

DORCHESTER NEWS

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Photo Credit - Finnbar Webster

Dorchester's New Mayor

At the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held in May, Councillor Alistair Chisholm was elected Mayor of Dorchester.

Alistair was first elected to the Council in 2015 and is well known in the town for being its award winning town crier.

Alistair will be supported by his partner Kate Hebditch as Mayoress and also Councillor Janet Hewitt as Deputy Mayor.

His chosen charities for his Mayoral year are Dorchester Poverty Action Group and Mosaic, a Dorset charity which supports children who suffer bereavement.

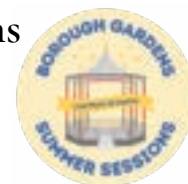
If you have an event that you would like Alistair to attend, please download a mayoral engagement form from our website. You can also watch a film of the Mayor Making ceremony – the link is on the front page of the Council's website.

DorchesterArts @ Maumbury Rings

Sunday 22 July - Peter Pan 6.00pm
 Saturday 28 July - The Tempest 7.00pm
 Wednesday 2 August - Bad Dad 6.00pm
 Friday 18 August - Sense and Sensibility 7.00pm
 Wednesday 23 August - The Jabberwock
 & Other Nonsense 6.00pm

www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk

Dorchester Borough Gardens Free Summer Music & Events!



July

Sat 1 - 2.00pm	Damaris Fowler
Sun 2 - 2.30pm	Durnovaria Silver Band
Sun 9 - 12 noon	Swingtime in the Gardens
Sun 16 - 2.00pm	What the Phunk
Sat 22 - 2.00pm	Ruff Dog Elliott
Thurs 27 - 11am-3pm	Love Parks
Sun 30 - 2.00pm	Tony Lowe

August

Sat 5 - 2.00pm	Shady Beard
Sun 6 - 2.30pm	Durnovaria Silver Band
Sat 12 - 2.00pm	Nick Coleman
Sun 13 - 2.00pm	Tony Lowe
Sat 19 - 2.00pm	Cider Festival
Sun 20 - 2.30pm	Sherborne Town Band
Sun 27 - 2.30pm	Weymouth Concert Brass
Mon 28 - 11am-5pm	Anonymous Festival

September

Sun 3 - 2.00pm	Tony Lowe
Sat 9 - 2.00pm	Vanilla Radio
Sun 10 - 2.30pm	Durnovaria Silver Band

Subject to the Weather!

Town Events this Summer!

Sunday 9 July - Age UK Summertime Fayre
 10.00am - 4.00pm - The Great Field

Saturday 15 July - Bee Fest Poundbury
 10.00am - 4.00pm - The Great Field

Sunday 30 July - Hengefest
 11.00am - 4.00pm - Maumbury Rings

Check out the Discover Dorchester website for other upcoming events on:-

www.discoverdorchester.co.uk

Dorset Council Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Reference Group

Did you know that Dorset Council has an active Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Reference Group to help it fulfil its commitment to creating socially inclusive communities. There are currently twelve voluntary and community sector organisations in the group – each one representing a protected characteristic (including some local protected characteristics).

If you would like to find out more about the work of the group, and how its work informs Dorset Council's policies and strategies, please contact Katherine Locke, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Reference Group Coordinator at Dorset Council Katherine.locke@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Are you a business with a defibrillator?
Make sure your defib is registered on The Circuit so the NHS can direct first aiders in an emergency!
Please go to www.thecircuit.uk to register your defibrillator.



New Super Tourist Information Point Open at Shire Hall Museum!

Dorchester is proud to announce the official opening of the new Super Tourist Information Point (TIP) at Shire Hall Museum. Visitors can find an exciting new resource for all their tourist needs! The TIP has a wide range of materials to help visitors make the most of their time in Dorchester. These include leaflets, brochures, monthly What's On information, and a user-friendly tablet display with access to the Discover Dorchester website (www.discoverdorchester.co.uk). Visitors can access the TIP during Shire Hall opening times from Mon-Sat from 10am to 4pm. The TIP is staffed by friendly, knowledgeable volunteers who are passionate about the town and eager to share their local insights. It is important to note that the TIP and website will not serve as a booking platform for travel or accommodation nor a council help desk.

Dorchester Town Council and the Tourism Partnership would like to thank Dorchester BID for funding the TIP equipment and Shire Hall Museum for being an excellent host.



Town Hall Bust Identity Confirmed

One of the questions often asked by those visiting the Town Hall in the Corn Exchange is 'who is the lady portrayed in the bust?'

Thanks to some precarious ladder work and research by Ian Gosling, Chairman of the Civic Society, we can now say with certainty that it is a young Queen Victoria. The bust is marble and was carved by Joseph Durham (1814-77), a leading sculptor of the Victorian age.



The work postdates the construction by Benjamin Ferrey of the Corn Exchange in 1847-8, and it might well have been installed as part of the works which accompanied the installation of the Clock Tower in 1864.

Coronation of King Charles III



On the evening of Saturday 6 May the town marked the occasion of King Charles III's Coronation by lighting the beacon at Salisbury Fields. Prior to the beacon being lit, those present were treated to live music from the Decadettes and Classical Soprano, Laura Sharley. There was also a very special performance from a children's choir made up of children from local primary schools. Although the day had been rather damp, the rain stayed away and the beacon roared into life at the second attempt of lighting.

By-Election

Due to the resignation of a Councillor there will be a By-Election held in Dorchester East Ward on Thursday 20 July 2023. Further details can be found on the Town Council website.



Thomas Hardy's Birthday

On Sunday 4 June the town celebrated the birthday of one of its most famous residents – Thomas Hardy. The high street was closed to traffic to enable an incredible array of Victorian and Thomas Hardy themed activities including, penny farthing displays, steam engines, Victorian crafts and demonstrations, talks and tours, ragged Victorians, performances from the New Hardy Players and much more.

The Town Council processed in full regalia from the Corn Exchange up the high street to the Thomas Hardy statue where the Chairman of the Thomas Hardy Society and Mayor gave readings and paid tribute to the great author before each laying a wreath.

Returning down the high street, the party was treated to a performance from the New Hardy Players before stopping to pay tribute and lay a wreath at another famous Dorchester author, William Barnes.

Joining the procession this year was a civic party from Dorchester's twin town Lübbecke in Germany.



Dorchester holds its first sustainable fashion week!

ReThink Fashion Dorchester recently took place from 22 to 29 April. The event was all about highlighting the importance of prolonging the life of our clothing and sharing what we can all do to make our fashion choices more eco-friendly.

ReThink Fashion Week included a week-long pop-up SwapShop in Brewery Square and 15 workshops on upcycling, mending and making. To top it all off, there was a sustainable fashion show at Dorset Museum. The week was very successful with around 1400 items re-homed at the SwapShop with any extra clothing donated to local homeless charities. At the fashion show, there was a panel of sustainable fashion experts, a catwalk with over 70 pre-loved, upcycled, or handmade outfits shown and a charity shop sale. The electric atmosphere made for a great night of sustainable fashion.

Dorchester Town Council would like to say a big thank you to ReThink Fashion Dorchester's sponsors, and organisers and everyone from the community who got involved including all the incredible volunteers and those who came to any of the week's events!



Dorchester's First Walking Festival

Over 750 walkers took part in the first Dorchester Walking Festival in May. 50 guided walks took place during a 9-day festival of walks at locations across the town and in the surrounding area.

Feedback from the event suggested that those who took part enjoyed their walk experience and there was a great appetite to make it an annual event.

The festival provided a boost to local businesses too with a good number of participants saying they visited a local café or restaurant before or after the walk with some also visiting local shops.



Photo Credit: Dorchester Civic Society

This event was funded by Dorchester Town Council and coordinated by the Dorchester Tourism Partnership. Additional sponsorship was given by Kingston Maurward College, 1610, Grassby Funeral Service, The Kings Arms, Hall and Woodhouse and Greenwood Grange. A huge thank you to these businesses. If you have any feedback about the Walking Festival that you would like to share please email Matilda Manley, Tourism Development Officer at m.manley@dorchester-tc.gov.uk

Anonymous 2023 - To find out more, check out the Anonymous Facebook page and website



The very popular Anonymous Festival will be returning again this year to Borough Gardens on Monday 28 August from 11.00am-5.00pm. This FREE event will offer something for all ages, including inflatables, craft, workshops, games, and more! And you'll have the chance to have your picture taken in a vintage horsebox photobooth, so you'll have a memento of the day to take home with you!

All of the activities are completely free – but do bring a bit of money so you can enjoy the delicious food on offer and maybe buy an ice-cream! Music will be provided on 2 stages by talented young performers, with the Vinyl Van bringing additional tunes.

The atmosphere at the event in 2022 was fantastic, with many commenting on what a fun, community day out it was.

Informal Annual Town Meeting 2023

The Town Council held its Informal Annual Town Meeting in May, the Council was joined by some of the brilliant community partners it has worked with and supported over the last year. Over 20 organisations attended, showing the breadth of work undertaken by our local voluntary sector. It was a chance for the Town Council to thank them for the essential services they provide, especially during what is a difficult financial time for many, and also to explain the range of projects we have been involved with over the past year. To read the full reports go to the Dorchester Town Council website.



Poundbury Nature Project Update



The Poundbury Nature project is creating new wildlife-rich places in and around Poundbury. Bee Orchids have flourished next to the Fire Station, and Middle Farm Way is now a flowery highway. The Great Field Meadows are also developing into wildlife havens. Our next project is called Poundbury Nature for Wellbeing, where people's mental health can benefit from art and other activities in Poundbury's nature areas. We have just launched a Crowdfunder to help raise money for this project. You can find out more about it here <https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/p/the-poundbury-nature-for-wellbeing-project>

Miles King, People Need Nature.

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

