

# DORCHESTER NEWS



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dorchestertowncouncil



## D-DAY 80TH COMMEMORATION

Working with local schools, the town council hosted a celebration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day at Salisbury Field in May. With music and readings, the evening culminating in the lighting of the beacon just as beacons were being lit in towns and villages across the country.

Soldiers from the 'Big Red One', US Army's First Infantry Division, were guests at the event and an inspiring speech was given by the Division's Colonel Montgomery.

## DORCHESTER YOUTH COUNCIL

In September, members of Dorchester Youth Council (DYC) went on an educational trip to London and visited both the Imperial War Museum and the Houses of Parliament. The group were given a tour of The Palace of Westminster by the Parliamentary Education team and participated in a workshop with Edward Morello MP's staff.

DYC are a volunteer group of young people who work closely with the Town Council to champion youth-centric policies and tackle local issues, as well as organise events for other young people and the wider community such as the ever-popular Anonymous Festival.

Between them, DYC members have given over 1000 hours of their time over the last two years and recently received an award from the Volunteer Centre Dorset.



## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2025

All the community are invited to attend the annual Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) event on Friday 24th January 2025 at the Corn Exchange, Dorchester DT1 1HF from 12.30pm until 1.30pm. Visitors are welcome from noon to view displays and meet the organisers.

2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp complex, and the 30th anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia. The national theme for HMD 2025 is For a Better Future, with a focus on remembering and encouraging others to learn about the Holocaust and more recent genocides.

The event will include readings and poetry, including contributions from local schools, and will conclude with the lighting of candles and a minute's silence. Free refreshments will be available afterwards.

## A SUMMER OF FUN!

Summer 2024 has been a bumper season for great events for the community. Dorchester Town Council has provided lots of free activities and entertainment for the local residents including the Council's 50th anniversary event, the annual Love Parks family fun day and the Anonymous Festival showcasing the talent of local young people. All these events took place within the beautiful setting of Borough Gardens. With great weather and a host of entertainment from music, bouncy castles, arts and crafts, and food, these events attracted thousands of visitors.

Borough Gardens also hosted the One World Festival, organised by the South West Dorset Multi-Cultural Network, with music and food inspired by traditions from around the globe. Other events included the Gypsy, Traveller & Roma history celebration and the ever-popular Dorchester Cider Festival. All this was in addition to the Town Council's summer programme of free music in the Gardens.



## A YEAR OF NEW EVENTS & EXPERIENCES!

The Town Council awarded grants to three unique projects through its Events & Experiences Fund, set up by the Dorchester Tourism Partnership with support from the Arts Development Company.

Designed to bring new life to the town, the fund offered up to £5,000 for creative projects, pop-up festivals, and events. The goal was to support new ideas, with a focus on helping individuals and small organisations with limited previous access to grants.

One grant supported The Amazing Drawing Festival which attracted over three hundred people to take part in a wide range of arts activities. Another was The Trial of Iago, a courtroom opera held at Shire Hall Museum which help make opera more accessible. A third grant went to the Hardy Har Comedy Festival.

## COMMUNITY LUNCH

On Friday 6th December, from 12.30pm to 2pm, the Town Council is hosting a free community lunch at Dorchester Town Hall (DT1 1HF). Open to all local community and voluntary organisations, the event will focus on local transport issues with presentations from Dorset Council and the Dorchester Transport Action Group.

The Lunch will also be a fantastic opportunity to network with other local groups. If you'd like to attend please email [e.scott@dorchester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:e.scott@dorchester-tc.gov.uk).



## A FLORAL CELEBRATION!

It's that time of year again and the council's Outdoor Services team is busy planning next year's formal carpet bedding display in Borough Gardens.

We're inviting requests from community groups, clubs and societies that have a significant anniversary or national event to mark next year and would like it celebrated in floral display in Borough Gardens.

To be selected, there needs to be either a strong local connection or significant nationwide celebration/event. Ideally, if chosen, you should provide a relevant logo which our team can help transform that into a display design.

Applications need to be submitted to the town council by 20th December 2024 by letter or email - ([enquiries@dorchester-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@dorchester-tc.gov.uk)). We will contact the successful applicant in mid-January.



## NEW FINANCE APPRENTICE JOINS DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

Dorchester Town Council is pleased to announce the appointment of Keira as our new Finance Apprentice. Keira will be studying for the AAT (Association of Accounting Technicians) qualification at Weymouth College as part of her apprenticeship.



We are delighted to support her in gaining hands-on experience while she develops valuable skills in finance and accounting

The Town Council is committed to offering opportunities for local people, and our apprenticeship program is a key part of this. We believe in investing in our community and helping young people build their careers. We wish Keira every success in her studies and her future with us.

## PEOPLE NEED NATURE

Dorchester Town Council has approved funding until 2027 to enable the charity People Need Nature to continue to manage the swale at The Great Field, Poundbury. The swale is an area of wildflower meadow adjacent to Duke's Parade which has evolved from bare chalk into a place rich in wildlife, for people to enjoy.

The swale is managed by mowing several times a year and raking the arisings, which is often carried out by the Poundbury Conservation Volunteers.

Mowing and raking ensures that the wildflowers thrive and the area does not get taken over by a few very competitive plants, like bindweed or the invasive Himalayan Bramble.

The Damers First School is making use of an area of the swale, now known as Damers Meadow, to teach children about nature conservation and a new information board has been erected with the help of a grant from the town council.



## EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

The Ashley, Churchill & Thorner Educational Trust is actively seeking applications from students who need funds for essential books, clothing, equipment, supplies, laptop, and trips etc. for educational purposes. Applicants must be under 25 years of age, and live within a radius of 5 miles of Dorchester, DT1 1XJ, or be in the Parish of Crossways, and in financial need you just need to apply.



Full details and application forms at [www.actet.org.uk](http://www.actet.org.uk). Or contact us at: 01308 425137, or [info@actet.org.uk](mailto:info@actet.org.uk).



## UNDER 18S OPEN MIC NIGHT

Come and join Dorchester Youth Council at the Vinyl Van on Saturday 30th November for an exciting evening of live music, DJ'ing, and more! From 6pm to 10pm, the Open Mic Night will be FREE entry with free snacks and drinks.



Come for a dance, or just to hang out with friends, and enjoy a fun-filled night of entertainment. The event is strictly for under-18s, and no alcohol is permitted.

## TOWN EVENTS

### Free Parking and Christmas Events 2024

There will be free parking across all of Dorset Council's town centre car parks in Dorchester in the run-up to Christmas as a boost for shoppers.

The free parking days are:

Saturday 23 November

Saturday 30 November

Saturday 7 December (Small Business Saturday)

Thursday 12 December

## CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Christmas Market in Brewery Square  
23rd November to 22nd December  
10.00am - 7.00pm - every day

Shire Hall Christmas Market  
23rd & 24th November - 10.00am-4.00pm

Poundbury Christmas Market  
Crown Square - 30th November  
10.00am - 4.00pm.

Christmas Cracker – High West Street  
15th December  
11.00am - 4.00pm.

## OTHER FESTIVE EVENTS INCLUDE

Carols for Advent – St Peter's Church  
30th November - 4.30pm.

Julia's House Christmas Carols  
St Mary's Church 3rd December - 7.00pm

Carols in the Gardens. Borough Gardens  
19th December - 6.30pm.

Carol Service – St Peter's Church  
21st December - 4.30pm

For more information visit  
[www.discoverdorchester.co.uk](http://www.discoverdorchester.co.uk)

## CAROLS IN THE GARDEN



Carols in the Borough Gardens is fast becoming a tradition of Christmas in Dorchester. Organised by the Friends of the Borough Gardens and the Town Council on Thursday 19 December, everyone is invited to singalong with music from the Durnovaria Silver Band and the 'Encore' choir - carol books will be provided. Music starts at 6.30pm and lasts for about an hour and it's free!

Please bring your own home-made lantern to add to the atmosphere – see instructions below. We'll provide an update on the Borough Gardens Facebook page if the event needs to be cancelled due to bad weather.

What you'll need and how to make the lantern:

- Colourful tissue paper
- LED tealight
- PVA glue
- Sturdy scissors to cut the top off the bottles
- Pipe cleaners
- Clear 2 litre plastic bottle



1. Wash the bottle and cut off the tapered tops.
2. Plan your Christmassy design.
3. Cut the tissue paper into shapes to make your design and stick them to the inside wall of the dry bottles using glue.
4. Optional: Decorate on top of the tissue paper using paint and/or marker pens.
5. Punch holes into the upper lip of the cut bottles and thread the pipe cleaners through to make a handle.
6. Place the LED tealight inside the lantern and admire your creation!



## 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](http://www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk)