

# Dorchester News

Dorchester Town Council

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Summer 2010



QUALITY  
TOWN  
COUNCIL

## What's the problem?

So far this summer has, thankfully, been much better than the last couple, and we are all very pleased about it.

What the spring and summer to date have done, though, is make everything grow apace, and you might have noticed some hedges near you which are encroaching across pavements and footpaths.

These are not actually the Town Council's responsibility but if you tell us about them we shall do our best to sort them out.

Telephone us on 01305 266861, e-mail us at admin@dorchester-tc.gov.uk or fill in the form in the 'Contacts' section on the Council's website.

## Rifles Homecoming

We were delighted that A Company of 4 Rifles decided to have their Homecoming service and march in Dorchester on 16 June following their return from duty in Afghanistan, and the town did them proud!

A Company is based at Bulford Camp, on Salisbury Plain, and over 150 soldiers attended a service in St Peter's Church along with their families, senior army personnel and local civic dignitaries.

A march through the town followed, with the Salamanca Band setting the blistering pace that light infantry units traditionally march at.

The Parade was cheered and applauded by a huge crowd throughout and the soldiers on parade said afterwards how pleased they were with the reception they received.

The Lord Lieutenant of Dorset, Mrs Valerie Pitt-Rivers and the Mayor



inspected the troops at the bottom of South Street after the Mayor had addressed them. During his speech he said "The return of A Company marks the end of 4 RIFLES' 11 month commitment to operations in Afghanistan. Real progress is being made there, and you have played a significant part in the major security challenge of our time. We are extremely proud of

what you have achieved."

The Lord Lieutenant and the Mayor, accompanied by the Deputy Colonel Commandant of the Rifles, Brigadier Jolyon Jackson, took the salute outside Shire Hall as the parade marched back to the TA Centre for lunch and a relaxed afternoon with their families and friends.



## Annual Report published

The Town Council has recently published its Annual Report for 2009-10.

The report contains information about the work of the Council's various committees and the reports of the chairmen of them on notable achievements during the year including the continued improvement of the open spaces which the Council is responsible for and the continuing increase in bookings of the Corn Exchange buildings.

Susie Hosford, who was Mayor for most of the year, has contributed an overview of the year and there is a summary of the Council's expenditure which also appears in the next column.

We do not intend to circulate copies of the Annual Report to every house - we are not required to by law and we think that *Dorchester News* is a much more worthwhile publication to distribute. If you would like a hard copy of the Annual Report phone us on 01305 266861, e-mail us on [admin@dorchester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@dorchester-tc.gov.uk), call in to the Council Offices at 19 North Square or fill in the on-line form in the 'Contacts' area of our website at [www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk](http://www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk).

You can also download a copy of the report from the 'Downloads' section of the website.

## The Council's Accounts

The Council is required by central government to produce its annual accounts in a prescribed format. The way we are required to present them is not particularly customer-friendly and will be difficult for many people to understand. If you would like to see the draft accounts they can be found at [www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk](http://www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk) or you can get a hard copy from the Council Offices. The final accounts will be published later this year when they have been audited.

This article summarises the Council's Revenue Account for 2009-10 - that is the amount of money we spend each year to do the things that make Dorchester a better place to be. The Accounts show that we spent -

- ◆ £523,716 on maintaining Parks, Open Spaces and Playgrounds
- ◆ £238,995 on running the Corn Exchange and supporting the arts
- ◆ £70,976 on running the Cemeteries
- ◆ £110,745 on Corporate Management and Democratic Representation
- ◆ £523 on Allotments
- ◆ £5,271 on Twinning
- ◆ £10,917 on Planning and Environment
- ◆ £7,699 on grants to local charities, clubs and societies

The Council also spent £286,562 on Administration and Supplies connected with running these services. The new account format requires us to list these separately because they are difficult to apportion to the individual services.

The Accounts also show that we received £64,552 from the surplus generated by the operation of Dorchester Markets which helps to keep the Council Tax down.

## Grown-up play equipment in Borough Gardens

No-one who has visited the Borough Gardens can doubt the popularity of the completely re-wrapped children's play area that was created as part of the refurbishment a few years ago - it always seems to be busy!

The success of it prompted some adults to say that there should be something for them as well, and we installed some adult fitness equipment at Sandringham Sports Centre a couple of years ago.

We were amazed at just how popular it was, so we have installed some similar equipment in the Borough Gardens near to the children's play area and the kiosk. It is already proving to be well used by children and adults alike. You can just dip into it or use it as part of a proper fitness regime - the choice is yours!

Our photographs show members of Dorchester Strollers taking advantage of the new equipment recently.

The Strollers were originally formed under the umbrella of the

Dorchester Area Partnership but are now self-sufficient. They meet on a regular basis to walk to help to keep themselves fit and for the sheer pleasure of it. If you would like to know more about the Strollers contact their Secretary, Susan Blake, on 01305 263759.



## What do you think?

We reported in the last edition of *Dorchester News* that The Gardens Bowling Club had ceased to operate and that we should consult over the Summer on possible alternative uses for the area.

We have given some thought to it and have come up with two possible uses, both of which would incorporate facilities for temporary displays of public art - a bit like the empty plinth in Trafalgar Square.

The first is to lay out a mini-golf course like the one in Langmoor Gardens at Lyme Regis. This would be expensive to create but it would be cheap to maintain and would generate an income, so we should get our money back in time.

The other idea that we have come up with is a modern take on a formal garden which could be viewed from the terrace. This would use drought-resistant plants (because the surface of the bowling green is very sandy after over 100 years of top dressing) and would encourage people to explore it by creating a network of paths.

Whatever happens we shall relay the collapsed sewer under the bowling green in the Autumn and we shall probably convert the pavilion to public toilets.

Please tell us what you think of our ideas or whether you have any better ones of your own. You can contact us by letter, phone, e-mail or via our website.

## The River Frome

The River Walk is one of the nicest parts of Dorchester and regular users will have noticed a number of improvements over the last few years. By the time you read this work should have started on resurfacing the worst areas of the footpath between Hangman's Cottage and Friary Hill.

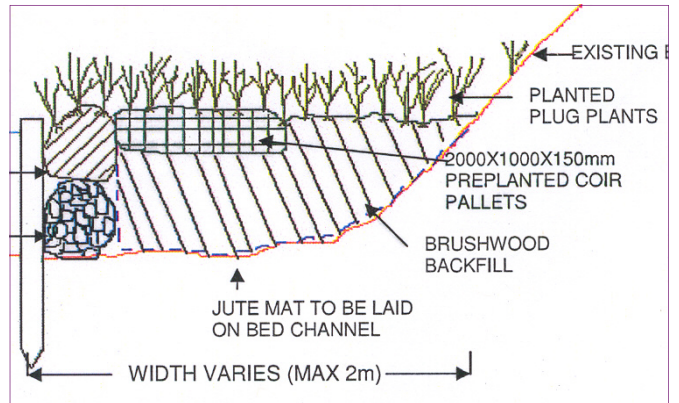
But that is far from the end of the story. Dorset Wildlife Trust have applied for planning permission to carry out a biodiversity enhancement scheme along the Millstream which will create a number of berms in the channel placed at a height just above the usual summer water level which will be planted with indigenous species and will have a positive effect on the environment including increasing the range of habitats available for wildlife. The sketch opposite shows how the berms will be constructed.

And that is not all. Bournemouth University and partners are involved in a unique EU project designed to assist policy makers with integrating local knowledge into environmental decision making. They are carrying out a study focussing on the Frome catchment from Arne in the east to Beaminster in the west. As we all know, the landscape is rich in biodiversity and provides many benefits to local people and visitors, whether it be clean water, food, timber or recreation.

The University has developed an on-line survey which they hope will be completed by as many people as possible from the widest range of interests.

The data will be used to determine which aspects of the environment and the benefits that people get from it are most important to different groups while also encouraging local people to maintain and restore this important landscape.

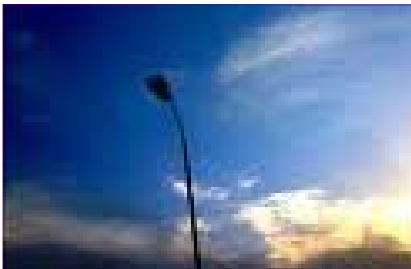
If you would like to contribute to this study please complete the survey on-line at [www.fromesurvey.com](http://www.fromesurvey.com).



## New street lights for Dorchester

Some of you will have seen new street lighting columns appearing in your streets - and if you haven't you soon will.

The work is being carried by Southern Electric Contracting for Dorset County Council as part of a 25-year Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract.



Many of our older lampposts have reached the end of their life and need to be replaced. Older designs throw light in all directions and do

not meet modern standards and the orange light which they put out means that you can't see colours at night.

The new street lights will direct white light onto the roads and pavements which should help to reduce traffic accidents, crime, and the fear of crime making our streets safer for everyone. They will also let less light escape upwards which matters very much to some people because it means that you can't see the night sky very well.

Before work starts in your street you should receive a booklet answering some of the more common questions that people have about the project. If you would like to find out more you can visit [www.lightsonindorset.co.uk](http://www.lightsonindorset.co.uk), e-mail [dorsetpfi@sec.eu.com](mailto:dorsetpfi@sec.eu.com) or telephone 0800 068 4145.

## Grants for students

Students in Dorchester are invited to apply for grants of up to £500 a year from the Ashley, Churchill & Thorner Educational Trust which helps people aged between 16 and 25 who live within five miles of Dorchester or in Crossways.

In the past they have helped with the purchase of books, materials or tools for all sorts of further education courses so that those benefiting can prepare for a trade or profession.

If you want an application form or just more information write to Christine Bussell, the Clerk to the Trustees, at The Clerk's Office, Ashley, Churchill & Thorner Educational Trust, Whetstones, West Walks, Dorchester DT1 1AW or e-mail [act@whetstones.org.uk](mailto:act@whetstones.org.uk).

## School Crossing Patrols

Dorset County Council is trying urgently to recruit a number of relief school crossing patrol wardens to work not only in Dorchester, but potentially in Weymouth and Portland as well.

The County Council has to man 28 sites in the three towns, so they often need relief wardens and there is the opportunity to work as much (or as little) as you want.

Full training and a uniform are provided, but it would make you even more flexible if you had use of a vehicle. If you used it for work they would pay you a mileage allowance.

If you think you can help the County Council out by helping children to get to and from school safely please contact the Road Safety Team on 01305 224558.



# 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

## 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

## 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

## West Ward

David Barrett 41 Holmead Walk DT1 3GE	259269
Anita Harries 9 Brookhouse Street DT1 2GL	261534
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



## Some dates for your diary

- 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.warmfestival.co.uk), call Jack Daniels on 01305 755614 or e-mail [info@warmfestival.co.uk](mailto: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](http://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