



DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

Council Offices, 19 North Square, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1JF
Telephone: (01305) 266861

Steve Newman, Town Clerk

11 April 2023

You are invited to a meeting of the **DORCHESTER HERITAGE JOINT COMMITTEE** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, HIGH EAST STREET, DORCHESTER DT1 1HF** on **TUESDAY 18 APRIL 2023** commencing at **7.00pm**.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve Newman'.

Town Clerk and Secretary to the Committee

Declaration of Interests

Members are reminded that it is their responsibility to disclose interests where appropriate. A Member who declares any interest must leave the room. A Member who declares a registerable interest as a Council nominee to a partner organisation may first address the meeting as a member of the public.

Membership

Dorset Council: R. Biggs, A. Canning, L. Fry, S. Jones and R. Tarr

Dorchester Town Council: S. Biles, A. Chisholm, F. Hogwood, G. Jones and D. Taylor

The following Members may attend and speak but not vote:

Mr B Murphy (Duchy of Cornwall), I. Gosling (Dorchester Civic Society), Vacancy (Dorchester Chamber for Business), M. Woodgate (Dorchester Heritage Magazine), E. Metcalfe (The Keep Military Museum), L. Poulsen (Dorchester Local Nature Reserve), E Selby (Dorset Museum), J Wallis (Blue Badge Tourist Guides) M Rice (Dorchester Association), Maria Gayton or S. Johnson (Dorset History Centre), R. Raine (National Trust (for Max Gate and Hardy's Cottage)), T. Little (Shire Hall), A. Worth (Keep 106 Community Radio), M. Chutter (Thomas Hardy Society).

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. **MINUTES**

To read, confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 17 January 2023 (copy enclosed).

3. **THE DORCHESTER ROMAN BATHS**

To receive a presentation from Steve Wallis, Senior Archaeologist, Dorset Council.

4. **HARNHAM WATER MEADOWS**

The representative from the Civic Society to report on a recent trip to Harnham Water Meadows.

5. **INFORMATION BOARD AT POUNDBURY**

The information board has been revised as per the comments made at the last committee meeting. The revised board is attached for information. Discussion is ongoing with the Duchy of Cornwall regarding the board location.

6. **HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY**

To consider the following matters:-

- (a) To receive an update on the work of the Tourism Partnership.
- (b) Dorchester Tourism Partnership – Notes of meeting (enclosed). The Tourism Development Officer's presentation can be found at <https://discoverdorchester.co.uk/business-resources/>

7. **MILL STREAM PATH - SECTION FROM LONDON ROAD TO MILL STREET**

To give consideration to the proposed Mill Stream Path Information Boards – draft boards attached.

8. **ROMAN MOSAIC PROJECT – THE WALKS**

To receive an oral report from the Working Group established to consider this project.

9. **THOMAS HARDY VICTORIAN FAIR- SUNDAY 4 JUNE 2023**

The Chairman to update the Committee in respect of the 2023 Thomas Hardy Victorian Fair (a road closure for this event and Heritage Open Day has been submitted).

10. **HERITAGE OPEN DAY – 10 SEPTEMBER 2023**

To give consideration to the format of the 2023 Dorchester Heritage Open Day. A request for a road closure for this event has been submitted to Dorset Council.

11. **QUESTIONS**

To receive questions submitted by Members in writing to the Dorchester Town Clerk and in respect of which the appropriate notice has been given.

12. **URGENT ITEMS**

To consider any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent.

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE

17 JANUARY 2023

At a Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 17 January 2023:

PRESENT:

Dorchester Town Council

Councillors: S. Biles
A. Chisholm
F. Hogwood
G. Jones (Chairman)

Officers: S. Newman
M. Manley
N. Hayes

Dorset Council

Councillors: R. Biggs
A. Canning
S. Jones

Dorchester Association
Dorchester Civic Society
Dorchester Heritage Magazine
The Keep Military Museum
Dorset Museum
Blue Badge Tourist Guide
Thomas Hardy Society
Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum

M. Rice
I. Gosling
M. Woodgate
F. Scott
E. Selby
J. Wallis
M. Chutter
T. Little

22. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Taylor (Dorchester Town Council), R. White (National Trust), A. Worth (Keep 106) and L. Poulson (Dorchester Local Nature Reserve).

23. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2022, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

24. **INFORMATION BOARD AT POUNDBURY**

A member of the public presented a proposal asking for support for a new information board 'Poundbury Romano-British Farmstead', located in Crown Square, Poundbury. No financial support was required as it would be fully funded by the proposer. Members

suggested the board should contain a QR code to link to other information boards in Dorchester. The representative from the Dorset Museum offered to fact check the text. The Committee asked that the Clerk establish where the finds from the original archaeological investigation were now held.

The Committee thanked the resident for undertaking this most useful project.

RESOLVED

That the Committee give their support to the information board and the Clerk approaches the Duchy of Cornwall.

25. **HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY**

(a) Tourism Partnership - Update

The Committee received a progress report from the Tourism Development Officer on:

- BrewDorch Festival, taking place in February to include walking tours and a pub race.
- Walking Festival, taking place in May.
- The 2022 Christmas Campaign had been a social media success, promoting local businesses.
- Autumn Campaign, promoting a weekend in Dorchester in the Autumn, reporters from the Evening Standard recently came down for a weekend.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

(b) Tourism Spending

The Committee was asked to consider proposals for:

- Discover Dorchester website changes arising from annual review, £2,000.
- TIP equipment, to setup a Super TIP at the Shire Hall where staff would be trained and a tablet provided for when staff were busy, £5,000.
- Home of Hillforts and Henges, the return of the festival in July 2023, £3,000 subject to procurement.
- Museums After Dark, following a very successful Museums After Dark in October this will be repeated on the 1 April 2023 and again in Autumn 2023, £500 for each, £1,000 in total.

RESOLVED

That the proposed spending is approved.

(c) Volunteer Blog Writers

The Tourism Development Officer asked for volunteers to write guest blogs for the Discover Dorchester website on Dorchester's heritage

RESOLVED

That those wishing to write a blog contact the Tourism Development Officer.

(d) Dorchester Tourism Partnership – Notes of Meeting

The Committee received the notes of the Tourism Partnership meeting held on 16 January 2023.

RESOLVED

That the notes of the Tourism Partnership meeting held on 16 January 2023 be received.

26. **MILL STREAM PATH – SECTION FROM LONDON ROAD TO MILL STREET**

The Committee received an update from Mark Chutter and Miranda Woodgate on the information boards, one draft board was shown to Members and the other three drafts had been sent to the design agency. It was hoped that all drafts would be ready for the next Committee meeting to get the final approval. It was suggested that the boards have QR codes linking them to a website with further information.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

27. **ROMAN MOSAIC PROJECT – THE WALKS**

The Committee heard an update from the Tourism Development Officer. Following a meeting of the Working Group on 16 January 2023, a celebration of Durnovaria Dorchester was being planned to link different areas of Roman Dorchester together.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

28. **MOULE BLUE PLAQUE**

The Committee was shown an updated Moule blue plaque, made with a different material and revised wording.

RESOLVED

That the Committee welcomed the new blue plaque, the Clerk to arrange the installation.

29. **THOMAS HARDY VICTORIAN FAIR**

The Chairman updated the Committee on the 2023 Thomas Hardy Victorian Fair, the first meeting to take place in coming weeks. It was noted that a road closure for the event had been submitted.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted,

30. **MEETING DATES**

Members considered dates for future meetings.

RESOLVED

That the 2023-2024 Committee meeting dates be as follows:-

- Tuesday 18 April 2023 (already agreed)
- Tuesday 25 July 2023
- Tuesday 17 October 2023
- Tuesday 23 January 2024
- Tuesday 16 April 2024

31. **QUESTIONS**

No questions received.

32. **URGENT ITEMS**

The Thomas Hardy Society was in discussions with Camden Council over the future of the Hardy Tree following its recent collapse.

A question was asked when the water meadows information board would be returned following vandalism. The Clerk reported the board was ready but waiting for the stand to be replaced.

Chairman.....

Poundbury's Roman Era Farm

When Britain was part of the Roman empire from about 1600 to 2000 years ago, the ground on which you are standing was farmed by the descendants of the ancient tribe known as the Durotriges.

They grew wheat, barley, and cabbages. They didn't have any potatoes, tomatoes, or sugar back then.

Their diet included soft, sticky gruel or porridge. Some of them had tooth decay because they didn't clean their teeth often enough.

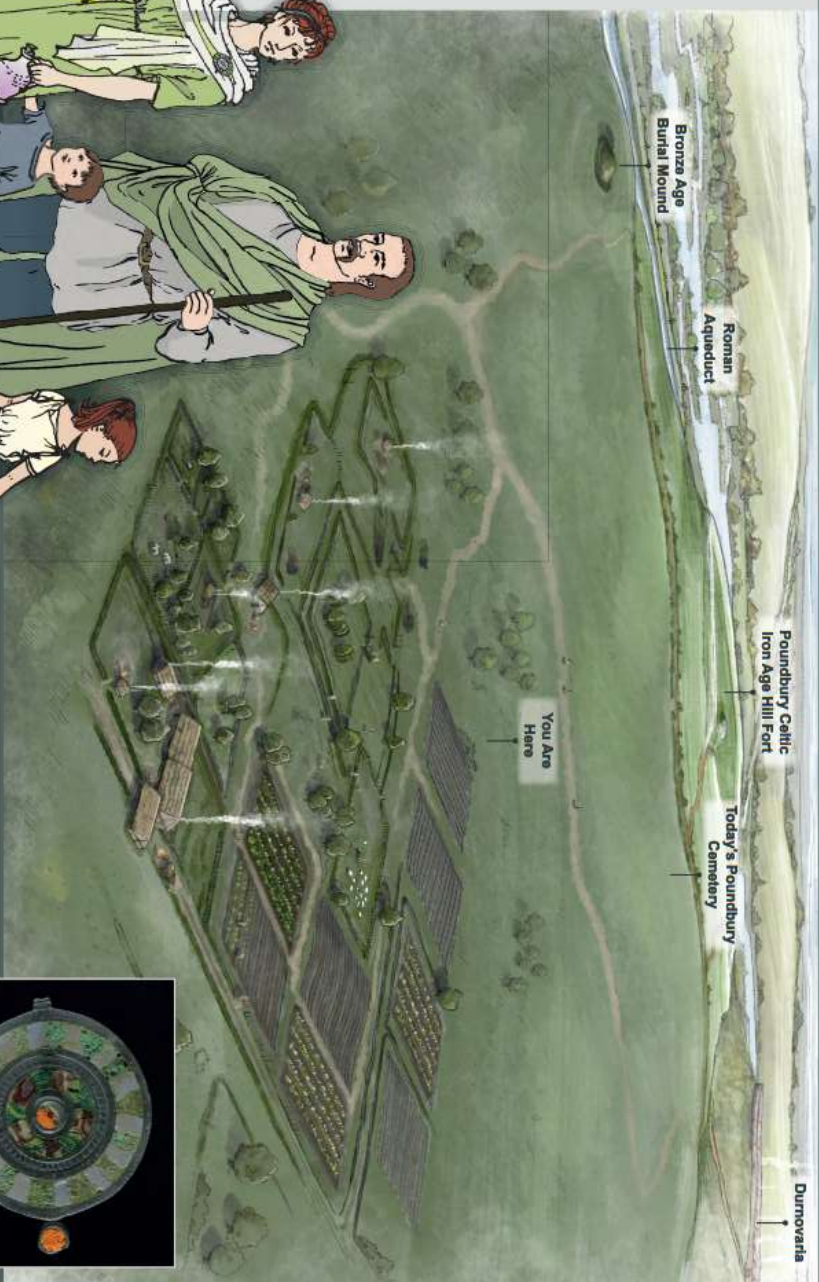
At Poundbury Farm, they raised lots of sheep, all of which had horns, as well as cows, but hardly any pigs. They also raised chickens. They had small horses the size of modern ponies.

Besides what they grew on their farm, they also ate wild radishes, vetch (sort of like peas), hazel nuts, limpets, cockles, and oysters.

To sell what they produced, they travelled to nearby Durnovaria, today's Dorchester.

They wore hobnailed shoes. Sometimes they lost coins and jewellery such as the brooch which the woman in the picture is wearing. Archaeologists found that brooch in what is now Victoria Court.

Most of their houses were near Peninsula Way and just this side of Pavilion Green. Their houses were largely made of wood, with thatched roofs. Hardly any of their windows had glass, and their houses didn't have fancy mosaic floors like you can see in the Roman town house behind County Hall in Dorchester.



Discover Dorchester....



A 2nd or 3rd Century enamelled silver disc brooch inlaid with blue stones and glass was found during the excavation.

Joint Heritage Committee Update from Dorchester Tourism Partnership

At the last Heritage Committee meeting, spend was approved from the heritage tourism pot for the following:

- Equipment for the new Tourist Information Point
- Hillforts and Henges Festival 2023
- Joint Museums Easter Event

An update on these projects and spending can be found below:

- Equipment for the new Tourist Information Point at Shire Hall Museum. This equipment has kindly been paid for by Dorchester BID instead so this funding is no longer needed. The equipment has been bought and is ready to be installed ASAP.
- Hillforts and Henges Festival 2023 (up to £3000) - subject to tender process. The tender was issued and a tender review group set up with representatives from Shire Hall Museum, Keep 106 FM and the Joint Heritage Committee Chair. None of the submitted tenders met the tendering criteria therefore no one was appointed. Following this Miranda Woodgate offered to again coordinate Hillforts and Henges in 2023. The tender review group was split on whether the event should still go ahead in 2023 as it did not give a lot of organisation time. The Town Clerk felt that as the event had been agreed by the Committee and to build on the success of the first event, it would be beneficial for it to go ahead, and a tender submitted by Miranda Woodgate was approved following assurances that there was sufficient time available to organise a quality event.
- Joint Museums Easter Event (£500 contribution from the heritage tourism pot). The numbers attending this event were not as high as they were at the Halloween event but still lots through the doors. An event wash up is happening and we will have a fuller report for the next Heritage Committee meeting.

At the recent Tourism Partnership meeting (held on 04.04.2023), partners discussed two new possible projects that could be submitted for funding from the heritage tourism pot in the future at some point. These were a “park and slide” on High West/High East Streets and a small grants pot for tourism events and experiences. It was agreed that the Tourism Development Officer would investigate both further and bring these findings to the next Tourism Partnership and Heritage Committee Meetings for discussion.

Matilda Manley
Tourism Development Officer

Dorchester Tourism Partnership

Meeting Notes

05.04.2023

Dorset Museum

Attending: 15 Apologies: 11

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Tamsin Little, Shire Hall Museum welcomed all to the meeting.
- There were quite a few apologies for the meeting as it took place during the Easter Holidays

2. Update from Tourism Development Officer

Matilda gave a presentation update on recent work in the tourism partnership (presentation slides attached).

3. Visit Dorset – Update and information

Visit Dorset shared information on how to add information and events to their website, the latest Visit England Sentiment Tracker information and their latest tourism marketing stats (also in the attached presentation slides).

4. Measuring the success and impact of events/overall visitor information

Matilda shared the difficulty encountered in measuring the success of the BrewDorch with online feedback forms from participants.

Explained two proposed ways of measuring success of events in future:

1. Big board with stickers – as was used successfully for the Dorchester Science Festival
2. Google form with a couple of quick questions to all places and businesses on Discover Dorchester website (unsubscribe option) to gauge what economic impact the event has on the town.

Partnership members liked the idea of these and would use them.

The group discussed measuring general feedback from visitors and agreed to create a visitor feedback postcard to place in attractions, pubs, TIP, accommodation etc. with a post box.

Action: Matilda to create postcard, big event feedback board

Action: Matilda and Flora to create feedback google form for places on Discover Dorchester website.

5. New potential projects and campaigns

The group discussed the potential to run a “Park and Slide” on High West/High East Streets as was held in Bristol in 2014 by Luke Jerram (https://www.lukejerram.com/urban_slide/ . 96,573 people signed up for their chance to get a ‘ticket to slide’ and through a ballot for the Bristol event and 65,000 people came to watch the one-day event. Comments on holding a Park and Slide in Dorchester were overall positive. Some partners noted that they would like to know how much spend the event generated because 65,000 people is good but did they visit the shops, visit other attractions or eat in the cafes? Kingston Maurward have held a similar event at the College and said it was great and would recommend holding one. A

heritage link with Roman aqueduct or water meadows was suggested and a different view of the High Street with the highest percentage of listed buildings in the Country. Partners agreed that Matilda should investigate it further and feedback.

Katy Jones from Tom Browns and Vibes shared her early ideas for A Dorchester Fringe Festival this Summer. Members liked the sound of it and a few were keen to get involved and provide venues.

Partners discussed the idea of having a small grant for events and experiences. The idea being that this would be for events and experiences that would attract visitors to Dorchester. They could be for not for profit or profit making (with an expectation to pay back the grant if profit making). There was mixed feeling from partners on the idea of this. Partners felt that this could be a great way of getting more events and experiences for young people, it could be a great kickstarter for some businesses and could be a great help to those community members who want to volunteer to do great things for the town but need a bit of help. Some partners were concerned about the time it would take to manage and administer a grant like this and how you would manage quality of events and experiences and reputational risk. All agreed that Matilda should investigate further and feedback.

Action: Matilda to investigate the Park and Slide further and report back

Action: Matilda to share Katy Jones email for anyone who wants to get involved in the Dorchester Fringe Festival

Action: Matilda to investigate the small grants pot further and report back

6. Update from partners

- **Silverlake** – Will be opening Knighton Reserve soon which has been named the South of England’s Best Heathland. This will be open to the public all year round and will have picnic spots and lookout points. There will be a coracle safari round the reserve to launch the event.
- **Tom Browns** – Had a quiet March, but a good February due to BrewDorch and Beerex. Will be hosting the Duck Race and Fun Day in May.
- **Vibes** – Hosted a “Pots and Plants” event, which sold out straight away. Planning more events at Vibes and some evening things too
- **Great Escape and Podcast/Workspace** – Jan 2023 was the third best month at Great Escape since opening. The new room “The Barber of Pope Street” which was created in conjunction with Seventh Seal has been popular and they will be creating a new room to be opened in June. The New Café/Podcast/workspace venture in Brewery Square will be opening mid-May.
- **Dorchester Civic Society** – Their programme of talks ends 04.04.2023 – all can be found on YouTube. They are currently building their programme of talks for 2024 and also fundraising for a project to restore and celebrate the water meadows.
- **Joy Wallis** – Guided walks are starting to come in and getting booked up. Mentioned the Dorchester Community Play to which has now opened.
- **Miranda Woodgate** – Spring Heritage Magazine being launched soon. There are now over 50 guided walks in the Walking Festival. Chamber of Commerce Business Directory is now live. Also organising Thomas Hardy Victorian Fair and Home of the Hillforts and Henges.

- **BID** – Coronation flags and hanging baskets are going up soon. Also have paid for the TIP equipment going into Shire Hall Museum. Re ballot in June.
- **Dorset Museum** – Handed over museum to Weymouth College for the day and were very inspired by what they did and the energy in the Museum that day. Currently have Louise Bourgeois exhibition. Wedding season beginning and looking to have wedding ceremonies in Roman Town House soon too. Roman Town House tours starting soon.
- **Dorset Council** – Town House annual clean happening soon and some pavement resurfacing. Presenting to Heritage Committee about Dorchester Roman Baths.
- **Kingston Maurward College** – Wedding season beginning. New University and Business Centre opening.
- **Keep Military Museum** – Visitor numbers up hugely on last year. Armed Forces Day in June. Exhibition paused due to flooding. Young Historians launching podcast.
- **Shire Hall Museum** – Tiger that Came to Tea Exhibition on currently. Jail and Bail fundraising events. Dorset Youth Pride event in June.

7. Date of next meeting Tuesday 11th July - 2 - 4 pm - Kingston Maurward College

The Old Malthouse

The Old Malthouse was first owned by Elias Galpin, brewer, from around 1785 until his death in 1846. The premises passed to his youngest son Robert, maltster and retailer of beer, who in 1851 employed two men. Elias lived through the Napoleonic Wars and the trials of the Tolpuddle Martyrs. Many public buildings were constructed in Dorchester at this time - Shire Hall, a new prison, the barracks and the Georgian frontages on houses still standing in High East and High West Street. Dorchester ale was at its peak during their lifetimes, gaining world renown.

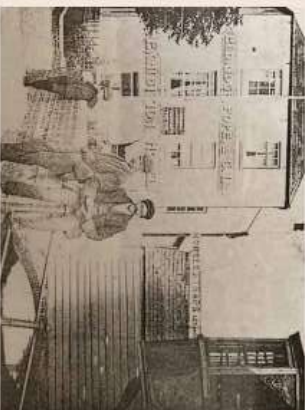
On his death in 1859, Robert bestowed the property and most of his belongings to Caroline Brooks, his live-in housekeeper. By 1861, she was known as Caroline Galpin, widow, beer house keeper, residing at Durrigate Street.

Until the 20th century, most towns and villages had a malthouse to convert cereal grain into malt to be used in brewing beer, whisky and various foods.

Part of the property became "Noah's Ark Inn" in 1860 and it remained a public house until it closed in 1972. The building has now been converted into flats.

Sewage Gas Outlet Pipe

The iron pipe on the right of the building provided a way for gases from decomposing sewage to escape to avoid an explosion. It was part of the Victorian sewage system which ran beneath the streets of Fordington and Dorchester.



The Exhibition Hotel on High East Street. The river is just visible in the bottom right corner.



The Mill Stream path c.1920s.



East Dorchester 1774
Engraving of East Dorchester and Fordington taken from the water meadows.

Welcome to Lower Fordington

Start your journey along the Mill Stream as experienced by the Galpins, a local family spanning many generations, and envision Fordington in those days.

Find Galpin Family graves in St George's churchyard and Weymouth Avenue cemetery.



Top: Side view of the Old Malthouse with sewage gas outlet pipe.
Above: The rear of the property became Noah's Ark Inn, situated at the bottom of High Street Fordington.



DORCHESTER
HERITAGE
COMMITTEE

Dorset
Museum

DORSET
MUSEUM CENTRE

The Foundry

The industrial revolution brought about new manufacturing processes, the mechanisation of agriculture and the railways. The traditional blacksmith's forge was superseded, iron and coal became the backbone of industry.

John Galpin, ironmonger, established The Dorchester Ironworks around 1837 to make farming tools and ironwork for the hatches used in Dorchester's water meadows. By 1861, he was a successful businessman, Justice of the Peace, Alderman and Mayor of Dorchester.

During John's lifetime, Dorchester became a busy hub for coaches and had two railway stations. He would have seen the introduction of gas lighting, public sewerage, the hospital, the barracks and exciting renovations to buildings such as St

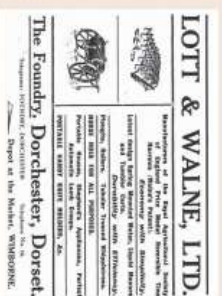
Peter's Church, Dorset Museum and the Corn Exchange, with the clocktower he commissioned, known as "Galpin's Folly" as everyone expected the slender pillar to fall down.

In 1871, the business became Crocker, Fenner & Co, then Foster Lotte & Company in 1891. In 1901, John Walne, a mechanical engineer, joined to create Lott & Walne. The business expanded to supply everything from manhole and drain covers to ploughs, shepherd huts on wheels, pumps on wells and horseshoes.

Lott and Walne ceased casting in 1967 as the business could not compete with larger companies and finally closed in 1988. The building now contains flats, but the loading doors and original hoist can still be seen at the front of the building.



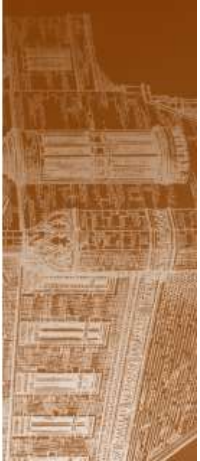
Sketch of Dorchester Corn Exchange by Benjamin Ferry, Architect (Image courtesy of Dorset History Centre, Ref: D DPA 1 DOR 403).



Advert in Kelly's Directory of Dorsetshire (1915).



The front of the building in Fordington High Street showing the loading doors and original hoist. The building has now been converted to flats.



Fordington Roman Mosaic

In 1903, workers discovered a beautiful 2nd century Roman mosaic whilst digging to lay gas pipelines in the yard. The fine decorative mosaic includes a semicircular area featuring the sea god Neptune, two dolphins and red finned fish, was repositioned to Dorset Museum with the help of Thomas Hardy in December 1927. The mosaic is now on display at Dorset Museum.



Fordington Roman pavement drawing by Mrs Kathleen Falkner (nee Wilder) Dorset Museum ©1918.



Workers outside the Lott & Walne factory in the early 20th century. By the 1860s the factory employed over 40 workers. The works hall called the men to work at 8am, announced the lunch break at 12:30pm, and signalled the end of the working day at 5pm. After the factory closed, the iconic bell was rescued and hung for many years above the premises of Hilscock AG Ltd, an agricultural engineering company in Puddletown. (Photo courtesy of Dorset History Centre Ref: DDPFC/DO/242)



DORCHESTER HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Dorset Museum

DORSET HISTORY CENTRE

Mill Street

Mill Street was overcrowded and suffered from severe poverty alongside frequent outbreaks of smallpox, typhus, scarlet fever and cholera. By 1854, there were over 1,000 living in two or three small streets. A tragic cholera epidemic that year was inflamed by Fordington washerwomen handling linen from infected convicts. Rev Henry Moule became a hero after working tirelessly to burn the clothes and bedding of the dead, relieving the suffering of the poor and campaigning for better living conditions.

Mixen Lane

Mill Street was Thomas Hardy's "Mixen Lane", described in The Mayor of Gasterbridge as "the Adullam of all the surrounding villages. The lane and its surrounding thicket of thatched cottages stretched out like a spit into the moist and misty lowland."

"Under every householder's stairway, there was kept a mysterious plank nine inches wide, a secret bridge." It allowed poachers or others a safe passage into the village.

The Mill Street Mission

In 1905, aged just 19, Alfred Harman Edwards started the mission to "cater for the spiritual and material needs of the poor". The motto of the mission "Deeds not words" was later changed to "OTHERS". The mission provided a basic community centre for jobless men, mothers with young families and the elderly. It became popular and by 1930 had been rebuilt with hot baths, a laundry, a classroom, and a hall for evangelical gatherings.

Edwards' newsletter "Musings by the Mill Stream" was enjoyed by the community for 20 years. The mission was demolished in 1958, but salvaged windows can be seen at Fordington Mill and Mill Cottage.



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Dorset
Museum

DORSET
MUSEUM CENTRE



The "Tide Hut" at 37 Mill Street, 57 Mill Street, circa 1905, when it became the Mill Street Mission

Mill Street Housing Society

Thousands of men living in squalid conditions were rejected as unfit to fight in WW1. After the war, the Government set up the "Homes Fit for Heroes" scheme for housing societies to raise funds to build homes.

Mill Street Housing Society was founded by A.H. Edwards in 1932, the sixth in the country. Its aim to build housing at the lowest possible rents and improve existing properties. Thomas Hardy's widow, Florence, became Chairman and fundraising started by selling bricks for sixpence each, with bigger ones at a shilling.

Visit the website
millstreethousingsociety.co.uk



The scout key to the mission



Mill Street circa 1900s



Christmas 1953
Faith Irene Damon (1924-2017), known as Dolly, (pictured centre) was born in Pound Lane and all her family lived in Mill Street. She said, "The mission was my life and Mr Edwards was our saviour - he truly lived by the motto of 'OTHERS'"



The mission window was removed to Fordington Mill

Fordington Mill

Fordington was recorded in the Domesday Book as a Royal Manor and became part of the Dudy of Cornwall estate in 1337. The village and open field system surrounding Dorchester's town walls joined Dorchester Borough in 1835.

Fordington Mill was recorded as a corn mill in 1086 and granted to Bindon Abbey by King John by 1211. A tucking mill was added in 1340 and it was rebuilt by William and John Churchill in 1590 and 1607. An effigy over one of the windows consists of a figure holding a shield, on which is inscribed, "DO WEL to AL MEN" and a panel with the initials W.C. bound together by a knot and the date 1590.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, grist mills or corn mills dotted streams and rivers and used the power of flowing water to turn huge stones, transforming grain to meal and flour.

The mill was extensively modernised in the 19th century. Charles Galpin became miller in 1828 for eight years until his death in 1836, previously working as a farmer.

In 1841, it was rebuilt as two corn mills. The census that year recorded Charles Galpin's widow Ann and six of her children living at Hollaway in Fordington. Ann and her two sons, George and Charles, were described as millers. Ann Galpin continued to work at the mill until her death in 1857.

Arthur Legg converted it into a steam roller flour mill in 1891, most Dorset County Chronicle recorded as being 'one of the most perfect in the country'. In 1911 it was still successful as The Dorchester Roller Mills Company but closed in 1940 when Mill Street Housing Society converted it to flats.



DORCHESTER
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Museum

DORSET
HISTORY CENTRE



A scene from Mill Street
circa 1900.
With Fordington Mill visible
in the background on right.



Fordington Title Map 1844 (courtesy of Dorset History Centre).

Fordington Mill in use pre-1940.



Mill Street residents on the bridge in front of Fordington Mill in the early 20th century.

The Galpin Society

Our journey through Lower Fordington finishes with Canon Francis W Galpin (1858-1945), son of Mayor Galpin. The priest had a lifelong interest in studying, collecting, playing and sometimes making musical instruments, some of which are on display in Dorset Museum. He inspired the Galpin Society, set up in his honour to promote the study of all kinds of musical instruments.



Canon Francis
William Galpin,
1906

