



DORCHESTER NEWS

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📘 [dorchester town council](#)

WELCOME FROM THE NEW MAYOR



Dorchester's new Mayor, Cllr Les Fry BEM, has served on the Town Council since 2019. His chosen charities for his Mayoral year will be Prostate Cancer, People First Dorset and Dorchester Youth & Community Centre. Les will be supported by his wife Julie Fry BEM as Mayoress and by Cllr Robin Potter as Deputy Mayor.

At the annual Mayor Making ceremony in May, Les told the audience that he was born, educated and worked in West Dorset, including as the Police Inspector of Dorchester from 2003 until 2012. Les believes that he is perhaps the only person to hold the positions of Police Inspector and Mayor of our great town.

Les has four married sons who were all born and educated in Dorchester, three of whom still live locally. Les is a grandfather and a great grandfather.

He is very active in the town, as a member of Rotary, the Beerex organising Committee, the Hardy Half organising team, and volunteers most weeks at the Saturday Parkrun. Until recently Les was a trustee at Dorchester Youth & Community Centre.

If you have an event that you would like Les & Julie to attend, please download a mayoral engagement form from our website. You can also watch a recording of the Mayor Making ceremony - the link is on the front page of the Council's website.

NEW JAPANESE MAPLE BORDER IN BOROUGH GARDENS

A new Japanese maple border has been created in Borough Gardens between the fountain and West Walks.

Some larger trees in this area provide shade ideal for a range of maples requiring differing light conditions to produce their stunning colourful leaves. The new maples will be under-planted with relocated lower growing plants which will, over time, be removed as the trees grow and replaced with low growing shade tolerant species.

Over 30 maples have been planted, with bright leaf colours such as orange, red, yellow and green which will be very prominent in the autumn.

We're very grateful to the Friends of Borough Gardens and two private individuals who made generous donations towards the cost of the maples to be used in the project.

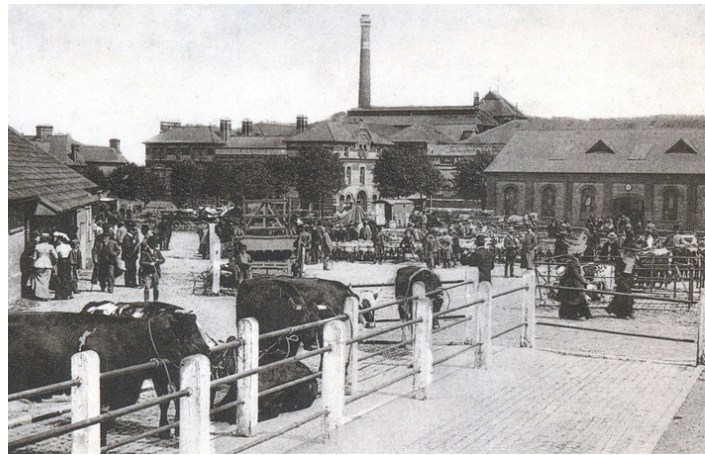


MARKETS HANDOVER DAY

April marked an exciting milestone for Dorchester, as the Town Council took on the running of our beloved markets at Cornhill and Fairfield.

To celebrate, the Mayor of Dorchester, Cllr Andy Canning, accompanied other councillors and officers from both the Town Council and Dorset Council to mark the occasion at the first Wednesday market of the month.

The Mayor was joined by Chair of Dorset Council, Cllr Stella Jones, and chair of the Dorchester Joint Markets Panel, Cllr Molly Rennie.



Fairfield market in full-swing in 1895

If you're interested in having a stall at one of Dorchester's markets you can find more information on our website or contact us at enquiries@dorchester-tc.gov.uk.

Stewards of a long, rich history

Dorchester's markets carry a history that is almost impossible to overstate, with today's traders being part of an unbroken thread stretching back nearly two thousand years.

Our Wednesday market site, Fairfield, has its own proud history as a hub for market traders since the 1850s and much of the character of those early markets lives on in what you'll find there today.

We are proud to be the steward of this rich heritage and are committed to improving the Fairfield site and welcoming traders from across the county and beyond.

DORCHESTER CAR BOOT FUND



Last year the Dorchester Market Car Boot Fund awarded £11,746 in grants to community organisations in the Dorchester area. The funding is generated by pitch fees from the Sunday morning car boot sale at Fairfield Market, and is now managed by Dorchester Town Council.

Successful organisations were invited to a celebration tea at the Town Hall in Dorchester in May to receive certificates handed out by Cllr Molly Rennie (Chair of the Dorchester Car Boot Fund Panel), Cllr Stella Jones (Chair of Dorset Council), and Mayoress of Dorchester, Mel Lane, with the Mayor of Dorchester, Councillor Andy Canning, in attendance.

Sports clubs, youth projects, projects for people with disabilities or long-term health issues, and projects tackling cost of living pressures were among those who benefitted from the funding.

This year's Car Boot Fund will open to applications in September 2026. Visit our website for more details.

A promotional banner for Dorchester Markets. It features a green background with a circular logo on the left and right. In the center, there is text: "DORCHESTER MARKETS" in large white letters, followed by "Wednesday mornings at Fairfield, daily at Cornhill." in yellow. Below that, it says "Find us on Instagram and Facebook at /DorchesterMarkets". There are two QR codes, one for Instagram and one for Facebook. On the left, there is a photo of a man in a blue jacket holding a basket of oranges. On the right, there is a photo of a woman in a red jacket holding a basket of flowers.

A NEW CLERK FOR DORCHESTER

Charmaine Denny has been appointed as the new Town Clerk, taking over from Steve Newman who is retiring after 24 years of service for the Town Council. Charmaine brings a wealth of experience to the role having been Assistant Town Clerk for Weymouth Town Council for the last 4 years and previously working for Bournemouth Borough Council.

Asked about her appointment, Charmaine commented "I am honoured to be appointed as Town Clerk and to have the opportunity to serve the residents of Dorchester. I look forward to working with Councillors, staff and the wider community, building on the strong foundations established by Steve, and helping to ensure Dorchester continues to be a town that people are proud to live in and visit."

The Town Clerk is the Council's 'Proper Officer' and is responsible for strategic management and development, liaison with other authorities and advises the Council on the work of its various committees.



MILESTONE FOR COMMUNITY HOUSING PROJECT



Work is well underway on Roman Corner - the Dorchester Area Community Land Trust's long-awaited development of 15 one-bedroom, social rent flats.

The start of construction was celebrated with a 'breaking ground' ceremony on 13th March hosted by the developers, AJC Construction, and attended by representatives of the Trust and partners including East Boro Housing Trust, Dorset Council and Dorchester Town Council.

Those interested in renting one of the flats can register with Dorset Council at: dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/housing/register-for-housing

DORCHESTER IS A WATERMARK TOWN!



Over the past year, the Town Council has been working together with the community and Wessex Water to help save water, protect the environment, and manage rainwater better in Dorchester. As a result, Dorchester Town Council have been accredited as a Watermark Town by Wessex Water, securing Dorchester's place within a network of concerned and responsible communities working towards a more sustainable future.

As part of the Town Council's Watermark project, Wessex Water provided 90 water butts which were distributed to tenants on our allotment sites across Dorchester. The butts were gratefully received by allotment holders, keen to play their part in water conservation and improve their plots!

We'll keep promoting sustainable practices, honouring our Watermark Town status, and completing water-themed projects. Next year, we'll be working with local schools to take part in an arts and education project that culminates with an interactive trail along the river.

SUMMER EVENTS & FESTIVALS

JULY

Borough Gardens

Thur 23, 11am-3pm - Love Parks Day

The Great Field

Mon 27 - Mad4Animals

AUGUST

Borough Gardens

Sun 2 - Nothe Fort Artillery (Victorian Soldiers)

Sat 8 - One World Festival

Sat 15 - Dorchester Cider Festival

Sat 22 - Palestinian Cultural Festival

Mon 31 - Anonymous Youth Music Festival

The Great Field

Sat 1 - Dorset Food & Art Festival

Thu 13 to Sun 16 - Circus Cortex

Thu 20 - Fri 21 - Inflatable Theme Park

Sun 23, 10am-4pm - Bark in the Park Family Dog Show

Maumbury Rings

Various dates - Outdoor Theatre (see below)

Sun 9 - Vegan Market

Check out the Discover Dorchester website for other upcoming events:
www.discoverdorchester.co.uk

MUSIC IN BOROUGH GARDENS

Performances from 2 pm until 4 pm at the bandstand.

Sat 11th July - Elyot Warburton

Sun 12th July - Tony Lowe

Sun 19th July - Damaris Fowler

Sat 25th - Durnovaria Silver Band

Sun 26th July - Fluke

Sun 2nd August - Tony Lowe

Tue 11th August - Daytime Brass Band

Sun 13th September - Tony Lowe

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED NEW SPEED RESTRICTION

Dorchester Town Council will launch a public consultation in mid-July on a proposed 20 mph speed limit across the town with the aim of making Dorchester a safer place for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.

We're keen to hear from residents, businesses, and visitors - your views matter.

Please keep an eye on our website for updates and details on how to take part in the consultation.



Dorset
Council

DORCHESTER
RESIDENTS SURGERY

Want to know what's happening in your community?
Have a question for your local councillor?
Venue: Dorchester Library
Date: First Saturday of the month
Time: 10am-12pm



DorchesterArts MAUMBURY RINGS OUTDOOR THEATRE

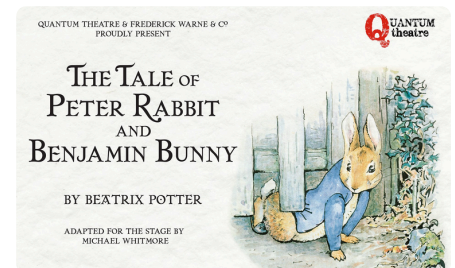
Thursday 30 July, 7pm
The Great Gatsby

Saturday 1 August, 2.30pm
The Sword In The Stone

Friday 14 August, 2.30pm
*The Tale Of Peter Rabbit
& Benjamin Bunny*

Sun 16 August, 6pm
The Pickwick Papers

Visit dorchesterarts.org.uk for more information



COUNCILLOR CONTACTS

Phone and e-mail contact details for Ward councillors for the Town Council and Dorset Council are available on our website.

