

St Osmund's Sports Facilities in new hands

For the last 18 years sports facilities at St Osmund's School have been operated by a voluntary trust. During that time they have made the main sports hall available for group use, operated a fully equipped fitness room and also managed outdoor tennis court and pitch facilities. Unfortunately, faced with increased competition and no funds to replace their gym equipment, the Trust ceased trading in January 2019.

Since then the Town Council, working closely with officers at West Dorset District Council, have agreed a £20,000 funding package to allow St Osmund's School itself to invest in the site to make the Sports Hall available to organised groups in the evenings and on pre-booked weekends for sports such as badminton, tennis and cricket. Outdoor tennis courts will also still be available for organised groups.

In time the School hope to convert the Fitness Suite into a studio for groups to hire for dance and wellness classes, as well as making a smaller hall available for regular meetings. If your group is looking for such facilities please contact the School at sportscentre@stosmunds.dorset.sch.uk.

New Electoral Wards for 2nd May Elections

In May residents will be invited to elect Councillors to the new Dorset Council, which replaces Dorset County Council, West Dorset District Council and four other District Councils. There will be five councillors representing Dorchester



- 2 for Dorchester East Ward
 - 1 for Dorchester Poundbury Ward
 - 2 for Dorchester West Ward
- (named and edged in red on the map below)

On the same day elections will also take place for Dorchester Town Council Councillors, as follows



- 5 for Dorchester East Ward
- 3 for Dorchester South Ward
- 4 for Dorchester Poundbury Ward
- 4 for Dorchester West Ward
- 4 for Dorchester North Ward

(named and outlined in orange on the map below)

Both sets of elections will be run by the new Dorset Council. Details regarding standing as a candidate, registration and voting for the elections can be found at dorsetforyou.gov.uk.

Wards for Dorset Council and Dorchester Town Council



Dorchester News

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Spring 2019



Come and celebrate the Moon Landing, 50 years on

On 20 July the World will celebrate 50 years since Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon.

Working in partnership with Dorchester Arts the Town Council will host "Moonbury Rings", a three day event at Maumbury Rings with something for everyone.

On Friday 19 July Dorchester Arts will present "Apollo: One Giant Leap", a free music event that brings together 500 pupils from Dorchester, St Mary's Puddletown and St Osmund's Middle Schools and The Thomas Hardy School, with a professional orchestra, to perform a cantata specially written for young people by local composer Geof Edge.

The whole community will be able to join in too, with parts of the cantata being made available online for you to learn and sing on the night. For details of how to join in with this and other opportunities to participate keep an eye on local press and www.dorchesterarts.org.uk nearer the time.



Local artist Robin Mackenzie has created artwork especially for Apollo: One Giant Leap

On Saturday 20 July the Town Council will host our annual cinema night, with a special focus on films that place the moon at their heart.

Then on Sunday 21 July members of the local science community will put on an afternoon of events based on astronomy and physics, including astronaut training for children.

All three days will take place directly under the Museum of the Moon, a NASA-accurate, seven meter diameter, lit globe which has been touring the world in recent years. For more details see mymoon.org.

Plastic Free Dorchester

Dorchester's Councillors recently signed the Town Council up to a new initiative driven by children at Damers School, who have already won awards for their innovative campaign to move the town closer to becoming plastic free.

The School has already signed up 20 local businesses to start the move to become plastic free, with pupils promoting more take up at a recent Chamber of Trade event.



In particular pupils are encouraging businesses and residents to take part in the Refill Dorset campaign which encourages shops to refill plastic water bottles for free. See the [Plastic Free Dorchester](http://www.litterfreedorset.co.uk) tab at www.litterfreedorset.co.uk for more info about their initiatives.



The Damers School Eco Crew have led the initiative to reduce plastic use in the town.

Fund-raising for the event is going well, with a major grant applied for to Arts Council England, a successful crowdfunding campaign completed, and local fundraising focused on business sponsorship. If you are in a position to help please contact development@dorchesterarts.org.uk

Council Tax to rise by 2% from April 2019

The Town Council share of the Council Tax will rise by 2% in April, a Band D charge of £192.78, up £3.78 on last year, raising nearly £1.5 Million from the town's local taxpayers.

In setting the budget for 2019/20 Councillors considered a number of specific issues, including:

- £100,000 to be spent on the Municipal Buildings, mainly to address problems associated with its passenger lift and a replacement for the gas boiler system
- The Town Council elections in May, estimated at £20,000
- An extra £30,000 a year to maintain the new facilities at The Great Field, work on which will commence this year

The increase comes as the Town Council prepares for the reorganisation of local government which brings Dorset County Council, West Dorset District Council and four other Councils together to create the new Dorset Council. The Town Council anticipates that this will result in reduced provision of locally important discretionary services such as public toilets, TICs, support for local arts, museums and community organisations and keeping public areas tidy.

The budget also allows for a number of new projects including the refurbishment of the public area around the Town Pump in South Street and new pedestrian signage in the town centre, while the newly elected Council will have £250,000 to allocate to new priorities.

New Battery kit and Solar Panels

Our Outdoor staff have recently taken delivery of a new electric-powered vehicle, as well as battery powered trimmers, hedge trimmers and leaf blowers.

The electric vehicle will replace one of our five diesel-based pick ups. Initially it will be seen in the Borough Gardens but over time will be trialled across the town. If successful the Council expects to replace the remainder of its diesel fleet over the next 7 years when they are due for renewal.

The Grounds maintenance equipment also uses rechargeable batteries, reducing noise and vibration for team members as well as cutting the cost of operation and maintenance. These first purchases are part of a gradual replacement of much of the Council's petrol powered equipment as battery technology continues to improve.

The Council is also installing 72 solar panels at its Louds Mill Depot and will eventually use these to charge all of its battery powered equipment.

Visit our website at www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk

Town Walks resurfacing completed

Over the course of 2018 the Town Council worked with Dorset County Council to resurface stretches of The Walks from Hardy's Statue round to Hangman's Cottage in the north, and from the War Memorial along to the Frink Martyrs statues on South Walk.

In February the team is scheduled to complete The Walks resurfacing programme by tidying up the final stretch between Salisbury Fields and Icen Way.

Alongside the resurfacing new benches and bins are being introduced, as well as information boards explaining the history of some of the key sites.

Poundbury Cemetery nears completion

Over Autumn 2018 the Council completed road layouts and a boundary wall at its cemetery on Poundbury Road at the north of the town.

The Council has also been landscaping the Green Burial space to the west of the site, by preparing the ground for wildflower seed. A split chestnut fence will mark this area.

The cemetery received its first burial in 2002 and will be the main burial site for the town for the next 50 years. More details relating to burial services can be found on our [website](#).

New Wheelchair Accessible Swing

Working with local residents the Town Council has installed a new swing at its playground at Maiden Castle Road, opposite the Prince of Wales First School.

The swing, the first of its type in the town, was part funded by a Big Lottery grant and is specifically designed to be accessible to wheelchair users without having to leave their chair.



Councillor Stella Jones joins Freddie Palmer and family to formally "open" the swing.

The Great Field - latest news

Work continues with the Duchy of Cornwall to prepare a new park space in the west of the town.

A key part of the works will be to install play equipment, and Duchy and Town Council staff are currently involved in selecting both a supplier and a design.



Over the course of 2019 and 2020 over 400 trees and 23,000 shrubs will be planted; this work is heavily dependent on weather and ground conditions; pathways will also be installed during 2019.

A local charity with a national reach, the Alcohol Education Trust, is preparing to construct and manage a pavilion on The Great Field. The ground floor will be available for the public, with a café, meeting space and public toilet being available, while the Trust will occupy an upstairs office space.

Dorchester Christmas Market 5 - 8 December

The Town Council is working with Weldmar to bring some of Dorset's finest arts, crafts, food and drink providers to the Borough Gardens this December.

The afternoon/evening event will also involve lighting up the Gardens and will provide entertainment from the Band Stand. Put the dates in your diaries and see our website for more detail nearer the time.

Outdoor Theatre at Maumbury Rings

Sunday 23 June 7.00pm - The Tempest

performed by The Handlebards

Friday 12 July 7.30pm - A Perfect World

performed by Miracle Theatre

Sunday 18 August 5.00pm - The Legend of King

Arthur performed by Boxtree

Details and tickets at www.dorchesterarts.org.uk, Box office 01305 266926

DorchesterARTS

Town Events April - June 2019

Saturday 27 April - World Tai Chi Day

9.30am, Borough Gardens

Sunday 12 May - Durnovaria Silver Band

2.30pm, Borough Gardens

Saturday 18 May - Health & Wellbeing Picnic

2.30pm, Borough Gardens

Monday 27 May - Pop Club in the Park

2.30pm, Borough Gardens

Wednesday 29 May - Blackwell Concert Band

11.00am, Borough Gardens

Sunday 2 June - Thomas Hardy Victorian Fair

1.00pm, High West Street

Saturday 8 June - D-Day Commemoration

11.00am, The Keep Military Museum

Sunday 9 June - Durnovaria Silver Band

2.30pm, Borough Gardens

Saturday 15 June - Carnival style Fun in the Gardens

2.30pm, Borough Gardens

Sunday 23 June - Weldmar Cycle Challenge

All day, Borough Gardens

Saturday 29 June - Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Family Event - Noon, Borough Gardens

Sunday 30 June - Durnovaria Silver Band

2.30pm, Borough Gardens

To keep up to date with programme changes see notice boards in the Borough Gardens and our website.



Visit our website at www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk