

Works start at The Avenue Stadium

After successfully raising £480,000, including £50,000 from the Town Council, Dorchester Town Community Football Club have stripped off the grass from their pitch and are preparing the surface for a new artificial turf pitch, to be installed by July.



From September the Club will become the hub for youth football in the town, with all youth teams training and many teams playing on the new surface, which will also be available for other community football uses.

An open day is planned for mid July to show off the new pitch and highlight opportunities for everyone to get involved in playing or supporting the beautiful game. See dorchester-town-fc.co.uk/ for more details.

New Facilities at St Ossie's



The Community Sports Centre in Barnes Way has, for the last 16 years, made school sports facilities on the St Osmund's school site available to the wider community. These include a hall, tennis courts and fitness suite.

Recently the school has had an extension, with exciting new facilities being made available. The existing facilities have been supplemented and there is now a large room available for hire out of school hours, for activities such as meetings, exercise classes, martial arts and short tennis. It is bookable at the Sports Centre,

If you would like to visit the Centre and have a look at the facilities and the new room, or to have a chat with Guy or one of his team, please phone 01305 756472 or call in to fix a date. You will be most welcome. More information is also available at <http://stosmundsportcentre.wixsite.com/stosmundsport>

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

Dorchester Boxing Club open for business

Following its conversion from redundant changing rooms, the Boxing Club moved into their permanent new gym at Weymouth Avenue Pavilion at the beginning of April.

Under the supervision of Head Coach Ben Geyser the Club opens on weekday evenings to provide young people with an opportunity to train for fitness, discipline and personal development.

Contact Ben on 01305 832249 to get involved.



BBC Sports Personality Unsung Hero and Head Coach Ben Geyser puts on the gloves to test out the Club's equipment

Cricket Club takes over at Weymouth Ave.

The gradual transfer of the Pavilion and pitch at Weymouth Avenue to Dorchester Cricket Club is nearly complete.

Over the last 3 years the Club has assumed responsibility for managing bookings and maintenance at the Pavilion and installed a new bar. From this summer the Club has taken over pitch bookings and maintenance of the cricket square and outfield.



The Club now has a greater say in managing facilities. The Pavilion is used most evenings and during the day, so the cost to local Council taxpayer has been significantly reduced, allowing us to support other services.

The Club goes from strength to strength, particularly the youth cricket section. Type [Dorchester Cricket into Facebook](#) for up to date information on how you can get involved.

Dorchester News

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Summer 2018

New Mayor for the town

In May David Taylor was elected as Mayor for the town. First elected to the Council in 2011 he has also served on West Dorset District Council since 2015.

David has lived in Dorchester since 1997. Having had a career in catering and retail he currently works as a Playworker at Manor Minors & Ossie All Stars Out of School Club, a job he loves.

David's focus for the year is on community needs, particularly support for those who suffer from issues associated with drugs, debt, family, mental and physical health.

David will fundraise for four organisations during the year - Dorchester Youth Club, MIND, Keep106FM and Home Start.

If you have an event and would like David to attend, please download a mayoral engagement form from our website.



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Shire Hall Courthouse open to Visitors

Following a £3.5 Million refurbishment, the Shire Hall opened at the beginning of May.

Visitors will explore below ground level and learn about the justice system in Dorset, visit the cell where the Tolpuddle Martyrs were held prior to their trial, then enter the Court Room through the dock.



The museums is open 10.00 - 17.00 daily. Entry costs £4.50 for children, £8.50 for adults and allows re-entry for a year from the date of ticket purchase.

A café, managed by Kingston Maurward College, and gift shop are available on site; they can be accessed without viewing the Museum. Meeting space is also available to hire.

The Museum is keen to introduce itself to the local community. Please use the voucher below to go and take a look.



Touch screens and dressing up are both options for younger visitors

The site also includes temporary exhibition and performance space, with the first exhibition, **Journey to Justice**, opening in June. Commemorating 50 years since the assassination of Dr Martin Luther King it uses music, interviews and interactive displays to relate the stories of some of the less well-known women, men and children involved in the US civil rights movement. In response, local young people have created **Radical Dorset** using a series of social media inspired displays.

One feature of the new Museum will be regular talks, plays, music and debates on the theme of social justice. See www.shirehalldorset.org for more information.



SHIRE HALL
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE MUSEUM

VOUCHER

Free regular hot drink
and
10% off in the shop

Please present this voucher to claim discount.
Shop voucher applies to spends of over £10.00.
This voucher is not redeemable for cash.
This voucher expires 31.08.2018.

A single Unitary Council for Dorset

In April 2019 West Dorset DC and Dorset CC will merge into a single new Dorset Council, along with 4 other District and Borough Councils across rural Dorset. Elections will take place for both the new Unitary Council and the Town Council on 2 May 2019, with the current 2 county and 9 district councillors being replaced by 5 councillors for the new Council.

The merger has largely been driven by a need to reduce costs across both tiers as a result of ongoing reductions in Central Government grant, although there are clearly also administrative and co-ordination benefits in combining two the tiers.

It is not at all clear which services the new Council will prioritise, but there is a real chance that discretionary services valued by our local community and visitors to the town will suffer as a result of the reorganisation. West Dorset District Council has previously funded these to a much higher level than elsewhere in the county, supported by extra income from town centre car parks and a significant property portfolio.

Services such as Public Conveniences, the library-based TIC, grant support for local Arts, Museums, Community groups and levels of street cleaning and highway maintenance may all, to some degree, suffer.

District and Town Councils have been talking for some time about the transfer of some discretionary services, but there is a stumbling block; how would the town pay for them? Without access to new sources of income, primarily from car parking, the Town Council will only be able to safeguard a small part of the services likely to be at risk.

At present there are no discussions taking place with Dorset County Council about discretionary services that they currently deliver that might also be threatened.

While waiting for the reorganisation to happen the Town Council continues to focus on a review of our budgets; any savings here will create capacity to help local groups to take on services that might otherwise disappear.

The separate articles on other pages highlight how local sports clubs in particular are stepping up to the challenge of taking on facilities and running them in a different way, which both improves the delivery of sports such as cricket and football, but also reduces the subsidy from the taxpayer.

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

Borough Gardens kiosk under new management

From May the kiosk at the Albert Road entrance to the Borough Gardens will reopen, managed as the "Kiosk on the Green" by the team behind the award winning Café on the Green at Poundbury.

As well as serving great snacks the kiosk will have a focus on supporting people with learning difficulties, some of whom move on to fully paid employment after learning new skills in a friendly working environment.



The kiosk will be open daily for the summer from late May, weather permitting

Development ideas on Recreation sites ended

In the Spring newsletter we highlighted consultation being carried out alongside Magna Housing regarding five recreation sites in the town, to consider the potential for developing them to provide much needed affordable housing for young workers.

At two consultation events and by e-mail the Council received well over 300 representations covering all of the sites, almost unanimously opposing development. As a result at its meeting in March the Council decided not to progress the ideas further. The sites will now be retained for recreational purposes.

This decision does not cover the development of the tennis courts to the rear of Trinity Street Car Park, where the Council continues to support the Dorchester Area Community Land Trust to develop c. 20 flats for young workers. Up to date information on this project, including how to join DACLT and get involved, can be found at <http://dact.org.uk/>.

Events July - September 2018

In the Borough Gardens

July

- Sunday 1** 100 Years of Votes for Women - Noon
- Saturday 7** Armed Forces Day Service - 1.50pm
- Sunday 8** Swingtime in the Gardens - Noon
- Sunday 15** Durnovaria Silver Band - 2.30pm
- Sunday 22** MIND Family Fun Day- Noon
- Sunday 29** Warm Festival - 1.00pm

August

- Wednesday 1** Love Parks Day Family Event - 10.30am
- Sunday 5** Dalton Town Brass Band - 2.30pm
- Saturday 11** One World Festival - 11.00am
- Sunday 12** WHOTT bus rally—10.00am at Top o' Town Car Park
- Saturday 18** Round Table Cider Festival - 3.00pm
- Sunday 19** Weldmar presents Tony Lowe - 2.30pm

September

- Sunday 9** Durnovaria Silver Band - 2.30pm
- Sunday 23** Durnovaria Silver Band - 2.30pm

Summer Funday on The Great Field

Dorchester Community Nursery play host on Saturday 7th July, Noon-8pm. Free entry and something for ALL the family; local stalls and attractions, food and drink, live music and entertainment, a friendly football tournament, good humoured 'Bark in the Park' dog show, great prizes up for grabs and so much more!

Last year £6,500 was raised for the school's garden and this year funds will help renovate the preschool bathrooms, located on York Road in the centre of town.

More info at the 'DCNS Fundraisers' [Facebook page](#).



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

At Maumbury Rings

July

- Friday 13** "The Cherry Orchard" performed by Miracle Theatre - 7.30pm ([ticketed](#))
- Saturday 21** Outdoor Cinema "The Lion King" - 2.00pm and "The Greatest Showman" - 8.30pm

August

- Thursday 9** "Much Ado about Nothing" performed by Rain & Shine Theatre - 7.30pm ([ticketed](#))
 - Thursday 23** "Rustle" performed by Paddleboat Theatre (Age 3+) - 2.00pm ([ticketed](#))
 - Saturday 25** Anonymous Festival by Dorset Youth Extra - Noon
 - Sunday 26** Love Parade
 - Monday 27** Music on Bank Holiday Monday - 1.00pm
- For events marked ([ticketed](#)) contact Dorchester Arts at 01305 266926 or visit www.dorchesterarts.org.uk

Inside Out Festival to start and end in Dorchester

Inside Out Dorset will be returning to town from 14 - 22 September, with a packed programme of, mainly free, outdoor events for the whole family. This year the Festival features circus, theatre and installations from acclaimed international companies.

Inside Out last visited Dorchester in 2010 when they worked with No Fit State Circus to bring a show called "Parklife" to Maumbury Rings.

This year the festival opens at Maumbury Rings and closes with a very special event at Maiden Castle.

Find out more at www.insideoutdoret.co.uk.

World War One Events

The Town Council is pleased to be working with a number of groups including local schools, Dorchester Arts, the Keep Museum and Dorset History Centre, to put on a programme of events to commemorate the end of the First World War.

More details can be found in a leaflet in the [What's On tab on our website](#).

