

Dorchester News

Dorchester Town Council
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Spring 2010



**QUALITY
TOWN
COUNCIL**

What's the problem?

The weather this winter has been particularly severe - some people say the most severe for 40 years - although, thankfully, Dorset escaped the worst of it.

Nevertheless, the frosts have taken their toll on our roads, as you cannot fail to have noticed. It is a major problem for the County Council which has only limited money available to deal with an enormous number of potholes so it will take a long time to get round to them all.

If you know of a particularly bad one please let us know so that we can make sure the County Council are aware of it; our contact details are at the top of the page.

More Borough Gardens Improvements

There have been too many good things that have come out of the refurbishment of the Borough Gardens to list them all, but there is no doubt that one of the most appreciated improvements has been to the children's play area which seems to be popular throughout the year.

But we obviously did not get it absolutely right first time because 7-year old Lily Osborne of Victoria Park wrote to us to say she thought there should be some monkey bars in it, and we agreed with her.

They were installed in time for the Easter holidays, and Lily officially opened them with the Mayor, Susie Hosford, on

Maundy Thursday as our photograph shows.

The queues to use them since they were available have shown just how right Lily was!

We haven't forgotten older children and adults either. One of the best-used facilities which we have provided recently has been the adult fitness equipment at Sandringham Sports Centre which has far exceeded our expectations of its popularity. We shall shortly be installing the same sort of equipment in the Borough Gardens, near to the main gate from Albert Road so that grown-ups can play too!



Some sad news

Earlier in the year The Gardens Bowling Club announced that it was winding up, ending over 100 years of bowls in the Borough Gardens. Unfortunately the Club was unable to attract enough members to be viable so the Council-supported facility at Sandringham Sports Centre will be the only publicly-accessible bowling green in Dorchester.

It has taken us a bit by surprise. We had talked to the Club about the level of use of the bowling green and we thought that they might have continued until next year.

We have started to think about what to do with the space now occupied by the bowling green so that it increases the attractiveness of the Gardens but we haven't yet decided how it can best be used in future.

New cushions for old chairs

Dorchester Stitchers were formed to work on the community tapestry created as part of the commemorations of Dorchester's 700th Anniversary as County Town in 2005.

They found that they enjoyed themselves so much that they decided to stay together and have completed a number of projects since, most recently new cushions for the Mayor's and Town Clerk's chairs in the Council Chamber - the Town Clerk's chair is reputed to be what Lord Chief Justice George Jeffreys sat on during the 'Bloody Assize' in Dorchester following the Battle of Sedgemoor which brought the Monmouth Rebellion of 1685 to an end.

If you would like to know more about Dorchester Stitchers - either because you would like to join or because you have a project that you would like them to consider - contact Rosemary Gameson on 01305 265575.



Fordington Green parking

There has been a problem of vehicles parking on Fordington Green for some time now, which is understandable because there is not sufficient space in the streets around the Green for all the people who need to park in the area.

It causes problems, though. Fordington Green is owned by the Town Council and is the only registered village green in Dorchester. It is a well-used and attractive place - when there are no cars parked on it.

We have tried to ask people not to park there, but with limited success, so we have taken a series of measures to try and address the worst of the problem, most recently the installation of a line of wooden bollards along the top side of the Green opposite the Church. It's early days, but it seems to be working so far - it's just a pity that we have had to make the Green less attractive to achieve a result.



New Mayor is named

Dorchester's next Mayor will be former Master Farrier Leslie Phillips.

Leslie served on the former Borough Council from 1965 - indeed he was Mayor for the first time when the Borough Council was succeeded by West Dorset District Council in 1974. He has been on the Town Council since it was created then and has served two previous terms as Town Mayor, in 1983-1984 and 1999-2000.

Leslie is probably best-known for his work with Magna Housing Association, Careline and at Dorchester Youth Club but he has many other links with local organisations, including the presidencies of Dorset Association for the Disabled and the Durnovaria Silver Band.

Leslie's wife Vonty will support him as Mayoress during his Mayoral Year which will start with the Mayor-Making Ceremony in the Corn Exchange at 7.00pm on Monday 24 May which everyone is welcome to attend.



We need your help ...

The Town Council has long prided itself on the contributions it makes to make Dorchester a nice place to visit, live and work.

All the improvements we have delivered over the years have been driven by feedback from the people who live here - like the recent installation of monkey bars in the Borough Gardens mentioned on the front page - and we want to carry on in exactly the same way. We continue to make more and more information available on our website at www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk and the Contact Us page on the site is (or should be!) accessible every hour of every day.

We know, of course, that many of you will actually only need to get in touch with us when you have a particular problem, so this edition of *Dorchester News* has a questionnaire inside it which makes it easy for you to tell us what you think about the services we provide. Please take the trouble to fill it in and return it to us as soon as possible so that we can make sure that we know what you think and make our plans accordingly!

... and we can help you

Most people will probably know that there has been a lot of work going on in the Corn Exchange over the last few months as we install a lift so that people who find stairs difficult will be able to get easy access to the Town Hall and the Council Chamber on the first floor for the first time ever.

The work has caused a lot of disruption but the builders should have moved out by the end of May and we are giving local community groups an opportunity to tell people about what they do by making the Magistrates Room available free of charge on Wednesday mornings on a first-come, first served basis.

Organisations who are eligible will not be able to use the room for fundraising, selling goods or produce or for meetings, but we are always happy to hire out rooms for such purposes at very competitive rates.

The Council hopes that the arrangement will give community groups a vehicle to tell people about what they do and - who knows - attract more volunteers or customers.

If you would like to know more contact Julie Hollings on 01305 265840 or e-mail j.hollings@dorchester-tc.gov.uk.

Some of the free events happening in 2010

If you tear off and keep the back page of this edition of *Dorchester News* you will have this listing of some of the free events happening in Dorchester this summer as well as a handy list of councillors names, addresses and telephone numbers and a map showing ward boundaries in the town on the other side

Saturday & Sunday 22 & 23 May - Roman Festival -

11.00am - 4.00pm - Maumbury Rings - celebrate the 1600th anniversary of the end of Roman rule with Legio II Augusta and displays of legionaries and gladiators, displays of everyday life in Roman Britain - for more information phone 01305 228241 or visit www.dorsetaonb.org.uk

Sunday 23 May - 11.00am - Pentecost Day Service - Borough Gardens

Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday 28 - 31 May -

Dorchester Festival - for more information visit www.dorchesterfestival.co.uk, call Dorchester Arts Centre on 01305 266926 or go to the Tourist Information Centre in Antelope Walk.

Sunday & Monday 30 & 31 May - What the Romans Did!

- 10.30am - 5.00pm - Roman Town House - The Ancient Wessex Network presents art and craft inspired by the Romans. Small charge for workshops - for more information visit www.ancientwessex.net

Monday 31 May - Roman Town House Picnic - 12 noon to 2.00pm - for more information phone 01305 228241 or visit www.romantownhouse.org

Sunday 6 June - The Julie Tregarth Quintet - 2.30pm - Borough Gardens

Sunday 13 June - The Ringwood & Burley Band - 2.30pm - Borough Gardens

Wednesday 16 June - The Rifles Regiment exercise the Freedom of Dorchester - time to be confirmed - Town Centre

Wednesday 16 June - Carnival Party In The Park - 6.00pm - Borough Gardens

Saturday 19 June - Dorchester Carnival - for more information visit www.dorchesterfestival.co.uk

Saturday 19 June - The Querks - 7.00pm - Borough Gardens

Sunday 27 June - Teddy Bears Picnic - 12 noon - 4.00pm - Borough Gardens

- The New Hardy Players present *The Distracted Preacher* - 6.00pm - Borough Gardens

Saturday 3 July - Armed Forces Day Commemoration

1.15pm - March from North Square to Borough Gardens via South Street

2.00pm - Commemoration Service - Borough Gardens

2.30pm - Musical Entertainment with Wessex Military Band and Dorchester Big Band

Sunday 4 July - Swingtime In The Gardens featuring Purbeck Big Band and other jazz musicians - 2.00pm - 5.00pm - Borough Gardens

Saturday 10 July - Bag of Rats - 3.00pm - Borough Gardens - organised by the Friends of the Borough Gardens

Sunday 11 July - Garden Party - 2.00pm - 6.00pm - Borough Gardens - organised by the Rotary Clubs of Dorchester

Friday 16 - Saturday 31 July - South Dorset Ridgeway Festival - various times and venues - explore the Ridgeway with poets, historians, artists and geologists - for more information phone 01305 228241 or visit www.dorsetaonb.org.uk

Saturday 17 July - Dorset Wildlife Trust - 10.00am - 4.00pm - Borough Gardens

Sunday 18 July - Durnovaria Silver Band - 2.00pm - Borough Gardens

Saturday 24 July - Fast Company - 2.30pm - Borough Gardens

Sunday 25 July - Durnovaria Silver Band - 2.00pm - Borough Gardens

Wednesday 28 July - A Celebration of Love Parks Week - 10.00am - 4.00pm - Borough Gardens - Dorset Wildlife Trust, Action Van, Punch & Judy at 12 noon and 2.00pm, Mill Street Jazz Band 12.30pm - 2.00pm

Saturday 31 July - The Boogie Men - 2.00pm - Borough Gardens

Sunday 1 August - Stress & Howling At The Moon - 2.30pm - Borough Gardens

Wednesdays 4, 11, 18 & 25 August - Get Up Close - 2.00pm - 4.00pm - Roman Town House - for more information phone 01305 228241 or visit www.romantownhouse.org

Sunday 8 August - Wareham Whalers - 2.30pm - Borough Gardens

Sunday 15 August - 4Sum - 2.30pm - Borough Gardens

Saturday 21 August - A Warm Festival - 12 noon - 6.00pm - Borough Gardens. For more details visit www.warmfestival.co.uk, call Jack Daniels on 01305 755614 or e-mail info@warmfestival.co.uk

Sunday 22 August - A Warm Festival featuring Back To Coda - 12 noon - 6.00pm - Borough Gardens. See Saturday 21 August

Saturday 28 August - ANONYMOUS 10 - Dorchester's Youth Festival - 11.00am - 10.00pm - Maumbury Rings

Monday 30 August - Music in Maumbury Rings - 1.30pm - 10.00pm featuring (in alphabetical order) -

A-Listers
Fat Drunk Stupid
Finely Tuned
Fingers & Fretz
MumJums
Ogri & The Cafe Racers

Thursday 9 September - Sunday 19 September - Inside Out 2010 - Extraordinary events in extraordinary places - for more information visit www.insideoutdorset.co.uk

Monday 13 September - Sunday 19 September - Nofit State Circus - Maumbury Rings - part of Inside Out 2010

Sunday 26 September - Bandstand Marathon - Durnovaria Silver Band - 2.00pm - Borough Gardens

Members of Dorchester Town Council

East Ward

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

North Ward

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

South Ward

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

West Ward

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

Ward Boundaries

