

Dorney Parish News

November 2019



Service of Remembrance, Sunday 10th November 2019
St James the Less, Dorney: Churchyard at 9.15 am

Benefice of Eton with Eton Wick & Boveney & Dorney



**SERVICE OF
REMEMBRANCE**

**St James the Less
Dorney**

November 10th

starting

9:15 am in churchyard

EDITORIAL

There was a famous tabloid columnist whose reaction to any contemporary absurdity was to exclaim 'you couldn't make it up'. As for the sequence of events in Dorney this past month, well, no, it does defy all logic.

Running through all this is the failure of outside bodies to put the interests of Dorney residents first. Some will point their fingers at their chosen target, be it Bucks County Council, Highways England or Eton College.

We are days away from a massive disruption as a major route into our village, Marsh Lane, is to be shut for a year. Maybe vital traffic such as emergency services and school buses or parents on the school run are fully briefed. But it does seem that the key agent in overseeing the M4 project, Bucks CC, has done little to engage with the contractor or our own Parish Council.

The latter, exasperated with the situation on the ground, has written to the Leader of the Council asking for a halt to demolition. We publish the letter and it can speak for itself, but the main complaint is the failure to install promised double yellow lines around the entrance to the Lake in time for the bridge closure.

Now the merely inept merges with the absurd. It dawned on residents that Bucks CC have delayed the closure of Common Road for repair of the cattle grid to a timing that overlaps (albeit briefly) with the Marsh Lane closure. Both our routes into Berkshire would be closed at the same time. Furthermore, the long anticipated yellow lines seemed doomed to delay as Bucks embarks on a singularly ill-timed consultation period on the project which takes up the whole of October.

The Parish Council's letter is clearly potent. Immediately notices go up delaying closure by several days to November 4th. Overnight, yellow lines appear. Then the installation seems to halt. Much hilarity is caused by a very short lined stretch on the north side of Court Lane. Will the work re-commence? Should the work re-commence? After all, wasn't it illegal to start during a consultation period? Anyway, some would say, why should villagers and visitors be inconvenienced by double lines when the root of the whole problem is Dorney Lake's stubborn refusal to abandon their parking charges? Now, cones have appeared.

Anger seems to be growing, especially in Dorney Reach, as the sheer scale of the disruption, and perhaps even more the despoliation of the natural environment, daily become more obvious. What on earth are we doing in 2019 causing so much destruction just to encourage more drivers on to motorways. Well, it's worth it, surely, because SMART motorways are so much safer. They wouldn't embark on all these projects if they weren't certain of that?

In one crazy week, Highways England's boss has told MPs of his doubts over the utility of SMART motorways. Grant Shapps, Transport Secretary, has set up an internal enquiry into their safety, because he knows 'people are dying on smart motorways'. Could there really be a nightmare scenario whereby the bridge comes down and then weeks later the men from the ministry find evidence so damning that all smart projects cease forthwith? Would we be left (for years?) with a yawning chasm between ourselves and Taplow? Would Highways England, intent on its project set about the creation of a real four lane super-highway?

Some are saying we should be lobbying MPs for a delay until the end of uncertainty. Perhaps the Parish Council should write another letter. That seems to work.

Dorney Parish Council

Sue Moffat
Parish Clerk

Tel: 07443 588361
Email: clerk@dorney.org.uk



20, Benchmanor Crescent
Chalfont St Peter
Bucks
SL9 9HL

9th October, 2019

Marsh Lane Bridge Closure

Dear Cllr Tett,

For 18 months, Dorney Parish Council has been engaging with Highways England and Transport for Bucks over the issue of the removal of Marsh Lane bridge. It was agreed by all parties that the parking situation is dangerous and, when there is only one route between Dorney village and Dorney Reach, emergency service access would not be guaranteed unless the situation was addressed. In order to achieve this, the following had to happen:

- Cutting back of the hedge and verges along Marsh Lane particularly on the corner by the Eton Dorney Rowing Lake.
- Installation of yellow lines from the edge of the Church graveyard, back up Marsh Lane towards Dorney Reach.

Furthermore, there needed to be a review of the re-instatement of the roundabout at the end of Court Lane and Village Road. We understand that a study was undertaken on a Saturday in August, although we have not been party to any results, nor any decisions that have arisen as a consequence of this study. This demonstrates a failure to engage with the local residents of the Parish, at a time when alleviating our concerns is supposedly a priority for your project team.

Marsh Lane is due to be closed on 31st October, and not one of the above actions have happened. The threat of emergency service vehicles being unable to reach the residents and businesses of Dorney therefore remains. Quite simply, we are not prepared to allow the timetable to continue without the above actions being fulfilled. We cannot allow the bridge to be removed when a fire engine or ambulance cannot guarantee that they can reach the caller in appropriate time. There has been, to our knowledge, no safety inspection or analysis conducted by the emergency services on this matter.

The safety of our residents is paramount, and I urge you to address these actions and consult with our Parish Council and residents immediately. Only then can the bridge be removed.

Yours Sincerely,

Keith Harris

Keith Harris
Chairman Dorney Parish Council

Cc Rt Hon Dominic Grieve QC MP, Cllr Mark Shaw (Cabinet Member for Transportation)
Cllr Dev Dhillon, Jim Stacy (Highways England), Matt Orchard (Balfour Beatty).

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Services in the Local Churches



St James the Less, Dorney

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

**Vicar: Revd. La Stacey, The Vicarage,
69a Eton Wick Road, Eton Wick, Windsor,
SL4 6NE**

**Tel: 01753 852268 email:
revlastacey@gmail.com**

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

Methodist Church, Eton Wick Alma Road, Eton Wick, SL4 6JZ

Minister: Rev Margaret Dudley, 01753 867117

Sunday 6.30pm Evening Service

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Burnham

Parish Priest: Fr. Andy Richardson, 01628 605764

Saturday 6pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 9.45am Mass

Rev La Stacey writes:

November is a season of remembrance. I imagine communities have always had a place where they gather to honour memories. In this village we are blessed with a beautiful church and churchyard where memories are held. In September, David and I visited the new visitor-centre in Beaurains, Arras, where you are now able to watch, among other things, the stonemasons of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cutting and repairing the stones which commemorate the fallen of the world wars wherever on the globe they may be. One of the things that struck me was their emphasis that everyone is honoured in the same way, whatever their army rank had been: all were treated in death with equal dignity. Some of these gravestones are in our Dorney graveyard of course.

You'd need good memory going back a long way to be able to remember the inscription that used to be clearly visible on the central wooden panel of the gallery above the font. It says, "Henry Felo 1634". He was the man who built the gallery all those years ago. We are very hopeful that we will be allowed to retouch this inscription so that it will be there for all to see again, and that little bit of history won't be lost. There are other paintings in the church too, that are even older. Either side of the door to the Garrard chapel is a depiction of the Annunciation, with the angel Gabriel on the left-hand side telling the Virgin Mary on the right-hand side that she will have a baby. These paintings are even older than the inscription on the gallery, dating back to the second half of the 1300s. Fancy the announcement that you are expecting a baby being remembered all this time? Must be a very special mother and baby!

Church Services in November 2019

Sunday 3rd November

9.30 am	Holy Communion (said BCP)	St James the Less, Dorney
11.00 am	All Age Service	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick
4.30 pm	Family Praise (half hour with coffee)	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 6th November

10.00am	Holy Communion (said BCP)	St John the Evangelist Eton
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Sunday 10th November (Remembrance)

9.15am	Holy Communion with Remembrance	St James the Less, Dorney
10.55am	Remembrance Service	St John the Evangelist, Eton
3.00pm	Remembrance Service with scouts	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick
4.30 pm	Family Praise (half hour with coffee)	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 17th November

9.30am	Holy Communion	St James the Less, Dorney
11.00am	Holy Communion	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick
4.30 pm	Family Praise (half hour with coffee)	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 20th November

10.00am	Holy Communion (said BCP)	St John the Evangelist Eton
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Sunday 24th November

9.30am	Morning Prayer	St James the Less, Dorney
11.00am	Holy Communion	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick
4.30 pm	Family Praise (half hour with coffee)	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

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James 07813 289468 or 01628 655658

M4 Smart Motorway Update – ‘A Very Noisy Operation’

There was a time when residents were mainly concerned with sleepless nights and shaking foundations. That seems like the good old days now, as draconian roadworks announcements are followed hard by the latest apocalyptic statement from Highways England or the Department for Transport.

The Marsh Lane bridge will be shut from November 4 for at least 12 months. The bridge is scheduled for demolition over the weekend of Friday November 15 to Monday November 18. The October newsletter from Highways England cheerfully forecasts ‘More bridge work and weekend motorway closures’ for the rest of 2019. Do we have any clues over what awaits us?

Jim Stacey of Highways England told our Parish Council on October 8 that the demolition would be a ‘very noisy operation’ which would last 48 hours. It’s been quite a week for disquieting statements emerging from Highways England. Their Chief Executive, Jim O’Sullivan, caused headlines by stating that smart motorways were ‘too complicated’ for motorists to handle. It appears, however, that Jim was referring to ‘dynamic’ smart motorways where the hard shoulder is only closed at peak periods. Our M4 project is entirely ALR, ‘all lanes running’. Drivers might be scared stiff, but at least they won’t find it complicated.

A preview of the 15th-18th November weekend came in late September when the M4 was closed between Junctions 5-6 to allow the demolition of the Recreation Ground overbridge which ran from Datchet to Upton Court Park. Demolition started just after midnight on Friday, but after continuous working the process was completed 24 hours earlier than scheduled with the M4 re-opening early on the Sunday morning. Maybe Mr. Stacey was being pessimistic...

If you’re curious, take a look at a time-lapse video of the actual demolition taking place overnight in September which is on the M4 Smart Motorway website.

That fateful mid-November weekend will be busy as there will be lifting of the new bridge beams at the Monkey Island overbridge and the lifting into place of a temporary Huntercombe Spur overbridge at Junction 7. This overbridge will actually be demolished, with Junctions 6 to 8/9 closed, over November 29 to December 2. That weekend, the Oldway Lane overbridge, the footbridge running into Cippenham, will also disappear.

Much disruption and devastation, just as it seems some stakeholders are losing confidence in this costly undertaking.

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POST HASTE ON DORNEY COMMON

A letter with a Brighton postmark and an address in Lancing, dropped into our post-box recently, and within it a solitary black and white postcard of our cottage. On the back of the postcard, stamped 'Windsor 16 Oct 1939' was a spidery child-like script which said:

'Dear Mum, I have arrived home allright did you get home before black out? Peggey has started my belte for me and when I finished this letter I'm going to do it give my love to... Lavinia xx'



The card was addressed to Mrs Park, in Barnes, smothered around the edges with kisses, and seemed quite likely to be from an evacuee. The photo on the card was one I had seen previously, showing the cottage as it was originally built, split into two. Since we are now remodelling our front garden, my eye was drawn to the abundance of flowers and foliage spread from front door to the entrance, where I assume in those days there was no need to make provision for car parking.

Some months later, incredibly, another letter arrived, this time from the village of Old Warden in Bedfordshire from a lady who said she was tracing her family history, and her oldest known relative was Jeremiah Dell who had lived in our cottage in the 1700's, followed by a Thomas Dell, Head Butcher of Dorney in the 1800's. Knowing a bit about the history of our cottage, this seemed valid, as it is known that a Jeremiah built or had the cottage built, then occupied the left hand side which was slightly nicer, whilst his brother and his family resided in the other side. The cottage exterior structure has hardly changed, converted into one big living space around 1900, and now has just one front door, and on closer inspection similar cracks and imperfections in the brick and timber are also visible in the photograph. Downstairs, the living space has been greatly modified to suit modern day living, but upstairs the low hammer beams remain untouched, clonking the top of heads at regular intervals.

My husband Dave's most recent garden project is to move the driveway away from the cottage walls to make a protective grassed barrier to prevent vehicles getting too close to the building. Frequent traffic has disrupted the fragile fabric of the brick walls which have no foundation, compounded by the use of a cement infill in the past. As this project is about to conclude, Dave is hatching his next improvement plan, when finally, the area occupied by a bright yellow skip can be turned into something attractive. Oh, how I don't love that skip!

Adjacent to the untidy skip is a carport garage, a rickety rat-infested, leaky roofed obsolete, which sits astride our garden and the Eton Plot, an acre of land we rent from the college. Planning regs do not allow us to rebuild a new one near to the cottage, so alternative ideas have been mulled over and an idea that might work hatched. Currently our hens run free range near to this area, enclosed by a fox proof electric fence. A permanent coop, replacing the old garage, may be in the pipeline, as I have always wanted a coop in the form of a miniature hand painted gypsy caravan. On every chicken feed order my computer mouse hovers over the click for purchase button on the website of our poultry supplies merchant!

Meantime, back to reality... a major fright manifested four hours before our annual DDHS Harvest Festival Supper doors opened, as the Guest Speaker cancelled unexpectedly. Within two hours Dave, through his music network, had fortuitously secured a local young man with an electro acoustic guitar. Arriving early, his bright green hair signalled a good omen, the right colour for horticulture, to make quite a stir amongst those waiting for a slide show on rambling roses. However, he very soon won hearts with his quick ability to play all the guests' requests at the pluck of his plectrum. The food from Chrys, our local publican, was beyond fantastic, and certainly the proof of this pudding was in the seconds and thirds that most people consumed. Despite thundering rain just a few hours earlier, the cosy evening was enjoyed by all, and secretly the music was a joyous thing; I mean, we can learn about climbing plants next time!

All things dramatic at the Maidenhead Drama Guild dance on briskly, with rehearsals stepping up and singing vocals tuning in. With great fortune, a lovely lady from Dorney Reach offered a donation of some blue material as she knew we had a sea scene in Dick Whittington, where I was tasked with creating a great wash of colour across the 9 metre Desborough stage. A lengthy order for yours truly who could not waive this challenge. The fabric turned out to be eleventy-eight metres of stunning royal blue cotton, enough to wrap around the Dame twice (who is a stout figure this year) and several times around the raft she sails in. Along with this was a wonderful sea green voile, beautifully glimmering and ready to take centre stage. Remember to book your seat to take a good look at what is found and made in Dorney, a proper home-grown tidal wave!

Whilst contemplating your Christmas outing, make a note in your calendar of Friday 22nd November, as the Dorney Horticultural Society once again puts on a fabulous festive Christmas supper. This year we have an ex-West End singer, a professional vocalist, who is prepped to sing all your favourite ballads from old time to current, stuff to make you tap your toes and raise a toast with your neighbour.

Kristina Perkins
Dells Cottage



St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

This beautiful church is open daily.

The remaining 2019 Service is:

Christmas Advent Service by Candlelight - 1500hrs on Sunday, 8th December 2019

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals are, regrettably, not permitted at the Church; however, the Renewal of Vows and Blessings following a Civil Ceremony are very much encouraged. We also make the church available as a venue for concerts, readings etc. Seating for 100.

For further information please contact bill@daxfamily.com

DORNEY SCHOOL



RESPECT * COLLABORATE * GROW

News from Dorney School

We have had a fantastic first term at Dorney School, where the children have really settled well. At Dorney, we were delighted to receive some more detailed analysis of our school results from 2018-19. This analysis shows that Dorney's academic performance is higher than the national average in all key areas in Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2! Our results are also higher than the average for schools in this local area. This really highlights the fantastic quality of education that pupils receive at Dorney School and is testament to the hard work of the pupils and staff. Well done to all involved!

As a school, we benefit from a strong partnership with Burnham Grammar School. We are members of the Beeches Learning & Development Trust alongside Burnham Grammar School and are therefore able to make great use of links between the schools. Recently, our senior leaders joined with those from BGS to take part in training on safer recruitment. We also attended training at the Grammar School around staff wellbeing and mental resilience. The children also get to benefit from these links, with pupils from Year 5 attending a fantastic Hands-On Science afternoon at the school.

This morning saw our first Open Morning for prospective parents for next September's Foundation Stage intake. The morning was very successful, with lots of parents attending who were all very positive about the feel of the school and our lovely nurturing atmosphere. There is a second Open Morning, which is on Wednesday 6th November at 10:30am. Please contact office@dorneyschool.co.uk if you are applying for Reception class places next September and you would like to visit the school.

Dorney School is also now on Twitter! You can follow us on our account: @dorneyschool Our account details many of the exciting things that happen at Dorney and keeps people up to date with our learning and activities at school.

Thank you for taking the time to read our article!

Kind regards,

Mr. Lloyd

Headteacher



Visiting Dorney Lake

Dorney Lake is a privately owned site, and access to members of the public is welcome unless we are hosting a sporting or private event. During certain events, the site is closed to avoid potential conflict between pedestrians and dogs, with runners, triathlon cycling or rowing crew.

Please check the events calendar below for forthcoming events, as public access may be restricted or not permitted on certain event days. Please call us on 01753 832756 for the most up to date information.

October 2019

Sunday 13th – Private Run - car park & footpaths closed until 2.00pm

Sunday 20th - Private Duathlon & Run – car park and footpaths closed until 2.00pm

November 2019

Saturday 16th - Private Run - car park & footpaths closed until 2.00pm

Sunday 17th - Private Duathlon & Run - car park & footpaths closed until 2.00pm

Sunday 24th – Private Run - car park & footpaths restricted between 1.00pm and 5.00pm

December 2019

Sunday 1st - Private triathlon - car park & footpaths closed all day

Saturday 14th - Private Duathlon & Run - car park & footpaths closed until 2.00pm

***Also, please can we ask that the paths nearest to the lake are kept free, as this is the coaching path for rowing coaches to cycle alongside their rowers to give training instruction.**



It's not the Taking Part

You may recall a missive in this column about bell ringers and bells in a previous Dorney Parish News, and I know you will have been hugging yourself in anticipation of the outcome of the mentioned Lorna Newton Striking Competition where we (with all modesty and good fortune) represented Dorney and Hitcham in the final.

Striking bells has nothing to do with downing tools, rather it's the regularity and steadiness of the ringing where the gap between the bells should be identical save for the lead which comes as the lead bell..... you're going to sleep!

Wake up!! Now pay attention!



The final was fought at Hughenden Church in the grounds of Hughenden Manor, the home of Benjamin Disraeli, early Chalfont Set, and a spectacular role in World War 2.

It seemed little had changed in the intervening years, and at any time I expected the drone of 4 Rolls Royce Merlins from a passing Lancaster Bomber, a Matador Truck (ask Grandpa!) a nifty Hillman Pickup driven by a smart WRAF Corporal, or a wiggled Lord enjoying its expenses!

It was quintessentially English. Rolling wet countryside, gravel drives, tended lawns with an elderly bent factotum scowling as he dragged a watering can to fading flower beds in the rain. Pike, Jones and Mainwaring would have been very much at home.

There were seven teams and we gathered nervously on the pews, having enjoyed a classic Famous Five tea with lashings of jam and cream on warm home-made scones, fruit cake and gallons of tea.

It was my initiation into competition finals in fifty years (I'm feeling old!) of ringing, commenced in my youth solely to win the heart of Anne the lovely ringer. Sadly, I failed dismally with Anne but the bell ringing stuck!

The Judges were outside the church as each team was numbered. We were number three and as the first team climbed up the belfry stairs we listened intently. Silence!

Hughenden, it seems, is one of the few churches where the bells are almost impossible to hear inside the church; add motorbike induced hearing loss, and they can't be heard at all.

I missed the opening rounds from Team 1 and hurried outside, standing in the drizzle, head bent in concentration as, with others, I tried to pick holes in their striking.

Oh dear! They were good; I mean very good indeed and my heart sank. I started counting the number of slight hesitations, clashes or even slightly uneven gaps, in their ringing but detected only a few. I glanced up and exchanged worried glances with my fellow Dorney ringers.

Team 2 cheered us a little in that they were human making the odd error and I soon ran out of calculating fingers as they progressed; again very good indeed which would sound brilliant on a wedding video (dear reader, if you are ever so bored as to watch a re-run of

'Big Fat Gipsy Wedding', the dreadful ringing in one episode is in part my effort), but after Team 1, even I could tell they were in different leagues.

We were next and I climbed the narrow circular stairs to the unfamiliar ringing chamber, stomach rumbling, shaking slightly feeling much as a French aristocrat must have felt a century or two before. Sitting in the corner was an observer who smilingly explained the procedure we were to follow, and after checking everyone was ready, I said, "Trebles going..... she's gone," and I heard the smallest bell strike above me followed by the others in what were quite good rounds.

After the permitted warm up the captain said, "Go reverse Canterbury!" and off we went. We have rung better in practice; our efforts were good in normal company, but here, not good enough, and we all knew it. Concentrating hard as I was, it was all over remarkably quickly, and we filed back down to the pews, smiling at the waiting Team 4.

I drowned my sorrows in the aforementioned Enid Blyton tea with some of the others and close friends who had come along to support, so I missed the remaining teams, and suitably refreshed, filed back into the church for the reckoning.

I had counted perhaps twelve slight errors from Team 1, and could recall perhaps twenty of ours, so when the two judges walked in to the assembled throng, one could hear a pin drop awaiting their words.

Sadly, the spokesperson spoke quietly, so the deafness already referred to did not help, but I heard reports of many more faults than I had detected during Team 1's efforts. I heard forty mentioned. What would happen to us?

Team 2 met a similar fate with a slightly higher number, again the criticism was ice cold as teams in the other pews shuffled uncomfortably as the judges dissected their efforts.

It was our turn. Happily, I could not hear all of the whispering assassin's analysis, but I do recall mention of 'hurried leads' and numerous hesitations. We had not quite hit three figures of faults with a total of ninety nine.

The remainder of the adjudication is a bit of a blur, my mind overwhelmed by the desire not to be last, but it was ever thus.

A lady stood up and made a speech. She was charming in a Poirot sort of way, but I heard little of it. Humiliation was to follow with the prize giving of a large gaudy cup for the winner, a slightly smaller gaudy cup for the runner up; (these would have been described differently had one of them been in our possession), and a gaudy decorated wooden spoon for.... you've guessed.

Our leader walked up to the 'worthy' handing out the prizes and accepted it bravely and with good grace.

I shuffled out into the drizzle. The factotum was still dragging his can, his mood matching mine, we all shook hands and bade farewell to the other teams, judges and worthies. We walked to our cars, our charismatic captain grinned,

"We did well! We came seventh out of thirty three! And we've got something to show for it!"

Our talented tenor ringer later mounted our spoon in a beautiful glass/clear plastic case. It will sit proudly in Dorney and Hitcham ringing chambers for future generations to admire, and they will speak in hushed respectful tones of Lorna Newton and the adventures of the Dorney Ringers back in 2019.

Mike Quincey

Burnham/Farnham's/Taplow & Dorney**Neighbourhood Priorities****Winter Burglary**

The dark nights are now drawing in and this is the time you need to think about your house being in darkness. If you are going out and not returning till after dark make sure you have a lamp on a timer switch, a dark house is a clear indication no one is home.

If you are going away ensure you cancel newspaper & milk deliveries, and make neighbours you trust aware that you'll be away, so they can keep an eye on your property as well.

Parking

Parking has been an issue in Court Lane, Dorney for some time, however during October yellow lines were put in place at this location. These will now be enforced by NSL civil enforcement officers so if you have an issue in regard to vehicles parking illegally on the yellow lines you can contact the NSL civil enforcement officers on 08432085544.

Other News

We were advised of a number of incidents at Dorney Lake over the summer. The Dorney Neighbourhood Policing Team are working closely with Chiltern and South Bucks Council and Eton College at this time. We will hopefully be able to update you soon, as to what plans we have to protect the community. I would like to thank everyone who has spoken to us about the Lake and surrounding area already. We are continuing to encourage the local community to come forward with how this has impacted them.

For any issues you wish to discuss with us then please contact:

BurnhamFarnhamsTaplowNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or TWEET us on @TVPChiltSBucks

Sign up to Thames Valley Alerts to receive crime and policing updates directly from your local Neighbourhood Team as well as more crime and policing issues. Sign up to the service online at: www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk or speak with one of your Neighbourhood Team.

www.thamesvalley.police.uk



Saturday 9th November at
Dorney Village Hall

1800-2300hrs

£17.00 for adults, £8 for children

Full Indian buffet including vegetarian dishes. Non Indian alternative

Bring own drinks and glasses

Entertainment and raffle

All proceeds to charity - Macmillan Cancer Support, TVAP, Mother
Teresa's Orphanage in Goa, Education in India

Contact for tickets:

Moni Hunjan 07731 958794

Liz Stockwood 07767 646500

Numbers limited - to avoid disappointment, order early.

Dorney Diary

Day Date Activity Venue Time

NOV

Fri	1	Dorney Cattle Grid due to open	Village Road/Dorney Common B3026	
Sat	2			
Sun	3	Dorney Short Mat Bowls Club	Dorney Village Hall	7 to 10 pm
Mon	4	Pilates Class Marsh Lane Bridge due to close	Dorney Village Hall Marsh Lane	9.00 am
Tue	5	Dorney Badminton Club The Charteris Club: Lunch	Dorney Village Hall Eton Wick Village Hall	8 to 10 pm 12.00 noon
Wed	6	Yoga Class - Gentle Yoga Yoga Class - Chair Yoga The Charteris Club: Lunch Pilates Class	Dorney Village Hall Dorney Village Hall Eton Wick Village Hall Dorney Village Hall	10 am 11.45 am 12.00 noon 2.00 pm
Thu	7	Dorney Youth Club (during term time) For Children of the Parish.	Dorney Village Hall	6 to 7.30 pm
Fri	8			
Sat	9	Diwali Celebration	Dorney Village Hall	6.00 to 1100 pm
Sun	10	Remembrance Service	St James the Less Church, Dorney (Graveyard)	9.15 am
		Dorney Short Mat Bowls Club	Dorney Village Hall	7 to 10 pm
Mon	11	Pilates Class	Dorney Village Hall	9.00 am
Tue	12	The Charteris Club: Lunch Dorney Badminton Club Dorney Parish Council Meeting	Eton Wick Village Hall Dorney Village Hall Dorney Village Hall	12.00 noon 8 to 10 pm 8 p.m.
Wed	13	Yoga Class - Gentle Yoga Yoga Class - Chair Yoga The Charteris Club:Lunch Pilates Class	Dorney Village Hall Dorney Village Hall Eton Wick Village Hall Dorney Village Hall	10 am 11.45 am 12.00 noon 2.00 pm
Thu	14	Dorney Youth Club (during term time) For Children of the Parish.	Dorney Village Hall	6 to 7.30 pm
Fri	15			

Dorney Diary

Day Date Activity Venue Time

NOV

Sat	16	Private Run - car park and footpaths closed until 2.00 pm	Dorney Lake	
Sun	17	Private Duathlon & Run - car park and footpaths closed until 2.00 pm	Dorney Lake	
		Dorney Short Mat Bowls Club	Dorney Village Hall	7 to 10 pm
Mon	18	Pilates Class	Dorney Village Hall	9.00 am
Tue	19	Something New	Dorney Village Hall	10.30 to 12.30
		The Charteris Club: Lunch	Eton Wick Village Hall	12.00 noon
		Dorney Badminton Club	Dorney Village Hall	8 to 10 pm
Wed	20	Yoga Class - Gentle Yoga	Dorney Village Hall	10 am
		Yoga Class - Chair Yoga	Dorney Village Hall	11.45 am
		The Charteris Club: Lunch	Eton Wick Village Hall	12.00 noon
		Pilates Class	Dorney Village Hall	2.00 pm
Thu	21	Dorney Youth Club (during term time) For Children of the Parish.	Dorney Village Hall	6 to 7.30 pm
		Quiz Night	The Pineapple	8.00 pm
Fri	22	Dorney Horticultural Society's Annual Dinner	Dorney Village Hall	7.30 pm
Sat	23			
Sun	24	Private Run - car park & footpaths restricted between 1.00 p and 5.00pm	Dorney Lake	
		Dorney Short Mat Bowls Club	Dorney Village Hall	7 to 10 pm
Mon	25	Pilates Class	Dorney Village Hall	9.00 am
Tue	26	The Charteris Club: Lunch	Eton Wick Village Hall	12.00 noon
		Dorney Badminton Club	Dorney Village Hall	8 to 10 pm
Wed	27	Yoga Class - Gentle Yoga	Dorney Village Hall	10 am
		Yoga Class - Chair Yoga	Dorney Village Hall	11.45 am
		The Charteris Club: Lunch	Eton Wick Village Hall	12.00 noon
		Pilates Class	Dorney Village Hall	2.00 pm
Thu	28	Dorney Youth Club (during term time) For Children of the Parish.	Dorney Village Hall	6 to 7.30 pm
Fri	29			
Sat	30			

Contacts

Dorney Badminton Club

Dorney Youth Club

Pilates Class

Something New

Yoga Classes

The Charteris Club

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THE MYSTERIOUS COUNTESS SERKOFF

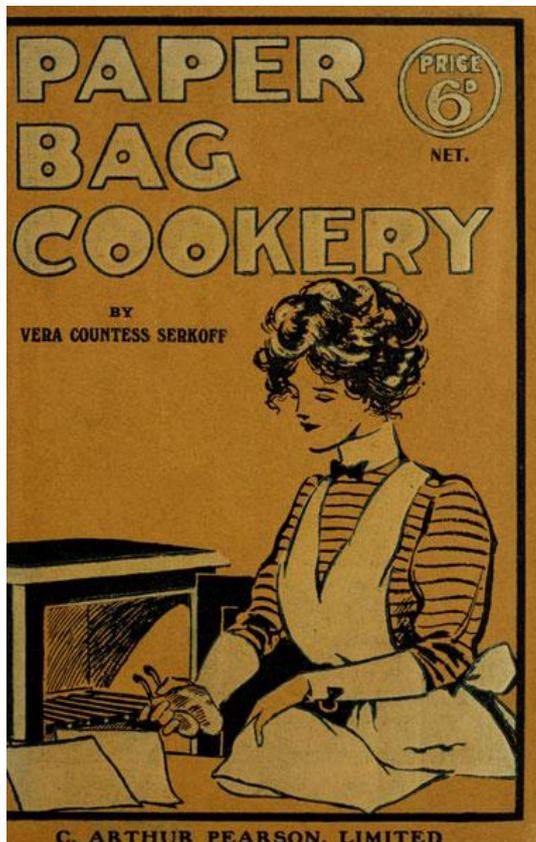
When my research into the history of Dorney Reach revealed a previous resident called Countess Serkoff, my curiosity was piqued. Who was she?

Her name was recorded as Countess Vera Elizabeth Henrietta Serkoff. The records show that, sometime between 1917 and 1923, she came to live as a tenant in the house called Willowcroft, in Dorney Reach Road, on the bank of the Thames. I soon discovered that she had been an author, publishing quite a range of material. But where had she come from?

It turned out that the countess was actually Scottish. Born Elizabeth Henrietta Swan in Greenock in 1858, I found her living with her parents and siblings in Scotland between 1861 and 1891. Sometime before 1899, she had become Countess Serkoff, and acquired the additional forename Vera. By 1901, she stated that she was a widow.

I have uncovered no evidence of her marriage, nor any sign of a Count Serkoff. The name seems pretty uncommon. An actor calling himself Ivan Serkoff was performing in provincial theatre in the Midlands in 1898. Nicolay Serkoff, a Russian doctor, passed through England on his way to the USA in 1913. Could either of these have been her husband? Did she travel abroad, perhaps to Russia, and marry there? She seems to have claimed some knowledge of Russia; the earliest published work I have found was an article on Russian child life which she contributed to a mother and baby magazine in 1899. Or did she simply reinvent herself as the widowed Countess Vera Serkoff, perhaps to help her succeed as an author? We will probably never know.

In 1901 and 1911, Vera was living in London with her younger sister Agnes Macdonald Swan, who worked as a stenographer. Agnes came to live with Vera in Dorney Reach. By



this time, she had already written for many publications. From 1903, her romantic short stories with titles like “The Infatuation of Phyllis” and “Rooted in Dishonour” were published in the weekend newspapers. A review of “Sir William’s patient” in The Ladies’ Pictorial in 1908 described it as *“a capital example of what a short story should be – well constructed and interesting”*. In 1909, she began writing children’s stories such as “Betty’s New Teddy Bear” and “Peggy and the Prince”, followed the same year by a serialised adult thriller, “In Desperation”.

1911 saw the publication of the book for which Vera became most renowned – “Paper Bag Cookery”. This set out detailed instructions and 200 recipes for cooking meat, fish, vegetables and all kinds of dishes inside paper bags within an oven. The book was widely publicised in the newspapers and can still be read online. Cooking in paper bags was, for a time, a popular trend; other authors also got on the bandwagon, and it has been suggested that Vera simply copied the recipes and techniques of pioneers

of the method. She had already penned another cookery book, called “The Visits of Doris; Cookery Hints to a Young Housewife, with a selection of specially prepared recipes for making dainty dishes suitable for everyday use”.

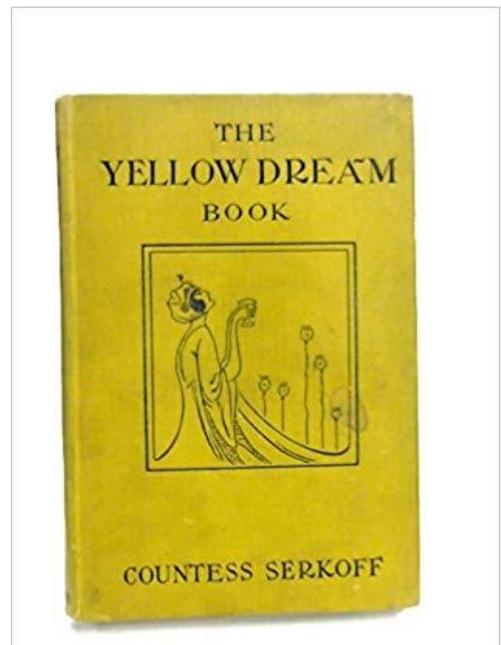
The following year, Vera felt moved to write to the editor of the London Daily News, in response to a letter about what was described as “the food problem”. Headlined “How the poor live”, the countess asserted that the advice people should eat lentils, beans and oatmeal, because they were nutritious and cheap, was pointless. The very poor wouldn’t eat them because they preferred the taste of bread and dripping, or fried fish and chips, which required little cooking; while the working man insisted on roast joints of meat. Vera went on to say, *“There lies before me now a book published in the beginning of the last century [i.e. early 1800s] advocating the use of lentils for the poor; advice as little followed then as now. The solution to the question is this: educate the children....”*

By 1914, the campaign for women to have the right to vote was well underway. Vera was a supporter of the suffragists, who differed from the suffragettes in pursuing peaceful means of protest. She was one of many prominent women suffragists who signed a memorial to the Prime Minister seeking to outlaw flogging as a punishment for men. She also wrote articles for “The Humanitarian”.

After 1919, Vera’s output of fiction seems to have declined, but she continued to produce non-fiction. 1920 saw the reprint in paperback of “The Visits of Doris”.

In 1926, when living in Dorney Reach, she published “The Yellow Dream Book: a new and reliable guide to the interpretation of our dreams”, and she contributed to an anthology on fortune telling.

The British Library catalogue entry for “The Yellow Dream Book” records Vera’s name as Vyera Serkova, and a book on Russian cooking notes that Countess Vera Serkoff, the author of “Paper Bag Cookery”, was also known as Vyera Syerkova. Was she presenting herself as of Russian origin? Who did her neighbours in Dorney think she was?



Vera and her sister lived at Willowcroft until her death in 1933. Agnes moved back to London and was described as a writer in 1939. She died unmarried in 1947.

Virginia Silvester

Nature Notes - Global warming/global warning!

Whilst the agricultural sector is receiving both direct and indirect support through the implementation of Government policies, it is gratifying to see the many indirect initiatives which are now supported by non-governmental sources. A few of the most interesting are described here.

The government 'Committee for Climate Change' (CCC), has set the scene by stating that almost a billion trees must be planted by 2050 as Britain's contribution to off-setting global warming. The landscape needs to be transformed and people's habits will have to change drastically in order to reduce green-house emissions to 'net zero' by the middle of the century, so the CCC claims.

One fifth of farmland must be turned into forest, peatland or be used for biomass crops. Also, it is suggested that 200,000 miles of hedgerows will need to be established. The government claims it would 'dramatically' 'accelerate' tree planting and redirect farming subsidies after Brexit to pay landowners to create new forests. The size of CCC's proposals are huge, recommending that 30,000 hectares of trees should be planted each year, treble the current rates. Based on 3,000 saplings per hectare that would entail 2.7 billion trees being planted by 2050 or 90 million per year.

The Parish scores well if we take into account plantings made over the last twenty years and those associated with the Dorney Lake and the Jubilee River.



Grass verges beside some 300,000 miles of road will be left to grow longer (and messier) under a plan by Plantlife (a charity) - www.plantlife.org.uk - to encourage wildflowers, bees and butterflies simply by halving the frequency of cutting. Many verges are cut four times per year, but this will be reduced to no more than twice a year under new guidelines adopted by highways authorities. The reduction in mowing will allow flowers to set seed rather than being cut in their prime. This, in turn will increase the number and species of rare flowers.

Plantlife recommends no cutting at all during the main flowering and seeding period from the end of March to mid-August. More wildflowers should attract more insect pollinators to the 700 flower species associated with verges. Also, the guidelines will save councils money spent on mowing. The loss of 97 per cent of wildflower meadows over the past century meant that verges had become much more important as wildlife habitat. Such a planting of wild flowers was very successful along the Eton Wick Road. by local farmer Malcolm Kinross a few years ago. **Wayfarer**



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Janet Messitt 01628 664307
Kristina Perkins 07971 816130**

**Peter Bowman 01628 623228
Peter Tyler 01628 621560
Wendy Shephard 07803 179962**

Dorney Village Hall

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Taplow – A Station with a Future as well as a Proud Past

In last month's issue of this magazine, we published a detailed and affectionate article about the history of Taplow Station. The writer, Virginia Silvester, alerted the editor to extensive expected changes that, with the impending arrival of Crossrail, would benefit Dorney travellers from the station.

These improvements can be summarised into three trends –

1. From December, Transport for London (TfL) is taking over services between Paddington and Reading from GWR.
2. At the same time, a new timetable will tend to increase the frequency of services between Taplow and Paddington, especially in the peak morning rush hour.
3. Emerging from the long-term builders' workings is an improved environment for passengers while they are on the station.

TfL are very proud of the introduction next January of contactless ticketing across the whole route to Reading. Oyster Card usage won't stretch west of West Drayton it seems, but if you're lucky enough to have friends and family who live in London and have a Freedom Pass, they can visit by rail for free. Existing ticket office arrangements and paper-based tickets will remain. No definite news of ticket prices next year, but it seems some routes on the line, which exclude London stations might be cheaper. Crossrail structures are being introduced before non-stop travel on the Elizabeth Line through the central section to points east begins, but this is targeted for the end of 2020.

Some GWR fast trains into Paddington will be GWR run, but except for late nights and early mornings, all trains stopping at Taplow will be operated by TfL Rail. A complete breakdown of the new timetable requires more time and space than we have at present. It seems to me that while the basic half hourly stopping service carries on in off-peak, there is a big increase in peak trains available to us. I counted 10 trains to Paddington before 0900 on the current GWR timetable. From December, I estimate 17.

Perhaps the most eye-catching change is that trains will now run from Taplow to Paddington and Reading on Sundays.

If you've used Taplow Station in the last few weeks, already you will have noticed changes. Waiting rooms have been refurbished and, for the first time in my memory as a long-term station user, such a room is now on the Reading bound platform. The new footbridge is under construction, with lifts, and the station will have step free access by March. By mid-2020, there will be an enlarged ticket hall and automatic ticket gates. There are new seating and benches plus more plant pots and flowers. There are no plans to cut staff and local recruitment is planned. One disappointment to me was the lack of plans to extend car parking facilities.

We have a 'station master', Carla Polderman...and I've got her email address. Readers, therefore, can look forward to further updates.

Peter Bowman

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Bridget.taylor61@gmail.com



Planning Applications (Validated) during October 2019 Dorney Parish

From South Bucks District Council Planning website:
pa.chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk/online-applications/

Group of 5 Lawson cypress trees adjacent to the gate entrance - fell (Boveney Conservation Area)

The Lodge Boveney Court Boveney Road Dorney Buckinghamshire SL4 6QD
Ref. No: PL/19/3636/KA | Validated: Wed 23 Oct 2019

Redevelopment of stable block and ancillary buildings to provide detached dwelling and double garage

Boveney Court Boveney Road Dorney Buckinghamshire SL4 6QD
Ref. No: PL/19/3528/HB | Validated: Mon 14 Oct 2019

The installation of a guardrail to the perimeter of flat roofs to prevent maintenance operatives falling.

Dorney School Harcourt Close Dorney Reach Buckinghamshire SL6 0DY
Ref. No: PL/19/3382/FA | Validated: Fri 11 Oct 2019



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The Parish Pump

A summary of the October 2019 Dorney Parish Council Meeting

The full Minutes can be found on www.dorney.org.uk

- **M4 Smartmotorway** Cllr Harris circulated a draft letter which was to be sent to Martin Tett, Leader of Bucks CC, Mark Shaw, Portfolio Member for Transportation, Dominic Grieve MP and other interested parties. The letter raises urgent concerns that when Marsh Lane bridge is removed and there is only one route between Dorney village and Dorney Reach, that route needs to have been made safe. None of the work required to do this has been carried out by Bucks CC even though it is planned that the bridge is closed from October 31st. Jim Stacey (Highways England) and Matt Orchard (Balfour Beatty) agreed with the letter and stated that they had raised these concerns at the Stakeholders' meetings and that it was the responsibility of the local Highways Authority to take these issues on board. Cllr Harris added that to make matters worse, Bucks CC are proposing to close Common Road for two weeks to renew the cattle grid and two days of this overlapped with the bridge closure, leaving only one way into Dorney via Lake End Road. Jim Stacey said that the bridge demolition would take 48 hours and, unavoidably, would be very noisy. Matt Orchard said the temporary road through from Oak Stubbs Lane into the Village Hall entrance had been installed. He now had a copy of the landscaping plan around the bridge showing all the native species to be used in the planting. The dog bin in Trumper's Field is now accessible for emptying and that as the streetlight has also been made accessible, Dorney PC's streetlight contractor has now repaired it. He would investigate the report by Stephen Baker (member of the public) that heavy lorries were flipping up the drain cover at the top of Marsh Lane and put it right. Jim Stacey appreciated all the positive comments from residents regarding the M4 workers in these difficult times. Matt Orchard assured the meeting that heavy construction vehicles will be servicing the bridge work via the motorway and that there will be a minimum of such vehicles coming through Dorney. He will discuss with the School the use of the turning circle in Oak Stubbs Lane for long vehicles/school coaches. The soil from Orchard Herbs Farm had been analysed and there were traces of asbestos in it so it cannot be used by Highways England. The final outcome was unclear, but the Compulsory Purchase of this site would be complicated. The topsoil removed from Lake End bridge will be stored carefully at the Junction 10 depot and re-used. Later in the meeting, the PC agreed to send the draft letter just discussed about safety concerns when Marsh Lane bridge is removed to Cllr Tett, Cllr Shaw and Dominic Grieve MP
- **SBDC Report** Cllr Pepler reported that the Planning Inspector for the Local Plan inquiry will be appointed shortly. The Inspector for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) Inquiry has already been appointed and the hearing will go ahead at SBDC on 15/1/20 for approval. He had been advised by Chris Marchant, Head of Environment for SBDC that the unemptied dog bins outside the Village Hall will be sorted. The overgrown hedge in Huntercombe Lane South has improved. The Conservative Party had selected George Sandy, Kirsten Ashman and Paul Kelly to stand for election for this area. He will invite them to an introductory meeting with Dorney PC. Cllr Foxley raised the problem of the litter bins outside the Village Hall not being emptied twice a week and the large red Biffa bin which has been removed from the Jubilee River layby causing large piles of rubbish to accumulate. John Barker (member of the public) raised concerns again about the waste pile at Orchard Herbs Farm getting even bigger. Stephen Baker said that residents would like to know more about what is happening in their community. Cllr Harris said that Dorney PC takes up many issues and councillors do their best to resolve them, bearing in mind Parish Councillors are all volunteers. Cllr Smith urged residents to find out lots of information from the Bucks CC and SBDC websites. Cllr Foxley added that she now posts a lot of parish issues on Next Door, which seems to be proving a popular social medium by which to disseminate information.

- **Clerk's Report** Trumper's Field has now been cut and baled. The Finance Meeting will be after the November council meeting. External Audit had now been completed with no issues raised. This will be presented at the next meeting.
- **Defibrillators** Cllr Pepler confirmed that £600 was approved from the SBDC Chairman's Fund. Cllr Foxley had also asked Cllr Dhillon for funding and then will approach the Heathrow Community Grant for match funding.
- **Update on the parking situation in Court Lane** Bucks CC's double yellow line Consultation ends on October 25th.
- **Response to Community Board Consultation** There is an additional meeting of SBALC on November 14th to discuss this.
- **Community Speedwatch Scheme** Cllr Dax is organising the first use of the speedwatch camera with the volunteers for w/c November 4th. Cllr Harris agreed to turn off the existing VAS sign when the speed camera is being used in the vicinity.
- **Emergency Plan** Cllr Smith reported work in progress.
- **Other complaints/comments from residents** (i) A local resident was concerned about the double yellow lines at the entrance to the Rowing Lake not being done before the bridge closure and also the narrowing of the southbound lane of Marsh Lane, which approaches a blind bend. Both the hedge and the soil of the verge had encroached on the highway, resulting in large vehicles approaching the corner on the wrong side of the road. Will large vehicles associated with the motorway works use this route during the bridge closure? Will the postponement of the cattle grid replacement lead to scheduling during the closure period, leaving Dorney Reach even more cut off? Many of our local roads, including Lake End Road and Harcourt Road, have substantial amounts of grass growing in the gutters, which is not shifted by road sweeping vehicles. Whose responsibility is it to clear these properly? The Clerk has contacted the Waste Manager at SBDC who responded that the roads will be swept this year. (ii) One more letter has been received preferring RBWM over Buckinghamshire. (iii) Cllr Dax is meeting with the Head of Eton Dorney School regarding the ownership of the boundary trees and the bins being left outside over the weekends. (iv) Cllr Dax reported that no one has a key for the locked gates at the Jubilee River. Emergency services could not access the river during a recent horse-riding accident. She has written to the Environment Agency and Dorney PC will do the same.
- **Highways Work** The tractor needs two new front tyres, costing approximately £400. It was noted that John Farrell will not be able to drive the tractor into Dorney while the cattle grid work is being carried out.
- **Next Meeting** November 12, 2019, at 8pm in Dorney Village Hall, followed by the finance meeting.

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Dorney History Group

The Dorney History Group has no meetings, currently, but it has a wealth of information about Dorney's past on its website: www.dorney-history-group.org.uk, with over 6,000 web visitors each year.

Eton Wick History Group

The Eton Wick History Group has been meeting regularly since 1992. Eton Wick and the surrounding area is rich in history and the village has a heritage dating back to 1217.

Meetings are held at 7.30 pm in Eton Wick Hall, Eton Wick, and everyone is welcome. Refreshments are served, and there is a charge of £2.00 to cover costs.

Visitors and new members are always very welcome.

2019 Programme

11th December 2019	'The Early Days of Fire Fighting in Bray, Eton and Eton Wick', with Mr Geoff Hayes
--------------------	---

Further details from: Teresa Stanton teresams35@virginmedia.com

Hedgerley Historical Society

Monthly Meetings of Hedgerley Historical Society take place at Hedgerley Memorial Hall, Kiln Lane, Hedgerley SL2 3UZ at 8pm (unless otherwise stated) and visitors are most welcome.

2019 Programme

November 20 th	'Royal Collection Trust', Nicola Turner Inman
December 4 th	'Railway Pubs and Refreshment Rooms', Bob Barton

Further details from: John Lovelock 01753 647187 jdlovelock@btinternet.com

DORNEY BADMINTON CLUB

We are an adult badminton club and welcome any new members with some previous experience and knowledge of scoring.

We play on Tuesday evenings in Dorney Village Hall, 8-10 pm at £4.00 per night.

We play Men's doubles, Lady's doubles and mixed depending on the number of players.

Come and join us for the exercise and a fun evening.

For more information please contact Teresa McGuinness on 0777 6364046

or teresamcg52@gmail.com

Dorney Parish News

Published monthly (except January and August)

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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 July and December) 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.

Rate Card:

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Full Page	190	130	£90	£12
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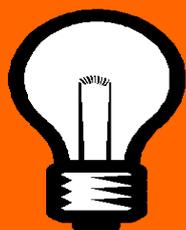
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BHS & ABRS Approved Riding School and Pony Club Centre



**Elm Farm, Boveney Road, Dorney Common
Nr Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 6QD**

**We are a family run Riding School based on
Dorney Common established for over 35 years!**

- *Qualified Instructors*
- *Lessons available from 7 years upwards*
- *Pony Rides available for children as young as 4.*
- *We offer very popular Birthday parties*
- *Large Indoor and Outdoor schools*
- *Pony Club and Own a Pony activity days*
- *Open 6 days a week, Tuesday-Sunday*
- *Gift Vouchers available through the website*

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