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Issue No. 32
March-April 2018

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Heritage threat to Wolfeton House in town expansion bid

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Wolfeton House heritage 'at risk' in new town expansion scheme

'To destroy the setting of a great and ancient house is really to destroy the house, itself… the magic of the surroundings will be gone and cannot ever be restored' – Lord Julian Fellowes

By Richard Reed

Julian Fellowes, the creator of Downton Abbey, has joined the growing campaign to stop a major new housing development just 300 yards from the grade I-listed, Elizabethan Wolfeton House.

Lord Fellowes, who is president of the Thomas Hardy Society, says "to destroy the context and setting of a great and ancient house is really to destroy the house".

Dr Tony Fincham, acting chairman of the society, has also said the development "would be an act of literary and architectural vandalism".

But in a new twist, it has emerged that West Dorset District Council planners have criticised the outline application for being "too piecemeal".

Planners are looking at the whole area – within a possible new A35/A37 link road – as a site for a future major expansion of Dorchester to meet ambitious government housing targets.

The current development is being planned by Land Value Alliances, which wants to build up to 120 houses on a 15-acre, greenfield site south of Westleaze Road on the edge of Charminster.

Land Value has also implied a possible eastern extension that protesters fear could see the number of homes double to 240.

The site lies outside the village development boundary and in an area classed as Land of Local Landscape Importance, partly due to its value as a buffer between Charminster and Dorchester.

Photo: Mike Searle

Under threat: the rural setting of Wolfeton House

The archaeological remains of the deserted medieval village of Wolfeton lie within the site plan, but are not affected by the planned development.

Lord Fellowes said in a letter to planners at West Dorset District Council he could not "stay silent when heritage is under threat".

He points out Wolfeton House provided the model for settings in several of Hardy's stories, and the name of the family who then owned it, the Trenchards, was used in one of Hardy's most celebrated novels, *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.

The house was also fictionalised as Ashover Hall in John Cowper Powys's novel, *Ducdame*.

"Once the new estate is built, the magic of the surroundings will be gone and cannot ever be restored," said Lord Fellowes.

Dr Fincham said the new development would be even closer to the grade II-listed, 16th century Riding School – described by Historic England as a "monumental" building of "considerable architectural importance" and thought to be one of the oldest surviving riding schools in England.

The Landmark Trust, which runs the gatehouse at Wolfeton House as a holiday home for owners Captain Nigel Thimbleby and his wife Katharine, said the development would "result in present and future generations being unable to enjoy a scene that will not have significantly changed for the last 500 years until now".

Meanwhile, in a detailed submission, Historic England said:

"We are not convinced this application can be achieved without heritage harm… The roof-line of the southern-most dwellings within the site will be clearly visible from Wolfeton House and parts of its grounds.

"The very definite segregation from the adjacent settlements, characterised by mature trees, low-lying pasture and views across the water meadows… contributes to the significance of this medieval manor house."

The Dorset branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) has also objected strongly to the proposals, as has Charminster Parish Council.

WDDC's own planning policy forbids "development that would cause harm to the green infrastructure network" – within which the site is classified.

However the council says it is under pressure from the government to build more homes, and there is a shortage of suitable sites, which overrides these heritage and environmental factors. The government has now warned it will take away planning powers from councils that don't meet targets.

An outline plan of the proposed development

In a letter to Land Value, senior planning officer Penny Canning implies the council is looking for a much bigger development in the area, saying she is concerned "the proposed piecemeal approach… could compromise the delivery of a successfully integrated expansion for the village and wider county town".

She adds: "This site could form part of a much larger and comprehensive strategic expansion to the county town of Dorchester."

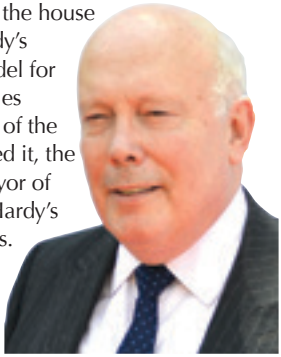
Councillors are making a site visit and are due to decide the application on 22 March.

Downton Abbey writer speaks out

The objection by Lord Fellowes as president of the Thomas Hardy Society

As the president of the Hardy Society, I don't think I really have the right to stay silent when his heritage is under threat.

Of course you must find places to build new houses. I am well aware of that, and I do not envy you. But it occurs to me that the significance of Wolfeton House, itself, may somehow have been overlooked in the discussions which will have gone on. It is true that the house figured largely in Hardy's life, providing the model for settings in several stories and lending the name of the family who then owned it, the Trenchards, to the Mayor of Casterbridge, one of Hardy's most celebrated novels. But, quite apart from Hardy, it is also a historic place in its own right, probably the most historic in this part of Dorset, which may have been slightly overlooked.



Its significance is not only because of its age and the wealth of Elizabethan carving within, but because of the senior cast of characters who visited over the years, the most unusual of which were King Philip and (the mad) Queen Joanna of Spain whose ship was driven on to the Dorset shore by a storm in January 1506.

It was to Wolfeton that they were taken where they became hostages of King Henry VIII, despite the fact that Joanna was the older sister of his own Queen, Catherine of Aragon. This would eventually result in their being forced to sign the treaty, subsequently known as Malus Intercursus, before they could regain their freedom and return to Spain.

The plain truth, as you will understand better than I, is that to destroy the context and setting of a great and ancient house is really to destroy the house, itself. Once the new estate is built, the magic of the surroundings will be gone and cannot ever be restored.

I fully grasp that you must find sites for more housing and in fact you have other developments going on which no one could object to. The proposals for Fordington seem excellent; even the houses being built behind Max Gate do not interfere with its setting, and the new car park will be a bonus for the opening of the house. Can you not please think again and find a place that does not destroy a major element in Hardy's story or dent our local history?

Photo: Mike Searle

Historic Wolfeton House

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Town must follow in Dippy's footsteps!

By Alistair Chisholm

Dippy the diplodocus is in town and all is well with the world! It is indeed a most significant achievement for the county town to be hosting this national icon in the splendid Victorian Gallery of the Dorset County Museum, and on its first stop on a national tour.

Not surprisingly the publicity surrounding this event has been and continues to be massive, and it has put Dorchester firmly on the map in the eyes of many first-time visitors.

The town has clearly been much busier over the past half-term than I've seen it for years this early in the season. Many of the town's cafes, restaurants and other businesses have benefited and will continue to do so throughout March, April and up to Dippy's departure on 8 May.

This visit to the town of one of the nation's most iconic skeletons must surely serve to emphasise and endorse the real local economic benefits of heritage and culture.

These strengths, with which the county town is so extraordinarily blessed, are not the exclusive, 'posh' and rarified interests of the few, for Dippy has shown us all that, when presented with aplomb and panache, they can capture everybody's attention.

Dorchester's wealth of heritage and culture has been recognised by its inhabitants in the past. In the 19th century the railway companies, building the connecting networks to Southampton and London and to Bath and Bristol, were successfully lobbied by Dorchester folk. As a direct result, we can still marvel and enjoy Maumbury Rings (once a 5,000 year old stone-age henge monument, then a Roman amphitheatre and today a most historic, unique and special open space that still provides entertainment) and Poundbury hill-fort with its clear evidence of the Roman aqueduct.

My most fervent hope is that Dippy may serve to remove the blinding blinkers that some of our senior local government officers and elected members continue to wear. It is these blinkers, together with a distressing disregard for the almost unbelievable story of our town, which stops them seeing, and valuing, what lies in front of their noses and under the ground they tread on.

All the current prognostications on the future health and wellbeing of our town centres point

Photos: Jill Bryant

Dippy has brought many new visitors to Dorchester

to the importance of the experience people have while visiting. Of course towns must have shops and services just as a market town must provide a vibrant and modern market.

The experience of visiting Dorchester, which I'm sure has been a real pleasure for the hundreds of Dippy visitors, ably assisted by the DBID (Dorchester Business Improvement District) ambassadors, will soon boast two more tempting morsels, namely one of the most up-to-date museums outside London and a revitalised 18th century Shire Hall court complex made famous by the Tolpuddle Martyrs.

I notice that Dippy's footsteps lead from the railway station to his display in the museum, and this should serve to remind us how very fortunate we are to have excellent railway connections.

We have problems with traffic and parking but our town centre is really very compact and all parts of it are easily reached on foot. Why don't we, therefore, promote travel to Dorchester by train while planning ahead, carefully and sustainably, to resolve the important issues surrounding traffic and parking ?

A start has been made and last year a DBID delegation joined others from the town and attended a showcase event put on by Portland Port for the shore excursion companies that offer tours to cruise-ship passengers. Together they promoted all that our town has to offer and succeeded in making the town an attractive proposition for a day or half-day shore excursion from Portland.

Now this was DBID at its best, working with others to make the most of what time and fortune has given Dorchester. I hope most fervently that the plans and proposals for the next five-year BID (2018-23) build on this dynamic, outward-looking display which, I'm pleased to say, echoes one of the town council's prime objectives, namely the better promotion and marketing of all that we have to offer in Dorchester.

The Voice: 5 years of backing Dorchester

This issue of the *Dorchester Voice* marks the fifth anniversary of our launch as the town's very own community magazine.

Every two months we aim to keep you in touch with everything that is going on in your local community. We now print 3,500 copies of the *Voice*, which you can find in the TIC, together with shops and pubs around the town and in local villages.

Whether it's major issues of concern, such as the new housing development planned near Wolfeton House in this issue, or local community news from around the villages, you'll find it in the *Voice*.

If you explore the magazine you will find in-depth articles on local history, such as the feature on surgeon Frederick Treves, together with folklore, highlights from the local arts scene, and comprehensive local what's on listings.

You will notice a word I'm repeating a lot here: 'local'. Because that's what this magazine is all about. We set out not to compete with big commercial publishers, but to try to fill the void as they pull back from grassroots journalism and close local offices.

We're not alone. All over the UK a new breed of 'hyperlocal' community newspapers is proving people really do want local news.

Perhaps it's hardly surprising in a world of increasing globalisation that people are turning back to their local communities for the things that really matter in life.

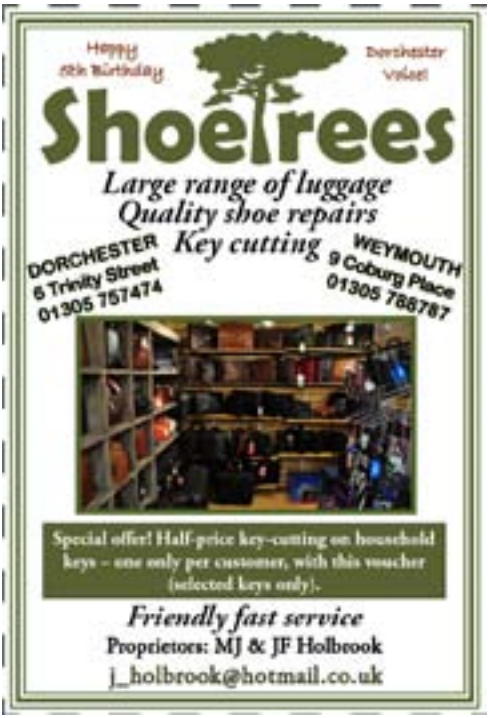
I must pay tribute to the people who helped start the *Voice* with me – Town Crier Alistair Chisholm, bookseller Julian Nangle, environmentalist Pete West, web designer Didier Sanjo and musician and local historian Jerry Bird. As for myself, I am a journalist with my roots in local newspapers.

Jerry and I now produce the *Voice* with help from 'new girl' Jill Bryant, while Alistair still makes a valuable contribution in every issue. Mention must also go to Sheena Dearness and my wife Jayne, who also play a vital role.

If you have any news you would like to see featured in the *Voice*, contact news@dorchestervoice.co.uk. If you're missing out, and would like copies of the *Voice* for your area, please let us know.

And to all our readers and advertisers, a massive thanks for your continued support!

Richard Reed, editor



Old folk sitting pretty thanks to chair appeal

Older people visiting Age UK Dorchester are now sitting pretty again thanks to organisations and individuals who helped raise funds, and everyone who donated their used ink cartridges to the charity's recycling scheme for their Sitting Pretty Appeal.

Lucy Christian, head of resources and home support, said "We are so grateful to all those people and local businesses who have taken the trouble to bring their cartridges along, and to all the organisations and individuals who raised cash for the appeal.

"It was fantastic, we raised over £1,500 in just three months to replace the 40 worn-out chairs in our function room with some lovely comfortable ones, which should last us for many years."

Lucy added, "These chairs are used every day for our lunch clubs, information days, the Evergreens Cinema and other film performances and events. Good, lightweight chairs are really essential so that our clients can enjoy our various events in comfort."

Sylvia sits down to enjoy a meal with other guests on the comfortable new chairs

Sylvia King, 91, of Dorchester, a regular at Age UK Dorchester said, "These new chairs are so much more comfortable, especially when we have our lunch and then sit down again for the Evergreens Cinema in the afternoon. So, I would like to say a special thank-you to everyone who helped us buy them."

Although the Sitting Pretty appeal is now closed, please continue to bring your used ink cartridges along to reception at the charity's centre in Prince of Wales Road, so it can continue to raise cash to help provide a wide range of services for local older people.

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Shire Hall set for the big opening day

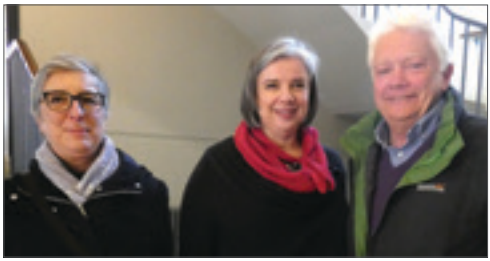
By Jill Bryant

The Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum is set to open its doors on 1 May. Behind the newly painted blue doors the old building has been released from years of neglect and its architecture allowed to shine.

Over the course of this development exciting facets of the building have been discovered. The remains of mysterious stairs, and an underground passage leading who knows where. The answer to these curiosities will be discovered. A beautiful fireplace and etched roof lights have been revealed. The old walls are juxtaposed by the new fitments and the simplicity and lightness of the original architecture has been used to great effect.

The Old Crown Court has been restored to its original grey, befitting the seriousness of the trials that took place there. Throughout the building the petrol blue of the front doors has been teamed with maroon to great effect.

The project has already attracted 100 volunteers but there are still opportunities for front-of-house and customer-service volunteers to work on the entrance desk and in the shop selling merchandise and tickets to the museum – or perhaps you would like to help with visitor experience directing visitors, talking and engaging with them.



Ready for the big day – Anne Brown (learning manager), Anna Bright (director Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum) and David Clarke (chair of trustees)

Learning manager Anne Brown is running a life-long learning programme which includes a schools initiative, reminiscence sessions for those with dementia, family activities in school holidays and sessions for babies and their adults.

The Shire Hall space will be used to benefit the whole community and Anne is always open to suggestions of what local people think would be useful. She is keen to attract young people to take part in projects. The building can also be used for meetings, film shows and other events.

A banner-making workshop with a difference is planned, led by digital artist Jason Wilsher-Mills. As a wheelchair user he found traditional art difficult and has developed working on an iPad. He will be having a two-week residency at the museum, designing digital banners based on the Tolpuddle Martyrs' descendants.

Six digital lightbox banners will be created, one for each martyr, and will be displayed in the exhibition room. Jason has designed an app that will enable visitors to the exhibition to focus on particular parts of the banner and access background information. Jason would also like to meet Tolpuddle Martyr descendants to work with on this exciting project. Could this be you? If so Anne would be delighted to hear from you.

In April a theatre company will stage a promenade performance of *Stories of the Shire Hall*.

If you would like to volunteer to be a part of this exciting new attraction in Dorchester or would like to take part in the banner workshop contact anne.brown@shirehalldorset.org or call 0739 896675.

A sustainable solution for waste

Following a recent rebrand, you can be forgiven for not having heard of The Waste Group before! Our 30-strong team is based at our dedicated recycling centre on Puddletown Road.

Previously known as A&D Skips, The Waste Group offers the same great service but with a fresh focus on professionalism, technology and sustainability. We are not going to try and fool anyone by stating that skip hire is glamorous and exciting, but times are changing for this traditionally trade-serving industry…

A green future

The quantity and destination of the waste that we produce can no longer be ignored. As a leading waste management company in Dorset, The Waste Group is stepping up to a more sustainable future but aiming for 100% of the waste they process to be diverted from landfill. So far we are about 98% of the way there!

Sarah Levett, recently appointed head of marketing and sustainability, is excited for the future. "We have a real opportunity to clean up the waste industry, changing perceptions of skip hire and pushing for a future that really is sustainable," she said.

Great service for all

The Waste Group is very happy to supply to the general public, as well as tradespeople. Skip hire can be one of the most affordable and convenient ways to get rid of larger amounts of waste. The Waste Group has a dedicated team of staff manning the phones happy to answer any questions; whether you are hiring a skip for the first time or are a seasoned 'Tradie'. You can also order quickly and easily online – there's even a helpful visual guide on skip sizes, showing what you could actually fit in a skip, not just the size in square yards!

Embracing technology

The technology now available for skip lorries can greatly improve customer experience. Site manager Dave Grady (the D from A&D Skips) outlined the benefits that this technology offers. "All lorries at The Waste Group are fitted with remote controls, meaning that delivery drivers can walk all the way around the lorry whilst the skip is being lowered to ensure safe and considered placement of the skip," he said. Delivery drivers also receive and complete orders through their smartphones for paperless invoicing and a smoother service.

You can follow The Waste Group and our quest for a more sustainable future via Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, or through the blogs on thewastegroup.co.uk. If you are interested in a sustainable solution to your waste disposal, call the office on 01305 819 819 and have a chat with the lovely Sue or Andrew who will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

A truck from The Waste Group in Dorchester

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Village supper club raises £5,600 for charity

By Cathie Seigal

Two years ago a group of villagers in Martinstown decided to raise money for a charity called Kennedy's Disease UK, started by a local friend and neighbour, Kate Hopps.

Kate's husband Frank had been diagnosed with Kennedy's, a rare progressive neuromuscular disorder, and the charity is raising money to promote awareness and support research that is being carried out at University College Hospital.

We felt as a local community we would like to support Kate and Frank, so over two years have raised £5,600. Half of this has been achieved through a supper club, hosted by friends at each other's homes, the guests paying for the supper. We have 29 people taking part in this. The rest of the money has been raised through barn dances, a car treasure hunt, a cream tea and coffee morning and the support of the Somerleigh Players, who stage plays in the village hall.

Cathie Seigal (left) hands a cheque to Kate Hopps, co-founder of KDUK

At our launch party earlier this month we gave Kate and Frank a cheque for £2,600 raised in 2017. This year we are continuing to raise money, this time for the local primary school at Winterborne Abbas, helping them fund an improved outdoor play area. The suppers will continue, and there will be a 60s disco in June and a quiz night in October.

Ancient music in the air at Crossways U3A

By Sheena Dearness

A speaker with a difference set the scene for an informative morning at the meeting of the February Crossways & Villages U3A.

Dorset-based musician Rick Potter brought along a selection of stringed musical instruments originating from a number of countries.

From a North African lantour made with little more than a broom handle, a few pegs to adjust the strings and a bowl of wood covered with stretched goatskin, to a Bolivian charanga, the audience marvelled at the beauty of the instruments on display.

Many of the designs have changed little over the centuries. One instrument from Turkey created amusement as it appeared to be made from an aluminium pan and a neck-top covered with Formica. A very basic instrument from India necessitated strumming strings simultaneously as keys resembling those of an old Imperial typewriter were pressed.

Rick explained that pictures of stringed instruments were found in the pyramids in Egypt, dated to more than 3,500 years ago, and as such music has been integral to the lives of human beings across the centuries. Rick gave an explanation of each instrument; its country of origin, and an approximate age (or when the first was likely to have been created). He then went on to play a piece of traditional music on each one.

It was an interesting display that included a Turkish oud, a baglamas from Greece, a banjo and sitar from India, a phin from Thailand, a setar from Persia, an American guitar made in 1924, and a twin-neck guitar made in Germany before the First World War.

U3A was known for many years as the University of the Third Age. With an objective to provide an opportunity to learn at its core, we believe all of us benefit from talks given by our guest speakers, hand-picked to give our members and visitors an insight into the services provided by organisations and individuals in our area and in many cases on a national level. The topics are varied, interesting and often amusing, and offer opportunities to answer questions.

Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month in the Youth and Community Centre, Old Farm Way in Crossways village starting at 10am. Our next meeting on 14 March, is to be given by Mr Keith Howarth, the harbour master at Weymouth, and should prove to be very informative as to his management role in controlling the vessels and yachts under his remit.

On 7 April, Maria Fountain will give an illustrated talk, featuring some of the lion and leopard cubs, mongoose, racoons, deer, lemurs and monkeys she hand-reared during her time as an animal keeper in wildlife parks. Her talk is entitled 'Her Jungle Babies', which seems rather appropriate.

We invite those interested in what we do to come along as a visitor to one of our U3A public meetings (£2 charge on the door).

Our U3A belongs to the villages, so we welcome the opportunity to take meetings to other village venues. We also welcome fresh ideas to introduce new interest groups into our U3A, and ask potential members to come along and share their hobbies and talent to enable us to do so.

Trips and social events are organised regularly by our secretary, Eve Sorensen, the most recent, drawing a group of some 30 members and their friends to attend a Horse Race night at Moreton Village hall. An excellently priced visit to a spa is currently on Eve's agenda, and another trip to the Lighthouse in Poole. Come along, meet us and make new friends.

Molly wins prestigious Rotary award

Dorchester's Cllr Molly Rennie has won a prestigious Rotary award for her work helping victims of domestic abuse.

Molly has worked tirelessly in Dorchester for more than 30 years, helping victims of domestic abuse.

She was nominated by Dorchester Casterbridge Rotary for a Community Champions Award for her work, which started with the Dorchester Women's' Refuge which she chaired during its formative years and for which she has raised thousands of pounds.

Molly identified that victims of domestic abuse, both male and female, were poorly supported and set about helping.

"Her achievements in raising the profile of the campaign against domestic abuse are an example to all," said a Rotary spokeswoman.

Molly Rennie has given huge support to victims of domestic abuse

"She has been truly inspirational in driving forward the campaign, firstly by ensuring the refuge became a reality and then ensuring it has the funds to run and continue its excellent work."

In recent times Molly has become active in helping to educate and support children and young people who have witnessed domestic abuse.

Molly's determination to raise the subject across the community has been paying off, with victims empowered to escape their situations, reflected by a refuge sadly always full.

Molly has firmly established refuges, half-way houses, educational programmes and community support networks for victims of domestic abuse.

Molly will receive her award at the 2017-18 Rotary Champions of Change Awards event at Cardiff City Hall in May.

Fun and good company at Men's Shed

By Jill Bryant

Men in Sheds is a simple but effective concept, enabling men and women to work together in congenial surroundings doing something they enjoy and feeling the satisfaction of achieving a useful end product.

Photos: Jill Bryant

Bob Aiston, George Legg, David Hunt and Barry Foot hard at work

The Men's Shed movement started in Australia as a way of preventing isolation for retired or out-of-work men, bringing them together and putting their skills to good use, but many sheds now have women members, too.

Dorchester Men's Shed, started by Graeme Trinder, was originally based at Whitfield Farm, but in June 2015 moved to its current home at Kingston Maurward. Start-up funding for the group came from Dorset Partnership for Older People Programme (POPP) and from Magna.

The workshop contains a wide range of wood-working tools – band saws, a swing-arm saw, lathe, pillar drill, morticer, mitre-cutter, belt sanders and disc sanders for members to use, or they can bring in their own tools if they prefer.

Dorchester Men's Shed is a not-for-profit community workshop, and membership is open to men and women aged 18 and over. The Dorchester branch currently has 28 members aged between mid-30 to 80+ predominantly men but with some women. The annual membership fee is £40.

If members are working on a community project workshop, sessions are free. If they wish to use the group's wood-working tools for their own private project then the charge is £5 per session. The workshop is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays and members can come and go as they please. When I visited they were making 150 bird boxes for Silverlakes' sister site in Gloucestershire, and were also restoring an Edwardian desk for Kingston Maurward. Recently they had made finger posts for Dorset AONB. For the town's Christmas Cracker they made and sold decorations, bowls and coasters.

Bob Aiston with Christmas decorations

The atmosphere is jovial but the men were very engaged in their work. When I asked them what they particularly enjoyed about coming to the workshop, they said it was great to be able to meet like-minded people and actually achieve something useful.

From their membership they get companionship, exchange knowledge and learn new skills.

They said it was good to have somewhere to meet people other than the pub! It was obvious that they were all enjoying the camaraderie, which, of course, involves breaks for chats over a cuppa. There was lots of laughter.

These days, when gardens are getting smaller and many live in flats, having a shed is becoming less possible. What could be nicer than a communal shed with excellent equipment and friends with whom to enjoy shed-time.

To join contact the secretary either by calling 01305 267722, or by emailing secretary@dorchestermensshed.org.uk.

For more information visit dorchestermensshed.org.uk.

Survey to promote accessible shops

A new survey is being carried out in Dorchester to produce an accessibility guide to entice more people with disabilities to visit the town.

The Dorchester Access Group (DAG), supported by the Dorchester Chamber for Business and the Business Improvement District, is embarking on a town-wide survey to map how accessible businesses are and highlight how much more business are able to offer customers than they are aware of.

A study shows 54% of people with access requirements avoid going to new places if they cannot find information about accessibility, and 63% of firms do not promote accessibility facilities – meaning a lot of potential business is being missed.

DAG aims to change this for Dorchester by sending out a simple online questionnaire for business and leisure venues to complete.

"As a wheelchair user, I have to research places carefully before I visit them to make sure there is sufficient access to shops to make my visit worthwhile," said DAG member Nick Power.

"Most of the time such information is not available, so I end up going somewhere else. Even within my home town of Dorchester I am still finding some shops which I thought were inaccessible to me have a hidden accessible entrance.

Nick Power says access facilities are not promoted

"A directory containing this information will not only help the disabled, but also attract new customers for these businesses and the town in general."

If you want to be part of the guide but have not received an email, please contact Emma Scott at Dorchester Town Council, either by popping into the office or emailing e.scott@dorchester-tc.gov.uk.

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Dino-mania as Dippy arrives in town!

By Jill Bryant

After months of anticipation Dippy is here! Since 1905 until recently he has resided in splendour in the spacious entrance hall of the Natural History Museum in London.

Now he is on tour and Dorchester on the Jurassic coast was chosen as his first stop. Dr Jon Murden, director of Dorset County Museum said the prime condition of Dippy coming was that the museum could provide a space 72 feet long by 14 feet high.

The Victorian Gallery just fulfils this condition and Dippy fits in but with only 3 inches to spare! His tail is slightly more curled than it was in the Natural History Museum.

Dippy is one of one of ten replicas of Diplodocus carnegii, a herbivore that lived between 156 and 145 million years ago during the late Jurassic period. He was discovered in Wyoming in 1898 and the skeleton on display is a cast made in the early 1900s from an original in Pennsylvania, USA.

Dippy was a sauropod ('lizard-footed') dinosaur, and sauropods didn't arrive in Dorset until five million years after Dippy's lifetime when the Jurassic Sea retreated and they wandered in. Near-circular footprints of sauropods can be found in Keates Quarry in Purbeck, and a foot bone is on display in the Jurassic Coast Gallery at the museum.

Dippy consists of 292 bones, which arrived in specially-built crates, and he was constructed over a three-week period. The skeleton is carried on a steel frame – the neck has a visible support but his

Dippy looks at home in the museum's Victorian Gallery

Dippy just squeezes in!

Museum director Dr Jon Murden with Dippy

tail is cantilevered. You can see the joins if you know where to look!

The children of Cheselbourne School were the very first to see Dippy on the first stop of his countrywide tour. They stood patiently but with mounting excitement as they waited for the door to be opened.

There was speculation as to what they would see. When the door opened they surged politely in wide eyed and their first reaction was a loud 'wow'.

Comments such as "it's massive", "smashing" and the inevitable "awesome" could be heard. The school has been inspired to hold a Jurassic fortnight culminating in a Jurassic Museum.

Jon says that up to 26 February, Dippy had attracted more than 39,000 visitors and between now and 7 May when the exhibition closes he is confident visitor numbers will exceed the 70,000 target. Some 200 volunteers, many of them new to the museum, have been enlisted to monitor visitors to the exhibition and Jon is hopeful that many of them will continue as museum volunteers when Dippy has moved on. The volunteers are co-ordinated by eight Dippy duty officers. Admission to see Dippy is free and should not be missed, as he will not come this way again. It is hard to imagine these immense creatures roaming Dorset, but it is good to know that they did.

Photos: Jill Bryant

Excited schoolchildren are wowed by the giant dinosaur

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Dark story behind church memorial

By Jerry Bird

In the north aisle of St Peter's church, there is a large memorial plaque to one "John Gordon Esq" who "died at Dorchester Oct 4th 1774 aged 46. On his return to Jamaica, Where he had resided many Years In universal Esteem." That a 46-year-old Scotsman, living in Jamaica, should have died in Dorchester on his way back to that Caribbean island seems odd enough.

However, the next part of the inscription is even more notable (capitalised as per the plaque):

He was signally instrumental
In quelling dangerous Rebellion in that Island,
In the year 1760.
A large body of NEGROES
Whom his BRAVERY had repulsed Finally Yielding
To their Confidence in his HUMANITY.

The memorial was erected by John Gordon's brother, George.

It may come as a surprise to some readers that by the mid-18th century there were a large number of Scots in the Caribbean islands; the Gordons were well represented among them. Some were refugees from religious and political persecution after taking part in the Jacobite rising, while others, ironically, were transported to serve as slaves on the islands after their defeat at the battle of Culloden in 1745, and, after their sentences expired, became landowners and farmers who used slaves of African origin on their plantations.

However John Gordon emigrated to Jamaica, by the late 1750s he was established, along with his brother, north-west of a settlement called Esher, at Green Castle Plantation, where the principal crops were sugar, rum and molasses. It would appear that he was attorney to the landowner, John Ellis, and may have bought into the business as, according to Jamaican archives, he was a signatory to the official accounts.

The revolt mentioned on the memorial is also known as Tacky's Rebellion. Tacky, a Koromanti chief by birth (enslaved from Ghana), was an overseer who, with a group of fellow Akan tribesmen, rose against their (largely) British oppressors on 8 April 1760 – Easter Sunday, a time when most white settlers would have been attending church.

According to a contemporary witness:

Their design was to rise at Kingston and Spanish town, and to have set fire to these towns in several places at once, and to murder everybody in them.

They afterward seized what arms and ammunition were to be found, and went to a small fort at Port Maria, where there was only one white man and a Negro; they killed the white man, and took away three barrels of powder, and marched to another Estate, where the overseer was apprised of their intentions.

He defended the house for an hour and a half, and the rebels were going away; upon which he opened the door, and wanted to bring them to their duty by speaking to them. Whilst he was doing so, one of his own Negroes shot him in the back. The rest rushed in and killed all the white people except one, whom they mangled in the most awful manner, cutting off his nose, and leaving him for dead.

They cut off the overseer's head, put his blood in a calabash, mixed gunpowder with it, and eat their plantains dipped in it, as they did by every white man they killed. In short their savage barbarity can scarcely be paralleled.

The plaque in St Peter's Church, Dorchester

In such a crisis, all able-bodied white males between the ages of 16 and 60 would have been given arms and expected to defend the slave-owning settlers, and it is likely that both brothers helped to quell the rebellion. The rebels were apparently repulsed at Esher, which is most likely where the Gordons and their militia made their stand. Five white men were killed defending Esher at the river crossing, including a ➠ **Turn to p23**

Vital work of county hospital's Friends

The Friends of Dorset County Hospital group was founded in 1956 to provide 'comfort and help' to patients in the old Dorchester Hospital.

Today's modern hospital is very different, and that original wording now sounds very old fashioned, but the original purpose remains at the core of the organisation.

The 'Friends' is a charity and, with the exception of its manager, is entirely run by more than 120 volunteers and steered by their trustees, who are also volunteers.

With the profits they are able to provide facilities and equipment that are not always available through NHS funding, and are valued by both staff and patients. They run both a shop in the hospital as well as the trolley service to patients on wards.

They also have a fundraising team initially formed to help raise £25,000 for Gully's Place, a suite of three rooms providing support for children with a life-limiting or life-threatening condition, and their families.

They achieved this in 2016 and Gully's Place is now up and running. Buoyed by this success, the Friends are now in the process of raising £25,000 for the hospital's new Cancer Appeal.

So far they have raised £10,000. When the new suite is opened it will avoid the need for cancer patients from Dorchester and the surrounding area to travel to Poole, so will be of great benefit at a difficult time.

To raise funds, the Friends hold various popular fund-raising events such as bingo evenings, raffles, book sales, a tea dance and a fashion show. Back in August they held a barn dance which proved hugely successful and they have already booked another date for this year – so keep an eye out for the publicity. They also held their first Christmas Fayre last year, which proved to be highly popular and raised £1,550 on the day.

Just some of the Friends of Dorset County Hospital

As well as the larger sums raised for Gully's Place and the Cancer Appeal, the Friends were very fortunate in receiving two legacies for more than £75,000.

The first was used for dementia and elderly care on Barnes Ward. The second was topped up to £100,000 for the Cancer Outpatient Procedure Suite. Other recent gifts to the hospital have included medical wheelchairs (£4,672), furniture and equipment for Diagnostic Imaging (£1,800), and £27,800 for new technology to treat rectal cancer.

Why not become a volunteer? The Friends needs more than 120 volunteers a week to work in the shop, on the trolleys, and help the fundraising team. It can be a good way to give something back to the hospital and also make friends with other 'Friends'!

The minimum commitment is one shift (around three hours) a fortnight. The oldest volunteer (naming no names!) is aged 86.

Friends' manager Sharon Merritt said, "In 1999 I saw an advert for volunteers at the hospital so I came in for a chat and started two days later!

"I thoroughly enjoyed volunteering and in 2005, when a part-time opportunity came up I applied and, as they say, the rest is history! I am privileged to have such a fabulous team of volunteers."

There are a number of ways in which you can support the Friends' work and so help the hospital. You can:

- Visit the Friends' shop (South Wing, level 1)
- Make a donation
- Attend a fundraising event
- Donate raffle prizes
- Donate books for sale
- Join the Friends for an annual subscription of £5
- Hold a fundraising event
- Leave a legacy

For more information visit friendsofdorsetcountyhospital.co.uk, email friends@dchft.nhs.uk or call 01305 255896. We would love to hear from you.

Sharon Merritt

Sir Frederick Treves, surgeon to t

By Jerry Bird

For generations, the Treves family ran a successful upholstery business in Dorchester, close to the town pump. In 1842 William Treves married Jane Knight in St Mary's church, Devizes, and brought her back to Dorchester, where they lived at 8 Cornhill.

They had six children, the fifth of whom, Frederick, was born on 15 February 1853, and as the blue plaque currently on the wall of his birthplace, now Costa Coffee, attests, he was to become a prominent member of Victorian society, and eminent in his chosen field of work, that of a surgeon.

The Treves family were comfortably well off, and young Frederick was sent to be educated by the poet William Barnes at his school in South Street. Barnes was to have a profound influence on Treves' life, instilling a love of nature and science in the child.

He later wrote fondly about Barnes in his book *Highways and Byways in Dorset* (1906):

My recollection of the poet and philologist is that of the gentlest and most kindly of men. His appearance was peculiar. He had white hair and a long beard, and always wore knee breeches and shoes with large buckles. Out of doors he donned a curious cap and a still more curious cape, while I never saw him without a bag over his shoulder and a stout staff. During school hours he was in the habit of pacing the room in reverie happily oblivious of his dull surroundings. I remember once that some forbidden fruit of which I was possessed rolled across the schoolroom floor, and that I crawled after it in the wake of the dreaming master. He turned suddenly in his walk and stumbled over me, to my intense alarm. When he had regained his balance he apologised very earnestly and resumed his walk, unconscious that the object he had fallen over was a scholar. I have often wondered to which of his charming poems I owed my escape from punishment.

Frederick Treves was born in Dorchester, and a good friend of Thomas Hardy

Meeting with Hardy

During his schooldays he met Thomas Hardy who by then was working as an apprentice to John Hicks, also in South Street. Despite Hardy being the elder by 13 years, they became firm friends, and remained so throughout Treves' life.

Treves' father died on 26 July 1867 and, within months his mother had sold the business and moved the family to London. Here Frederick was to become a student at the Merchant Taylors' School before training at the London Hospital.

The interest in medicine seems to have run in the family as his eldest brother, William Knight Treves, had studied to be a doctor under the supervision of John Good, a surgeon who had a practice in High West Street, Dorchester, and later became a GP in Sussex, and a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. His other brother, Edward, became a leading surgeon at the London Hospital.

After qualifying as a surgeon, Frederick practised for while in Margate where he married Anne Elizabeth Mason in 1877. She had moved from Dorchester by 1873, where her family had been run a brewery in Durngate Street, just yards from the Treves' family business in Cornhill. It is possible, even likely, that connections between the two families had been made during Frederick's childhood.

Later, the couple moved to Wirksworth, Derbyshire where he bought a share in a medical practice and became a GP. His predecessor, a Dr Webb, was responsible for establishing Wirksworth's innovatory Cottage Hospital, which

the King and the 'Elephant Man'

the local parish magazine descried as being "intended for the reception of the labouring classes and small tradesmen".

During this time, Treves continued his studies, and was up at 5 or 6am every morning studying or writing, and through this strict regime his published medical papers enabled him to achieve the much sought-after status of Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS) in 1878.

However, it was his assiduous recording of his cases in medical journals that led to him leaving this practice, as his colleagues raised their eyebrows after he published notes of two cases in the *Lancet* – the leading medical journal. In both cases the patients had died after Treves had used the then revolutionary technique of blood transfusion.

He became very popular with the well-to-do of the district, and after he became FRCS, the other doctors in the practice called him an "upstart" with "fancy southern ways". Eventually these petty jealousies led him to leave Derbyshire and return to London Hospital, where by 1884 he had become a full surgeon, and soon also had a thriving private practice, in which he specialised in appendicitis surgery and became a leader in this rapidly developing field.

At the London Hospital Treves suddenly found popular fame for two entirely unconnected medical cases. The first of these was the reason for which his name is best known today, his role as the man who cared for Joseph Carey Merrick, otherwise known as the 'Elephant Man', whose plight was later depicted in the multi-Oscar

Joseph Merrick, known as the 'Elephant Man', in 1889

winning 1980 film directed by David Lynch, in which John Hurt played Merrick, with Treves portrayed by Anthony Hopkins.

Exhibited by showman

Joseph Merrick suffered severe and debilitating deformities. Unable to find work, in 1884 after four years in a Leicester workhouse, Merrick contacted a showman named Sam Torr and proposed that he should exhibit him.

After touring the East Midlands, they travelled to London where Merrick was exhibited in premises on the Whitechapel Road, directly across the street from the London Hospital. This is where Treves first encountered him, and invited him to be examined and photographed.

Soon after Merrick's visits to the hospital, the shop was closed down by the police and he was sent on tour in Europe. In Belgium, he was robbed by his road manager and abandoned in Brussels. He eventually made his way back to London. He was unable to communicate, and utterly destitute, but fortunately the police found Treves' business card on him.

Treves rescued Merrick and took him to the London Hospital, where he was allowed to stay for the remainder of his life. Treves visited him daily and the pair developed quite a close friendship.

Merrick became well known in London society and received visits from the wealthy ladies and gentlemen of London society, including Alexandra, Princess of Wales. It could be argued that he was just as much an exhibit as before, but at least now he was in comfortable surroundings, and as well looked after as anybody with such devastating disabilities could hope to be at that period.

Treves wrote a semi-fictionalised account of Joseph Merrick in his last book *The Elephant Man and other Reminiscences* (1923). The causes of Merrick's disabilities have still not been satisfactorily explained; for many years his skeleton was on public display in a glass case at Queen Mary's Hospital, London, though it is now only available for private scientific examination. There has recently been a campaign for his remains to be given a Christian burial in Leicester.

The second case which brought Treves fame was when as surgeon to Edward VII, he diagnosed the King's appendicitis just two days before the planned date of his coronation. Treves's had a strict regime when it came to appendicitis and insisted that the operation must take place on 24 June 1902. This caused the Coronation to be postponed ➠

A Vanity Fair illustration of Frederick Treves (Wellcome Library)

until 9 August of that year. As all the heads of state from the British Empire and other dignitaries from around the world would already have been in London, the pressure on Treves not to operate must have been enormous. Despite the disagreement of some of his colleagues, Treves, was resolute. In response to the King's outcry, "I have a Coronation on hand," Treves replied "It will be a funeral, if you don't have the operation."

Daughter's death

The reason behind Treves' resolution is not hard to fathom. In 1900, his 18-year-old daughter, Hetty, developed severe abdominal pain. Treves was unsure whether it was appendicitis or not (it was) and his reluctance to operate meant that she developed peritonitis and died. Treves never hesitated again; the future King's life was thus probably saved due to Hetty's untimely death.

This notable success brought him lasting celebrity status. After the operation Treves spent time on the royal yacht at the invitation of the King, who suggested that Dr Frederick Treves should be the toast of the entire nation. In gratitude for saving his life, Edward gave him a baronetcy.

While living in London, he maintained strong associations with his Dorset roots. He became the first president of the Society of Dorset Men in 1904, an organisation founded to help young men from the county find work in London, and to keep in touch with each other. Thomas Hardy, who had lived in London while working as an architect, was also a strong supporter of the society, which still exists and currently has roughly 1,200 members (see p30).

Keen yachtsman

Treves also regularly rented a cottage in West Lulworth where he moored his yacht, *Vagabond*, in the cove. He was an accomplished yachtsman and enjoyed teaching his medical colleagues to sail. In *Highways and Byways* he recounts a dramatic and synchronistic story concerning an event in 1892:

On the beach at the foot of the highest precipice is a board with this inscription on it:

'This marks the spot whereon
E.H.L.
Aged 11 years
Fell from the summit of the cliff,
A descent of 380 feet,
September 7th 1892.
She miraculously escaped
without
Sustaining lifelong injury
S.T.S.L.'

The unlucky girl was Edith H, Leckie of Bootle, Lancashire. Her mother was an Australian called Elizabeth, her father an Irishman, Squire T. S. Leckie (hence S.T.S.L.). The incident was recorded the *Dorset County Chronicle*. Edith and her mother were visiting Lulworth Cove with friends while the squire was in Weymouth on business.

Treves continues:

Any who look up from this spot to the fringe of grass which crowns this appalling wall will never for a moment credit that a child can have fallen from a height greater than that of St Paul's Cathedral without having been mangled to death. I did not actually see the poor girl fall, but I was on the beach when she was brought to the coastguard boat-house, where I was able to attend to her terrible injuries.

She came down with her back to the cliff. Her clothes were torn into strings, and it would appear that the catching of her garments on the rough face of the precipice, together with the circumstance that certain slopes and ledges were encountered in her descent, help to explain the incredible fact that she escaped with her life, and still more happily without permanent ill effect.

Those who are curious about coincidences, may be interested to know that at the time the alarm reached my cottage I was reading a book written by her father. He was himself not staying in Lulworth at the time, nor had I previously made his acquaintance.

In 1904 Treves retired, and having been asked by Macmillan, the publishing house, to consider writing travel books, he went travelling. He visited Japan and America, being presented to the emperor of the former, and the president of the latter. In 1905 he returned to Dorchester and embarked on what must then have been a gruelling tour (on unmade roads) of Dorset by bicycle during

which he visited every town, village and hamlet in the county, cycling more than 2,000 miles.

He made copious notes for his *Highways and Byways*, perhaps his most successful popular publication, and the most frequently reprinted book about Dorset.

Treves was also an inveterate letter writer, and he shared with his friend, Thomas Hardy, a love of ancient buildings – typically, in one of a series of letters to *The Times*, he expressed concern about restoration work at Puddletown Church near Dorchester.

Lulworth Cove by Joseph Pennell from Highways & Byways of Dorset

Death in Switzerland

Sir Frederick Treves died on 7 December 1923, aged 70, in Lausanne, Switzerland, ironically, perhaps, of peritonitis, as had his daughter.

In the days before antibiotics, peritonitis commonly resulted from a ruptured appendix. His wife arranged for him to be cremated at Lausanne and the ashes sent to England, to be buried in Dorchester cemetery.

The funeral service was arranged by his lifelong friend, Thomas Hardy. Despite being now 84 and very frail, Hardy insisted on attending and stood beside the grave in rain and hail, without an umbrella, for the entire ceremony. He placed a poem in *The Times* newspaper entitled *In the Evening*.

The Society of Dorset Men contributed a wreath on which was inscribed a verse from William Barnes, in the Dorset dialect, which had been one of the doctor's favourites:

An' oft do come a saddened hour
When there must go away
Woone well beloved to our heart's core
Vor long, perhaps vor aye.
An' oh! It is a touchen thing
The loven heart must rue
To hear behind his last farewell
The geate a-vallen to! ❖

Retribution exceeded 'barbarity' of slaves

From p18 ➠ lad whose name was also Gordon, but it is unknown if he was a direct relation.

Defeat was inevitable – 25 prisoners were taken and as the following account shows, their masters' retribution managed to parallel, and even exceed, the "savage barbarity" of the rioters all too well:

Ion, who had not been the rebel actually, was burnt alive for having sworn to cut his master's and mistress's heads off and make punch bowls of them. On Saturday I heard trials of four more, who were found guilty of being concerned in the murder of white people. Two were burnt alive the same day; two were hanged, their bodies burnt, and their heads stuck on poles. Two were tried at Kingston for the same offence and found guilty. Their sentence was to be gibbeted alive 20 feet high. One of them lived nine days without a drop of water, hanging in an excessive hot place.

Whether the "humanity" mentioned on John Gordon's memorial manifested itself during these horrific events, or whether he later made peace with the rebels – perhaps through guilt at the treatment the prisoners received, is not recorded.

The barbaric transatlantic slave trade was abolished in 1807, by which time the fortunes of the Jamaican plantation owners had declined sharply as a result of American independence in 1776, after which it became the main source of sugar. Slave ownership was abolished in Britain in 1833, but continued in the United States until 1865.

Quite why John Gordon died at so early an age, and why he was in Dorchester at the time of his demise is also not known, but it is quite possible that he was here to trade in the town because of its reputation for brewing, molasses being a common ingredient of beer in the 18th century. ❖

Mythical origins of Dorset's mazes

By Jerry Bird

Mazes were once relatively common features in our landscape, and a few still survive, though only a handful can be described as ancient.

They were still popular in Tudor times and were often incorporated into the formal gardens of great houses, though on a much grander scale to the small turf-cut mazes used for dances and games by ordinary folk at seasonal celebrations, especially on 1 May.

Such rustic diversions were in decline by the 17th century, as Shakespeare notes in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1596): "The quaint mazes in the wanton green, for lack of tread are indistinguishable." The great Dorset antiquary John Hutchins quotes John Aubrey (1686): "There were many [mazes] in England before the civil wars; and that the young people used on festivals to dance, or, as the term was, to tread them."

Traditional turf mazes were usually laid out to a design known as the Cretan Labyrinth, a reference to the famous Minoan palace labyrinth at Knossos, destroyed by fire in the 15th century BC.

The design spans both different millennia and different civilisations. One elaborate version on the floor of Chartres cathedral suggests a religious purpose in the 13th century.

In England such mazes became associated with the legend of Troy, and the pattern was supposed to represent the street pattern of that great city. This may be a result of Geoffrey of Monmouth's *History of the Kings of Britain*, written c.1136, in which he claims Britain was first settled by Brutus,

Maze at Pimperne.

a descendent of Aeneas, of Trojan legend. This 'history' was also the source of the legends of Merlin and much early Arthurian lore.

As a result, the place-name 'Troy Town' often occurs where mazes once existed. One such is near Puddletown, where a Troy Town Farm and Copse still exist, most likely the inspiration for the Sergeant Troy's surname in Thomas Hardy's *Far from the Madding Crowd*. There was also a Troy Town in Sherborne mentioned in a survey of 1735.

An elaborate maze was recorded near Pimperne, but it had been destroyed by ploughing about 1730. Hutchins' plan (above) is rather different from the traditional pattern, depicting a meandering labyrinth within a triangular design covering nearly an acre.

It was situated next to an ancient barrow on the corner of Higher Shaftesbury Lane, and the Salisbury road north-west of Blandford town centre, and was constructed of earthen ridges about a foot high. Hutchins mentions "it was much used by the young people on holidays, and the schooleboies". 'Maze Field' later became a cemetery.

The second edition (1815) of *Hutchins' History and Antiquities of Dorsetshire* tells us that the 'Mizmaze' at Leigh, five miles south-west of Sherborne, was also disused before the 19th century:

On an eminence in the common is a maze of circular form, about 30 paces in diameter, surrounded by a bank and ditch, and occupying an eighth part of an acre. The banks of earth are set almost close together, and are somewhat more than one foot in width and about half a foot in height. Heretofore it was the custom for the young men of the village to scour out the trenches and pare the banks once in six or seven years, and the day appropriated for the purpose was passed in rustic merriment and festivity.

By 1800 the common had been enclosed and the maze almost obliterated. Now only the outer earthwork survives, and the labyrinth has disappeared as surely as the dances once enjoyed there.

A link to witchcraft at Leigh maze occurred due to confusion between William Barnes' account of depositions to Somerset magistrates in the 17th century, which recorded a witches' sisterhood that "sometime met on Leigh Common". This was probably near Wimborne, while his mention of 'Witches Corner' at Leigh was a corruption of 'Hitchens Corner', marked on Elizabethan maps.

Such accidental additions to folklore have a habit of enduring. Katherine Barker, writing in 1989, mentions "the most attractive Leigh Women's Institute banner", that "continues to display a witch in full regalia on a broomstick taking a carefully considered view of a curious six-sided puzzle". ❖

Beerex – 30 years on and still growing

By Rich Gabe

Real ale fans from all over the county flocked to Dorchester recently to sample some of the 85 brews on tap at the town's 30th annual beer festival.

This year's event saw more than 1,400 people attending over two days, and a fantastic party atmosphere on the Saturday night with the band Black Water County.

Roughly £13,000 was raised for charity, with the main benefactor this year being the Dorchester Social Stroke Club. Champion ale of the festival was Corbel from the Eight Arch brewery in Wimborne.

It all seems a long time ago when, in the summer of 1988, Dorchester Round Table approached the West Dorset Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) on the possibility of running a charity beer festival in Dorchester.

Round Table member Trevor Bevins had lived in Salisbury, which had its own festival, and he ran a minibus to Salisbury to show Dorchester Round Table how successful a beer festival could be. So without Trevor's involvement, Dorchester Beerex may not exist.

Early meetings were held in Tom Brown's pub, with no minutes taken, but nevertheless the first session of Dorchester Beerex took place at 6pm on Friday, 23 September in Dorchester Corn Exchange, and then on Saturday lunchtime – there was no Saturday evening session.

Back in 1988 we only had 14 beers on sale and two ciders, with the casks resting on planks on the front of the stage – a far cry from today's set-up. Stillage was to come later with the involvement of South Western Scaffolding.

All the beers were from larger brewers such as Young's, Hall & Woodhouse and Eldridge Pope, our first sponsor, alongside H Meyers & Sons. In those days the beer highlights were Butcombe, Exmoor and Ringwood breweries, with entertainment from the Mill Street jazz band and the Frome Valley Morris Men.

Ale and hearty – members of the Dorchester 2018 Beerex committee

The festival glasses were quite plain, just the Round Table and CAMRA logos – water-soaked transfers which were manually stuck on then driven up to Poole Pottery to be kiln sealed.

Firkin in a car boot

Sourcing the beer in those days was a challenge in itself with tales of the late John Young, chairman of Young's brewery, Wandsworth meeting a Round Table member in a layby with a firkin of ale in his car boot, and rolling casks up the hill from Tom Brown's, which had just become a brew pub.

The main driving force from Round Table was the first Beerex chairman John Masterson, Bill Harvey and Trevor Bevins, alongside CAMRA members Alex Bardswell and Paul Hathaway.

Though working at all 30 festivals, my committee role did not start until Rich Bates talked me into getting more involved in 1999. Alex Bardswell still sits on the committee, sourcing cider.

The first festival only raised £350 and there were serious reservations about a second Beerex taking place. Thankfully it did, and as the years passed our donations to local good causes have soared, thanks to the generosity of local businesses through barrel sponsorship, and support from local brewers. To this day, 100% of money from the raffle goes to the Round Table Children's Wish appeal.

Organisations that have benefited in the past include Headway, Dorchester Scouts, Guides and Brownies, West Dorset Children's Homes, West Dorset Diabetes, Mosaic, Gully's Place, RNLI and the Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance. Over the years more than £150,000 has been raised.

We have always had a brewer as a main sponsor. Palmers of Bridport are now in their fourth year, but previously sponsors include Hall & Woodhouse, Dorset Brewing Co and Piddle Brewery.

We must also take time to reflect on Round Table members who have passed away such as Julian Slade and Nicko Seaton. For many years Jools was responsible for the publicity artwork.

Over the past 30 years, nobody who works at the festival from West Dorset CAMRA, Dorchester Round Table or Ellipse has ever been paid a penny – we are all dedicated volunteers.

So I would like to thank everyone for their continued support and long may Beerex prosper into the next 30 years!

Helping to deal with male infertility

As many as one in six couples have difficulty conceiving. Most research has focused on females and treatment is provided by gynaecologists. Actually both male and female factors contribute equally to infertility – male fertility has fallen 60% in the past 40 years.

If you have a poor semen analysis, often no treatment is offered. You may be offered ICSI, a form of IVF where one healthy sperm is chosen and injected into the egg to fertilise it, or IVF using donor sperm. ICSI allows you to have your own genetic child but doesn't help your poor semen analysis.

Actually a lot can be done to improve your sperm. Unlike females, who are born with a lifetime supply of eggs in their ovaries, males produce sperm every day. It takes about 74 days to produce mature sperm, so making lifestyle changes during that time can significantly increase sperm quality.

What causes a poor sperm analysis result?

The testes are outside your body because they work best when 2ºC cooler than body temperature. Overheating is caused by sitting all day with your testes between your thighs, over-exercising, wearing tight clothing, keeping your phone in your pocket, or using a laptop on your lap.

Poor general health due to illness, smoking, alcohol, drugs (including anabolic steroids and narcotics), and some high-blood pressure drugs all affect sperm. Our bodies use oxygen to produce energy, but this process can produce byproducts called free radicals, which damage sperm DNA and cause infertility and miscarriages.

Infections can also cause the ducts to gum up. Hormonal problems and some genetic diseases can also cause infertility. Workplace stress and the anxiety of trying to conceive can reduce sex drive and result in less sex, compounding the problem. However, almost all of these causes are treatable.

Helping yourself

Refrain from smoking, drugs and alcohol. Take regular moderate exercise, but no marathon training or cycling. Eat a nutritious diet including the good fats required for sperm production. Cut out sugar and maintain a healthy weight. Avoid exposure to chemicals. Keep electronic devices away from your body. Do not take hot baths, and wear loose-fitting underwear. Take a supplement of antioxidants.

Make these changes three months before attempting to conceive or having IVF. Finding out early if you have sperm DNA damage, which doesn't show up on a normal semen analysis, can save you the financial and emotional costs of failed IVF.

Get advice from a natural fertility specialist who can help you to get the right tests done, and refer you to the right doctor to help if necessary.

Shirley Jackson, Clinical Reflexology and Natural Fertility reflexologyzone.co.uk

Photo: Fotolia

Male fertility has fallen 60% over the past 40 years

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Freeze yourself thin

What is Cryolipolysis?
Cryolipolysis, also referred to as 'fat freezing/body sculpting" is the closest thing you can get to liposuction without actually going under the knife and is clinically proven to reduce fat by up to 50%. This non-invasive treatment can be carried out in under an hour leaving you free to carry on with your daily business as usual - no recovery time needed!

- Selectively targets fat cells
- Offers permanent inch loss
- Is non-invasive
- Has no recovery or down time
- Harvard proven technology

How does Cryolipolysis work?
The term "Popsicle Panniculitis" was coined by Harvard scientists who studied the effect of popsicles on children. The term refers to a dermatologic condition where exposure to low temperatures can selectively damage subcutaneous fat while leaving surrounding cells intact. The study showed that as a result of the popsicle, fat cells in the cheeks under went a cell death resulting in dimples and distortion.
This process also known as "Apoptosis", is a natural and programmed cell death as fat cells are more easily damaged by cooling than skin cells. Cryolipolysis was developed therefore by applying low temperatures to tissue via thermal conduction. The adipocyte (fat cells), rich with saturated fatty acids and particularly sensitive to temperature reduction and freezing - under such extreme conditions - died. Other cells such as skin tissue, blood vessels, and our nervous system are not as sensitive to freezing and are therefore unaffected by the Cryolipolysis treatment.
Once a fat cell has died - it is gone from the body permanently.

Please call or email to arrange your free consultation to assess your suitability for treatment.

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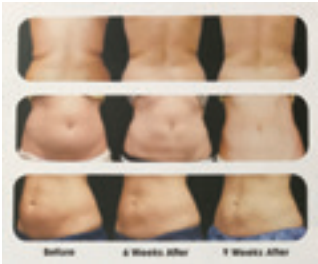
RESULTS

Once the fat cells die, they won't return. Within just nine weeks of cryolipolysis, you will lose between 25-30% of fat in each area treated.



COST

Procedure	Price
Liposuction - Nationwide Excellent results, lengthy downtime, with some risk, as with all surgery.	£6000 - £7000
Cryolipolysis - Winchester Excellent results, no downtime, no risk.	£400 per area
The Dorset Cryolipo Clinic Excellent results, no downtime, no risk and no extortionate costs.	£180 (per area)

As you can see from above,
The Dorset Cryolipo Clinic offer a very competitive price for the same results.

Gennaro's authentic taste of Italy

Dorchester has an enterprising new artisan food business in town, Nonno Peppe. Down the alley in Trinity House, Trinity Street, the former home of the Convivial Rabbit (now across the path) has been transformed into a traditional pizza parlour.

Proprietor and chef Gennaro hails from Italy and is very proud of his authentic pizzas and pasta dishes. He has been a chef in the UK for many years, but while working at the Rest and Welcome Inn at Melbury Osmund, he fell in love with the Dorset countryside and was determined to open his own business in the county. Dorchester was his favourite town.

I first tried one of his pizzas on 14 February as a Valentine's Day treat for myself and my partner (we failed to book a restaurant in time!). As she is vegetarian we settled for a Margherita with extra toppings of mushrooms, olives, red onions and artichokes. It looked spectacular and tasted wonderful, with a fine thin base, crisped at the edges – a far cry from the stodgy, tasteless, American-style offerings from the big chains.

Genarro at work, and (inset) with his partner Sara

10% off voucher

We had the 12" option with a side salad; it proved to be easily enough for two and the salad was fresh with a splendidly piquant dressing. With the whole lot costing a little over £12, it was one of the best value meals I have ever bought from any takeaway.

Since then I have tried the Rustica – a 10" version at just £6. The tomato and mozzarella base came with red onions, pepperoni, olives and artichokes, and was delicious, and the pepperoni managed to be neither greasy nor too salty, as they so often are.

On my third visit, I thought I would try one of Gennaro's pasta dishes. I chose the Penne al Pollo. The pasta was perfectly cooked and the rich creamy sauce delicately flavoured, with a generous helping of diced chicken. It was huge, but I scoffed the lot!

I am looking forward to my next visit, and intend to try one of the house specials – the Godfather Burger is, apparently a best-seller, and Nonno's proper steak and ale pie sounds amazing. This has to be the best takeaway in town, with everything made in-house, where possible with local ingredients, and cooked from fresh.

Gennaro is generously offering a 10% discount to readers of the Dorchester Voice – all you have to do is quote the code on the ad when ordering. Food can be delivered locally for only £1, though personally I prefer a pint in the Convivial Rabbit while I wait!

Jerry Bird

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Anne and Victor would like to say a big thank you to the people of the Cheselbourne area for all your friendship, patronage and moral support since we opened. You are always welcome to enjoy real ales, craft ciders and homemade food at the restored and refurbished Rivers Arms. The menu of traditional pub food "with a twist" can now be seen on our website and we also have daily specials on the blackboard in the bar. After a long campaign by the village, Cheselbourne has got its pub back.

"Good honest food and beer at reasonable prices" - The Dorchester Voice magazine

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Tales of wartime daring in Dorset Year Book

Trained in guerilla tactics, including demolition, sabotage and assassination, the Wrackleford Auxiliary Unit was part of a secret army formed in 1940 under the direction of Winston Churchill.

Author David Dunford uncovers the mysterious wartime story in the 2018 Dorset Year Book. "They were to provide undercover resistance behind the lines in the event of a German invasion.

The unit operated from a camouflaged bunker in a copse called 'The Rookery' opposite Wrackleford House, just north of Dorchester," he writes.

A commemorative stone was unveiled this year on Stratton Village Green in memory of the Wrackleford Patrol.

The existence of this shadowy local wartime unit is among the many Dorset stories recounted in the 2018 Dorset Year Book. Published by The Society of Dorset Men every year since the Society's foundation in 1904 – apart from four war years.

Among the topics covered are:

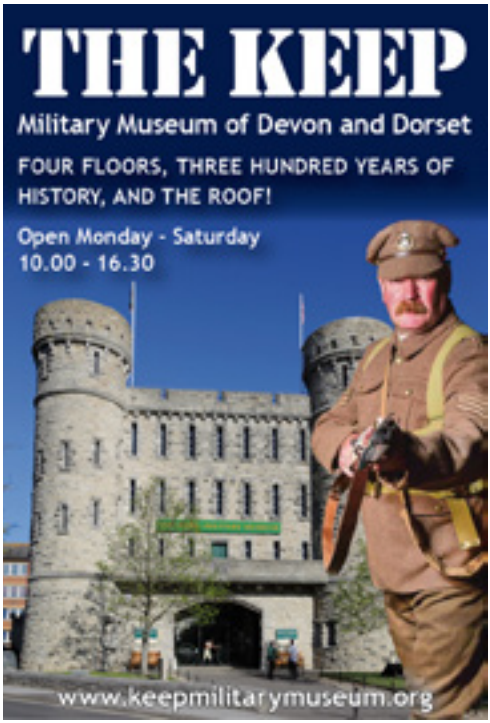
■ John White, Rector of Dorchester until 1648, had rallied the folk of the town following the disastrous fire of 1613, inspiring them to reform the government of the town into a model Commonwealth, based on Puritan ideals.

■ Longstanding links between Poole and Newfoundland began by fishing, led to trade in Dorset goods like ropes from Bridport and swanskin cloth from Sturminster Newton. People migrated across the ocean, taking their customs and dialect.

■ Greg Schofield brings to light some previously unknown facts about the Monmouth Rebellion in June 1685, which marched from Lyme Regis to an unhappy end at Sedgemoor. An attempt to raise followers in Bridport was dashed by Royalists.

■ Brian Moore tells of the Dorset Volunteer Rifle Corps silver bugle, presented in 1861, rescued from the mud at Arromanches in 1944 by the late Sgt Percy Matthews of Blandford.

The 2018 Dorset Year Book is on sale locally at £8 from Books Afloat in Park Street, Weymouth, the Tourist Information Centre in Dorchester and Waterstones in Dorchester.



Setback for Swanage to Wareham rail services

A challenging project to upgrade two former British Railways 1960s heritage diesel trains to exacting main line standards has delayed the second year of the Swanage Railway's pioneering train service to Wareham.

While some special diesel and steam trains may run between Swanage and Wareham during late 2018, the full second year of the Swanage Railway's trial train service to Wareham is now set to start during Easter, 2019.

There had been plans for a 90-day trial train service to Wareham during 2018 using the Swanage Railway's two 1960-built heritage diesel multiple units, operated by main line-qualified Swanage Railway drivers and guards.

The Swanage Railway's Project Wareham director Mark Woolley said: "The extensive overhaul, refurbishment and upgrade to exacting main line standards of our two former British Railways diesel multiple units has been very challenging work because of the heritage nature of the trains."

A heritage train undergoing replacement of its wheel-sets Photo: Peter Milford

The two 1960 BR-built diesel trains are being given new wheel-sets as well as being equipped with Network Rail-compliant warning systems and central door locking by specialist contractors.

The trains are due to be delivered for trials by early summer.

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Students' tribute to WWI fallen

When the Men Marched Away is an original play commemorating those who fought in the First World War and remembering those who lived in and around Dorchester at that time.

It is being performed by students of St Osmund's School at the Thomas Hardye School theatre.

The play commemorates the lives of local people as they lived through what would have been a testing time for them in so many different ways.

It is a true community effort and the school have been assisted with costumes by Weymouth Opera Group, Weymouth Drama Group and the New Hardy Players. Additional music to get the audience singing along will be provided by the Durnovaria Band and the Poundbury Heart & Soul Community Choir. The Town Crier, Alistair Chisholm, and the Rector of Dorchester, Thomas Woodhouse, will be playing their characters from 100 years ago.

27 and 28 March at the Thomas Hardye School theatre. Tickets £5 from St Osmund's School.

Glimpse of the last frontier

Film-maker and public speaker Barrie Campbell has rapidly gained an enviable reputation for his highly original films and will be presenting them at Charminster next month.

The first film, *Living on the Last Frontier*, sees Steve Grayham on a 10-day odyssey as he attempts to supply a prefabricated building to Australia's most isolated aboriginal community, Kalumburu. It's a rare opportunity to visit, on film, one of the last few remaining areas of wilderness on planet Earth.

The second film is *Climbing Mt. Kenya*. Join Barrie as he climbs Africa's second highest mountain. There is also a Q&A session, ploughman's supper, bar and raffle in aid of Charminster pre-school.

21 April 7pm Charminster village hall. Tickets £10 from Charminster stores.

Touching take on Boadicea

In celebration of World Women's Day, the Somerleigh Players present Ade Morris's funny and touching play about female friendship, *The Boadicea of Britannia Street*. Inspired by Boadicea's courage, four women face their demons, overcome their enemies and move on as friends to a better future. If only all women had friends like these… During the evening, there will be an opportunity to make a donation to (North Dorset) Women's Refuge.

Saturday 10 March Corn Exchange 8pm £12/£10 conc.

Church setting for Hardy recital

History and romance are sure to hang heavy in the air at a concert of new choral settings of Thomas Hardy's poetry in the Dorset writer's family church of St Michael's, Stinsford in April.

Some of Hardy's best-known poems, including *A Church Romance,* in which he describes the first sparks of his parents' love affair being kindled in St Michael's, have been set for the highly regarded Wessex Consort vocal ensemble by composer Graham Stansfield.

"It's a wonderfully atmospheric poem, a sonnet written by Hardy with a warm twinkle in his eye," says Graham. In the poem Thomas's father is playing his viol in the west gallery while his future mother is below in the pews. As she sings, the young woman is so taken by the force of her imagined suitor's playing she feels it is coming to "claim" her.

"So the audience at the Stinsford concert will be sitting in the very space in which this great romance took shape. I've written a quite powerful piece with a peaceful ending portraying their loving companionship in old age."

Saturday 7 April 7.30pm, St Michael's, Stinsford. Tickets £12 on door include a donation to church funds.

Do you believe in unicorns?

Olivier Award nominated Wizard Presents brings best-selling children's author Michael Morpurgo's treasured story to life.

I Believe in Unicorns, featuring Danyah Miller, is set in a library full of books that hold more than stories within their pages. We challenge you not to believe in unicorns after joining Tomas on his spellbinding journey. (Show includes a book swap.)

Sunday 18 March 2pm & 4.30pm Dorchester Corn Exchange, £11/£9 conc. £36 family ticket

Rising stars celebrate Bach

Two rising stars on the European early music scene, Italian-based American violinist Elicia Silverstein and British harpsichordist Christopher Bucknall, team up for a recital of some of Bach's most varied, nuanced and fascinating instrumental music.

The works on the programme, which range from intimate and conversational to dramatic and toccata-like, from dance music to intense counterpoint, were all composed during Bach's time in Weimar and Cöthen, prior to his famed stay in Leipzig.

Sunday 29 April 3pm Dorchester Corn Exchange, £15/£13 conc. £5 live for 5

Classic classroom comedy

Blackeyed Theatre revives its highly-acclaimed production of John Godber's classic comedy about life at a struggling 'sink school' for Mr Nixon, an unsuspecting new drama teacher.

Will Mr Nixon abandon his students for a green and pleasant grammar school? Who puts the bounce in Miss Prime, the PE teacher? Will Mrs Parry ever find her Koko? Crammed full of unforgettable characters, political left-hooks and razor-sharp comedy, *Teechers* is more relevant today than ever.

Saturday 24 March 2.30pm & 8pm Dorchester Corn Exchange, £14/£12 conc. £5 Live for 5

Enchanting puppetry will wow

Prepare to be enthralled by this enchanting folk tale told on a miniature scale about a boy who bottles up his heart and throws it into the sea. Stunning visuals centre around a beautifully carved chest holding the secrets to the story, as intricate puppets are swept through this transforming wooden world in *A Heart at Sea*. There will be a craft session afterwards – make a sea creature and puppeteer yourself! Tickets £4, £2 if you buy a ticket for the show.

Wednesday 4 April 2.30pm Dorchester Corn Exchange, £9/£7 conc. £28 family ticket

Free concert by piano quartet

The Dorchester Piano Quartet will be playing their first lunchtime concert at the Corn Exchange. The programme consists of Schumann's Adagio and Allegro for cello and piano, and Brahms' Piano Quartet in C minor.

Thursday 15 March Dorchester Corn Exchange, 1pm FREE (donations welcome)

Young Musician in concert

BBC Young Musician of the Year in 2014, Martin James Bartlett wowed us with this superb talent in 2016 at the Corn Exchange. He returns by popular demand this spring with a new programme including works by Bach, Beethoven, Rachmaninov and Prokofiev. The concert will open with a short performance by Hannah McFarlane, a tremendously talented young cellist from Dorchester.

Wednesday 14 March 8pm Dorchester Corn Exchange, £15/£13 conc. £5 Live for 5

Don't miss Dad's Army treat

Two actors, 25 characters and some of the greatest comedy scripts of all time come together in *Dad's Army Radio Hour*. In this brilliant show based on favourite episodes from the legendary TV series, double Fringe award-winner David Benson and Jack Lane use their mastery of the art of vocal impersonation, bringing to life all the wonderful personalities and brilliant lines from the pens of Jimmy Perry and David Croft. "Don't tell him, Pikey…" Pure joy.

Saturday 14 April, 8pm, Sunday 15 April, 3pm, Dorchester Corn Exchange £15/£13 conc. dorchesterarts.org.uk

Magical voice of Maddy Prior

Over the course of her remarkable career, Maddy Prior has made it her mission to work with some of the most exceptional musicians in the world – both within Steeleye Span and beyond.

To that list she has added accordionist and singer Hannah James and multi-instrumentalist Giles Lewin (Bellowhead), forming a trio that explores the music of the British Isles and Eastern Europe.

The trio will be performing songs from their two albums, as well as highlights from Maddy's solo and band career, all presented in a daring acoustic style that enhances one of the UK's finest voices.

Wednesday 2 May 8pm Corn Exchange, £17/£15 conc.

Norwegian dancers dazzle

Norwegian dance troupe Panta Rei is a highly acclaimed company, known for the overall immersive feeling of their productions, catching the imagination of audiences worldwide.

This new show, *Promise of Departure*, looks at how vulnerability and strength come to play in the relationships we have, and the struggles we are forced to overcome. It explores the promise of connection and the departure from our comfort zone, and challenges the dancers to share personal stories and push their physicality over and over again.

Saturday 28 April, 7:30pm. Buckland Newton. 01300 345455

Raw blues and funky grooves

Hailing from the deep south of Australia, Geoff Achison has scores of devoted fans around the world with his exciting blend of raw blues and funky grooves.

Geoff was chosen as one of the 'Top Ten Hottest New Guitarists' by *Guitar Player* magazine. Geoff is able to deliver the full blues-rock experience with his band, the UK Souldiggers.

Friday 6 April 8pm Dorchester Corn Exchange, £15/£13 conc

Comedy thriller Christie-style

Crimes Under the Sun is a comedy thriller featuring four actors playing multiple outrageous characters, and a plot that romps along in an inventive style. Inspired by Agatha Christie, Hitchcock and film noir, you are invited on an hilarious but murderous trip to a classic English Riviera retreat.

Saturday 7 April, 8pm, Sunday 8 April, 3pm Dorchester Corn Exchange, £13/£11 conc. £5 Live for 5

Show of Hands return to town

Multi-award-winning Show of Hands duo Steve Knightley and Phil Beer dovetail old songs with new in this unmissable celebration of their enduring impact on roots, acoustic and folk music. Show of Hands weave story and melody to create a spellbinding display of consummate musicianship.

With five sell-out Royal Albert Hall shows under their belts, Steve and Phil make a rare return to more intimate settings. Special guest is compelling musician and fellow Devonian Geoff Lakeman.

Friday 13 April Corn Exchange, 8pm £23/£21 conc.

A show you'll never forget

Gloriator is a riotously funny show revealing just what happens when a glamorous French actress and her hapless assistant stage their version of Hollywood blockbuster *Gladiator*.

Gloria Delaneuf is well-versed in mime, mask, and the mysteries of stagecraft. Her UK tour manager Josephine Cunningham is not. Russell Crowe may not be on hand but they are determined it will be a show you'll never forget.

Fri 23 March, 7:30pm. Powerstock Hut. 01308 485730. £9, £7 u18s, £28 fam

Sun 25 March, 7:30pm. West Stafford Village Hall. 07968 633834. £10, £8 u18s, £30 fam

Mystic Nordic story of courage

From Farnham Maltings, the team that brought you *The Iranian Feast*, comes an evening of story and song from the lands of the far, far north.

Brave Folk is a mystical Nordic tale fizzing with humour, about love, courage and knowing when to act. Our hero, Yorgjin Oxo, is a carefree young man who has been taught the sounds of storms and how to sing into the rain, until one day people and places disappear and everything changes.

Fri 23 March, 7:30pm. Buckland Newton Village Hall. 01300 345455. £9, £7 u18s, £28 fam

Catch Milton's *Lost Dog*!

Lost Dog is a one-man staging of Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost* – and not whatever came into your head when you started this sentence!

Combining theatre and comedy, this is a journey that brings you the highlights of this well known but often forgotten story about Lucifer's rebellion and Adam and Eve's expulsion from the garden of Eden.

Sat 24 March, 7:30pm. Martinstown Village Hall. 01305 889963. £9, £6 u18s, £25 fam

March

Until 7 May Dippy on Tour. Dorset County Museum. Also May Dino Tours of the Museum.
9 March 7.30pm (doors & refreshments 7pm) DYT Senior Company presents The Domino Effect by Fin Kennedy. Dorchester Corn Exchange. £7.50/£4 under 18s Tel. 01305 266926
9 March 7:30pm Fluff Productions – Agent of Influence: The Secret Life of Pamela More. Briantspuddle Village Hall. Tickets £9, £6 u18s. www.artsreach.co.uk. 01929 471002
9 March 7:30pm Just Us Dance Theatre – It's Between Us. Toller Porcorum Village Hall. Tickets £9, £6 u18s, £25 family. www.artsreach.co.uk. 01300 320373
10 March 7.00pm-9.30pm Cantamus Choral Concert. St Mary's Church, Cerne Abbas
10 March 8.00pm (doors & bar 7.30pm) The Boadicea of Britannia Street (Somerleigh Players) In celebration of World Women's Day. Dorchester Corn Exchange. £12/£10 members & concessions. Tel. 01305 266926 www.dorchesterarts.org.uk
10 March 7:30pm Agent of Influence: The Secret Life of Pamela More. Burton Bradstock Village Hall. Tickets £9, £6 u18s, £25 family. www.artsreach.co.uk. 01308 897421
10 March 4.00pm Concert for Youth with Martin Clunes (Narrator) Dorset Chamber Orchestra. St Mary's Church. Tickets £12 adults, under 18s £1 from Harmony Music, 01305 260360
10 March 7:30pm Harbour Voices – Songs of the Sea. Charlton Down Herrison Hall. Tickets £8, £6 u18s, £24 family. 01305 264060
10 March 10.00am-3.30pm Dorset Women's Day. Dorford Centre. Workshops, crafts, stalls and light refreshments.
10-11 March 11.00am-4.00pm Pop badge swap weekend at Weymouth Sealife Park. Normal admission price.
11 March Mother's Day at Monkey World. Mums get 50% off.
11 March 7:30pm Rhodri Miles – Dylan Thomas: Clown in the Moon. Shillingstone Portman Hall. Tickets £9, £6 u18s, £25 family. www.artsreach.co.uk. 01258 860319
12 March 10.00am-5.00pm Mother's Day high tea at Corfe Castle. £12.95 per person. To book call 01929 481332
13 March 7:30pm Ragged Edge Productions -The Chef Show. Cranborne Cecil Memorial Hall. "A deliciously funny and occasionally dramatically-daring concoction of a play" British Theatre Guide. Tickets £14, £7 u18s 01725 517500
13 March 10.00am-12.00pm Wildlife Wander at Higher Bockhampton. £3, meet in car park
14 March 7.00pm Geology Revealed: The science of paleao-art by Dr Mark Witton. Dorset County Museum. Tickets £5 non-members/£3 members. 01305 262735 or 01305 756827
15 March 1.00pm (doors 12.30pm) Dorchester Piano Quartet. Dorchester Corn Exchange. FREE (donations for Dorchester Arts & Dorchester Piano Quartet welcome) Tel. 01305 266926 www.dorchesterarts.org.uk
15 March 7:30pm Ragged Edge Productions, The Chef Show Bourton Village Hall. Tickets £9, £6 u18s, £25 family. 01747 840057
16 March 1.00pm-4.00pm Tuneful Stories at Max Gate with Tim Laycock. Free event although normal admission prices apply.
17 March 11.00am Weldmar hospicecare – Weldmar's Men's Rugby Walk. Dorchester RFC. Starting at Dorchester Rugby Club. Registration fee £18
17 March 7.00pm Memorial Supper Club. Hethfelton House. Jim Cronin Memorial Fund for Monkey World. Entertainment, dinner and disco. Tickets £28 To book contact 01929 462487
18 March 11.00am-3.00pm George Albert Hotel Wedding Fayre. Evershott
18 March 2.00pm & 4.30pm I Believe in Unicorns by Michael Morpurgo. Dorchester Corn Exchange. £11 / £9 members & concessions / £36 family ticket (max. 2 adults). Age guidance: suitable for families with children 6+. Tel. 01305 266926 www.dorchesterarts.org.uk
20 March 1.30pm-2.30pm Words and Walk (Dementia friendly) Higher Bockhampton. £3.00 per ticket
22 March 7:30pm Spitz & Co – Gloriator. Drimpton Village Hall. A riotously funny show revealing just what happens when a glamorous French actress and her hapless assistant stage their version of Hollywood blockbuster Gladiator. Tickets £9, £7 u18s, £28 family. www.artsreach.co.uk. 01308 867442
23 March 8.00pm (doors & bar 7.30pm) Hardeep Singh Kohli: Alternative, Fact. Dorchester Corn Exchange. £15 / £13 members and concessions / £5 Live for 5. www.dorchesterarts.org.uk
23 March 7:30pm Spitz & Co – Gloriator. Powerstock Hut. Tickets £9, £7 u18s, £28 family. 01308 485730
23 March 7:30pm Farnham Maltings – Brave Folk. Buckland Newton Village Hall. Brave Folk is a mystical Nordic tale fizzing with humour, about love, courage and knowing when to act. Tickets £9, £7 u18s, £28 family. 01300 345455
23-25 March Spring Gala 2018 at Swanage Steam Railway
24 March 2.30pm & 8pm Teechers by John Godber (Blackeyed Theatre). Dorchester Corn Exchange. £14 / £12 members & concessions / £5 Live for 5. Age guidance: 11+ 01305 266926 www.dorchesterarts.org.uk
24 March 7:30pm Lost Dog – Paradise Lost. Martinstown Village Hall. Combining theatre, comedy and movement, this is a journey through the story of the creation of everything. Tickets £9, £6 u18s, £25 family. www.artsreach.co.uk. 01305 889963
25 March 7:30pm Spitz & Co – Gloriator. West Stafford Village Hall. Tickets £10, £8 u18s, £30 family. www.artsreach.co.uk. 07968633834
26 March-22 June Made in Wessex: Old Sarum Cathedral Stonework. Exhibition at Dorset County Museum. Tickets £5 non-members/£3 members. 01305 262735 or 01305 756827
27 March 7 for 7.30 pm 'What's the point of William Barnes in the 21st Century' Talk by Dr Richard Bradbury, Dorford Centre
27 March 1.30pm-2.30pm Sensory Walk (Dementia friendly). Higher Bockhampton. Tickets £3.00
29 March 8.00pm (doors & bar 7.30pm) Mark Steel: Every Little Thing's Gonna Be Alright. Dorchester Corn Exchange. £15/£13 members & concessions (subject to an additional £1 Future Fund levy). 14+ (Parental Guidance: Likely to be swearing and adult content). Tel. 01305 266926. www.dorchesterarts.org.uk
30 March-2 April 10.00am to 5.00pm Giant Easter Egg Hunt. Abbotsbury Children's Farm.
30 March-2 April 12.15pm to 3.00pm Owl flying displays. Abbotsbury Children's Farm.
30 March-15 April Octonauts Shark Mission at Weymouth Sealife Park.
30 March-15 April Easter holidays at Bovington Tank Museum
30&31 March 11.00am-3.00pm National Trust and Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt, Golden Cap. £2.50 Meet at Stonebarrow shop
30 March-2 April 11.00am-3.00pm National Trust and Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt at Burton Bradstock. £2.50 Meet at National Trust hut in carp park. Grid ref SY491888
30 March-2 April 11.00am-4.30pm Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt at Max Gate. £2.50
30 March-2 April 11.00am-4.15pm Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt at Hardy's Cottage. £2.50. Meet at the visitor centre.
30 March- 2 April 10.30am-4.30pm Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt at Corfe Castle
30 March-2nd April Easter Eggstravaganza. Monkey World. Bovington. Free chocolate Easter eggs for the first 100 children.
30 March-2 April 10.00am-4.00pm Easter Egg Hunt at Brewery Square. Free
31 March 12.00pm & 2.00pm Andy's Dino Rap show at Brewery Square. Free
31 March-2 April 10.00am-4.00pm Easter Weekend: Let's Get Cracking! Kingston Maurward Gardens and Animal Park

April

3- 22 April 11.00am-4.30pmNature's remedies. Hardy's Cottage. Free event although normal admission fee applies.
3-15 April 11.00am-4.30pm Nature trail at Hardy's Cottage
3-15 April 10.00am-5.00pm 17th century longbow at Corfe Castle
4 April 2.30pm (doors 2pm) A Heart at Sea (Half A String). Dorchester Corn Exchange. £9/£7 members & concessions/£28 family ticket Age guidance: 7+ Tel. 01305 266926 www.dorchesterarts.org.uk
4 April 3.45pm – 4.45pm 'Make a Fish' Craft Session. Dorchester Town Hall. £4/£3 for siblings. Ages 7-12. Make a decorative

sea creature to move around and puppeteer yourself! Tel. 01305 266926. www.dorchesterarts.org.uk
6 April 7.30pm Archaeology Unearthed: Britain Beginnings by Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe. Dorset County Museum. Tickets £5 non-members/£3 members. 01305 262735 or 01305 756827
7 April 7.30pm Wessex Consort concert, The Poems of Thomas Hardy Sung In His Family Church, St Michael's Church, Stinsford. Tickets £12 on the door include a donation to church funds.
7 April 8.00pm Crimes Under the Sun (New Old Friends). Dorchester Corn Exchange. £13/ £11 members & concessions £5 Live for 5. Tel. 01305 266926. www.dorchesterarts.org.uk
7 April 7.00pm Cross Channel Links from the Bronze Age by Sir Barry Cunliffe. Dorford Centre. Booking essential. 01305 756827
8 April 3.00pm Crimes Under the Sun (New Old Friends). Dorchester Corn Exchange. £13/ £11 members & concessions £5 Live for 5. Tel. 01305 266926. www.dorchesterarts.org.uk
10 April 10.00am-12.00pm Wildlife Wander at Higher Bockhampton. £3, meet in car park
11 April 7.00pm Geology Revealed: Dorset landlord's ancestor was an Early Cretaceous 'rat'! by Dr Steve Sweet. Dorset County Museum. Tickets £5 non-members/£3 members. 01305 262735 or 01305 756827
14 April 8.00pm Dad's Army Radio Hour. Dorchester Corn Exchange. £15/£13 members & concessions. Tel. 01305 266926. www.dorchesterarts.org.uk
15 April 3.00pm Dad's Army Radio Hour. Dorchester Corn Exchange. £15/£13 members & concessions. Tel. 01305 266926. www.dorchesterarts.org.uk
21 April 7:00pm Adventure film event with film-maker and public speaker Barrie Campbell, Charminster village hall in aid of Charminster pre-school. Tickets £10, Charminster stores
21 April 1.00pm-4.00pm Tuneful Stories at Max Gate with Tim Laycock. Free event, although normal admission prices apply.
21-22 April 10.30am-5.30pm Meet a Musketeer at Corfe Castle.
22 April 2.30pm (doors 2pm) Jay Foreman's Disgusting Songs for Revolting Children. Dorchester Corn Exchange. £9/£7 members & concessions/£28 family ticket. Age guidance: 6+
22 April 10.30 am Service of Remembrance and Wreath Laying at St Peter's Church, Winterborne Came. William Barnes Society
24 April 10.30am-12.30pm HapaZome – printing colours and shapes from natural resources. Higher Bockhampton.
25 April 2.00pm-4.30pm Beginners Smocking Workshop. Dorset Centre for the Creative Arts, Poundbury. £25 01305 889741
28 April Tiger Day IX 2018. Bovington Tank Museum
28-29 April 10.30am-5.30pm Meet a Musketeer at Corfe Castle.
28 April 7:30pm Panta Rei Danseteater – Promise of Departure, Norwegian dance troupe Buckland Newton 01300 345455

May

5-7 May 10.00am-6.00pm Saxons & Vikings: Siege of Wareham. Corfe Castle
6 May 11.30am & 2.30pm Tom Thumb (Lyngo Theatre). Dorchester Corn Exchange. £8/£6 members & concessions/£25 family ticket Tel. 01305 26696. www.dorchesterarts.org.uk
7 May 10.30am-12.30pm Orchid discovery walk at Golden Cap. Meet at Stonebarrow shop, Charmouth, DT6 6RA, grid ref SY383934. No dogs please. To book call 01297 489481
8 May 10.00am-12.00pm Wildlife Wander at Higher Bockhampton. £3, meet in car park
9 May 1.00pm-4.00pm Tuneful Stories at Max Gate with Tim Laycock. Free event although normal admission prices apply.
11-13 May Diesel Gala 2018 at Swanage Steam Railway
12 May 7.30pm Dorset Chamber Orchestra Concert. St Mary's Church. admin@dorsetchamberorchetra.orf
12-13 May 10.30am-5.30pm Meet a Musketeer at Corfe Castle.
17-18 May 4.00pm-5.00pm Tea with Mr Hardy and Marie Stopes. Max Gate. Suggested donation to the New Hardy Players for the tea of £3 adult, £2 child.
19-20 May 10.00am-4.00pm Spring Tide Food Festival. Burton Bradstock, Hive Beach. £2 entry, sorry no dogs.
19-20 May 10.30am-5.30pm Meet a Musketeer at Corfe Castle
21 May 10.30am-12.30pm HapaZome (Dementia friendly) printing colours and shapes from natural resources. Higher Bockhampton

Markets

Poundbury Farmer's Market – 1st Saturday of the month
Bridport Farmer's Market – 2nd Saturday of the month
Dorchester Farmer's Market – 4th Saturday of the month
Sherborne Farmer's Market – 3rd Friday of the month
Broadmayne Community Market – 3rd Friday of the month at St Martin's Community Hall, Broadmayne.
Dorchester Country Market every Friday from 8.30am-11.00am at The Corn Exchange.

Corn Exchange regular bookings

Dorchester Bridge Club – Monday Evenings
Pilates Classes – Tues 10.30-2.00pm
Parkinson Dance Class – Tuesday 3.00pm-4.00pm
Leroc Dance Classes – Tuesday Evenings
Taekwondo – Tuesday Evening
Fizzy Boppers – Children's Dance Classes – Wednesdays am
Argentine Tango Classes – Wednesday Evenings
Connect – DA – Thursday morning
Dorchester Country Market – Friday Mornings
Pop Club – DA – Saturday mornings

Other events

The Kingcombe Centre offers a wide range of courses walks and talks throughout the year. For details of all courses 01300 320684

T'ai chi chuan classes held Wednesdays 12.30-1.30pm at Dorchester Yoga and Therapy Centre. Info@jazminvelasco.com or 07905003367

Do Re Mi time – Colour strings/kodally-based music classes – gentle fun for 0-3-year-olds. Thursday and Friday mornings at St Mary's Church. Tel 07725038048 or email rachelgreenwood@yahoo.co.uk

Dorset Centre for the Creative Arts based in Poundbury runs a wide range of courses throughout the year. 0800 8089440 www.dorsetcreativeartclasses.co.uk

Dorchester Brewhouse and Kitchen holds a Quiz in aid of Home Start – West Dorset every Wednesday £1 entry pp (max of 6 per team)

Dorchester Strollers is a walking for health group who meet on a Monday and Tuesday morning for a slow 45 min walk (a 1 hour walk is also offered) www.walkingforhealth.org.uk 01305 263759

St Peter's Mothers' Union meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 2.15pm. Ring 267724 for details

New! Guinea Kidz – baby and toddler group meet every Friday 10.00am-12.30am at Kingston Maurward Animal Park and Gardens. £2.50 per adult, kids free

Featured club – Reay's Martial Arts

Reay's Martial Arts specialises in a traditional style of Taekwondo which is from South Korea. As a club we aspire to generate success as a group and individually, as we venture along our up to date grading syllabus.

Although our students are taught a martial art, we also believe that our club is a great opportunity to introduce a higher level of fitness, flexibility, strength as well as both mental and physical health. Many of our students have to train around their own problems and push their body to its full capabilities. However, we respect the individual's capabilities.

We are still a rather new club yet we're reaching our goals even sooner than most would have predicted due to the great commitment of our seniors and pupils. Hard work is noticed at our club and it goes a long way.

We welcome all into our taekwondo family from 4yrs and above, with or without a martial arts background.

Classes are held Saturdays 11.00am-1.00pm at the old Salvation Army hall, Durngate Street email cjreay28@gmail.com or ring 07497081134.

If you would like to publicise your event in our Out & About section, email events@dorchestervoice.co.uk

March

9 March 8.00pm Open Mic. Hosted by Alex. Reloved cellar bar, Dorchester 01929 257070
10 March 9.30pm The Tori Reed Band. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester 01305 264020
10 March 7.30pm Harbour Voices – Songs of the Sea. Herrison Hall, Charlton Down 01305 264060
11 March 7.30pm Folk Night (traditional and contemporary folk session). Convivial Rabbit, Dorchester 07747 072306
14 March 8.30pm Matt Tarling & Friends (Irish Folk Session). The Blue Raddle, Dorchester 01305 267762
14 March 8.00pm Open Mic. Hosted by Alex & Blue Town Rumble. Reloved cellar bar, Dorchester 01929 257070
14 March 8.30pm Jazz Club Open Session. The Three Compasses, Charminster 01305 26361
14 March 7.30pm Martin James Bartlett (classical pianist). Corn Exchange, Dorchester 01305 266926
14 March 9.00pm Guitar Club. The Drax Arms, Bere Regis 01929 471386
15 March 8.30pm Open Mic. Hosted by Elijah Wolf. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester 01305 264020
15 March 1.00pm Dorchester Piano Quartet. Corn Exchange, Dorchester 01305 266926
15 March 8.30pm Open mic. session. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester 01305 264020
16 March 8.00pm Watkins & Swarbrick. Village Hall, Upwey 01305 837299
16 March 8.00pm Open Mic. Hosted by Alex. Reloved cellar bar, Dorchester 01929 257070
16 March 7.30pm The Ronnie Scott's All Stars: Ronnie Scott's Soho Songbook. Corn Exchange, Dorchester 01305 266926
16 March 9.30pm Owen Lister. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester
17 March (time tbc) Pronghorn. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester 01305 264020
18 March 7.30pm Folk Night (traditional and contemporary folk session). Convivial Rabbit, Dorchester 07747 072306
18 March 5.00pm Traditional folk session. Chalk & Cheese, Maiden Newton 01300 321396
18 March 4.00pm Hansel & Gretel. Bull's Head, Fordington, Dorchester 01305 257353
18 March 9.00pm Compass (Zak). The Three Compasses, Charminster 01305 263618
19 March 8.00pm Folk music session. Goldies, Dorchester
18 March 4:00pm Emily Burridge & Felix Gibbons – Incandescendo. Fontmell Magna Springhead Trust. Tickets £8, £6 u18s, £24 family. www.artsreach.co.uk. 01747 811853
19 March 8.30pm Troubadour songwriters' showcase. Hosted by Elijah Wolf. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester 01305 264020
21 March 8.00pm (doors & bar 7.30pm) Dominoes. Dorchester Corn Exchange. £13/£11 members & concessions / £5 Live for 5. Tel. 01305 266926
21 March 8.00pm Open Mic. Hosted by Alex & Blue Town Rumble. Reloved cellar bar, Dorchester 01929 257070
21 March 9.00pm Guitar Club. The Drax Arms, Bere Regis 01929 471386
22 March 8.30pm Open Mic. Hosted by Elijah Wolf. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester 01305 264020
23 March 8.00pm Open Mic. Hosted by Alex. Reloved cellar bar, Dorchester 01929 257070
23 March 7.30pm Piddle Valley Barn Dance Club – Chris Toyne & Ruth Thompson. Piddle Valley First School, Piddletrenthide 01300 348250
25 March 7.30pm Folk Night (traditional and contemporary folk session). Convivial Rabbit, Dorchester 07747 072306
24 March 9.30pm Revolution. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester
24 March 6.00pm Stompin' Dave The Three Compasses, Charminster 01305 263618
25 March 4.00pm The Andy Grant Trio. Vinny at Six, Dorchester 01305 267679
28 March 8.00pm Open Mic. Hosted by Alex & Blue Town Rumble. Reloved cellar bar, Dorchester 01929 257070
29 March 8.30pm Open Mic. Hosted by Elijah Wolf. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester 01305 264020
29 March 9.00pm Guitar Club. The Drax Arms, Bere Regis 01929 471386
30 March 8.00pm Open Mic. Hosted by Alex. Reloved cellar bar, Dorchester 01929 257070
31 March 9.30pm 4 Go Mad. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester

April

1 April 7.30pm Folk Night (traditional and contemporary folk session). Convivial Rabbit, Dorchester 07747 072306
1 April 4.00pm My Generation 79. Bull's Head, Fordington, Dorchester 01305 257353
1 April 8.00pm Folk session. Fox & Hounds, Cattistock. 01300 264020
2 April 8.30pm Troubadour songwriters' showcase. Hosted by Elijah Wolf. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester 01305 264020
2 April 9.00pm Banjo Club. The Drax Arms, Bere Regis 01929 471386
4 April 8.30pm Traditional Folk Music Session. The Blue Raddle, Dorchester 01305 267762
4 April 8.00pm Open Mic. Hosted by Alex & Blue Town Rumble. Reloved cellar bar, Dorchester 01929 257070
4 April 8.30pm Jazz Club. The Three Compasses, Charminster 01305 263618
5 April 8.30pm Open Mic. Hosted by Elijah Wolf. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester 01305 264020
5 April 9.00pm Guitar Club. The Drax Arms, Bere Regis 01929 471386
6 April 7.30pm Geoff Achison & the UK Souldiggers. Corn Exchange, Dorchester 01305 266926
6 April 8.00pm Open Mic. Hosted by Alex. Reloved cellar bar, Dorchester 01929 257070
7 April 9.30pm The Big Heavy. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester
7 April 9.00pm The Transitions. The Drax Arms, Bere Regis 01929 471386
8 April 7.30pm Folk Night (traditional and contemporary folk session). Convivial Rabbit, Dorchester 07747 072306
8 April 4.00pm Elijah Wolf. Vinny at Six, Dorchester 01305 267679
11 April 8.00pm Open Mic. Hosted by Alex & Blue Town Rumble. Reloved cellar bar, Dorchester 01929 257070
12 April 8.30pm Open Mic. Hosted by Elijah Wolf. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester 01305 264020
12 April 9.00pm Guitar Club. The Drax Arms, Bere Regis 01929 471386
13 April 7.30pm Show of Hands duo with guest Geoff Lakeman, Corn Exchange, Dorchester 01305 266926
13 April 8.00pm Open Mic. Hosted by Alex. Reloved cellar bar, Dorchester 01929 257070
14 April 6.00pm Sam Jefferson. The Three Compasses, Charminster 01305 263618
14 April 9.30pm The Mad Hatters. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester 01305 264020
15 April 7.30pm Folk Night (traditional and contemporary folk session). Convivial Rabbit, Dorchester 07747 072306
15 April 5.00pm Traditional folk session. Chalk & Cheese, Maiden newton 01300 321396
15 April 4.00pm Mark P & the R'n'B Allstars. Bull's Head, Fordington, Dorchester 01305 257353
16 April 8.00pm Folk music session. Goldies, Dorchester
16 April 8.30pm Troubadour songwriters' showcase. Hosted by Elijah Wolf. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester 01305 264020
18 April 8.00pm Open Mic. Hosted by Alex & Blue Town Rumble. Reloved cellar bar, Dorchester 01929 257070
18 April 8.30pm Matt Tarling & Friends (Irish Folk Session). The Blue Raddle, Dorchester 01305 267762
18 April 8.30pm Jazz Club Open Session. The Three Compasses, Charminster 01305 26361
19 April 8.30pm Open Mic. Hosted by Elijah Wolf. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester 01305 264020
19 April 9.00pm Guitar Club. The Drax Arms, Bere Regis 01929 471386
20 April 7.30pm Skimmity Hitchers + support. Corn Exchange, Dorchester 01305 266926

Gig Guide

20 April 8.00pm Open Mic. Hosted by Alex. Reloved cellar bar, Dorchester 01929 257070
21 April 9.30pm The Skones. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester
22 April 7.30pm Folk Night (traditional and contemporary folk session). Convivial Rabbit, Dorchester 07747 072306
22 April 2.30pm Jay Foreman's Disgusting Songs for Revolting Children, Corn Exchange, Dorchester 01305 266926
22 April 4.00pm Vanilla Radio. Bull's Head, Fordington, Dorchester 01305 257353
25 April 8.00pm Open Mic. Hosted by Alex & Blue Town Rumble. Reloved cellar bar, Dorchester 01929 257070
26 April 7.30pm Budapest Café Orchestra, Corn Exchange, Dorchester 01305 266926
26 April 8.30pm Open Mic. Hosted by Elijah Wolf. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester 01305 264020
26 April 9.00pm Guitar Club. The Drax Arms, Bere Regis 01929 471386
27 April 8.00pm Open Mic. Hosted by Alex. Reloved cellar bar, Dorchester 01929 257070
27 April 7.30pm Piddle Valley Barn Dance Club – Arish Mel. Piddle Valley First School, Piddletrenthide 01300 348250
27 April 7.00pm Tatterdemalion & Angela Laycock (barn dance) St Mary's Church, Cerne Abbas 07823 778758
28 April 9.30pm The Andy Grant Trio. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester 01305 264020
29 April 7.30pm Folk Night (traditional and contemporary folk session). Convivial Rabbit, Dorchester 07747 072306
29 April 2.30pm Elicia Silverstein & Christopher Bucknall Bach before Leipzig, Corn Exchange, Dorchester 01305 266926
29 April 4.00pm Owen Lister. Vinny at Six, Dorchester 01305 267679
29 April 9.00pm 3 Amigos The Three Compasses, Charminster
30 April 8.30pm Troubadour songwriters' showcase. Hosted by Elijah Wolf. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester 01305 264020

May

2 May 2.30pm Maddy Prior with Hannah James & Giles Lewin, Corn Exchange, Dorchester 01305 266926
2 May 8.30pm Traditional Folk Music Session. The Blue Raddle, Dorchester 01305 267762
2 May 8.00pm Open Mic. Hosted by Alex & Blue Town Rumble. Reloved cellar bar, Dorchester 01929 257070
3 May 8.30pm Open Mic. Hosted by Elijah Wolf. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester 01305 264020
3 May 9.00pm Guitar Club. The Drax Arms, Bere Regis 01929 471386
4 May 8.00pm Open Mic. Hosted by Alex. Reloved cellar bar, Dorchester 01929 257070
4 May 8.00pm Open Mic. Hosted by Alex. Reloved cellar bar, Dorchester 01929 257070
5 May 9.30pm The Cherry Pickers. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester 01305 264020
5 May 9.00pm Rapport. The Drax Arms, Bere Regis
6 May 4.00pm The Shakespearos. Bull's Head, Fordington, Dorchester 01305 257353
6 May 7.30pm Folk Night (traditional and contemporary folk session). Convivial Rabbit, Dorchester 07747 072306
6 May 9.30pm The Remedy. Tom Browns pub, Dorchester
6 May 8.00pm Folk session. Fox & Hounds, Cattistock. 01300 264020
6 May 8.30pm Jazz Club. The Three Compasses, Charminster 01305 263618
7 May 9.00pm Banjo Club. The Drax Arms, Bere Regis

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