

Dorney Parish News

April 2024



Boveney views threatened by Eton College's planning appeal.

Details on Page 32



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EDITORIAL

Let us consider two communities under pressure. Neither of them is contemporary Dorney.

‘This scheme makes no sense as a way to benefit local people and it is doubtful that even people further afield will benefit by gaining access to truly affordable housing. In the end you can’t help but ask why Eton College is risking its reputation by associating itself with a development that makes no sense in terms of local need?’ says a residents’ group about the first example.

A more official view of the second was *‘it is easy to understand why local residents feel vulnerable to domination by this large-scale project, the like of which the locality has not seen before. The Parish Council is concerned at the prospect of widespread disturbance to residents and harm to the visual amenities and character of the area...’*

The first is from the website of *Don’t Urbanise the Downs*, a campaign opposing (so far, it seems, successfully) a plan by Eton College to build a ‘3250-house new town’ in East Sussex, centred on the village of East Chilmington. The second, from 1993, are the words of the disarmingly sympathetic inspector who eventually allowed the appeal by Eton against the earlier refusal of planning permission to build what has become Dorney Lake. These words are worth quoting because they express the collective incomprehension that such disruptive and destructive undertakings can be mooted by a body with such an august reputation.

By the time this magazine is in your hands, the deadline will have passed for objecting to Eton’s appeal against earlier refusal of permission to develop the Boveney Court Farm site. In this issue you will read how a group of residents has worked intensively to rebut the appellant’s case, activity that has contributed to the delay in this magazine reaching you, dear reader. We don’t claim to speak for all in the parish, but this column is utterly saddened that once again this community is in opposition to our mighty neighbour, who once championed the preservation of Dorney, and cannot believe that it would propose a course of action that, together with likely plans for Court Farm, will change the hamlet of Boveney and, indeed, Dorney Common, for ever.

This column has suffered the same heartaches felt by many over the inadequacies of Burnham Health Centre’s relations with its patients, before we mercifully escaped to a Maidenhead surgery. It is fitting that this issue publishes a couple of reactions to this scandal, in part as a reaction to our MP’s reassurance in our last issue that there had been ‘recent improvements’. In discussion with Ms. Morrissey’s team, they reiterated her desire to hear of these issues from constituents. We recommend that you let her office know – in detail, and often.

After all, complaining works. Our March issue carried the tedious tale of our very own pothole right by our drive. On the very day the issue went to press, the Bucks Highways team arrived, and before the words were published, the hole was fixed.

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:

By the time you read this, Easter will have passed and for all those who gave up chocolate for Lent, I will have smiled and given you a high-five to those who were gorging on Easter Sunday.

Prior to Easter we, as a Benefice, were welcomed to spend time with our three local Primary Schools, Dorney, Eton Wick and Eton Porney through not only attending school assemblies, but also inviting a year group into each of their respective churches for Experience Easter, an afternoon of activities.

We, as a Benefice, are privileged enough to be able to engage with our local primary schools as part of their curriculum under the branding of Religious Education/Studies.

Our Holy Week services were neatly rounded off by our Sunrise Service at Boveney, although this year we didn't use water from the Thames to signify baptism, due to the recent negative press coverage over pollution levels, and then our services in Dorney and Eton Wick. It was great to see so many faces.

So what does our future look like? We gave our farewells to both our Vicar, the Rev. La Stacey and (husband) David last year.

Both are truly missed.

We have been lucky enough to be able to maintain all of our services under the newly ordained Rev. Carole Gooding, but Carole's training is coming to an end and she will be deployed elsewhere in July of this year. I promise you we've tried to keep her...

One of the options we are discussing is bringing Datchet into our Benefice, still operating as separate Parishes but joining with "Eton, Eton Wick, Boveney" (single

parish) and Dorney (single parish) and Datchet (single parish). Details are still being worked out, but the expectation, should this go ahead, is that we would share two Reverends across the broader Benefice.

Wishing you all a great April.

Stephen Baker

Church Services in April 2024

Wednesday 3rd April

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 7th April

9.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00 am Any Age Service

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 14th April

9.30am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 17th April

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 21st April

9.30am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Morning Worship

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 28th April

9.30am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick



St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

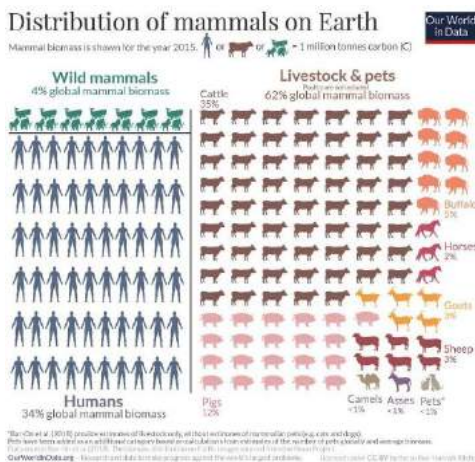
This beautiful church on the Thames is open daily.

www.st-mary-magdalene-boveney.org.uk

Nature Notes

In my younger days back in the *eighties* (argh how far away does that seem now!) I was always an Adam Ant fan, versus my best friend who was a “Duranie”. However, it was “Hungry Like the Wolf” I was singing in my head, not “Prince Charming” as I walked past Bloomsbury Square and headed towards Conway Hall last week. It was my first time at Conway Hall and it’s an attractive, high ceilinged stone and wooden venue run by an organisation called the “Ethical Society”. The event was a launch for the book *Shadow of the Wolf* by one of my rewilding heroes, Derek Gow. His basic argument is that wolves were unfairly demonised, tortured, persecuted and eventually extirpated centuries ago in the UK, especially when sheep were very valuable for their wool, and that as a civilised society we should have space for the return of what many consider an essential apex predator in a properly functioning ecosystem in this country, which especially would start to control the abundant and growing deer population. Of course, I am under no illusion that the re-introduction of wolves to the United Kingdom faces many hurdles, and I find it hard to believe it will happen in my lifetime.

However, if small countries as densely populated as Holland and Belgium can live with wolves why can’t we? Italy has the Italian wolf, two varieties of brown bear and the Eurasian lynx. The most dangerous animal in the UK is the cow. I was struck by the statistic that over the last 20 years, there have only been 25 human fatalities reported from (non-rabid) wolves globally, while 80,000 humans die *every year* globally from domestic dogs. I don’t have the reference for this (you’ll have to buy the book!) but it does make you think (or at least it did me). Another startling statistic that I can’t get out of my head was that only 4% of global mammal biomass is now made up of wild mammals. The rest is made up of humans, our pets and our livestock (see diagram below). I found this quite astounding, and unsettling, especially when an MP in Parliament is calling for more culling of “all wild animals”. We really are in danger of losing even more than the wolf, the bear and the lynx.



Two Little Owls checking out potential home

Back in Dorney, regular readers may be excited to hear we have new photographic evidence of TWO little owls in the box in the tree on Marsh Lane. As you may recall much effort has been made to remove grey squirrels twice from the box in advance of this momentous occasion, so we are now very excited about the prospect of viewing a little owl brood. Fingers crossed.

In my own garden I’ve had some success capturing some images of the red kite that regularly hangs out in nearby trees. When I leave out liver or other meaty treats for it, the kite tends to circle a number of times to make sure it is safe, and then swoops down at such speed that it’s too

instant to trigger the trail cam video. However, the image on the right was when it obviously spent a little bit of time on the ground, and then the still on the left is from a video where I dropped the liver (triggering the video which records for 30 seconds) and the kite swooped down behind me 10 seconds later. It was incredible to watch on slow motion when I retrieved the trail cam and uploaded the videos. I've seen several kite couples fighting in the sky and over the garden attacking each other's talons in the past week. I'm not sure if this is some kind of spring mating ritual but would love to observe a nesting pair and see their young.



There has also been some nocturnal activity at the back of the garden as I often see a couple of foxes on the trail cam. Sadly, Peter Bowman advised me there has been reports of two dead foxes on Dorney Common and I am now slightly panicking as I only captured video of one this week. Am keen to see if I am lucky enough to capture footage of gambolling fox cubs this spring.



Lastly, I became vaguely addicted to the Twitter (sorry, "X") updates of the Henley Toad Patrol over the past month. Incredibly, they have helped 11,068 toads, 406 frogs and 185 newts cross the A4155! What an admirable service to provide, out in all weathers at this time of year often late in the evening gloom. Does anyone know if the Maidenhead Toad Patrol is active? I did email them to volunteer but had no response. I have newts and toads in my garden, but I've never seen a frog or any spawn in the pond. The newts are definitely spawning as I've seen tiny wee newtlets and have occasionally uncovered the eggs fixed underside pond foliage. My neighbour Theo saw eight newts by torchlight in his pond this week and when I tried a similar survey, I saw four. I am intrigued if anyone else in our parish has a pond (or knows of a pond locally) where they have seen clumps of frog spawn over the past month. Do let me know if you have – a more comprehensive amphibian survey of the Parish would be very interesting.

Andrew Oliver

Dorney Playground Management Committee invite you to
the opening ceremony of
The timber snake swing
on
Wednesday 1st May 16.00, Dorney Playground, Trumpers Field



If you have been following the activities of the Dorney Playground Management Committee, you will know that we have been raising funds to replace the faulty I-play (which has been repaired on numerous occasions, but never worked properly) with a timber snake swing. The swing has now been ordered and, if all goes to plan, will be installed week beginning 22nd April.

An opening ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday 1st May 16.00. We are really excited and are planning on selling food and drinks. It would be great to see as many of you as possible.

If you can help with the barbecue and selling drinks – even better.

Raffle tickets will be going on sale nearer the event to chose the first 5 children to officially use the swing and hopefully have their photo in the local newspapers.

Dorney Playground Management Committee now have their own FaceBook page (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61553109223078>) so please check the page nearer the event to confirm that the installation has taken place as promised. Alternatively, contact us on:

Playground4Dorney@gmail.com or 07737053409

Use your Tesco power

Removal of the I-play and installation of the timber snake swing is costing **£15,440.00**.

With fund raising, donations and grants we have raised £12,500. At the moment the rest is coming from reserves needed to maintain the playground.

BUT

Tesco have chosen Dorney Playground and the timber snake swing as one of their three charities between April and June.

So if you shop at Tesco, please use the blue token, available at the checkout, to support your local playground. If we receive more blue tokens than the other two charities, Tesco will give Dorney Playground £1500.00.

Support Dorney Playground at Tesco

So, what is the next project for Dorney Playground?

The Committee have decided that the next project for the playground is a fence around the area. There are several reasons we feel this is needed, the main ones being:

- To stop dogs entering the area. Not only do owners allow their dogs to roam freely in the playground while children are playing, we also, regularly, have to clear away dog faeces. We have also witnessed dogs chewing on some of the swing seats – the teeth marks are there as proof!
- Although Dorney Playground is, overall, a safe area, there are cars around. A fence around the playground will make this a safer area for all.

As you expect, this will not be cheap! We have currently got quotes from four companies, which range from £15,000 - £26,000, depending on the type of fence.

So, if you would like to get involved with raising funds for a fence around the playground, please contact us.



As you can see, Dorney Playground Management Committee are very busy. Three of our committee are standing down in April, so if you can help in any way, **please** contact us.

Dorney Playground Management Committee

Playground4Dorney@gmail.com

07737053409

Scan here to donate to Dorney Playground. We are a charity and do not receive any money from local authorities to maintain the playground equipment.



Dorney Playground committee invitation to attend 1st May, 4pm, opening of their new timber snake swing. All welcome.

Join us at the Annual Parish Meeting at the Boathouse Dorney Lake 7.30pm 15th May.

Refreshments will be served.

NEXT DPC MEETING Wednesday 15th May 6.30pm at the Boathouse at Dorney Lake.

Rest of 2024 Meetings will be held May (+APM), July, September, November.

On a dull and drizzly March morning 18 residents joined the 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaign.

Armed with robust grabbers and distinctive purple rubbish sacks, courtesy of Bucks Council, we targeted areas of the Parish, including the Common and parts of the Jubilee River, with a resulting 35 bags of rubbish taken immediately to the rubbish tip. All agreed it was a most satisfying few hours work and were rewarded with hot drinks, bacon/sausage burgers courtesy of Jill Palmer at the Hermitage. Thanks to all who joined in, and our regular 'pickers'. We plan another event later in the year. If you'd like a grabber there are a couple spare, please contact jill@daxfamily.com. Every little helps to keep the parish clear of the general rubbish chucked from passing cars and disrespectful picnickers.

ORCHARD HERBS:

APPEAL HEARING WILL BE HELD AUGUST/SEPTEMBER - ANTICIPATED TO BE 7 DAYS LONG

Agreement at the Annual Commoner's Meeting to support DPC recommendation to pursue a 40mph speed limit on Dorney Common

At the request of DPC, Bucks Council investigating re-instating ditches to restrict vehicle access to Trumper's Field Football Pitch, and providing a disabled parking space at the Village Hall

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

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 Professional Photography

Dorney Horticultural Society

Invites you to:

'An evening with Belinda Allen - a talk about herbs, their propagation, care and medicinal uses'

Friday 26th April 7.30-10.00 pm in Dorney Village Hall

Belinda is passionate about gardening, especially growing and using herbs - there will also be seeds, cuttings, oils and cream to buy.



Entry includes cheese and biscuits, bring your favourite wine and a glass, we'll supply the cheese 'n biscuits.

Invite some friends and make up your own table.

**Tickets £10/head for members
£12/head for non-members
(New members can join on the evening)**

**Please book your place with
Peter Bowman on 07889 912714
or email ddhs@btinternet.com**

DHS – Honey Bees at Crocus



On a pleasant Tuesday afternoon, at the end of February, the Dorney & District Horticultural Society kicked off its 2024 programme with a talk on Honey Bees. Niels Abildgaard, the Chairman of the Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead Beekeepers' Society, kindly gave us a very informative and engaging talk.

As in 2023 our first talk of the year was held at Crocus Dorney in their Cafe Annex. Huge thanks to the team at Crocus for the delicious cakes, teas and coffees and all their help setting up the Annex.

Niels started his talk with a question for us: "How many trips do you think it takes a bee to fill a 454g/1lb jar with honey?" We banded around various numbers from 4,000 to 60,000. The answer is at the end of this!

Niels' talk covered the honey bee lifecycle, popular plants to support the bees by season, pollination and the role of bees, the differences between the male and female bees and who does what, (did you know bees even have their own funeral undertakers in a hive?), the Queen bee and her role, the bee dance (and where the expression "to make a bee line" comes from) and much more. It was a fascinating insight into our humble honey bees.

The audience was regaled with humorous bee stories and anecdotes from Niels which kept us all engaged throughout. It was highly educational and fun.

We send our thanks to Niels for his time and enthusiasm and sharing his vast knowledge with us. Perhaps we can arrange a follow up talk in the future?

By the way, did you know the name Dorney is an old Saxon word meaning the Island of the Humble Bee? Any town or village (or similar) ending in, or starting in EY, or EA denotes it's an Island, taken from the word EYOT. It was therefore very appropriate that this talk was held at Dorney.

Finally, the answer to the question posed by Niels at the start of the talk...., It takes 22,700 trips to fill a jar with honey. So next time you see the honey bees with their pollen baskets full, flying back and forth, you know they are on just one of the 22,700 trips back to their hive. Each bee carrying between 0.02 and 0.04 grams of nectar. That's one for the pub quizzers amongst you!!

Our next talk is back at Dorney Village Hall, on Friday 26th April. This talk is by Belinda Allen on the subject of Herbs, their propagation, care and medicinal uses. Belinda will also be bringing with her some seeds, cuttings, oils and creams. We hope you will join us.

Louise Whaley





DORNEY
PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity to ask questions that are important to you as a resident of Dorney.

Wednesday, 15th May 2024

7.30 pm

Dorney Lake Boathouse

Everyone welcome. Come and join us for the Annual Meeting in The Lake View Room, have a chat with your local community groups and councillors.

Lift available. Refreshments will be served.

Agenda on www.dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk





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SPRINGTIME IN DORNEY

As I write, the verges in Dorney are bright with cheery daffodils, and trees and shrubs are bursting into blossom. Thoughts turn to spring cleaning and a parish litter pick is planned. I remember that for many years we were encouraged to make our frontages look nice, as Dorney competed in the Best Kept Village competition. Volunteer litter pickers made constant efforts to keep our roadsides clean.



There was a time when Dorney had its own roadsweeper. Lewis William Webb was born in Cippenham in 1890 and married a girl from Dorney in 1912. He worked as a platelayer for Great Western Railway, helping to maintain the railway track. When he enlisted during the First World War, his skills meant he was posted to the Royal Engineers Railway Troops. He was sent to Salonica in September 1916, remaining there for two and a half years, helping to build and maintain railway lines to facilitate the movement of troops and equipment. When he returned, he went back to work for GWR and settled with his wife and children in a cottage near Dorney school. After he retired, he took up roadsweeping in the 1950s and kept five miles of Dorney's roads clean until he died in 1972. According to the book "Around Slough in Old Photographs", he was said to have contributed significantly to Dorney's success in the Best Kept Village competition in 1969 and again in 1972.

Newspaper reports from the 1850s indicate that May Day in Dorney was celebrated each spring by the local children. The occasion involved the children being “decorated in the costume of May-day” and making “their usual rounds” of the neighbourhood, before gathering at Dorney Court “according to custom”. There, some 75 to 80 youngsters were treated to refreshments and given cash presents by the Palmers. There were games and races and dancing, and the national anthem was sung. The whole event was characterised as “contributing to the perpetuation of good feeling between rich and poor”.

May Day is no longer a key event in Dorney (perhaps Halloween has taken its place for our young residents). But one tradition still observed is putting the cattle out onto the common for the summer. This continuity spans many hundreds of years. You can read on the Dorney History Group website a transcript of the manor court roll of 1526 which sets out the conditions under which commoners were allowed to graze their livestock. The rules may have changed, and we no longer see sheep, pigs or (domestic) geese on the common, but the principle remains the same. It's a joy to see the pleasure the cattle take from their release every spring onto the fresh green grass, and we are so lucky to live in a place where this practice continues.



Mid-19th century author Albert Richard Smith visited Dorney one spring day and was inspired to write a poem which included the following lines:

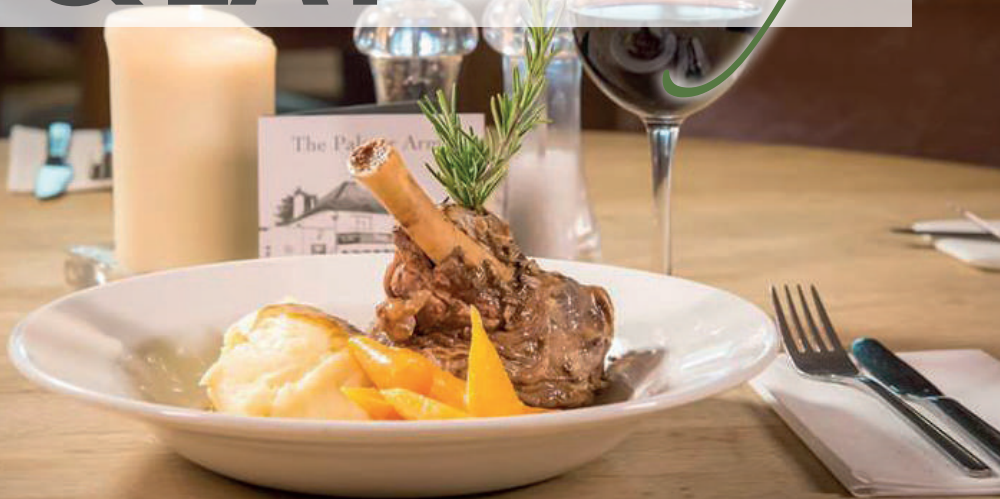
*Blossom and leaf and each fair thing,
The emblems of the gentle spring,
In one glad vast surrounding,
And insects, poised on golden wings,
With thousand gentle murmurings,
Their notes of joy are sounding.*

Clearly Dorney made a strong impression on Albert, who also used the village as a setting in a fictional short story.

Step outside in Dorney this spring and enjoy the blossom and buds and unfolding fresh leaves and the buzz of insects, just like Albert and countless generations before and after.

Virginia Silvester

MEET, DRINK & EAT *Dorney*



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The Pineapple



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Doctor not in The House (or anywhere else!)

I don't do ill, in truth I'm a little smug about it, "And you're still working at your age! Amazing!"

Well 'pride comes etc etc' and as I drove to an Oxford Krankenhaus with a constantly coughing patient sitting behind me, rather selfishly I thought, "I hope he doesn't give that to me," but of course three days later my brain jolted me awake at 03.00 to rectify my non breathing status, caused by some unmentionable substance blocking a part of my breathing kit, kicking my brain and me bolt upright in alarm.

I leave you, dear reader, to consider quietly in private the vision of yours truly in the altogether at 03.00 head hanging over the porcelain. It's not a vision upon which to linger; well, that's what my wife assures me anyway.

It's not very professional to wheeze germ laden droplets all over patients, some of whom have damaged immunity systems. I struggled in foolishly that morning, picked up my schedule, and it made me think. Some were professional friends, others yet unmet but ill; neither needed a bad chesty cough like a hole in the head, and thought, "No, I can't do this," called the Control and gave them the bad news. They assured me, Bless them, that I had done the right thing putting the patients first, with a tiny sting in the tail that last night might just have been a better time to pull out. I crawled home, sat up in bed and coughed and coughed.

Being a bloke, I did nothing about it for five days, hoping it would go away, but '*Constant Cough*' was joined by his more alarming mate, '*Difficult Breathing*', thankfully a rare visitor in my body, but frightening all the more for that, and being a bloke, I thought I might die, so in all innocence, I called my doctor. I had done the course, so I knew I had to be first in line for the 0800 'fastest finger first' competition.

"The surgery is now closed. The hours are....,"

I dialled again straight away, the fingers tapping frenziedly, as my life depended on it.

"The surgery is now...."

And again.

"The sur...."

And again.

"Welcome to Carry on Doctors," it started, and curiously told me, in a fit of nostalgia presumably, all about Covid, and what to do. Then it went into a diatribe that would have sent me to sleep (save for the inability to breathe) about going 'online' and other matters until finally, "for appointments press 5" and I did. I'd made it!!!

"There are no appointments left today," said the machine. I seem to recall that an Eastenders extra used to say, "this call will now be terminaded (sic)". It's changed now, but the message is the same.

Experience told me that ringing again would be another frustrated listen to the diatribe as my cough worsened, and blood pressure and anxiety increased with every passing shallow breath.

I dialled 111 and was treated with respect, concern and empathy with lots of relevant questions asked, with the result that there were in fact some appointments left as a doctor from the earlier emporium called me later that morning; the treatment was very good with an offer of an audience (foolishly politely declined as I thought I knew the problem and the resolution – I did not!) and collected the prescription for antibiotics.

"Come back if there's a problem," they said, and there I was a week later.

"May I see a doctor please?"

"There are no appointments left today."

RNLI



Charity  Sale



ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE LIFEBOATS

When: Sunday 5th May 2024

@ 11am - finish

**Where: Dorney village hall, Off
meadow way, SL6 0DS**

What: Beautiful up-cycled furniture such as coffee tables, side tables, rocking horses and so much more...

Why: To raise money for the R.N.L.I., saving lives at sea

In memory of Iain Farrell

Any enquiries or contributions, please contact Kathy or John Farrell on: 07818 202 942

“But the doctor said to call back in a week if there was a problem.”

“There are no appointments left today.”

“How do you suggest I get an appointment to see a doctor?”

“You can call tomorrow morning.”

“I tried that, it doesn’t work for me.”

“Or you can go online,”

“I can’t make that work either.”

It was actually suggested that I could join a queue in the morning (before 07.15 I’ve been told subsequently) and hope for an appointment then.

Even I thought a 77-year-old with a chest infection standing outside for maybe an hour on a cold wet February early-morning was not the ideal treatment. I was speechless. I rang again to apologise for ending the call abruptly. Perhaps I was in shock!

I found a private doctor, and £104 later after an ‘instant’ queue-less appointment lasting 20 minutes, I returned to my humble abode armed with my very first ‘puffer’ to ease the breathing kit.

Later and still unwell, a lovely lady at the surgery took pity on me, presumably bent the rules (if you ever read this; I can’t thank you enough) and I got another audience; again, utterly professional, with some more pills.

I could go on; frankly, I’m tired of writing this stuff, but sufficient to say that via 111 I had my last audience; again, very professional.

I have however, found a way of by passing all this and seeing a doctor.

Become our MP!!!

She’s actually bragging about it I hear, though happily I have been spared the photo.

I found a leaflet from the Maidenhead Primary Care Network with the NHS Frimley logo. Perhaps it could help me but either it was fiction or did not apply to me when I read, and I quote,

“Your GP Practice will be able to book you an appointment. They have made improvements to their telephone and web systems making it easier to book an appointment.”

Where I’m standing (or coughing), there are fairies at the bottom of my garden too; or maybe our local harbingers of bad news haven’t seen the leaflet.

But there’s more good news!!!

‘If you need treatment in hospital, you can choose where you go!’ Yes! Really! It says so on the radio. Your doctor can help you..... “There are no appointments left today.”

There is only one key for the gate to this nirvana, and I can’t get it by right. I have to win the 8 am lottery. In frustration, I rang every surgery within a five-mile radius; all politely not taking patients from outside their area, apart from one who stated abruptly, “We do not take patients from other surgeries.”

Anyone know a good doctor?

Stay safe.

Mike Quincey

Best Kept Dorney in 2024

Visit the Dorney Parish Council website and you will see an Action Plan for 2024. On that Plan are 11 objectives concerned with the Environment.

Last month two of those began to work in combination – the intention to support large groups of volunteer litter pickers and the possibility of entering the Bucks Best Kept Village competition from 2025.



Jill Palmer told us that Norman Griffith and herself (with, as she pointed out, a combined average age of 80) had planted cistus creticus, with cornus kousa chinensis going into the midst of them shortly afterwards. We agree with Jill that this wonderful picture should kick start the notion of entering a future Best Kept Village competition. Jill also pointed out that passers by are welcome to do a spot of weeding.

Sunday 17th March was the day of the Dorney Parish Litter Picking Morning. Large rubbish sacks and grabbers were provided by Bucks Council.

The organisers' response was 'What a successful Sunday!' and that was in spite of heavy rain that morning. Eighteen pickers braved the elements, and more than thirty large bags of rubbish were

collected.

Response was rather uneven throughout the different parts of the parish, but we all will have another chance as a further date will be set aside for another Litterpick later in 2024.



I rather think some of us were incentivised by the kind offer of bacon and sausage rolls along with a much-needed hot tea or coffee courtesy of Jill Palmer at The Hermitage.

Peter Bowman



NOTHING TRIVIAL ON DORNEY COMMON

“A war is not about deciding who is right, but who is left”

George Bernard Shaw

Finally, the rain faded to a drizzly mizzle, leaving many of us with a bloom of green algae on our buildings, a coat of moss on our lawns, and here on the Common, little ponds grew bigger. A long dragging end to our winter, was punctuated by the media, broadcasting uncouth political statements against each other, which became quite a bore for some, maybe most of us. These insults between the well-educated and privileged, have occasionally an element of wit about them, intended to smear integrity. The use of language, as an art form, is quite able to pierce the skin of anyone's rhino hide, without a weighty sword.

‘Be sure to taste your words before spitting them out’ Oscar Auliq-Ice (modern day author and philanthropist)

However, before insults were boiled down to a ‘four letter word’, we used language in astute repartee:

- George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill, *‘I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend if you have one’*. In response, Churchill wrote *‘Cannot possibly attend first night, I will attend the second... if you have one’*.
- A member of Parliament to Disraeli: *‘Sir, you will either die on the gallows, or of some unspeakable disease’*, by which Disraeli replied *“That depends Sir, whether I embrace politics or your mistress”*.
- *“I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure”* said by Clarence Darrow, an American trade unionist, but also a well-known public speaker, and we see why.
- William Faulkner, Nobel laureate and celebrated American writer, spoke of Ernest Hemingway *“He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary”*.
- Moses Hadas, an erudite scholar, wrote quite obscurely *“Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I will waste no time reading it”*.
- Irvin S Cobb, best known for his colloquial handling of familiar situations with ironical, penetrating humour: *“I’ve just learned about his illness. Let’s hope it’s nothing trivial”*.
- Fairy tale Scottish writer, Andrew Lang, also had an imaginative way with words: *“He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts, for support rather than illumination”*.
- Australian filmmaker and screenwriter Billy Wilder once said, *“He has Van Gogh’s ear for music”*. Incidentally, one of his films was ‘Some Like it Hot’; when Billy passed away, the French newspaper ‘Le Monde’ titled the front-page obituary: *‘Billy Wilder is dead. Nobody is perfect’* a reference to the famous last line in that film.

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- Lastly, we return to Churchill, always quick with his tongue and direct with his speech, *“He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire”*.

So, we see language in all countries has provided the world with entertainment and provocative output. The content and presentation much more engaging than the political wrangle our ears usually face.

I love the way some make an analogy of character that paints a picture so clearly, as in *‘the pessimist complains about the wind, the optimist expects it to change, but the realist adjusts the sails’* and admire the writer, William Arthur Ward, for expressing it so eloquently. I hope that I am the realist, flexing forward, for sitting on one’s backside achieves very little, (I have tried it with a poor outcome), and a whinger is a negative stance to adopt.



Spring is here, despite the rain, our gardens are starting to bud up, for very soon our cows will be back on the Common to accompany us. They are the sign of good hope and pastoral tranquillity, the hallmark of our village. Let’s try and keep it like this for as long as we can, it is unique, it is special and once gone, it will only be in our memories.

“Be careful to leave your sons (and daughters) well instructed rather than rich,

for the hopes of the instructed are better than the wealth of the ignorant”.
Epictetus (Greek philosopher)

Our descendants will reflect on the decisions we make today, some whose impact will probably either leave deep furrows or change the quality of lives permanently. But, we can make changes and reverse plans that we don’t think beneficial, if we collectively speak up and out, hold hands tightly and unite.

“The most ignorant of all people is a person who is self-assured in his or her premature decisions” Oscar Auliq-Ice

Meantime, as Easter fades into the background, we look forward to our community gathering at the village hall on Friday 26th April, kicking off at 7:30pm, a tasty Cheese and Biscuits event held by Dorney Horticultural Society, with a very interesting speaker. Bring your own bottle of pop to give a sparkle to your faces and loosen your tongue, as we very much look forward to seeing you!

Kristina Perkins

Dear Editor,

As we approach 'the other party cannot be any worse election' I have asked numerous friends to tell me something in society that has improved in the last 14 years. The silence has been deafening.

Out of the blue, my splendid, discerning wife gave me the first decent answer — it is "The local magazine - the '*Dorney Parish News*' - it was always readable, now it is superb"

The March cover silhouettes Jill and Joy, two champions for the betterment of our community, viewing the ghastly Orchard Herbs site (or should I say sight?) with a Saints logo between them.

The magazine goes on to an excellent new feature, from our Parliamentary representative who is caring and actively involved at local level to all our benefit. Her article this month features a great meeting with a Dr Daily of Burnham Health Centre. This records recent improvements. May I ask that she gives this good news to us?

It then tells us not to hesitate to contact her with any issues. I will not hesitate. Two people in my house sought urgent consultations with a doctor. The local surgery resisted offering any contact for over two weeks. They were forced to enrol with a private Practitioner at a cost initially of £2000.

May I ask Joy if this is to be the method of a new stealth tax for those who can pay for medical needs?

Congratulations on your magazine.

Yours

Simon Donan



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- Dorney Parish Council Meeting Minutes, Updates & Action Plan
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DORNEY SCHOOL



RESPECT * COLLABORATE * GROW
Headteacher: Mrs Lee

British Science Fortnight at Dorney School was exciting and inspired all children to think, and work like scientists.

WOW - 3 letters, 1 word! This is the best and only word to describe Science Fortnight. There was a real buzz of excitement and energy as children across the whole school took part in various practical science investigations. Children had a 'Science Skills Passport' where they had to tick off and complete a range of scientific enquiry skills. In KS1 children learnt about life cycles and animals. In KS2 children made their own magnets, created a sundial clock, learnt about travelling water and played with cornflour slime to learn about solids, liquids and gases. Reception looked at what happens when we leave different food out over a period of time. What a lot of brilliant learning and thinking!



Some quotes from Year 6:

Joseph - "I feel it was fun to learn about the science behind how everything works."

Maxwell - "The day was great fun. I enjoyed mixing with the other classes to do science."

Lily - "I really enjoyed today because it was different to our usual curriculum and fun to mix with the other classes."

For **British Science Week**, Eton College boys enthralled many children across school with their Natural Science collection. The children learned about British species of animals, and how some are becoming endangered. The highlight must be the stuffed real foxes, bears, badgers, otters, hare and porcupines!



We are grateful to for the support and additional resources by Eton College. Every week, we have a group of Eton Boys who support enrichment activities in Years 5 and 6.

Best wishes,
Mrs Sharifah Firza Jelany-Lee
Headteacher



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Updates on Eton College's plans for 12 new houses at Boveney Court Farm buildings and 11 new houses at Court Farm, Dorney Common.

Boveney Court Farm buildings

Planning was refused for these in July 2023. Eton College have decided to appeal this decision and it is now in the hands of The Planning Inspectorate. The date for submitting comments to the Planning Inspectorate closed on 3rd April 2024.

There were three reasons stated by the Bucks Council Planning Committee for Refusal:

1. The number, bulk & massing of the buildings causing substantial harm to the openness of the Green Belt spatially and visually.
2. The Boveney Conservation Area Document notes that Boveney has a tranquil, rural character and seems to be almost untouched by the development that has spoilt similar settlements. Furthermore, it highlights that the hamlet has a rural, low density character which is worthy of preservation. The size of the proposed development, including the number of dwellings and its overall density, would be out of character within the context of the rural, low density character of the existing hamlet and it would therefore fail to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Boveney Conservation Area.
3. Failure to provide 40% of units as affordable houses, unless it is clearly demonstrated that this is not economically viable. [Eton College then offered a contribution of £280,000 which is 21% - 2.5 houses, to be built elsewhere in Bucks]

Dorney Parish Council has provided a 129 page document to The Planning Inspectorate in support of the Reasons for Refusal and seeking a dismissal of the Appeal. A number of residents have also sent their comments. A copy of the DPC document is posted on the DPC website under Planning. It is anticipated that the result of the Appeal should be available in May.

Court Farm, Dorney Common

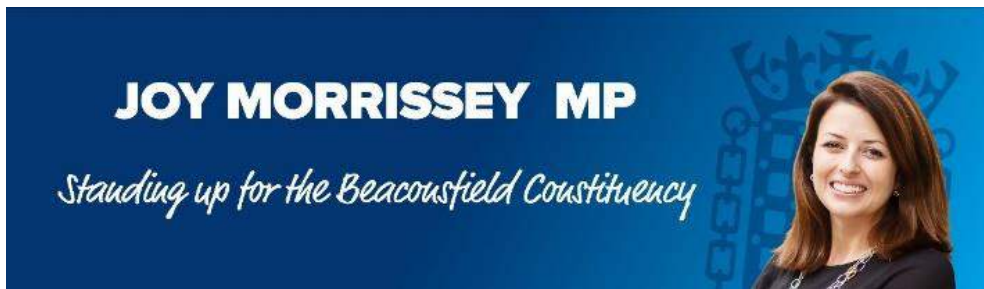
Court Farm is the first set of buildings on the left hand side as one leaves Dorney Village and enters Dorney Common. Eton College have recently submitted a planning application for 11 new buildings, in addition to the four buildings already there. The plans, as with Boveney, are seeking to retain three historical (not listed) buildings and convert them (or part of them) into houses. They are also looking to build eight new houses, four of them on Green Belt, previously developed land (brown field) and four of them on Green Belt land that is not brown field – the historic orchard of Dell's Cottage, a listed building.

Concerns have been raised by residents about the potentially dangerous junction that the single track access roads have with Common Road with its 60mph speed limit. Residents and Amazon vans will be attempting to go up and down the tracks at the same time, with some then having to reverse out onto Common Road to give way! An accident waiting to happen? Some have already.

Bucks Council have stated that Dorney Parish *"has very few services and facilities and is not considered suitable for major new development [>10 houses]."*

Any comments regarding the plans have to be submitted to Bucks Council's Planning Department by 17th April 2024. Search on the Chiltern & South Bucks View and Comment on a Planning Application website and use Reference Number PL/24/0586/FA.

Bill Dax



Over the last month, I have been continuing to champion the issues that matter most to residents in Dorney and across the constituency – whether it be locally or in Westminster.

The window to write to the Planning Inspectorate on the Orchard Herbs Enforcement Notice Appeal has now closed. Thank you to all the residents who took the time to contribute their views. I will continue to work with local Buckinghamshire and Parish Councillors on this issue. Working together and delivering a united voice is vital to ensure the Enforcement Notice is upheld. We all want the local landscape and green spaces to be finally protected from the current impact of this site.

Delivering a quality education for our young people remains a key priority for me. Residents in Dorney may have heard about the closure of Burnham Secondary School in 2019 – since then I have been pushing for it to reopen. The case for reopening the school is getting stronger. At the heart of my concerns is the wellbeing and financial impact this is having on young people and their families. I have asked the local councils for a joint meeting with me and the MP for Slough to try and find a collective way forward. It is a complex issue to solve, but I remain committed to doing all I can for local families affected by the lack of a nearby school.

Protecting the Green Belt also remains a key focus for me, in Dorney and across the whole of Beaconsfield, Marlow and the South Bucks villages. I was delighted that the proposed development on Broad Lane in Holtspur was rejected last week – protecting our Green Belt. I voiced my objections to this development from the outset, given the clear harm it would do to our Green Belt. My thanks go to the local residents who campaigned so hard to stop this development. It was a privilege to work alongside them. Our Green Belt matters. Once we lose it, we can never get it back.

In Parliament, as well as being the local champion for Dorney and the rest of the constituency, I have been busy in my role as a Government Whip. Earlier this month, the Government delivered an additional tax cut for residents in Dorney. Since January we have cut National Insurance by 4% - meaning a worker on an average salary of £35k will be saving £900 per year. As a Government Whip, I had the privilege of declaring the result of Parliament's vote that made this tax cut a reality for over 27 million people.

I love sport and our local sports organisations are such a vital part of our community. I was pleased to be part of the Beaconsfield Rugby Club's Minis Festival recently. It was a fantastic day, and it was so inspiring to see young people enjoying their rugby so much and demonstrating such resilience in lots of mud and rain! Huge appreciation to the entire team at the Beaconsfield Rugby Club for putting on such a fantastic event.

Thank you for reading this month's update. It is such an honour to be your local Member of Parliament in Dorney. If I can ever be of help to you on any issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk or 01494 977 505.



DORNEY

PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 19th March 2024, 7.30pm AT DORNEY SCHOOL

Present

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair)

Cllr. Anna Palmer

Cllr. Robert Stopford

County Cllr. Paul Kelly

Cllr. Euan MacLennan

Cllr. Stephen Baker

Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford

Cllr. William Voaden

Clerk Ruth Senior and 1 member of the public

Public Forum

Peter Bowman commented that the telephone box on Harcourt Road has once again had all the books removed and we ask if anyone knows who is responsible for this, please let the Council or Peter know.

PC/01/24 Apologies for absence

There were none

PC/02/24 Declaration of interest on any items of business on this Agenda

Cllr. MacLennan and Cllr. Palmer expressed an interest in considering the transfer of Dorney Village Hall to the Parish Council.

PC/03/24 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2024

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

PC/04/24 To receive the Clerk report

The Clerk's report was circulated prior to the meeting.

PC/05/24 Items of business carried forward

5.1 The Orchard Herbs Site

Cllr. Stopford reported that only 21 residents objected to the appeal which was disappointing. We are awaiting a date for the appeal hearing (possibly June/July), **it was agreed** that the Clerk will inform Stephanie Penney that a member of the Parish Council would like to speak.

The hotel planning application appeal is due by 8th April.

5.2 The Neighbourhood Plan

The Working Party met on 4th March and Cllr. Voaden confirmed the plan is at the final stages of answering the questions from Bucks Council, which were mainly on planning policy. When this is complete, **it was agreed** that the updated draft will be circulated for Council approval before submission.

A question was asked if local land owners will be consulted on the plan, **it was agreed** that Cllr. Voaden will confirm this.

PC/06/24 Planning

No new plans of note.

Cllr. Stopford confirmed that the Boveney Court development has gone to appeal, DPC submissions will be circulated to all before the closing date of 3rd April. **It was agreed** that the Parish Council will object and support the original decision made by Bucks planning.

It was also reported that the Court Farm development is progressing and the residents have been served notice.

PC/07/24 To ratify the £150 fee for inclusion in Dorney Parish News

Ratified.

PC/08/24 To update on and consider the transfer of Dorney Village Hall (DVH) to Dorney Parish Council (DPC)

DVH Trustees approached DPC with a view to DPC taking over the DVH charity and management. Another option being proposed is that the charity is closed down and the monies transferred to DPC, DPC will then manage DVH which is very common for small Parishes.

The Clerk has asked the Charities Commission for further information on the options as requested.

PC/09/24 To update on the Thames Water rewilding field

Cllr. Dax confirmed that Thames Water are not willing to engage with an individual for the field project but are looking into options such as a local land owner.

PC/10/24 To receive an update on Dorney Playground

After being awarded a Community Board grant, the playground now has a new piece of equipment and have passed the annual check with only low risk maintenance suggestions.

Everyone is invited to attend the official opening on 1st May, 4pm – refreshments will be available. The Playground has also requested that any local Tesco shoppers consider the blue token scheme (open now) for them as they may receive another grant for more equipment and fencing.

PC/11/24 To update on speeding through Dorney, particularly Dorney Common

Cllr. Westcott-Wreford informed Council of a serious accident, allegedly due to speeding and dangerous driving, on the Common on Saturday 16th March, police are appealing for witnesses.

Cllr. Dax attended the recent Commoners meeting where James Palmer and the Commoners approved the request to ask for the speed limit to be reduced across Dorney Common.

It was agreed that we will write to Eton Wick Council to ask for their support.

Cllr. Dax is preparing a response to Buckinghamshire Council.

PC/12/24 To update on Trumpers Field

David Stowe at Buckinghamshire Council has taken over the management of Trumpers Field and is investigating; re-instating the ditches, disabled parking at DVH, road surface and barriers.

PC/13/24 To confirm plans for the May Annual Parish and Parish Council meetings

CHANGE OF DATE AND LOCATION – Wednesday 15th May @ Dorney Rowing Lake.

6.30pm Dorney Parish Council meeting

7.30pm Annual Parish Meeting – including guest speakers and refreshments

All Dorney residents are welcome.

PC/14/24 Finance

The cashbook was circulated prior to the meeting and approved.

Cllr. MacLennan circulated the revised, agreed budget including an advertising fee and Clerk salary increase.

It was confirmed that a precept of £27,000 was requested, which is 8% higher than last year and is a £4.33 increase annually for each Band D Council Tax payer.

PC/15/24 To consider any complaints/comments received from residents

PCSO Angela O’Connell sent an overview of crime in the local area. There was one theft from motor vehicle and one burglary reported in Dorney.

The trail bike problems arose again last weekend and were reported to the police.

The clear up Dorney day on 17th March was very successful, 14 people helped and over 35 bags of rubbish were collected.

PC/16/24 Items to consider for discussion at the next meeting on 15th May 2024

Thames Water Treatment Plant update from Cllr. Kelly.

Meeting ended at 8.30 pm

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.

Crocus Spring Market

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Dorney Parish News

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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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ADULT BALLET
ADULT CONTEMPORARY
ADULT BEGINNERS TAP
ADULT INTERMEDIATE TAP

BOYS CLASSES



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