lovely narrow lane afterwards the afternoon became a frustrating exercise of sheer willpower. I just made the agreed meeting point but had hoped to do more. It was clear that I was not going to be able to keep to our schedule of overnight stops without doing some of the journey by car.

That decision took the pressure off, although I was very conscious of the weight of donations predicated on completion on a bike. The next day we went by car up the first hill, and thereafter we judged how I felt each day. I took an

unscheduled day off twice, the first when the schedule was to go through Glasgow but the weather forecast was continuous rain, and the second when we arrived at the start point just as heavy rain started, again scheduled to last all day (as it did).

The route took us down through the centre of Scotland - Thurso, Lairg, Inverness, Aviemore, Glasgow, Moffat, Gretna Green, and then Carlisle, Penrith, Wigan, Kirkby Lonsdale, Shrewsbury, Monmouth, Chepstow, Severn Bridge, Avonmouth, Somerset Levels, Taunton, Crediton, Liskeard, St Austell, Penzance, Lands End. Navigation was done on my mobile, using the Ordnance Survey maps on its app, with



A good lunch stop at Bettyhill



The highest point on the route—all downhill from here!



Richard with son Alb, himself a round-Britain rower.

the route highlighted. The only issue was whether the phone had enough charge to last the day - it always did.

Some more memorable snippets from my diary convey how it felt along the way:

'Guesthouse very tired and mediocre; very conscious how much weaker than I was four years ago [when I also did the journey]; great views but very tired; not enjoying cycling - head down and weak; started in fierce wind; too hard going to enjoy and walked some hills; new pedal noisy and gears cranky; b&b disaster; torrential rain, roads awash and very steep downhill - difficult to control braking; dried out a bit in a pub; saved by Greek restaurateur; friendly local shop; good cycling day and felt much better; burnt kipper for breakfast; sunshine and beautiful fell views but very tough

hills in strong headwind; farmers cutting hedges everywhere - risk of punctures; raining steadily in afternoon; straight onto rough stone canal path, then couldn't find the route; traffic everywhere, but considerate and patient; Alb (son Albert) new to his borrowed bike - had to adjust saddle and its thin tyres cracked and perished; wonderful day with Alb in good form; Alb as tired as me after a long hard day, but glorious weather; Somerset Levels with sunshine and following breeze; worried about falling in canal under narrow low bridges; very hilly but nice lunch in sunny Crediton market square; lovely bike ride down Granite Way then very steep and tiring switchback hills; overnight pub in unattractive suburbia; great view of St. Michael's Mount; delayed our arrival to ensure Tina ready for Land's End photos, but arrived as she was trying to destroy the parking payment machine in effort to pay for parking; man at bar with two ferrets in a bag; wonderful relaxed Prosecco consuming evening - great end to a testing journey.

'To sum up, I cycled 715 miles out of a projected 995. Average speeds varied considerably from day to day, from 11.2 mph to 6.7. It was much harder than my previous long distance rides despite doing much more training this time; age tells.

This is the FOURTH time that Richard has cycled from John O'Groats to Lands End

The weather is very important psychologically - particularly head winds. We had no mechanical problems, and no punctures.

'Most important, I raised £5,000 for Prisoners Education Trust, for which I am most grateful. I never knew I had so many friends.

**Richard Farrant
October 2025**



A riverside track in the Midlands. Careful not to fall off here!

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Dorchester Tennis Club Quiz Night

We were fully booked for the Tennis Club quiz night on 4 October in the Village Hall - very many thanks to everyone who came along to help the club raise funds for our resurfacing project.



After ten rounds of general knowledge, dingbats, music and picture conundrums - plus a break for an excellent Ploughmans meal, the eventual winners were team Burcot Badgers, pushed hard by the Woolly Mammoths and Full Metal Racquets !!

The evening was rounded off by a raffle with several prizes from local businesses and then of course, a lot of chat and catching up with village folks not seen for a while, so all in all, a very enjoyable evening.

If you're interested in playing tennis at any time of year, why not join our friendly local club by contacting rachelamarriott@btinternet.com or chrisccsmith@btinternet.com or go to <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/Dorch2>



Football Results Oxfordshire Senior League Div 2

20/09/2025	Woodstock Town First	2	3	Dorchester
27/09/2025	Garsington	2	2	Dorchester
11/10/2025	Dorchester	2	1	Hanney

Presidents Cup

04/10/2025	Oakley United	1	1	Dorchester
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Oakley United win 5-4 on penalties

Open Mic returns Saturday 13 December

Doors/bar opens 7.30pm

Event starts 8.00pm

Performers: (Free drink provided)

For registration please contact:

Steve Eyre eyre67@gmail.com

Audience: tickets £10.00 per head

Available through ticketsource.co.uk/dotvh

(Or at the door on the night if still available.)

This is a fund-raising event to help further improve facilities and services in The Village Hall. These include refurbishments in the ladies' toilets, the bar and hall curtains.

Your support will make all the difference



WOOD HQ Happenings

AT THE SNUG BARN, BISHOP'S COURT FARM, OXFORDSHIRE

A party with Nashville Nights!

Saturday 29th November 2025

Celebrate Thanksgiving week with Steve Young's exciting Nashville Nights band, a foot-stomping journey through American Country Music's greatest hits!

Doors 6:30 pm, music starts at 7:30 pm

Tickets £22.00 (purchased on-line)
£20.50 (no fee, purchased from the Snug)



A celebration of Bruce Springsteen

Saturday 6th December 2025

The Clubhouse AllStars, artists from the brilliant Clubhouse Records, get together to perform classics by The Boss, 50 years on from the release of Born to Run!

Doors 6:30 pm, music starts at 7:30 pm

Tickets £20.00 (purchased on-line)
£18.50 (no fee, purchased from the Snug)



Wood HQ & Bishop's Court Farm are delighted to announce an exciting series of musical Happenings this autumn in the Snug Barn, the newly renovated, eco-conscious venue space at Bishops's Court Farm in Dorchester-on-Thames, in the heart of the Oxfordshire countryside. Spring Series 2026 on sale soon: Police Dog Hogan, April 26 - more acts to be announced in the coming months.

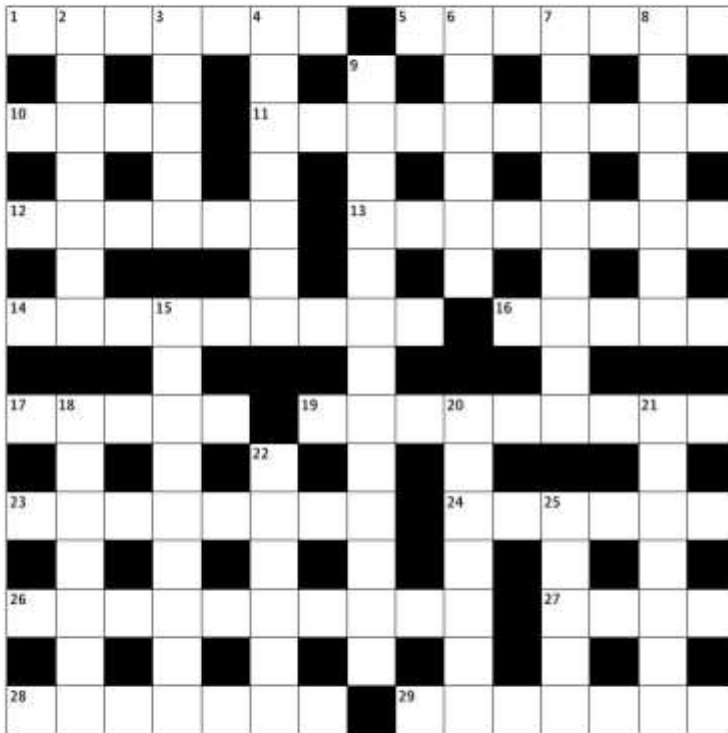
**Prices shown include all fees. Tickets can be purchased without a booking fee in-person at the Snug.*

woodhq.org/happenings

bishops courtfarm.com

Dorchester News Crossword No.39

Compiled by Slider



Across

- 1 Harmful rhyme gets early publicity (7)
- 5 Hot and full of life, a drink Romeo is missing. (7)
- 10 Used to be acting before church (4)
- 11 Every white bird gets to go at about a hundred beats a minute. (10)
- 12 In a bad way 'M' leant on the shelf. (6)
- 13 Happily sorted – and it gets better! (8)
- 14 Initially George Gently's spyhole ruined the Uffington White Horse as one of these (9)
- 16 Madam is typecast in the film, play it for me. (5)
- 17 Out of order like public gardens. (5)
- 19 Inability when I am on top of a drug in French church. (9)
- 23 Stupidly get cab and train to an ancient central Asian country... (8)

- 24 ... where possibly hairy paper was used to write (backwards) (6)
- 26 Treated with disrespect when seed traced to a mix-up. (10)
- 27 Film star's particulars carry no love. (4)
- 28 There is a bend in the Karakum that is possibly the last course. (7)
- 29 Rum stain on the conservationists making the moment (7)

Down

- 2 There's a horse in the sand, get some packing material, (7)
- 3 Choose to expel ectoplasm. (5)
- 4 Immediately see a description of dignity. (7)
- 6 Apply oneself to the fruit but peel the first three. (7)
- 7 Before the case relating to theft. (9)
- 8 A place for recovery – the doctor's work comes after real effort to begin with. (7)
- 9 Until a hue is cast on M.A.G.A it's an ongoing amusement! (1, 5, 1, 6)
- 15 A prominent feature could be part of a super state. (9)
- 18 Another Easterner is back in a Chinese maisonette. (7)
- 20 A townsman gets to work on very good martial arts qualification. (7)
- 21 Picture a vehicle going to a Northeast habitation. (7)
- 22 A swimmer gets the bird. (6)
- 25 Quietly and strangely into reason. (5)

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Countertenor **Jacob Werrin**
Tenor **Toby Ward**
Bass **Daniel Tate**

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Dorchester Abbey
Saturday 6 December, 7.30pm

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December 13th
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From the Chair of the Parish Council



Just a few brief messages to pass on this month.

Autumn is with us. A reminder to please be considerate if you have to light any bonfires and wait till the wind is in the optimal direction to avoid impacting your neighbours.

By the time you read this update, the Oxford congestion charge will presumably be up and running. Leaving aside any views of the scheme, you can apply, as an Oxfordshire resident, for a permit which allows you exemption on 25 days a year. And you can do this for each car. The link you need, if you haven't done it already, is

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/oxfords-temporary-congestion-charge-cars-cars/apply-temporary-congestion-charge-permit/oxfordshire-area-permit>

We have recently had some complaints from a number of residents about people dumping household waste including nappies etc in and beside our public rubbish bins, particularly the ones by the public toilets in Bridge End. This means the bins can't be used for their real purpose. If anyone knows anything about it and can help stop it that would be greatly appreciated by other residents.

Last month I mentioned graffiti on our playground equipment. I'm very disappointed to tell you that we have had a bit more. What a shame. We will do our best to remove it.

Enjoy the autumn colours!

Mike Corran
Chair, Dorchester Parish Council

Parish Council Notices

Monthly Meetings 2025

The November Parish Council Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 19 November**, the December meeting on **Wednesday 17 December**.

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

The Agenda will be posted on Village notice boards and on the Parish Council website **www.dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk** - three clear days in advance of the meeting.

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

Contacting the Parish Council

The Parish Clerk is Jenny Welham. She can be contacted on **07444 239077** or at

parishclerk@dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk.

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

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

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Benson Choral Society 6 December 2025 Bach's Christmas Oratorio Dorchester Abbey

What better way to start the Christmas season than with Benson Choral Society's performance of J S Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* at 7.30pm on **Saturday 6 December** in Dorchester Abbey?

Bach made this compilation from the series of 6 cantatas written in Leipzig for the Christmas feast-days in 1734/5. It's a powerful account of the Christmas story, and promises to be special in a number of ways: it's the first concert with our new Musical Director, Tom Neal, who has a strong affinity with this work: then to bring out its baroque authenticity we have the renowned period orchestra, Instruments of Time and Truth: and a quartet of sparkling soloists: Julie Cooper- Soprano, Jacob Werrin - Countertenor, Toby Ward – Tenor and Daniel Tate - Bass.

Don't miss this opportunity! Get tickets now for £20 reserved, or £17 unreserved, online at www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk




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



After a quiet summer, there have been some fairly major developments affecting South Oxfordshire's local plan and senior management...

After lengthy deliberations, the planning inspectors have written to South and Vale councils asking them to withdraw the Joint Local Plan, in particular on the issue of "duty to cooperate" – specifically with Oxford City Council.

This is undoubtedly a blow for both councils and for our communities. It's no secret that there's disagreement within Oxfordshire on how many homes the rural districts should provide on Oxford's behalf, but clearly officers felt they had managed to fulfil the duty (which is not a duty to agree). The inspectors clearly thought otherwise!

Over the past four years, officers and councillors at South and Vale have worked incredibly hard together to create an innovative and positive plan for housing and development in our areas that seeks to raise standards, actively address the need for genuinely affordable social housing, and tackle the climate and nature emergency.

There has been widespread and extensive consultation and engagement with the thousands who have constructively engaged in the process, including members of the public, community representatives, partner organisations, neighbouring councils, and businesses in the area.

I certainly share the council's disappointment that the Planning Inspectors have recommended that the councils withdraw the plan from the examination process over a single issue - the "duty to co-operate". Oxford City Council itself was forced to withdraw its own local plan from examination earlier this year over the same issue.

What does this mean for our villages? Well, while it's still unclear what happens next for the Joint Local Plan, the existing local plan and policies remain in place, and community Neighbourhood Plans remain important for planning decisions.

Berinsfield Garden Village update

As above, the existing allocations for large "strategic sites" have not changed, including at Mount Farm in Berinsfield, but the local plan news will affect the timing of the Berinsfield "regeneration strategy", which had been due to coincide with it. It's important this is dealt with sooner rather than later as it will help us raise funds to improve local community facilities.

You may also have seen leaflets from Homes England about the controversial Chalgrove Airfield site – which is in the current local plan, but would have been removed by the Joint Local Plan!

Council Chief stands down

Mark Stone, council chief executive since July 2017, has decided to leave South and Vale councils on 30 September 2025. During his tenure, the councils have stabilised finances, invested in key political priorities like homelessness prevention, delivered new housing stock for the first time in over 25 years, and advanced climate adaptation and nature recovery initiatives. Two deputy chief executives are managing operations until an internal successor is appointed, with an eye towards the council's expected dissolution in 2028.

Food and Warmth Grant Scheme launched to support residents this winter

South Oxfordshire District Council have launched a Food and Warmth Grant Scheme to help local organisations who are directly supporting residents struggling with the rising cost of living.

The scheme will distribute grants to local not-for-profit organisations delivering projects that improve access to food and help people keep their homes warm. It is funded through the Government's Household Support Fund which is allocated via Oxfordshire County Council.

Grants are available, with the scheme closing for applications midday 6 November 2025. Local groups can apply for up to £2,000 if un-constituted, £2,000–£5,000 if constituted, and up to £10,000 for collaborations between three or more not-for-profit organisations led by a constituted group.

The funding can support a wide range of initiatives, including:

- Supplying food and essential household items such as toiletries (including period products) and cleaning products
- Providing warm equipment like blankets, hot water bottles and energy-efficient cooking equipment
- Covering costs linked to running Warm Welcome Spaces
- Purchasing equipment to support food and warmth projects such as cooking or gardening clubs
- Short-term staffing, venue or fuel costs to deliver projects
- Educational activities that promote healthy eating, energy saving, budgeting and household resilience

Eligible applicants include constituted and un-constituted not-for-profit groups, voluntary and community organisations, Community Interest Companies (CICs), preschools and PTAs (for non-statutory items), parish and town councils, food banks, community fridges and redistribution groups.

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

'Follow the Stars' Christmas Carol Concert Macmillan Cancer Support

8.00pm, Friday 5 December, 2025
Christ Church Cathedral



The annual 'Follow the Stars' Christmas Carol Concert in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support has been an unmissable event of Oxford's festive calendar for the past 28 years. It will be taking place again this year in the splendour of Christ Church Cathedral at 8.00pm on **Friday 5 December, 2025**.

This is so much more than a concert: it is a festive celebration of world-class talent that will delight everyone in the run up to Christmas. With the support of some of the country's finest musicians, actors and artists the audience's spirits will be sent soaring with glorious, uplifting carols interspersed with original and thought-provoking readings from our star-studded celebrities. We're excited to announce that the acclaimed theatrical powerhouse and film star, Juliet Stevenson, will be reading at the concert, as will the 'Endeavour' fans' favourite, Abigail Thaw.

Additionally this year we are thrilled to be joined by Sophie Bevan MBE who is widely celebrated as one of the leading lyric sopranos of her generation. Sophie herself was treated for cancer a few years ago, so her involvement with this

Macmillan fund-raising event has particular resonance. The music will be performed by Oxford's pre-eminent vocal ensemble, the Oxford Bach Soloists, conducted by Stephen Grahl, the Director of Music at Trinity College Cambridge.

Almost 3.5 million people are currently living with cancer in the UK and Macmillan Cancer Support is with them every step of the way. King Charles said, 'What strikes us repeatedly is the profound impact of human connection – whether in the careful explanation from a specialist nurse, the hand held by a hospice volunteer, or the shared experience in a support group. These moments of kinship create what I might call a 'community of care', one that sustains patients through the most difficult of times.'

As the UK's leading cancer support charity Macmillan's crucial work is only possible thanks to the generosity of you, the public.

Book your tickets now at www.ticketsoxford.com or in person at The Oxford Playhouse. The Concert will also be live-streamed and free to view online via our JustGiving fundraising page – justgiving.com/fundraising/follow-the-stars.



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From Your County Councillor...

...Gavin McLauchlan

For the next Full Council on 4 November we are currently considering a question concerning the proposed Abingdon Reservoir. It would appear that in an emergency the reservoir would need to lose 1 metre of water across the entire footprint in one day – they (Thames Water) are proposing that this would be piped south of Abingdon at a frankly alarming rate (3x the normal river flow), and no work has been done on modelling what this would mean for all of our communities (and beyond). I am working with various organisations on understanding what this would potentially mean to us.

Councillor Grants: These are now available! However, a word of warning, I have the grandiose sum of £10k to award over two years. I am therefore planning on being very selective and will only make any awards to those who speak to me about their requirement first. The minimum grant is £500, whilst the maximum is £4k. The grants cannot be awarded to individuals, or to companies, and must come with an argument as to why it is needed, what the money will go towards, and over what time period. From my perspective it also needs to have a social value. To apply you will need to fill in an online form – email me for the link - but please bear in mind my stipulations above! Do also bear in mind that when it's gone, it's gone.

My roles: Are as per last month. I did have my first board meeting for the Chiltern National Landscape and our first Military Champions meeting. If anyone is interested in these, please reach out to me.

News in brief:

A4074 policing: In August Thames Valley Police have continued to monitor the A4074 and the road had been resurfaced and remarked around Dorchester. The new road markings clearly provide less room for overtaking; this will be monitored over time.

Local Government reorganisation: There is a lot of talk over the proposed new Unitary Councils. In Oxfordshire we have three options. I am now on the location working group looking at how the new organisations could be organised. This is a difficult task as we don't know which way the government are going to turn. All we can try to do is set out the right stall and hopefully guide the government on how best to consider the restructuring. If you want my views on this, please ask!

<https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation>

Local Questions to next Full Council (4 Nov):

My proposed questions for next Full Council (November) are:

FixMyStreet / Councillor Enquiry platforms: Both of these platforms are there to raise local issues that need to be resolved. I know a lot of people have raised FixMyStreet issues only for them to be closed or stated as complete – when nothing has happened! Why is this happening, and what does this mean for the stats used by OCC on issue resolution?

Complexity of papers: During my initial meetings at OCC, I have been astounded by the volume of materials you are required to read and their complexity. The Place Scrutiny meeting for the Congestion Charge required 1,008 pages of materials to be read. It's become obvious to me that a lot of time is wasted in committee meetings with councillors asking questions, when the answers lie in the documentation. How do we go about changing this structure to be more efficient? Can we ask councillors on all committees to submit questions **before** the meetings (in the same way that Full Council does with Cabinet questions)?

Please contact me (details below) if you wish me to raise any questions on your behalf.

Current Consultations:

Congestion Charge (Oxford): On the 10th September it was announced that the Congestion Charge will go ahead. To apply for a permit see Parish Council report on page 23..

The Future of Rail: OxRail - 2040. This consultation closed on 1 October.

Parish Round-Up

Dorchester:

We are waiting on input on:

- The various unitary council options that are competing with the Ridgeway option.
- What time the lights would be turned off should Dorchester opt for this post a village review.
- When the new markings will be implemented on the A4074.
- Armco repair alongside the barrier (which was repaired) which is over the pedestrian underpass of the A4074 from Dorchester.
- Pathway from Meadside to Dorchester needs fixing.
- Lighting on path to Reading direction bus stop on A4074.

Cllr Gavin McLauchlan

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Mob: +44 7710 255569



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Cinema: Tickets £10 for Adults and £5 for under 16s unless otherwise stated. All showings at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.. **Doors open at 7.00pm** and the bar will be open so there's plenty of time to collect drinks beforehand. Films with subtitles will be shown on Wednesday afternoons at 2:30pm, when doors open 2.00pm

See www.cornexchange.org.uk for any updates.

November

Sat 1	The Roses (15)
Mon 3	The Roses (15)
Tues 4	The Roses (15)
Wed 5	The Roses (15) 2.30pm
Wed 5	Spinal Tap II: The End Continues (15)
Thurs 6	Eddington (15)
Sun 9	Islands (15)
Mon 10	Islands (15)
Tues 11	Islands (15)
Thurs 13	After the Hunt (12A)
Fri 14	John Cleese Packs It In (12A)
Sat 15	John Cleese Packs It In (12A)
Sun 16	After the Hunt (12A)
Mon 17	After the Hunt (12A)
Tues 18	One Battle After Another (15)
Wed 19	Mr Blake at your Service (PG) 2.30pm
Wed 19	One Battle After Another (15)
Thurs 20	Mr Blake at your Service (PG)
Sat 22	Mr Blake at your Service (PG)
Sun 23	The Mastermind (12A)
Mon 24	The Mastermind (12A)
Wed 26	After the Hunt (12A) 2.30pm
Wed 26	Bugonia (15)
Fri 28	Bugonia (15)
Sun 30	Bugonia (15)

Live Screening

**Sun 2 Nov, 7.00pm,
Bat Out of Hell (12A)**

Tickets - £12 (adults), £10 (seniors), £8 (under 18s)

Bat Out of Hell will be shown on the big screen this Halloween, featuring the West End cast performing Jim Steinman and Meat Loaf's classic songs like I'd Do Anything For Love and Bat Out of Hell. This production includes a live eight-piece band, multi-level staging, and dynamic visuals that create an engaging theatre experience .

**Wed 12 Nov, 2.30pm and 7.30pm,
Caravaggio: Exhibition on Screen (12A),**

Tickets - £10 (adults), £5 (under 16s)

Filmmakers David Bickerstaff and Phil Grabsky investigate Caravaggio's life by examining clues hidden in his artwork, including self-portraits that shed light on his character and struggles. Through Caravaggio's renowned use of dramatic lighting and realism, the documentary seeks to uncover the mysteries behind both the artist and his masterpieces.

**Tues 25 Nov, 7.15pm,
Cinderella from The Royal Ballet**

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

Filmed live at the Royal Opera House, London, in December 2024

This ballet, choreographed by Frederick Ashton for The Royal Ballet, offers a captivating family experience where fairy-tale magic brings dreams to life.

**Thurs 27 Nov, 7.00pm,
NT Live – The Fifth Step**

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

Olivier Award-winner Jack Lowden (*Slow Horses*, *Dunkirk*) and Emmy/BAFTA-winner Martin Freeman (*The Hobbit*, *The Responder*) star in David Ireland's acclaimed new play. After years in Alcoholics Anonymous, James becomes Luka's sponsor; their friendship is tested when Luka reaches step five, revealing secrets that could endanger both recoveries. Directed by Finn den Hertog, the production was filmed live at @sohoplace, London's West End. .

Live on Stage

Fri 7 Nov, 8.00pm

The Acoustic Ballroom — 20th Anniversary Special

Tickets £15 (adults), £12 (under 16s)

The Acoustic Ballroom has been a key part of the local music scene since 2005, hosting hundreds of diverse acts from folk to rock. For its 20th anniversary concert, the lineup features:

- Jackie Oates: renowned folk singer
- Cold Harbour: Americana trio with rich harmonies
- Band of Hope: performing Tom Crook's songs with varied instruments
- Dave King: singer-songwriter known for both humorous and heartfelt songs

Sat 8 Nov, 7.45pm

Pulse—Pink Floyd Tribute

All tickets £19

Seven seasoned musicians dedicated to Pink Floyd's music. Praised for their authentic sound, especially in 'Comfortably Numb,' they perform songs from classic albums like 'Dark Side of the Moon,' 'Wish You Were Here,' 'Animals,' 'The Wall,' 'The Division Bell,' and more, joined by two female vocalists and a saxophonist. Their show features visuals projected on a large screen to enhance the performance.

Fri 21 Nov, 7.30pm

Jazz Diva Duo with Rebecca Poole & Fleur Stevenson

All Tickets £20

Fleur Stevenson and Rebecca Poole perform favourites from the Great American Songbook with an acclaimed band, including Stuart Henderson (trumpet), Maff Potts (piano), Raph Mizraki (double bass), and Hugh Turner (guitar). Enjoy a mix of jazz classics, romantic ballads, swing, Americana, and blues in a lively show.

**Sat Nov 29, 7.30pm,
The Bootleg Shadows**

All Tickets £19

'The Bootleg Shadows' deliver a concert covering The Shadows' hits from 1960 to the early 80s, including songs like Apache, Foot Tapper, Riders in The Sky, and more, along with select Cliff Richard tracks. Their tribute entertains fans of 60s music with memorable tunes and light-hearted moments that audiences remember well after the show.

Day by day

Sun 2 Nov	All Saints Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am All Souls', Remembering with Thanksgiving 3.00pm Forest Church
Wed 5 Nov	Lunch Club 12.30pm Village Hall
Sat 8 Nov	Illuminated Orchestra A Tribute to Hans Zimmer and Film Favourites 5.45pm and 8.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 9 Nov	Remembrance Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.15am Remembrance Service Abingdon School Abingdon Remembrance Concert Faure Requiem 7.00pm Dorchester Abbey
Wed 12 Nov	Chiropodist Village Hall Appointment only; see page 3
Sat 15 Nov	Christmas Craft Workshop 10.00am and 1.00pm Dorchester Abbey Museum Your Ghost Stories 7.00pm Village Hall OSJ Ravel and Stravinsky 7.00pm Dorchester Abbey
Sun 16 Nov	2nd Before Advent 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Family Service 5.00pm Beauforest Evensong



Wed 19 Nov	St Birinus School Open morning 9.30 to 11.00am Lunch Club 12.30pm Village Hall Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm Village Hall Culham Horticultural Club Ben Pope <i>Containing the Unconventional</i> 7.30pm Abbey Guest House
Thurs 20 Nov	Dorchester Historical Society Denise Line and Patsy Smith <i>Educating Dorchester</i> 7.30pm Village Hall
Sun 23 Nov	Christ the King 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Sung Eucharist
Thurs 27 Nov	Band of the Royal Airforce Regiment Charity Christmas Concert 6.30pm Dorchester Abbey
Sat 29 Nov	Christmas Market 10.00am to 5.00pm Dorchester Abbey and Dorchester Abbey Museum Nashville Nights 7.30pm Snug Barn
Sun 30 Nov	Advent Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Team Service for Advent Sunday 5.00pm Advent Special Service of Watching and Waiting

Bonfire Night November 5th Enjoy...

...but don't forget about me,
asleep in the bonfire



Weekly events

Tuesday	Coffee Morning 11.00am Dorchester Abbey Abbey Bell Ringers Practice 7.30pm
Wednesday	Baby and Toddler 1.45-3.00pm Dorchester Abbey Mobile Post Office 11.00am-12.00pm 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

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

Weekly events in the Village Hall

Tuesday	Move Together with Jo 1.30pm Yoga 7.30pm
Wednesday	Busby Dance for children 3.15pm Tango 7.30pm See dorchesteronthamesvillagehall.org.uk/ #calendar for additional one-off events.

Parish Registers

Weddings

27 Sept	Ellas Bodeker and Samuel Horril
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For current information about other services
at Dorchester Abbey see
www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

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

CONTACTING THE POLICE

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

HEALTH SERVICES

DIRECT LINE TO URGENT LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

MINOR INJURIES

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

A&E

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

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 **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, fly tipping 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 11.00am and 12noon but may vary.

Useful Information

BUS SERVICES

Bus services between Dorchester and Wallingford

To Wallingford: Mon & Wed (D1) - 11.10, 13.34

Tues & Thurs: Bus (138) - 10.16, 13.09

Fri (138) - 10.16, 11.05

From Wallingford: Mon & Wed (D1)- 10.05, 12.25

Tues & Thurs (138) - 13.00

Fri (138) - 9.15, 10.45, 13.00.

To Didcot on Mondays and Wednesdays at **10.15** and 12.35, returning at 10.50 and **13.00**.

Dorchester times are at the War Memorial.
See: www.goingforwardbuses.com

Other Bus Services

Service X40 every 20 minutes from the bypass at the end of Drayton Road to Oxford and Wallingford. Information about bus services, is available from www.traveline.info and **08712 002233**.

AGE UK

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

WALLINGFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE

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

www.wallingford.volunteercentre@gmail.com

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Clerk is Jenny Welham who can be contacted on parishclerk@dorchesteronthames-pc.gov.uk

SODC CONTACT

Telephone **01235 422422**

Email: enquiries@southoxon.gov.uk

South Oxfordshire District Council

Abbey House

Abbey Close

Abingdon OX14 3JE

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 4 Nov **Black**
Tues 11 Nov **Green**
Tues 18 Nov **Black**
Tues 25 Nov **Green**

Weekdays from 7.00am

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

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

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Dorchester Abbey Christmas Market

**Saturday 29th November
10am-5pm**

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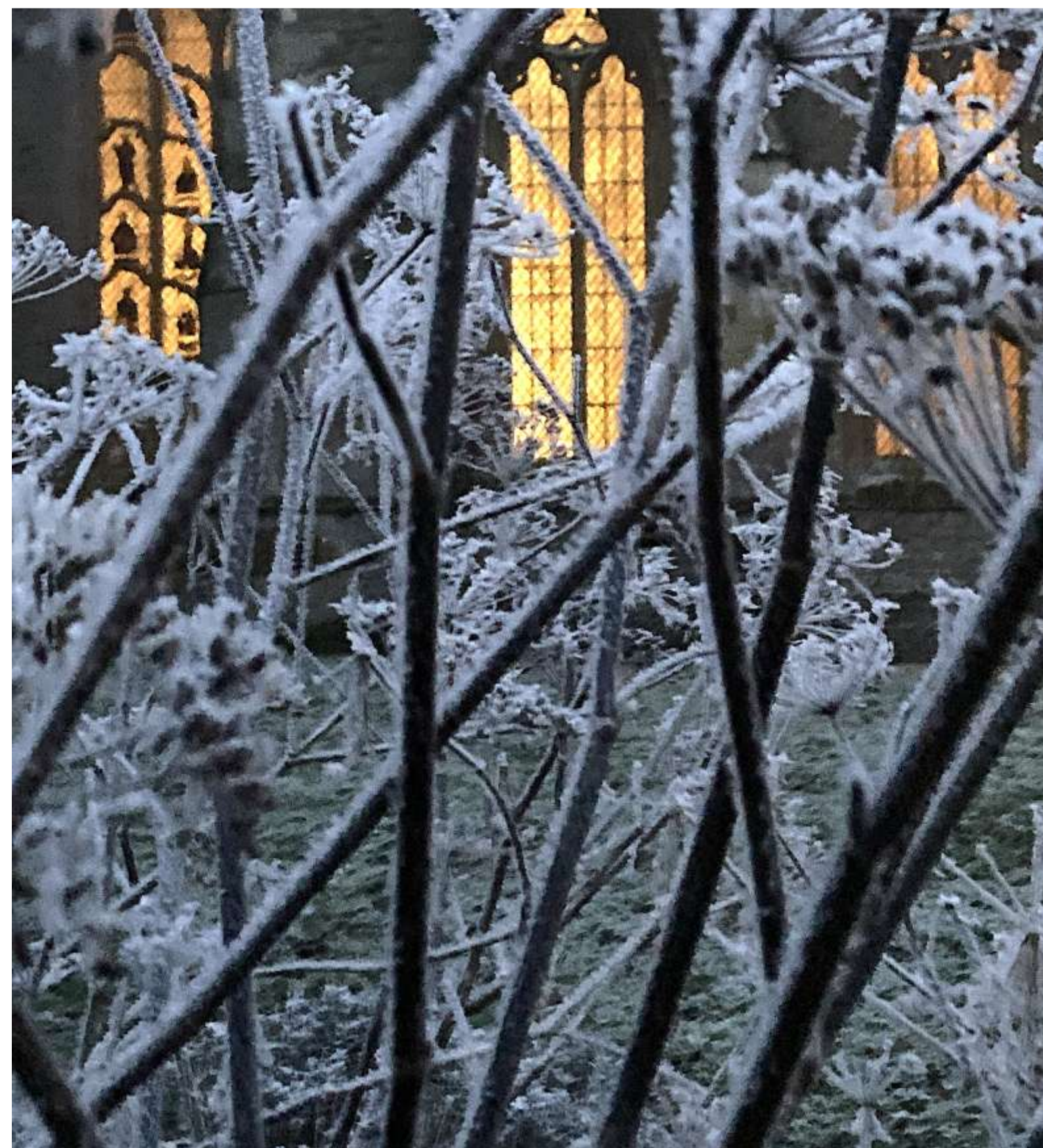
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Dorchester News

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December 2025



Dorchester News

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June 2025



Dorchester News

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September 2025



Dorchester News

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September 2025



Dorchester News

Free to every home in the parish

April 2026

