

Members of Dorchester Town Council

East Ward

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Tim Harries 8 Dunnabridge Street DTI 3TQ | 07970 653796 |
| Stella Jones Syward Cottage, Syward Road DTI 2AJ | 01305 264335 |
| Fiona Kent-Ledger 28 Olga Road DTI 2LX | 01305 250253 |
| Tamara Loakes 3A Holloway Road DTI 1LG | 01305 757526 |
| Tony Lyall 13 St George's Road DTI 1PA | 01305 266254 |

South Ward

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Carolyn Biggs 20 Bridport Road DTI 1RS | 01305 260156 |
| Tess James 70 Monmouth Road DTI 2DG | 01305 262359 |
| Gareth Jones 30 Culliford Road South DTI 2AT | 01305 262478 |
| Robin Potter 22 d'Urberville Close DTI 2JT | 01305 264416 |
| Molly Rennie 13 Alington Road DTI 1NS | 01305 268572 |

North Ward

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Vivienne Allan 28 Somerleigh Road DTI 1TJ | 01305 250023 |
| Richard Biggs 20 Bridport Road DTI 1RS | 01305 260156 |
| Andy Canning 11 Alfred Road DTI 2DW | 01305 261592 |
| Susie Hosford 1 Meadow Cottages, Martinstown DT2 9JL | 01305 880102 |
| David Taylor 4 Normandy Way DTI 2PP | 01305 263382 |

West Ward

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Karen Armitage 58 Windsor Road DTI 2JB | 01305 251447 |
| David Barrett 41 Holmead Walk DTI 3GE | 01305 259269 |
| Trevor Jones OBE Syward Cottage, Syward Road DTI 2AJ | 01305 264335 |
| Peter Mann 13 Beech Court DTI 1DX | 01305 266796 |
| David Roberts 14 Swanbridge Park DTI 1ND | 01305 269394 |

Dorchester News

Dorchester Town Council

19 North Square Dorchester Dorset DT1 1JF

☎ 01305 266861

✉ admin@dorchester-tc.gov.uk

Late Summer 2014



“Try This” is back for a Second Year

Last September a resident, Hettie Burn, led a scheme that gave skilled and talented members of our community a chance to share their hobbies with fellow residents.

Around 250 residents learned new skills in subjects as diverse as knitting, loose leaf tea tasting, slacklining and indoor bowls, all for free, with several new groups set up as a result of the week's events.

Funded by Dorchester Market Car Boot Fund, Union Learn and the Town Council, 'Try This' 2014 offers an even more varied programme running from 27th September to 4th October. Programmes are in the TIC and Library. Booking is essential, at www.dorchestertrythis.org.uk or on 01305 250665.

So if you've ever wanted to “sing in harmony”, “use plants medicinally”, or even “practice safe tax”, Try This!



Please walk on the Flowers

The Mayor's charity project for 2014/15 is to create a Grass Free Lawn in the Borough Gardens.

With Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT) a group of councillors visited Reading University in June, where a post-graduate student has grown and maintained a lawn made up entirely of small-leaved low-growing plants such as milkwort, trefoils and clover.

The result is a low maintenance, drought resistant, matted lawn which has flowers year round, and is very wildlife friendly. The biggest hurdle has been a natural reluctance to walk on the lawn.

DWT will lead the project, distributing trays, seed and compost to anyone who feels able to grow plants. Some will go to schools and community groups, but they are particularly keen that individuals get involved, and will be handing out materials at Poundbury Garden Centre on Friday 12th and Saturday 20th September.

On Easter Monday 5th April 2015, a planting day is planned for the Borough Gardens, with trays placed onto pre-prepared soil.

The lawn will be maintained by volunteers, and become a resource for schools and local groups to observe, enjoy and learn from.

The 2013 Try This Poultry keeping event was particularly popular with residents, although the chickens weren't so sure.

Mayor Peter Mann says “I am delighted with this opportunity to create the first grass free lawn in a public park in the south west of England. It will add further interest and colour to our beautiful Borough Gardens, attracting large numbers of bees and butterflies, recently in sad decline. I very much hope that townspeople of all ages will get involved. The more trays that are planted, the larger the lawn will be.”

No special horticultural skills are required. If you have space for a few seed trays in your greenhouse, conservatory or on your window sill,



come down to Poundbury Garden Centre and get involved. .

We are currently working with DWT to see how we might integrate the lawn into a redesigned Bowling Green area, with other elements still to be designed.

If you are part of a group who can help with the project, or want to get involved in any way, please see DWT's website or contact jwallis@dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk.

Mayor helps to launch “Walking in their Shoes”

On 8th August, as part of the town's event to commemorate the start of the Great War, Mayor Peter Mann helped young volunteers and Dorset Youth Association Chairman Alan Knott to launch an innovative geocaching project which follows in the footsteps of a Dorset soldier involved in the conflict.

Boxes containing local historical facts are located across Dorset, and can be identified using information contained on the project's website or a downloadable smartphone app. More information can be obtained from www.walkingintheirshoes.blogspot.co.uk.



Events for Autumn 2014

Friday 12 September - Council Chamber and Town Hall
open as part of **Dorset Architectural Heritage Week**

10.00am - 1.00pm, Municipal Buildings, High East Street

Saturday 13 September - Adur Concert Band

c. 2.30pm - Bandstand, Borough Gardens

Wednesday 22 October - Commemoration of the North West Frontier Campaign

11.00am - Tirah Memorial, Borough Gardens

Sunday 9 November - Remembrance Day Parade and Service -

10.30am - War Memorial, South Walks

Sunday 9 November - Commemoration at Memorial to German Prisoners of War

2.30pm - Fordington Cemetery

Thursday 4 December - Christmas Cracker

6.00pm - 9.00pm - Town Pump

Wednesday 10 December - Football Match to commemorate the Great War

7.30pm - Dorchester Football Stadium

Thursday 18 December - Carols in the Gardens

6.30pm - Borough Gardens (weather permitting)

Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan: Update

In the Spring newsletter we asked residents to help us review new ideas based on public suggestions following consultation in December 2013 in relation to the way traffic moves across the town.

During June town councillors and county staff met with over 30 residents, and that exercise has helped shape some new options.

The Highways Team presented amended options that had the effect of reduced traffic volumes in the High St area, lessened traffic increases on South Walks Road and Great Western Road, but produced increases on other roads such as Williams Avenue and in the Fordington and Maud Road areas. Proposals from December 2013 that affected direction flow around North Square and directed buses through Princes Street were to be dropped.

The strongest message that came from the meetings was that schemes that simply redistribute the High Street problem to other parts of town will not achieve widespread support. However town councillors recognise that traffic and parking issues will only get worse as the town grows, unless traffic and parking infrastructure is improved.

An important issue that emerged from discussions was that the search for a solution was delaying the replacement of ageing traffic light equipment. County officers will look at how improvements might be introduced now, which will improve traffic flow through town in the short term, but can be adapted to future changes in road layouts. Revisions to loading bans and on street parking may also be considered.

Dorset County Council's Cabinet will receive a report on options in September, and will decide whether to proceed to consultation on a revised scheme, or progress the elements of DTEP that include the delayed replacement and improvement works.

Once the future of the transport element of the package has been determined West Dorset District Council will review the options for environmental improvement works in the town centre.

To complement the above work the Town Council has agreed to co-ordinate discussions between the larger employers in the town to develop a comprehensive parking strategy for the many workers and visitors to the town.

An update will be available in our next newsletter.

Development of the Dorchester Prison site

Residents will be interested in the future of this important site just to the north of the town centre, following its closure as a prison in December 2013.

The Ministry of Justice, faced with high running costs for an empty site, started the process of marketing the site in June, and invited bids by mid August.

The Town Council recognised that, with the District Council currently having to focus on the submission of its new local plan, there was a risk that potential developers could buy the site without having a sense of the needs of the local community.



With the help of Dorchester Civic Society, for which we are very grateful, we have drafted a Position Statement suggesting how the site might develop.

An early draft of the statement has been shared with the Ministry of Justice and their agents, and they have agreed to pass it on to potential developers.

The statement focuses on the site's potential as a residential led development, and we will challenge developers to consider how they might use the scheme to meet the needs of the town's younger residents.

We also think there should be public open areas with good pedestrian and cycle links from the north and west of the site, full recognition and interpretation of the important heritage on the site, and preferably some non-residential development to encourage footfall across the site. It is vital that the site is not considered in isolation and is properly integrated into the area that surrounds it.

The Town Council and Civic Society will consider the document for adoption in September. We will then invite the statutory planning and highways authorities to take note of the statement when they consider applications for the development of the site. The draft statement can be found on the Town Council website.

Dorchester Arts celebrates its 30th birthday!

September 2014 marks 30 years since the Grove Community Arts Centre moved into the building we still use. While much has changed, our commitment to provide an opportunity to people in and around Dorchester to see and participate in the best of the arts throughout the year remains as strong as ever.

Arts bodies across the UK are adapting as public funding reduces. We have recently learned that we will lose our core Arts Council funding from April 2015. While this is a blow it by no means signals the end for us. Thankfully, like many, we had already started focusing on other sources of funding, and we still expect to receive Arts Council funding for specific projects. We will be launching several fundraising campaigns over the next 12 months, related to our building, individual projects and to support our year-round arts programme.

All successful arts organisations survive on the support they receive from their communities, and over the years we have felt tremendous local support from Dorchester audiences, volunteers, donors and sponsors alike.

We believe that life in our town would be much the poorer without us – we hope others will show that they believe that too. So whether you just want a good night's entertainment, or can offer funds or practical help, check out www.dorchesterarts.org.uk, and bring your friends and family along to celebrate our birthday with us.

Mark Tattersall, Dorchester Arts

Council Meetings and the Dorchester Youth Council

The autumn cycle of Council meetings can be found on our website, with agendas for Committee meetings appearing one week before the meetings. The next scheduled full Council meetings are on 23rd September and 25th November at 7.00pm, and will take place in the Council Chamber at the Municipal Buildings.

The Council established a Youth Council in 2013, with around 15 young people offering their thoughts on the decisions that the Council has to take. Typically a young person might spend one evening a month helping us. If you are aged 14–19 and interested in contributing to the decision making process that affects your town please contact the Deputy Town Clerk on s.newman@dorchester-tc.gov.uk.

Apprentice Gardeners join the Borough Gardens Team

Under a scheme run by Dorset County Councils Apprenticeship Team we have recently gained two new recruits to develop their experience working in our Gardens Team.

We are grateful to West Dorset DC who part funded the roles as part of a project to work with partners to offer apprenticeships in public sector related work.

If you know of someone who might be interested in an apprenticeship in the public sector please go to www.dorsetforyou.com/apprentice for information.



Mayor Peter Mann and Mary Penfold, Member Champion for Enabling at West Dorset DC welcome apprentices Bridget and Steph to the Gardens

Poppy Appeal

Could you help this year's Appeal in Dorchester? Would you like to join a team of volunteers to help raise funds for this year's Poppy Appeal? Volunteers are required for organising, distributing and collecting.

This very fulfilling role helps the Service & ex Service Community and their dependants. If you can spare any time during Remembrance tide (23rd Oct – 11th Nov) please contact :

Ian Jarvis (JJ), Community Fundraiser Dorset, The Royal British Legion, Dorset County Office. Building 22 Stanley Barracks, Bovington, Wareham Dorset BH20 6JB
ijarvis@britishlegion.org.uk
www.britishlegion.org.uk

The Legion spends £1.6 million every week on Welfare, and cannot do that without volunteers

