

May

NB During May a new 5 year DBID (Dorchester Business Improvement District) plan for 2018 to 2023 will be circulated to all levy paying businesses in the town centre. Voting in the ballot based on this plan will take place throughout June with a decision expected by early July.

Friday 4th Friendship Club – “Glitter Ball” at Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy.

Saturday 5th, Sunday 6th and Monday 7th “Wessex Invaders”
Historical Re-enactment at Maumbury Rings.

Sunday 6th Lions Fun Run in morning - Dorchester Middle School.
Further information: www.lionsdorchester.org.uk

Monday 7th May Day Bank Holiday

Tuesday 8th “Dippy” the Dinosaur leaves Dorchester.
[Borough Gardens House – Colin Tracey – Photo](#)
Exhibition????

Saturday 12th Day School – “Aspects of Late Iron Age and Roman Dorchester”. Talks by various speakers including Peter Bellamy. Dorchester Association. All enquiries and tickets from Secretary, Michael Rice. Email: hon.sec@dorchester-association.org.uk OR phone (mobile): 07780 992 799.
Concert in St Mary’s Church at 7.30pm. Dorset Chamber Orchestra. Further information: www.dorsetchamberorchestra.org

Sunday 13th [Corn Exchange – Community Choir – Dorchester Arts?????](#)
Christian Aid Week Ecumenical Service. St George’s Church
Fordington 3pm

Monday 14th to Sunday 29th July Exhibition: “Thomas Hardy’s Poetry in Pictures” by Jennifer Martindale. Tea Room of County Museum.

Tuesday 15th “The Serpent & its local connections”. Talk, music & poetry with Phil Humphries. Dorford Centre 7pm. William Barnes Society.

Wednesday 16th Christian Aid Week Market (includes lunch). United Church 10am to 1.30pm

Saturday 19th **Royal Wedding** – Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in St George’s Chapel, Windsor Castle.
Christian Aid Week - Walk to River Jordan.

Sunday 20th Cancer Research UK “Race for Life” at Kingston Maurward.

Monday 21st Mayor Making – Corn Exchange and Town Hall.

Friday 25th to Thursday 7th June Dorset Art Week – Exhibition in Borough Gardens House. Many other venues are open to the public throughout this period.

Saturday 26th May to Sunday 3rd June King Tut’s Treasure Hunt.
The Tutankhamun Exhibition, High West Street, Dorchester. See website for details www.tutankhamunexhibition.co.uk

Saturday 26th Badger Watch – March through town and music.

Sunday 27th Dorchester Marathon and Half Marathon. Organised by Dorchester, Casterbridge and Poundbury Rotary Clubs. Coker’s Frome Showground. All day event.

Monday 28th Spring Bank Holiday

Monday 28th to Friday 1st June inclusive – Schools Half Term

Thursday 31st “Thomas Hardy’s Fans” Talk by Helen Angear. County Museum 7 for 7.30pm.

“Turnpikes and Dorset’s Coaching Days”. Talk by Rob Curtis at Dorford Centre. 7.30pm. Dorchester Association.

June

Saturday 2nd Thomas Hardy Birthday weekend. Birthday Walk: “*Return of the Native*” A 3 -4 mile walk on *Egdon Heath* in the footsteps of *Eustacia Vye*, visiting *Rainbarrow*, *Mistover Knap* and *Bloom’s End*. 10.30am – meet at Thorncombe Wood Car Park. Led by Tony Fincham. 2pm Afternoon lecture: “Materiality and Spirituality in Jefferies and Hardy: The Dewey Morn/Tess of the d’Urbervilles” by Prof. Roger Ebbatson. 5pm: Dorchester Town Council parade “in state” and, together with a Thomas Hardy Society representative, lay wreaths at the Thomas Hardy statue at Top O’ Town. They then proceed down High West Street to lay a second wreath at the statue of William Barnes outside St Peters Church.

Gypsy and Traveller Day in Borough Gardens from noon.

Archaeology Field Trip to Poole Museum/Scalpen’s Court.

2pm. See County Museum website for further information.

Sunday 3rd TH Birthday weekend. 10.30am Service at St Michael’s Stinsford. Preacher: The Right Reverend Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne. Open Air Theatre. The Handlebards present, “Romeo and Juliet”. 7.30pm in Maumbury Rings.

Wednesday 6th D-Day Commemoration at the Keep Museum.

Saturday 9th

Summer Fete 2 to 4.30pm. Holy Trinity Church Parish Centre in Culliford Road North.

Thursday 14th World Cup Football – First Match – Russia v Saudi Arabia

Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th Wynn’s Funfair on Fairfield.

Saturday 16th “Midsummer Madness” at Dorchester Carnival.

Music, stalls and entertainment all day in the town centre, Brewery Square and Borough Gardens. Walking Parade starts at about 5pm from the Borough Gardens, passes through Fairfield (market site) and Brewery Square before crossing at War memorial, going up South Street, through Antelope Walk and returning to the Borough Gardens via Princes Street. The party continues in Brewery Square with “The Legomen” and finishes with “The Unravelling Wilburys” in the Borough Gardens. www.dorchesterfestival.info

Monday 18th World Cup Football – England v Tunisia

Sunday 24th Open Day and Country Fair at Kingston Maurward.
World Cup Football – England v Panama

Thursday 28th World Cup Football – England v Belgium

Friday 29th “The Trumpet Major” First performance of a dramatisation
of Thomas Hardy’s novel by the New Hardy Players. Max Gate at 7.30pm.
Gates open at 6.30pm. Tickets (£12.50) from Tourist Information Centre.

July

Saturday 7th Armed Forces Day. Borough Gardens. 9am to 5pm. FREE event.

Archaeology Field Trip to Knowlton Rings 2pm. See website for further information. www.dorsetcountymuseum.org

Sunday 8th "Swingtime" Music in Borough Gardens from noon. FREE event.

Postcard Fair – Corn Exchange and Town Hall. All day.
Summer Prom Concert by Dorchester Area Schools Partnership (DASP) in Weymouth Pavilion. www.daspmusic.co.uk

Friday 13th to Sunday 15th Tolpuddle Rally. Tolpuddle.

Friday 13th Open Air Theatre. The Miracle Theatre present "The Cherry Orchard". 7.30pm in Maumbury Rings.

Saturday 14th to Saturday 21st Thomas Hardy Festival and Conference. Further information: www.hardysociety.org

Saturday 14th to Sunday 29th July Festival of Archaeology – Venue tba.

Sunday 15th Thomas Hardy Country Fair (part of Thomas Hardy Festival) at Kingston Maurward. From noon till 4pm. Craft stalls, food and drink from "Taste of Dorset" and more.

Performance of "The Trumpet Major" by the New Hardy Players at Kingston Maurward 7pm

World Cup Football – FINAL

Thursday 19th Thomas Hardy Question Time. 10am to 11.30am in United Church. This part of the Thomas Hardy Festival is an opportunity for the public to ask a panel of "experts" anything they wish about Dorchester's most famous son. You do *not* have to be a Hardy enthusiast to ask a question !

Saturday 21st Dorchester Open Air Cinema at Maumbury Rings from 3pm to 8pm. See Facebook page for more details. FREE event.

Sunday 22nd Family Fun Day in Borough Gardens. 2pm to 6pm in support of “Mind” West Dorset. FREE event.

Wednesday 25th “Love Parks” in Borough Gardens. FREE event.

Thursday 26th July to Friday 31st August inclusive – Schools Summer Holiday. Throughout the school summer holiday - Dinosaur Explorers! Dinosaur Museum, Icen Way, Dorchester. See website for details www.thedinosaurmuseum.com

Thursday 26th to Sunday 29th Camp Bestival. East Lulworth.

Saturday 28th The Creepy Crawly Show. Brewery Square 12noon to 3pm.

Sunday 29th Duck race on Millstream of River Frome at the bottom of Friary Hill. 10.30 am.

Warm Festival in Borough Gardens in support of “Help a Friend”. From 1pm.

Monday 30th July to Saturday 27th October Exhibition: “Jurassic Coast Jewels” by Louise Fuller. County Museum Tea Room.

August

Saturday 4th Dorset Food and Arts Festival. Queen Mother Square, Poundbury, Dorchester.

Sunday 5th Dalton Town Brass Band – Borough Gardens from 2.30pm. FREE event.

Thursday 9th Open Air Theatre. The Rain or Shine Theatre Company present “Much Ado About Nothing”. 7.30pm in Maumbury Rings.

Saturday 11th One World Festival in Borough Gardens from 11am to 5pm. FREE event.

Sunday 12th WHOTT Running Day. Top o’ Town Car Park. Wessex Historic Omnibus and Transport Trust. Rally with FREE tours to sites of Thomas Hardy interest.

Monday 13th to Sunday 19th Art Exhibition by John Tilsley in Borough Gardens House. Daily 9am to 5pm.

Wednesday 15th “Archaeology of West Dorset” Talk by Chris Tripp at Kingcombe Centre. 9.45am to 4pm. See www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 18th Round Table Cider Festival. Borough Gardens.

Sunday 19th Tony Lowe sings in the Borough Gardens. FREE event. Buckham Fair, Pony and Dog Show. Beaminster.

Thursday 23rd to Monday 27th Great Dorset Steam Fair. Blandford Forum.

Friday 24th Corn Exchange – Charity Barn Dance – Friends of Dorset County Hospital.

Saturday 25th Anonymous Music Festival – Maumbury Rings from Noon to 6pm. FREE event.

Dorchester and District Gardening Club Summer Show in
St Georges Church Hall Fordington. All day event.

Sunday 26th Love Parade

Monday 27th August (Summer) Bank Holiday. Music all day at
Maumbury Rings. FREE event.

September

NB A “Forgiveness Exhibition” will be put on in St Peters church during September. It will be a collaborative event involving St Peters, the Shire Hall and Dorchester Arts.

Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd Dorset County Show. Coker’s Frome Showground.

Saturday 1st Corn Exchange and Town Hall – Gin Festival – All Day event. Thomas Hardy Society: “Mrs Yeobright’s Last Walk” (175th anniversary). Starts at 10am from Thorncombe Wood Car Park – led by Tony Fincham. Further details www.hardysociety.org

Tuesday 13th to Thursday 20th Dorset Architectural Heritage Week – Various buildings and sites are open to the public and there are tours and visits to places normally closed to the public. See website for further information: www.dahw.org.uk

Saturday 15th William Barnes Readings with Tim Laycock and members of the William Barnes Society. Max Gate, Dorchester 2.30pm.

Sunday 16th High West and High East Streets closed to all traffic from 10am to 4pm from Top o’ Town to Swan Bridge as Dorchester’s contribution to Architectural Heritage Week. A unique opportunity to walk in and appreciate the wonderful architecture and the stories which accompany many of the different buildings in the County town’s main street.

Friday 21st, Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd Tango Festival in Corn Exchange and Town Hall

Thursday 27th “The Wessex Project: Thomas Hardy Architect” Talk by Prof. Kester Rattenbury. 7 for 7.30pm Venue tba.

Sunday 30th Apple Day at the Railway Orchard – Transition Town Dorchester.

October

Saturday 6th Black History Month Event in Corn Exchange.

Sunday 7th Service to commemorate the death of William Barnes & Wreath laying at St Peter's Church, Winterborne Came. 10.30am. W. B. Society

Saturday 13th "Ellipse" Wine Festival in Corn Exchange.

Thursday 18th Sixth Form Open Evening at Hardy's School from 6pm to 8.30pm. Open to prospective students and their parents to find out all The Thomas Hardy School has to offer.

Monday 22nd to Friday 26th inclusive – Schools Half Term.

Tuesday 23rd "Thomas Hardy at Dorset County Museum" Talk by Helen Gibson. 7 for 7.30pm. Venue tba.

Wednesday 24th Tirah Memorial Service. Borough Gardens at 11am

Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th Halloween Ghost Hunt. Brewery Square
10am to 3pm

Wednesday 31st Hallowe'en Ghost Walk Special. 8pm at Kings Arms.

November

Friday 2nd All Souls Day. Open Church at Holy Trinity 10am to 7pm.

Saturday 3rd. Autumn Fair in Corn Exchange. Dorchester Rotary Club and local charities. 9.30am to 12.30pm
Evening: Fireworks at Dorchester Rugby Club.

Thursday 8th The Thomas Hardy London Lecture at Birkbeck College. "The Wessex Project: Thomas Hardy, Architect." Prof. Kester Rattenbury. www.hardysociety.org

Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th MacMillan Christmas Fair at Kingston Maurward.

Saturday 10th Craft and Gifts Fair in Corn Exchange.

Sunday 11th The Town Council parade "in state" on Remembrance Sunday to the War Memorial on South Walks for the two minute silence at 11am. A second service takes place a little later in St George's cemetery in Fordington at the Memorial to German soldiers who died in the Dorchester Prisoner of War Camp during the First World War.
At 7.05pm beside the War Memorial, and in concert with Town Criers and campanologists throughout the UK, the Dorchester Town Crier will cry "Battle's Over – A Nation's Tribute".

Thursday 15th, Friday 16th and Saturday 17th Dorchester Drama are performing a play in the Corn Exchange. It is likely to be "Present Laughter" by Noel Coward.

Saturday 24th Christmas Lights Switch-on and Christmas Opening.
Brewery Square 4.30pm to 7pm
Carol Singing for Christian Aid. South Street 9.30am to 10.30am

Monday 31st December/Tuesday 1st January
Year at the Town Pump

Welcome in another New

Notes

1. Throughout the winter months (November through to March) the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) conducts a number of Conservation work parties on the Ridgeway (between Dorchester and Weymouth). These offer opportunities for volunteers to learn and practise Hedge Laying, Dry Stone Walling and Scrub Clearance. See: www.dorsetaonb.org.uk or contact Jill Hearing on 01305 228273 or email j.hearing@dorsetcc.gov.uk
2. Dorchester and District U3A. This is a flourishing branch of the National U3A. Further information: [www,dorchesteru3a.org.uk](http://www.dorchesteru3a.org.uk)
3. The Brownsword Hall in Pummery Square, Poundbury is the venue for a variety of regular classes and clubs including Fitness and Zumba, Dorchester Camera Club, Watercolour painting classes, Brownies, Line dancing and Pilates. Further information: www.brownswordhall.org.uk
4. Dorchester Art Club. Meets most Thursday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm in St George's Church hall, High Street Fordington. Further information: www.dorchesterartclub.co.uk
5. Dorset County Orchestra. Concerts – Saturday 17th March in St Nicholas' Church Corfe Mullen and Saturday 23rd June in St Mary's Church Swanage. Further information: www.dorsetcountyorchestra.org.uk
6. The Colliton Club in Colliton House beside County Hall holds various events. Further information: www.collitonclub.co.uk
7. The Trinity Club in Trinity Street holds various events. Further information: www.dorchestertrinityclub.co.uk
8. Farmer's Markets:
First Saturday in the month – Queen Mother Square.
Last Saturday in the month – South Street.

9. Dorset Centre for the Creative Arts. Middle Farm Way, Poundbury. A very wide-ranging series of practical courses are run here. Further information: www.dorsetcentreforthecreativearts.co.uk

10. www.theartsdevelopmentcompany.org.uk

11.

