

Trenches on the Bowling Green

This Spring we have been undertaking archaeological studies on the old Bowling Green, prior to the building of tennis courts on the site.



Two trenches were excavated, revealing the chalk tops of three large ditches running parallel to West Walks, which sits on the western wall of Roman Durnovaria. The dig also revealed evidence of a prehistoric, possibly Neolithic, ditch, which will be recorded before works on the tennis courts start later this summer.

Meanwhile work continues to introduce new features to

the Gardens. This summer a new carpet bed adjacent to West Walks will feature Dippy the Dinosaur in readiness for his visit in early 2018, while a rock climbing boulder is also planned for later in the year.

The Gardens Clock will be refurbished from September, with a full clean and repair of the clock face and new paintwork. Next to the clock tower and the tennis courts in an area shaded by mature trees, a new fernery has been established.

Become a Friend of the Borough Gardens

The Friends of the Borough Gardens are a group of residents who share a common interest in the history, current management, and future use of the Borough Gardens.

Working with the Town Council they add their voice to decisions on policies and plans relating to the Gardens as well as help with events, organise their own and participate in a variety of initiatives to promote better use and understanding of this most popular recreation space.

The Friends newsletter is produced twice a year and informs readers, members and non-members, of what's going on in the Borough Gardens. Membership of the FBG is a very modest £5 p.a. (phone Lorna Low, 01305 263430, or lornalow5@gmail.com).

Visit our website at www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk

New Home for Dorchester Boxing

The Town Council is working with Dorchester Amateur Boxing Club to convert some redundant changing rooms at the Weymouth Avenue Pavilion to create a small gym. The Club has been operating since 2003 but has never had a home of its own.

The Boxing Club secured £25,000 from planning monies paid by the Duchy of Cornwall for the Poundbury development and are matching this from funds they have raised themselves over the years. Additional funds are being sought from lottery and other sources and the Town Council will provide the building and oversee the construction project. The hall will be kitted out by the Boxing Club with a boxing ring, bags and mats.

The Club provides young people with an opportunity to train for fitness, discipline and personal development and currently operates most evenings at Physiques and Shapes at The Grove. More information about the club can be found at www.dorchesterboxing.co.uk/.

Millstream Nature Reserve refurbished

Works to install a new walkway in the Reserve were completed in the Spring and the Mayor recently celebrated its reopening with the Friends of the Riverside Reserve and some of the key funders.



The Mayor and Mayoress open the refurbished Boardwalk

The largest contribution was £12,000 received from Tesco Bags of Help, the scheme set up to distribute the 5-pences charged for around a quarter-million plastic bags consumed at its store in Dorchester.

Additionally Councillors Trevor Jones and Richard Biggs allocated part of their Dorset County Council Local Ward Members fund, while Dorchester Round Table donated a picnic bench and the Town Council provided the labour.

Dorchester News

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Summer 2017

New Mayor for the town

In May Susie Hosford was elected as Mayor for the second time. First elected to the Council in 2003 she served as Mayor in 2009-10 and also sits on West Dorset District Council.

Susie has lived in Dorset since 1980 and her children grew up and went to school in Dorchester; she will combine the demanding role of Mayor with looking after her grandchildren.

Promoting the town's heritage and culture, building on the plans being implemented at Shire Hall and the County Museum, along with the potential for the Maltings Arts venue, will be a priority, as is the challenge of delivering much needed housing for young people. Responding to the reshaping of local government and the impact it may have on how local services are provided will also be a priority.

Susie looks forward to a busy and exciting year promoting our exceptional Town, spending time meeting local people and finding out about everything that makes Dorchester such a special place.

The two mayoral charities for the year are the local Citizens Advice Bureau and Cavernoma Alliance UK.

If you represent a local group and would like Susie to attend your event please download a mayoral engagement form from our website.

Summer of Events planned for 2017

The Town Council is pleased to support another summer of eclectic entertainment in the Borough Gardens and at Maumbury Rings.

Many events are provided by community partners, taking the opportunity to both raise awareness and funds, providing entertainment at the same time.

The combined monies raised for local charities by last year's Cider Festival, Warm Festival and Swingtime in the Gardens was over £8,500.

Other occasions celebrate different parts of the town's community; the Borough Gardens hosts the annual One World Festival and Armed Forces Day, while August Bank Holiday allows young people to

enjoy Maumbury Rings at the Anonymous Festival and our LGBT residents to have fun in the Love Parade.



Dorchester Arts have scheduled three ticketed open air theatre events at Maumbury Rings over the summer, further details and tickets at www.dorchesterarts.org.uk.

Most events are free to enter, although donations are obviously welcome. Durnovaria Silver Band will play four concerts on the bandstand over the summer, the popular Love Parks event will launch the school holidays, and the Outdoor Cinema has become so popular it has been relocated to the Rings; this year it celebrates 50 years of The Jungle Book and 30 years of Dirty Dancing.

Add in some local bands and a last hurrah on August Bank Holiday Monday and, weather permitting, this summer should be a lot of fun. Dates and times are on page 3 and full details, with any last minute changes, will appear on notice boards in the Borough Gardens.



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Town Council responds to Local Plan Review

In March the Town Council prepared its response to the West Dorset District Local Plan review, which is due for public inspection in 2020.

Faced with a need to identify land for 4,000+ houses and flats across West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland, the District Council has identified possible housing sites to the north, west and south of, as well as in, the town.

Working with a specialist planning advisor, Feria Urbanism, the Town Council consulted key local stakeholders including Dorchester Civic Society, Magna Housing and two neighbouring parishes, to understand how they felt about the Local Plan consultation.

In its response the Town Council asked that the District Council demonstrate clearly that it had fully explored all alternative options before deciding in favour of more development in and adjacent to Dorchester.

Turning to the specific proposals the Town Council highlighted a series of planning and design challenges facing development, particularly north of the water meadows, which would need to be addressed for development to work. These included connecting new developments to the town, the delivery of affordable housing, increased traffic around and into the town and the impacts of growth on the town centre.

The Town Council has requested that, whatever the final proposals are for new housing in and around Dorchester, a town-wide masterplan is put in place, which responds positively to the concerns raised, before any new building starts.

A full copy of the Town Council's response can be found in the "[What's New](#)" section of our website.

Education Grants for Students

The Ashley Churchill and Thorner Educational Trust invites applications for grants towards the costs of books, equipment and other costs associated with degree and further education courses.

To qualify you need to be under 25, live locally, with a household income of less than £30,800 a year. If you meet the criteria apply at actet.org.uk



Mayor Tim congratulates the squad at a lunchtime reception in the Town Hall

Visit our website at www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk

Town Council backs Town Centre Wi-fi

The Town Council has added its backing to an initiative led by Dorchester BID for free public wi-fi in the town centre, offering £5,000 to install the aerials and other infrastructure required to make it happen.

Dorchester BID is working closely with the Superfast Broadband team from Dorset County Council to deliver free public wi-fi from Top o' Town, down into High West and High East Street, along South Street and into Weymouth Avenue. They are also working with the Town Council to explore how to introduce wi-fi into the Borough Gardens as part of the project.

The main funders are Dorset County and West Dorset District Councils, while Dorchester BID has agreed to fund the operation of the scheme once it is operational.

The service will make it easier to provide information about facilities and heritage tourism, including up to the moment news about events, making it easier and more attractive for visitors and residents to spend more time in town. It will also present improved marketing opportunities for local businesses.

Mayor meets Hardye's victorious Rugby Team

As a keen Rugby fan one of Tim Harries most enjoyable days as Mayor was spent at Twickenham watching the Thomas Hardye U15 team win the Nat West Schools Vase final, with a convincing 62-7 win over Doctor Challoner's Grammar School from Buckinghamshire.

Tim was so impressed with the team's performance that he invited them back for lasagne and a chat at the Town Hall, one of his final engagements in a very busy year.

Events July - September 2017

In the Borough Gardens

July

- Saturday 1** Armed Forces Day Civic Service - 1.50pm
- Friday 7** Durnovaria Silver Band - 6.00pm
- Sunday 9** Swingtime in the Gardens - Noon
- Sunday 16** Thomas Hardye School Band - 2.00pm
- Sunday 23** Durnovaria Silver Band - 2.30pm
- Wednesday 26** Love Parks Family Event - 11.00am
- Sunday 30** Warm Festival - 1.00pm

August

- Saturday 5** One World Festival - 11.00am
- Sunday 6** Dalton Town Brass Band - 2.30pm
- Sunday 13** Blue Town Rumble and DJ Hurricane T - 2.00pm
- Saturday 19** Round Table Cider Festival - 3.00pm
- Sunday 20** Weldmar presents Tony Lowe - 2.00pm

September

- Sunday 24** Durnovaria Silver Band - 2.30pm

At Maumbury Rings

July

- Thursday 13** "The Third Policeman" performed by Miracle Theatre - 7.30pm ([ticketed](#))

August

- Saturday 12** Outdoor Cinema presents "Jungle Book" and "Dirty Dancing" - 3.00pm
 - Thursday 24** "As You Like It" performed by The Handlebards - 7.30pm ([ticketed](#))
- End of Summer Festival**

- Saturday 26** Anonymous Festival by Dorset Youth Extra - Noon

- Sunday 27** Love Parade

- Monday 28** Music on Bank Holiday Monday including A Listers, Blackwater County, Diniwe and the Hadedas, Hardy and the Monuments, Outlander and Set Adrift

For events marked ([ticketed](#)) contact Dorchester Arts at 01305 266926 or visit www.dorchesterarts.org.uk

Wyvern, providing Simple Savings and Affordable Loans

Originally set up in the 1990's as First Dorset Credit Union, for the last 3 years Wyvern Savings and Loans has grown to provide financial services across Dorset and Somerset, but is still based in Dorchester.

The Credit Union exists to encourage local people to get into the savings habit and save locally, the money being recirculated as affordable loans to local people who use it for everything from a rent deposit through to emergency white goods replacements. At present there are over 2,500 savers and around 500 borrowers across the county.

If you are looking for a convenient way of saving a little every week, or know someone who would benefit from borrowing from a responsible, caring lender, or if you have skills that the Credit Union might benefit from (they need front desk tellers, loan officers, right through to business directors to keep the Union going) please visit their office at 40 High East Street or take a look at their website www.wyvernsandl.co.uk.

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Cavernoma Alliance UK named as Mayor's Charity

Alongside the well known and highly regarded Dorchester CAB, the other nominated charity for funds raised by Susie Hosford during her Mayoral year is a locally born charity providing a nation-wide service.

The charity was set up by local man Ian Stuart when he realised that there was no available help for the increasing numbers of people affected by the Cavernoma condition.

A cavernoma consists of a series of abnormal blood vessels in the brain which, under certain conditions, causes epileptic seizures, dizziness, slurred speech and other related symptoms.

Susie chose the charity because it demonstrates how one spirited individual can ultimately achieve a big difference in helping and supporting many people.

Based in Dorchester the charity now provides advice and support nationally to sufferers and raises the profile of the condition. See www.cavernoma.org.uk for more details.