

# Dorchester Calendar of Events - 2018

## January

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

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup>** Bank Holiday

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

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>** 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 11<sup>th</sup>** Short service in Poets Corner, after Evensong in Westminster Abbey, to commemorate the 90 years since Thomas Hardy's death, aged 87, on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1928.

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>** 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 20<sup>th</sup>** Dorchester Lions Concert – Sunninghill School – "Sounds of the Crooners"

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

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup>** 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](http://www.dorsetcentreforthecreativearts.co.uk)

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>** Sustainable Dorset AGM in the Dorset Room at the Colliton Club, Dorchester. Starts at 2pm.

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup>** “Tree Diseases”. A talk by Derek Brinsley in Dorford Centre at 7.30pm. Further information: [www.treesfordorset.co.uk](http://www.treesfordorset.co.uk)

## February

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

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

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

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

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>** 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 5<sup>th</sup>** Community Lecture at Hardy’s School – Prof. Monica Grady CBE – “Landing on a Comet – Reflections on the Rosetta Mission.”

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

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>** “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](http://www.treesfordorset.co.uk)

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

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> inclusive** – Schools Half Term Holiday

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup>** “Behind the Walls” Public meeting on Immigration Removal Centres. Corn Exchange at 7.30pm. FREE admission.

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

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>** 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](http://www.brewerysquare.com)

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>** "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](http://www.ww2.rspb.org.uk)

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>** "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](http://www.dorsetcentreforthecreativearts.co.uk)

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

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

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>** "A Dorchester Story" 1914-1918, Friday 23rd February, 7pm - Town Hall Dorchester. A varied evening exploring Dorchester's local history during the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.dorsetcentreforthecreativearts.co.uk)

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>** William Barnes Fair in the Corn Exchange 11am to 3.30pm. Run by the William Barnes Society.

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

## March

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>** “Pig Racing” in Brownsword Hall, Poundbury at 7pm.  
Dorchester Lions Club. [www.lionsdorchester.org.uk](http://www.lionsdorchester.org.uk)

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

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>** Spring Lambing Weekend at Kingston  
Maurward.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>** 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](http://www.wandwomen.org.uk)

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>** “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.

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

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

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>** Singing Concert at St Osmunds School.  
Dorchester Area Schools Partnership (DASP). [www.daspmusic.co.uk](http://www.daspmusic.co.uk)

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

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>** 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](http://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 13<sup>th</sup>** “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. National Trust. Further information: [southdorsetnt.org.uk](http://southdorsetnt.org.uk)

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>** 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 15<sup>th</sup>** “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 17<sup>th</sup>** 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 19<sup>th</sup>** Concert by Dorchester Area Schools partnership (DASP) in aid of Julia’s House. Further information: [www.daspmusic.co.uk](http://www.daspmusic.co.uk)

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>** Poundbury Residents Association - AGM at Damers School.

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>** “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](http://www.dorsetcentreforthecreativearts.co.uk)

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>** Egg Rolling Derby down Friary Hill at 11am. In support of the Mayor’s Charities.  
Concert by “Dorset Sinfonia” in United Church at 2pm.  
More information at [www.dorsetsinfonia.co.uk](http://www.dorsetsinfonia.co.uk)

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>** Dorchester Agricultural Society - Spring Show – Sunninghill School, Culliford Road, Dorchester. 2pm to 4pm FREE entry  
Corn Exchange & Town Hall – Craft Market – all day.

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>** 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 27<sup>th</sup>** “What’s the point of William Barnes in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century ?” Talk by Dr Richard Bradbury – 7pm in Dorford Centre. William Barnes Society.

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>** “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 29<sup>th</sup>** “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](http://www.dorchestertownfc.co.uk)

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup>** Good Friday. Bank Holiday.  
Easter weekend activities at Kingston Maurward. See website for more information. [www.kmc.ac.uk](http://www.kmc.ac.uk)

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April** Easter Egg Hunt, 10am to 4pm in Brewery Square. [www.brewerysquare.com](http://www.brewerysquare.com)

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April** Great Dinosaur Egg Hunt. The Dinosaur Museum, Icen Way, Dorchester. See website for details: [www.thedinosaurmuseum.com](http://www.thedinosaurmuseum.com)

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>** 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 1<sup>st</sup>** Easter Sunday

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>** Bank Holiday

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> inclusive** - Schools Easter Holiday

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>** First Public Dorchester Ghost Walk. Kings Arms at 8pm.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>** Dorchester Drama present, "The Caucasian Chalk Circle" by Bertolt Brecht in the Shire Hall. Further information: [www.dorchesterdrama.org.uk](http://www.dorchesterdrama.org.uk).

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup>** "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 (Tickets available on the Dorset County Museum website)

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>** Thomas Hardy Society Study Day – "A Pair of Blue Eyes" – Corn Exchange from 10am.

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

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>** Mayor's Concert in Corn Exchange – HMS Heron Band.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>** St George's Fair on Fordington Green from 11am.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>** 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](http://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.dorchester townfc.co.uk](http://www.dorchester townfc.co.uk)

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

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>** 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](http://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 4<sup>th</sup>** Friendship Club – “Glitter Ball” at Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy. Further information: [www.peoplefirstdorset.org.uk](http://www.peoplefirstdorset.org.uk)

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

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>** Lions Fun Run in morning - Dorchester Middle School.  
Further information: [www.lionsdorchester.org.uk](http://www.lionsdorchester.org.uk)

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup>** May Day Bank Holiday

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>** “Dippy” the Dinosaur leaves Dorchester.

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto: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](http://www.dorsetchamberorchestra.org)

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>** Summer Concert by “Dorchestra” – Dorchester’s Community Orchestra with the Quangle Wangle Choir. Corn Exchange 3.30pm  
Christian Aid Week Ecumenical Service. St George’s Church  
Fordington 3pm

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

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

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>** Christian Aid Week Market (includes lunch). United Church 10am to 1.30pm

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>**      **Royal Wedding** – Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in St George’s Chapel, Windsor Castle.

Christian Aid Week - Walk to River Jordan.

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>**              Cancer Research UK “Race for Life” at Kingston Maurward.

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup>**              Mayor Making – Corn Exchange and Town Hall.

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

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**      King Tut’s Treasure Hunt.  
The Tutankhamun Exhibition, High West Street, Dorchester. See website for details      [www.tutankhamunexhibition.co.uk](http://www.tutankhamunexhibition.co.uk)

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>**              Badger Watch – March through town and music.

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

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup>**              Spring Bank Holiday

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June inclusive** – Schools Half Term

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup>**              “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 2<sup>nd</sup>** 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 3<sup>rd</sup>** 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 6<sup>th</sup>** D-Day Commemoration at the Keep Museum.

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>** 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 14<sup>th</sup>** World Cup Football – First Match – Russia v Saudi Arabia

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>** Wynn’s Funfair on Fairfield.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>** “**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](http://www.dorchesterfestival.info)

Family Dog Show at Weldmar Hospice, Herringston Road, Dorchester. 11am to 4pm

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup>**            World Cup Football – England v Tunisia

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>**            Open Day and Country Fair at Kingston Maurward.  
World Cup Football – England v Panama

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>**        World Cup Football – England v Belgium

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup>**            “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 7<sup>th</sup>** Family Fun Day on The Great Field, Poundbury, Dorchester. All day event with stalls, games, music etc. Further information:  
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](http://www.dorsetcountymuseum.org)

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>** "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](http://www.daspmusic.co.uk)

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>** Tolpuddle Rally. Tolpuddle.

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup>** Open Air Theatre. The Miracle Theatre present "The Cherry Orchard". 7.30pm in Maumbury Rings.

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>** Thomas Hardy Festival and Conference. Further information: [www.hardysociety.org](http://www.hardysociety.org)

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July** Festival of Archaeology – Venue tba.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>** 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 19<sup>th</sup>** 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 21<sup>st</sup>** Dorchester Open Air Cinema at Maumbury Rings from 3pm to 8pm. See Facebook page for more details. FREE event.

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>** Family Fun Day in Borough Gardens. 2pm to 6pm in support of “Mind” West Dorset. FREE event.

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>** “Love Parks” in Borough Gardens. FREE event.

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August inclusive** – Schools Summer Holiday. Throughout the school summer holiday - Dinosaur Explorers! Dinosaur Museum, Icen Way, Dorchester. See website for details [www.thedinosaurmuseum.com](http://www.thedinosaurmuseum.com)

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>** Camp Bestival. East Lulworth.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>** The Creepy Crawly Show. Brewery Square 12noon to 3pm.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>** 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 30<sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October** Exhibition: “Jurassic Coast Jewels” by Louise Fuller. County Museum Tea Room.

## August

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>** Dorset Food and Arts Festival. Queen Mother Square, Poundbury, Dorchester.

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>** Dalton Town Brass Band – Borough Gardens from 2.30pm. FREE event.

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

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>** One World Festival in Borough Gardens from 11am to 5pm. FREE event.

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

Community Lunch at St Mary’s – Midday to 2pm

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

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>** “Archaeology of West Dorset” Talk by Chris Tripp at Kingcombe Centre. 9.45am to 4pm. See [www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk)

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>** Round Table Cider Festival. Borough Gardens.

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

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Monday 27<sup>th</sup>** Great Dorset Steam Fair. Blandford Forum.

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup>** Corn Exchange – Charity Barn Dance – Friends of Dorset County Hospital.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>** 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 26<sup>th</sup>** Love Parade

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup>** 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 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>** Dorset County Show. Coker’s Frome Showground.

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

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>** Weldmar Summer Fete, Herringston Road, Dorchester. 11am to 4pm

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>** 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](http://www.dahw.org.uk)

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

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>** 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 Dorset 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. Tours and tales provided. Further information: [www.dahw.org.uk](http://www.dahw.org.uk)

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup>, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> & Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>** Tango Festival in Corn Exchange and Town Hall

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

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>** Apple Day at the Railway Orchard – Transition Town Dorchester.

## October

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

## November

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>** All Souls Day. Open Church at Holy Trinity 10am to 7pm.

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

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>** The Thomas Hardy London Lecture at Birkbeck College. "The Wessex Project: Thomas Hardy, Architect." Prof. Kester Rattenbury. [www.hardysociety.org](http://www.hardysociety.org)

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>** MacMillan Christmas Fair at Kingston Maurward.

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>** Craft and Gifts Fair in Corn Exchange.

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>** 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 15<sup>th</sup>, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>** Dorchester Drama are performing a play in the Corn Exchange. It is likely to be "Present Laughter" by Noel Coward.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>** 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

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Lights Switch On in Buttermarket Square, Poundbury, Dorchester – 5pm to 8pm. Live music & local school children.

## December

**NB** The Thomas Hardy School Carol Service will take place during December – details tba. See [www.thomas-hardye.dorset.sch.uk](http://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 1<sup>st</sup>** Small Business Saturday. Christmas Fair/Market in Buttercross Square, Poundbury, Dorchester - 10am 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](http://www.dorchesterchoralsociety.org)

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>** Family Santa Fun Run at Dorchester Rugby Football Club. 11am. In support of the Joseph Weld Hospice.

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>** “Light up a Life” at Joseph Weld Hospice, Herringston Road, Dorchester. Service at 6.30pm.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>** 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 9<sup>th</sup>** Corn Exchange and Town Hall – Christmas Craft Fair – All Day Event.

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

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup>** Carols in the Borough Gardens at 6.30pm.

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January inclusive** – School Christmas Holiday

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Eve.

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Day. Bank Holiday.

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>** Boxing Day. Bank Holiday.

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> December/Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> January**  
Year at the Town Pump

Welcome in another New

## 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](http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk) or contact Jill Hearing on 01305 228273 or email [j.hearing@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:j.hearing@dorsetcc.gov.uk)  
Similar opportunities are offered by the Dorset Wildlife Trust. Further information: [www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.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](http://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](http://www.dorchesterartclub.co.uk)
5. Dorset County Orchestra. Concerts – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March in St Nicholas' Church Corfe Mullen and Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June in St Mary's Church Swanage. Further information: [www.dorsetcountyorchestra.org.uk](http://www.dorsetcountyorchestra.org.uk)
6. The Colliton Club in Colliton House beside County Hall holds various events. Further information: [www.collitonclub.co.uk](http://www.collitonclub.co.uk)
7. The Trinity Club in Trinity Street holds various events. Further information: [www.dorchestertrinityclub.co.uk](http://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](http://www.dorsetcentreforthecreativearts.co.uk)
10. There are lunchtime concerts on the following dates in 2018 – 7<sup>th</sup> February, 21<sup>st</sup> March and 18<sup>th</sup> April. For further information: [www.dorset-county-museum-music-society.org.uk](http://www.dorset-county-museum-music-society.org.uk)
11. [www.theartsdevelopmentcompany.org.uk](http://www.theartsdevelopmentcompany.org.uk)



