



DORCHESTER NEWS

19 NORTH SQUARE, DORSET, DT1 1JF

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Photo Credit Andy Worth - Keep 106

ONE MINUTE SILENCE FOR UKRAINE

On Friday 24 February the Ukrainian Flag was raised at the Corn Exchange to mark the one year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Also, The Mayor, Councillors and members of the public joined the national one minute silence at the War Memorial at 11.00am on that day. Those who attended laid daffodils in memory of those that have died in the conflict.



HANGING BASKETS RETURN TO SOUTH STREET

Dorchester Town Council has agreed to replace the heritage lampposts so we can bring back hanging baskets to South Street! We'll be placing the hanging baskets along South Street as well as looking at making some changes to the Town Pump area. This fantastic development is part of a larger plan to revitalise this area by opening it up to create some communal space around the pump and improving seating by adding more heritage benches. We'll also be investigating options for repaving and replanting the area to bring back some of its colour!



DORCHESTER WALKING FESTIVAL EVENTS NOW LIVE FOR BOOKING!

Dorchester will be hosting its first walking festival, during national walking month. The event will run from 13th to 21st May 2023 with an exciting schedule of over 40 walks and activities to be enjoyed.

It will start in Borough Gardens at 5am with the family-friendly Dawn Chorus to identify local birds and for the grand finale, will finish with a rousing "Beat the Bounds" around the old town walks with the town crier, making some noise, and enjoying pop-up surprises along the way.

Almost half of the walks are free. You can join in with friends, enjoy a stroll with family, and connect with new people outdoors. There are also great opportunities to find out more about the town and its fascinating past, including an Imaginary walk around 17th century Dorchester at Dorset Museum. There really is something for everyone – all ages and fitness levels.

Headline sponsors for the festival are Dorchester Town Council and Kingston Maurward College. The whole walking itinerary can be viewed at **discoverdorchester.co.uk/dorchester-walking-festival**

TOWN EVENTS THIS SPRING!

Your Easter Messy Church
1st April – 3.30pm-5.30pm
Dorchester Baptist Church, FREE

The Great Museums Easter Trail
Sat 1st April – 3pm-7pm
Shire Hall Museum, Keep Military Museum, Dorset
Museum
Adult £10, Kids go FREE, Book Online

Holiday Hangout
Tues 4th April – 11am-4pm
The Great Field, FREE, Book Online via Eventbrite
BBQ available £3.50, children with HAF passcode
receive FREE lunch

Spinning the Moon – Dorchester Community Plays
Association
Tues 4th to 15th April – 7.30pm
Sat 8th April – 2.30pm (Matinee)
www.dorchesterarts.org.uk, £16/£12.50/£10/£44,
Book Online

Easter Egg Hunt
Mon 4th April to 14th April – 10am-4pm
Brewery Square, Collect form from Concierge Office,
return for FREE prize

Easter Market
Sat 8th April – 10.30am-2.30pm
Crown Square, Poundbury

Easter Egg Hunt
Sat 8th April – 11.30am-1.30pm
Boos Toy Shop, FREE

The Tiger Who Came to Tea
Thurs 16th March to 20th May
Shire Hall Museum, Included in museum entry

The “Keep-sakes” Art Competition
Sat 1st to 16th April
Keep Military Museum, Included in museum entry

Egg Rolling on the Great Field
10th April – 12pm
Great Field, Poundbury, FREE

FREE egg decorating sessions for Egg Rolling Event
Crown Square Easter Market, 8th April
PIP Café, 10th April – 11am-12pm

Coronation Beacon Lighting
6th May - 5pm - 8pm
Salisbury Field

The Lions SummerFest
7th May - 11am
The Great Field

TOTALLY TUBULAR!

The Town Council recently managed the removal of two large conker trees outside Coffee#1 in the town centre.



Works were carried out after a climbing survey revealed decay. As works were carried out the decay proved to be more extensive than anticipated. Some sound sections of wood have been retained to be made into informal benches for the town's open spaces and wood chip has been used on the fernery in Borough Gardens. New trees will be planted soon and shrub planting will take place in the autumn.

RETHINK FASHION DORCHESTER!



Photo Credit Jacqui Heal

Look out for a great new event this year taking place between 22-29 April in various locations in town!

ReThink Fashion Dorchester aims to promote sustainable fashion and highlight issues around the fast fashion industry. There will be workshops, where you can learn mending and upcycling skills, a SwopShop, where you will be able to bring your 'old' clothes and swop them for free for exciting new outfits, and a Fashion Show at the Dorset Museum on the 27 April, showcasing some amazing 'slow fashion' and upcycled creations! We will also be looking for people to enter their own handmade/upcycled/second hand clothes for display on the catwalk! For more information including how to get involved, check out the ReThink Fashion Dorchester Facebook page, or email Emma at: e.scott@dorchester-tc.gov.uk
SWOP = share with other people!

TRANSITION TOWN DORCHESTER – FEBRUARY 2023



Transition Town Dorchester (TTD) was started in 2008 in response to concerns about climate change and fossil fuel use in particular. For most of our history we have run the Railway Orchard, and also the Community Farm and Orchard to the south of Poundbury, where we have a large polytunnel, outdoor raised beds, wildlife ponds, geese and hens, and beehives. We have planted almost 1.5km of hedgerows in the area, involving local people. TTD has also taken part in many town events concerned with environmental and community issues.

We believe in building community, then creating resilience in this community by learning new skills, sharing knowledge, working together, and making wise use of precious resources. Anyone is welcome to join us, whether to take advantage of a large area for gardening and fresh air, to learn new skills (e.g. gardening, poultry management, beekeeping, scything), to enjoy being part of a community, to be part of a group striving for a greener way of living. We wholeheartedly support what Rob Hopkins, the founder of the Transition Towns movement, says: 'When there are thousands of communities worldwide all weaving their bit in a larger tapestry, it adds up to something strong.'

If you are interested in joining us, have a look at our website www.transitiontowndorchester.org or contact us at info@transitiontowndorchester.org

THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN 2023!

The Great British Spring Clean returns to Dorchester from 17th March to 2nd April. Volunteers are encouraged to join our community litter picks to help take care of our beautiful town. Head down to the Borough Gardens on 23rd March and/or 31st March at 10am to take part in our two hour litter pick! We will be meeting at the Bandstand – all equipment will be provided.



To guarantee a spot please contact Connie Hollings (conniehollings@dorchester-tc.gov.uk). If you would like to organise your own individual or group pick, do get in touch, we have lots of equipment we can loan to you.

KING CHARLES III CORONATION

Join us on Saturday 6th May to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. The evening festivities begin at 5pm on Salisbury Field with music and fun for the family. This will be concluded by a lighting of the beacon at 8pm. Then, on Sunday the 7th May, head to The Great Field in Poundbury for the Dorchester Lions Fun Day SummerFest to carry on the celebrations.



DORCHESTER'S 7TH COMMUNITY PLAY - 4 - 15 APRIL 2023

Spinning the Moon is a compelling story set in Dorchester in the turbulent years that followed the Wars of the Roses, when society changed, and rural communities looked to an uncertain future.

Fusing historical fact and fiction, drama, and comedy, it is a dynamic piece of theatre; a tale of the community performed by the community and presented to the community.

With a cast of 90+ together with a group of talented musicians, Spinning the Moon is the latest in a record breaking seven community plays performed over the past 30 years. Many will remember the last DCPA community play 'Drummer Hodge' which sold out during its run, so you are advised to book early!



Tickets available from www.dorchesterarts.org.uk - Telephone 01305 266926
£16, £10 age 16 and under, £44 family ticket (four people maximum 2 adults)
Additional concessions –

Tuesday 4, Wednesday 5, Monday 10, Tuesday 11 only – £12.50 over 65s, students 17+ and unwaged.
This is a standing event, a limited number of seats can be arranged, please call the Box Office to discuss.

Thank you to all our sponsors, especially our principal community sponsor Nantes.

DORCHESTER ACCESS GROUP (DAG)

DAG is a small local group, facilitated by the Town Council, which meets quarterly to help improve the standard of access relating to the built environment including road schemes, and public and commercial buildings, within the town of Dorchester. They act as a consultative group and can bring projects, like the installation of dropped kerbs, forward.



Would you like to have your say? We are looking for more members, particularly if you have additional needs, to join us and help make sure your voice is represented. For more information, please contact Emma at: e.scott@dorchester-tc.gov.uk

TOWN'S PART OF COUNCIL TAX TO RISE 2%

The Town Council's share of the council tax will rise by a below inflationary 2% in April, with a Band D charge increasing by £4.04 to £206.21 a year, raising £1.68 million from the DT1 taxpayers.

Councillors considered a number of issues when setting the budget for 2023/24, including:

- A new annual budget for tree works in the town
- An increase in the grants budget to reflect higher demand with the current cost of living crisis

The full budget can be viewed on our website: <https://www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk/>

COUNCILLOR CONTACTS

Phone and e-mail contact details for Ward councillors for the Town Council and the Dorset Council are available on our website, www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk

