

Events Calendar Summer 2014

Borough Gardens Events

MAY

- 18 **Churches Together** Pentecost service 11.30am
Durnovaria Silver Band 2.30pm
- 24-26 **Dorchester Festival** - Free events over the Bank Holiday weekend
- 30 **Gypsy & Traveller Day**, Noon

JUNE

- 1 **Durnovaria Silver Band** 2.30pm
- 7 **Movies in the Gardens** –Finding Nemo (4.00pm) followed by Warhorse (7.00pm)
- 8 **Stoke Sub Hamdon Brass Band**
- 13 **Carnival**—Party in the Park with music
- 22 **Crosswired** 2.30pm
- 29 **Dorchester Rotary's Family Picnic**

JULY

- 5 **Armed Forces Day Commemorations**
- 12 **Dorchester Chamber** Treasure Trail
- 13 **Swingtime in the Gardens**
- 20 **Charity & Volunteers Day**, with music by **Stress**
- 27 **Tom Alford Band** 2.30pm
- 30 **Love Parks Day**

AUGUST

- 3 **Help a Friend Fundraiser** from Noon
- 9 **One World Festival**
- 10 **Durnovaria Silver Band** 2.30pm
- 12 **Friends of the Garden** Walk
- 16 **Dorchester's Military Tattoo**
- 31 **Amy Mayes Band** 2.30pm

SEPTEMBER

- 13 **Adur Concert Band** 2.30pm
- 20 **Ringing the Gardens** 11.00am

For updates to the programme or more information nearer the time check out posters in the Gardens or look on our website.

If you wish to hold an event in the Gardens please get in touch.

Other Events in Dorchester

MAY

- 22-26 The **11th Dorchester Festival** - a range of free and ticketed events run by Dorchester Arts
- 25 **Dorchester Town FC Fun Day** 10.00 am at The Great Field

JUNE

- 6 **D-Day** commemoration at the Keep Museum 11.00am
- 7 **Thomas Hardy Birthday** celebration 5.30pm at Hardy's Statue
- 14-15 **Dorchester Carnival**
- 21 **Skatejam** Weymouth Avenue Skatepark

JULY

- 5 **The Tempest** at Maumbury Rings 7.30pm— run by Dorchester Arts

AUGUST

- 2 **Dorset Food and Arts Festival**, Queen Mother's Square, Poundbury
- 8 **Dorchester and the Great War**, Corn Exchange 10.00am—7.00pm
- 22-25 **Maumbury Rings End of Summer Festival** including **Anonymous 23rd**, **Love Parade 24th** and **Music on the Bank Holiday Monday 25th**

Commemorating the start of the Great War

A number of events will take place over the summer to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War in August 1914.

On 8 August a number of interested partners are working with the Town Council to present **Dorchester and the Great War** in the Corn Exchange.

The day will involve exhibition material including full Tommy's uniforms and kit, talks from local experts about the war and the part played by Dorchester men and women, and an opportunity to taste food prepared for soldiers in the trenches. Music will be provided by the Durnovaria Silver Band.

The Town Council will be collating information from all groups who are intending to put on events to commemorate the Great War over the next five years, and will use its newsletter and website to keep residents up to date.

Dorchester News

Dorchester Town Council
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Spring 2014



Dorchester's New Mayor

Peter Mann will serve as Mayor for the Council year from 19 May 2014.

Peter's working career was in education as a head teacher and a chief schools inspector. He now chairs a local Educational trust and volunteers for Dorchester Child Contact Centre

He also chairs Dorchester Municipal Charities and is Vice-Chair of Dorchester Citizens' Advice Bureau.

He has lived in the town for 30 years, and was elected to Council in 2005 for West ward.

He will be supported by his wife Sheila as Mayoress, with Stella Jones as Deputy Mayor.



If you would like Peter to attend your event please download an invitation form from our website.

Planning for the Town's Future

During March Councillors considered some of the issues facing the town, and their ideas on how Dorchester should develop in the future. We now want to test the ideas, that we came up with, with residents and businesses.

As always, the Corporate Plan covers the services that we provide, such as the Borough Gardens, the Corn Exchange and the many events that are held in the town, and there is also a section on our financial plans.

But this time we have started thinking about the issues facing residents that we ourselves have no control over, including how our population is made up, and how this relates to housing need and development, the local economy, and how we can support the town's communities.

We drew some preliminary conclusions that we would like to test out with you, including

- That we need to develop a more balanced population, taking positive steps to help young people to be able to live and work in the town
- That we should push for a more varied housing mix, including units more suited to young people and young families
- That we should both respect, but also take advantage of, the heritage and environment of Dorchester, working with the tourism and heritage sectors to build tourism that compliments what the town already has to offer
- That we need a more diverse economy, one less driven by the public sector, in particular focusing on attracting small businesses into the area. We need to work more closely with organisations representing the businesses community

- That we can help to connect up the community better, supporting organisations to get their message out effectively to people who live, work, and visit the town

However most of all we recognised that the town's roads and car parks are struggling to cope with demand today, and that further development will create even more problems. The Council is very keen to work with partners to provide infrastructure that meets the need of our growing population and thriving economy, to avoid Dorchester becoming a victim of its own success.

The draft Corporate Plan, which has more detail that sits behind the statements made above, can be found under the "What's New" tab on our website.

From June the website will include a short survey, and we really need your views on whether we are on the right track. If you are in a group that would like to meet town councillors or the town clerk to talk through the Corporate Plan, please contact us.

Events Guide



A full calendar of events this summer in the Borough Gardens and around town. See back page for details

The Mayor's Charity Focus: Volunteer Centre Dorset

The Centre is currently delivering a new Pilot project, the **Community Credits Scheme** throughout Portland, Weymouth, Dorchester and Bridport.

The project is focused on people with learning disabilities, providing a volunteer mentor to help support them to volunteer within their local community.

In return they and their mentor receive time credits, a recyclable note, which they can use to buy into an activity of their choice; perhaps learning something from another scheme member or buying a session at their local football club, gym or cinema during quieter times.

The scheme aims to break down some of the barriers that have excluded people with learning disabilities from many organisations in the past

The Centre is very keen to hear from potential volunteer buddies. For any enquiries about volunteering for the scheme please contact Siobhán Davis - Project Co-ordinator on 01305 269214 or email s.davis@volunteeringdorset.org.uk.

Town's Youth Council visits Houses of Parliament

With both practical and financial help from the Houses of Parliament Education Service the Mayor was able to arrange for the Town Council's 17 strong Youth Council to visit London in April.



In a packed day which also included a visit to the Cabinet War Rooms the group toured the Houses of Lords and Commons, took part in exercises run by Commons staff, and had the opportunity to quiz West Dorset MP Oliver Letwin on his role.

Dorchester plays host to Dorset's Mayors

Had you been in town on Friday 11th April you would have struggled to miss the many chains and badges of office on display, as mayors from across the county gathered in Dorchester to catch up with developments in the town.

They had an opportunity to see the latest buildings at Poundbury, then moved straight on to see the recent rapid progress at Brewery Square.

The weather on the day was kind, so they were then able to appreciate the spring bedding displays in the Borough Gardens, before finally moving on to hear about plans for the development of the Dorset County Museum in High West Street.



Mayor Stella Jones with some of the many town mayors from across the county in the Borough Gardens

While at the Museum the Mayor presented the Museum with £100 raised through her appeal for a commemorative plaque, the money going towards the Museum's major fundraising appeal.

Anyone for Tennis?

A new membership scheme is being introduced for the tennis courts in the Borough Gardens, with Town residents being able to buy an annual household membership for the four courts for just £25.

The membership includes a key fob that will be used to access the courts, which will shortly have magnetic locking gates installed. Courts will be bookable online, accessible by PC, mobile phone or tablet.

The cost of installing the new system has been grant aided by the Lawn Tennis Association, who are keen to increase participation in the sport and find the next Wimbledon champion.

The new scheme should be in place by mid June. Existing season ticket holders will automatically receive a fob valid for a year.

DTEP 3: Our last chance to sort out Town Centre Traffic Problems

In December 2013 many residents fed back to Dorset County Council on their latest proposals to reroute traffic around the town centre, in order to improve traffic flows and reduce the impact in the High Street area.

While most comments opposed specific proposals, the majority of residents recognised the need to do something to reduce traffic problems, which are getting progressively worse as the town grows.

Dorset County Council, the lead authority for developing the scheme, have reserved £3.3 Million to undertake works in Dorchester, but have been quite clear that unless a scheme has been developed which commands support by late 2014, the money will be reallocated to other schemes elsewhere in the county. West Dorset District Council will also contribute monies raised from housing development (up to £1M) and have reserved £0.5 M to improve the look of the town centre.

Given the deadline the pressure is on to find a scheme which solves the problems affecting the most historic part of the town, without simply transferring the traffic to other parts of town that are unable to cope with it.

Since December county officers have sifted through the comments from the consultation, and are developing new proposals using some of the ideas put forward.

The Town Council will test these out on a panel of residents created specifically for the purpose, and will also help to collect wider feedback on the final proposals when they are available at the end of the summer.

We are looking for volunteers to join the panel to give early feedback, at several 2 hour sessions during June/July 2014. If you are interested in being part of the Panel please contact admin@dorchester-tc.gov.uk, and we will be in touch.

Please note, though, that we are looking to ensure representation from across the town, and it is anticipated that we won't be able to accommodate all interested parties on the Panel. We will also facilitate discussions with local business and heritage representatives.

It is clear to the Town Council that if a solution cannot be agreed by late 2014, then we will have wasted 10 years work, and missed our last chance to solve Dorchester's biggest problem; its inadequate roads and parking infrastructure.

Traffic problems in Victoria Park and the Queens Avenue area

During the early Spring two drop in events were held focusing on the problems caused by parking and traffic in the south western part of the town around Dorchester County Hospital and Thomas Hardye School.

In February Town Councillors organised a drop in session to collect the views of residents of the area around Queens Avenue on a range of traffic and parking issues.

In March County Council staff ran a very busy drop in session at Thomas Hardye School to capture the views of residents on a number of speeding, traffic volume and parking issues in the Victoria Park area, adjacent to Dorset County Hospital and several schools.

County officers are now working through the many issues raised at the meetings, with a view to reporting back to the Town Council and residents this autumn.

Working with the County Council the Town Council is collecting information about the size of the problem, by talking to the Hospital and other major employers in this part of town about what their parking needs are for staff and visitors, and how we might work together to find a solution that properly balances their needs without causing difficulties for local residents.

Town Councillors are very aware that the problems facing residents in this part of town are increasingly being repeated across many of our residential areas, and will be looking for solutions that resolve the needs of Dorchester's businesses and workers without simply relocating the problem to other parts of the town.

Herrington Road Residents form Community Speedwatch Group

Trained and equipped by Dorset Police, local residents have begun monitoring traffic speeds along Herrington Road. At present 7 volunteers spend 3 hours a week at different locations along the road taking speed readings from passing cars and vans.

Co-ordinator Barry Preedy says "Traffic speed has been getting noticeably worse in recent months. We realised that something needed to be done, but it was clear that the problem was unlikely to reach the top of the priority list for traffic police. The Community Speedwatch scheme allows us to play a role in encouraging drivers to take a sensible approach along a busy residential street, used by school children, older people and cyclists."

While the primary aim of the scheme is to deter speeding, when a vehicle exceeds the 30mph limit their car registration details are passed to Dorset Police, who write to offenders with a warning about their speed. More formal action can be taken against drivers when vehicles exceed the limit on several occasions.

Training and equipment is available through Dorset Police's scheme to any group of residents that meet a simple set of criteria. More details can be found by searching "Community Speedwatch" on their website www.dorset.police.uk.

The Town Council has put £1,000 aside to provide additional equipment and training if more groups of residents come forward than the Police have kit for. The Herrington Road group can be contacted via the Town Council.