# Dorney Parish News

December 2019/January 2020



# M. A. SHEPHARD BUILDERS LTD

-Est 1983 -

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M. A. Shephard Builders Ltd. are proud of our heritage and our workmanship. We have been trading for over 30 years and, in that time, we have developed a professional relationship with suppliers, building surveyors and other professionals.

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#### **EDITORIAL**

2019 has been a significant year. Let's not even think about that in the national context, but 2019 has been important for our village, and if I can be, as it were parochial, this soon to be ending year has been a memorable one for 'Dorney Parish News'.

At the start of the year, there was just a feeling that production of the magazine needed to have more flexibility and the reader required a more vibrant, not to say colourful, experience. Once conversations started with printers who provided their services digitally online, growing opportunities opened up. Most important, perhaps, is full colour. Advertisers can change their copy from issue to issue and selecting each month's colour cover is perhaps the most satisfying (and easiest) of tasks.

Readers have been almost entirely positive. The request from us is constant for feedback both about our community and the progress of your magazine. I've learnt that Dorney people are positive, opinionated and supportive. That comes from attending more meetings this year, having more conversations about this village and the online chatter on social media, especially Next Door. Everybody seems to relish our present and are intrigued by the village's past.

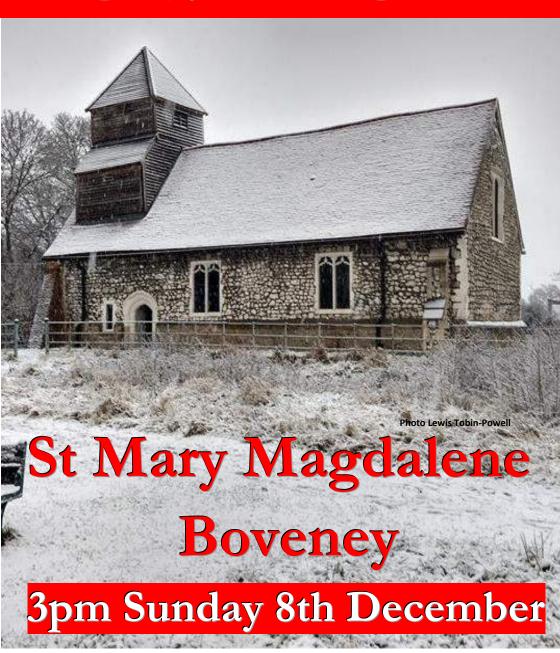
A portion of such residents provide regular vivid contributions to our editorial. My thanks go out to them. It is no disrespect to those contributors that we have to say we are looking for more of them!

Much is happening in Dorney. In these pages this often takes the form of describing the latest challenges to our environment and who could, or should, be leading the defence. But, sadly for an editor, the background gentle hum of everyday village life nowadays seems absent. Looking at issues in the archive reveals a rich tapestry some half a century ago – regularly featured were the cricket club, the Women's Institute and the Dorney Players. The only survivor seems to be the Horticultural Society (and how great to see a full Village Hall for the annual Pre-Christmas Supper!), but this magazine once carried reports from the Square Dance Club and the Loco-Spotters Club and more besides. Let's hear more about the regular activities in the Parish – monthly reports from the new Head of Dorney School lead the way.

The coming of the festive season and the end of the year is the perfect time to give thanks. Thanks again to those contributors, especially the handful of newcomers in 2019, who make 'Dorney Parish News' (hopefully) a good read. I've been told by several readers how the arrival of each issue is the excuse to make a cup of tea and put the feet up ready for a browse. One writer, 'Wayfarer', returned this year after a long absence. Thanks to advertisers, many of whom have been creative – we've enjoyed solving the colour and copy changes requested. The enthusiastic and meticulous distributors continue to perform marvels. Bill Dax is listed as 'Production', which barely begins to describe the benefits of his wisdom and technical wizardry. Jean Spencer continues to deploy her proof-reading skills. We have welcomed some new readers this year, and, as far as I'm aware not said goodbye to many. After all, it's you, dear readers, whose enthusiasm and support we should be the most thankful for. Have a Happy Christmas. We'll see you again in February 2020.

#### Peter Bowman

# ADVENT CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT



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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: revlastacev@gmail.com

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

One of the insights of the Hebrew Scriptures is that the creative life-force, whatever name you put to it - and Hebrew uses several - is linked with goodness. When Moses and the Israelites stand looking across to the Promised Land, Moses offers them a choice: 'Today I've placed in front of you Life and Good; Death and Evil. And I command you today: Love God, your God. Walk in his ways' (Translation by E. Petersen). These last days of November are the end of the church year when we ponder the end of things, when stuff is shown up for good or bad. Sooner or later it will be revealed whether our decisions have been life-giving or destructive.

We people have a decision to make on 12<sup>th</sup> December: it's judgement time! The political parties are setting out their version of the promised land before us and we are asked to choose. The choice we make will have repercussions on a large scale: how we combat the heating of our planet, what our place will be in the geopolitical landscape. But it will also affect individuals, right down to the tiniest life. I don't want to live in a society where a baby born in prison dies because of neglect.

There was another baby whose birth we remember year on year who grounded the Jewish vision, living his life to reveal that goodness and moral uprightness are not abstract concepts somewhere up there in the blue-sky but are encountered in every word or act of kindness. That is what incarnation means. So, a difficult decision, but I'll be placing my vote praying the elected government will look at the actual needs of real people and tackle those, and that the life of our Christmas baby was not lived in vain.

#### Church Services in December 2019 and January 2020

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#### M4 Update - An Exciting Weekend



Jim Stacey of Highways England is clearly a chap who loves his job. He proclaimed at the latest meeting of our Parish Council that the coming weekend, which would see three major undertakings including the demolition of the Marsh Lane bridge, would be 'exciting'. He was aware enough to admit that Dorney residents might not share that emotion.

It's not just the noise and disruption. If there is growing awareness of carbon footprints and a dawning realisation that Highways England have been rather too gung-ho about the supposed safety of smart motorways, then it would hardly be surprising if we all wonder 'is it worth it?'

A resident asked about the Department of Transport's enquiry into smart motorway safety. I rather think Jim misjudged it again. That was all about 'dynamic' motorways which lose their hard shoulders at peak times. Nothing to worry about, the M4 version of 'smart' is 'all lane running' with no hard shoulder. Reading through every statement around the enquiry.

can see no indication that the Secretary of State's opinion that 'people are dying on smart motorways' did not refer to all smart motorways. After all, the President of the AA had been calling for a 'review into the safety of All Lane Running... we have already seen fatalities where vehicles have been left in vulnerable positions in live lanes...it takes an average of 17 minutes to spot a stationary vehicle in a live lane'.

There is tremendous ingenuity and deep expertise among Dorney residents, and I rather think this has come to the fore in recent times and the evidence for it were the suggestions which flowed in the open session of the Parish Council and last weekend's posts on Next Door. There were many tales of near misses and mis-directions now Marsh Lane is closed. Highways England seemed to accept all suggestions. Of course, signage has been misleading (ML-N? ML-S?). Let's have better warning of the upcoming closure as far back as the Lake and Crocus entrance and no, the blockade at the former bridge is not highly visible to approaching traffic, especially at night.

The Parish Council seems to have been persuasive too. Transport for Bucks appears to have agreed the realignment of the junction of Court Lane and Village Road which gives priority to Lake End traffic, an arrangement which worked well during the Olympics. Work on the yellow lines has begun and the vegetation has been cut back opposite the Lake entrance – a welcome move which caused some hilarity as the yellow lines were (temporarily) marooned some 18 inches from the former roadside.

Friday November 15<sup>th</sup> came. I retired with the motorway gloriously empty and quiet. In the small hours, cacophony reigned. Little sleep was to be had by anyone in Dorney Reach. Next morning, I got as close as I could to the bridge (or yawning gap as it now was) and the crescendo of 20-ton diggers and pneumatic breakers had largely been pacified. The work force was cheerful. The night had gone well. We were not in for a sleepless night on Saturday.

Comment, largely scathing, cascaded on to Next Door. New points were raised. Sim Singh took a vivid photograph and pointed out that all normal protocols were apparently being bypassed and it appeared that adequate sprinklers were not being used to stop dust. Many wondered whether Highways England might be willing to fund a clean up as pictures and stories of dust coated cars and garden furniture emerged. I gather that Highways England's complaints line (0300 123 5000) had a busy Saturday dealing with calls from this neck of the woods.

We might say it's like living in a war zone, but of course, it isn't. We'll all survive. But these recent events will make us all aware of what is at stake with a 12-month loss of one of major entry routes. Maybe Jim Stacey is in for more excitement as residents might just have a few more questions for him as the project proceeds into 2020.



#### DORNEY'S FIRST VILLAGE HALL

The village hall in Dorney Reach will celebrate its fiftieth birthday next year. This was Dorney's second village hall. When it was opened, in October 1970, the ribbon was cut by Miss Bennett, former headmistress of Dorney school. She had been an active member of the committee which had run the first village hall since that opened in 1930. In the parish magazine in the summer of 1960, she recalled the opening ceremony thirty years previously and wondered how many people in Dorney remembered it as vividly as she did. I wonder, now, how many residents remember the old village hall at all?

In common with other villages, in the late 1920s Dorney began to feel the need for a centre where social events could be held. The first steps to providing a hall for Dorney were taken in the spring of 1929. King Edward VII Hospital in Windsor was putting up for sale three huts which had been used as temporary accommodation after a fire. Fund raising started, and in the autumn a bid for £140 for one of the buildings was accepted.

The building was made of corrugated iron, 86 feet long and 20 feet wide. Dorney now had to dismantle it, transport it to the village, re-erect it and fit it out. The site chosen for the hall was next to the school at the very end of Dorney village, the last building before the common as Southfield Close had not then been built. The land, which formed part of Dorney Court Farm, was donated by Colonel Palmer.

The building arrived in January 1930, and T Quarterman from White Heather Garage then began the work to erect it and make it ready for use – drainage, water supply and coal stoves for heating. A strong gale blew the building down while it was being put up, causing some damage, and a shortage of funds delayed completion.



Eventually, the hall had its grand opening on 26 July – not quite finished, but good enough. The event started at 4pm, when Lady Florence Duncombe, from Taplow, performed the opening ceremony. This was followed by a Baby Show (30 entrants!), a garden fete in the grounds of Dorney House, and a boxing display. To finish, villagers enjoyed a whist drive, a concert and dancing.

At this time, there was no electricity supply to Dorney village. So, coal and coke had to be delivered for heating, kindling wood provided, and lamps used for lighting, at least some of which were oil lamps. Another familiar village name, Mr and Mrs Oxlade, were asked to become the first caretakers, their responsibilities including lighting the fires and lamps when required.

At last the hall was ready to host events. A stage was provided; there was a piano and fifty chairs. The first social activity was a whist drive on 18 October 1930. Many events were held to raise money for hall funds, tickets being sold by the village baker and grocer, Mr Barksfield. A rummage sale in November raised over £14. In its first year, the hall hosted plays, concerts, dances, socials and a children's party, as well as the popular whist drives. In the summer months, the cricket team which played on the Common used the hall for its teas.

As funds allowed, small improvements were made. Gramophone records were purchased, though for the dances a live band was hired; a wireless licence was paid for; a clock was installed. Electricity arrived in 1932, and electric lights were fitted. Card tables with felt tops were bought in 1936, and new playing cards and a tea urn in 1939. A flagpole was put up in 1937, perhaps in preparation to celebrate the coronation of King George VI.

The autumn of 1939 found the hall windows papered over for the wartime blackout. The hall continued to see social functions during the war, but it also found itself used for the evacuees, as a temporary schoolroom, and for Home Guard exercises. Some Royal Engineers were billeted there in November 1942, and there were fund raising events in aid of "Salute the Soldier" and "Wings for Victory". The end of the war was celebrated by a Victory Social on 9 May 1945 and a Victory Dance on 1 June. These were followed by meetings of the Labour, Liberal and Conservative parties, as a general election loomed.

Post war years saw wedding receptions, junior Red Cross, film shows, and table tennis in the hall. A boys' club (15-21!) and a WI branch were started. The devastating floods in the winter of 1947 were marked by a flood relief concert. New cups and saucers, a tea urn, glasses and chairs were bought; Woolworths was the go-to store for crockery and glassware. In the 1950s, dressmaking and gloving classes were held. The horticultural show was a July fixture; the young wives had a social, and the old people were given a party.

A stand-alone extension was added at the back of the hall in 1955, put up by the Quarterman family who continued to be responsible for most of the hall maintenance. In 1959 the school moved to new premises in Dorney Reach. The old school building was offered as a community centre, but the suggestion was rejected as too costly to run. Heating in the hall was still provided by coal stove. An oil heater was tried but was not successful. It was not until 1959 that the first electric heaters were installed. The décor of the hall interior at this time was pink and white.

The 1960s saw an increase in private parties at the hall, often hired by non-Dorney residents. It was perhaps this that resulted in a petition from locals in May 1962. Southfield Close had been built between the hall and the common, and people who lived there were annoyed by visitors to the village hall parking on their footpaths and verges and creating disturbance when they left to drive home late at night. Serious consideration was given to converting the old school playground into a car park. This proved unworkable, as access would have been impossible; the schoolhouse was still occupied by Mr Eastgate, headmaster of the new school, and the former school was being used as a library store.

Pressure to replace the hall began to grow through 1962 and 1963. As well as lacking a car park, the hall was "draughty, difficult to heat and inconvenient in many ways". Frequent repairs were needed, among which dealing with two burst water pipes and guttering damaged by heavy snow during the severe winter in early 1963. Initially a plan was mooted to build a new hall on the old school playground and use the existing hall site as a car park. In the end, as we know, the position chosen for the new hall was in Dorney Reach, near the new school. While the new hall was being planned and constructed, the old hall continued to be patched and mended, to fulfil its functions until the new one was ready. Finally, the district council snapped up the old hall site to use for their plans to connect the village to mains drainage, and the old hall was demolished.

#### Virginia Silvester

#### **DORNEY SCHOOL**



#### RESPECT \* COLLABORATE \* GROW

#### **News from Dorney School**

As Headteacher at Dorney, I see the school as being a vital part of our community. The recent PTA Fireworks event highlighted this, as many members of the community attended even though many of their children had left the school. It was great to meet so many past and present members of the Dorney School community and the event had a wonderful, family atmosphere despite the rain!

The year is progressing quickly, and it is hard to believe that we have already had half a term at school this academic year! As a new Headteacher, I am now getting to know all the pupils, families and the wider Dorney community. It was great to attend the Dorney Parish Council meeting in early November, at which I was able to speak about the motorway works and its impact on our school. We look forward to working with the Parish Council and Highways England to support the school going forward.

We have recently held two Open Mornings for prospective parents, both of which received very positive feedback. We are always proud to be able to share the work that we do with our community, as we feel that we provide a high quality of education for the children in our care. This belief is supported by the high academic standards reached by our pupils, who are now achieving standards higher than many other local schools.

We are always looking for ways in which we can improve and are currently trialling a 'soft start' approach to the beginning of the school day. This is where pupils can arrive at school from 8:30 am onwards and go immediately into class to begin their work for the day. We have found that this has provided the children with a very calm and focused start to the school day, as well as providing an additional benefit for the community as traffic approaching the school should now be more staggered and less disruptive for local residents.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Dorney School.

Kind regards, Mr. Lloyd Headteacher





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Raffle



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### Entry by ticket only

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07776364046



#### **Dorney Diwali Celebrations**



Over 80 of us - both young and old - joined together in the Village Hall on 9th November to celebrate the Indian Festival of Light or Diwali. We were offered a delicious Indian buffet prepared by our local Indian ladies and danced the evening away in true Bollywood style to an enthusiastic Indian disco.

Over £1,600 was raised for charity from ticket and raffle sales - this will be divided between Macmillan Cancer Support, T.V.A.P, Mother Teresa's Orphanage in Goa and an education sponsorship for an Indian student.

Our thanks to everybody who contributed to this fantastic evening. See you again next year and remember all are welcome!!

#### Moni Hunjan





# Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December

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11.00am Holy Communion, Eton

Family Carols, Eton Wick 4.00pm

6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols, Dorney  $\stackrel{\wedge}{\longrightarrow}$ 

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# Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

9.30am Morning Worship, Dorney

11.00am Holy Communion, Eton Wick

4.30pm Family Praise, Eton Wick

# Tuesday 24th December, Christmas Eve

3.00pm Christingle, Dorney

4.30pm Christingle, Eton Wick

11.30pm Midnight Communion, Dorney

Wednesday 25th December, Christmas Day

10.15am Family Communion, Eton Wick

Benefice of Eton with Eton Wick & Boveney & Dorney \$\dagger\$\dagg

#### NOT FORGOTTEN



We rang the bells at Dorney Church 'half muffled,' that is where a pad of leather is strapped to one side of the clapper so that, as the bell swings, the unmuffled side produces a wonderful clear tone, and as the bell returns, the muffled side produces a haunting soft sound, so sad and evocative, it is beyond words.

Some of us had dressed to attend the memorial at Cookham where we rang their ten bells, but we started on Dorney's six.

It was magnificently slow and sombre, the half muffles agonisingly weeping over the disasters that had visited upon so many young people years ago. I thought of my Grandfather, eighteen, crouching terrified in shallow mud, freezing cold and underfed in the bottom of a trench on the Somme, listening for a whistle that might be the last thing he ever heard. I thought of youngsters trapped screaming in sinking ships, unable to get out, waiting for the inevitable end; my 21 year old father in HMS Exeter, a light cruiser being pounded by the much more superior Graf Spee off the River Plate, of airmen hurtling to the ground in burning planes, of disfigured burnt faces I had known in my immediate post war childhood; all this as we progressed through beautifully struck 'call changes.'

We didn't stop, any more than they did, and the sadness in me increased the longer we rang, until we stopped with a 'staggered stop' where the treble stops, the ringing continues then the second stops and so on until only the Tenor, the largest bell strikes mournfully alone, like the last surviving soldier until finally, it ended.

We quite spontaneously, all stood silent and moist eyed for a minute, each lost in his or her thoughts till one said softly, tears in his eyes, "It gets me every time."

It dawned on me that their sacrifice was made because of a failure of politics and politicians. Their sacrifice has given me a life where I have known no war where I was required to fight. I have only ever known prosperity, not real adversity, and I thank you ladies and gentlemen from the bottom of my heart, which, in itself seems inadequate.

I bounce my tiny grandchildren on my knee, gaze into their innocent faces, and pray that they never have to go through what my parents' generation did, and the generation before them. I worry that the failure of politics may lead to the same result once more as memories fade, Europe, the scene of the last two wars, breaks up and new generations understand only virtual war on screens where nobody actually bleeds or burns.

They were indeed heroes, although they didn't want to be. Long life and happiness were snatched away, which leads me to thinking of the late PC Andrew Harper of Abingdon, another reluctant hero.

I attended in a 'Ride of Respect' as did six thousand other bikers in the weak sunshine where 5000 bikers were expected to pay tribute to their fallen comrade. In fact, the final count is likely to top 6000.

Two Dorney ringers were among the nervous learners, hippy scooters and old hardened men in well-worn leathers astride huge Harleys, Hondas and BMWs.

At RAF Benson, exquisitely organised food, toilets and marshalling ran like a well-oiled bike chain; the security was for me a charming WRAF Sergeant who waved me through smilingly.



Refreshed, we were directed onto the road at funereal speed, to ride in solemn lines through pavement lined waving clapping crowds, past huge traffic jams held at roundabouts to aid our respectful progress. I saw a Transit pick-up driver loaded with fencing material lean out of his trapped driver's window and applaud enthusiastically as we passed.

We drove under an overbridge packed with waving cheering people and on to Abingdon where the streets were lined with crowds several deep similarly welcoming us to their town.

The crowd 'low fived' us, nurses stood outside the hospital, fire fighters stood in front of their blue lit appliance and police officers applauded.

We were held briefly; a huge man with wrists the size of my thighs, sitting astride a massive bike, pulled up alongside. Tears were rolling down his stubbled face.

I said, "I never expected this. It's quite remarkable!"

He replied through wet eyes, "It's all very emotional. I keep welling up."

As we arrived in RAF Abingdon and dispersed, I realised I had been part of something quite remarkable; and outpouring of support for the police and other services that keep us safe, and huge participation in the grief of PC Harper's family and colleagues.

As I rang so solemnly that Sunday, I thought of PC Harper; another young life sacrificed for keeping us safe.

We salute and thank all of you. You will not be forgotten.

#### Mike Quincey

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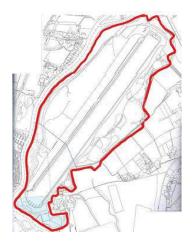


# Neighbourhood Policing Newsletter

#### Burnham/Farnham's/Taplow & Dorney

#### **Dorney Lake: Public Space Protection Order**

Following reports of Anti-Social Behaviour associated with the use of **Dorney Lake (and surrounding land, to the north of the River Thames), Court Lane, Dorney, Buckinghamshire SL4 6QP**, the South Bucks District Council propose to introduce a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to cover the area described above to combat this unwarranted behaviour. From 4th November there will be a 6-week consultation after which the responses will be considered with a view to deciding whether the introduction of a PSPO is justified. Below is a map of the proposed restricted area.



Restricted Area edged in Red

Please follow the link below to the website where you can read about the consultation process and view the draft Order. https://www.southbucks.gov.uk/pspo

If you have experienced or personally been affected by anti-social behaviour or have any positive or negative comments to make about the introduction of a PSPO, please respond to the consultation by email at <a href="mailto:envhealth@chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk">envhealth@chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk</a>

The consultation closes at 12 noon on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019**.







#### **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: <a href="https://www.dorney-history-group.org.uk">www.dorney-history-group.org.uk</a>, 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 with <b>Mr Geoff I</b>	s of Fire Fighting in Bray, Eton and Eton Wick', 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

December 4 <sup>th</sup>	'Railway Pubs and Refreshment	Rooms', <b>Bob Barton</b>
Further details from:	John Lovelock 01753 647187	jdlovelock@btinternet.com



STOP PRESS – Just before we go to press, the Horticultural Society's Pre-Christmas Supper was held in the Village Hall on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. A near record number of guests enjoyed a very happy occasion. The Hall was a picture with our new plush red tablecloths, looking good against the forest green new seats. There was Christmas bunting, festive swags and beautiful red rose posies. The Christmas dinner from Chrys Fisher of the Palmer Arms was so delicious.... how does he do it! Our guest vocalist, Charlie Carter delivered his two sets of harmonious

songs, filling the space with his rich sounds. A fuller report and our 2020 programme will be in the February issue. Meanwhile, for pictures of this evening and more detail on DDHS, follow the Society's new Facebook group.

### **Dorney Diary**

Day	Date DEC	Activity	Venue	Time
Sun	1	Private triathlon - car park & footpaths closed all day	Dorney Lake	
		Carols (No tickets required) Dorney Short Mat Bowls Club	Eton College Chapel Dorney Village Hall	6 pm 7 to 10 pm
Mon	2			
Tue	3	Dorney Badminton Club The Charteris Club: Lunch	Dorney Village Hall Eton Wick Village Hall	8 to 10 pm 12.00 noon
Wed	4	Yoga Class - Gentle Yoga Yoga Class - Chair Yoga The Charteris Club: Lunch	Dorney Village Hall Dorney Village Hall Eton Wick Village Hall	10 am 11.45 am 12.00 noon
Thu	5	Dorney Youth Club (during term time) For Children of the Parish.	Dorney Village Hall	6 to 7.30 pm
Fri	6			
Sat	7	Crocus Christmas Event: a special day of festive fun for the whole family	Crocus at Dorney Court	All Day
Sun	8	Dorney Short Mat Bowls Club	Dorney Village Hall	7 to 10 pm
Mon	9			
Tue	10	Something New The Charteris Club: Lunch Dorney Badminton Club Dorney Parish Council Meeting	Crocus: Dorney Court Eton Wick Village Hall Dorney Village Hall Dorney Village Hall	10.30 to 12.30 12.00 noon 8 to 10 pm 8 p.m.
Wed	11	Yoga Class - Gentle Yoga Yoga Class - Chair Yoga The Charteris Club: Lunch Dorney Youth Club (during term time) For Children of the Parish.	Dorney Village Hall Dorney Village Hall Eton Wick Village Hall Dorney Village Hall	10 am 11.45 am 12.00 noon 6 to 7.30 pm
Thu	12	General Election	Dorney Village Hall	7 am to 10pm
Fri	13			
Sat	14	Private Duathlon & Run - car park & footpaths closed until 2.00pm	Dorney Lake	
Sun	15	Dorney Short Mat Bowls Club	Dorney Village Hall	7 to 10 pm
Mon	16			
Tue	17	The Charteris Club: Lunch Dorney Badminton Club	Eton Wick Village Hall Dorney Village Hall	12.00 noon 8 to 10 pm
Wed	18	Yoga Class - Gentle Yoga Yoga Class - Chair Yoga The Charteris Club: Lunch	Dorney Village Hall Dorney Village Hall Eton Wick Village Hall	10 am 11.45 am 12.00 noon

Thu	19	Dorney Youth Club term time) For Children of the Paris		Dorney Village Hall	6 to 7.30 pm
Fri	20				
Sat	21				
Sun	22	Dorney Short Mat Bowls	Club	Dorney Village Hall	7 to 10 pm
Mon	23				
Tue	24	Dorney Badminton Club		Dorney Village Hall	8 to 10 pm
Wed	25				
Thu	26				
Fri	27				
Sat	28				
Sun	29				
Mon	30				
Tue	31	New Year's Eve Party		Dorney Village Hall	8.30 pm to 1230 am

# **Dorney Diary**

Day	Date JAN	Activity	Venue	Time
Wed	1			
Thu	2			
Fri	3			
Sat	4			
Sun	5			
Mon	6			
Tue	7	The Charteris Club: Lunch Dorney Badminton Club	Eton Wick Village Hall Dorney Village Hall	12.00 noon 8 to 10 pm
Wed	8	Yoga Class - Gentle Yoga Yoga Class - Chair Yoga The Charteris Club: Lunch	Dorney Village Hall Dorney Village Hall Eton Wick Village Hall	10 am 11.45 am 12.00 noon
Thu	9	Dorney Youth Club (during term time) For Children of the Parish.	Dorney Village Hall	6 to 7.30 pm
Fri	10			
Sat	11			
Sun	12	Dorney Short Mat Bowls Club	Dorney Village Hall	7 to 10 pm
Mon	13			
Tue	14	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	15	Yoga Class - Gentle Yoga Yoga Class - Chair Yoga The Charteris Club: Lunch	Dorney Village Hall Dorney Village Hall Eton Wick Village Hall	10 am 11.45 am 12.00 noon

Thu	16	Dorney Youth Club ( term time) For Children of the Parish		Dorney Village Hall	6 to 7.30 pm
Fri	17				
Sat	18				
Sun	19	Dorney Short Mat Bowls	Club	Dorney Village Hall	7 to 10 pm
Mon	20				
Tue	21	Something New The Charteris Club: Lunch Dorney Badminton Club	h	Dorney Village Hall Eton Wick Village Hall Dorney Village Hall	10.30 to 12.30 12.00 noon 8 to 10 pm
Wed	22	,		Dorney Village Hall Dorney Village Hall Eton Wick Village Hall	10 am 11.45 am 12.00 noon
Thu			Dorney Village Hall	6 to 7.30 pm	
Fri	24				
Sat	25				
Sun	26	Dorney Short Mat Bowls	Club	Dorney Village Hall	7 to 10 pm
Mon	Mon 27				
Tue	28	Dorney Badminton Club		Dorney Village Hall	8 to 10 pm
Wed	29	The Charteris Club: Luncl	h	Eton Wick Village Hall	12.00 noon
Thu	30				
Fri	31				

<u>Contacts</u>		
Dorney Badminton Club	Teresa McGuinness	07776364046
Dorney Youth Club	Leanne Kittel	07919 484855
Something New	Elaine Gyles	01753 841592
	emgyles@gmail.com	
Yoga Classes	Bridget Taylor	07880 541111
	bridget.taylor61@gm	nail.com
The Charteris Club	Julie Chappell	07598 565091

# **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

#### Something New

There is a flourishing group set up last year which meets monthly for coffee, biscuits and a natter in the Village Hall. Usually an interesting activity takes place. The normal meeting time is around 10.30am on the third Tuesday of each month. The group is called 'Something New'. If you're available at that time, say the organisers, do please come along and join in!

But as this is the Christmas month, December's meeting will be earlier – on the second Tuesday. The group will be meeting at 10.30am on December 10<sup>th</sup> for coffee and mince pies at Crocus in Dorney Court.

It sounds as though the group got into the Christmas spirit early, as November's meeting featured card making under the expert eye of Thea Pine. On January 21st, the group meets again in the Village Hall just for coffee. But as one of the members said, 'it's lovely to get together for a coffee and a chat'.



The Spanish Bit Riding School Pony Club held a cake sale on Saturday 2nd November in aid of the Thames Valley Air Ambulance, towards their fundraising badge.

The sale raised £470.62

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Or email support4parents@barnardos.org.uk

#### PANTO PANDEMONIUM ON DORNEY COMMON

As the Dorney end cattle grid closed, along with it came a stillness, as the stream of traffic that ratted across the common was halted. It was a glimpse of yesteryear, save for the occasional desperate commuters trying to chance their luck, looking for a gap in the hedge. Walking into the village, it too had an air of tranquillity, cars abandoned on the kerbside, and even the letterbox sealed up and temporarily out of use. It was interesting to walk along the empty road, imagine how it would have been many years back, when cars were a luxury and not a given requirement.

After the calm came the storm. Torrents of rain that washed behind the ears of England to soak and then flood the land. Week after week, heavy downpours left devastation, and here in Dorney, large puddles of splash brought out our wellies. Even my husband Dave, an all-year round gardener, reluctantly abandoned his latest project, to await a patch of dry whilst thawing his blue hands and red nose.

At the Maidenhead Drama Guild, a real-life drama unfolded to further dampen the rainy days. As the General Election was announced and later the date agreed, with horror we saw it fell mid-production. This meant that our Dick Whittington Panto would potentially be cut, along with the Operatic Society's Evita, which was on the week preceding. Our Desborough auditorium is used for ballot box preparation, and the council, in their wisdom, close the theatre for up to three weeks before and one week after the election day.

Since we are a not-for-profits group, with budgets clearly defined, we depend on the Panto profits to fund the season ahead. Fortuitously, after several meetings with the Returning Officers and bigwigs in charge, the procedures, remarkably, were changed, to give both productions the go-ahead. This was an amazing feat and may have been something to do with an ex-councillor being a member of our group (wink). A huge sigh of relief exhaled as our future was secured for another year.



As our work had been temporarily frozen (apart from rehearsals) this meant a top gear step up on the production line of things to make and do. This included making four five-metre fabric waves for our sea scene, two giant ostrich Burlesque feather fans for our palace scene, a huge golden throne with hot pink velvet seating and matching feather plumes for Queen Megabazooma, four two-metre adult rat tails, a Game of Thrones throne complete with 1000 swords, a six foot tall golden cage that came apart, a secret safe in a faux wall hidden behind an oil painting and a very large Spotted Dick.

The last object was one that caused the most consternation, as I was told by visitors walking past my creative studio (dining table), that it was no longer PC to call that item 'Spotted Dick', and the correct terminology was 'Spotted Pudding'! I thought

carefully about this and since there is a very comical scene in this show about Dick Whittington and the pudding, decided to ignore these comments as I don't think our sales would benefit by renaming the production 'Pudding Whittington'.

The last challenge is to paint two three-metre wooden trees that will sit as earpieces to the proscenium. Having the idea (foolishly) they would be sparkly red rose trees, this entailed making 150 red roses from foam and then dipping them in red glitter. About halfway through

24

now, our cottage floors have more sparkle than the Strictly costumes! Come see the Dorney red roses in the Desborough Theatre in Maidenhead - the production opens on Wednesday 11th December for five nights and seven shows.

Taking a rain check from this, we took a trip to see the Thursford Christmas Extravaganza. The car laden with relatives, lumbered across the bleak fields of Suffolk then Norfolk, a lengthy cramped journey hampered by thrashing rain. In the end however, a joyous day out, as this spectacular show demonstrated how dance routines knock the spots off any pudding and most other productions, with inventive lavish costumes that outshone anything in my creative parlour. In particular (for me) the highlight was eleventy-eight dancing Charlie Chaplins, the routine as tight as a drum in their oversized baggy trousers and bendy canes.

With Christmas almost upon us, the garden lies dormant, awaiting the first bulbs to poke their cold noses through the icy earth. It's a special time to think of one's family and community, with the most generous gift being the gift of time. To make time for others and time to mull over the year with a chink of glass. Happy Christmas Dorney and all of you that reside within her in the village, the Common and the Reach.

#### Kristina Perkins Dells Cottage



Please feed our swans! Wendy from Swan Support (<a href="www.swansupport.org.uk">www.swansupport.org.uk</a>) has been spreading the word that it's OK to feed bread to our swans.... and lots of other food too.

Our swan numbers are down as sadly some have flown elsewhere and permanently moved, searching for food.

#### Swans, ducks and geese need a variety of foods to keep them fit and healthy.



- Bread
- Wheat
- Leafy Greens
- Dried Grass
- Grains and Cereals
- Swan food or pellets

#### Swan Feeding Tips

- Feed small amounts at a time, making sure all food has been eaten before giving more.
- Always feed on water.
- Never feed them anything that has gone mouldy.
- Please remember to feed responsibly and follow any guidelines in your area









11am - 4pm: Visit our Christmas grotto to meet Father Christmas & his snow pets. Booking required.

2pm - 4pm: Listen to heartwarming carols with the Maidenhead Community Choir.

Plus wreath decoration demonstrations, free children's hot chocolate, home-made seasonal dishes & much more.

For more info, visit: www.crocus.co.uk/dorney-court or speak to a member of staff



# **Dorney Village Hall**

www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk



Dorney Village Hall has a large main area with stage, a smaller annexed room, kitchen and store rooms.

It is served by a large private car park and adjacent there is a tennis court, a playground and a playing field.

It is used by residents for a multitude of activities such as dancing classes, keep fit, children's nursery, badminton, horticultural and hired out for parties, dances and weddings.

The management committee welcomes non-residents, organisations, clubs, businesses, and societies to hire the halls.

Main hall: 15 x 7.4m, ceiling height 7m Fixed stage with curtains: 4.5 x 6m Annexe: 9.8 x 3.5m, ceiling height 2m

Licensed to seat 100 people
Children's tables and chairs available
Beechwood suspended dance floor
75 space free car park

From £12 per hour (minimum of 3 hours) for Dorney Parish Residents

Bookings: 01628 200900

Email: enquiries@dorneyvillagehall.com

Online on www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk

#### NATURE NOTES: MISTLETOE

Amongst the decorations with which we adorn our houses at Christmas, it is still customary for some to include one of our strangest plants – Mistletoe. It is a plant which is shrouded in mystery, not only because it has a most peculiar life history but on account of its pagan origins. Mistletoe is reputed to reveal hidden treasure, to open locked doors and even to drive away witches and evil spirits. How strange that it has become so firmly established in our celebrations. The tradition of hanging a bunch



of mistletoe in the house goes back to the times of the ancient Druids. Later, in Norse mythology, it was the God of Peace, Balder, who inspired Mistletoe to be named the Kissing Plant.

In the wild, mistletoe may grow randomly on a range of trees, including lime, poplar, hawthorn, ash or birch. The sticky seeds are transferred from one host plant to another via visiting bird's feet and beaks. The mature plant comprises a loose bunch of pointed green, leathery leaves with waxy berries that are either white or red. With care it may be cultivated on pear, plum or apple trees. Apple is the most satisfactory host for the parasitic plant, but it is not easy to grow.

For the best chance of success, an incision has to be made in the bark on the underside of a three-year-old branch of an apple tree in February. Into this cut insert a few sticky, ripe mistletoe berries and bind the bark with raffia. Growth, if any at all, is exceedingly slow at first so it may take five years before a sizeable bunch of mistletoe can be harvested. It is a common country belief that in an orchard where mistletoe thrives, the apple crop is improved, but this is erroneous. Mistletoe is a parasite and if allowed to grow freely, it may weaken or even kill its host tree. There are a few scattered deciduous trees in the Parish which will best reveal any bunches of mistletoe once the host's green leaves which provided cover have been shed, in late autumn.

Held at Tenbury Wells in Worcestershire the annual Mistletoe and Holly auctions have become something of a national institution. Visitors flock to buy the huge bundles of fresh-cut greenery in the weeks prior to the Yuletide Festival.

Mistletoe has been used for centuries in traditional medicine for treatment of a variety of conditions including seizures, headaches and arthritis. It is prescribed in Europe as a treatment for cancer. Also, it has the ability to slow the pulse rate and lower blood pressure.



Finally, here is a verse from Cliff Richard's private repertoire of 1988.

'Christmas mistletoe and wine Children singing Christmas rhyme With logs on the fire and gifts on the tree It's a time to rejoice in the good that we see'.

#### WAYFARFR

# Planning Applications (Validated) during November 2019 Dorney Parish

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

#### Longfield 35 Harcourt Road Dorney Reach Buckinghamshire SL6 0DT

First floor rear extension Ref. No: PL/19/3824/FA

#### Middle Lodge Village Road Dorney Buckinghamshire SL4 6QJ

Two storey rear and first floor side extensions. Erection of rear dormer to facilitate habitable accommodation to second floor. Single storey rear extension to garage to provide habitable accommodation. Provision of roof lights to side elevations and changes to windows and doors.

Ref. No: PL/19/3724/FA

#### Tirra Lirra 20 Dorney Reach Road Dorney Buckinghamshire SL6 0DX

Demolition of existing dwelling. Erection of detached dwelling. Construction of front boundary wall.

Ref. No: PL/19/3486/FA



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### 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

 $Sunday\ 13^{th}-Private\ Run\ -\ car\ park\ \&\ footpaths\ closed\ until\ 2.00pm$   $Sunday\ 20^{th}\ -\ Private\ Duathlon\ \&\ Run\ -\ car\ park\ and\ footpaths\ closed\ until\ 2.00pm$ 

#### November 2019

 $Saturday\ 16^{th} - Private\ Run - car\ park\ \&\ footpaths\ closed\ until\ 2.00pm$   $Sunday\ 17^{th} - Private\ Duathlon\ \&\ Run - car\ park\ \&\ footpaths\ closed\ until\ 2.00pm$   $Sunday\ 24^{th} - Private\ Run - car\ park\ \&\ footpaths\ restricted\ between\ 1.00pm\ and\ 5.00pm$ 

#### December 2019

 $Saturday \ 1^{st} - Private \ triathlon - car \ park \ \& \ footpaths \ closed \ all \ day$   $Saturday \ 14^{th} - Private \ Duathlon \ \& \ Run - car \ park \ \& \ footpaths \ closed \ until \ 2.00pm$ 

\*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.



# YOGA



Come and join our fun chair or gentle yoga classes to stretch, energise and increase flexibility as well as improving breathing which helps to relax the mind, body and soul.

<u>Dorney Village Hall</u>, off Meadow Way [Junction with Oak Stubbs Lane] Dorney Reach, Maidenhead SL6 0DS Gentle Yoga – Wednesdays 10.00 to 11.30 Chair Yoga – Wednesdays 11.45 to 1300

**Plus** 

<u>Castle View</u>, Helston Lane, Windsor, SL4 5GG Chair Yoga – Tuesdays from 10.00 to 11.15

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Bridget.taylor61@gmail.com

541111

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# The Parish Pump A summary of the November 2019 Dorney Parish Council Meeting

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

- M4 Smartmotorway Jim Stacey of Highways England and Matt Orchard of Balfour Beatty reported to the Parish Council and eight members of the public. Mr. Stacey looked forward to an 'exciting weekend' after the proposed M4 closure from the afternoon of Friday November 15th. The Marsh Lane bridge would be demolished, girders would be lifted on to the new Monkey Island bridge and a temporary bridge was to be installed at Huntercombe Spur. A member of the public was concerned over the Secretary of State's inquiry into the safety of smart motorways. Jim Stacey said that this statement was referring to 'dynamic' smart motorways where a hard shoulder becomes a traffic lane during busy periods – with the M4 smart motorway the fourth lane is a permanent traffic lane with regular refuge areas. A dead badger had been reported, but Matt Orchard confirmed that the badgers are in their new accommodation and the death was not necessarily linked to the M4 works. Some diversion signs are misleading, and these would be changed in the next week. Members of the public made several suggestions. A sign is needed at the end of Court Lane (before the Garden Centre) to say the road is closed (including closed to cyclists) and to suggest access for residents only. The barriers closing off Marsh Lane bridge need to be more visible and lit up so drivers are forewarned. Cllr Harris reported excessive mud on Lake End Road by the compound – Jim Stacey will check this out, but said the road is swept regularly. Jim Stacev also assured Cllr Harris that Marsh Lane bridge is still on schedule to be opened in 11 months' time. Jim Stacev said that there were still unresolved issues with Orchard Herbs Farm. Owen Lloyd reported that there had been a drop in numbers for Dorney School's Foundation Year. The number of parents attending open days for next year's intake was down. Legal action is in the process of being taken against Highways England for compensation.
- Bucks CC Report Cllr Dev Dhillon reported on a site meeting with Dave Roberts (Bucks CC Highways Officer) when it was agreed that the realignment of the junction of Village Road/Lake End Road with Court Lane will take place in a week's time giving priority to traffic from Lake End Road into Marsh Lane. A roundabout cannot be installed as there is no lighting. The cutting back of the hedge and siding out in Marsh Lane will take place over the next weekend with yellow lines put in afterwards. It was requested that the speed limit in Court Lane and Marsh Lane should now be reduced, even if on a temporary basis, from 40mph to 30mph during construction works in line with the limit around the rest of Dorney and Cllr Harris said the PC should request this. Cllr Dhillon said that there will be an overview of speed limits, including in Marsh Lane, with the introduction of Crossrail. Cllr Harris added that yellow lines are needed at the junction of Marsh Lane and the A4 given the dangerous parking. Cllr Dhillon took on board Cllr Harris' report on the road surface and potholes between The Pineapple and the Jubilee River. Bucks CC is carrying out a Communities budget consultation which can be found online. Bucks Unitary will be looking at more devolution work such as taking on Village Halls. A member of the public asked about damage to the towpath by cyclists. Cllr Smith said cycling is not permitted on this section of the towpath and the PC will write to the Environment Agency.
- **Clir George Sandy** Introduced himself as an SBDC councillor and now the Conservative candidate in May 2020 for the new Unitary Authority. He hoped to book Dorney Village Hall for an election meeting for Joy Morrissey, the Conservative candidate for Beaconsfield in December.
- **SBDC Report** Cllr Pepler reported that SBDC is still waiting to find out what is happening at Orchard Herbs Farm, that Bucks was seeing an increase in school children requiring Special Needs, and that there would be a Civic Ceremony at St Nicholas Church, Taplow on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

- **Owen Lloyd** Introduced himself as the new Head of Dorney School and thanked everyone for his warm welcome. He looked forward to working in Dorney.
- Clerk's Report The date of the next AGM was agreed as April 22nd, 2020.
- **Defibrillator Update** Cllr Foxley is still waiting to hear from the Heathrow Community Grant over match funding.
- M4 Update It was agreed to ask for the specification works and time scale of the reinstatement of hedgerows and verges after the smart motorway works have been completed.
- Emergency Plan Cllr Smith is working on this and setting up a network of communications.
- **Public Space Protection Order** SBDC is proposing the introduction of a PSPO to combat anti-social behaviour associated with the use of Dorney Lake. A consultation on this will continue until mid-December. The Parish Council approved this request.
- NALC/LGA Guide to Tackling Loneliness There was discussion of the Something New group. It was debated whether it would help the group to arrange transport for local residents to join active groups in Burnham or Eton Wick.
- **Planning** The consultants, TROY, had quoted £2050 to represent Dorney PC at Local Plan hearings. It was agreed to consult Burnham and Taplow PCs over the use of consultants and perhaps collaborate so as to have a joint representative at the hearings if required.
- Complaints/Comments from Residents Cllr Stoughton volunteered to represent the Parish Council on the Village Hall committee. Stephen Baker thanked the Parish Council for getting the yellow lines and the hedge cutbacks in Marsh Lane. Noise levels at the cattle grid were too high, which had been recognised by Engineer, who would be asked for updates. Dead trees had been reported in Harcourt Road. The Clerk had reported this to Transport for Bucks.
- **Next Meeting** Dorney Village Hall, Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup> at 8pm.

#### **Dorney Parish Council Website**

The Dorney Parish Council website address is:

www.dorney.org.uk

and the Twitter account is @DorneyPC

Find minutes, planning, tweets, links to SBDC articles etc.

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# **Dorney Parish News**

Published monthly (except January and August)

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RATE OF SUBSCRIPTION: £5 per annum for 10 issues

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:

Advertising Rates	Height mm	Width mm	10 issues	1 issue
Full Page	190	130	£90	£12
Half Page	90	130	£50	£7
Third of a page (Horizontal)	60	130	£45	£6
Quarter Page (Horizontal)	45	130	£40	£5

**Contact:** Peter Bowman, Editor

peter.bowman@talktalk.net

01628 623228

#### **Emergency Contact Details**

Fire, Police & Ambulance	Emergency Calls: Incidents in Action	999
Thames Valley Police	Non-urgent calls	101
National Health Service	For urgent medical problems. Need advice	111
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Sewage Problems	Thames Water	0845 9200 800
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Reporting Fly-tipping	www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk	
Reporting Footpath Problems	www.transportforbucks.net/report-it-prow.a	ispx
South Bucks District Council	www.southbucks.gov.uk	
Swan Support	24/7 local swan rescue and rehabilitation	07968 868172

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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 40 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 For bookings and enquiries please call us on **01628 661275**