

# Dorchester News

Dorchester Town Council  
19 North Square Dorchester Dorset DT1 1JF

☎ 01305 266861    📠 01305 266085    ✉ admin@dorchester-tc.gov.uk

Autumn 2009



## What's the problem?

Summer is the season when lots of things grow quickly - including people's garden hedges. That is great for wildlife, and birds in particular, but this accelerated growth is not always so good for pedestrians because some hedges can seriously obstruct pavements and footways. This can make it difficult to pass people and can be positively dangerous for people with push chairs or wheelchair users who might be forced to move into the road to get by.

If you know of somewhere where this is a problem let us know and we will pass it on to Dorset County Council who are responsible. Phone 01305 266861 or visit our website at [www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk](http://www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk).

## What a difference a day makes!

Twenty-four hours made the world of difference to the two events in Maumbury Rings over the August Bank Holiday weekend.



On the very wet Sunday it was the venue for the first Dorchester Youth Festival, ANONYMOUS 09. The initial idea came from the Town Council and it was organised by Dorchester Youth Extra in partnership with both the Town and District Councils.

There is no doubt that the dreadful weather affected attendance significantly - which is a pity because it was an excellent event and people who did attend were treated to a wide range of music as well as displays from various organisations providing activities for young people from Dorchester and the surrounding area and the chance to try out some of them.

There is certainly a good base to build on, and the event looks set to be repeated next year. Let's all hope that the weather is better for it then!

The Bank Holiday Monday could not have been more different. After a cloudy

start we had pretty well unbroken sunshine all day - ideal conditions for what we believe is the largest audience so far to appreciate some excellent music across a wide range of musical styles.



London who perform their own material. They were very different from any other band who played during the day. They were very nervous - this was their first performance in this part of the world - but

The Stour Valley Stompers got the day off to a stomping start with their foot-tapping traditional jazz. They were followed by local band Equilateral who played a range of pop and rock covers from the last thirty years or so.

The Biggest Baddest Blues Band Ever performed some of the biggest baddest blues Maumbury Rings has ever seen (or heard), and they were followed by The Huckleberries who did some storming versions of traditional songs and tunes from both sides of the Atlantic as well as some more surprising stuff.

Hiding Giants are a young four-piece band from

they needn't have been they went down very well. The undoubted highspot, though, was the closing act, the eleven-piece Loose Cannons from Devon who performed some rip-roaring soul covers to a large and enthusiastic audience.

All in all a very successful day for both performers and audience - and a successful day too for Julia's House, this year's Mayor's Charity, which benefited from the collection to the tune of over £300.

Here's to next year!



## Borough Gardens retains Green Flag

Regular readers might remember that the Borough Gardens achieved a Green Flag Award for the first time in 2008-09 and we are delighted that we have retained it for 2009-10.

The Awards are judged against a rigorous set of criteria to ensure that they only go to parks and gardens that truly merit the award and we are delighted with the success we have achieved. The judges made some very complimentary remarks about the Gardens and we thank them.

Of course we could not have won the award without the dedication and commitment of all the Council's staff - not only those who are based in the Gardens - and we thank all of them as well.

One of the things that the judges particularly like is the programme of summer entertainment in the Gardens. This year's was particularly successful and we hope that you enjoyed the various events as much as we enjoyed putting them on!



*Mayor Susie Hosford and Compliance Manager Peter Mullins receive the Green Flag from Michaela Strachan*

## Support for victims of crime

Victim Support is the independent national charity which helps people cope with crime; Victim Support in Dorset is our local branch. They give free and confidential help and support to victims and witnesses of crime, their families and anyone else affected. They depend on thousands of volunteers to deliver their services to victims and witnesses.

Their Victim Service offers emotional support, information and practical help to victims of crime. Dealing with the emotional effects of crime can be difficult but most people find that talking about it helps. A Victim Support volunteer can talk to you on the phone or in person about what has happened, and will keep in touch regularly according to the needs of each victim. Volunteers offer emotional support, information and practical support in conjunction with paid staff, whether it's help with filling in forms, dealing with the police, sorting out housing or medical problems, or helping with home security.

The Witness Service is there to help if a victim is required to give evidence at court. They provide support to witnesses, victims, their families and friends, at all the Crown and Magistrates' courts in Dorset. Going to court can be a traumatic experience. Witness Service volunteers can explain court procedures, provide pre-court visits, and sit with witnesses as they wait before giving evidence. Volunteers also accompany vulnerable witnesses, including children, into the courtroom or whilst giving evidence through a video-link.

If you need to use any of the services Victim Support offer or think you might be able to help them you can contact them by e-mail on [vsdorset@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:vsdorset@victimsupport.org.uk) or telephone them on 01202 606200.



## Sawmills News

One of the lesser-known areas in Dorchester with which the Town Council is involved is the Sawmills, off Weymouth Avenue.

The legal arrangement is fairly complex. We lease the whole of the site from the Duchy of Cornwall and pay the rent. We then lease it on to the Sawmills Development Association who reimburse us for half the rent we have paid the Duchy, and they in turn sub-let the different parts of it to the organisations which are based there - the YMCA, the Boys Brigade, Dorchester Scout and Guide Hall and Dorchester Judo Club. Between them they engage with thousands of young people every year, and we are pleased to be able to support the various organisations as we do.

And things look like getting even better. The Sawmills Development Association are in the latter stages of detailed discussions which will hopefully see the final available plot used by another club providing activities for local young people which will mean that the benefit provided by the site is even greater.

The most recent success there is the creation of a new gymnastics hall at the YMCA, bringing the amount invested there in the last two years to around £500,000. Phase 1 of the improvement work provided a 10m x 6m activity/meeting room, larger changing rooms, a new kitchen, a reception area and an office.

Phases 2 and 3 were completed in May and provide a gymnastics hall 27m x 12m with a sprung floor area, a tumble strip, a floor level trampoline, bars, beams, rings, a vaulting table and a resi pit (a cushioned pit to protect gymnasts from injury).

Dorchester YMCA was founded in 1868 and originally met in the home of Dr George Curme at Fordington. The YMCA's first purpose-built home was in Icen Way; the foundation stone for that building (now occupied by the Dinosaur Museum) was laid in 1898.

The YMCA moved to the Sawmills in 1985 and opened its present building in 1992. Since then they have gone from strength to strength and numbers using the facilities rocketed following their amalgamation with the Dorchester Gymnastics Club in 1995.

*Former Olympic athlete John Wrighton officially opening the YMCA gymnastics hall on 3rd July*



## Save Money and the Environment

Older people in West Dorset - including Dorchester - can once again get free energy saving tips and help around the house thanks to Age Concern Dorchester and energy company E.ON.

The Age Concern Dorchester EnergyRight programme, eNergyAware, supported by E.ON, advises people on how they might reduce their energy bills. It also provides energy efficiency advice, help with Winter Fuel Allowance payments and information about the Government's Warm Front grants.

EnergyRight is a project that has been developed by Age Concern and E.ON to raise awareness of energy efficiency amongst older people, supporting them in adopting efficient practices and measures to help them to keep warm and save money.

Peter Lindsley, Information and Advice Manager of Age Concern Dorchester, said: "If you would like some advice on energy efficiency or are worried about heating your home this Winter, get in touch with the EnergyRight scheme at Age Concern Dorchester."

Suzanne Doxey, Community Relations Manager at E.ON, said: "By working with Age Concern to offer this service, we are eager to share our energy expertise and to provide support where it's needed most. Now is the time to prepare for the colder months ahead and there are lots of simple things we can tell you about which will help make a big difference to your bills and the environment too."

For further information, contact: Age Concern Dorchester, Rowan Cottage, 4 Prince of Wales Road, Dorchester DT1 1PW, telephone 01305 269444 or visit [www.acdorchester.org](http://www.acdorchester.org).



## What's coming up

Usually in *Dorchester News* we have a nice panel on the back page listing a large number of events which you can cut out and stick on your fridge.

As with every other town, most events in Dorchester happen in spring and summer, so there is not much point in doing that in this issue. You might like to know, though, that this year's Remembrance Day commemoration will take place at the War Memorial on Sunday 8 November. The parade will start from the TA Centre on Poundbury Road around 10.30am and will be joined by other groups from North Square as they pass The Bow.

Also, the Royal British Legion are organising a silence at the War Memorial at 11am on Armistice Day, Wednesday 11 November, and hope that as many people as possible will join them.

Don't forget Casterbridge Christmas Cracker throughout the town centre on the evening of Wednesday 2 December and Candlelit Carol Singing in the Borough Gardens with the Durnovaria Silver Band and Encore on Thursday 17 December.

Encore in action in 2008



## Fiftieth Anniversary of twinning with Bayeux

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the twinning between Dorchester and Bayeux, home of the famous Bayeux Tapestry. The formal twinning dates from 1959, but that was only the formalisation of links that had existed between Dorset and Bayeux since 1944 when soldiers of the Dorset Regiment were the first to enter Bayeux following D-Day.

We were pleased to welcome a delegation from Bayeux to Dorchester earlier in the year and in September the Mayor led a small civic delegation on a return visit to Bayeux to commemorate the anniversary there, together with a large group from the Dorchester-Bayeux Society.

The joint gift from both the Council and the Dorchester-Bayeux Society was a teak garden seat inspired by the classic design of Edwin Lutyens - teak from sustainable, renewable sources, of course! It has been placed in a sunny corner of the *Jardin Botanique* in Bayeux, and we hope that many generations of people will enjoy it.

If you would like to know more about the twinning, or would like to join the Dorchester-Bayeux Society, contact the Secretary, Brian Bates, on 01305 263824.

The photograph shows Jean Bonnet of the Bayeux-Dorchester Comité, Maire-Adjoint of Bayeux Françoise Zeller, Mayor of Dorchester Susie Hosford and Philippa Loudon, Chair of the Dorchester-Bayeux Society at the official presentation of the bench.



# Members of Dorchester Town Council

## East Ward

<b>Mark Allwood</b> 29 South Walks Road DT1 1ED	259991
<b>Tim Harries</b> 9 Brookhouse Street DT1 2GL	07970 653796
<b>Stella Jones</b> Syward Cottage, Syward Road DT1 2AJ	264335
<b>Fiona Kent-Ledger</b> 28 Olga Road DT1 2LX	250253
<b>Tony Lyall</b> 13 St George's Road DT1 1PA	266254

## South Ward

<b>Carolyn Biggs</b> 20 Bridport Road DT1 1RS	260156
<b>Susie Hosford</b> 1 Meadow Cottages, Martinstown DT2 9JL	880102
<b>Tess James</b> 70 Monmouth Road DT1 2DG	262359
<b>Robin Potter</b> 22 d'Urberville Close DT1 2JT	264416
<b>Molly Rennie</b> 13 Alington Road DT1 1NS	268572

## North Ward

<b>Richard Biggs</b> 20 Bridport Road DT1 1RS	260156
<b>Vicki Black</b> 4 Ashington Street DT1 3GJ	261574
<b>Andy Canning</b> 11 Alfred Road DT1 2DW	261592
<b>Kate Hebditch</b> 8 Friary Hill DT1 1JG	268603
<b>Leslie Phillips</b> 17 West Mills Road DT1 1SP	264030

## West Ward

<b>David Barrett</b> 41 Holmead Walk DT1 3GE	259269
<b>Anita Harries</b> 9 Brookhouse Street DT1 2GL	261354
<b>Leonard Heath</b> 1 Maen Gardens, Culliford Road DT1 1PU	757313
<b>Trevor Jones</b> Syward Cottage, Syward Road DT1 2AJ	264335
<b>Peter Mann</b> 13 Beech Court DT1 1PZ	266796

## Maiden Castle Road Play Area improvements

Maiden Castle Road Play Area has done sterling service since it was first created twenty years ago, and the old half-pipe skateboard ramp there was the only publicly-provided skating facility for many years.

However, both it and the timber play structures which had been there since the play area was first built had passed the end of their useful life, and the opening of the skatepark at Maumbury Cross made this year an ideal time to embark on a full-scale refurbishment of the play area.

The old ramp has already been removed and, by the time you read this, the new play structure for older children should be complete and work should be in hand on installing the new younger children's play structure.

The concrete base for the old skateboard ramp has been extremely useful for storing the sand (which we shall re-use) from the old playground safety surfacing but, when the construction of the play structures is finished, we shall hack it out and extend the cycle bump circuit at the top end of the play area including creating a new start ramp.

The photograph opposite shows the *Techno* older children's play structure virtually complete; the drawing shows what the new *Magical Universe* structure for younger children will look like.

