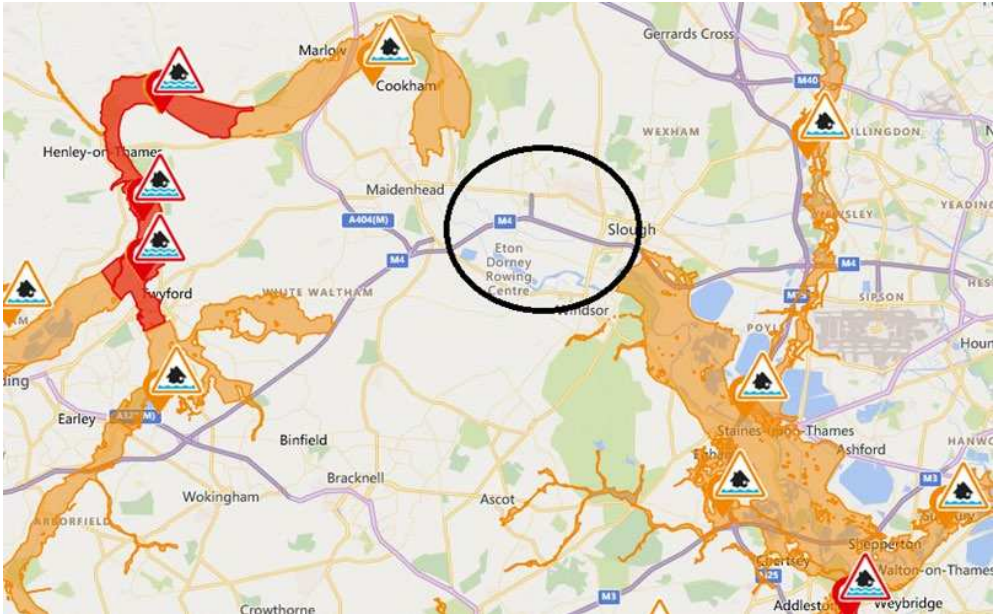


Dorney Parish News

February 2024



Flood Alert Map

Thames Valley: 5th January 2024

The Jubilee River continues to do its job!



Renaissance
BATHROOMS
& KITCHENS



BATHROOM & KITCHEN SHOWROOM

////////////////////
DESIGN // SUPPLY // INSTALL

THE GREAT BARN | CIPPENHAM LANE | SL15AH
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EDITORIAL

The model railways hobby, I read the other day, is in crisis. The major retailer, flourishing in Widnes since 1946, has ceased trading. The hobby's 2023 national exhibition, once held at the NEC, will be the last. It's all about, apparently, fewer customers, changing demographics, and 'supply chain disruption'. In other words, enthusiasts are aging, and the internet is a game changer.

Why should this column be concerned with a hobby it left behind six decades ago? Well, knowing that this magazine would once, back in the day, have carried reports from the Dorney Loco-spotters Club has always seemed symbolic of a Dorney that might have had more 'community', more sociability. If generations of people who ran things and attended meetings are not being replaced as lifestyles change, then it seems parish magazines not only diagnose the problem but suffer the consequences more than most. (But please see the announcement elsewhere in DPN from the Slough and Windsor Railway Society!).

In the December issue of *Eton Wick News*, the Editor states that 'this issue will be the last one'. Alas the same issue has sad news of the Eton Wick History Group as Teresa Stanton explains in this magazine. A favourite magazine of mine in west Oxfordshire, with many more copies circulated than we manage but equally short of distributors, headlines 'Could this be our last year? We need your help!' A magazine based closer to us in South Bucks is more sweeping – 'we urgently need more people to step forward and take part in almost every activity in the village.'

Dorney Parish News really appreciates all the support it receives from our community. Our price rise last year was gracefully accepted and is not being repeated this year! But residents have hardly beaten down our doors to answer our call for new distributors, so we repeat the request. The small editorial team is very conscious that it represents just one, elderly, demographic. Soon we must focus on the question of succession!

We have been made aware of one area where the community is not being served, and we apologise for the omission. The Christmas break seemed to last forever which was combined with a fiendishly unwieldy Bucks council refuse collection website. This Easter and for every succeeding holiday break, we will print the definitive, official guide to collection dates.

What does unite the community is a reaction to us feeling hard done by. We welcome the detailed proposals recently put by the Parish Council to Dorney Lake intended to allow year-round access to residents. We understand the need for the site's essential security and privacy, but such an arrangement would recognise the toleration shown now over several decades by the Lake's neighbours.

Finally, two community successes...bravo to the Playground committee for achieving their target of sufficient funds to replace malfunctioning equipment, and thanks for the memories of a spectacular Horticultural Society Christmas Supper to keep us cheerful through what is proving a very cold start to 2024.

We thank our friends in advance for their 2024 subscriptions – don't delay!

‘I Read the News Today, Oh Boy...’

We’re always asked ‘what’s happening about...’ As we enter a new year, it’s time to reflect on issues as they appeared in our pages through 2023.

They opened and closed our year – **potholes** featured on the cover of February’s and December’s issues. Our call for action turned into a celebration of resurfacing in Village Road. Will Bucks’ extra £5million, Bucks’ new Pothole Pro machine and better liaison between the Local Area Technician team and the Parish Council continue the improvement? Symbolically, the **smart M4** was removed from the Council’s agenda but an article reprinted in May from the AA correctly predicted a halt to the rollout by the government. Was the despoliation of Dorney all in vain? It looked as though a **40mph limit** could be introduced on **Dorney Common** minus the usual exorbitant cost.

We endorse the principle that Dorney’s unique rural character (this year we dubbed this **Dorney’s DNA**) should be preserved and the **Green Belt** undeveloped. Such policies will bump up against the ambitions of **Eton College**. In May we pointed out the unacceptable housing densities inherent in Eton’s plans for Dorney and welcomed the refusal in July by Bucks Council’s Planning Committee of their application to develop Boveney Court Farm. In December we reported a lukewarm reception by many residents to their plans for Court Farm as revealed in the Boathouse, and we note that an application for this site plus an appeal against the Boveney decision have yet to be lodged. A highpoint for the magazine was a behind the scenes tour of **Dorney Lake**, written up in May, to be followed by a minibus tour for a larger party in June under the wing of Grounds Manager Lee Marshallsay. The Lake’s invitation to hold the **Annual Parish Meeting** in the Boathouse was encouraging, but many of our readers will be dismayed that a detailed plan submitted by the Parish Council to allow **year-long access for residents** has just been rejected.

We have supported the creation of a **Neighbourhood Plan** as a protection against unwelcome local development and reported on the related **village questionnaire** results and the two public meetings held by the small working party, whose draft has been sent to Bucks Council. More discussion will no doubt follow. We joined the Parish Council, our County Councillors and the **MP** in calling on Bucks to issue an Enforcement Notice against the owners of the **Orchard Herbs** site, which has now been issued and could lead to a vacating of the site by June. Alas, **Mr Balls**, the owner is mounting an appeal. The long-awaited **Emergency Plan** found its way on to the **council website** (which is on the way to becoming a real community asset) in February, and, it seems, kicked in following a severe springtime thunderstorm.

A social buzz is returning to Dorney. The **Playground Committee** have created a real social focus on Trumpers Field, ran parties and cinema evenings and, most importantly, achieved their fund-raising target. The revival of **Dorney Horticultural Society** after the lockdown has continued with new meeting venues and new members, a spectacularly well-supported **Annual Show**, and a great Christmas Supper, which seemed to boost attendance at the Palmer Arms’ **First Wednesday**. One village asset sadly lacking since July has been a vicar, but we must hope that congregations at St James the Less have little to fear for the future.

Time is passing by, leaving its marks on our lives in the form of minutes, days, and years. As time goes by, our children grow up and transform, and we also change as we watch them.



So, why not cherish those precious moments now?
 You can capture them and create beautiful wall art for your
 home and soul that will freeze those fleeting moments in
 time.

The Studio
 9 Oak Stubbs Lane, Dorney Reach
 Maidenhead, Buckinghamshire SL6 0DW

T. 07878162452

E. richard@shymansky.co.uk

 ShymanskyPortraitPhotographer

Shymansky
 PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHER



British Institute of
 Professional Photography

Services in the Local Churches



St James the Less, Dorney

St. John the Baptist, Eton Wick

St. John the Evangelist, Eton

Part-time Assistant Curate: Rev. Carole Gooding
(07786) 290162

Churchwardens: Stephen Baker & Mark Procter

Correspondence Address: St. James the Less, C/O

St. John the Baptist, Eton Wick Road, Eton Wick,

Windsor, SL4 6JA

Email: Helen O'Neill stjohnstjamesed@hotmail.co.uk

For information about our churches, activities and church history please see our parishes' web site: www.stjohnstjamesed.org.uk

RCCG Praise Embassy, Haywards Mead, Eton Wick, Windsor, SL4 6JN

Pastor: Olusegun Omotayo 07712 126334 www.rccgchurchatslough.com

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Burnham

Parish Priest: Fr. Joseph Udoh, M.S.P. 01628 605764

Stephen Baker writes:

I'd firstly like to wish everyone a belated Happy New Year and hope you all had a great Christmas.

Following our Christmas period, the church entered the period of Epiphany which depending on how early or late Easter falls, can contain anywhere between four Sundays and nine Sundays.

The season of Epiphany marks the arrival of the Magi, wealthy noblemen, often referred to as the wise men or kings. This took place some two years after the birth of Jesus, when He, now a toddler, Mary and Joseph had now set up a home. The Magi brought with them the three gifts, gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The gold a symbol of a king, frankincense a perfume symbolising divinity and myrrh an anointing and embalming oil symbolising death. Epiphany comes to an end on Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day to some) and is an opportunity to consider the upcoming season of Lent.

On Wednesday 14th February we enter the season of Lent, with Ash Wednesday, which this year is also Valentines Day, so if you would like to treat your special someone to an alternative Valentines Day evening, you are more than welcome to join us at St. James the Less Dorney. This service focuses on repentance and acknowledgement of our mortality and during the service we have our foreheads daubed with ashes made from the previous year's palm crosses.

Lent commemorates the 40 days Jesus spent praying and fasting in the desert being tempted by Satan three times. It is widely recognised that Jesus did this immediately after his baptism by John the Baptist and prior to him beginning his ministry and teaching. The 40 days have significance within The Bible as this was the same period that Moses went into the mountains, again praying and fasting, before

receiving the Ten Commandments, and also the prophet Elijah spent 40 days fasting and praying in the mountains before the word of the Lord came to him.

Lent is now seen as a period of prayer within the Church and whilst we do not fast for the full 40 days, it is traditional to give up something unnecessary for that period, usually a food or beverage. Some Christians also add into their existing prayer schedule a daily Lent prayer and there are plenty of online resources out there, from individual prayers for each day to bible studies to be completed daily. The internet is full of free resources and if you would like to try it, have a look around. It certainly does not have to be a taxing experience. Lent comes to an end on Maundy Thursday 28th March. So, I will leave it there and save some content for my March update.

As a reminder, we do operate services every Sunday at 0930 and we are a friendly congregation. If you would like to come along and see what 'goes on', please feel free to attend. If you are worried about going up for communion, you can go up for a blessing or you can remain firmly sat in your seats for that part.

Wishing you all a great February.

Stephen Baker

Church Services in February 2024

Sunday 4th February

9.30 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00 am Any Age Family Service

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 7th February

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 11th February

9.30 am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00 am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 14th February (Ash Wednesday)

7.00 pm Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

Sunday 18th February

9.30 am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00 am Morning Worship

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 21st February

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 25th February

9.30 am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00 am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Dorney Horticultural Society



Dear members and friends of the Horticultural Society,

By the time you read this, hopefully, all of our members will be receiving their 2024 yellow membership cards. Your committee have been busy planning the 2024 programme of events and we will be starting off the new year with a return visit to Crocus for a fascinating talk on 'Honeybees and the Garden' in the cafe annex with tea and cakes on the afternoon of Tuesday 27th February.

This will be followed up in April with a cheese and wine evening and guest speaker in Dorney Village Hall.

We have two garden visits planned for this year in June. The first is an afternoon guided tour of Stonor House and Gardens, Henley.



The second is a private guided tour of Oxford Botanic Gardens and this will be a coach trip.

Hopefully this will be enough to whet your appetites to renew your membership for 2024, and we look forward to seeing you in February.

Dorney Horticultural Society Committee



The Engagement Ring

Karen Kimberley (BA, DCH, DHP, NLP, GQHP, MAC, ITOL) is a Taplow-based therapist and coach specialising in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP), Counselling & Hypnotherapy to help with:



- Lack of confidence and low self esteem
- Anxiety and depression
- Communication, business or relationship problems

Contact Karen: kk@karenkimberley.co.uk to arrange an initial conversation

or call 07785 566468

www.theengagementring.co.uk

www.lifecoach-directory.org.uk/lifecoaches/karen-kimberley



Slough & Windsor Railway Society



Slough and Windsor Railway Society has recently started to create a model railway layout of Taplow Station around 1948-1950. They are keen to hear from anyone with an interest in this project. This could be getting involved in the modelling, on Wednesday evenings and Saturdays at their base near Slough Station. Equally welcome are any memories of the station in the years up to 1970 and especially any photographs or other information.

Please contact Frank Taylor at f52taylor@gmail.com to learn more about the project.

You can find out about Slough and Windsor Railway Society here:

<https://www.facebook.com/SWRSONline>

<https://www.instagram.com/sloughandwindsorrailway?igsh=Y2dmYTAza3h2YWg0>

<http://www.swrs.co.uk/swrsweb/index.html>

Great News! The Timber Snake Swing is on its way.



If you have been following the activities of Dorney Playground Management Committee in Dorney Parish News, you will know that we have been raising funds to replace the not working I-Play with a Timber Snake Swing.

However, the cost of removing the I-Play and replacing it with a timber snake swing is £15,440!

The good news is that we now in a position to place the order.

How did we do it, you might ask? – well a lot of hard work and generous people.

Donations

Grant from Beeches Community Fund	£ 8,000
A very generous donation from Simon Brades	£ 1,000
A very generous donation from Dorney Village Hall	£ 500
Matched donation from Aviva*	£ 1,000

*Jackie Seels worked for Aviva

Fund Raising

Summer Party	£ 1200
Halloween Party	£ 600
Film Night	£ 200

Making a total of: £12,500

We would also like to thank Maria Holloway who has spent many of her hours opening the after-school tuck shop during the winter months when it would normally be closed. She has also opened the tuck shop for the dance school that use the Village Hall on Saturdays. All the money raised by the tuck shop goes into the Dorney Playground funds.

So, although it is not too late to make a donation, we have sufficient funds in the bank to order the timber snake swing.

So watch this space for the opening ceremony in April/May.

But don't worry, the committee will not be sitting around now with nothing to do. It costs about £6,000 a year just to keep the playground in good order and all the money spent on maintenance has to be raised. We don't get any money from the local authority to maintain the playground equipment. **You can donate any amount using the 'fund me' barcode below.**

Thanks to all the Dorney Playground Management Committee who are:

Richard Hall – Trustee and Chair
Isy Hall – Trustee
Jacke Seels – Trustee and Treasurer
Adam Seels – Trustee
Sam Smith – Trustee
Ettie Brand – Secretary
Maria Holloway



Dorney Playground Management Committee
Playground4Dorney@gmail.com
07737053409



The Palmer Arms
Valentine's Menu 2024

2 courses - 28.95

3 courses - 33.95

Starters

Mix Platter to Share

(panko breaded squid, garlic mushrooms, BBQ wings)

Chicken Liver & Port Parfait *with a fig and apple onion chutney and toasted brioche* (GF)

Smoked Salmon and cream cheese roulade *with prawns and watercress* (GF)

Vegetable samosa's *with a vegan mayo and mango dip* (Ve)

Mains

Pan fried Seabass *with crushed new potatoes, wilted spinach & garlic prawn butter* (GF)

Chicken supreme *with mash, cabbage, and creamy mustard chive sauce* (GF)

Wild Mushroom Risotto *with peas and truffle oil* (Ve) (GF)

Beef Wellington *with spinach duxelle, dauphinoise potato, buttered carrots and jus*

(+£4.00 Supplement)

Desserts

Selection of British cheese with red onion chutney, crackers, celery, and grapes (GFA)

Somerset Brie

Applewood Smoked Cheddar

Shropshire Blue

Chocolate Cherry Tart *with vegan ice cream* (Ve)

Strawberry Cheesecake *with strawberry coulis*

Chocolate Fondant *with mint chocolate ice cream*

Sticky Toffee *with vanilla ice cream* (GFA)

For any questions or allergy related enquires please ask one of your servers

GFA = Gluten Free Alternative VE = Vegan

Orchard Herbs Enforcement Notice issued at last!

Finally, Bucks Council have issued a comprehensive Enforcement Notice on all the illegal activities being conducted on this site. Below are the key points, in DPN's opinion, from the Enforcement Notice ES/23/00431/COU.

The full Notice can be seen on the Dorney Parish Council website under Planning and the Bucks Council Planning website under Enforcements.

Congratulations are due to Dorney Parish Council, especially Cllr Robert Stopford, to our Ward Councillor, George Sandy, and our M.P., Joy Morrissey, for all their sterling efforts to get this Notice drafted and issued.

It is being appealed, but there is now a legal Enforcement Notice against which, if necessary, in due course, an injunction can be raised.



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

(as amended)

ENFORCEMENT NOTICE [DPN EXTRACTS]

ISSUED BY: Buckinghamshire Council ("the Council")

1. **THIS NOTICE** is issued by the Council because it appears to it that there has been a breach of planning control within paragraph (a) of Section 171A(1) of the above Act, at the land described below.

2. **THE LAND TO WHICH THE NOTICE RELATES**

Land lying to the West of Lake End Road (Formerly known as Orchard Herbs), Dorney, Buckinghamshire, SL4 6QS (Registered with Land Registry under Title number BM82250) ("the Land").

3. **THE MATTERS WHICH APPEAR TO CONSTITUTE THE BREACH OF PLANNING CONTROL**

Without planning permission, a material change of use of the Land to a mixed use, comprising:

- Open storage;
- The storage and distribution of aggregates;
- The preparation, storage and distribution of readymix concrete;
- The stationing of a static caravan for residential occupation;
- Vehicle breaking and repairs;
- The storage and distribution of scaffolding and associated equipment;
- The siting of racking;
- The siting of metal containers;
- The siting of concrete batching plant;
- The siting of associated paraphernalia, materials, equipment brought onto the Land in connection with this unauthorised use of the Land;

And, to facilitate the unauthorised use, the carrying out of operational development comprising:

- The laying of hardstanding and roadways
- The erection of aggregate storage bays;
- The erection of concrete batching plants and associated equipment

4. **REASONS FOR ISSUING THIS NOTICE**

It appears to the Council that the above breach of planning control has occurred within the last **TEN** years.

1. The site lies within the open Green Belt wherein there is a presumption against inappropriate

development. In the opinion of the Local Planning Authority, the material change of use of the Land to the mixed use identified, does not fall into any of the forms of development which are not inappropriate in the Green Belt, listed in paragraph 150 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Policy GB1 of the South Bucks District Local Plan - Adopted March 1999 Consolidated September 2007 and February 2011. The development by reason of the unauthorised use, is inappropriate and results in a reduction in the openness of this part of the Green Belt and conflicts with the purposes of including land within it. There are no very special circumstances evidenced because the substantial harm to the Green Belt, and any other harm, cannot be clearly outweighed.

2. By its very nature, the unauthorised use results in the storage of a large number of vehicles, scaffolding, manufacturing material, plant, equipment and machinery. In the opinion of the Local Planning Authority, this has an urbanising appearance, which is cramped and clustered and incompatible with the more rural character of the surrounding area.
3. The access to the site does not have a minimum width of 4.8m and the required visibility splays of 2.4m x 215m are not achievable to the north of the access, due to the rise of Lake End Road and the sudden drop when going over the bridge over the M4.

5. WHAT YOU ARE REQUIRED TO DO

1. Cease the use of the Land for open storage;
2. Cease the use of the Land for the storage and distribution of aggregates;
3. Remove all aggregates and associated equipment from the Land;
4. Cease the use of the Land for the preparation, storage and distribution of readymix concrete;
5. Remove all readymix concrete and associated equipment from the Land;
6. Cease the use of the Land for the siting of a static caravan;
7. Disconnect and remove the static caravan, from the Land;
8. Cease the use of the Land for vehicle breaking and repairs;
9. Cease the use of the Land for the storage and distribution of scaffolding and associated equipment;
10. Remove all scaffolding and associated equipment from the Land;
11. Remove the racking from the Land;
12. Remove the metal containers, from the Land;
13. Rip up and remove the hardstanding and roadways from the Land;
14. Rip up and remove the aggregate storage bays from the Land;
15. Remove the concrete batching plant from the Land;
16. Remove from the Land all paraphernalia, items, equipment and vehicles, brought onto the Land in connection with this unauthorised use of the Land;
17. Remove all materials and debris resulting from complying with steps 1-16 of this Notice, from the Land

These requirements are necessary to satisfactorily resolve the breach of planning control.

6. TIME FOR COMPLIANCE

Within SIX months of this Notice taking effect.

7. WHEN THIS NOTICE TAKES EFFECT

This Notice takes effect on 1ST January 2024 unless an appeal is made against it prior to that date.

Issued: 29th November 2023

Appeal against Orchard Herbs Enforcement.

There has been an appeal against the Enforcement Notice issued by Bucks Council. We need your help to ensure the Enforcement Notice is held up by writing or emailing the Planning Inspectorate with your comments. You can either email TeamE5@planninginspectorate.gov.uk or write to the following address, Rebecca Gray, The Planning Inspectorate, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol BS1 6PN quoting reference APP/N0410/C/23/3336002. Comments have to be submitted by the 28th of February 2024.



Action Plan

Updated: 16 January 2024

		In Progress
		Completed
Action	Purpose	
Heritage		
Review of Dorney Conservation Area	Consider expansion to include other parts of Dorney Village and Lake End	NP Working Group
Orchard Herbs Site	Work with Burnham PC and Bucks Council for new enforcement notice/injunction and to revert to permitted usage as soon as possible.	Robert Stopford
Environment		
Review management of roadside verges	How to manage a less manicured look	Jill Dax
Planting at Dents Corner, Marsh Lane/Harcourt Road areas	Improve appearance of Dorney Reach entrance and centre of Dorney Village	Jill Dax
Thames Water Field Rewilding	Proposal sent to Thames Water for local volunteers	Jill Dax
Trumper's Field, Dorney Reach Review	Review ownership and usage	
Memorial Garden, Village Road	Review planting in Memorial Garden	
Memorial Garden, Village Road	Conduct Tree Survey (DEC23)	Parish Clerk
Trail bikes in fields and on Jubilee River footpaths	Work with Slough, EA, police to prevent trail bike incursion on Jubilee River/local fields & footpaths	Jill Dax/Robert Stopford
Annual Footpath Audit	Ensure all footpaths are usable and maintained according to standards.	Stephen Baker
Volunteer litter-pickers	Continue to support large group of volunteers with necessary equipment	Jill Dax
Best Kept Village competition	Consider re-entering in 2025 - involving Dorney Horticultural Society and others.	
Dorney Lake	Meetings with Dorney Lake to gain summer access for residents	Jill Dax
Community		
Transfer of Dorney Village Hall charity to DPC	In consideration	Anna Palmer/Parish Clerk
Possible parish boundary change - Lake End	Support parish boundary change	Robert Stopford
Planning and Architecture		
Complete Neighbourhood Plan 2024	Support Neighbourhood Plan Working Group as required	NP Working Group
Infrastructure		
Potholes	Pressure on Bucks Council to repair all potholes on FixMyStreet	All
Resurface certain roads	Pursue previously agreed resurfacing of certain roads	Jill Dax/Parish Clerk
Dangerous Parking outside Pineapple	Resolve dangerous parking at the junction of Ashford Lane and Lake End Road	Jill Dax
Village Road Cattle Grid	Pressure Bucks Council to make good and reduce noise	Martyn Westcott-Wreford
Review reduction in speed limits	Lake End Road (Sainsbury's into Dorney): reduce speed limit from 60mph to 40mph. £10,000.	
Review reduction in speed limits	Common Road/Boveney Road: reduce speed limit from 60mph to 40mph using National Parks precedent	Parish Clerk
Review reduction in speed limits	Marsh Lane (from entry to Dorney)/Court Lane: reduce speed limit from 40mph to 30mph. £10,000.	
Reduce speed on entry to Parish	Review installation of white entry gates on verges - Dorney Reach at Marsh Lane from Taplow and Lake End Road from Sainsbury's	Jill Dax/Parish Clerk
Replace damaged Dorney Sign at Tilstone Bridge		Jill Dax/Parish Clerk
Install Wildlife warning sign on Marsh Lane		Parish Clerk
Reduce number of street furniture and signage	Annual Street Furniture/Signage Review	Stephen Baker
Flooding of Lake End Common (Ashford Lane)	Investigate flooding on Lake End Common/Ashford Lane with Thames Water and Environment Agency	Parish Clerk



DORNEY
PARISH COUNCIL



**THE NEW YEAR ARRIVED WITH A STORMY BLAST...
...bringing down trees and branches. Bucks Council
responded swiftly in clearing a fallen branch in Court
Lane.**

A BIG THANK YOU to our 'silent' band of regular litter
pickers, without whom the parish and Jubilee River would not
be so clean. Bucks have found us some sturdy grabbers and
bags. Please contact our Clerk (Ruth Senior) if you would like
a new grabber. Sadly, the passing traffic and other visitors
don't adhere to the 'Keep Britain Tidy' slogan, and it is down
to us all to do our bit within our own areas.

**ORCHARD HERBS:
THE LONG-AWAITED
NEW ENFORCEMENT
NOTICE HAS BEEN
ISSUED - AND
IMMEDIATELY
APPEALED.
RESIDENT RESPONSES
NEEDED! SEE DPC
WEBSITE UNDER LOCAL
PROJECTS.**

**NEW AND
REPLACED
NO PARKING
POSTS
INSTALLED
ON LAKE END
ROAD**

**DORNEY LAKE:
DPC Proposal to
permit residents
access during
summer months
not agreed by
Dorney Lake**

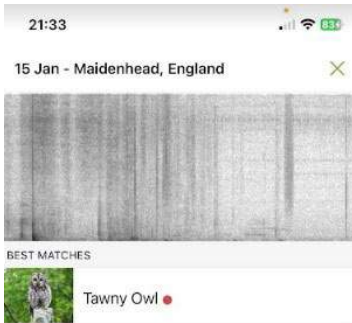
**DPC ACTION
PLAN
UPDATED AT
LAST
MEETING...
... in Dorney
Parish News
and on the
DPC website.**

**Neighbourhood
Plan. Updates
on this
important
document will
be posted in
DPN, notice
boards and by
email to those
residents who
have provided
their email
address.**

**NEXT DPC
MEETING
Tuesday 19th
March 7.30pm
at Dorney
School.
2024 Meetings
will be held
January, March,
May (+APM),
July,
September,
November.**

Dorney Nature Notes

“I can’t get no sleep” sang the late, great Maxi Jazz on ‘Insomnia’ the huge nineties house banger by Faithless (if you’re on Spotify, you’re looking for the ‘Monster Mix’. You’re welcome :-). And I couldn’t get any sleep either at 5am on Sunday 7th Jan after returning from holiday in the French Alps. But to my delight my own insomnia meant that for the first time over the festive period I heard the Tawny Owl calling for almost an hour in the Thames Water field. I subsequently heard it several times in the week, as did my neighbour Theo, in fact I can hear it starting to call now as I write this:



Theo and I are now scheming on how we can erect a Tawny Owl box or two this autumn to help attract a breeding pair.

I’ve still never actually seen the Tawny Owl (in fact any Tawny Owl!), but I do see a friendly Red Kite almost every day in the garden. It has taken to roosting at the top of a big Black Locust (false acacia) tree in my neighbour Adam’s garden. I think the tree must have been planted by the late Ralph Liney but I can’t be sure. It’s a North American tree,

so not native, but does provide shelter and roosting opportunities for the local birds, and given I have no mature trees of that size in my own garden I am a tad jealous! When I walk down the garden now, the Kite sometimes calls and follows me, mainly (I presume) because I occasionally leave bits of liver and the odd chicken carcass (used for stock) at the bottom of the garden for it.

My family from Scotland who were visiting over the festive period were delighted to be able to see such a marvellous and distinctive bird of prey at such close quarters every day. Although they live on the Isle of Mull where there are Golden Eagles, Buzzards, Hen Harriers and recently re-introduced White-tailed Sea Eagles, you don’t see them every day, or so close by. Given my limited bird identification skills, I love the fact it’s almost impossible to mistake a Red Kite! In medieval times Red Kites were widespread throughout the UK and were protected as street cleaners in the City of London, but by the 16th century there was a bounty on their head, and they were persecuted as “vermin”, and then by taxidermists and egg-collectors as they got rarer. It blows my mind (and saddens my heart) how effective we are at eradicating other species. By 1871 the Red Kite was extinct in England.

However, a tiny population clung on in Wales (down to one breeding female at one point) and thanks to various breeding programmes (including translocations from Germany and Sweden) the Red Kite has now rebounded spectacularly (there are now around 4000 pairs in the UK) that we now export them to Extremadura and Andalusia. Recently (when a farmer was presumably ploughing a field and exposing loads of earthworms and other bugs) I counted at least 30 – 40 in the sky. An inspiring sight. Unfortunately, however, some are still being poisoned and shot by landowners and gamekeepers, especially on grouse shooting estates. I don’t

understand that mind set and never will. Hopefully in time, landowners will be encouraged to increase biodiversity and not eradicate it.

Excitingly, Theo saw “our” Red Kite carrying a stick in its beak one morning, so we are now hoping it makes a nest in the tree but I’m not sure if its too close to human habitation (and our dogs) for that.



The Thames Water rewilding field will no doubt provide excellent forage for the Tawny Owl and the Red Kite. I’ve recently seen a Kestrel hovering over the field as well. Theo also got some great photos of our local Little Owl on his trail cam opposite the box we have installed.

There has been some disruption that many of the Dorney Reach residents have been concerned about as SSE remove trees and vegetation that is potentially encroaching on the power cable that runs parallel to the boundary of the houses on the south side of Harcourt Road. No doubt what they have removed will start to bounce back but as usual there seems to have been minimal communication with the local community and the work has been carried out in a relatively slapdash fashion. I looked under a wood pile in my garden last week and was delighted to see a large collection of juvenile common newts hanging out there, so I hope any affected wildlife by the work was able to retreat into safer areas in our gardens and the field. If anyone wants to boost wildlife in their garden, build a pond!!! (and fill it with native plants and no fish!) There is no better way to increase the value of your garden to boost biodiversity.

I have put together a proposal, with the support of the Parish Council, to form a local organisation to take over the management of the Thames Water field. (I would love to build some ponds in there!) The original vision for rewilding would stay (which Thames Water are legally bound to, but also because hopefully the local community agrees that nature restoration in the field is a positive thing for us), and we could then hopefully influence better access and maintenance for the local community, have better communication and engagement, and start to undertake our own species surveys etc. and make decisions around other habitat improvements and maintenance. I think we are all agreed that we do not want to publicise the site or try and make it a destination for non-locals, especially as there is no dedicated parking for the field. We have an active list of local residents who would be prepared to lean in and help with management activities. Jill Dax has kindly forwarded the proposal to the main contact at Thames Water, so we now wait with bated breath to see if they will respond....

Andrew (Ollly) Oliver

Leap Years

Hope the New Year resolutions are still going and haven't been abandoned just yet!

2024 is a Leap Year. This is especially important for my family, as my dad, Otto, was born on the 29th of February. So technically speaking, I'm older than him, which I love to remind him of.

The Leap Year was made in 45 BC by Julius Caesar. He just decided that he wanted to add a 0.25 day, therefore with the solar Leap Year being 365.2422 days, this added on an extra day every four years. This created 'the year of confusion'. If we didn't have a Leap Year, all the seasons would be merged together and in seven hundred years, summer wouldn't come in June, it would come at Christmas. Imagine having a hot Christmas in December in the UK!



So, my dad is turning a teenager this year, yet he has his own boat building business. He's doing quite well for himself. When most of us were thirteen we were at school, unfortunately. As a family we celebrate his birthday on the 28th on non-leap years, although I know some people celebrate it on the 1st of March, as it is actually

the law that Leap Year babies turn a year older on the 1st rather than then the 28th. Every morning on the 28th my dad gets a card from one of his oldest friends and it has the amount money equalling his age. For example, last year it was £12.75p. That is one of the memories I have of his birthday every year.

Some interesting facts about the 29th of February: There are actually 5 million people worldwide born on a Leap Year, which isn't the rarest day to be born. It is in-fact the 25th of December. Who would have guessed that the 29th of February was National Toast Day, how very random! Something more interesting - *Gone with the Wind* won 8 Oscars in 1940 on this date, and a superstition is that women can propose on the 29th of February. Surprisingly, the Olympics fall on Leap Years. This year they are being held in Paris. If you ever wonder when the next Leap Year is - which I'm sure you all do - think about when the next Olympics are.

Laila Marples

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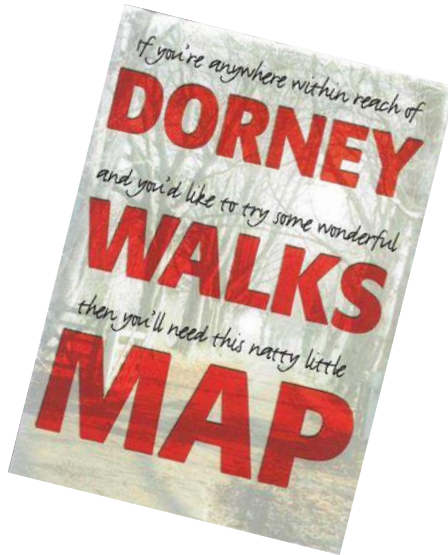
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Dorney Court Stables' horses on the Estate last week

“No hour of life is lost that is spent in the saddle” — *Winston Churchill*

The much-loved Dorney Walks Map is resurrected - online!



Many residents will recall this excellent footpath map of Dorney, which was published in the early 2000s, being linked to the Millennial Celebrations and the opening of Dorney Lake and the Jubilee River.

Dorney Parish News retrieved a copy and has scanned it in four A4 pages for online viewing and printing. We are delighted to report that Dorney Parish Council has agreed to post it on their website so it can be easily downloaded.

A new main tab has been added to the website, entitled Dorney Maps, where the official Parish Map now is, together with the official Dorney Village Footpath Map and this Dorney Walks Map.

We have already heralded Peter Tyler as an inspiration for our view of 'Dorney DNA' and this map had much input from Peter, the naturalist, and his friend the late Rusell Spencer, the walker, a leading light in the East Berkshire Ramblers.

We have made a couple of updates to the Dorney Walks map, firstly, ensuring that Lake End Common is not in the Orchard Herbs site, with a new arrow and, secondly, adding a note regarding the closing of Dorney Lake during the summer months. We also believe that we need to add some new bridleways at the next update.

Should any resident notice any other updates/changes that they believe are necessary, please email me at peter.bowman@talktalk.net and we will make any changes necessary.

Enjoy your further discovery of Dorney Parish and beyond!

Peter Bowman

S.*.* S

Welcome to the Society of Divorced and Separated. We wish you a very Happy New Year.

You have probably not heard of us before and there is a very good reason for that dilemma; its inaugural meeting was on 30th December 2023; yes, about two weeks ago.

The qualification for membership is rather obvious and sadly, I qualify. For us S**S, Christmas can be a trying time; it is for some single people too, especially so for those with children.

I have been very fortunate indeed that since my qualification, I have been blessed with a new wife, and wonderful friends and relatives who have made sure that yours truly was never alone on the two festive days, and so until last year, the dilemma did not occur to me but by force of circumstances, Boxing Day loomed as a dark cavern ready to swallow me up in the torrent that inexorably propelled me toward it, and in a very unattractive bout of mild self-pity I confessed to the lovely new Mrs. Quincey, who had long standing ritual celebrations from her singles days, that Boxing Day may be less than thrilling. A friend at work badly needed the same day off for compassionate reasons, and it was with a little relief that I nobly volunteered to step into the breach, or more accurately perhaps, to swim away from the cavern; an offer that was gratefully grabbed.

I wondered what it would be like to tend to the poor and needy on such a day. I recalled from my policing days the unwritten rule was that married officers with children would have the festive days off but would be expected to volunteer for New Year's night when singles would do what single youngsters do on such occasions, and it worked pretty well, only occasionally failing, where on two occasions in my career, I was required to work a Christmas night and a Boxing Day late turn.

On the Christmas night a few years ago we police were called to a large fat man dressed in red stuck at the top of a chimney. I suspected that he may have been an adventurous drunk and prepared to take him to the station to sober up, until he pointed to a very large sleigh shackled to some reindeer hovering nearby, saying rather haughtily, "If you do that, Officer, Christmas will be ruined for all the boys and girls including your Peter and David along with, I suspect, your career and reputation!"

Rather blushing, we pulled and pushed and heaved and sweated dangerously on a roof in the cold night air, and finally he was free and delivering presents from a huge sack. After returning to the Nick to wash off all the soot, the rest of the night was very busy with the more usual calls for assistance that I had anticipated.

The Boxing Day late turn was dead as children built dens with cardboard boxes that had contained the now abandoned presents from the previous day, Dads nursed hang overs while Mums did what Mums do every day. I expected Boxing Day in a green suit would be either very busy or the complete opposite. (In this context the D word would seem insensitive.) Sadly, the latter was the case and my partner in

crime and I sat in the crew room for eight hours watching Boxing Day TV, reading the Christmas issue of Private Eye, or in his case, glued to a mobile phone. To paraphrase an old but excellent police recruiting poster that hooked me, with a Police Rover, blue lights ablaze sliding through a bend in London with the slogan writ large “*Dull it isn’t*” was, in the context of Boxing Day 2023, “Dull it certainly was!”

I returned home to my lovely wife, all pink and fulfilled from her traditional long Boxing Day walk with her sisters.

“How was it, Honey?” she asked sweetly.

I made the best of the reply, but there was no conviction in it, rather the atmosphere of a cold wet day in Slough, which, come to think of it, isn’t far from the truth! “Well, there must have been a few people in your situation,” she smiled.

And so we considered those in our circle of friends, and sadly, we had a few who, like me, had qualified, but like me too, had found happiness again, and thanks to the wonders of the wretched mobile phones, our small group met in our home, each bringing something to sit around a blazing brazier to put the world right.

Of course, Henk had the last word with heavy rain, howling wind and floods, but we moved indoors and put the world right till 1.00am on the last day of an eventful 2023. It was the first S**S meeting, and we plan more. Maybe you would like to come?

The following day we saw in the New Year in our dance club (or rather Mrs. Quincey’s club – I have two left feet) followed by a Boxing Day for me on New Years Day with the people I care about most in the world.

All this proved lots of old wives’ tales to be true, including this one. “When you’re in a hole, the only way is up, where the light is!” To be fair, mine was a very small hole indeed, and in the two weeks since, I have met several in much larger holes with far greater problems than the odd ‘left out of it’ day.

I do hope you all had the best days possible over the holiday with many many more to come in 2024. I do hope too that the Editor continues his approval of my monthly ramblings, and that you, Dear Reader, continue to ponder them.

Was that Father Christmas all those years ago? Well, Peter and David rushed up to me as I returned home with a large plate of mince pies and a large glass of Port. There was a note attached.

It said, “Thanks for your help, Officer. You earned these. Love Santa. XX

Stay safe.

Mike Quincey

Disappearances in Dorney Reach

We can report on two recent dark events in Harcourt Road. The first of these has faintly comic undertones, yet is still disappointing for residents, while the circumstances and implications of the second are rather more serious.



Yet again the contents of the book exchange in the ex-BT telephone box have been mysteriously removed, while one December evening, a family's BMW X5 car was taken from a driveway not far from that very same box.

The first recorded literary heist was over a decade ago and prompted an immortal September 2013 headline in the *Maidenhead Advertiser* reporting that 'bibliophiles in Dorney Reach have been scratching their heads about a whodunnit in their sleepy village'. A year or so before, Dorney Parish Council had taken over responsibility for the upkeep of the phone box for a nominal fee after BT discontinued its use for phone calls. A book exchange had started with maybe a hundred or more titles and now both books, and the shelves installed by residents, had vanished.

This pattern of replenishment followed by disappearance has continued, with maybe more incidents reported in recent years. I must say that this writer has much enjoyed the 'library', particularly by catching up with sci-fi classics that have a cover price of 2/6, courtesy of a kindred spirit mystery donor, but it has been sad to see hardback novels donated in return disappear within weeks. In 2020, the Parish Council did authorise proceeds from a necessary clear out of the Village Road box benefitting Swan Sanctuary, but the council and all three local swan groups confirm that no ongoing arrangement now exists. The only answer is to hope and be vigilant, and maybe to install some sort of written notice to prevent any future misunderstandings about clearance.

Those who stole the BMW raised many issues. As the owners have said 'they thought of everything!' They checked out the property and the vehicle in advance – two days before a young man had been caught on the owners' doorbell camera apparently inspecting the parked car and looking out for cameras. The vehicle probably went about 11pm, with the owners believing that their house was being watched at that time, with the move being made as lights were switched off. Perhaps most sinister of all was evidence that the ring doorbell was made redundant – it picked up no sign of movement – by the wireless signal being blocked. On the very same evening, number plates were stolen from another BMW in Dorney Reach. It was thought that the numbers may well have been switched.

Obviously, the car owners contacted the police, as did we, and Thames Valley Police suggested we draw attention to their published information on keyless car theft. Reading through this is quite a revelation as to both the criminals' methods and the preventative steps that can be taken. Have a look at <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/keeping-vehicles-safe/preventing-car-vehicle-theft/> Keyless theft involves a device fooling the car that the key is nearby thus unlocking the vehicle and starting the ignition. The need is to prevent the key's signal being captured. A signal blocking pouch or Faraday Box or Bag is recommended to house your keys. Strangely, in this case, the BMW keys were stored in such a box. Other solutions, now embraced by the owners, can be traditional or high tech, such as steering locks or better CCTV.

Peter Bowman



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Request for a community governance review (CGR) to move the Parish Boundary between Dorney and Burnham:

Letter from Robert Stopford, Lake End House to the Boundary Commission.

1. Introduction.

The current boundary between Dorney and Burnham near Lake End Road runs along the Roundmoor Ditch. This means a group of seven houses on the old Lake End Road are part of Burnham, not Dorney, which is geographically nearer and also the centre of village activity for us. I would like to ask that a Community Governance Review is carried out to see if the Parish boundary should be moved to the M4, so including this small group of houses in the more logical Dorney, rather than Burnham.

2. Details

Historically the boundary between the two villages was the Roundmoor Ditch. This made a lot of sense before the building of the M4 as the ditch was any easy physical line to draw in the landscape between the two parish councils. The coming of the Maidenhead Bypass (M4) in 1963 had two effects - firstly it produced a clearer demarcation that could be used, and secondly it resulted in our section of the Lake End Road being cut off from the main road and becoming a cul de sac.

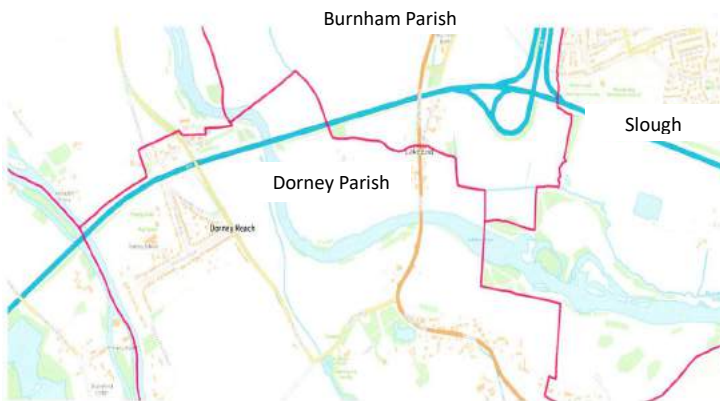


Figure 1 Existing Parish Boundaries

I would like to request that part of the northern boundary between Dorney and Burnham is moved to the M4, as shown in the dotted line in the below map. Such a move would move seven houses (with approx. 15 residents) from Burnham Parish to Dorney Parish.

From the point of view of elections, the only impact will be on Parish Council elections as both Unitary Council and Parliamentary constituency boundaries will be unchanged by this change.

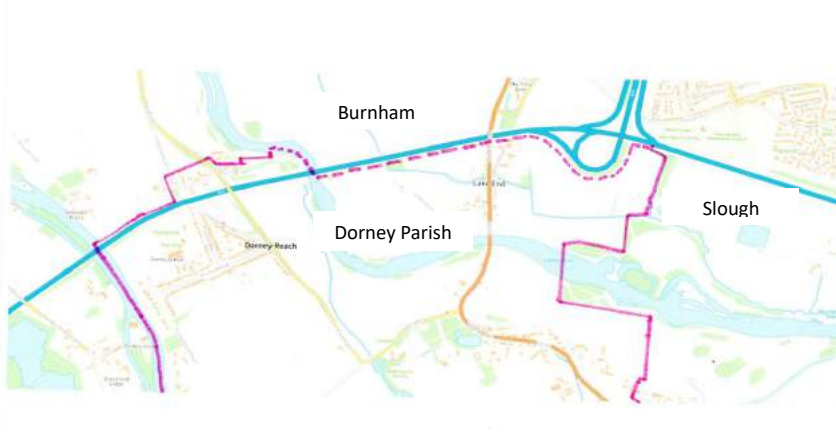


Figure 2 Proposed new Parish Boundaries

All properties which would be affected by the Boundary change have the address Lake End Road, Dorney, Windsor Berks SL4 6QS.

Robert Stopford

The Dorney Reach defibrillator – don't forget the keycode!



The Community Access Defibrillator is installed on the side of the Village Hall near the Playground Tuck Shop.

Should you need to use it, the defibrillator will lead you through the necessary steps.

The defibrillator case is locked. The keycode is **C123X**.

The information has been added to the Local Issues page on the Parish Council website so that it is always available.

Dorney Parish News will continue to provide Keycode details.

The Defibrillator in the old phone box on Village Road does not require a Keycode.

WINTER WARMERS ON DORNEY COMMON

'To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold' Aristotle.

January brought plenty of icy weather to chill our cockles and freeze our fingers. Although not much snow fell, the flakes falling but not gathering, mesmerised by their soft descent and beauty. The world seems silent when this happens, as if the tiny cotton wool cushions settle to muffle the everyday grey noise.

Freezing temperatures means larger flakes, with no two, apparently, being the same, each snowprint as unique as our fingerprints. According to the Guinness Book of Records, the largest recorded snowflake was 15 inches wide and 8 inches thick, in 1887 in Montana. How did they get an accurate measurement before it landed and merged with others? Sounds like an avalanche from the clouds!

On Boxing Day, I left for a week in Marrakech with my boyfriend Bob, for a spot of souk and tajine in the Medina and a stay in one of their renowned Riads. For the uninitiated (me included, until this holiday), a Riad is a traditional Moroccan home built around an interior garden or courtyard, traditionally owned by wealthy merchants or courtiers. The word 'Riad' stems from the Arabic word for garden, where one can experience the country's culture and history on an immersive level.

Our Riad was inside the walls of the Medina (old part of the city) with a labyrinth of alleyways housing the Souk (marketplace), and so we used our mobile map to locate ourselves and find our way back to base camp. Our Riad, without exception, was beautiful and although a stroll from the hub bub, very peaceful and quiet. This is mainly because there are no outward facing windows, restricting the influx of dust, heat and noise to provide privacy and good shelter.

At this time of the year, daytime temperatures hover around a very comfortable civilised 25 degrees, but plummet to 6 degrees during the night. It was not good news that there was little or no heating in the bedroom or bathroom. Brass monkeys! I retired to bed dressed in a fleece, bed socks and thick Bridgets. I imagine in the hot heat of the summer the rooms would be perfectly cool and the inhabitants grateful for it - note to self 'do not return during the winter climes'.

Nowadays most are modernised with running water, and mod cons, but on New Years Eve morning the hot water ceased for two days. We had a lick and a promise twice a day assisted by a French wash (blast of perfume). The original inhabitants would have bathed at their local public 'hammam' spa, some ancient establishments still existing in the Medina although we sadly did not try one.



The Souk was glorious fun, many miles long, snaking through 33 square miles of the Medina, and mostly undercover. We quickly learnt to dodge the motorbikes that zoomed down the narrow alleys and have fun with the market sellers who were full of humour trying to flog their wares. Many spoke English and the male youth took pride in bantering in a heavy East End accent, 'alright geezer, lovely jubbly'!

The motorbikes have been a big issue for the governing body of Marrakech, as they pelt fumes out into the enclosed alleyways causing respiratory problems and occasional pedestrian accidents. Alongside this, local older folk use bicycles, or donkey and carts to pull wares into the souk to be sold.

The restaurants and cafes were mainly on rooftops, where we spent many a lunch languishing over some delicious tagine and gazing over the city, to later wander yet again to seek a find. One of my best finds was a stall selling pure powder pigment in eleventy-eight different colours. I purchased a palette of eight jewel like shades, which were weighed out carefully and then put into a small plastic tub. The owner of this shop told me that they all had different densities, so he had to weigh each carefully to obtain the correct price. Growing nervous and wondering how much this would all be, I felt relieved when he told me the total was £3 including the tubs. The second-best thing I discovered were the Oranges, sweet juicy and mouthwatering. Why is it that we don't get Maroc oranges anymore?



Arriving home to a saturated Dorney, the Common was puddled with small ponds and the drive to Dells Cottage fit for a few ducks. However, it was not long before the rain stopped and the shift to minus caused ice and snow flurries as the temperatures plummeted, then changed again to stormy high winds. Throwing caution to the wind, I turned the heating up a few degrees!

At this point, I started to reminisce about the rooftop sunny lunches and the tagines that filled our bellies with hot tasty food. Inspired by the spices and tenderness of this cuisine, and spurred on by the chill prevailing, I set about obtaining a Tagine and then experimenting to replicate the flavours that we had enjoyed. On the sixth attempt, Bob was silent but smiling as he ate busily, I had cracked it! A nod is as good as a wink.

'One of my students tried to explain today how "blink" is the plural of "wink", and I can't stop thinking about it.'

Jake Burt

Now as February is upon us, we remain clad in our thickest garb, I eagerly await the Vernal Equinox, the day that has 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness, which heralds the first day of Spring, on the 20th March, according to the astronomical calendar, although apparently for meteorologists it is always 1st March.

'It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.'

Charles Dickens

However, I must not wish my life away, every day is a precious one, and should be filled with positive vibes and vibrant postulation. Remember the three rules of happiness, something to do, someone to love, and something to hope for. So, plan a special event (maybe for Valentines Day), invite your most loved one or best friend to dinner (cook a tasty Tajine), and have hope that by March, the first signs of Spring have landed.

Kristina Perkins

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News from Dorney School



“Children are the purest manifestation of love and divinity in the world; they care, they are considerate and they know more about humanity than the smartest adult. We must protect, guide and allow the children of our world to flourish because they are the key to heal this broken planet.”
Sam Fuentes.

For those who do not know who Sam Fuentes is: Samantha Fuentes was amongst the injured in the Parkland tragedy in the US, and while fortunate to be alive, her body and life changed forever. She has bullet shrapnel permanently embedded in her legs and behind her right eye, and currently manages symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). She lost revered friends and faculty members. Despite these tragic events, today, Samantha is resolved and committed to a poignant mission: to make sure that no child or adult is devastated by senseless and preventable gun violence ever again.

At Dorney School, we believe in the universal rights of every child no matter who they are, and where they live. We teach our children that they are protected by the 54 Articles in the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child <https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>, we explain how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights. Our Personal, Health, Social and Economic curriculum drives the learning in our school and is centred on ‘Belonging’ and ‘Acceptance’.

It breaks my heart when children are exposed to violence, devastation, and the horrors of conflict. It worries me that they may grow up broken, traumatised, orphans, and in despair. I know that their journey in life will be harder and without love, support and compassion, they will find it hard to thrive. Surely this is what we wish for everyone in our society, country, and the world.

Our school serves all children, and we have served many who have had to flee war and conflict. We also serve those whose families have faced discrimination and prejudice. We observe, first hand, the impact of finding refuge, on these children, and we feel our privilege, living in a society of relative safety and security.

If ever there is to be peace in our world, then the path to peace must start with us. There is no justification, ever, not to protect every child from harm.

“Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man.” – Rabindranath Tagore (Nobel Prize winner)

May we forever be blessed by the innocence of all children. The values we want to see are held within the palms of our children.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Sharifah Firza Jelany-Lee
Headteacher

Save the
Date

Thames Valley Adventure Playground Events 2024

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW OR PLEASE EMAIL FOR
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MARCH

16th – Wacky Woods Re-launch
23rd – Family Bingo
28th – TVAP Community Choir concert

APRIL

20th – TVAP Quiz Night – Gather your team and start swatting!

JUNE

8th – TVAP Open Garden – open to all

JULY

18th – TVAP Community Choir Concert

AUGUST

3rd – TVAP Funday – open to all
24th – Tapfest
31st – Adults Tropical Ball

SEPTEMBER

7th – Slough Games – Join the TVAP Team to compete
15th – Gravity Grand Prix – Come and cheer on the TVAP Team

OCTOBER

6th – Maidenhead Boundary Walk – Join the TVAP Team fancy dress walk!
31st – Halloween Disco – TBC

DECEMBER

Dates to be confirmed – Sing-a-long, parties, choir concert, Grotto

Additional

We are hoping to attend lots of community events in the local areas so please keep an eye on our social media pages for more information!



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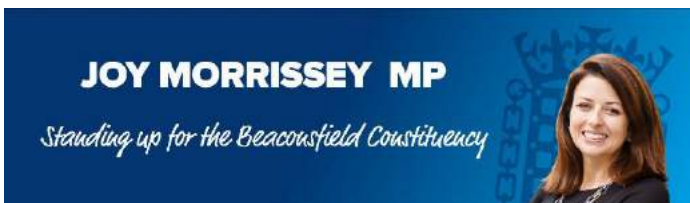
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As this is my first column for 2024, I wish everyone in Dorney a very happy and prosperous New Year. I hope you had a lovely time celebrating Christmas with your loved ones. This month has been a busy one for me, both in the constituency and in Parliament. In this column, I want to share with you some updates on my activities and my plans as your Member of Parliament for the coming year.

As your MP, one of my key priorities is to protect our beautiful Green Belt, which is under threat from various development proposals around the constituency. Dorney is full of beautiful green spaces and wildlife, so I am sure it is an issue close to the hearts of residents.

I have been closely monitoring the situation at Orchard Herbs, advocating for the protection of this land under the Green Belt. I'm pleased that Buckinghamshire Council issued an Enforcement Notice, but with an ongoing appeal, residents must voice their concerns. If you wish to object to this appeal, please email TeamE5@planninginspectorate.gov.uk or write to Rebecca Gray, The Planning Inspectorate, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol, BS1 6PN. All representations must be received by 27 February 2024.

In January, we faced significant flooding issues, which affected many parts of our constituency. Over this period, I worked closely with the Environment Agency, Thames Water, and local authorities during flood warnings to ensure they did everything possible to help the people and businesses throughout the constituency. I am glad that the situation has improved and the flood risk has decreased.

In Parliament, I have been busy with my role as the Government Defence Whip, helping the Defence Secretary with the organisation of Defence questions. With the ongoing tensions in the Middle East, Ukraine and other parts of the world, our defence and security are more important than ever.

On a solemn note, January marks Holocaust Memorial Day, a time to remember the millions who suffered during World War II. To mark such an occasion, I signed the Holocaust Educational Trust's Book of Commitment, pledging to honour the victims and the survivors of the Holocaust while standing against hatred and antisemitism in our society.

Looking ahead, I remain committed to working hard to deliver on your priorities. I will continue to advocate for better access to GP appointments and local health services, improved transport links for residents and businesses, a safer community, more investment in education, and the protection of our Green Belt. These issues matter most to you and me, and I will do my best to represent your views and interests in Parliament.

Thank you for reading my first column of the year. I know that the people of Dorney want me to deliver on their priorities, which I will be championing throughout 2024. If you need assistance or have any inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me at joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk or 01494 977 505.

Joy Morrissey MP

Dorney Parish News

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DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 16th JANUARY, 7.30pm AT DORNEY SCHOOL

Present

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair)

Cllr. Euan MacLennan

Cllr. Robert Stopford

Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford

Cllr. Stephen Baker

Cllr. William Voaden

Clerk Ruth Senior and 1 member of the public

Public Forum

Peter Bowman raised a concern that the telephone box on Harcourt Road (belonging to the Parish Council) which is used as a community library is regularly emptied. It was confirmed this is not by the Parish Council and we are unaware of who does this. Peter agreed to put a sign up to ask that it is not emptied.

PC/136/23 Apologies for absence

Cllr. Anna Palmer

PC/137/23 Declaration of interest on any items of business on this Agenda

There were none declared.

PC/138/23 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2023

These were **approved** with no amendments required and signed by the Chairman.

PC/139/23 To receive the Clerk report

The Clerk report was circulated prior to the meeting.

One point of interest was noted that the Clerk and Chairman had a successful meeting with the Local Area Technician and his Manager in December to discuss outstanding and future issues within Dorney, this was very positive and well received.

PC/140/23 Items of business carried forward

140.1 The Orchard Herbs Site

Cllr. Stopford reported that the Enforcement Notice that was served at the beginning of January has been appealed. **It was agreed** that the Clerk will contact Stephanie Penney to make a response at the appeal hearing.

There has been significant construction development on site since the notice was issued which will be reported and monitored.

The hotel planning application appeal is still with the inspector who is preparing a report for submission.

140.2 The Neighbourhood Plan

The draft NP was submitted to Buckinghamshire in December and we have been asked questions and for clarification on certain points, the draft of this is being prepared by Cllr. Voaden and Mr Brand, both have been thanked again for their dedication and work on the project. Cllr. Dax questioned the need for extra manpower Cllr. Voaden has asked for this to be put on hold for now. **It was agreed** that Cllr. Voaden will provide Council with a list of the requests from Buckinghamshire asap and then the draft response for agreement.

It was agreed that the minutes from the Working Party meeting will be circulated to Council.

It was agreed that time must be taken with the overall project and not submitted before it is completely ready.

PC/141/23 Planning

Cllr. Stopford expressed concern that the planning reports being sent from Buckinghamshire are incorrect and not up to date. **It was agreed** that the Clerk will check the planning portal for all outstanding applications.

PC/142/23 To update on the broken sign and new entrance signs to the village and consider contribution to the Community Board application

The Clerk confirmed that the broken sign is being replaced by Buckinghamshire although there is no current timescale.

Two quotations have been sought and one more needs to be found for the new white gates in order to submit the Community Board application. **It was agreed** that the Parish Council will potentially be running over budget for the next financial year and no funds will be available for contribution.

PC/143/23 To discuss and finalise the Annual Plan for Dorney Parish

Cllr. Dax circulated a draft plan before the meeting. All unallocated roles were allocated to Councillors and **it was agreed** that the completed version will be sent out and a copy to Dorney Parish News.

PC/144/23 To consider and adopt th Biodiversity policy

Following Government guidelines, all Parish and Town Councils must have a Biodiversity policy in place.

The Clerk circulated the template policy before the meeting and **it was agreed** that a scaled down version, with relevant items, will be adopted by Dorney Parish Council.

PC/145/23 To update on the Thames Water rewilding field

There is no update on this project despite Cllr. Dax requesting information from Thames Water. This will be followed up and Andrew Oliver kept informed.

PC/146/23 To receive an update on Dorney Lake

Cllr. Dax presented a plan to Dorney Lake for the safe and manageable use of Dorney Lake by residents in the closed season however this was turned down.

PC/147/23 Finance

147.1 The cashbook was circulated prior to the meeting and approved.

147.2 It was agreed that the precept for 2024/25 will be set at a 5% to 8% increase, whichever is most inline with other local Parishes.

It was agreed that the Clerk will inform Councillors of this information as soon as available for a final decision to be made and submitted by the end of January.

PC/148/23 To consider any complaints/comments received from residents

PCSO Angela O'Connell reported that there has been an increase in theft from motor vehicle reports in the area which is being monitored.

A resident reported that cars and vans are parking inconsiderately on the entrance to Oak Stubbs Lane, blocking pavements and obstructing the view. **It was agreed** that the Clerk will respond to advice these parking matters are forwarded to the enforcement team through Fix My Street.

PC/149/23 Items to consider for discussion at the next meeting on 19th March 2024

Playground update

Dorney Village Hall update

Meeting ended at 8.45 pm

Dorney Village Hall

www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk



Floor completely sanded and repolished in December 2023!

Dorney Village Hall has a large main area with stage, a smaller annexed room, and kitchen. It has recently been redecorated throughout.

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ETON WICK HISTORY GROUP

When you read this contribution to the magazine, the Eton Wick History Group will have held its final event, which comprised talks by Caryl Cullum on a painting showing Stoke Park, and by Teresa Stanton on William Simmonds – the ‘Silent Heart of the Arts and Crafts Movement’. The History Group has offered programmes of eight talks per year for over thirty years, but now, precipitated by a number of factors, the decision has been made to discontinue this educational entertainment, at least for the present. A small History Group Committee will continue to exist in order to respond to enquiries about the history of the village etc., and to supply copies of our photographic history book and the late Judith Hunter’s ‘Story of a Village 1217-1977’; and, of course, if we are asked to display our photograph albums we will do our best to oblige. For information relating to aspects of Eton Wick’s history, initially, please refer to our website www.etonwickhistory.co.uk (an invaluable source of information on our local history) or e-mail information@etonwickhistory.co.uk; if your enquiry then remains unsolved, please contact 01753 860591.

Looking forward, we have been pleased to hear people express an interest (not confirmed) in undertaking some of the work involved in running the History Group, which could include arranging a programme of talks and engaging speakers. Existing Committee members would be most willing to assist any newcomers.

In conclusion, we wish to add that we know we have been fortunate to have had a very loyal audience (which certainly included Dorney residents) and we have so much appreciated their turning out in all weathers to support our events – we thank you, wholeheartedly.

The Eton Wick History Group Committee

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Dorney Parish News

Published monthly (except January and August)

Editors:

Peter Bowman, peter.bowman@talktalk.net Mobile: 07889 912714

Bill Dax, bill@daxfamily.com Mobile: 07802 365448 (Production)

Distributors:

Mr Cobb, Mrs Leishman, Mrs McCabe,
Mr Penfold, Mrs Stockwood, Mr Temple
Miss Snook, Mrs Tuddenham, Mrs Wood-Dow

RATE OF SUBSCRIPTION: £7 per annum for 10 issues

Bank Transfer Details: Sort Code 60 04 53, Account Number 13611690

The Editors are not responsible for the opinions of correspondents expressed in letters or articles published in this magazine.

Advertising in Dorney Parish News

Dorney Parish News is an A5 newsletter that is circulated monthly (except January and August) to residents and businesses in Dorney Village, Dorney Reach, Boveney and Lake End.

Our current print run is 250. Estimated readership is around 400 people. There are approximately 300 residential properties in Dorney Parish.

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