

Dorchester Calendar of Major Events - 2018

January

Sunday 31st December/Monday 1st January Welcome in the New Year at the Town Pump.

Monday 1st Bank Holiday

Monday 8th January to Saturday 12th May Exhibition: "Jurassic Coast" by Colin Bentley. County Museum Tea Room.

Wednesday 10th Special General Meeting of Dorchester and Area Community Land Trust (DACLT). 6pm in Council Chamber of Corn Exchange.
Talk: "How best to manage fossil collecting on the Jurassic Coast." David Sole. 7pm in County Museum.

Thursday 11th Short service in Poets Corner, after Evensong in Westminster Abbey, to commemorate the 90 years since Thomas Hardy's death, aged 87, on 11th January 1928.

Saturday 13th Wassailing at the Railway Orchard from 2pm. Transition Town Dorchester. NB The Railway Orchard is between Monmouth Road and the railway line and is accessed by a narrow path from the Baker's Arms roundabout.

Saturday 20th Dorchester Lions Concert – Sunninghill School – "Sounds of the Crooners"

Thursday 25th "Lawrence of Arabia and Dorset". Talk by Peter Preen at Dorford Centre. 7.30pm. Dorchester Association for Research into Local History & Archaeology.

Friday 26th Talk by Gail McGarva BEM, "All boats have a story to tell". Gail, who builds traditional wooden boats herself, will talk specifically about the Dorset Lerret, its history and associated stories. Dorset Centre for the Creative Arts, Middle Farm Way, Poundbury, Dorchester. Further information: www.dorsetcentreforthecreativearts.co.uk

Saturday 27th Sustainable Dorset AGM in the Dorset Room at the Colliton Club, Dorchester. Starts at 2pm.

Wednesday 31st “Tree Diseases”. A talk by Derek Brinsley in Dorford Centre at 7.30pm. Further information: www.treesfordorset.co.uk

February

Thursday 1st Harry Potter Book Night 2018. Dorchester Library 4pm to 5pm. Fantastic Beasts Party – Fancy Dress Optional. Family event.

Friday 2nd, Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th Beerex – Beer and Cider Festival in Corn Exchange and Town Hall. Run by Dorchester Round Table.

Friday 2nd Quiz Night at Dorchester Town Football Club in aid of Fortuneswell Cancer Trust and Weldmar Hospice.

Saturday 3rd (pm) and Sunday 4th (am) “Fun Swim” at 1610 Sports Centre organised by Dorchester Lions Club.

Saturday 3rd Lego Club. Dorchester Library. 2.30 to 3.30pm. Get creative. Lego Club will run every Saturday at this time. Donations of Lego/Duplo welcome.

Monday 5th Community Lecture at Hardye’s School – Prof. Monica Grady CBE – “Landing on a Comet – Reflections on the Rosetta Mission.”

Tuesday 6th Civic Society Lecture 7pm in Dorford Centre – Mark Tattersall, - “Regeneration of the Maltings as an Arts Centre.”

Wednesday 7th “Trees for Birds”. An illustrated talk by Toby Branston (former Warden at Arne RSPB Nature Reserve) in Dorford Centre at 7.30pm. Further information: www.treesfordorset.co.uk

Saturday 10th “Dippy” the Dinosaur arrives at Dorset County Museum where he will be on display in the Victorian Gallery until Tuesday 8th May.
Come and Sing event at United Church 10.30am to 4.30pm. German Requiem by Johannes Brahms. Further information on www.dorchesterchoralsociety.org

Monday 12th to Friday 16th inclusive – Schools Half Term Holiday

Tuesday 13th Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras) Pancake racing in Borough Gardens from 4pm in support of Marie Curie.

Wednesday 14th Ash Wednesday and St Valentine's Day.
"In search of dinosaurs in the Moroccan Kem Kem". A talk by Prof. Dave Martill in County Museum. 6.30 for 7pm.
Special events in Brewery Square. www.brewerysquare.com

Thursday 15th "The Art of Nature Photography" A talk by Colin Tracy in St George's Church Hall. 7.15 for 7.45pm. Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Further information: www.ww2.rspb.org uk

Saturday 17th "Tea and Textiles" Demonstrations, Dorset Buttons, Costumes, Millinery, Haberdashery, Embroidery, Vintage Textiles, Have a Go events and more. 10am to 4pm. Dorset Centre for the Creative Arts, Middle Farm Way, Poundbury, Dorchester. www.dorsetcentreforthecreativearts.co.uk

Thursday 22nd Lunchtime Variety Concert. Thomas Hardy School Musical Showcase. Corn Exchange. Doors 12.20, begins at 1pm.

Thursday 22nd "Dorchester's Hidden Cellars and Tunnels". Talk by David Taylor in Dorford Centre. 7.30pm. Dorchester Association.

Friday 23rd "A Dorchester Story" 1914-1918, Friday 23rd February, 7pm - Town Hall Dorchester. A varied evening exploring Dorchester's local history during the 1st World War. Several speakers will share their expertise of how the war impacted on the local community and focus on some of the characters from the St Osmund's School play - "When The Men Marched Away". Admission is free but please obtain tickets from EventBrite or the Town Council offices. Refreshments will also be on sale.

"The Jurassic Coast: People, Places and Landscape" An illustrated talk by Dr John Macdonald 6.30 to 8.30pm. Dorset Centre for the Creative Arts, Middle Farm Way, Poundbury. Further information & booking: www.dorsetcentreforthecreativearts.co.uk

Saturday 24th William Barnes Fair in the Corn Exchange 11am to 3.30pm. Run by the William Barnes Society.

Wednesday 28th Lunchtime Variety Concert. Thomas Hardy School Musical Showcase. Corn Exchange. Doors 12.20, begins at 1pm.

March

Friday 2nd “Pig Racing” in Brownsword Hall, Poundbury at 7pm.
Dorchester Lions Club. www.lionsdorchester.org.uk

Talk, “Together we are stronger than the storms” by
Victoria Jean Louis, Christian Aid representative in Haiti. 7pm Venue tba.

Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th Spring Lambing Weekend at Kingston
Maurward.

Saturday 3rd to Saturday 10th Dorset Women’s Week. A series of events
around Dorchester to mark International Women’s Day and the centenary of
women getting the vote. Further information: www.wandwomen.org.uk

Saturday 3rd “Death Café” United Church 10am to 12noon. Here you will
be able to talk to funeral directors, a solicitor about wills, probate and lasting
powers of attorney and find out about a woodland burial. Age UK Dorchester,
the Weldmar Hospice and Cruse bereavement counselling will also be there to
answer questions.

Quiz in Town Hall 7pm

Monday 5th Community Lecture at Hardy’s School – Dr Colin Wright –
“The Unexpected Maths of Juggling.”

Tuesday 6th Civic Society Lecture 7pm in Dorford Centre – Jon Murden, -
“Realising a Heritage Tourism Vision for Dorchester.”

Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th Singing Concert at St Osmunds School.
Dorchester Area Schools Partnership (DASP). www.daspmusic.co.uk

Thursday 8th “Thomas Hardy’s Schoolrooms”. A talk by Dr Jonathan Memel.
County Museum 7 for 7.30pm.

Saturday 10th Dorset Women’s Day Dorford Centre 10m to 3.30pm. FREE
event with various activities and stalls and a free crèche. Co-ordinated by
Women’s Action Network Dorset www.wandwomen.org.uk

“Concert for Youth” with Martin Clunes as Narrator.
Programme includes “Carnival of the Animals” by Saint-Saens. 4pm in St
Mary’s Church, Edward Road Dorchester.

Tuesday 13th “Meet a Naval Officer of 1805, his Lady and a Descendant”.
A talk by Roger and Barbara Glancefield at 2.30pm in the Brownsword Hall,
Poundbury. Further information: southdorsetnt.org.uk

Wednesday 14th Friends of Borough Gardens AGM and talk on “Bees” by
Bridget Bowen. 6.30pm in Borough Gardens House.

“The science of palaeo-art: what we can, and cannot,
deduce about the life appearance of fossil animals.” Talk by Dr Mark Witton in
County Museum, 6.30 for 7pm.

Thursday 15th “5,513 metres to 60metres”. A talk by Alan and Karen
Hocking in St George’s Church Hall, Fordington. 7.15 for 7.45pm. RSPB.

Saturday 17th St Patrick’s Day Breakfast at 7.30am at “Café on the
Green” Poundbury. In support of “Mind” West Dorset.

Mens Rugby Walk in aid of Weldmar. Dorchester Rugby
Club to Weymouth Rugby Club. Starts 11am.

“DUB PISTOLS” - Corn Exchange in evening.

Spring Concert by Dorchester Choral Society. St Mary’s
Church 7.30pm. Works by Vaughan Williams, Holst, Philip Lawson & Stanford.

Monday 19th Concert by Dorchester Area Schools partnership (DASP)
in aid of Julia’s House. Further information: www.daspmusic.co.uk

Wednesday 21st Poundbury Residents Association - AGM at Damers
School.

Friday 23rd “Dorset’s Weird and Wonderful Wildlife” A talk by Bob
Ford 6.30 to 8.30pm. Dorset Centre for the Creative Arts, Middle Farm Way,
Poundbury. www.dorsetcentreforthecreativearts.co.uk

Saturday 24th Egg Rolling Derby down Friary Hill at 2pm. In support of
the Mayor’s Charities.

Concert by “Dorset Sinfonia” in United Church at 2pm.
More information at www.dorsetsinfonia.co.uk

Sunday 25th Dorchester Agricultural Society - Spring Show – Sunninghill
School – 2pm onwards.

Corn Exchange & Town Hall – Craft Market – all day.

Monday 26th to Saturday 31st Holy Week – “Journey to the Empty Tomb”.
An interactive experience for adults and children to explore the passion, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. United Church South Street 11am to 3 pm daily.

Tuesday 27th “What’s the point of William Barnes in the 21st Century ?”
Talk by Dr Richard Bradbury – 7pm in Dorford Centre. William Barnes Society.

Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th “When The Men Marched Away” The Thomas Hardy School Theatre, Queen’s Avenue, Dorchester at 7pm. A play researched and written by pupils from St Osmund’s School, commemorating the lives of those who fought in WW1 and remembering those who lived in and around Dorchester 1914-18.
The Durnovaria Band (Tuesday) and Poundbury Heart and Soul Community Choir (Wednesday) are also performing. Tickets £5 (children under 16 £2.50) available by SAE from St. Osmund’s School, Barnes Way, Dorchester or from the TIC in the library.

Thursday 29th “Dorset Heroes of World War II”. Talk by Christopher Jary at Dorford Centre. 7,30pm. Dorchester Association.
Easter Bingo at Dorchester Town Football Club. Further information: www.dorchestertownfc.co.uk

Friday 30th Good Friday. Bank Holiday.
Easter weekend activities at Kingston Maurward. See website for more information. www.kmc.ac.uk

Friday 30th to Sunday 1st April Easter Egg Hunt, 10am to 4pm in Brewery Square. www.brewerysquare.com

Friday 30th March to Sunday 15th April Great Dinosaur Egg Hunt.
The Dinosaur Museum, Icen Way, Dorchester. See website for details:
www.thedinosaursmuseum.com

Saturday 31st Children’s TV entertainer, Andy Day, will be performing his popular dinosaur rap show at 12noon and 2pm in Brewery Square. FREE event

April

Nota Bene: The Shire Hall is expected to open during April and will be running a number of special events to celebrate the completion of this important Heritage Project.

Sunday 1st Easter Sunday

Monday 2nd Bank Holiday

Monday 2nd to Friday 14th inclusive - Schools Easter Holiday

Tuesday 3rd First Public Dorchester Ghost Walk. Kings Arms at 8pm.

Thursday 5th, Friday 6th and Saturday 7th Dorchester Drama present, "The Caucasian Chalk Circle" by Bertolt Brecht in the Shire Hall. Further information: www.dorchesterdrama.org.uk.

Saturday 7th Thomas Hardy Society Study Day – "A Pair of Blue Eyes" – Corn Exchange from 10am.
"Britain Begins – Cross channel links from the Bronze Age to the Saxon period." A talk by Prof. Barry Cunliffe. Dorford Centre 7 for 7,30pm

Wednesday 11th Geology Revealed. "Dorset Landlord's Ancestor was an Early Cretaceous Rat". Talk by Dr Steve Sweetman of University of Portsmouth. Venue tba.

Thursday 12th Mayor's Concert in Corn Exchange – HMS Heron Band.

Saturday 14th Borough Gardens House – Colin Tracey – Photographic Display ??????

Saturday 21st St George's Fair on Fordington Green from 11am.

Sunday 22nd St George's Day Scout Parade. 2.30pm.
Annual Service of Remembrance for William Barnes.
Wreath Laying - 10.30am at St Peter's Church, Winterborne Came. William Barnes Society.

Great Dorset Beach Clean. Further information:
www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk

12 Hour Marathon Football Match at Dorchester Town Football Club. A Charity Fundraiser for Fortuneswell Cancer Trust and Weldmar Hospice on the day after the Magpies last Home game of the season. Further information: www.dorchestertownfc.co.uk

Thursday 26th "Druce Farm Roman Villa". Talk by Lilian Ladle at Dorford Centre. 7.30pm. Dorchester Association.

Saturday 28th World Tai Chi Day in the Borough Gardens 9.30am to 12noon.

"Help a Friend" Family Fun Day. Kings Road Playing Field
2pm to 5pm.

Corn Exchange & Town Hall – Games Convention – All Day.
Open to Public. Further information: www.warhorn.net

May

NB During May a new 5 year DBID (Dorchester Business Improvement District) plan for 2018 to 2023 will be circulated to all levy paying businesses in the town centre. Voting in the ballot based on this plan will take place throughout June with a decision expected by early July.

Friday 4th Friendship Club – “Glitter Ball” at Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy.

Saturday 5th, Sunday 6th and Monday 7th “Wessex Invaders”
Historical Re-enactment at Maumbury Rings.

Sunday 6th Lions Fun Run in morning - Dorchester Middle School.
Further information: www.lionsdorchester.org.uk

Monday 7th May Day Bank Holiday

Tuesday 8th “Dippy” the Dinosaur leaves Dorchester.
[Borough Gardens House – Colin Tracey – Photo](#)
Exhibition????

Saturday 12th Day School – “Aspects of Late Iron Age and Roman Dorchester”. Talks by various speakers including Peter Bellamy. Dorchester Association. All enquiries and tickets from Secretary, Michael Rice. Email: hon.sec@dorchester-association.org.uk OR phone (mobile): 07780 992 799.
Concert in St Mary’s Church at 7.30pm. Dorset Chamber Orchestra. Further information: www.dorsetchamberorchestra.org

Sunday 13th [Corn Exchange – Community Choir – Dorchester Arts?????](#)
Christian Aid Week Ecumenical Service. St George’s Church
Fordington 3pm

Monday 14th to Sunday 29th July Exhibition: “Thomas Hardy’s Poetry in Pictures” by Jennifer Martindale. Tea Room of County Museum.

Tuesday 15th “The Serpent & its local connections”. Talk, music & poetry with Phil Humphries. Dorford Centre 7pm. William Barnes Society.

Wednesday 16th Christian Aid Week Market (includes lunch). United Church 10am to 1.30pm

Saturday 19th **Royal Wedding** – Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in St George’s Chapel, Windsor Castle.
Christian Aid Week - Walk to River Jordan.

Sunday 20th Cancer Research UK “Race for Life” at Kingston Maurward.

Monday 21st Mayor Making – Corn Exchange and Town Hall.

Friday 25th to Thursday 7th June Dorset Art Week – Exhibition in Borough Gardens House. Many other venues are open to the public throughout this period.

Saturday 26th May to Sunday 3rd June King Tut’s Treasure Hunt.
The Tutankhamun Exhibition, High West Street, Dorchester. See website for details www.tutankhamunexhibition.co.uk

Saturday 26th Badger Watch – March through town and music.

Sunday 27th Dorchester Marathon and Half Marathon. Organised by Dorchester, Casterbridge and Poundbury Rotary Clubs. Coker’s Frome Showground. All day event.

Monday 28th Spring Bank Holiday

Monday 28th to Friday 1st June inclusive – Schools Half Term

Thursday 31st “Thomas Hardy’s Fans” Talk by Helen Angear. County Museum 7 for 7.30pm.

“Turnpikes and Dorset’s Coaching Days”. Talk by Rob Curtis at Dorford Centre. 7.30pm. Dorchester Association.

June

Saturday 2nd Thomas Hardy Birthday weekend. Birthday Walk: “*Return of the Native*” A 3-4 mile walk on *Egdon Heath* in the footsteps of *Eustacia Vye*, visiting *Rainbarrow*, *Mistover Knap* and *Bloom’s End*. 10.30am – meet at Thorncombe Wood Car Park. Led by Tony Fincham. 2pm Afternoon lecture: “Materiality and Spirituality in Jefferies and Hardy: The Dewey Morn/Tess of the d’Urbervilles” by Prof. Roger Ebbatson. 5pm: Dorchester Town Council parade “in state” and, together with a Thomas Hardy Society representative, lay wreaths at the Thomas Hardy statue at Top O’ Town. They then proceed down High West Street to lay a second wreath at the statue of William Barnes outside St Peters Church.

Archaeology Field Trip to Poole Museum/Scalpen’s Court. 2pm. See County Museum website for further information.

Sunday 3rd TH Birthday weekend. 10.30am Service at St Michael’s Stinsford. Preacher: The Right Reverend Karen Gorham, Bishop of Sherborne. Open Air Theatre. The Handlebards present, “Romeo and Juliet”. 7.30pm in Maumbury Rings.

Wednesday 6th D-Day Commemoration at the Keep Museum.

Saturday 9th Gypsy and Traveller Day in Borough Gardens from noon. Summer Fete 2 to 4.30pm. Holy Trinity Church Parish Centre in Culliford Road North.

Thursday 14th World Cup Football – First Match – Russia v Saudi Arabia

Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th Wynn’s Funfair on Fairfield.

Saturday 16th “**Midsummer Madness**” at **Dorchester Carnival**. Music, stalls and entertainment all day in the town centre, Brewery Square and Borough Gardens. Walking Parade starts at about 5pm from the Borough Gardens, passes through Fairfield (market site) and Brewery Square before crossing at War memorial, going up South Street, through Antelope Walk and returning to the Borough Gardens via Princes Street. The party continues in Brewery Square with “The Legomen” and finishes with “The Unravelling Wilburys” in the Borough Gardens. www.dorchesterfestival.info

Monday 18th World Cup Football – England v Tunisia

Sunday 24th Open Day and Country Fair at Kingston Maurward.
World Cup Football – England v Panama

Thursday 28th World Cup Football – England v Belgium

Friday 29th “The Trumpet Major” First performance of a dramatisation
of Thomas Hardy’s novel by the New Hardy Players. Max Gate at 7.30pm.
Gates open at 6.30pm. Tickets (£12.50) from Tourist Information Centre.

July

Saturday 7th Armed Forces Day. Borough Gardens. 9am to 5pm. FREE event.

Archaeology Field Trip to Knowlton Rings 2pm. See website for further information. www.dorsetcountymuseum.org

Sunday 8th "Swingtime" Music in Borough Gardens from noon. FREE event.

Postcard Fair – Corn Exchange and Town Hall. All day.
Summer Prom Concert by Dorchester Area Schools Partnership (DASP) in Weymouth Pavilion. www.daspmusic.co.uk

Friday 13th to Sunday 15th Tolpuddle Rally. Tolpuddle.

Friday 13th Open Air Theatre. The Miracle Theatre present "The Cherry Orchard". 7.30pm in Maumbury Rings.

Saturday 14th to Saturday 21st Thomas Hardy Festival and Conference. Further information: www.hardysociety.org

Saturday 14th to Sunday 29th July Festival of Archaeology – Venue tba.

Sunday 15th Thomas Hardy Country Fair (part of Thomas Hardy Festival) at Kingston Maurward. From noon till 4pm. Craft stalls, food and drink from "Taste of Dorset" and more.

Performance of "The Trumpet Major" by the New Hardy Players at Kingston Maurward 7pm

World Cup Football – FINAL

Thursday 19th Thomas Hardy Question Time. 10am to 11.30am in United Church. This part of the Thomas Hardy Festival is an opportunity for the public to ask a panel of "experts" anything they wish about Dorchester's most famous son. You do *not* have to be a Hardy enthusiast to ask a question !

Saturday 21st Dorchester Open Air Cinema at Maumbury Rings from 3pm to 8pm. See Facebook page for more details. FREE event.

Sunday 22nd Family Fun Day in Borough Gardens. 2pm to 6pm in support of "Mind" West Dorset. FREE event.

Wednesday 25th “Love Parks” in Borough Gardens. FREE event.

Thursday 26th July to Friday 31st August inclusive – Schools Summer Holiday.
Throughout the school summer holiday - Dinosaur Explorers! Dinosaur Museum, Icen Way, Dorchester. See website for details www.thedinosaurmuseum.com

Thursday 26th to Sunday 29th Camp Bestival. East Lulworth.

Saturday 28th The Creepy Crawly Show. Brewery Square 12noon to 3pm.

Sunday 29th Duck race on Millstream of River Frome at the bottom of Friary Hill. 10.30 am.
Warm Festival in Borough Gardens in support of “Help a Friend”. From 1pm.

Monday 30th July to Saturday 27th October Exhibition: “Jurassic Coast Jewels” by Louise Fuller. County Museum Tea Room.

August

Saturday 4th Dorset Food and Arts Festival. Queen Mother Square, Poundbury, Dorchester.

Sunday 5th Dalton Town Brass Band – Borough Gardens from 2.30pm. FREE event.

Thursday 9th Open Air Theatre. The Rain or Shine Theatre Company present “Much Ado About Nothing”. 7.30pm in Maumbury Rings.

Saturday 11th One World Festival in Borough Gardens from 11am to 5pm. FREE event.

Sunday 12th WHOTT Running Day. Top o’ Town Car Park. Wessex Historic Omnibus and Transport Trust. Rally with FREE tours to sites of Thomas Hardy interest.

Monday 13th to Sunday 19th Art Exhibition by John Tilsley in Borough Gardens House. Daily 9am to 5pm.

Wednesday 15th “Archaeology of West Dorset” Talk by Chris Tripp at Kingcombe Centre. 9.45am to 4pm. See www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk

Saturday 18th Round Table Cider Festival. Borough Gardens.

Sunday 19th Tony Lowe sings in the Borough Gardens. FREE event. Buckham Fair, Pony and Dog Show. Beaminster.

Thursday 23rd to Monday 27th Great Dorset Steam Fair. Blandford Forum.

Friday 24th Corn Exchange – Charity Barn Dance – Friends of Dorset County Hospital.

Saturday 25th Anonymous Music Festival – Maumbury Rings from Noon to 6pm. FREE event.
Dorchester and District Gardening Club Summer Show in St Georges Church Hall Fordington. All day event.

Sunday 26th Love Parade

Monday 27th August (Summer) Bank Holiday. Music all day at
Maumbury Rings. FREE event.

September

NB A “Forgiveness Exhibition” will be put on in St Peters church during September. It will be a collaborative event involving St Peters, the Shire Hall and Dorchester Arts.

Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd Dorset County Show. Coker’s Frome Showground.

Saturday 1st Corn Exchange and Town Hall – Gin Festival – All Day event. Thomas Hardy Society: “Mrs Yeobright’s Last Walk” (175th anniversary). Starts at 10am from Thorncombe Wood Car Park – led by Tony Fincham. Further details www.hardysociety.org

Tuesday 13th to Thursday 20th Dorset Architectural Heritage Week – Various buildings and sites are open to the public and there are tours and visits to places normally closed to the public. See website for further information: www.dahw.org.uk

Saturday 15th William Barnes Readings with Tim Laycock and members of the William Barnes Society. Max Gate, Dorchester 2.30pm.

Sunday 16th High West and High East Streets closed to all traffic from 10am to 4pm from Top o’ Town to Swan Bridge as Dorchester’s contribution to Architectural Heritage Week. A unique opportunity to walk in and appreciate the wonderful architecture and the stories which accompany many of the different buildings in the County town’s main street.

Friday 21st, Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd Tango Festival in Corn Exchange and Town Hall

Thursday 27th “The Wessex Project: Thomas Hardy Architect” Talk by Prof. Kester Rattenbury. 7 for 7.30pm Venue tba.

Sunday 30th Apple Day at the Railway Orchard – Transition Town Dorchester.

October

- Saturday 6th** Black History Month Event in Corn Exchange.
- Sunday 7th** Service to commemorate the death of William Barnes & Wreath laying at St Peter's Church, Winterborne Came. 10.30am. W. B. Society
- Saturday 13th** "Ellipse" Wine Festival in Corn Exchange.
- Thursday 18th** Sixth Form Open Evening at Hardy's School from 6pm to 8.30pm. Open to prospective students and their parents to find out all The Thomas Hardy School has to offer.
- Monday 22nd to Friday 26th inclusive** – Schools Half Term.
- Tuesday 23rd** "Thomas Hardy at Dorset County Museum" Talk by Helen Gibson. 7 for 7.30pm. Venue tba.
- Wednesday 24th** Tirah Memorial Service. Borough Gardens at 11am
- Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th** Halloween Ghost Hunt. Brewery Square 10am to 3pm
- Wednesday 31st** Hallowe'en Ghost Walk Special. 8pm at Kings Arms.

November

Friday 2nd All Souls Day. Open Church at Holy Trinity 10am to 7pm.

Saturday 3rd. Autumn Fair in Corn Exchange. Dorchester Rotary Club and local charities. 9.30am to 12.30pm
Evening: Fireworks at Dorchester Rugby Club.

Thursday 8th The Thomas Hardy London Lecture at Birkbeck College. "The Wessex Project: Thomas Hardy, Architect." Prof. Kester Rattenbury. www.hardysociety.org

Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th MacMillan Christmas Fair at Kingston Maurward.

Saturday 10th Craft and Gifts Fair in Corn Exchange.

Sunday 11th The Town Council parade "in state" on Remembrance Sunday to the War Memorial on South Walks for the two minute silence at 11am. A second service takes place a little later in St George's cemetery in Fordington at the Memorial to German soldiers who died in the Dorchester Prisoner of War Camp during the First World War.
At 7.05pm beside the War Memorial, and in concert with Town Criers and campanologists throughout the UK, the Dorchester Town Crier will cry "Battle's Over – A Nation's Tribute".

Thursday 15th, Friday 16th and Saturday 17th Dorchester Drama are performing a play in the Corn Exchange. It is likely to be "Present Laughter" by Noel Coward.

Saturday 24th Christmas Lights Switch-on and Christmas Opening.
Brewery Square 4.30pm to 7pm
Carol Singing for Christian Aid. South Street 9.30am to 10.30am

December

NB The Thomas Hardy School Carol Service will take place during December – details tba. See www.thomas-hardye.dorset.sch.uk
The United Church in South Street will be running an interactive presentation entitled “Journey to the Stable” in December. Dates tba.

Saturday 1st Christmas Fair/Market in Buttercross Square, Poundbury, Dorchester 11am to 4pm.

Autumn Concert by Dorchester Choral Society. St Mary’s Church 7.30pm. Work by Brahms (German Requiem), Schumann & Peteris Vasks. Further information and booking www.dorchesterchoralsociety.org

Thursday 6th Casterbridge Christmas Cracker 5pm to 9pm. Run by the Dorchester Chamber for Business. An evening of music and entertainment when the Christmas lights are switched on, Father Christmas makes an appearance and the shops stay open late.

Sunday 9th Corn Exchange and Town Hall – Christmas Craft Fair – All Day Event.

Wednesday 12th IGNITE: a festive evening of short talks by geologists. 6.30 for 7pm. Venue tba.

Friday 14th Corn Exchange and Town Hall – Help a Friend, Help a Friend event. Jack Daniels ??

Thursday 20th Carols in the Borough Gardens at 6.30pm.

Monday 24th to Friday 4th January inclusive – Schools Christmas Holiday

Monday 24th Christmas Eve.

Tuesday 25th Christmas Day. Bank Holiday.

Wednesday 26th Boxing Day. Bank Holiday.

Monday 31st December/Tuesday 1st January Welcome in another New Year at the Town Pump

Notes

1. Throughout the winter months (November through to March) the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) conducts a number of Conservation work parties on the Ridgeway (between Dorchester and Weymouth). These offer opportunities for volunteers to learn and practise Hedge Laying, Dry Stone Walling and Scrub Clearance. See: www.dorsetaonb.org.uk or contact Jill Hearing on 01305 228273 or email j.hearing@dorsetcc.gov.uk
2. Dorchester and District U3A. This is a flourishing branch of the National U3A. Further information: [www,dorchesteru3a.org.uk](http://www.dorchesteru3a.org.uk)
3. The Brownsword Hall in Pummery Square, Poundbury is the venue for a variety of regular classes and clubs including Fitness and Zumba, Dorchester Camera Club, Watercolour painting classes, Brownies, Line dancing and Pilates. Further information: www.brownswordhall.org.uk
4. Dorchester Art Club. Meets most Thursday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm in St George's Church hall, High Street Fordington. Further information: www.dorchesterartclub.co.uk
5. Dorset County Orchestra. Concerts – Saturday 17th March in St Nicholas' Church Corfe Mullen and Saturday 23rd June in St Mary's Church Swanage. Further information: www.dorsetcountyorchestra.org.uk
6. The Colliton Club in Colliton House beside County Hall holds various events. Further information: www.collitonclub.co.uk
7. The Trinity Club in Trinity Street holds various events. Further information: www.dorchestertrinityclub.co.uk
8. Farmer's Markets:
First Saturday in the month – Queen Mother Square.
Last Saturday in the month – South Street.

9. Dorset Centre for the Creative Arts. Middle Farm Way, Poundbury. A very wide-ranging series of practical courses are run here. Further information: www.dorsetcentreforthecreativearts.co.uk

10. www.theartsdevelopmentcompany.org.uk

11.

