

DORCHESTER CHRISTMAS 2020

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ARTISANS Bazaar

80 artists, makers and producers will be showcasing their work with a wealth of crafts and artworks on sale
The Gallery at Sculpture by the Lakes
for a unique Christmas shopping experience

During Lockdown we will have an online store and a personal shopping virtual tour - see website



The Cafe by the Lakes will also be open so you can combine this wonderful shopping experience with delicious coffee and cake or lunch

**Open until 23rd December,
Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm**

Entry to Artisans' Bazaar is free

Entry to the sculpture park is by prebooked tickets

www.sculpturebythelakes.co.uk



Dorchester at CHRISTMAS



Shop local and support our retailers

Although Christmas in Dorchester will be different this year with no Christmas Cracker night, the town will still have the traditional Christmas lights and I urge you to shop local and support our retailers.

There are so many unusual Christmas gifts that can be found in the eclectic range of shops. After 25 years of Cracker Night being on the first Thursday of December, we have decided to try something new for 2021. We are planning a full day event on Sunday 12th December 2021, with more stalls and local festive favourites, we look forward to your support.

It's been a truly unexpected year, which has affected us all in different ways, but Christmas is a time to fill the air with laughter, the best medicine of all, and I hope it will be in plentiful supply.

It just remains for me to wish you, your families and your friends, a very happy, warm and safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year. 'Ho Ho Ho'.

Steve Bulley

Chairman, Dorchester Christmas Cracker Committee



Festive Fact
DID YOU KNOW?

Yule

Yule was a significant mid-winter feast in pre-Christian times celebrating the winter solstice on 21st December and the longest night of the year when the sun is at its lowest. The rebirth of the sun brought hope and new potential as the days become longer afterwards. Yule was replaced with Christmastide and the birth of Jesus, the son. It remained both a religious and social festival - A time to 'Eat, drink and be merry'.



Produced by The Resourcery | theresourcery.co.uk

**LOVE
Dorch**

SOS
Save Our Shops



SAFER CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

We've been busy making sure your shopping trip to Brewery Square will be safe as well as enjoyable – with distancing markers, hand sanitisers and face masks if you've forgotten yours!

WORKING HARD TO KEEP YOU SAFE!

f t G+ i o brewerysquare.com

BREWERY SQUARE ♥ SHOP, EAT, RELAX
SAT NAV: DT1 1GH



Christmas is most definitely NOT CANCELLED



This is probably a year many of us will wish to put behind us - it is certainly one we will not forget. The high street and wider town like many around the UK has had a punishing time. What I am picking up is that while many of the larger chains are downsizing and pulling out, there is a huge appetite for small, interesting shops and most eateries are doing pretty well under the circumstances. There have been new businesses opening and there will be exciting new visitor attractions opening in the new year. I'm sure that these will bring in new visitors who may well stay overnight rather than just day trippers (welcome as they are).

The town has so much to offer and restrictions permitting, we need to make up for lost time and shop locally, supporting the businesses and livelihoods of so many people in our community. Christmas is most definitely not cancelled, and the decorations will be up as normal. Please take the time to shop in our town and take the opportunity to converse with real friendly people. We have all probably had far too much time in front of a computer screen!

Richard Biggs
Mayor of Dorchester



Festive Fact DID YOU KNOW?

When Christmas WAS cancelled

In 1647, anything festive was banned. No decorations, no gatherings or celebrations. Shops and markets were told to stay open on 25th December, and in the City of London soldiers were ordered to patrol the streets, seizing any food they discovered being prepared for Christmas celebrations. Oliver Cromwell had seized power and the Puritans had abolished the church of England. Christmas was considered a pagan festival that threatened Christian beliefs and encouraged immoral activities. Rebellions broke out across the country and some "radicals" put up holly in defiance. The ban remained in place for nearly 20 years and sparked a second civil war. Christmas was reinstated in 1660, after Charles II took the throne.

Christmas Robins

The robin is linked to an old pagan tradition telling of the eternal feud between the Holly King of Winter (a wren) and the Oak King of Summer (a robin) to represent the changing seasons. The Holly King is driven away and replaced by the Oak King on the Winter Solstice. However, on the Summer Solstice, the Holly King gets his revenge, and replaces the Oak King. In Christian tradition, when Mary was giving birth to baby Jesus in the stable, she noticed the fire they had lit to keep warm was petering out. Suddenly, a small brown bird appeared and started flapping its wings in front of the fire, causing it to roar back to life. However, a stray ember scorched its breast bright red. Mary declared that the red breast was a sign of the bird's kind heart and would remain as a reminder for evermore.

LOVE
Dorch

PLEASE SUPPORT DORCHESTER

by working together

Thank you for SHOPPING IN DORCHESTER

Everyone has pulled together to make your shopping experience as safe and pleasant as possible.

Money spent locally stays locally and benefits our community and people in the area.

Please support Dorchester by buying local goods and services.

Dorchester thanks you for KEEPING US SAFE

- ✓ FOLLOW SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES
- ✓ KEEP LEFT, WHERE POSSIBLE
- ✓ USE DEBIT/CREDIT CARDS, WHERE POSSIBLE
- ✓ WASH YOUR HANDS USING SOAP
- ✓ USE HAND SANITISERS
- ✓ WEAR A FACE MASK WHERE REQUIRED
- ✓ DISPOSE OF PPE APPROPRIATELY

SOS

Save Our Shops
SHOP LOCAL

USE IT OR LOSE IT has never been more true

Let's keep our shops open on Dorchester High Street. No-one enjoys seeing another empty shop when they visit the town centre.

There are a few things YOU can do to help businesses

- ✓ VISIT AND SPEND AT LEAST £5 IN DORCHESTER EVERY WEEK
- ✓ BUY GIFT VOUCHERS FROM LOCAL STORES
- ✓ LET THE SHOP KNOW WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE THEM TO STOCK
- ✓ VISIT LOCAL ONLINE SHOPS AND USE LOCAL DELIVERY SERVICES
- ✓ LIKE AND SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

SOS

Save Our Shops

LOVE
Dorch



These are challenging times for our High Street but if the community pulls together, we can make a positive impact and really turn things around for our local retailers. We have a fabulous range of shops in Dorchester, which includes those in Brewery Square and Poundbury. Take time to discover shops you haven't visited before – You may just find that perfect, unusual gift for someone special. Don't forget the people that own and work in our local shops, cafes, restaurants and bars are all part of our neighbourhood and, unlike bigger online outfits, they are the ones who sponsor our local events, provide raffle prizes, and serve us with a smile and a friendly face.

THINK LOCAL, ACT LOCAL AND SAVE OUR SHOPS

However, it's certainly not all doom and gloom, an incredible 13 new businesses have opened in Dorchester since March. Please support them over the coming months.



Archie's Artisan Bakery in South Street
B8 Vegan Café in Trinity Street
Bell's Hair Salon in Trinity Street
CW Hats & Accessories in Antelope Walk
Delicious Dorset in Church Street
FoneWorld in South Street

Luccio's Restaurant in Brewery Square
Metro Supermarket in Trinity Street
Passiflora in Antelope Walk
S&A Treasure Jewellery in Antelope Walk
The Court Room Bistro in Antelope Walk
The King's Arms in High East Street
Warmer Homes in Great Western Road

SHOP Local

SHOP Safe✓

SHOP Dorch

Christmas Tree-cycle



BOOK A COLLECTION FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE!
WELD-HOSPICE.ORG.UK OR CALL 01305 261800

Suggested
Donation
£10

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No: 1000414



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cbreid.co.uk

SHIRE HALL

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Christmas Afternoon Teas

2nd December to 31st December

Booking essential, subject to availability

Christmas Market

12th and 13th December

Free entry

Christmas in the Courtroom with the New Hardy Players

17th and 18th December

Breakfast with Father Christmas

22nd and 23rd December

Booking essential, subject to availability

Visit our website for more information about each event
All events are in line with current COVID guidelines



ShireHallDorset DorsetShireHall Shire_Hall_Dorset

Shire Hall | High West Street | Dorchester | DT1 1UY
www.shirehalldorset.org · 01305 261849

Churches TOGETHER

**MISSING
CAROLS
THIS YEAR?**
Try this link:
southwestcarols.com

As the days shorten and Christmas is on the horizon we look forward to the lights in town, the shop displays and the feelings of anticipation. Different people anticipate different things – for some it's the family gatherings, for others it might be the presents, the parties or the food. It may be the sound of carols or the little traditions you keep at this time of year. It may be Church.

However, for some it is a lonely time, a time of 'if only...' or 'what if...' In all our preparations we can forget that this time is difficult for some. This year, with greater fears and uncertainties, due to Covid 19, we may feel or become overwhelmed. What if we can't meet with family? What if Christmas, as we know it, is cancelled?

Whatever happens, let us find Christmas anew – a time when a child's birth brings light into our darkness, a time for a rebirth of hope. This image can touch us all, even if we struggle to believe. For it is an image that can bring lightness into our hearts, that can remind us of love and kindness, of innocence and the possibility of new beginnings. It tells us that we are never alone – where we are so is Christ. In all of life's uncertainties, he is a certainty.

We are all loved and cherished by Christ and we can share that love with all those we meet. A 'Good Morning' in the street, a smile, a small act of kindness can open hearts. As we move from 2020 to a new year let us take time to be still and reflect on the things that really matter to us, the things that really bring peace, joy and hope.

In this time of uncertainty, we publish our Church service times in hope! Please look on church noticeboards around the time for updated services.

Jackie Clayton
Chair of Churches Together



Festive Fact DID YOU KNOW?

Advent Calendar

Advent is the four weeks before Christmas when Christians prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas. In 19th Century Germany, protestants counted down to Christmas by marking 24 chalk lines on a door and rubbing one off every day in December.

Today, advent calendars are made of card with 24 or 25 little windows on. A window is opened on every day in December and a Christmas picture is displayed underneath, often containing a chocolate or gift. Advent candles are another way to mark the days. Some candles mark the days down the candle which is lit and burnt down to the first line each day with the rest of the candle burnt on Christmas day. An advent crown is a wreath of greenery with four candles round the outside. One is lit each week to represent Isaiah the prophet, the bible, Mary and John the Baptist. A centre candle for Jesus, the light of the world is lit on Christmas day.

DATE	CHURCH	EVENT	TIME
Sunday 20th	St George's CofE	Communion (Book of common prayer) (said)	8:00am
	St Peter's CofE Church	Holy Communion (Book of common prayer)	9:00am
	St George's CofE	CW Communion (said)	9:45am
	United Church Dorchester	Carol Service *	10:00am
	St Peter's CofE Church	Holy Communion	10:30am
	The Storehouse Church	Christmas Service (Church and online) **	10:30am
	United Church Dorchester	Christmas Service *	11:15am
	St George's CofE	Christmas Carols (To be confirmed)	6:00pm
	St Mary's Church	Christmas Poetry with small choir and musicians †	6:00pm
Thursday 24th	United Church Dorchester	Christingle *	3:00pm
	United Church Dorchester	Christingle *	4:15pm
	St George's CofE	First CW Communion of Christmas (said)	9:00pm
	St Mary's Church	Midnight mass with blessing of the crib ** X	11:00pm
	St Peter's CofE Church	Holy Communion	11:30pm
	United Church Dorchester	Midnight Communion	11:30pm
	Holy Trinity RC Church	Midnight mass	12:00pm
Christmas Day	St Mary's Church	Said Eucharist ** X	8:00am
	St George's CofE	Communion (Book of prayer) (said)	8:30am
	Holy Trinity RC Church	Christmas Service	8:30am
	St Mary's Church	All age Eucharist ** X	9:45am
	St Peter's CofE Church	Holy Communion	10:00am
	St George's CofE	CW Communion (said)	10:00am
	The Storehouse Church	Christmas Service (Online only) **	10:00am
	United Church Dorchester	Christmas Service *	10:00am
	Holy Trinity RC Church	Christmas Service	10:30am
	United Church Dorchester	Christmas Service	11:15am
Saturday 26th	Holy Trinity RC Church	Service	10:00am
Sunday 27th	Holy Trinity RC Church	Service	8:30am
	St Peter's CofE Church	Holy Communion (Book of common prayer)	9:00am
	United Church Dorchester	Service *	10:00am
	St Peter's CofE Church	Holy Communion	10:30am
	Holy Trinity RC Church	Service	10:30am
	United Church Dorchester	Service *	11:15am

* Booking essential at United Church Dorchester except for Midnight Communion

** Booking details for TSC and links to online services can be found on the TSC website and Facebook page <https://thestorehousechurch.org.uk>

† Please book by Noon on Friday 18th December with Trudy Tabone - trtabone@gmail.com

‡ Please book by Noon on Tuesday 22nd December with Trudy Tabone - trtabone@gmail.com

Please note that due to coronavirus the numbers at services need to be restricted. The planned services may also be affected. Please look on church noticeboards around the town for updates nearer the time.



www.Keep106.com

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and advertisers the very best for
Christmas and all the positivity and
prosperity possible in 2021 across Dorset!**

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CHRISTMAS HERITAGE



For how long have we been celebrating Christmas in Dorchester? Well, if you visit the Waitrose car park, you'll find a reminder of the pre-Christian settlement that was there 5000 years back. At that time, the locals would have celebrated the turning of the year when they could look forward to lengthening days and the return of spring.

Later, after the arrival of Christianity, we celebrated Christmas in our churches with songs and dance – 'carolling', but when these were banished to the streets this saw the beginning of outdoor carol singing, a tradition we still love today and that you can enjoy whilst you do your Christmas shopping in Dorchester.

The Victorian period saw not only the beginning of the tradition of Christmas trees in homes, but also the birth of many of our finest and most popular carols, some of which snatch at a good tune from medieval or Tudor times.

Thomas Hardy wrote a story about a local parish band in Christmas week when they played for dances and parties as well as accompanying psalms in the church: 'Out to one rattling randy (party) after another every night'. It all went wrong, of course, when they got their gigs mixed up – maybe something to do with the gallon of hot brandy and beer they had with them up in the church gallery.

But what about the future? The Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee, run by the Town Council, brings together organisations and people who have an interest in looking after and talking about our historical places, people and objects – our heritage. We are working on a plan to use that heritage to attract more visitors and, whilst doing so, encourage them to stay, explore the town and spend money here. I imagine that in future, with a developed and widely promoted Heritage Offer in Dorchester, part of the seasonal attraction of Dorchester Christmas Cracker will be some revived or new Christmas traditions!

Gareth Jones
Chair, Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee



Festive Fact DID YOU KNOW?

Xmas Pudding

Christmas pudding was originally a 14th century porridge called 'frumenty', made from beef and mutton with raisins, currants, prunes, wines and spices. More like soup, it was eaten during fasting in preparation for the Christmas festivities. By 1595, frumenty was thickened with eggs, breadcrumbs, dried fruit and beer. It became the customary Christmas dessert around 1650.



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dorchester

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Brewery Square is a vibrant and stylish regeneration in the heart of Dorchester. A selection of well-known brands of shops, eateries and leisure facilities are complemented with a variety of unique independent retail outlets – the perfect destination for Christmas shopping.

THINK CHRISTMAS, THINK BREWERY SQUARE!

EATING OUT

BREWHOUSE & KITCHEN
27 Weymouth Ave
Dorchester
brewhouseandkitchen.com

**COPPER STREET
BREWERY**
8 Copper Street
Brewery Square
copperstreetbrewery.co.uk

COSTA COFFEE
Brewery Square
costa.co.uk

COTE BRASSERIE
Brewery Square
cote.co.uk

CREAMS CAFE
Brewery Square
creamscafe.com

HENDOVER CAFE
11 Weymouth Ave
Dorchester
hendovercafe.com

**MORRISH BANHAM
WINE MERCHANT &
TASTING ROOM**
1 Pope Street
Brewery Square
morrishandbanham.com

NANDO'S
Weymouth Avenue
Brewery Square
nandos.co.uk

LUCCIO'S
Brewery Square
luccios.co.uk

PIZZA EXPRESS
25 Weymouth Ave
Dorchester
pizzaexpress.com

ZIZZI ITALIAN
5 Eldridge St
Dorchester
zizzi.co.uk

VIVO LOUNGE
23 Weymouth Ave
Dorchester
thelounges.co.uk/vivo

WAGAMAMA
Brewery Square
wagamama.com

SHOPPING

AVENUE INTERIORS
9 Weymouth Avenue
Brewery Square
avenueinteriors.co.uk

BELLE MODELLE
11 Brewery Square
belle-modelle.co.uk

HOBBS
8 Brewery Square
hobbs.com

**JACQUELINES
PRE-LOVED BOUTIQUE**
8 Pope Street
Brewery Square
jacquelinehallett.com

JOULES
10 Brewery Square
joules.com

LOCO BOUTIQUE
12 Pope Street
Brewery Square
locoloves.co.uk

MARGO & MYA
4 Pope Street
Brewery Square
margoandmya.co.uk

MAXGATE PROPERTIES
21 Weymouth Avenue
Brewery Square
maxgateproperties.co.uk

MOORLAND EXPRESS
4 Copper Street
Brewery Square

PHASE EIGHT
7 Brewery Square
phase-eight.com

SEVENTH SEAL
14 Pope Street
Brewery Square
seventhseal.uk

STEMS FLORIST
15 Weymouth Avenue
Brewery Square
stemsfloristdorchester.com

VINYL VAN
8a Pope Street
Brewery Square

WOODS FURNITURE
7 Copper Street
Brewery Square
woods-furniture.co.uk

LEISURE

**DORCHESTER
ART GALLERY**
11 Pope Street
Brewery Square
dorchesterartgallery.co.uk

DORSET HIDEAWAYS
17 Weymouth Avenue
Brewery Square
dorsethideaways.co.uk

**GALLERY ON
THE SQUARE**
9 Brewery Square
gallerypoundbury.co.uk

ODEON CINEMA
3 Dray Horse Yard
Brewery Square
odeon.co.uk

PREMIER INN
5 Pope Street
Brewery Square
premierinn.com

SITU ART GALLERY
6 Brewery Square
situgalleries.com

HEALTH & BEAUTY
ANYTIME FITNESS
6 Eldridge Street
Brewery Square
anytimefitness.co.uk

FITT CHIROPRACTIC
10 Pope Street
Brewery Square
fittchiropractic.co.uk

THE Highbrow Clinic
9 Pope Street
Brewery Square
thehighbrowclinic.co.uk

**THOMAS J WILLIAM
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7 Pope Street
Brewery Square
thomasjwilliam.co.uk

HK

*Warmest thoughts
and best wishes
for the New Year.*

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Twelfth Night

Twelfth night revels can be traced back to Roman Saturnalia and Celtic mid-winter celebrations. A King and Queen for the night were selected by each finding a dried bean and pea in a slice of cake served to everyone in the household. Also known as the Feast of Fools, the Lord of Misrule turned everything upside down with kings serving peasants and those present commanded to perform silly tasks. Games were played, carols sung, and people went wassailing to spread goodwill throughout their community.

The Christian age continued the tradition, following a fast for Advent – A time of spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ. Christmas Day and the following eleven days were for feasting and merry-making. Twelfth night was the last night of the festivities before Epiphany on 6th January.

The feast of Epiphany is the time when Christians remember the Three Wise Men who visited Jesus. Since medieval times, monarchs have made offerings symbolising their spiritual kinship with those three kings, which still continues today, with the Queen offering gold, frankincense and myrrh during the service of Choral Holy Communion at the Chapel Royal, situated within the grounds of St James' Palace.

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LOVE
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Save Our Shops

12 Days of Christmas DORCHESTER WINDOW TRAIL Competition

Young people and creative volunteers from the Dorchester community have transformed some of the empty shops in our town centre to jolly up the town on the run up to Christmas.

Save Our Shops and have fun by tracking down the posters and entering our special Christmas competition.



Entry forms are available from Dorchester Post Office, Tourist Information Centre, Goulds Stores, Frank Herrings and other shops in town. The competition closes on 5th January 2021 at 5pm, when correct entries will be entered into a Prize Draw with the Mayor of Dorchester drawing the winning entry. Terms & conditions are on the entry form.



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How to Join in

1. Discover the 12 days of Christmas by finding the twelve posters, each one featuring a letter
2. Match these letters with the relevant day of Christmas and pop into the window below
3. Reassemble the letters to solve the anagram
4. Attach a receipt from any Dorchester shop with a minimum value of £5
5. Complete the form with your contact details
6. Pop into the special competition post box in Goulds Store, 22-23 South Street or Dorchester Post Office in Trinity Street



ANSWER:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Clue: An object associated with Xmas.

Name:

Phone Number/s:

Signature of Parent/Guardian:
(if under 18)

Attach shop
receipt here

Terms and conditions: Entries must be received by 5pm on 5th January 2021. There are no restrictions to enter but under 18's must have a parent/guardian's signature. Entry forms must be correctly completed with a receipt from any Dorchester shop attached with a minimum value of £5 to be entered into the Prize Draw. Winners will be selected at random by the Mayor and notified within 14 days of the competition closing date. Prizes must be collected within 28 days. Uncollected prizes will be donated to a local charity. No cash alternative.

Dorchester Town Council and Dorchester Chamber for Business have partnered with property agents and landlords of local shops to create a Dorchester Window Trail – 12 days of Christmas Competition!

Young people and creative volunteers have set to work to jolly up the town for Christmas by creating 'pop up' Xmas displays in some of our currently empty shops. The community has really pulled together to enhance Dorchester and create a positive vibe.

Local shoppers and families are invited to wander round Dorchester's town centre and shopping arcades to track down the 12 days of Christmas, each poster featuring a letter. Write the letters onto the competition entry form, solve the anagram, attach a minimum £5 receipt from any Dorchester shop and pop into the special post box in Goulds store at 22-23 South Street or Dorchester Post Office in Trinity Street.

Entry forms are available from Dorchester Post Office, Tourist Information Centre, Goulds Stores, Frank Herring & Sons, and other shops in town. The competition closes on 5th January, when correct entries will be entered into a Prize Draw with the Mayor of Dorchester drawing the winning entry. First prize will be a £50 gift voucher to spend in Goulds Stores and second prize will be a £30 gift voucher to spend in Frank Herring & Sons.

It is testament to the generosity of our businesses that have been keen to support the initiative. Chamber members such as Legg & Son, kindly offered to clean the windows of the vacant premises in Hardy Arcade; Poundbury Gardens donated Christmas trees and decorations to fill in the gaps, Sherrens Printers printed the posters and competition forms; Frank Herrings and Waitrose donated gift vouchers and goody bags to reward the groups.

A warm thanks to everyone that got involved:

A Partridge in a Pear Tree
Two Turtle Doves
Three French Hens
Four Calling Birds
Five Gold Rings
Six Geese-a-Laying
Seven Swans-a-Swimming
Eight Maids-a-Milking
Nine Ladies Dancing
Ten Lords-a-Leaping
Eleven Pipers Piping
Twelve Drummers Drumming

Manor Park School
St Osmund's Middle School
Window Wanderland
Damers First School
Prince of Wales School
Dorchester Middle School
Dorchester Art Club
Dorchester Town Council
Dorchester Youth Theatre
Dorchester Youth & Community Centre
Milton Abbey School
Dorchester Central Scout Group

With grateful thanks to our sponsors:

Goulds Stores, Frank Herring & Sons, Sherrens Printers, Antelope Walk, Max Gate Properties, Savills, Symonds & Sampson, Legg & Son, Waitrose and Willis Commercial.

WORKING TOGETHER for YOU!

The LoveDorch campaign started in response to the need to give residents and visitors the confidence to return to the town centre and local shops when they reopened from June.

The campaign came about because colleagues in the BID and the Chamber, as well as Dorset Council, worked together to communicate that the town was open for business and to support changes for those businesses, such as cafes, that needed to adapt to the demands of social distancing.

LoveDorch grabbed the opportunity to promote Eat Out to Help Out in August and to support the Online Heritage Open Day in September. In the new year we will look at new projects to improve how shoppers and visitors can access up to date information online and how we can support local businesses to develop their online and click and collect offers.

What started as a short term fix is evolving into a longer term plan to support the Dorchester retail and hospitality community as it adapts to very different economic times. The Town Council is proud to play its part.

Have a safe and happy Christmas and make sure you shop local in 2021.

Adrian Stuart
Town Clerk

Having experienced an extraordinarily difficult year I think we all deserve to cheer ourselves up a little with a treat or two, celebrate things that we can still enjoy in the run-up to Christmas.

The excitement of exploring the town's eclectic range of shops offering so many inspired gift ideas for those we love. The simple pleasure of watching someone unwrap your carefully chosen present either face to face or maybe on Zoom/Skype this year? The increase in smiles that we all get at Christmas, often from strangers passing in town proving that, despite everything that has been thrown at us this year, we still can afford a smile, some cheer and a little extra goodwill!

LOVE Dorch

Dorchester Town Council, Dorchester Chamber for Business and Dorchester BID are working together under the LoveDorch brand to unite the town, promote businesses and boost the local economy through the current crisis and into 2021.

MERRY XMAS DORCHESTER!

SOS
Save Our Shops



Well, it always seems that Christmas gets earlier every year with only about five or six months between each one! Christmas 2020 is going to be somewhat different from those we have come to enjoy.

Support Local Retailers

It has been good to have some joint working with the Chamber, Dorchester BID and the Town Council all coming together to support the town with the LoveDorch initiative. It has also been excellent to see our local retailers offering virtual shopping, click and collect services and appointments for shopping trips for some small premises – and I hope that we will all support them locally to help them through this difficult period.

Sadly, one of the casualties this year is the Christmas Cracker, but we hope to have a bigger and better event in 2021 so keep an eye out for more information about that.

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas and a very much more normal 2021.

Peter Greenaway
President, Dorchester Chamber for Business

Dorchester Needs us more than ever


We certainly can rely on our media to do their best to bring us down with bad news stories but how little attention they've given to Dorchester's thirteen new businesses that amazingly, have opened since March this year – Let's celebrate their bravery and keep on supporting our beautiful town's high streets and side streets.

Dorchester needs us more than ever right now and so, on behalf of all the town's businesses and attractions thank you so much for all your loyal custom this year.

Phil Gordon
Dorchester BID Project Director

Wishing everyone a
Merry Christmas from
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Community Christmas Film

Christmas in Dorchester will be very different this year. Many events familiar to Dorchester residents will sadly not be taking place. Dorchester Town Council in collaboration with Dorchester Choral Society has produced a film, **Christmas at Dorchester 2020** to conjure up the spirit of Christmas. Through a combination of traditional carols, music, readings and images from the town and surrounds, we can come together as a community to make Christmas special even in these most difficult of times.

The film will be
distributed for free
to those that need it

The project has been backed by some big names who have freely contributed their talents: Kate Adie, Martin Clunes, Julian Fellowes, Tim Laycock and Harriet Walter. All the Dorchester schools have been invited to take part. The Dorchester Choral Society is providing some well-known carols as well as other seasonal music, whilst Tatterdemalion will take us back to an earlier age.

The film will be distributed for free to those that need it most: hospitals, the hospice, care homes and to others who may be isolated. But we will also be selling the film from mid-December to raise money for local charities.

Businesses within the town have already provided valuable financial support and help in kind and the project team is enormously grateful to them. We could always do with more! Just get in touch with Emma at e.scott@dorchester-tc.gov.uk if you would like to be involved with this exciting project.



Dorchester Choral Society



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**Festive Fact
DID YOU
KNOW?**

Mistletoe

Mistletoe or 'All Heal' was sacred to the Druids. It was thought to bring good luck and fertility, and to offer protection from witchcraft. From the early middle-ages, a kissing-bough of twigs, mistletoe, greenery and seasonal fruits was hung from the ceiling, under which visitors would embrace the lord and lady to show that they brought only goodwill. This eventually was replaced with a bunch of mistletoe, under which, no lady passing could refuse a kiss.





THE DUCHY *of* CORNWALL

wishes all those living and working in Dorchester

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A Season of Goodwill and Hope



The unexpected and unwanted arrival of Covid 19, and the consequences of dealing with a dangerous and unseen enemy, have been a challenge to us all. That challenge has not yet passed and we're starting to become accustomed to a very different "normality". All parts of our community have been affected from the young to the old. Our response has demonstrated that fundamental desire to help those less fortunate and/or less able than others, and it is precisely that unity of purpose which has sustained us.

Our businesses have taken a big hit and some will not, sadly, rise from the ashes. However, we are fortunate to live in a remarkable town which boasts a very long and fascinating story together with plenty of tangible evidence of that story. If the crisis, brought about by Covid 19, does nothing else, it gives us a genuine opportunity to play to our many heritage strengths. If properly understood and promoted by all elements within the town, I believe Dorchester has something very special to offer a wide range of visitors whether coming from other parts of the county or from further afield.

Christmas is a season of goodwill and hope; if we all practise and demonstrate these by rallying around the many highlights of our 6000 year history, we may yet find, in these most uncertain times, a new purpose and direction which can benefit everyone in the town.

Alistair Chisholm
Dorchester Town Crier



Festive Fact DID YOU KNOW?

Santa Claus

There has long been a tradition of receiving rewards or punishments in December from an all-seeing presence. The Norse God Odin rode through the winter world, bringing either gifts or consequences. He had a long white beard and wore a blue-hooded cloak. In the 4th Century, Saint Nicholas, known for his kindness and generosity to the poor, became the patron saint of children. In medieval England, Father Christmas was identified as a large man in green or scarlet robes lined with fur, representing the spirit of benevolence and good cheer, bringing peace, joy, good food, wine and revelry.

Xmas Tree

Bringing a fir tree into the home at Christmas was introduced into England during the Georgian period. Queen Charlotte, the German wife of George III had a decorated tree for her family in 1790. In 1848, a print of Victoria and Albert with their children in front of a decorated tree was published in the Illustrated London News. The popularity of the Christmas tree then spread throughout society. Trees were generally displayed on tables in pots, with gifts placed unwrapped underneath. The tree was decorated with wax candles, baskets of sweets, flags and little ornaments and gifts.



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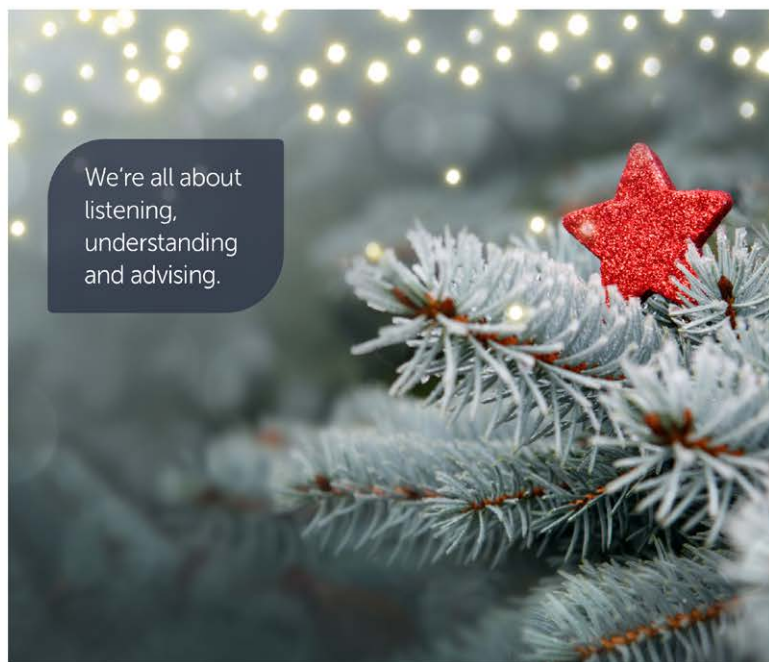
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Festive Fact DID YOU KNOW? **Turkey**

The first turkey was brought to the UK from America in 1526. It made a fine table display and was a popular dish for Henry VIII and the wealthy. In those days, anything unusual was associated with Turkey as exotic goods usually came via that country. Before trains, turkeys and geese had to be walked from the farms to the markets. This could take weeks, with the farmers and birds having to camp each night at the side of roads. The birds' feet were often dipped in tar to stop them getting sore. Turkeys became fashionable at Christmas in Victorian times. The Cratchit family in 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens, was given a turkey, because it was bigger than a goose and it was praised in "Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management" as the Christmas meal for the growing middle classes.

Christmas Cards

In 1843, Sir Henry Cole, invented the Christmas Card. Rather than spend hours hand-writing the necessary seasonal correspondence, he commissioned an artist to design nearly 1000 hand-coloured lithographs to offer season's greetings to his friends and family. With the introduction of a regular postal service and lowered postage costs, sending cards became a custom.

Merry Christmas from all of us at



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