



DORCHESTER NEWS

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Photo Credit - Finnbar Webster

DORCHESTER'S NEW MAYOR

At the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held in May, Councillor Robin Potter was elected Mayor of Dorchester.

Robin first served on the Council in 1992-1995. He was re-elected in 1999 and has served continuously since then. Robin has been Mayor twice before in 2006 and 2015. His main chosen charity for his Mayoral year is Dorchester Family Support.

Robin will be supported by his wife Val Potter as Mayoress and also Councillor Janet Hewitt as Deputy Mayor.

If you have an event that you would like Robin to attend, please download a mayoral engagement form from our website. You can also watch a recording of the Mayor Making ceremony – the link is on the front page of the Council's website.

BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

On 16th May, the Town Council held its Informal Annual Town Meeting in the Corn Exchange in order to update the community on what the Council had achieved over the previous 12 months and to bring together a range of over 20 local voluntary organisations.

Groups taking part included the Dorchester Disabled Club, Dorchester Poverty Action, People Need Nature and the New Hardy Players who showcased the breadth of community activity in the town covering arts, the environment, health and much more. One of the groups attending told us "It was great, and a really good opportunity to talk to other organisations, Councillors and members of the public".



NEW TOWN CRIER



Photo Credit - Bournemouth News

Following the retirement of Alistair Chisholm as Town Crier after over two decades of award-winning service to the town, Anthony Harrison has now been appointed to this unique position following a recruitment process. Anthony is an active member of the Dorchester Civic Society and very keen on local history. You can follow Anthony in his role as Town Crier on Instagram on #dorchesteroyez.

DORCHESTER BOROUGH GARDENS

Free Summer Music & Events!

June

- Sat 29 - 11am-4pm Dorchester Town Council
50th Anniversary Celebrations
Sun 30 - 5pm-7.30pm Durnovaria Silver Band &
Encore Singers Proms Event

July

- Sat 6 - 2pm-4pm What the Phunk
Sun 7 - 12.00 noon Swingtime in the Gardens
Sat 13 - 2pm-4pm No Fixed Abode
Sun 14 - 2pm-4pm The Hooked
Sun 21 - 2pm-4pm Durnovaria Silver Band
Thurs 25 - 11am-3pm Love Parks Day
Sat 27 - 1pm-4pm Family Fun Day
Sun 28 - 10am-3pm Dorchester Artisan Market

August

- Sat 3 - 2pm-4pm Nick Capaldi
Sun 4 - 2pm-4pm Damaris Fowler & Rick
Sat 10 - 11am-5pm One World Festival
Sun 11 - 2pm-4pm Tony Lowe
Sat 17 - from 2pm Dorchester Cider Festival
Sun 18 - 2pm-4pm Weymouth Concert Brass
Sun 25 - 10am-3pm Dorchester Artisan Market
Mon 26 - 10am-3pm Anonymous Festival

Subject to the Weather!

Check out the Discover Dorchester website for other upcoming events on:-

www.discoverdorchester.co.uk



GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Over recent months the Town Council's Management Committee has awarded more small grants to help a variety of community projects, including:



£500 to C Side for its Express Yourself project (pictured) offering creative music workshops for young people.



£500 to Dorchester Family Support (pictured) to help provide food parcels to local income families during school holidays.

To find out if your project is eligible for a council grant, please visit our website for more information.



DorchesterArts @ Maumbury Rings

Wednesday 26 June - The Comedy of Errors 7pm
Thursday 25 July - The Importance of Being Earnest 7pm
Thursday 1 August - Peter Pan 6pm
Friday 9 August - Dr Dolittle 6pm



BOROUGH GARDENS HOUSE – COMMUNITY SPACE

The community room at Borough Gardens House has been refurbished and will soon be available to hire as a space for community and corporate meetings and events. The space also includes a kitchen area and toilet facilities, free WiFi, and direct access to the Gardens, with nearby parking in the Fairfield car park.

To book find out more about availability and hire fees, please contact enquiries@dorchester-tc.gov.uk



A SUMMER OF MARKETS

The new monthly Dorchester Artisan Market got off to a great start in April. Thousands of visitors flocked to the market stalls across South Street, Brewery Square and into Borough Gardens where there was food, drink and live music. Organised by Dorset Artisan Markets, this new monthly event, which compliments the popular Dorchester Car Boot Sale, brings a wide range of high-quality crafts and produce to Dorchester.

The summer dates are: 28th July, 25th August and 22nd September and then on the fourth Sunday of each month through to November. In addition, Dorchester will be hosting a wide range of other markets:

- 14th July - Crown Square Summer Market in Poundbury - 11am - 4pm
- 3rd August - Dorset Food & Arts Festival at The Great Field, Poundbury, 10am - 3pm
- 4th August Dorchester Vegan Market in Maumbury Rings - 10am - 4pm
- Weekly Wednesday Market at Fairfield - 6.30am - 2pm
- Daily Market at Cornhill, Monday – Saturday



DORCHESTER WALKING FESTIVAL



In May the Town Council put together a programme of 45 guided walks that took place over a 9-day period during National Walking Month. Local history was a key factor of many walks – these included following the route of Dorchester's Roman Aquaduct, a grand tour of Dorchester's Victorian buildings, and a walk that visited the sites associated with Crime and Punishment hearing stories of those unfortunate to find themselves on the wrong side of the law.

Councillor Robin Potter, the newly elected Mayor of Dorchester said, "The Walking Festival makes a great addition to Dorchester's offer to residents and visitors." Having taken part in some walks himself, he was keen to add his thanks to the organisers and to the individual walk leaders who proved so knowledgeable and entertaining. "I learnt new things on the walks," he added, "Including a tunnel under the by-pass that I didn't know about. Also discovering the names of beer sizes from the Barley Mow song. I am already looking forward to next year!"



Many thanks to Kingston Maurward College and Brewery Square for sponsoring the walking festival.

BEACON BACK TO ITS BEST

After many years sterling service it was time for the famous town beacon on Salisbury Field to receive a well-deserved renovation. The impressive structure has helped Dorchester mark many royal, national and local occasions, from jubilees to the great fire of Dorchester and, of course, the recent coronation of King Charles III.

The weather had taken its toll on the Town Seal shield and the basket itself. The repairs were completed earlier this year, despite the bad weather. The beacon was ready on time for its first event after the renovation when it was lit as part of a nationwide event to mark the D-Day 80th anniversary in June.



NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL TAKES THE REINS

On 2 May residents elected 16 returning Councillors and 4 new Councillors to represent them on the Town Council for the five year term until 2029.

The Council recognised with gratitude the service of its retiring Councillors at its first meeting:-

- Tim Harries, who served the Council continuously from 1987 to 2024, including three years as Mayor.
- Alistair Chisholm, who served for nine years on the Town Council and was Mayor for this past year up to the Annual Meeting.
- Susie Hosford, who served on the Council for twenty one years and was Mayor twice in 2009 and 2017.
- Barry Armstrong-Marshall who has served nine years from 2015.

THE COUNCIL ALSO WELCOMED ITS NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILLORS:-

- Vanessa Lloyd-Jones – North Ward
- William Gibbons – Poundbury Ward
- Jed Germodo – West Ward
- Poppy Farmer – East Ward

FULL LIST OF COUNCILLOR CONTACTS

NORTH WARD

Sue Biles - susanbiles@outlook.com

*Andy Canning - andycanning@btinternet.com

Vanessa Lloyd-Jones – nessdorchestertown@hotmail.co.uk

David Taylor - david.dorchester@gmail.com

EAST WARD

Poppy Farmer - poppy.farmer13@gmail.com

*Stella Jones - stella@sywardcottage.co.uk

Fiona Kent-Ledger - f_kent_ledger@hotmail.com

*Rory Major - rory.major@googlemail.com

Kate Reid - reidkate@hotmail.co.uk

POUNDBURY

*Richard Biggs - richard-biggs@tiscali.co.uk

William Gibbons – wedgibbons@gmail.com

Frances Hogwood - f.hogwood978@btinternet.com

David Leaper - profdavidleaper@doctors.org.uk

SOUTH WARD

Gareth Jones - cllrgjones11@gmail.com

Robin Potter - valrobin22@gmail.com

Molly Rennie - mollymadgerennie@hotmail.co.uk

WEST WARD

Jed Germodo – jed@dorchestertimber.com

*Les Fry - lesfry.lf@gmail.com

Janet Hewitt - janet.hewitt99@googlemail.com

Ralph Ricardo - rj_ricardo@yahoo.com

**Also a Dorchester Ward Dorset Councillor*



WARD MAP

Further information about the Town Council and what it does is available on our website, www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk