

Dorney Parish News

March 2020



The Dogwood “on Fire” at Dorney Lake Arboretum!

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EDITORIAL

People, I'm told, enjoy looking at pictures of cute pets online. Indeed, I saw a message recently proclaiming, 'Feeling down, people – kittens required.' Local attitudes to kittens may be sort of positive, but to Transport for Bucks, there seems only negativity round these parts. TfB's policy of posting pet pictures alongside their mundane messages – 'Gritting necessary in Aylesbury, but Fido here is snug in his kennel' – might grate on a populace fuming over cavernous potholes and undelivered mini-roundabouts. Perhaps TfB believes that we are 'down', that Dorney 'requires kittens'.

This magazine believes that what we really require is decent representation of the interests of Dorney residents. If you talk to your neighbours, look at NextDoor or listen to the growing number of residents now attending the public segment of Parish Council meetings, it's clear that feelings are running high in Dorney about the current state of the parish. As a neighbour posted yesterday 'What is happening to Dorney Reach? Our beautiful village has turned into a complete mess.' If I was a councillor - parish, district or county – I would be alarmed by the comment 'can anyone tell me who I need to speak to and address these issues?'

It is regrettable that concerned residents don't automatically turn to the Parish Council. Surely it would help if a councillor was appointed to take responsibility for all things 'Smart Motorway'? A representative of the village, who is known to all, whose role is to communicate with the contractors, Highways England, Open Reach or Transport for Bucks, and then, in turn, communicate with the residents. Recent meetings of the Parish Council have revealed a deep resource of knowledge and experience among residents so there could even be a working group where these willing residents, alongside the Council, meet the contractors more often and more meaningfully than the brief sessions at Council meetings. The issues raised, especially by residents, should be documented and actions should be agreed. There should be frequent communication with the community via NextDoor or, indeed, Dorney Parish News.

There are precedents. This pattern was to an extent followed by the Parish Council with the village action group (DROPET) and the community during the campaign in the '90s to oppose, or at least ameliorate the effects of, the building of the Rowing Lake. In the 2020s there are so many more communication techniques available to the Parish Council and the community than there were back then or even during the run up to the 2012 Olympics. To illustrate what I mean, I had a conversation with the Parish Clerk of a village I know well out in Oxfordshire. There the Parish Council publishes a newsletter. This appears in the parish magazine and on a flourishing community website. The council is using online marketing techniques to build a local email database to distribute the newsletter and other information with greater speed. Of course, we also now have NextDoor.

It's encouraging that more residents have found a voice at PC meetings and we're happy to recognise that information is finding its way from the PC via NextDoor to the PC's website. But no concerted action that is communicated to residents seems to flow from this. It's time for a revival of interest in Dorney in Parish Council and wider local government issues, as there was at the time of DROPET, with packed meetings in the Village Hall. Maybe the impending elections for Parish Councils across Bucks, which we cover in greater detail later in this issue, will act as a catalyst.

Peter Bowman

School Traffic and Speed Limits

Issues surrounding drop off and pick up at Dorney School and the possibility of lowering speed limits in the parish have worried residents recently. These issues were raised by members of the public at a recent Parish Council meeting.

It's reported that there has been increased use by parents of Harcourt Road and rather too speedy entry into the narrow Harcourt Close (there's been at least one near miss involving a pupil). This is probably due to a degree of inaccessibility to the Village Hall car park, most recently down to OpenReach workings. Hopefully this problem will right itself as in recent days the Hall car park has looked accessible and full and the Close has looked uncongested. One answer might be expansion of the available area at the Hall. Maybe our friends at Highways England might be persuaded to put their hands in their pocket again.

It's not clear what extra the School can do here. Their role is to look after children not the driving habits of grown-ups. Suggestions like bollards, temporary 20 mph signs and supervisory staff on hand look to be beyond their resources. The Headteacher has written about this problem in very recent newsletters to parents. We'd just like to repeat here his request that 'you drive at appropriate speeds on the surrounding roads and park in the Village Hall car park at drop off and pick up times to help reduce congestion on Harcourt Close and Harcourt Road'.

There has been a growing call for lower and more uniform speed limits in the parish to which is now added an interest in 20 mph signs around the School and these calls seem to be met with a somewhat cursory response from the Parish Council. Cllr Foxley has posted a link on the PC's website to a very recent statement about new limits from Bucks CC. It's worth a read and yes, installing new limits is anything but cheap and straightforward, and 20 mph limits are not enforced by the police. Since a county wide review of existing speed limits in the county as long ago as 2012, new limits need to be funded by local councils, Local Area Forums or 'independent sources.' Surely, there is a place for a review of our local needs and an investigation of possible funding.

Peter Bowman



"MY DEAR FRIENDS, THIS IS YOUR HOUR."

Winston Churchill on VE Day.

Many Villages around the country are organising events for the Public Holiday on 8th May this year with a theme of VE Day.

VE Day is a day celebrating the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces on 8 May 1945.

Would anybody like to organise a Community Event for Dorney and Dorney Reach?

The Dorney Village Hall Committee have kindly offered the use of the Village Hall for the day for this Community Event and there is a £150 grant available to assist with any associated costs.

Please contact Councillor Jill Dax in relation to the grant application.

jill@daxfamily.com

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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. Joseph Udoh, M.S.P. 01628 605764

Saturday 6pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 9.30am Mass

Rev La Stacey writes:

Have you ever cheated? Did you ever try to see what your neighbour was writing in a school test?

Did you ever take a short cut on a cross-country run? Heading into 40 days of Lent I'm thinking about Jesus being tempted to cheat. He was tempted to cheat on being human. Someone with his god-like powers could surely bypass the normal constraints of material life and turn stones into bread, couldn't he? Someone with his god-like powers could surely just impose his dominion over everybody. Someone with his god-like powers could surely demand certainty from God and so never have to exercise the soul-stretching demands of faith. That's what his devilish thoughts were saying to him during his testing time in the desert.

Have you seen the film 'Cool Runnings' inspired by the story of the Jamaican Olympic bobsled team? In the film their coach, Irving Blitzer, had cheated and been disqualified at his last Olympics. Asked why by the team leader he says, 'It's quite simple really. I had to win. You see I'd made winning my whole life and when you make winning your whole life you have to keep on winning, no matter what. A gold medal is a wonderful thing, but if you're not enough without it, you'll never be enough with it'.

If you make 'being god' your whole focus, and the thing you worship, you lose your humanity. You'll cheat and make others pay the cost. Strangely, if on the other hand you keep God as the focus of your worship and acknowledge the qualities of honesty and kindness and such through which God's character is revealed, then you will find you are free to be the complete human you were born to be.

So, when we are standing in the desert and torn both ways, maybe remember Jesus refusing to take a short cut. He faced into the hardship of human life, taking it full-on, and ultimately discovered a way of being that is even more valuable than an Olympic gold medal.

Church Services in March 2020

Sunday 1st March

8.45 am	Family Praise (start with breakfast)	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick
9.30 am	Holy Communion (said BCP)	St James the Less, Dorney
11.00 am	Any Age Service	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 4th March

10.00 am	Holy Communion (said BCP)	St John the Evangelist, Eton
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Sunday 8th March

9.30 am	Holy Communion	St James the Less, Dorney
11.00 am	Holy Communion (children welcome)	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 15th March

9.30am	Holy Communion	St James the Less, Dorney
11.00am	Morning Worship (children welcome)	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 18th March

10.00 am	Holy Communion (said BCP)	St John the Evangelist, Eton
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Sunday 22nd March (Mothering Sunday)

9.30am	Morning Worship	St James the Less, Dorney
11.00am	Holy Communion (children welcome)	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 29th March

9.30 am	Holy Communion	St James the Less, Dorney
11.00 am	Morning Worship	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

LENT LUNCHES 2020

This year Lent will start on Wednesday 26th February. The lunches we have arranged so far are:

Thursday 5th March at 31 Harcourt Road, Dorney Reach

This will be hosted by Joy Richmond in aid of the Thames Valley Adventure Playground.

Thursday 12th March at Eton Wick Church Room

Thursday 19th March at Eton Church

Thursday 26th March at The Old Cottage, Village Road, Dorney

This will be hosted by Joan Dunlop in aid of the Thames Valley Adventure Playground.

At each a light lunch will be served from noon to 2 pm.
Please come along, bring your friends and meet some neighbours.

Benefice of Eton with Eton Wick & Boveney & Dorney

MOTHERING SUNDAY 22nd March

ST JAMES THE LESS
DORNEY 9.30am

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
ETON WICK 11.00 am



There will be flowers for children to
give to mothers and others.

WANTED



Do you care about Dorney?

**Do you want to do something positive
for your community?**

Can you think, listen and act locally?

**Elections to The Dorney Parish Council will be held on
7 May 2020**

Why not consider becoming a Councillor?

The benefits of being a Parish Councillor

(with thanks to www.beacouncillor.co.uk, Local Government Association, and www.askyourcouncil.uk)

Why should I become a councillor?

There are many reasons why people decide to become a parish councillor. They include:

- wanting to make a difference and be involved in shaping the future of the local community
- being concerned about your local area and wanting to ensure that the community gets the right services
- wanting to represent the views of local people and ensure that community interests are taken into account
- wanting to contribute your business or professional skills
- concerns about one particular issue
- as an extension of what you are already doing through a charity, voluntary group or school governing body – becoming a councillor can be the next step.

I don't have the time...

How much time you spend on your duties as a councillor is largely up to you and will depend on the particular commitments you take on. One council estimates the time commitment as a few hours a week. Your role within the council will determine how much time you spend on council duties. Joining a planning committee, for example, will increase your workload.

As with most things in life, what you get back will depend on how much you put in. But remember, the amount of time you give to it is almost entirely up to you.

Could I be a councillor?

If you care about the area that you live or work in and the issues facing local people, you could be a councillor. Perhaps you enjoy reading the local newspaper and often have a strong opinion on the issues you read about. You may enjoy talking to friends and colleagues about what's going on in the area. You may feel that certain sections of the community or people are getting a raw deal and need stronger representation. Research tells us that people are most concerned about issues such as crime, schools, transport and the environment. Your local council can make a difference on all these issues and many more, and so can you as a local councillor.

Do I need any special skills or experience to be a councillor?

Groups made up of diverse individuals tend to make better informed decisions. It is important that councils have councillors who not only reflect and represent the communities they serve, but also have a broad range of skills and life experience. You don't have to be highly educated or have a profession. Skills gained through raising a family, caring for a sick or disabled relative, volunteering or being active in faith or community groups can be just as valuable.

While you don't need any special qualifications to be a councillor, having or being able to develop the following skills, knowledge and attributes will help you in the role.

• Communication skills

These include listening and interpersonal skills, public speaking skills, the ability to consider alternative points of view and to negotiate, mediate and resolve conflict.

• Problem solving and analytical skills

This includes being able to get to the bottom of an issue and to think of different ways to resolve it, including considering the advantages and disadvantages of each option.

• Team working

Being able to work with others in meetings and on committees and being able to complete any tasks that you agree to do on time.

• Organisational skills

Being able to plan and manage your time, keep appointments and meet deadlines.

• Ability to engage with your local community

You may have to make yourself available through meetings, the media, the internet, public forums, debates and on the telephone.

You may have gained skills and knowledge through your professional, personal or community experience. These could include:

- knowledge of the needs of specific groups such as children and young people, older people or people with health problems
- an understanding of financial management and reporting processes
- legal and regulatory systems or procedures
- housing, regeneration or environmental issues
- any other skills that relate to the work or facilities provided by the council.

Don't worry if you don't yet feel that you have the skills or confidence to be a councillor. All councils provide support, information and training for new councillors.

Whatever needs changing in your neighbourhood, you could be just the person to change it by becoming a local councillor. Perhaps you are already involved in local affairs and want to take the next step. Or you may be looking for a worthwhile and rewarding way to help your local community.

What powers do Parish Councils have?

To provide facilities

Parish councils have powers to provide some facilities themselves, or they can contribute towards their provision by others. There are large variations in the services provided by parishes, but they can include the following:

- Control of litter
- Provision and maintenance of public seats
- Creation and maintenance of footpaths and bridleways
- Provision of cycle and motorcycle parking
- Acquisition and maintenance of rights of way
- Maintenance of war memorials

They may also provide the following, subject to the consent of the county council or unitary authority of the area in which they lie:

- Bus shelters
- Signposting of footpaths
- Lighting of footpaths
- Off-street car parks
- Provision, maintenance and protection of roadside verges

Consultative powers

Parish councils must be consulted by the district or county council on:

- All planning applications in their areas
- Footpath and bridleway (more generally, 'rights of way') surveys

Miscellaneous powers

- Parish councils may also exercise the following powers:
 - Support and encouragement of arts and crafts
 - Providing grants to local voluntary organisations
 - Sponsoring public events
 - Funding crime prevention measures
 - Creation of a Parish Plan
- Withholding of consent to stop up unclassified highways and footpaths

Make a change! Become a Parish Councillor.

To stand for election you must:

- Be a UK or Commonwealth citizen; or be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland; or be a citizen of another Member State of the European Union
- Be at least 18 years old
- Be an elector of the Dorney Parish Council; or in the past 12 months occupied land or other premises in the area we serve (as owner or tenant); or work in the area (as your principal or only place of work); or live within three miles of the Dorney Parish Council boundary.

Usually the Parish Clerk will receive nomination papers from prospective councillors and hand deliver these to elections office - SBDC council offices at Capswood, Oxford Road, Denham, UB9 4LH.

Nomination papers (nomination form, home address form, consent to nomination) must be hand delivered to the relevant election office (SBDC area = SBDC council offices) on a working day from the publication of notice of election, between 10am-4pm, but no later than 4pm on Wednesday 8 April. The notice of election will be published no later than Tuesday 31 March.

Candidates may hand deliver nomination papers themselves or may ask someone they trust e.g. our parish clerk to hand deliver them to the Deputy Returning Officer/elections office. **Nomination papers cannot be sent in the post or electronically. Original signed forms must be provided.**

If a candidate wishes to stand as a party candidate, and has permission from a political party, then they must complete a certificate of authorisation which enables them to use a political description, and if they wish an emblem to show on the ballot paper they must complete an emblem request form.

If you need application forms or any help completing the forms, please contact Sue Moffat : Clerk@dorney.org.uk or telephone 07443 58836. Her address for nomination forms is: 20 Benchmanor Crescent, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks, SL9 9HL.

Sue is currently planning to be in Dorney on the 14th and 22nd April. If you would like to give her your nomination form on one of these days, please contact her. She will have hard copies of the blank nomination forms shortly so, if you prefer a hard copy rather than downloading them from the link below, please let her know.

The Electoral Commission's guidance for Parish Council elections provides further information via:

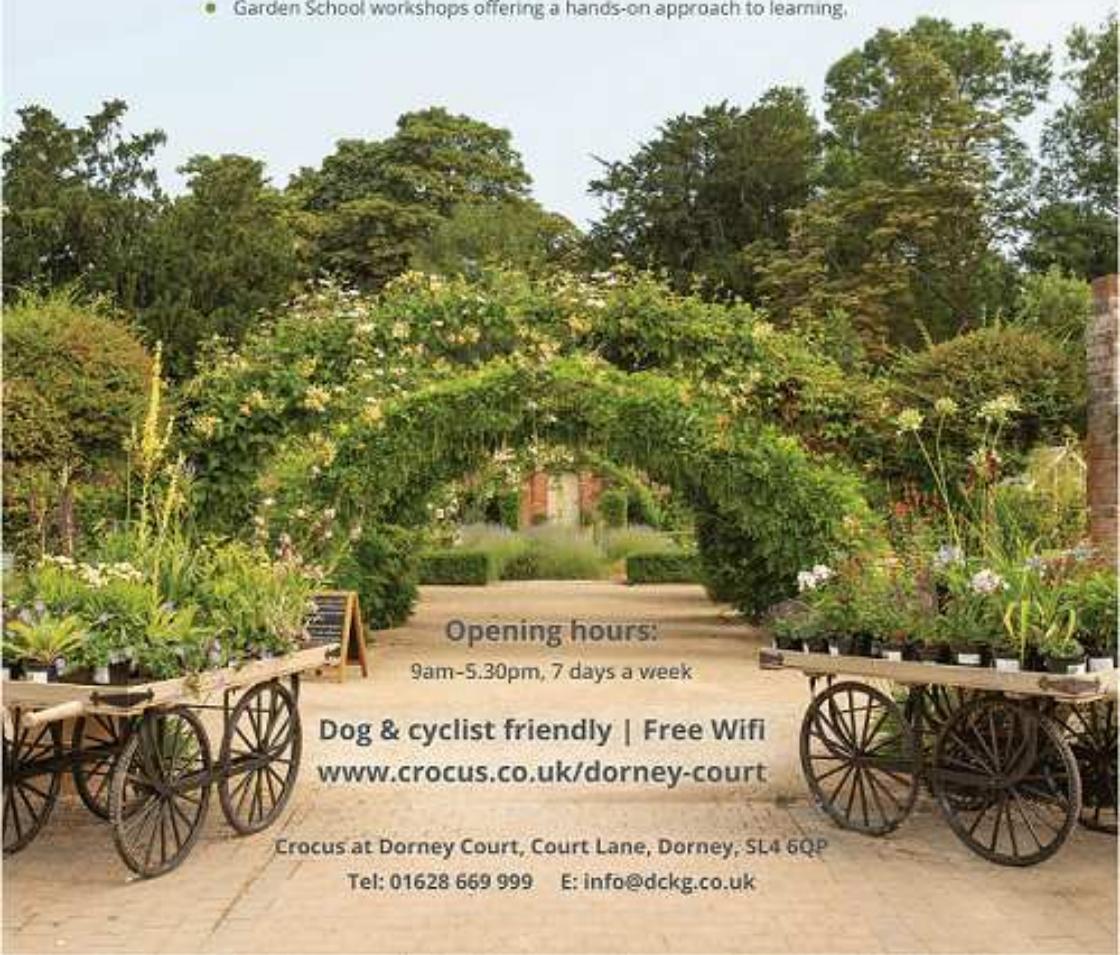
<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-and-community-council-elections-england>

This website also provides the nomination pack that you can download and complete.



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THEN AND NOW

A reader of Dorney Parish News recently commented that it must take a lot of research to write these articles. It does, but it is always a pleasure to have an excuse to go delving into the past. There are so many interesting stories out there, waiting to be brought out into the light.

The more I discover about the people who lived in years gone by, the more I am struck by their similarities to ourselves. Of course, many aspects of our lives are different. But core emotions, motivations, behaviours and actions remain surprisingly constant. I've touched on a few of these in previous articles – how theft and the fear of crime concerned people 160 years ago; disputes between neighbours in the 1690s; drinking and fighting in 1850; marital breakdown and infidelity in 1918. A glance at newspapers 100 or 200 years ago reveals human nature hasn't really changed; many of the themes written about then are the same today.



Take, for example, the first edition of the Berkshire Chronicle, published on 29 January 1825. It covered political, business and foreign news, and carried advertisements for a range of goods and services. Human interest stories included an account of an argument between two friends who worked at the Stock Exchange which nearly resulted in a duel. Challenging to a duel may not be part of everyday life today, but a falling out between two young men could still lead to violence. Part of the Custom House in London had collapsed, fortunately without causing injury. Reports of the doings of the Royal family were popular then as now, with the King planning to move into St James' Palace while Buckingham Palace was constructed. Work on Windsor Castle had been delayed by the stone masons going on strike, and the plumbers there had managed to cause a fire. Didn't something similar happen again at Windsor Castle a few years ago? In the countryside, a gamekeeper and his helper had been seriously beaten up by a gang of seven poachers. A selection of accidental deaths, a fire in Andover, an attempted suicide when drunk and a mass brawl were among other incidents recorded for the enlightenment of readers, happy to be shocked while they read the news over a cup of tea or coffee.

It's tempting to think that public interest in the lives of celebrities is a modern phenomenon. Not so. This issue of the Chronicle devoted a long article to analysis of a book published by a friend of the recently deceased Lord Byron (pictured above) entitled *Medwin's Conversations with Lord Byron*. From the excerpts in the paper, this book seemed intended to discredit Lord Byron's behaviour in his private life, quoting from conversations the author, Captain Medwin, claimed to have had with the poet. The book had provoked a media storm and was widely judged to be full of errors. The Chronicle was not seeking to defend Lord Byron's behaviour but concluded that Medwin's book was "a gross and impudent fabrication". Whether true or not, the net result was that this newspaper and many others were making public details of allegations about Lord Byron which were no doubt avidly read. Despite questions over the book's accuracy, it went through a dozen editions, in six countries, was translated into

French, German and Italian, and made a lot of money for its author. More recently, it has been described as the most controversial book of its day and is now generally regarded as an accurate portrayal of Lord Byron's words for posterity.

By no means everyone will have read a newspaper in 1825, but these stories will have been talked about. No internet did not mean news did not travel. It's easy to imagine the gossip over some of the salacious titbits – did you hear, Byron spent £10,000 of his wife's money on extravagant parties? Well, he said so, so it must be true! No wonder her father put an end to their marriage....



Dorney's proximity to Eton and Windsor is likely to mean that its residents have always had early access to news and gossip. They probably followed more closely events concerning the Royal family. There must surely have been intense interest in the village over Roger Palmer from the family at Dorney Court, who married the beautiful Barbara Villiers in 1659. A year later, she became mistress of King Charles II, and five of her six children were acknowledged as the King's. Roger and Barbara separated, but continued to be married. All of this was public knowledge – Dorney's very own celebrity scandal!

Barbara Palmer, 1st Duchess of Cleveland, Countess of Castlemaine

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DORNEY SCHOOL



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News from Dorney School

Adding Value to the Curriculum at Dorney School

One of the biggest recent changes in the educational world has been a real shift towards developing the entire curriculum, as opposed to a keen focus on Maths & English. At Dorney School, we have worked on our curriculum development from a position of strength, as the wider curriculum has always been highly valued.

Dorney School is fortunate to have a team of highly dedicated and skilled teachers with a real passion for educating children. Their dedication shines through in their approach to their daily tasks and through the amount of additional time and effort that is 'put in' to provide the best for the pupils in our community.

One of Dorney's strongest subjects is Science, where the school has worked hard to develop a thorough curriculum, which enables the children to develop their skills of enquiry and scientific working. This is added to, by a fantastic and popular, Hands-on Science Club, run weekly by Mrs Strydom who is our Science subject leader. The school also has an annual 'Big Science Fortnight', where the whole school participates in a range of activities designed to explore their scientific knowledge and understanding.

The way in which Dorney staff and pupils actively seek to improve our curriculum offer is one of the great positives about the school and we are working hard to ensure that we can add as much value to our curriculum as possible. This term we are launching new sports clubs after school as well as a school choir and a board game club to develop thinking skills. These are all alongside our existing offer of ballet, computing, hip-hop dance, Chelsea Football Club, the Year 6 Maths booster club, sewing and yoga!

At Dorney, we believe that the curriculum is made-up of the daily-lived experiences of our children, from the moment they arrive at early morning club to the moment they leave our care at the end of the day. We believe that we offer great value and a fantastic education to all of our pupils, driven by the dedication and commitment of our staff.

It's early in my time as Headteacher at Dorney, we're only half a year in, however I can see great potential for the school and view Dorney School as the best option for education in the local area. With outstanding recent exam results and a value-packed curriculum, Dorney School is once again proving it's the place to be!

Kind regards,
Mr. Lloyd
Headteacher





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What's their Secret?

My nightmare surrounds me with fire in Australia, being rescued by a tired, harassed, firefighter.

"Thank you so much," I gasp gratefully as I am led to safety.

"You English mate?" he enquires, furrows forming in his reddened brow.

"Yes," I grin.

"What the **** are you doing here. We got better things to do than amuse tourists!" he shouts.

I have to concede that my dream visiting saviour has a point, and I postpone my difficult-to-organise month long trip the next day. My erstwhile travelling companion is miffed to say the least, which propels me to a Maidenhead travel agent.

"What have you leaving in the next two weeks which is hot, uncomplicated and won't break the bank?"

"Cape Verde," comes the answer. With one uncomfortable flight out and one back, all-inclusive five-star luxury is mine.

The heat hits me as the aircraft doors open. We are on Mars! It's my first 'all inclusive' and as we wait in line in arrivals, I meet a new race. Professional Sunseekers! They are, for the most part elderly, the colour of overdone toast, some with golfing bags or fishing rods, others with expensive hair held back with Foster Grants.

Boa Vista is a hot rock stuck out in the Atlantic; the wind and waves are spectacular.

"Windy here," I innocently mention to my fellow traveller in the same queue.

"Wind?" replies Toast. "You ain't seen wind till you've been to Mexico. Now me and the wife; we go all over, well we was there and, well, wind!"

Expensive hair moves away, taking advantage of the opportunity of momentary peace presented by my innocence.

"Now we got friends in Spain," he continues apparently without drawing breath, "and wind! Well, my mate said a wave came in so big it clobbered his house. Went clean over mine but took out one I sold to a bloke only last year...."

We hide in the toilet, glad to relinquish our place in the queue.

We are wafted in air conditioned grandeur watching Mars go by to a spectacular palace, so big it has petrol driven micro trucks moving goods to various five star rooms and eateries, while we sit in bars or tan on golden deserted beaches sipping whatever takes our fancy. I agree ours is a difficult role, but someone has to do it.

After a few days I feel uncomfortable, and ponder what it must be like to work, say in a hot kitchen pandering to every whim and fancy of overindulged Europeans. What do they earn? Do I spend more on booze in a day than they spend feeding their families for a week?

A fun day racing quad bikes was to provide the answers in that just the two of us were invited into the home of an employee. We checked with the hotel that this was not a scam; they said that there was no crime in Boa Vista; the invitation was unusual, but it would be safe.

We were picked up in a huge well-worn Ford Pick Up and driven to a shanty town in some trepidation. I had left everything of value in the hotel and carried only enough. My paranoia screamed headlines 'Brits held Hostage in Desert Hell Hole!'

My fears were wrong. We stopped outside a door in a concrete wall. It was the ground floor of what was going to be a block, but never completed. Our hosts roof was in fact the first floor of the unbuilt flat above. Thank God, it rarely rains but the four tiny dark rooms showed damp stains everywhere. His wife sat in the 'lounge' on a plastic garden chair holding a small baby while mesmerised by the only luxury, an ancient fuzzy television showing a Portuguese soap.

A small glass vase held a minute display of plastic flowers on the only table. Two sad budgies gazed out of battered cage. Our host stated he paid 100 euros a month in rent from his income of 250.

We were treated most politely and moved onto his sister on foot through well-trodden unmade narrow paths between buildings guarded by a dog respected by all. Her home was twice the size of a king size double bed with a door less effective than that to my shed. She lay on the bed while her seven-year-old son solemnly shook hands with us. She was preparing to go out with an eye on the same fuzzy soap.

There followed a bar via an outdoor game of international table football (two all draw) surrounded by young supporters yelling for the home team and I noticed swings and roundabouts with kids playing on them, a football team in smart kit walking up the street; everyone was out on the street greeting and smiling or leaning out of windows in loud conversations in the relative cool of the evening. They were happy, and expressively so.

In a bar we were greeted as friends. Perhaps I was naive but felt at home and could have stayed till it closed. The local lager may have assisted.

We chatted amiably over beers and I struggled with the important basics of the language Creole, so that I could order beer politely and with the appropriate thanks on its arrival. I was envious!

The motto of Boa Vista is 'No Stress' and for those I met that night, none was in evidence. No traffic or traffic lights.

Apparently, no crime.

No chasing the buck.

No envy.

No 'keeping up with the Jones's.'

No news.

No papers.

No Brexit.

Do they have the contentment we all seek?

What's their secret?

It was our last day, and it was sad. My companion cried.

We returned to Gatwick in the February cold. Our instructions for finding our cab were unclear and we stood in the cold wind trying to listen on my mobile. Stress already and I've been back 20 minutes.

We finally got home to my warm cosy home and my cats.

Ahhhh!!! Relax. What's this? A speeding summons! Bills, demands on my time!

Stress!

Thank you, Boa Vista.

Mike Quincey

Dorney Diary

Day	Date	Activity	Venue	Time
MAR				
Sun	1	Private 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	2			
Tue	3	Dorney Badminton Club	Dorney Village Hall	8 to 10 pm
		The Charteris Club: Lunch	Eton Wick Village Hall	12.00 noon
Wed	4	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
Thu	5	Lent Lunch (see Page 7)	31, Harcourt Road	12 to 2.00 pm
		Dorney Youth Club	Dorney Village Hall	6 to 7.30 pm
		(during term time)		
		For Children of the Parish.		
Fri	6			
Sat	7			
Sun	8	Private Run - Car Park and Footpaths open	Dorney Lake	
		Dorney Short Mat Bowls Club	Dorney Village Hall	7 to 10 pm
Mon	9			
Tue	10	The Charteris Club: Lunch	Eton Wick Village Hall	12.00 noon
		Dorney Badminton Club	Dorney Village Hall	8 to 10 pm
		Dorney Parish Council Meeting	Dorney Village Hall	8 p.m.
Wed	11	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
Thu	12	Lent Lunch (see Page 7)	Eton Wick Church Room	12 to 2.00 pm
		Dorney Youth Club	Dorney Village Hall	6 to 7.30 pm
		(during term time)		
		For Children of the Parish.		
Fri	13			
Sat	14	Private Duathlon and Run - Car Park and Footpaths closed until 2.00 pm	Dorney Lake	
Sun	15	Dorney Short Mat Bowls Club	Dorney Village Hall	7 to 10 pm

Dorney Diary

Day	Date	Activity	Venue	Time
MAR				
Mon	16			
Tue	17	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	18	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
Thu	19	Lent Lunch (see Page 7)	Eton Church	12 to 2.00 pm
		Dorney Youth Club (during term time) For Children of the Parish.	Dorney Village Hall	6 to 7.30 pm
Fri	20	Private Regatta - Car Park closed and access by foot only/or spectators can pay on entry	Dorney Lake	
Sat	21			
Sun	22	Private 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	23			
Tue	24	The Charteris Club: Lunch	Eton Wick Village Hall	12.00 noon
		Dorney Badminton Club	Dorney Village Hall	8 to 10 pm
Wed	25	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
Thu	26	Lent Lunch (see Page 7)	The Old Cottage, Village Road	12 to 2.00 pm
		Dorney Youth Club (during term time) For Children of the Parish.	Dorney Village Hall	6 to 7.30 pm
Fri	27			
Sat	28			
Sun	29	Private Run Car Park and Footpaths closed until 2.00 pm	Dorney Lake	
Mon	30			
Tue	31			

Contacts

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@gmail.com	
The Charteris Club	Julie Chappell	07598 565091

Dorney Horticultural Society – 2020 off to a grand start.

Dorney Horticultural Society members are a knowledgeable bunch. That was the conclusion reached after the Society's first event of 2020, the annual Hot Supper and Grand Quiz. Indeed, the quiz was grand, and a lot of fun. This was certainly one of the jolliest of our evenings in recent memory. After three rounds of questions covering Nature, Food and Plants and General Knowledge, the *Four Amigos* narrowly beat the *Optimistics* by one point. I'm sure the winning team are enjoying their really rather generous pack of goodies!

If the quiz was grand, the supper was certainly Hot – a chicken pie supper was a fitting reward for those who braved a very bleak February Friday evening. I'm sure the quiz will be back next year, maybe a little later to avoid these dark nights, not to mention school half terms. Do join us next year.

We believe that we have two fine speakers lined up for upcoming evenings. The next event, the Spring Buffet, will be on Friday April 17th at 7.30 in the Village Hall. The twin attractions are a buffet provided by Chrys Fisher of The Palmer Arms & Pineapple and speaker Brian Clews, who hails from Cookham and is a distinguished ornithologist. Brian co-authored the Berkshire Bird Atlas and has contributed to 35 books on natural history. His subject will, of course, be birds, but he will put them in the contexts of our gardens and horticulture.

While on the subject of speakers, we can look forward to our Harvest Supper on September 25th. Again, following a Chrys Fisher buffet, we will be welcoming a very distinguished speaker who also comes from around these parts. Stefan White lives in Hurley and has built up an enviable reputation as an engaging and interesting speaker. His penchant for speaking on cruise ships has encouraged him to visit 93 countries. Among his many interests are the culture and history of gardening. More details will follow, but we can assure you that Stefan has a track record of entertaining the members of many neighbouring societies. We thought it should at last be our turn.

Let's turn our attention to the Spring. For DDHS, that means the annual garden visit. On Wednesday May 20th we'll pay a return visit to the lovely Dorneywood Gardens just outside Burnham. More details will follow in April or May issues, but just remember two things. Our last visit there about a decade ago was a great afternoon out and this is the event that is crowned by a cream tea. You will be hearing a lot more about the Annual Show, which in 2020 is on Saturday August 29th. Last year saw an upturn in the number and quality of entries, particularly in the handicrafts and children's classes. Admittedly, the Show struggles a bit when it comes to the heartland of horticultural entries. Come on, people of Dorney – prove this isn't, round here anyway, a permanent trend. Lastly of course, and it's never too early to talk about Christmas, there will be our pre-Christmas supper evening on November 20th. Believe me, suitable entertainment is already being sought out.

As the Quiz proved, our loyal members are a friendly bunch, but the Society needs to reach out across our community. Important groups like the parents of children at our local school tell us they know little about our preparations for the Show. You will see more online communication. Our new Facebook pages are already looking striking. Social media, especially Facebook, are not everyone's cup of tea, but take the chance to maybe look over family members' shoulders if they're online – we hope you'll see some inspiring pictures of local horticulture!

Peter Bowman, Secretary DDHS

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, yoga, 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 £13 per hour (minimum of 3 hours) for Dorney Parish Residents

**Bookings:
01628 200900**

Email: enquiries@dorneyvillagehall.com

Online on www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY 2019 IN DORNEY VILLAGE HALL

The New Year's Eve Party went well again despite the lack of support from locals and we managed to raise £156 from the Raffle for Cancer Research thanks to the many prizes donated by Local Businesses and friends as follows:

The Palmer Arms, Dorney; Crocus at Dorney Court; Tesco Taplow; Sainsburys Taplow; The Royal Spice, Eton Wick; The Beauty Shop, Burnham; The Works, Taplow; Gill and Ian Rutledge; Alice Foxley and Jeanette and Brian Norris.

We are very grateful for their support and hope we can do the same, if not better, this year.

Many thanks

Teresa McGuinness

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



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Planning Applications (Validated) during January/February 2020

Dorney Parish

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

Lea Lodge 15 Oak Stubbs Lane Dorney Reach Buckinghamshire SL6 0DW

Variation of condition 3 of planning permission PL/18/4053/FA (Single storey rear infill extension) To allow for new bonnet tiles to match the existing the roof pitch is adjusted to 34 degrees and a roof lantern added in lieu of roof lights.

Ref. No: PL/20/0365/VRC

Elm Farm Boveney Road Dorney Buckinghamshire SL4 6QD

First floor extension over and conversion of garage to habitable accommodation (retrospective) and ground floor link extension to main dwelling

Ref. No: PL/19/4434/FA

Meadow Edge Village Road Dorney Buckinghamshire SL4 6QW

T1 Ash - Fell (Dorney Conservation Area)

Ref. No: PL/20/0431/KA



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Some popular topics:

Security awareness & staying safe online
Email, scams & phishing
Keeping your valuable data safe
Online Banking
Switching energy suppliers
Using Open Office vs MS Office
Upgrading to Windows 10
Buying a new PC, tablet, or printer

Computer & Tech Tuition @ Home

One-off / ad hoc sessions
or
courses tailored to suit your needs
All skill levels catered for



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on 07771 361836
or via

loveyourpc@btinternet.com

to arrange your FREE
consultation

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M4 – The Not So SMART motorway?

In February everything changed for the M4 Smart Motorway project. Nothing would ever be the same – or would it?

A BBC TV Panorama special was chilling. In five years after the M25 smart motorway opened, near-misses increased 20-fold, from 72 to 1,485. The death toll on smart sections of motorways has reached 38. The mood changed. The ex-junior minister who had been persuaded to approve the roll out in 2010 based on misleading data from just the M42, Sir Mike Penning, now says ‘there are people that are being killed and seriously injured on these roads, and it should never have happened.’ An All-Party Parliamentary Group accused Highways England (yes, the organisation overseeing the despoliation of our parish) of ‘a shocking degree of carelessness’ in introducing ‘All Lane Running’ motorways. Even the transport secretary, Grant Shapps, told the BBC ‘we absolutely have to have these as safe or safer as regular motorways, *or we shouldn’t have them at all*’.

Not surprisingly, the Secretary ordered a review of the evidence on smart motorway safety, and a few days later announced that no new smart motorways would be opened until that review was complete. The latest Department of Transport press release says this will happen ‘shortly’. This seems to beg two questions. Firstly, would there be any effect on the M4 scheme unfolding before our eyes? Secondly, would residents affected by these undertakings, like us, be doubly irritated to know that an irksome destruction of our infrastructure and natural habitat was all in aid of a project that may be proved to have no merit whatsoever? DPN can’t answer the second and would like to hear what those who live in Dorney think, but Highways England and Balfour Beatty do make themselves available for updates.

The message to the Parish Council (see ‘Parish Pump’) and to DPN a day or two before publication is that given the enormous expenditure on the project and the tight schedule work must proceed as normal. The nature of Balfour Beatty’s task in the future depends on the ministry’s conclusions. One possibility is that more frequent ‘emergency refuge areas’ might have to be installed before the project is completed. Matt Orchard of Balfour Beatty told DPN that, in the very unlikely event of an outright cancellation of all smart motorways, the contractors would still be around for over a year essentially installing a very expensive upgrade to the existing M4 with the new bridges, improved surfacing, new central barriers designed to limit the results of collision and the very latest technological ‘bells and whistles’, apart from the most developed radar systems.

In addition to the Department of Transport, the contractors face another challenge – what Matt called the ‘biblical weather’. Matt said that he wasn’t quite so ‘casually confident’ about now keeping on schedule (again, see ‘Parish Pump’). All projects, he said, have a built in ‘comfort cushion’ and theirs was not what it was. We told him that NextDoor had been on fire with complaints about unexpected overnight working. He said that this had become necessary given the slippage. He was concerned when I said that ‘bright lights’ had been reported and requested contact from residents. When I told him that most of us are saying we don’t know who to complain to he requested we publish the definitive answer:

Ring 0300 123 5000. Tell the call handler that the village is between junctions 8/9 and 7 of the M4.

The email is M4J3to12smartmotorways@highwaysengland.co.uk

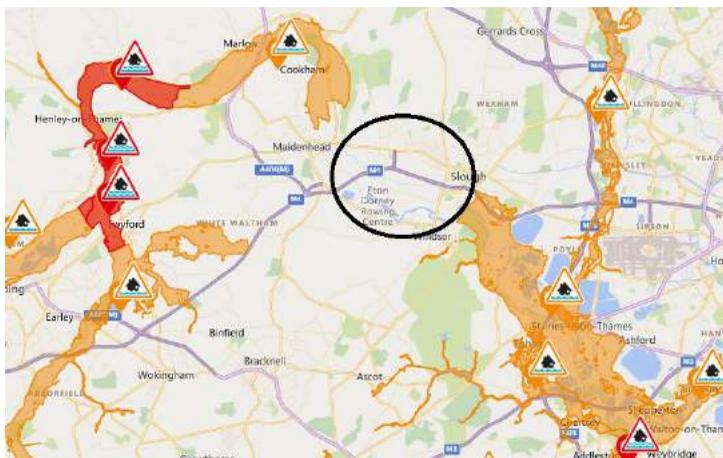
The website for information is <http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m4j3to12>

To make a comment or register for updates go to <http://m4j3to12smartmotorway.commonplace.is>

The Jubilee River continues to do its job – so far!

As I write this, on 19th February 2020, the TV news is full of the distressing sight of homes being flooded all over the country.

Today, looking at the Flood Warning Map issued by the Government (<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/>), it clearly shows how fortunate we are to have the Jubilee River protecting us. We are surrounded by flood warnings, but between Maidenhead and Windsor there are none – because of the Jubilee River



To date the Jubilee River - The Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton Flood Alleviation Scheme (MWEFAS) to give its original name - has done exactly what it was planned to do, which is to protect the scheme area from flooding up to a flow return period of 1 in 65 years, which equates to a total (realistic) flow of 415m³/sec (cumecs).

The capacities of both the River Thames and Jubilee River were changed (downwards) following the problems experienced in 2003 when the Jubilee River breached in a number of places.

- a. The original design of the Jubilee River (LFP) estimated the Modelled Flows to be:
 - i. River Thames 300 m³/sec (cumecs)
 - ii. Jubilee River 215 m³/sec (cumecs)
 - iii. Combined 515 m³/sec (cumecs)
- b. Revised Modelled Flows (Atkins) in SEP05 after the 2003 Floods/Bank Raising:
 - i. River Thames 270 m³/sec (cumecs)
 - ii. Jubilee River 180 m³/sec (cumecs) (145 cumecs with 300mm freeboard)
 - iii. Combined 450 m³/sec (cumecs) (**415 cumecs with 300mm freeboard**)

At 0900hrs this morning the measured flow of the River Thames at Maidenhead Bridge was 154 m³/sec and the Jubilee Flow at Taplow Sluice was 101 m³/sec. Combined, these two flows totalled 255 m³/sec which is 61% of the combined remodelled capacity.

The Jubilee River is a unique 8.5 mile benefit to those of us who live near the Thames between Maidenhead and Windsor.

Let's hope that it continues to protect us. And that the Environment Agency invest in similar solutions along other reaches of the Thames.



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.

March 2020

Sunday 1st - Private Run - car park & footpaths closed until 2.00pm

Sunday 8th - Private Run - car park & footpaths open

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

Friday 20th - Private Regatta – car park closed and access by foot only/ or spectators can pay on entry

Sunday 22nd - Private Run – car park and footpaths closed until 2.00pm

Sunday 29th - Private Run – car park and footpaths closed until 2.00pm

April 2020

Saturday 4th - Private Duathlon & Run - car park and footpaths closed until 2.00pm

Sunday 19th - Private Run – car park and footpaths closed until 2.00pm

Friday 24th to Saturday 25th – Private Rowing event – car park & footpaths open

Sunday 26th - Private Regatta – car park closed and access by foot only/ or spectators can pay on entry

May 2020

Saturday 2nd – Private Rowing event – car park & footpaths closed all day

Sunday 3rd – Private Rowing Regatta – car park & access by foot only/or spectators can pay on entry

Saturday 9th – Private Run – car park & footpaths closed until 2.00pm

Sunday 10th – Private Rowing Regatta – car park & access by foot only/or spectators can pay on entry

Saturday 16th – Private Triathlon – car park & footpaths closed until 2.00pm

Sunday 17th – Private Triathlon – car park & footpaths closed all day

Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th – Private Regatta – car park & access by foot only/or spectators can pay on entry

Bank Holiday Monday 25th – Private Triathlon - car park & footpaths closed all day

Saturday 30th & Sunday 31st - Private Rowing Regatta – car park & access by foot only/or spectators can pay on entry

***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 instructions**

NATURE NOTES

We know from familiar signs that Spring has arrived as Winter releases its unwelcome grip on the environment. Wildlife shows signs of activity appropriate to their species type. Temperatures rise after months of inactivity and we notice changes in the appearance of plants and trees, and also in the behaviour of birds, of animals and even of insects.

The closer we look at the challenges facing nature, the more remarkable are the patterns of survival we see. The trees and shrubs appear positively assured as they burst into white and pink blossom. Small twigs sprout to reveal catkins whilst larger trees unfurl their sticky buds. The whole hedgerow is transformed. Many birds proclaim their return from migration and confirm their presence by singing noisily, starting from the crack of dawn. It is noticeable that they are inclined to gather together according to related species (by size), and where there is food available and finally where they can establish territory. Insects too, adopt a winter survival strategy which may include hibernation as an adult or an immature stage, and, perhaps most remarkable, is the Painted Lady butterfly which is a regular spring/summer migrant from an incredible distance - Southern Europe.



However, the prize for ingenuity must go to Honey Bees. With assistance from a human beekeeper, a Queen Honey Bee establishes her family in a man-made hive where, with her growing family of workers, she creates her own food reserve of honey for winter use. By contrast Bumble bees do not depend upon a big honey store because they sleep through the winter. They are one of the first insects to be seen in the spring and their buzzing over blossom and bright coloured flowers is one of the evocative sounds of sunny days through spring and summer. Unfortunately, there is little doubt that Bumble Bees are seriously declining in numbers (witness last spring). Commercially they are reared and added to crops cultivated in huge polythene tunnels under controlled conditions.



Finally, a reminder of the connection of Dorney with Bees. In old English, Dorney meant Island of the Bees!

Wayfarer

King Lear on Dorney Common



'Blow, winds, and crack your cheeks! Rage! Blow!'

King Lear Act 111 Scene 11

As Dennis chased Ciara, for some it was a tempest in a teacup, and for others the raging storm blew through their windows to raise roofs, pounding rain swelling rivers until they burst their banks. On the Common and through our village and the Reach, we were fortunate to have less 'cataracts and hurricanoes' damage, only sodden fields with deeply clogged footpaths. In between the heavy blows, February dragged its damp heels through the heart of Valentine.

Here at the cottage, there is much pooling of rainwater, and much of the land is soft underfoot. Our chickens come out to feed each morning, check the forecast, then quickly head back inside their cosy coop, the extra plump wood

shavings and thick yellow straw keeping our old girls warm and dry. At this time of year, we add suet pellets to their normal food, to bolster them through the harsh winter months. Most of all they dislike the gusting wind, which ruffles their combs and flusters their feathers.

At the Maidenhead Drama Guild, the final clear up took place at the Bray Memorial Chapel, shifting the last of our possessions down the road to the Waldeck rehearsal space. As the exit deadline loomed closer, the Parish Council kindly agreed a short extension on our agreed departure date, having previously witnessed the bulging suitcase of their building. My husband Dave, juggling his day job, loaded tons of past production artefacts into the back of our horse trailer, to ferry them down the road, where they were lumped into towering roof-tickling mounds, that occupied every available square centimetre.

Generations of stage-craft items, battered relics that had seen better days, but also many lovely antiquities, including a gilt birdcage, an ornate brass gong on a mahogany stand, an artificial life-size skeleton, a vintage wooden tripod camera, and many original Strand metal lights in various guises dating back to the 50's, to name just a few. The last items to disassemble, were two large scaffold constructions, both holding thick wooden mezzanine flooring. The dismantling was tough, but little did we know how much harder it would be to reassemble.

Finally, when all was concluded and the Chapel farewell photos were taken, four of our finest guys, all over 65 and some well beyond, took it upon themselves to undertake the task of recreating the scaffold storage. All went exceptionally well, and with much perspiration the first meccano-like structure was complete, strong and sturdy enough to bear the weight of the mezzanine floor, and critically, all of what must be thrust upon it. The next week, the same team set about tackling the second and final one, but this time things didn't quite go to plan. A stray scaffold pole slipped and nipped the head of our one of our men. Being from 'up North' and resilient, he dismissed this incident as mildly annoying as when observing the large 'egg' shaped lump, quickly retorted 'I hope my hat still fits!'

The next day I thought I had better check that all was well, so sent him a text that asked how our Iron Man was doing, and if he was still able to wear his hat. He replied by swift return with simply 'A heart of gold, a will of iron, nerves of steel, and a knob of butter', and with that I assumed all was well. I have much time for him, as we set build together, he manipulates the wood whilst I manipulate paint, his sharp humour making laughter echo down the corridors.

Holidays! Always pressure to pack the right clothes and make sure one's tablets and tweezers are included. My husband Dave always must check the suitability of garments, and make sure that the case weighs in correctly to avoid a surcharge. Such a stressful prelude to a vacation, jumping through airport hoops, followed by a squashed sardine transit, pushing stress levels to the max. However, easily remedied I find, by a few ice-cold cocktails quaffed on arrival.

I decided this year for once, the grand ceremony of packing would take place early, and in good time for our annual week of winter sun. However, I had noticed that our destination had unusual soaring temperatures heading to the mid to late 30's, fine for Dave and his armadillo skin, but a bit high for wimpish me, by a good 10 degrees! Pulling out suitable lightweight holiday outfits each year takes on a similar procedure. Eleventy-eight garments are taken out to be inspected, choices selected, followed by a forced compression of eleventy-seven into my case. Dave will thereon make a thorough inspection, remove at least half, using the winning line, 'if you are missing any item, we can buy it out there'. Well, in the end, as always, most fancy clothes are superfluous, as the pair of us live in our oldest shorts and a comfy T-shirt most of the time.

Now as we head towards Easter, the scent of chocolate wafts through the air, although the supermarkets have had them on their shelves since New Year's Day. With that, our beloved Dorney cows are soon to be released onto the Common, free to wander and graze, a signal that Spring has sprung, whilst the gardens gently remove their duvets. Note to self, I must remember to buy my set build friend a tasty chocolate egg, as by now I am sure he has lost his own one.

Kristina Perkins



St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

This beautiful church is open daily.

The 2020 Services are:

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service - 0545hrs on Sunday, 12th April 2020

St Mary Magdalene Patronal Festival Service - 1600hrs on Wednesday, 22nd July 2020

Christmas Advent Service by Candlelight - 1500hrs on Sunday, 13th December 2020

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



The Parish Pump

A summary of the February 2020 Dorney Parish Council Meeting

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

- **M4 Smartmotorway Matt Orchard (Balfour Beatty)** reported that there had been no recent issues with wildlife; work was still in progress to restore the access track to the Village Hall; he has been monitoring mud on the road and there should have been some improvements; Highways England will retain the commemorative plaque from the Thames bridge and it will be removed before complete demolition; signage has been amended as requested. **Jim Stacey (Highways England)** reported that HE cannot change any of the signage in Court Lane without instructions from Bucks CC. HE had asked Bucks CC for the roundabout design from the 2012 Olympics, but HE installed the layout according to Bucks CC's design which did not include a roundabout. HE will report to Bucks CC that Dorney PC's preferred layout was a roundabout. **Cllr Harris** said Bucks CC would carry out a Road Safety Audit in a fortnight and appropriate changes can be made after this which should take into account the camber of the road. There were still lorry movements along Lake End Road despite the stipulation that lorries would access the site via the motorway causing a dangerous build-up of mud which should be removed from the side of the road. **Cllr Foxley** reported that the sweeper only goes up to West End Farm entrance, where it's easy to turn around, but the road really needs sweeping up towards Sainsbury, and all lorries should use an adequate wheel wash. **Jim Stacey** further said that the pilings for Marsh Lane bridge will be fitted on the following weekend, with equipment arriving around 12/2/20, meaning some noise up to 4pm; having got on site at Orchard Herbs Farm site, HE had found that the soil was not contaminated and could be recycled; **the completion date for the bridges was still on target.** HE was asked to remove restrictions at the entrance to the Village Hall and resolve the flooding. Such large-scale works had to continue during the Department of Transport's safety review of smart motorways. A strategic review of the work would be taken by HE once the review's findings were known.
- **Speeding in Harcourt Road** A member of the public said that speeding along Harcourt Road and in Harcourt Close had become more of a problem now that parents tend to drop off and pick up outside of the school rather than use the Village Hall car park due to the state of the entrance and driveway. There was agreement that some parents were causing this problem and the Headmaster should advise appropriately. It was asked that the Village Hall entrance and signage should be improved asap, so that this car park is used for drop-off rather than Harcourt Road/Close. The possibility of a 20mph sign was discussed, but these only act as warning signs and are not enforceable but can be requested for roads outside a school.
- **SBDC Report Cllr Pepler (District Councillor)** reported that **hearings regarding the emerging Local Plan will commence on 25/3/20.** He was still waiting for information on the lorry park at Orchard Herbs Farm.
- **Bucks CC report Cllr Dhillon (County Councillor)** reported that **Lake End Road jet patching had been approved but there would be a wait until weather conditions improved.** He will ask if the double yellow lines can be remarked at the bend of Court Lane. The middle section of the Court Lane road surface has broken up and needs repairing.
- **Clerk's Report** Parish Council elections are on 7/5/20. Nomination packs will be available from 31/3/20. Completed nominations need to be returned to either the Clerk or to SBDC at Capswood by 4pm on 8/4/20.
- **Chairman's Report Cllr Harris** is meeting with Eton College about Boveney Road parking. He will attend the next Commoners' meeting. The cows return to the Common over the weekend the clocks move forward. The clean up of the Common is organised by the Commoners.
- **Defibrillator Update Cllr Foxley** reported that Dorney School has offered to pay half of the cost of the defibrillator (£1400). This, together with the SBDC grant of £600 and £200 from the budget still outstanding from the first defibrillator, **means the target has been reached to purchase the defibrillator** which will be housed in a locked cabinet by the

side of the Village Hall. The Hall committee have already agreed to supply electricity free of charge and a local electrician has offered to install the defibrillator.

- **VE Day Cllr Dax** offered to organise a small-scale event for VE Day on 8/5/20 with a group of volunteers. DVHC has offered the Village Hall free of charge. Cllr Dax would apply for the small grant available from SBDC for these celebrations.
- **Planning** It was agreed not to hire a consultant to speak at the public Local Plan hearings as all the objections raised by Dorney PC have been included in the written response.
- **Finance** There was discussion over the level of payment from DVHC to Dorney PC now that DVHC has repaid its loan to which Dorney PC stood as a guarantor. **Cllr Stoughton** will propose to DVHC that any non-profit community events which involve the whole community should be zero rated. This would include the meetings of Dorney PC. This was agreed and would be presented at the next DVHC meeting. The Clerk had received a Freedom of Information request for all electronic communication from councillors to the response to Euan McClennan's email of 18/12/18. This was agreed.
- **Members' reports Cllr Dax** reported on the SBALC meeting she had attended on 23/1/20. It was agreed to ask the new MP, Joy Morrissey, what is happening about enforcement action at the Orchard Herbs Farm lorry park. **Cllr Foxley** said that she would upload a new document from Bucks CC concerning speed management.
- **Next Meeting** Dorney Village Hall, Tuesday March 10th 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 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 13,000 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.

2020 Programme

8 th April	'The Fights over Cookham Commons (1799-1852)' with Mr Keith Parry
27 th May	'Willie and Ettie: The Souls of Taplow Court' with Mr Nigel Smales
8 th July	'The History of Natural History at Eton College' with Mr George Fussey
9 th September	'A Window on Windsor's Medieval Past: the town's property deeds' with Dr. David Lewis
28 th October	'The Cock Pit, Eton: an archaeological exploration' with Mr Tom Wilson
9 th December	'A Woman of Wax: the life of Mme Tussaud, from Versailles to England' with Mr Tony Weston

Further details from: Teresa Stanton teresams35@virginmedia.com



The Charteris Club

Eton Wick Village Hall

Tuesday & Wednesday 12.00 – 14.00

If you are 60+, live in Eton, Eton Wick & Dorney and are interested in joining The Charteris Club for an enjoyable lunch and friendly company, please get in touch.

For details on how to register please call Julie & Jackie on: 07598 565091

We are keen to add to our membership and, in particular, from the Dorney Parish. The Annual Membership is £10.00, and the hot lunches are brought down from Bekynton (Eton College) each Tuesday and Wednesday for a small price of £4.00 per person. In cases where the member has mobility concerns, I can arrange for a car to collect and return home.

Julie Chappell, Manager
07598 565091

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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.

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Third of a page (Horizontal)	60	130	£45	£6
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Contact: Peter Bowman, Editor
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