

# Dorney Parish News

Online Edition 1 – April 2020



View of Windsor Castle from Dorney Lake

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— EST 1983 —

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**EDITORIAL**

Dorney, along with just about everywhere on the planet, is living through unprecedented times. Anxious and challenging times too. The challenges 'Dorney Parish News' faced were 'should we publish?' and 'could we publish?' Our loyal distributors would be unable to personally deliver copies in the immediate future. Yet, in anxious times there is all the more reason to keep going with those familiar features of day to day life.

So, temporarily, 'Dorney Parish News' exists online. Next Door is a widely available platform. Email addresses are known. We hope most of our subscribers (who are just as loyal as the distributors) will get to see this issue, even if a little later than normal. Maybe our readers will pass on hard copies to those not active online – we would urge that this contact, if undertaken, conforms to the current distancing protocols! Incidentally, I don't see this as the way of our future. 'Dorney Parish News' is a magazine for relaxation and reflection, not a newsletter.

This issue may seem a bit unfocussed. Much content has been passed to us, and days later has had to be withdrawn as policies change to reflect rapidly changing scenarios. Some inspiring pieces by our regular contributors reflect a slightly more optimistic time 'before the shut-down' yet were written earlier in this same month of March. We have included comment on issues like the Smart Motorway and Unitary Authority, which one day will again seem as important as they did a few weeks ago. To keep up with local events, and especially offers of help and practical advice, keep your eye on online resources like Next Door and the Dorney Parish Council website. I hope that the second online issue (which seems inevitable) will carry reports of support networks and readers' impressions of how we are managing to see this through. Do you have ways of helping both yourselves and your neighbours which can be shared?

All are to some extent vulnerable, with maybe the more elderly and isolated more so. Dorney, as with most places, has responded. We can't report on the private acts of kindness that will have occurred – and if you feel tributes should be paid to any individual or group, let the magazine know – but many public offers have appeared on Next Door and elsewhere. As one Dorney resident posted 'all the wonderful people who had made offers of help to those in the neighbourhood...restore my faith in humanity'. Deliveries of groceries have been made into Dorney by volunteers co-ordinated by the Eton Wick Village Association – I'm sure they'd welcome more volunteers. Zak Ra in Dorney Reach has become Group Lead of a Next Door group with over 70 members called 'Corona Virus Help'.

Our vicar, La Stacey, can always be phoned and a roster of helpers is available to offer moral support. I have been entertained by La's spirited efforts to live stream Sunday services to her flock via Facebook. Have there been similar efforts to keep up morale by other faith groups, social organisations and support networks? This magazine would like to hear.

Dorney is proving equal to this horrid event. Many will play a part in this process. I hope that the first online edition of 'Dorney Parish News' will be of interest, and, possibly, entertainment in these difficult times.

**Peter Bowman**

# Help is on Hand locally during “Lockdown”



If you need help with shopping Caitlyn Maynard from Dorney Reach, who is working for Tesco, has very kindly offered help in obtaining and delivering your shopping from Tesco. She can be contacted through the Nextdoor Dorney website.

\*\*\*\*\*



We are also fortunate to have Nisa in Eton Wick. They are providing a very efficient ordering service which can be collected from the rear entrance of the store or they can arrange a free delivery service. They have a very good stock and fresh fruit and vegetables. They will take your telephone order and payment. A great service and a friendly service. Call 01753 863631

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The Village Pharmacy in Eton Wick is operating a ‘knock on the door’ service and can be contacted on 01753 863575.

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Gowers the Newsagent in Eton Wick can be contacted on 01753 863746

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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](http://www.stjohnstjamesed.org.uk)

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

**Minister:** Rev Margaret Dudley, 01753 867117

Sunday 6.30pm Evening Service

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### **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

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### **Rev La Stacey writes:**

What strange and turbulent times! The whole world is topsy-turvy and upside down. I didn't think anything would make me, the dinosaur, take to live-streaming on Facebook, but here we are: those of us who inhabit the 12th Century Church in Dorney, are suddenly being forced out into the big wide world. We are planning to live-stream a Sunday service. Look out for the timing of this. Currently the service will be found here <https://www.facebook.com/Church-Community-of-Eton-with-Eton-Wick-Dorney-and-Boveney-647610252009554/>

We have put together a rota of people happy to receive calls if you need to chat to anyone. Either phone me or drop me an email to ask for the rota.

Know that our prayers are with you all. With God's blessing. La

## A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.



St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

**This beautiful church is currently closed until further notice.**

The 2020 Services are:

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](mailto:bill@daxfamily.com)



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Crocus at Dorney Court, Court Lane, Dorney, SL4 6QP

Tel: 01628 669 999 E: [info@dckg.co.uk](mailto:info@dckg.co.uk)

## Ode to Joy on Dorney Common

### Written pre Lockdown!

The day preceding our flight for our annual battery recharge in the sun was spent triple checking documents and confirming our comprehensive travel health insurance covered anticipated rainfall from the approaching Covid cloud. Our destination, The Gambia, at this time did not have any record of coronavirus cases but passing through Gatwick airport meant possible exposure.

As the suitcases were locked and brought down to the hallway by lunchtime, an easy evening was in sight. We would leave the cottage by 6pm for our overnight hotel at Gatwick, consume a goodnight drink or two and then rise with the crack of sparrows to journey on. With that thought lingering cheerfully, my mobile signalled an incoming call from our set build man (for those of you that read last month, the guy who suffered an egg on his head), asking if he could come round with a 'car' that needed painting for the Grimm Players latest production, 'Farndale'.

My intelligence was obviously already switched off and packed with my bikini in the holiday case, as I accepted the challenge, assuming all the different sections could be painted speedily, add a bit of detail, surely that shouldn't take too long. Half an hour later, what came out of the back of his car was unexpected, simply a square of plyboard with an inverted U-shaped 'windscreen frame' attached!



Too late now to decline, a quick glance at the watch told me that there was less than three hours to turn this piece of board into an object that resembled a vehicle. To dilute my anxious thoughts, Classic radio was switched on to soothe my sceptical brow, whilst paints and brushes sat ready to transform this very blank canvas. With my foot on the gas and several paint layers later, finally the beep of a car emerged as Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> symphony sweetly floated through my work studio (kitchen). As an 'Ode to Joy', I lavished the final detail onto the number plate, 'JOY 2', and the little car was done, resplendent in her red livery.

My husband Dave arrived home in time to see me shunting Joy into our carport for collection in the morning, wondering why he had married such a strange woman, who painted squares of scrap ply into Noddy shaped cars. Without much wordage, just a faint roll of his eyes, we set off in our taxi for warmer climes to distance ourselves from the scent of paint pots.

The holiday was a good one, despite temperatures frying up to 40 degrees. The resort was blissfully quiet, so in between reclining in the sun under a large straw hat with an icy cocktail, much time was spent relaxing in our room with the slide doors wide open, sipping cool drinks and completing 1000-piece jigsaws. During one of these convivial puzzle afternoons, one of

the hotel staff, a young African man, came to deliver some milk for my husband's tea. He looked with wonderment at the near completed view of a retro Waterloo station, whilst he told us about his marathon successes, watching us clip the odd piece in as he spoke. Then suddenly, without comment, selected several pieces that he proceeded to slot straight into their correct places!

Fascinated by the eleventy-eight small cardboard shapes, and the fact that they eventually created such a grand image of yesteryear, steam trains and porters in crisp uniform, he shuffled his feet, then asked if he may have the puzzle for his family when we had finished. These jigsaw puzzles did not exist in his country, so without hesitating we told him it was our pleasure to give it to him, along with a couple of others that were later available. No doubt after his three children have concluded each one, they may travel on around The Gambia to give joy to others.

Returning home is always a pleasure for us - after a bumpy ride past the Pineapple the road cuts left through our lovely little village to rumble over the cattle grid, to be greeted by our little brown cat meandering out of the cottage with a look of disdain that we have finally returned. However, once back in the cut and thrust of daily life again what was particularly noticeable was the rising air of panic, along with the empty shelves in Sainsbury's.

In my previous life having spent some time at the sharp end of many a busy London ward as a State Registered Nurse, the art of cross-infection prevention has always stayed with me. Washing hands and being aware remains ingrained, so clipping my nails short and frequent washing was an easy habit for me, and now routine for all of us. I am sad to see and hear fear in the voices of people I speak to, apprehension of the unknown, perpetuated by the today's instant intense media updates.

Shortly after returning, we went to see the Grimm's production of 'Farndale', where Joy 2 would be making her debut appearance. Actually, probably her only appearance as after the post-production party she will return to be a piece of plywood. The true title was 'The Haunted through the Lounge and Recessed Dining Nook at Farndale', which to be honest, none of the actors or backstage could remember in full, and I am not entirely sure I have got the words right either. Norden Farm studio was packed to the gills with theatre folk, out to have a good belly laugh at this very light comic production and to put aside anxious thoughts of space invader viruses and loo roll drought.

Surrounded by many friends and regular patrons of what is locally known as The Farm, the evening showed the resolute Brits at their best, putting on brave faces and handshaking with a sturdy shoe kick. It made me think about our communities, how very important it is to be solid not stolid, helpful not distant, and optimistic not negative. Note to self: try to bring Joy into the lives of others as we fight adversity with harmony, so let us sing out loud from our balconies and backyards.

**Kristina Perkins**

## Buckinghamshire Unitary Authority – A Project in Limbo

At the March meeting of Dorney Parish Council – for the details see the Parish Pump – residents raised a number of everyday issues alongside their dismay at the impact of the Smart Motorway project on our community. Speed limits, dog bins, the state of the towpath – all issues that we are told have very little traction with our County Council. Our county councillor, Dev Dhillon, maintained that when the new Unitary Authority is in place, new local structures would make it easier for residents to raise these issues with the new Bucks Council. Residents might be surprised that this interaction is scheduled to occur in Burnham Library.

Alongside every other aspect of our lives, the Covid-19 emergency has hideously distorted the new Council. Can we discern what was planned to happen to our local government round about now and what the state of play actually is?

Despite the crisis, the new Bucks Council will launch on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Bucks will deliver the range of local services until now delivered by current district councils. The councils for Aylesbury Vale, High Wycombe, Chiltern and South Bucks (where Dorney is located) will disappear. Many would share at least two concerns about this new Unitary Authority. It was claimed that residents were confused about the distinct roles of the county and district councils. Maybe not – ‘County’ looked after education and roads (the latter somewhat ineptly) and ‘District’ handled planning issues and refuse disposal. There has also been fears that power would be concentrated in Aylesbury, a long way from us here in the deep south of the county.

Ever since the Secretary of State approved the unitary proposal in November 2018, Martin Tett, the Tory leader of the former Bucks CC has confronted these fears. ‘One of the key judgements of the business case the government accepted was that we would be even more local than the former structure’ he told the *Maidenhead Advertiser* recently. Which leads us back to Mr Dhillon’s point about Burnham Library.

Council Access Points (CAPs) are being set up ‘based at the heart of local community life in existing buildings’ intended to make residents ‘able to access information, advice and support on a range of topics near where they live or work’. There will be five ‘Access Plus’ centres in current council offices such as Denham, dealing with more complex enquiries. That leaves a dozen or so other CAPs across the county. The most southerly, and nearest to Dorney, will be in Burnham Library. When these are established, the next step will be the setting up of 16 Community Boards made up of ‘local people’, town and parish councils, ‘community groups’, police and healthcare organisations. All this is to ‘build strong links with local communities and respond to local needs more effectively’.

All this may be admirable, but even allowing for the recent shut down of most local activity there has been precious little flesh put on these administrative bones. One local councillor wondered to me whether anyone had tested whether library staff, who presumably would like to work in a library, had the capacity to become council officials. There is nothing to indicate coming changes on the websites for Burnham Parish Council or Burnham Library. Bucks CC has not gone beyond proclaiming last year that these plans had been hatched. Meanwhile the expertise resident in the existing district councils is presumably being dispersed.

Massive further disruption is occurring to the Unitary Authority due to the current wider tragic circumstances. Buckinghamshire was excluded from the nationwide Local Council elections in Spring 2019 because of the uncertainty surrounding the Unitary Authority decision. Now elections scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup> 2020 to elect members of the Bucks Council have been

postponed for a year. Incidentally, this postponement includes any elections to Parish Councils like Dorney's – this magazine has been supporting the calls made by many local parish councils for new candidates to come forward.

In the run up to April 1<sup>st</sup> the County has been run by a Shadow Executive of 17 members drawn from the previous County and District Councils. All 202 elected county and district councillors have made up a Shadow Authority. The May elections were intended to elect a new council of 147 councillors. Now these shadow bodies will stay in place until new elections in May 2021. Apart from the wider Covid-19 issues, there must be uncertainty about a council that has overrun by two years, has many members who intended to stand down in May, and indeed our own councillor was due to stand not for Cliveden as currently but for a different ward.

The Covid-19 crisis dwarfs all political considerations, but the immediate omens for the new Unified Authority do not look promising.

**Peter Bowman**

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## **DORNEY SCHOOL**



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### **News from Dorney School**

Best wishes to everyone in the Dorney community, I hope you are all staying safe and keeping well during these unprecedented times.

It has been a real challenge at school over the last couple of weeks, as we were faced with uncertainty over how long the school would remain open. Our teachers, parents and pupils have been amazing as they've adapted to these new circumstances.

We remain open for a small number of key worker's children, offering a childcare provision rather than a school setting. Meanwhile, the vast majority of teachers are working from home, setting a wide range of online learning tasks for pupils.

The way in which the educational community has responded to the pandemic has been incredible. There are vast arrays of resources which have been made available for home learning, including:

- Daily work-outs by Joe Wicks on his youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAxW1XT0iEJo0TYIRfn6rYQ>
- Live webcams from Edinburgh Zoo, you can watch pandas, tigers or penguins
- Live lessons from the BBC on a range of topics: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/live-lessons>

In school, the childcare provision has been going well and we have had the children working on a range of activities including painting, playing board games and even some gardening around the school. They replanted a canoe donated by Dorney Lake, which is now filled with primroses and foxgloves!

It's a challenging time, but one which has the opportunity to bring out the best in a community.

Stay home, stay safe and look after yourselves and your neighbours,

**Mr. Lloyd**  
**Headteacher**



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## ON YER BIKE 3 – NEARLY SPRING 2020!

### Current Government guidance (as at 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020):

#### 1. Staying at home

*You should only leave the house for very limited purposes:*

*one form of exercise a day, for example a run, walk, or cycle - alone or with members of your household.*

It seems as if we have had bad weather, particularly rain for most of 2020 to date, curtailing my and no doubt others enthusiasm to get on yer bike. It shouldn't necessarily discourage you though as a white frost covered landscape with an occasional glimpse of the sun can be an uplifting experience – just avoid the muddy puddles if possible.



With the conditions in mind, Route 3 is mainly back roads and the Jubilee river track. A Dorney to Taplow to Eton Wick to Dorney loop covering nearly 13 miles.

We start with the presently difficult negotiation out of the village down Lake End Road. Many deep potholes and temporary traffic lights re The Pineapple refurbishment challenge us followed by the likelihood of muck carrying trucks exiting the site before the bridge and Smart motorway works. Not the prettiest view of country life in Dorney/Dorney Reach but let's hope very temporary.

Cross over the M4 to the roundabout on the Bath Rd/A4 and go straight over to Lent Rise Road under the railway bridge and turn left on Eastfield Rd towards Hitcham Road – turn right at the Olive Tree Pub. (Our route shows a right and left shortcut to avoid traffic). There should now be little traffic and more time to enjoy the lovely countryside – often seeing horses in the fields or also out for a ride.

Follow Hitcham Road (quite narrow at places), up the slight hill and then down the hill and turn left at Hitcham Rd. This loops down and round past some lovely cottages at Hill Farm Road to Taplow village and down the hill picking up some speed on Boundary Rd.

Turn right at Station Road and right again past the station again down the slope of Approach Road to the busy Bath Rd A4 junction. It might be advisable to stick to the footpath here to the right and cross the road after the BMW garage at the traffic lights.

We are heading to the Jubilee river via Taplow Lake where you can have a rest at the local cafe here if needed. There is a bridge over the Jubilee to Amerden Lane and then turn left and follow the Jubilee all the way back to Dorney village no doubt passing dog walkers and other cyclists along the way. Lots of great views of the Flood Channel – as David Hockney likes to tell us the light in Winter can be so much better with trees void of leaves.

On reaching Dorney, the ride could stop but this route carries on and follows the Jubilee all the way to Eton Wick turning right at the railway line over a stream towards and adjacent to the viaduct arches bridge.

This leads directly to Eton Wick Rd where you can cycle over the road alongside allotments towards the river and onto the lane next to the Thames pathway (which was too muddy when doing this route).

The pathway is a well know walkway and runs parallel to the Thames including a lovely Horse chestnut avenue approaching Boveney Lock and Dorney Lake. Avoid both and it leads to Dorney Common and back to the village past the Spanish Bit.

My apologies for this being a cyclist's country route where the advantage is in the riding and seeing not the telling!

**Paul Temple with thanks to Jeff Day** (who enjoyed two punctures on this trip – “buyer beware!").



Please feed our swans! Wendy from Swan Support ([www.swansupport.org.uk](http://www.swansupport.org.uk)) 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

## The 'V' Word

**March 2020 (written pre Lockdown!)**

I'm well, very well actually!

I said, "I'M WELL... VERY WELL ACTUALLY!!!!!"

Turn on any social media and start digging.

'Crash', 'plummet', 'freefall', are all words commonly used to describe the occurrence of an uncomfortable and highly contagious malady not seen before, and that's all it is; but listening to the dire warnings of the apocalypse about to descend upon us sends me reaching for the gin bottle, if, of course, you can find one. If you've got fifteen, may I buy one?

I am not crouching in a landing craft heading for Normandy beaches, nor am I in the back of a Lancaster. I am being careful to avoid an illness and my morale is not lifted by these harbingers of doom.

Friends and I spent Saturday exploring the delights of Black Park (appropriate in the circumstances) for much of the day and found the usual happy smiles, laughter of small children on little tricycles with the family dog and loving parents a reassuring contrast to the mostly overindulged, struggling with overloaded shopping carts 'stocking up', or more accurately, pulling up the ladder. The weather for the time of year was lovely, and we met a delightful Polish lady with a ferret on the end of a lead. Ferrets, it seems, make great pets, and come Armageddon, you can put them on a plate alongside some chips and red sauce! The little café was humming with activity, the coffee as usual, excellent. Perhaps only in Britain, in the face of adversity hyped up by a hungry media would people indicate their indifference by drinking coffee outside in the cold (having thoroughly washed their hands of course).

Earlier in McDonalds (I didn't spend the entire day eating, but quite a bit of it!) after a visit to B & Q (large rolls of blue mopping up paper for under £4 which may be a useful substitute when my few rolls run out- might make your eyes water a bit, so be careful) for light bulbs (quick! Never thought of them!), the place was similarly packed with families enjoying their weekend off, the 'V' word far from their thoughts.

Later still, we had a fabulous meal (told you!) in my favourite eatery (Palmer Arms) which was sadly less busy although the food and service never wavered.

So, may I indulge in a little of what these lovely people have?

Every cloud, even this one, has a silver lining.

Most people weren't greedily heaving overloaded shopping carts, but perhaps bought two where they normally would have bought one. I guiltily bought ten eggs where six was the norm and felt foolish. Most people will look out for friends and neighbours; the Dunkirk spirit will prevail as the IRA and ISIS found to their cost. Less food and everything else will be wasted, and we will appreciate all the more that which we are fortunate to enjoy. Fewer journeys will mean less congestion for vital traffic, less pollution, less noise. Anyone noticed the reduction of aircraft noise? Perhaps I'd be less content if I worked in aviation, I have to admit.

I am no longer in the first flush of youth and may be confined in a couple of weeks by virtue of my age and I hate the idea. I am a people person and not good alone, but that's better than being ill, far less, sitting in Wexham Park, so I guess I'll have to make the best of it.

Three months!

I can write a novel in three months!

Harvey Weinstein will read..... perhaps not, he's busy.

But I may find fame and fortune and Tom Hanks will..... perhaps not, he's not well; but when he's better (get well soon Tom) he can star in the film!!

There you go!

Better already.

Dear Reader, would you like a lift in my Bentley?

See you next month. Stay safe and healthy.

That tall man in the long black cloak and hood carrying a scythe; please come back later, much later. There's nothing for you here.

**Mike Quincey**

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# Dorney Village Hall

[www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk)



## **Coronavirus – COVID19**

**Dorney Village Hall is closed until further notice, at least until 31st May 2020. Please contact us by email: [enquiries@dorneyvillagehall.com](mailto:enquiries@dorneyvillagehall.com) if you need any further information**

**Dorney Village Hall Management Committee**

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

It is served by a large private car park and adjacent there is a tennis court, a multi activity games area (MUGA), 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](mailto:enquiries@dorneyvillagehall.com)**

**Online on [www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk)**

# Planning Applications (Validated and Decided) during March 2020

Dorney Parish

From South Bucks District Council Planning website:  
[pa.chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk/online-applications/](http://pa.chilternandsouthbucks.gov.uk/online-applications/)

## **Validated:**

**Piemans Way 4 Old Marsh Lane Dorney Reach Buckinghamshire SL6 0DZ**

Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed: Erection of a single storey outbuilding

**Ref. No. PL/20/0750/SA**

## **Decided:**

**Meadow Edge Village Road Dorney Buckinghamshire SL4 6QW**

T1 Ash - Fell. (Dorney Conservation Area).

**Ref. No: PL/20/0431/KA | Status: Decided - TPO shall not be made**

**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 | Status: Decided - Conditional Permission**

**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 | Status: Decided - Refuse Permission**

## ***Dorney Horticultural Society***

**Spring Buffet April 17th 2020**

**Dear members and friends of Dorney Horticultural Society in light of the current Corona virus situation we wish to inform you that we have taken the decision to postpone our Spring Buffet evening for this year.**

**We wish you all a safe and virus free summer**

**Ron Alsworth - Chairman**

## DORNEY PARISH GIVING SCHEME UPDATED.

You may remember back in our May 2018 Parish magazine, we put out an Appeal to Raise Awareness to the fact that we could be in the position of not having a full-time paid vicar in our parish.

Our thanks go out to all those who chose to support the Parish Giving Scheme by committing to give an amount regularly to show the Diocese that although we may be a small parish our Vicar is valued, and much needed in our community. It means there is still someone to do the weddings and baptisms and funerals in our church and to be a focus of community in our village.

Now 18 months on we are able to share with you that your donations have proved extremely helpful and positive; we are definitely moving in the right direction. From the tax and gift-aiding alone we have increased our monthly return to the church and the diocese is being made aware that there is a commitment within our community. However, as always, we are still in need of calling on everyone locally to show their support.

If you feel you would like to give and thereby show that having our own vicar is important to you and your family's life in our community, it is easy to do. Just download a form from the benefice website, [www.stjohnsjamesed.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsjamesed.org.uk) and send it with your direct debit details to the address given. As little as £5 a month (or more) can make a big difference or collect a form and information document from the church, Angie or Jane.

Any questions or help with the form and information needed, please contact Angie Wood-Dow, 01628 660507 or Jane Reed 01753 424547

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*Joy Richmond passed this letter from the Thames Valley Adventure Playground on to Dorney Parish News -*

**Subject: Thank you from Thames Valley Adventure Playground!**

Dear Joy and all involved in the Lent Lunch,

Firstly we are so proud to be supported by you all again! Thank you for having the children and adults with special needs, and their families and carers, in your thoughts for your donation - it means a great deal to us. Your donation of £158.30 is very much appreciated and will be put to very good use!

We know that you understand the impact of our work and what a difference the support, advice, opportunities and space we provide makes, but you don't know that with support like yours, which is wonderful, we were able to provide 30,000 visits to the Playground last year. That is akin to a big business leisure entity! We are able to do this by keeping our overheads as low as possible, just shy of £350,000 a year, to ensure that every penny you donate goes just where it should - to making a difference in the lives of the many, many families, and special people, from 3 months to 60+, that request our help. They come from 33 different counties and travel far to come to us as we are unique.

The rest, relaxation, fun and freedom that our space enables brings everyone together, gives every member of the family a community and a safe, non-judgmental place and provides information and advice when each person is ready to seek it. And, I am sure you can imagine how valuable a day of respite is, knowing that your loved one is being cared for, and having some independence, in a caring, stimulating environment whilst you have a break to do the chores you just can't manage to do with your caring duties, or to spend some much needed time with your other children and family members.

We are often called a 'Lifeline' by those we support - from them and us, a truly heartfelt thank you for your part in ensuring that we are able to continue to be that lifeline.

With best wishes and thanks from all the TVAP team,

Reama

**Reama Shearman  
Engagement Manager**

## **Making Smart Motorways Safe – the Grant Shapps Evidence Stocktake and Action Plan**

This 78 page review was published on 12<sup>th</sup> March and addresses the overall question of safety on smart motorways.

However, the specific question that many people wanted the answer to was: ***Do we need to re-introduce the hard shoulder on All Lane Running Smart Motorways, given the 38 fatalities on Smart Motorways over the past 5 years?***

The Action Plan, based on the review, is summarised as follows:

- abolishing the confusing "dynamic hard shoulder" smart motorways, where the hard shoulder operates only part-time and is a live running lane the rest of the time
- substantially speeding up the deployment of "stopped vehicle detection" technology across the entire "all lane running" smart motorway network, so stopped vehicles can be detected and the lanes closed more quickly
- increasing traffic officer patrols on those smart motorways where places to stop in an emergency are more than one mile apart to reduce the average attendance time when a vehicle is stopped from 17 minutes to 10 minutes
- reducing the distance between places to stop in an emergency to 3/4 of a mile where feasible so that on future schemes motorists should typically reach one every 45 seconds at 60mph. The maximum spacing will be 1 mile
- installing more emergency areas on the existing M25 smart motorways and considering a national programme to install more
- making emergency areas more visible
- installing more signs to direct motorists to emergency areas
- committing £5m extra to improve public information and awareness about smart motorways and what to do in an emergency, more than doubling previously planned spend.

On balance, these actions appear to be a sensible list.

In many commentators' opinions, however, there is one major failing in this list – and it is within the second bullet point above, regarding "stopped vehicle detection".

This appears to be the most significant safety feature within the review, but is only going to be introduced "*within 36 months*".

The Review states: *While Highways England is committed to rolling out SVD ("stopped vehicle detection") to every existing all lane running smart motorway, until now there has not been a public timetable for this work. As a result of this evidence stocktake, Highways England has been asked to accelerate its plans and install the technology on all lane running smart motorways within the next 36 months, setting a clear public timetable for the first time.*

The system has been successfully trialled by Highways England for a number of years on the M25 and M62. It is able to reduce the infamous "*17 minutes to take action when a vehicle is stationary*" to just over a minute! This is a truly remarkable achievement.

Why, therefore, did Highways England not take the decision to implement this system across all "all lanes running" smart motorways until 38 people had died? Unbelievable.

## What is a Stationary Vehicle Detection (SVD) system?

To be truly effective at mitigating risks, an SVD system must be able to satisfy challenging list of requirements. It must provide near to instant detection times, and continuous coverage of every possible location on a motorway where a vehicle could stop – including Emergency Areas.

Day and night, it must perform in all possible weather and environmental conditions that may occur on a motorway. From rain, fog and snow, to glare, spray and even smoke, it is in these more challenging conditions that the system is needed the most.



### Tried and tested

Pilot studies have already proved the value of an effective system. A recent SVD trial using 27 radar sensors between junctions 5 and 6 on the M25 motorway that circumnavigates London, successfully demonstrated a substantial reduction in the time taken to identify stationary vehicles in all parts of the motorway.

Each sensor monitored a 700-metre stretch of road in both

carriageways, covering all lanes and providing detection in any location a vehicle could stop. It detected stationary vehicles within seconds and sent an alert instantly, resulting in a 94% reduction from the original 17-minute average using existing processes. Operators were able to immediately investigate and verify the alert.

A video showing SVD in operation may be found on the Navtech website:

<https://navtechradar.com/features/stopped-vehicle-detection/>

According to Highways England, out of the 135.1 miles of smart motorways in England, only 24.2 miles are currently covered by SVD – around 18%.

## What action has been taken by Highways England?

On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Highways England launched a £32m tender for stopped vehicle detection (SVD) systems, as part of its programme of safety improvements to smart motorways.

Lot 1 will cover the provision and commissioning of a radar solution 'to facilitate immediate roll-out, estimated to be 300-800 units with an estimated value of £7m to £16m'.

The indicative date for response to this contract is April 2020, and Lot 1 is due to be awarded in the summer.



It is, regrettably, not yet clear when the M4 will be fitted with the new SVD system. In the meantime, people may wish to consider safer routes – even if it takes longer.

## THOMAS CROMWELL'S LEGACY

I'm so excited! Hilary Mantel's third and final novel about the life of Thomas Cromwell is out, and I can't wait to read it! Based on impeccable research, immersing herself in the records of the 1530s, she has really brought this important historical figure to life, as a man as well as a politician.

This set me thinking about the effect Thomas Cromwell's actions might have had on the people of Dorney. One of the most significant impacts for local residents would have been the closure of Burnham Abbey as part of the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Following the Reformation which established Henry VIII as head of the Church of England, Cromwell was instrumental in encouraging the king to reform the monasteries, which had developed a reputation for corruption. Eventually this became a wholesale closure of nearly 1,000 religious houses and seizure of their property, all overseen by Thomas Cromwell.

The abbey in Burnham was founded in 1265. It stood where the present abbey stands, in the area within the bends of Huntercombe Lane South. This abbey was endowed with several estates, including part or all of the manors of Boveney, Cippenham, Burnham, Stoke, Beaconsfield, Holmer, Little Missenden and Bulstrode – incorporating a substantial portion of fertile Thames Valley farmland, as well as 160 acres of woods, a mill and fisheries. The abbey had the rights to hold the market and fair in Burnham and a fair in Beaconsfield, from which they earned revenue. At the time of its dissolution, the abbey's annual net income was estimated at over £51 – a not insignificant sum, but not wealthy in comparison with other monasteries. When Thomas Cromwell and his assistants closed the abbey down, they took all that land for the Crown, who could then lease it out or sell it. For the local people who worked on the land, this would have been a time of change, as an institution which had been in place for centuries was replaced by new employers and no doubt different ways of working.

Thanks to the Dorney Manor Court records, which you can read on the Dorney History Group website, we know that the farming operations of the abbey did not exist in isolation from the village. A complaint, undated but probably in the 1530s, from Richard Hill, then Lord of the Manor of Dorney, raised several grievances about the abbess and her predecessors which he claimed had occurred over the previous 20 years. These included not properly maintaining the stream from the abbey's mill at Haymill down through Lake End and into Dorney, such that it caused flooding in the meadows and pastures of Dorney. The abbey had the right to take a cut of hay from a meadow in Boveney but had exceeded this by subsequently overgrazing the land with their cattle, which they did not have the right to do. Moreover, when taking the hay, the abbey's carts trampled over and damaged the grass belonging to other local farmers. Added to this were allegations of cutting wood illegally and trespassing, around Burnham and in Dorney Wood. Richard Hill and his tenant farmers might therefore have been pleased to see the abbey closed, though he died the following year, and it was not long before the Manor Court found fault with the new lay occupiers of the abbey.



At the time of its dissolution in 1539, Burnham Abbey comprised Alice Baldwin, the abbess, and nine nuns of the Augustine order. There were also two priests, 21 farm workers and 14 women servants. Probably, some of the abbey's land was rented out and some of it farmed in house. The nuns of Burnham Abbey had a good reputation, and they cooperated with the authorities when they were ordered to surrender their property. As a result, the abbess and her nuns were granted small pensions. History does not tell us what became of the lay workers, but let's hope they found alternative employment. The abbey's valuables, including bells and lead, were worth nearly £46, and these too of course were seized for the king.

A hundred years' later, the main living quarters of the abbey were being used by a farmer to store produce and implements. The church had been demolished about 1570. Gradually, all the old buildings fell into disrepair. But the nuns came back; or at least, new ones did, and since 1916 Burnham Abbey has been home to the Sisters of the Precious Blood, a community of Anglican Augustinian nuns. The remnants of the old abbey buildings have been incorporated into the modern convent.

The original abbey had a garden where they grew medicinal herbs, and there was an infirmary. Monasteries like this played an important role in looking after sick people in the surrounding area, and this would have included Dorney. They also provided relief and assistance for the elderly and infirm and those who had fallen on hard times. The abbey would have offered hospitality to travellers, and probably education for girls. The loss of Burnham Abbey as a place of refuge and care must have been keenly felt. All over the country, the closure of monasteries caused serious social problems, and increases in begging, vagrancy and crime were noticeable. It was to take many years before a replacement system of support was introduced, starting in 1563, when parishes began to collect contributions from their wealthier inhabitants to help the poor, elderly and sick. Thomas Cromwell was therefore indirectly responsible for the introduction of local rates which continue today as council tax.

A key component of parish poor relief was the concept of settlement. This meant essentially that each parish supported its own residents, not those born elsewhere. It would have been difficult to implement this without another of Cromwell's reforms – the introduction of parish registers. In 1538, he ordered each parish to keep a register of all baptisms, marriages and burials. The earliest registers have not survived for many parishes, but Dorney is one of the lucky ones. So, we know that Richard the son of Robert Goldwyn was baptised in Dorney church on 20 September 1538, and that Johanna was the most popular name for brides marrying there in the 1540s. Although the administrative value of church registers was largely overtaken by the introduction of civil registration of births, marriages and deaths in 1837, they are still maintained today, and formal signing of the register in front of witnesses is an important feature of a church wedding ceremony.



Spoiler alert! For those who don't know, Thomas Cromwell was beheaded in 1540. Getting close to Henry VIII could be a risky business, as some of his wives found out. But Cromwell's legacy is still with us today.

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# The Parish Pump

## A summary of the March 2020 Dorney Parish Council Meeting

This meeting was held on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Events discussed like the upcoming Parish Elections and the Annual Parish Meeting have since been postponed.

The full Minutes can be found on [www.dorney.org.uk](http://www.dorney.org.uk)

- **M4 Smartmotorway Jim Stacey (Highways England)** reported that all the configurations required by Bucks Council at the Court Lane/Village Road junction were in place but TfB had still not carried out a safety audit. **Matt Orchard (Balfour Beatty)** said that the contractors had struggled with the wet weather, but they were confident of catching up. The motorway access is now in place for construction vehicles to Marsh Lane bridge. There was a problem during the night work with the pilings, and the girders will now be delivered to Marsh Lane in a fortnight. On that night there would be flashing lights. Work continued on the access road from the M4 to Lake End Road – when this was completed, all construction traffic will come via the motorway. The potholes at the entrance to the Village Hall will be repaired once it is dry. There were suggestions that there should be a sign directing school traffic via Meadow Way to the school car park to avoid Harcourt Road. In answer to an enquiry, Matt said that the guardrails on the new Marsh Lane bridge will be Containment Class N2 parapets, 1.4 metres in height with four rails and have mesh panelling.

About 10 members of the public were present and concern was expressed about several issues –

Noise and lights shining late at night A Meadow Way resident said this happened without prior warning on February 24 until 1am and February 27 until 10.40pm. Matt Orchard apologised and would investigate.

Ash Deposits There were complaints over the amount of deposits during the bridge demolition. Jim Stacey responded that jet spraying was carried out at all times. Residents felt this wasn't adequate.

Simultaneous shutdown of Lake End Road Matt Orchard said that the two bridges would not be closed at the same time. The Lake End bridge will be built alongside the original bridge once Marsh Lane bridge is completed and traffic disruption will be minimised.

Lake End Road surface The road surface failure outside The Pineapple was not the responsibility of Highways England but was down to Bucks Council.

Landscaping Plans for landscaping work to replace removed vegetation were requested. It was on the HE website, but the Parish Clerk would make these plans available to Dorney.

Clean up Cllr Harris assured the meeting that Dorney PC would ensure that HE cleans up at the end of construction work.

Jim Stacey will inform his Communications Team of these problems raised by residents.

Cllr Harris suggested that there should be a 45-minute slot at the APM on April 22 to discuss the Smart Motorway with questions sent in by residents beforehand.

**Dev Dhillon (County Councillor)** had met residents at Trumper's Field about a proposal for a double carriageway with a drop off point to the school along the entrance road and a changed location of the footway to the opposite side. Dev suggested this would be a good legacy to be left by HE after the construction work on the two bridges.

- **Bucks CC report** Cllr Dhillon had met with the Portfolio Holder for Highways at Bucks CC and the poor state of Lake End Road had been inspected. It is in a particularly poor state between the Pineapple and the Jubilee River bridge and funding was in place to plane and patch, digging the road deeper. This will happen after March 15 as the weather gets drier. (NB Work commenced outside The Pineapple on March 20.) A second phase down to the cattle grid was due in October/November 2020. A third phase would see Marsh Lane resurfaced once the new bridge is in place. It was pointed out that some serious patching at the bend of Lake End Road into Court Lane was needed before October and this should be included in Phase 1. It was requested that residents and Dorney School should have advance notice of the timing of these planned

works. The new Buckinghamshire Unitary Council will commence on April 1. Dev said that he would no longer be representing Dorney, but he would always be the link if anyone has concerns about carers, NHS hospitals and the elderly. He said that could do nothing about reducing speed limits until the new Unitary Authority is in place. Under the Authority, issues like speed limits, dog bins (which had been raised by a resident) and traffic calming can be raised by local people at the Community Board located at Burnham Library. The state of the tow path was also raised. This has been reported to the Environment Agency and the Rights of Way officer at Bucks Council who will be carrying out an inspection.

- **Clerk's Report** The Clerk reported that she had hard copies of the nominations pack for the forthcoming election. NB The elections scheduled for May 7 have now been postponed for one year.
  - **Chairman's Report** Cllr Harris having met with Eton College reported that Boveney Road will be completely closed, except for named residents only, six times this coming year during events. The turning circle will be at the entrance to Elm Farm. A local fencer will be replacing the posts along Lake End Road damaged in a February car accident. The Clerk is seeking costs from the driver's insurance. Cllr Harris attended the annual Commoners' meeting.
  - **Defibrillator Update** Cllr Foxley sent a report that the defibrillator has arrived and will be connected by a local electrician. Dorney School has offered to pay for the connection.
  - **VE Day** Application for a small grant had not been successful and no volunteers could be found. Leanne Kittel will be using the Village Hall for a small VE celebration with the Youth Club and their families on April 8.
  - **Emergency Plan** Cllr Smith reported that Bucks Council had done a lot of work on a county wide emergency plan.
  - **Complaints/Comments** Emergency services have recently needed access to the Jubilee River. The Environment Agency have since put padlocks on the two access points. EA have provided the Police with a gate code which is now on their systems and has been forwarded to fire and ambulance. A number on the gate can be called to gain entry. It is believed these issues have now been resolved. All other complaints (on access to the Village Hall, nearness of the pedestrian footway to the motorway and the replacing of trees after construction work) were addressed in Public Participation at the start of the meeting.
- 

## Dorney Parish Council Website

The Dorney Parish Council website address is:

[www.dorney.org.uk](http://www.dorney.org.uk)

and the Twitter account is @DorneyPC

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

## NATURE NOTES

Dutch Elm Disease (or DED) is the topic for this month. It is a lethal fungal disease spread by the Elm Bark Beetle (*Scolytus*) and it has been known for over 100 years (according to Forest Research). It was introduced into Britain in beetle-infested timber imported from America. The disease became established and was blamed for wiping out almost the entire population of elm trees growing in Britain during the 70s and 80s.



At a low level of infestation, a sturdy Elm tree has some chance of survival. When Fungal spores, spread by the bark beetle germinate, they block the cellular structure of tree tissue. This starves the tree and causes yellowing and wilting of the leaves, leading to early leaf-fall. The infected tree is thereby weakened and collapses, but it remains attractive to the beetles carrying the fungus. Exposure to repeated infection debilitates and eventually kills even mature trees. Then the fungus is spread rapidly along the hedgerow elms. Peeling back the bark of an infested tree can reveal evidence of the beetle, the holes it bores and where it overwinters.

In the search for promising new varieties of elm tree with resistance to the fungus, researchers report that they are in the final stages of identifying a complex hybrid with this capability. Obviously, it would be unwise to place dependency upon just one strain of fungus because the elm tree residue will contain survivors. Eventually the mature tree will die. Climate change will surely dictate matters in the future.

Evidence of the consequence of the fungal disease is still to be found in the Parish. We can find big pieces of the main trunks of fallen trees which have been deployed by landowners who place them strategically across gateways to safeguard their property. Typically, the bark of a 10-year old elm sapling is thick enough to become infested by beetles carrying the fungal disease and therefore able to spread infection.



Disease-resistant elm saplings were offered on sale commercially by Hillier's for the first time at the Chelsea Flower Show last year. The British elm is just surviving with fewer than 100 large-size trees and each of them has the potential to grow to nearly 200 feet in height. It is considered to be one of our most 'magnificent trees'. Along with Oak and Ash (both with their own disease problems) elms challenge for supremacy in the countryside.

Hillier's Adam Dunnett presents Dame Judi Dench with an *Ulmus* 'New Horizon'. Photo: Jayne Lloyd

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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.**

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## **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:**

<b>Advertising Rates</b>	<b>Height mm</b>	<b>Width mm</b>	<b>10 issues</b>	<b>1 issue</b>
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**Contact:** Peter Bowman, Editor  
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01628 623228

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TRIAL  
CLASS

BABY BALLET 18 MONTH+  
PRIMARY BALLET  
PRIMARY MODERN  
PRIMARY TAP

ACROBATIC ARTS

BALLET

BODY CONDITIONING

CONTEMPORARY

CREATIVE DANCE

GCSE DANCE

MODERN JAZZ

TAP

ADULT BALLET STRETCH  
ADULT BALLET  
ADULT CONTEMPORARY  
ADULT BEGINNERS TAP  
ADULT INTERMEDIATE TAP

BOYS CLASSES



ETON WINDSOR DATCHET OLD WINDSOR ETON WICK ICKENHAM  
WOKING RICHMOND

[WWW.SUSANHANDYDANCE.CO.UK](http://WWW.SUSANHANDYDANCE.CO.UK)

OFFICE@SUSANHANDYDANCE.CO.UK / 07515 270432



**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**