

Dorney Parish News

November 2020



The Marsh Lane Bridge opens!

(with thanks to Richard Shymansky for the photographs)



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EDITORIAL

During lock-down – and as we prepare this issue South Bucks has been teetering on the edge of returning to something akin to those gloomy days – one consolation was for people to talk about their ‘projects’. Right now, it seems we are reporting on a range of these. Lots of differing goals are being pursued.

Joanie Wraight recounts her lobbying of Highways England and Balfour Beatty Vinci after she became convinced that Dorney Reach had suffered ‘enormous disruption and inconvenience’ and that recompense was due. Joanie reports on the encouraging response from the project and ‘Dorney Parish News’ applauds this initiative, as we do that of Darryl Sheldon.

Darryl became exasperated as the many views expressed on Nextdoor went unheeded and discounted. He set out his arguments online on the roundabout proposals for Court Lane and Lake End Road and, crucially, created a poll on residents’ feelings. So far, well over one hundred votes have been cast establishing, we believe, that our community is fortunate to have access to this debating and communications platform. In passing, let’s give thanks to Mark Final-Austin for setting it up and for acting as the platform’s ‘lead’.

Even this publication can spark a project. An article in last month’s issue set out the obstacles facing the much-loved Thames Valley Adventure Playground. Jan Bowman has started her project to raise donations for TVAP and the details can be found in this issue.

Some projects are more ‘official’ than these. Dorney Parish Council, in conjunction with Dorney School, have applied for funding for three signs to set a 20mph area around the school. This could involve an electronic flashing sign which might be automatically controlled during school main access times. Some residents appear enthusiastic, some less so – let the Parish Clerk know your opinions.

The Parish Council, specifically Councillor Peter Smith, has been working on an Emergency Plan for the village – preparation for flooding or an extreme weather incident – and we publish a draft of those plans. Again, residents’ reactions are sought.

At this point, with several consecutive pages of council business set out, I recall a reader who queried the amount of local politics given space in this magazine. We sympathise, but there is a lot of ‘politics’ about at present, and an equal lack of normal village community activities. Anyway, we remain enthusiastic about the prospects for the Beeches Community Board. It appears that local bodies will be able to apply for Bucks Council funds – as, it seems, Dorney Youth Club are doing, to help with their projects.

We’re conscious that ‘projects’ missing from this issue are those connected to the ongoing, and possibly deteriorating, Covid-19 crisis. Earlier the focus seemed to be on helping out the vulnerable, but now councils, schools and members of the public are engaged in distributing the very necessities of life as the economic situation worsens. Please let us know for the next issue, how our Dorney community is swinging into action and how readers can help out. In the meantime, please keep safe and well.

Communication Breakdown

In our September issue we published an article regretting that ‘communication’ was lacking in Dorney life. We wondered why today’s electronic techniques were not more widely employed to keep us all informed and drew unfavourable comparisons with our neighbours in Taplow, Burnham and Eton Wick.

Since then it appeared that there had been an outbreak of it – ‘communication’ that is – which seemed worthy of an update.

First of all, thanks are due to Councillor Alice Foxley, who sometimes seems on a one-person mission to share information on important local issues. She posted on Nextdoor about plans for funding signs in Dorney Reach setting a 20mph speed limit around Dorney School pretty soon after the issue was raised at the Parish Council. As we write, incisive and friendly debate is developing. If only such a policy of sharing had been followed over the Lake End Road roundabout proposals.

In 2014 the Department for Communities and Local Government published a guide to ‘Open and Accountable Local Government’. The objective was to ‘ensure we have strong, 21st century, local democracy where local government bodies are genuinely accountable to the local people whom they serve and to the local taxpayers who help fund them.’ As part of this, councils were encouraged to record their meetings and those attending were assured of their right to do so. It was in this spirit that ‘Dorney Parish News’ suggested that Dorney PC meetings should be recorded.

Recording of meetings was accepted at the October PC Zoom meeting, but with apparently little enthusiasm. The minutes (printed in full in this issue) indicate that ‘further consideration will be discussed at the next meeting.’ It’s hard to see why this is yet another form of communication which causes such problems to our council – as Dev Dhillon, our county councillor, pointed out, meetings of Bucks County Council are recorded. Elsewhere in this issue we report how Bucks County has dropped its Local Plan. Not only can the meeting that took that decision be viewed on the Bucks website, but the meeting was webcast live. Meetings of Burnham Parish Council are recorded. Visit their website and a link invites the visitor to view the latest meetings on YouTube. At the latest count an impressive 179 people have viewed September’s meeting.

Nextdoor, used by seven out of ten households in Dorney, still draws a blank with our Council. Many residents, while not necessarily hostile to a roundabout, think that there could have been more local consultation. Darryl Sheldon of Dorney Reach made his case, invited debate, and started a poll. The debate was friendly and constructive and by now 108 votes have been cast. These are all local because of the parameters set by Darryl. The result is not what we are discussing here, but for the record, 67% of votes favoured a return to the former T-junction. Darryl sought to share his findings with the Parish Council and sent a number of emails. Look at item 90(i) in the minutes. Mr Sheldon and his 108 voters did not even warrant one complete sentence in the eye of the compiler of those minutes.

At last, it seems, Dorney PC is considering a social media policy, a mere five years after most councils have had theirs done and dusted. Some councils trust in their councillors’ sense and allow freedom to participate in debate and to reassure residents. Some depute one or several members, depending on the issue. Some focus communication through the Clerk. Whichever is the way, communication opportunities are grasped and enjoyed. Why must Dorney be different?

Peter Bowman

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Dorney Community

www.dorneycommunity.org.uk

October 2020 Update

Project	Update	See Page
Planning	Orchard Herbs site: Hotel Planning Decision due 16th November 2020. Need update from County Councillors re status of Enforcement Notice to remove trucks/containers.	N/A
Roundmoor Ditch	Lake End community researching current flooding problems and considering next steps.	N/A
Traffic Calming	Roundabout (DPC) . Bucks Council are carrying out a road safety audit and design. Funding secured. MVAS signs (DPC) Replacement due for the one destroyed on the Cattle Grid. One to be moved to the new Lake end Road bridge when completed. Speed Limits (DPC) : Requested speed limit reductions to Cllr Dhillon - Marsh Lane/Court Lane, Lake End Road approaching Dorney from Sainsbury's and Common Road/Boveney Road. 20 mph signs around the school - two metal road signs and one electronic flashing sign managed by the School. Locations suggested were Harcourt Lane and Oak Stubbs Lane but will first consult with residents and the School.	38
Footpaths, Cycleways and Bridleways	Recent articles in Dorney Parish News indicate a strong interest in addressing this issue. Possible survey to be conducted of all footpaths, cycleways and bridleways to determine a suitable action plan.	N/A
Marsh Lane M4 Bridge	Highways England is willing to support the avenue of trees (or an alternative) on Dorney Reach. They feel that this is an excellent opportunity to further engage with the local school as part of their outreach activities and their Environment and Communications team will be in contact with you [Joanie Wraight] and the school to discuss and agree what can be provided.	16
Phone Boxes	Village Road and Harcourt Road Boxes have been cleaned out by volunteers as both were getting overrun with books and other items. No books etc. to be left in them until after COVID-19, please.	39



Festive Events



23rd November - 24th December*



Breakfast with Father Christmas

Bring your little helpers along for a special breakfast with Father Christmas.

£14.95 per child | £10.95 per adult[†]

Festive Afternoon Tea

Treat yourself to our traditional afternoon tea with a festive twist.

£17.95 per person | £21.95 with Prosecco

Festive Lunch

Join us for a taste of Christmas with our delicious seasonal feast.

2 courses £23.95 | 3 courses £29.95

Book now!

For more details speak to a member of staff,
email admin.dorney@crocus.co.uk or
visit crocus.co.uk/dorney-court/



*Dates and times vary by event. Bookings required.

All bookings remain provisional until the UK Government provides updated guidance.

Once this is the case we will contact you to confirm the details.

[†]Children must be accompanied by a minimum of one paying adult.

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

Revd. La Stacey writes: Who are your heroes?

One of my heroes growing up was my dad. He was a mysterious figure, who would appear back in the middle of the night from travels in the States or France, but who always knew the answer to every question (even if he would frustratingly make you go and look things up for yourself) and who could mend anything. He has recently died and re-reading his memoirs so that I could write the eulogy for the funeral, I realised again why he never said anything about his work and why he was away so much.

After various adventures in aviation, he went to work with the ARB (Air Registration Board). He was immediately sworn to total secrecy and told that the British aircraft industry was proposing a supersonic airliner and ARB was to advise on safety requirements. Shortly after work got underway, Dad and his one-legged colleague, David (who had lost his leg bailing out of a Wellington over Italy), were asked to go and meet with their counterparts in France to explore cooperation on a joint project. That, of course, was the beginning of the Concorde project. And that was why dad was always travelling and unable to tell us what he did. He recently told us about a colleague in the French offices who was executed for industrial espionage – capital punishment still existed in France at the time.

His memoirs tell of the time Dad was conducting tests on aircraft performance when flying at supersonic speed through storms at high altitude. On one occasion they brought back the test-plane, an F100 fighter, minus the cockpit and with the leading edge of the wing

and air-intake very badly damaged by large hail stones. They escaped with their lives though! Dad comments, 'needless to say, we were not very popular with the pilot or the US Air Force for a while'.

This is the time of year when we remember our heroes. We remember heroes of the faith on All Saints Day on 1st Nov, we remember those who were special to us in our Benefice Thanksgiving service at Eton Wick at 3pm that afternoon, and we remember those who lost their lives in the 2 World Wars on Remembrance Day on Nov 8th starting at 9.15 in the graveyard. We remember with respect, not in order to indulge in nostalgia, but in recognition of how precious this life is, and in order perhaps to be encouraged to give of our best in leading peaceful and caring lives.

Jesus led by example, even to the extent of laying down his life when the authorities felt too challenged by him. In his story we are assured that wrong motives and evil intent are no match for a truthful life lived with integrity. With thanks for all those lives lived in humility and honesty.

Church Services in November 2020

Sunday 1st November (All Saints)

9.30 am	Holy Communion (said BCP)	St James the Less, Dorney
11.00 am	Any Age Service	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick
3.00 pm	Thanksgiving and Commemoration	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 4th November

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

9.15am	Holy Communion with Remembrance	St James the Less, Dorney
10.55am	Remembrance Service	St John the Evangelist, Eton
3.00pm	Remembrance Service with scouts	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 15th November

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

Wednesday 18th November

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

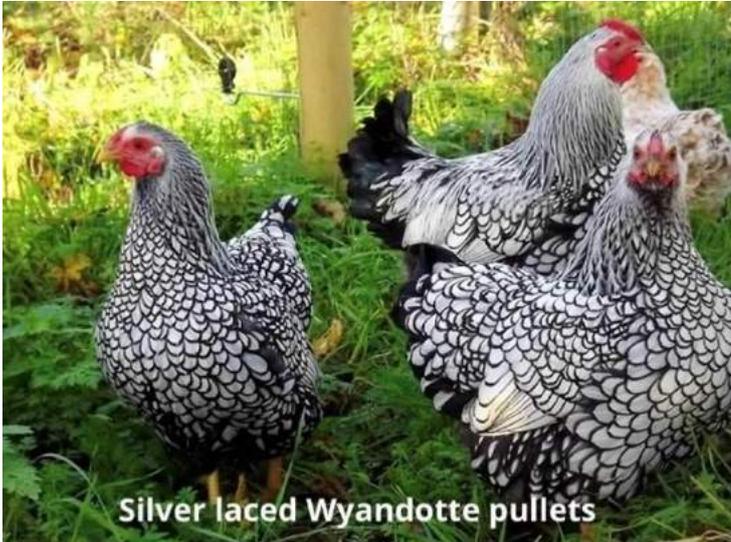
9.30am	Morning Prayer	St James the Less, Dorney
11.00am	Holy Communion	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 29th November

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

SILVER PULLETS ON DORNEY COMMON

As the leaves gently turn through a kaleidoscope of yellow, orange and red, Autumn has well and truly arrived on the Common and through our parish. Facing a continuing fraught year, fresh mornings help cleanse the stagnancy as the virus continues to ripple. This invisible icy finger touches some cruelly, but dances unnoticed amongst many, free jumping to smoulder silently on each new landing.



October brought the sad demise of one of our beloved hens, Porgy (George and Ida Gershwin), leaving her aging sister, Bess, alone as the last girl standing. Poor Bess, with her limp (stray dog intrusion some years back) and totally scatterbrain, seemed to accept the empty space, but within four sleeps, we were off optimistically with the cat basket. Our trip took us on a mission hoping to collect some young five-month-old Wyandotte silver laced pullets. A friend who lives in

Eton Wick and looks after our pets if we go away, told us about these very beautiful little birds with their black feathers covered in silver lace.

The farm, owned by Richard, a doppelgänger to the farmer in the film 'Babe', had a wonderful assortment of poultry, and several hours were spent admiring his stock, resulting in eventually 'can we just have that one too' and raised eyebrows from my husband Dave. Introductions to their new home went smoothly, but they were as nimble and fast as 'Road Runner' flying high in the air, two going over the electric fence with ease. Early the next morning, armed with the kitchen scissors, we clipped the primary flight feathers on one side, to ground their antics. Bess accepted her new companions, and within a day spent each afternoon under the hen house surrounded by her pupils who cuddled up for warmth and security. Simple things to warm the heart.

Meanwhile, a knock on the door brought a familiar face, one of our judges, John Barker, who annually adjudicated the vegetable entries at our annual horticultural show. A kindly gent, he asked if I had started to sow the Wildflower meadow yet? No, I hadn't, I was on the verge so to speak... so he told me it was too late and too cold. The success of the flowers returning year after year was poor and required an industrial size sack of seeds. Educating Rita, but I was very glad of it, and he was very kind to come round.

John lent me a thick catalogue of professional dimension, Moles Seeds, where a ton (slight exaggeration but it imparts the enormity) of wildflower seed was available for purchase for every condition. He also advised me to grow some plugs from seed, then to plant out in the Spring when the soil was warmer. Visions of a Monet

moment flooded my imagination as I thumbed through Moles eleventy-eight wildflower varieties. Painting with flowers, how joyous... I hope.

Time changes everything, and as it rolls by, we see people come and go. With sadness, my dear neighbour Valerie, decided to return to the island of Ireland, to join her sister and return to her birthplace. 'Not that I am particularly near my sister' I can hear her laughter echo. She had spent many years working as a Dame for Eton College, and had fantastic stories of her time there, which entertained us frequently. On her last day, she showed me a photograph taken some years back, on Mufti Day at the college, where her boys had made her dress up in tails and a top hat. As she jauntily sat on a windowsill, posing with a cheeky smile, I felt sad that she would be leaving Dorney, and would miss the garden fence chat, and the times she came to our Dorney Horticultural suppers dressed in what is now called 'bang on trend' clothes and boots. However, before going, she gave us her boat-shaped seat, as a memory and as a place to sit and think of her in the village of Lisbellaw.

With not much happening at Maidenhead Drama Guild, we took the opportunity to clear out the bigger unit and dispose of items that were gathering moss. Amid the mass of paraphernalia, and acres of bulging clothes rails housing decades of costumes, were included sky high boxes of items from other theatre groups that have now collapsed. The burden of not having any light at the end of our theatrical tunnel is only kept buoyant by cathartic clearing and the friendships that exists throughout the group. With this demise ever present, an even bigger disaster loomed, which gave us an even bigger electric shock than a badly wired lamp.

An abrupt email arrived from the RBWM properties manager, passing on a message from British Gas that we had not paid our electric for over 5 years in the smaller unit. For some reason, it was thought that the electric was inclusive, nobody had come across a meter, but on further checks at the back of a cupboard underneath a pile of scenery flats and the panto cow suit, there it sat. It transpired that we owed £18,000, which was wincingly huge, and as I had been delegated the task of unravelling this ball of wool, had to impart the news to a forlorn committee... the gallows loomed!

In the end, thankfully due to a sticker nearby, it was discovered that the meter had been changed shortly after we took over this unit, so the usage was a merely an estimation. Wipe brow and exhale. Our dwindling bank balance could possibly now remain intact, as the new estimate would now be calculated by an assessment of the current weekly consumption. So, every bleak moment eventually has a silver lining, British Gas have conceded, and we have some funds to pay (the grants we achieved earlier in the year). Here, I must concede too, they were not the corporate giant as expected, they were kindly and supportive, so I acknowledge and nod to them my thanks.

Kristina Perkins

Benefice of Eton with Eton Wick & Boveney & Dorney



**SERVICE OF
REMEMBRANCE**

**St James the Less
Dorney**

November 8th

starting 9:15 am in churchyard



Thank you all for your support since my last update. I have lots to report a month on - we have projects afoot!

We are hoping to turn the area called Max's Garden (which at the moment just has a table in it and is the fire assembly point) into an outdoor activity space.

The outdoor table area will be used for crafts (like wind chimes, bird feeders, nature collage) and woodwork sessions. A gated

area will have raised planters for the adults and children to turn into a mini allotment. We will grow fruit and vegetables to encourage healthy eating and give all the usual horticultural benefits, and wildflowers to encourage nature and that our families will be able to plant here at TVAP but also as a take home activity. The area will be staffed every afternoon (if possible) for guidance, to run activities and do the preparation and maintenance required.

There is a lot of research about the therapeutic effects of being in and connecting with nature, so this outdoor 'classroom' will not only help therapeutically but be helpful whilst we only have a little inside space available due to this dratted pandemic.

Whilst people can't be in the main part of our building at the moment, it being closed has given us the opportunity to start on a project that has been on our minds for a good long while: renovating our soft play area. A beloved part of our Playground, the soft play area is very popular as I am sure you can imagine! We have patched it and resealed seams for many years but this break in use has given us time to audit the damage and decide to have new floor pads, new play apparatus and to rejuvenate the ball pit.

Since July our lovely volunteers have been getting crafty and creating craft packs of four different themes so that our families can take them home after their visit or just have them at home if they are shielding.

Drum roll.....we are opening on Sundays from the 14th of November until Christmas! With our families limited by the necessary restrictions on numbers allowed in to our Playground at any one time, we are about to take the step to open for a trial period of Sundays between 10 and 1. We hope this means that everyone will have the opportunity to come and have time to reconnect, have fun and talk to others in the same situation (socially distanced of course), in a safe, Covid secure environment. Young people with special needs will take priority but everyone is welcome! Phone to book. 01628 628599

Lastly, all the team here at TVAP (staff, Trustees, Ambassadors, and TVAP Association members) are attempting to collectively walk the 874 miles between Land's End and John O'Groats in November – virtually of course! Follow us on our journey via our social media channels

Facebook: ThamesValleyAdventurePlayground

Instagram: TVAP_charity

Twitter: @tvapSN

Or to hear about it, and/or our other events and news, sign up to hear from us via:

www.tvap.co.uk/contact/stay-in-touch

Thank you for reading, and stay well, stay happy and take care!

Reama Shearman

The innovative “Eton/Dorney Green Belt” and its ongoing “protection” of Dorney, Eton Wick and Eton

Whilst we are awaiting the Bucks/RBWM/Slough Borough report - **The Wider Area Growth Study Part 2** – which may be seeking an additional 15,000 houses in this area over the next ten years, I felt it would be beneficial to go back nearly 100 years to see what steps were taken then in order to protect Dorney as much as possible from such developments.

We are all aware of the Green Belt that protects the green spaces around our cities. It was first introduced for London in 1938 and rolled out to the rest of England in 1955.

However, the first “green belt” that protected Dorney was implemented by some far-seeing people around 1930.

After the First World War three events near to Dorney appear to have raised concerns amongst the Provost and Fellows of Eton College that Eton may be in some danger of being absorbed into the rapidly growing town of Slough. Col. Charles Palmer shared their concern related to Dorney and Eton Wick. They developed a plan – I have called it the “Eton/Dorney Green Belt”.

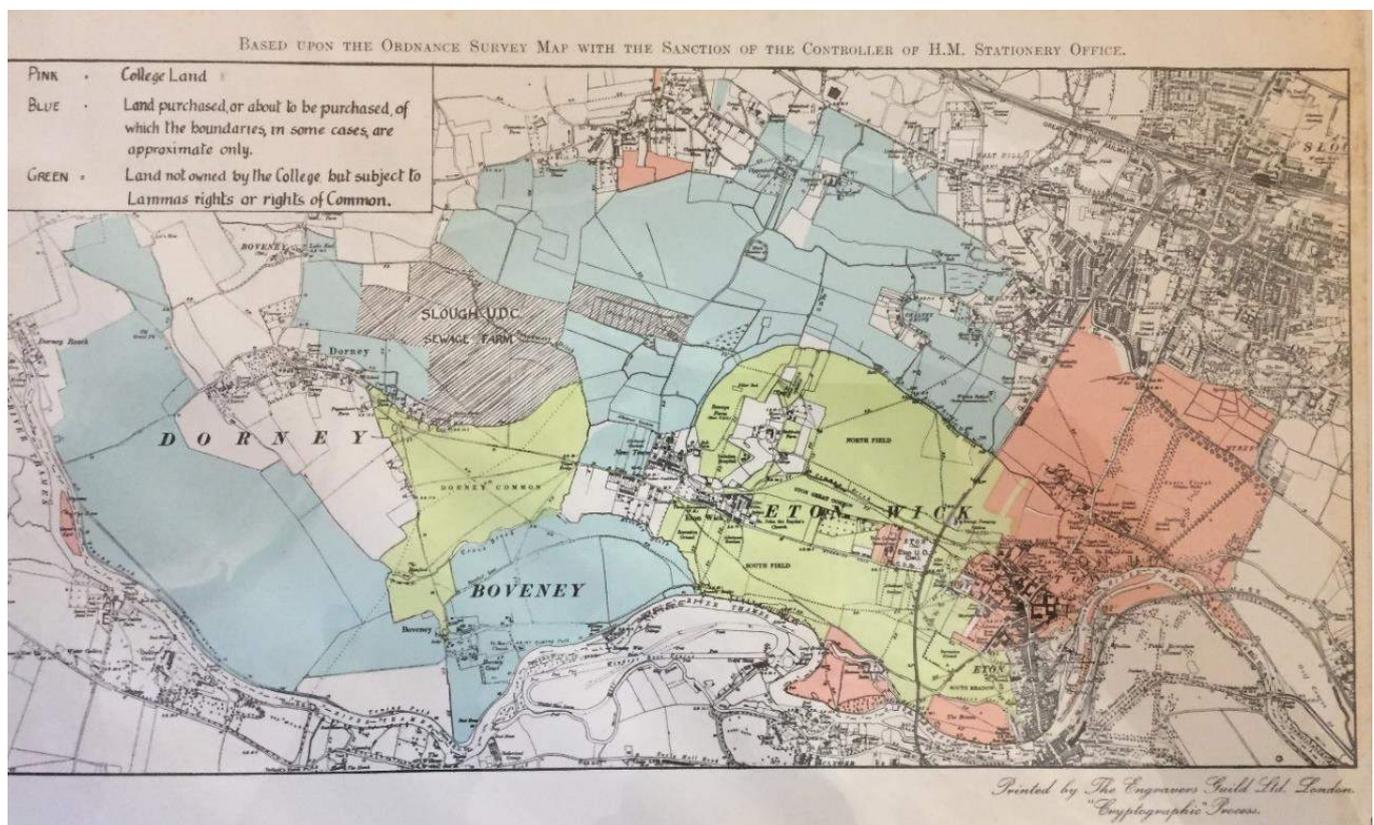
The three events that triggered the “Eton/Dorney Green Belt” were, firstly, the decision by the Government – after considerable debate – in 1918 to compulsory purchase Cippenham Court Farm and five neighbouring farms (over 600 acres) to create a motor repair depot for government vehicles returning from overseas. The site rapidly became known locally as “The Dump” owing to the thousands of vehicles stored in the mud in various stages of decay and disrepair. By April 1920, there were nearly 18,000 vehicles at the site of which at least 75% were derelict. The workforce at “The Dump” was around 8,000.

Secondly, sixteen years earlier in 1902, Col. Charles Palmer agreed to lease the 244 acres of Manor Farm, Dorney, which then stretched from Dorney Common to Cippenham, to Slough Urban District Council on a 21 year lease. It was agreed that a small proportion (40 acres) of this land, near to Slough, could be used as a sewage farm. The population of Slough in 1902 was approx. 14,000 – a small town with no major plans to expand.

In 1920, when the Slough population was around 20,000 plus the 8,000 workforce at “The Dump”, Slough Council decided that they wanted to purchase Manor Farm in its entirety, together with some land owned by others, in order to increase the size of the sewage farm in line with the increase in population plus the workforce that “commuted” to “The Dump”. This location was Slough’s only sewage farm. After an Inquiry, these land purchases were made.

The third event, linked to the first, occurred in April 1920. The Government sold “The Dump” to a new company called Slough Trading Co Ltd. This was the start of the Slough Trading Estate. All the vehicles were disposed of and Slough Trading Co Ltd started to lease the land to businesses. The twenty original tenants by 1925 included Gillette Razor Company, Johnson & Johnson, Life Saver Sweets and St Helen’s Cable and Rubber. By the end of 1927 there were 65 companies on site and over 150 by 1933.

In 1926 Eton College, together with Col. Charles Palmer of Dorney Court, developed a plan to protect the west side of Eton, Eton Wick and Dorney from any further land-purchasing incursions. They did this by ensuring that virtually all the land surrounding Eton, Eton Wick and Dorney was, essentially, owned either by Eton College or the Dorney Court Estate. By 1931 this plan was complete.



Map showing the “Eton Green Belt” plan around 1926

The map above shows the plan in detail in 1926 (approx). The pink land is that owned at that time by Eton College, the blue shows land purchased or about to be purchased (from the Dorney Court estate and other landowners) and the green land is land not owned by the College but subject to Lammas rights or rights of Common. Lake End Common should have been included coloured green. The black, hatched land in the centre is the Manor Farm land including the sewage works. The white land in Dorney was primarily owned by the Dorney Court estate.

The white triangle along the Thames at the bottom of the map south of Boveney Court Farm is where the Eton College Boathouse is at Dorney Lake. At that time, it was owned by the owner of The Willows, across the river. In 1950 Eton College bought these 41 acres from the owner of The Willows.

Between 1961 and 1965 the M4 Motorway between London and Maidenhead was opened and effectively became the revised northern boundary to the “Eton Green Belt” with the Thames making an excellent west, south and east boundary combined with the land owned by Eton College and Dorney Court estate.

The opening of the Jubilee River in 2002 added further protection for Dorney and Eton Wick from any future encroachment of the Slough Sewage Works.

That is where the very careful planning of both Eton College and Col. Charles Palmer after the First World War has left Dorney today. Protected by two landowners – Eton College and the Dorney Court estate - who are committed to the ongoing protection of Dorney against further incursions and with no apparent plans to further develop the green fields they own in and around Dorney.

Those of us who enjoy Dorney for what it is today should be thankful that bold and imaginative steps were taken nearly 100 years ago when the “Eton/Dorney Green Belt” was created.

Bill Dax
Dorney History Group

ROADWORKS DISRUPTION COMMUNICATION

I was moved to write to Highways England and Balfour Beatty Vinci, after reading and hearing reports on Next Door, and at one of the Dorney Parish Council Meetings, of the enormous disruption and inconvenience endured by the residents of Dorney Reach during the rebuilding of the Marsh Lane Bridge.

It seemed there were so many families so badly affected and desperate for someone to hear their voice, so after taking a walk around Dorney Reach and seeing the devastation first hand, and the close proximity of the residents to such major works, I decided to write to the parties concerned. I attached a compilation of anonymous testimonials to support those concerns within my correspondence, and I asked for their support on a number of local projects that they might like to consider contributing towards.

I received a letter from Peter Mumford, Director of Major Projects for Highways England. His letter, of 29th September 2020, includes the following:

Thank you for your email and letter addressed to Jim O'Sullivan, Chief Executive of Highways England, and Leo Quinn at Balfour Beatty of 11 September 2020 regarding the disruption to Dorney residents. As this issue falls within my area of responsibility, Mr O'Sullivan has asked me to reply to you personally on this matter.

I'm sorry to hear about the disruption and noise you are experiencing, and I apologise for the impact this has had. I would like to express my thanks to the residents of Dorney village for their forbearance as we undertake the complex work near your community. We acknowledge that our works have been an imposition on your daily lives, and I appreciate your continued patience.

The M4 project team senior leaders from Highways England and our contractor Balfour Beatty Vinci have reviewed the suggestions made in your letter and I am able to confirm the following:

1). We have been in conversation with the Highways department at South Buckinghamshire District Council and have confirmed to that we will be willing to construct the mini roundabout at the intersection of Lake End Road, Court Lane, and Village Road on their behalf. We have advised the council that they will need to provide the design and undertake the required road safety audit.

2). The project is willing to support the avenue of trees on Dorney Reach. We feel that this is an excellent opportunity to further engage with the local school as part of our outreach activities and our Environment and Communications team will be in contact with you and the school to discuss and agree what can be provided.

3). The relocation and installation of existing MVAS unit: our Project Manager has instructed the project communications team to arrange to meet with you and the local council highways team to explore this requirement in more detail. Subject to requirements we may be able to assist further.

*Please note all references to Dorney are inclusive of Dorney Reach.

*Point 2 is a suggested project and I would welcome local residents' suggestions on how best this could work via the Contact Us page on the Dorney Community website.

Joanie Wraight

Family Portrait Session including a 7"x5" photograph complimentary for our Dorney neighbours

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Imagine having precious family memories to keep forever...



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T. 07878162452

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 ShymanskyPortraitPhotographer

CATWALK *Boudoir*  CAPTURE  EXHIBITION 

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Silver Linings

“Oh no! not the V word again.”

Dear reader, I share your pain, but some smart arse grown up in my childish days would drivel, in that smug way some grown-ups speak to children, “Every cloud has a silver lining,” and so it does, even this one.

True, it's a dirty great big ugly cloud and a few very small squeaky silver linings, but even small pieces of silver shine brightly on a dark backdrop.

“Honey,” (my partner calls me that if I'm up to date on Brownie points) “you've left a window open on the car and it's going to rain.”

A brief glance at my ageing Dagenham Dustbin (Ghia no less!) confirmed that she was absolutely correct. A quick turn of the ignition key to spark up the electric windows (Ghia see! I told you so!) and a press on the appropriate plastic switch failed to provide that reassuring hum from the motor buried in the door while the window remained obstinately statically down.

The storm clouds were gathering as she and I sliced up a Sainsbury's bag and attempted pitifully to tape it to the door as I contemplated another large garage bill and as we did so a huge black 4x4 stopped across the end of my drive adding to my displeasure. A thirty something chap smilingly approached; perhaps, I thought, to 'take it off yer 'and son' for a ridiculously small consideration.

“Hallo,” he beamed. “Can I help? I'm a furloughed mechanic and frankly a little bored. May I have a look?”

I know what you're thinking! I thought the same. Keys are in it, I'm stuck. Was he going to steal it? It would save the repair bill and it's insured, and frankly, you wouldn't risk a spell at Her Majesty's Pleasure for my old car.

“That would be very kind,” I smiled uncertainly, and stepped aside as he dived in, professionally pulling at parts I didn't know I had.

“Er hem! What do you charge?” I ventured, still uncertain.

“Well, a cup of tea with two sugars would be nice,” he mused from behind the dashboard.

I left him to it and returned a few minutes later carrying two teas. He and the car were still there.

“There you are, all done!” he beamed proudly. I couldn't believe it as the window glided smoothly up and down.

He handed me the keys and we invited him to the rear garden for tea and biscuits. The storm clouds both physical and metaphorical were replaced by glorious afternoon sun as we chatted amiably with our new friend, who refused any payment whatsoever.

“Glad to help in these difficult times. Thanks for the tea.”

If, Sir, you are reading this, yes, it's you and the window has been fine ever since. Thanks again.

I'm getting to the age where various bits of me rumble and fail occasionally, necessitating the odd visit to a specialist, and so it was that I was to see one of the good and the great at

Chalfont Hospital. My under-used faithful Honda CBF 1000 motorbike begged, "Dad, the weather is fab, and the ride to Chalfont is great. Take me. Please take me. I'll be good."

It would have been rude not to, and off we went, in truth a little tight for time, and on the way, I noticed that the fuel gauge needle was uncomfortably close to 'E'. A mental calculation of available fuel and distance indicated I would have enough, and time being tight, I resolved to fill it after the audience.

All was fine.....until I got lost. It had to be inattention doing the mental calculation. Where on Earth was I?

Too many miles later I pulled into Chalfont Hospital car park, had my audience just in time (I'm going to live, apparently) and returned to the bike.

"Noi oi oi oi oi." I tried again. "Noi oi oi oi oi." It was never going to start. I had run out of petrol!

"Oh dear!" I muttered to myself. (Actually, it was a bit more Anglo Saxon than that.)

Chalfont is all hills, so I freewheeled into the town till rising ground slowed it to a halt, so I removed my crash helmet and jacket and started pushing the heavy bike towards a petrol station about a mile away.

"I thought you said you were going to be good," I scolded her as we sweated in the hot sun."

"What do you think is going to happen if you don't give me any fuel?" she retorted crossly.

"Are you alright?" I heard a soothing female voice enquire from the road as I struggled up a hill and looked up to see a concerned young lady speaking from the inside of her old Vauxhall.

"Thank you so much for stopping," I wheezed. "I've foolishly run out of petrol."

"Put the bike on its stand and I'll bring you some petrol. Sit on that bench. I'll be back in ten minutes. Would you like a coffee?"

"Er yes. That would be lovely," I heard myself say, but thinking, "I'm going to wake up in a minute," and she was gone.

I needed a rest, so I sat on the bench, not expecting anything, as, sadly, dear reader, I am not Brad Pitt in the looks department, more that bloke who frequents Notre Dame, so it was with delight that I saw her return, park in the layby in which I had taken up residence, produce a gallon of 4 star and two coffees complete with sugars and stirrers.

"Latte OK?" she smiled.

"Er yes," was all I could muster.

I filled the bike as the coffee cooled next to her on the bench, and after a few turns it roared into life, and ticked over contentedly.

I returned to the bench where we socially distanced, now enjoying the glorious day.

"What do I owe you?" I asked.

"The petrol was six pounds, the coffee is on me," she smiled.

I made the appropriate protests all to no avail and parted willingly with six pounds as we sipped silently comfortable.

“May I ask you a question please?” I ventured. You would have too.

“Of course,” she replied.

“Why? Why would you stop and help an old boy who’s pushing a motor bike up a hill?”

“Well,” she smiled. “My Dad’s a biker and I would always help one if I could, and I try to do a good deed every day, and you’re mine for today.”

Driving a patient home from hospital through the fleshpots of Slough in my ambulance, we passed an ice cream van with a long queue tailing from it near our destination. I made a mental note to enjoy one if it was there on our return.

“Want an ice cream?” I asked Diana, my crew mate.

I joined the back of the queue. Children were pushed aside by parents.

“Come on, move over, let the nice ambulance man get through,” and I was suddenly at the window of the van.

“Two ninety nines please,” I ordered, and fumbled in my wallet.

“Put that away,” said the man holding out the two ice creams.

“What?” I retorted.

“Your money’s no good here. Thanks for what you do.”

Silver linings!

Stay safe.

Mike Quincey



St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

This beautiful church is now open again.

**The remaining 2020 Service currently is:
Christmas Advent Service by Candlelight - 1500hrs on Sunday, 13th December 2020
(Subject to COVID-19 regulations)**

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



Eton College Dorney Lake

Sports Events
Rowing & Regattas
Team Building
Meetings & Conferences
Corporate Events & Away Days
Weddings
Parties & Private Events
Filming Location








www.dorneylake.co.uk
info@dorneylake.co.uk
01753 832756

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 event or private event.

In light of Covid-19, sporting events are not permitted to have any spectators. Members of the general public will not be permitted access to site on event days.

Please call us on 01753 832756 or check our website

for the most up to date information. Additional event days may be added at any time.

November 2020

Sunday 8th – Purple Patch Duathlon & Run - venue closed until 2.00pm

Saturday 14th – F3 Events Triathlon - venue closed until 2.00pm

Sunday 22nd – Runthrough Events – venue closed ALL DAY

Sunday 29th – RunThrough Events - venue closed ALL DAY

December 2020

Saturday 5th December – The Race Organiser - venue closed until 2.00pm

Sunday 6th December – The Race Organiser - venue closed until 2.00pm

Saturday 12th – F3 Events Duathlon & Run - venue closed until 2.00pm

Sunday 13th – Purple Patch Run - venue closed until 2.00pm

Sunday 20th December – The Race Organiser - venue closed until 2.00pm

***Also, when the venue is open 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**

DORNEY SCHOOL



RESPECT * COLLABORATE * GROW

News from Dorney School

I must start this article with a little bit of re-branding and school promotion. I have been so proud of the way our school has dealt with the challenges of Covid so far and also the way we have been thinking of our community and showing our compassion, care, kindness and for standing up for social justice. We are 'The little Village School with a Big Heart'.

Our annual Harvest celebration saw our parents and pupils donating food to the local foodbank in Maidenhead. The wonderful people running the foodbank sent the school a letter of gratitude and said that they were overwhelmed by the kindness shown by our school community. There was even a monetary donation made in memory of a pupil's late grandmother which was doubled by a sponsor of the foodbank. In this difficult time, when families are faced with food and economic poverty, it is heartening to know that we are able to share what we have with those in need.



(The Wendy House in the background packed with food parcels and donations.)

(Harvest Poem by Year 5 pupils)

Harvest Moon

It's that time of year again,
When the Harvest moon shines bright.
So let us gather round,
And celebrate it right.

All the fields are empty,
There's not a crop in sight.
The food lays on the table,
And we will take a bite!

Once our belly's bulge,
And we're filled with Harvest cheer.
It's time to spread the joy of Harvest,
To people far and near.

So grab your Harvest tin or pack,
You know just what to do.
Bring it into school tomorrow,
For those less fortunate than you.

Now the Harvest moon is gone,
And the night sky looks so clear,
It's time to tend the fields again,
For another year.

We also raised money for 'Wear It Pink' on 23rd of October in aid of Breast Cancer Now – the research and care charity. This is one of our chosen charities this year as we all know of personal stories and of families and friends who have had to face this disease. Parents and pupils arrived at school wearing pink to show their support.



The school also celebrated Black History Month in October with a virtual assembly and lessons that looked at the history and contributions of Black figures in our national history. We also acknowledged that our history had a sordid past in slavery and how it is now down to us, as a community, to eradicate discrimination and racism in all its forms. As a school, we are passionate about celebrating diversity, being inclusive of everyone, no matter their race, faith, background, gender, or sexuality.

Our pupils and their families must be able to see themselves reflected in the curriculum offer and the provision at Dorney School and we must strive to provide an education that will equip our pupils with the skills and knowledge to improve our world. Our school welcomes everyone.

I started this little article with a feeling of pride and I would like to invite you to come and join me in feeling proud of this little village school that aims to make a big difference. We are holding our first **virtual open morning** on Tuesday 20th October for prospective parents which may be too late for this print. However, do visit the school website and complete the online form to book your slot for **Wednesday 18th November 2020** or **Tuesday 12th January 2021**. Details can be found on our school website: <https://www.dorneyschool.co.uk/open-mornings/> We hope to see you there especially if you are a prospective parent.

Extra measures may be in place in various areas up and down the country but here, at Dorney School, we will remain vigilant, resilient and help each other in this time of global need. I wish every reader safe and well.

Warmest wishes,
Mrs Sharifah Lee
Deputy Headteacher

THE 1920s

The year 2020 has been quite extraordinary by anyone's standards. Leaving the European Union and enduring a major pandemic are not everyday occurrences, while Dorney is also coping with the work to convert the M4 into a smart motorway. Given this start, it's hard to imagine what the rest of the decade might bring. It set me wondering, what was going on in Dorney in the 1920s? Let's take a look back...

The 1921 census counted just under 300 people living in Dorney, in 73 households. Like the rest of the country, the village was settling down into a period of peace, following the end of the First World War and the subsequent flu pandemic. Five men who died during the war were commemorated on a litany desk in the church. Dorney was still a predominantly agricultural community, served by a wheelwright and a blacksmith. In the village were a school, post office, separate bakers/grocers shop, and the Palmer Arms, with the Pineapple beer house in Lake End.

The reminiscences of Miss Bennett, who had arrived as headmistress of the school in 1919, can be found on the Dorney History Group website and paint a lively picture of the village at this time. She wrote:

"The water supply only wells and pumps. No street lighting, only oil lamps and candles in houses and church. No public transport, so it was bicycle or walk to shop in Windsor. Motor cars were still a novelty and horses were used on the farms and by tradesmen delivering goods.

There was a village smithy where horses were shod, and one of the sights I liked best was the return of teams of horses ambling up the village after a hard days ploughing, their weary teamsters sitting side saddle on their backs.

The roads were in poor repair after the war years. We could never have competed in a tidy village competition for the wooden garden fences were old and untidy. There were no proper side paths and no curbs. Drainage was very primitive so water lay about in the gutters."

The blacksmith, Albert Climo, carried on his trade under a spreading yew tree. The gate to the common was opened and shut to traffic by Mr Tugwood, the gate keeper, who *"dressed in the Sunday clothes worn fifty or sixty years before: a black cut-away coat, much washed, tightfitting corduroy breeches, cloth gaiters, with red handkerchief and billycock hat."* Dorney women took in washing for Eton College, and Miss Bennett recalled one of these called Granny Burrows, an *"old lady with the black bonnet and shawl, sitting on a cross seat of the donkey cart, surrounded by bundles of laundry, which she took to the college two or three times a week"*.

One of the most significant changes in Dorney during the 1920s was in its housing stock. Many of the old houses in Dorney village were carefully restored to the appearance we know today by Thomas Quarterman, the village's resident builder. In some cases, two or three cottages were combined to form a single house. Some of the old buildings were in a very poor state of repair, such as Halfway Cottage, originally three small cottages. Meanwhile, the new settlement at Dorney Reach was significantly expanded. Developers acquired the farmland to the east of the original eleven large houses by the river and began building along the south side of what later became Harcourt Road, which itself was extended from the junction with what is now Meadow Way to Marsh Lane. In total, 38 new houses were built in Dorney Reach in the 1920s, including three more beside the river. The number of houses in Dorney parish increased by a third during the decade.

The development of Dorney Reach changed the social mix of Dorney residents. The initial phase of building beside the river had mainly attracted people looking for a second home or a place to rent in summer. The new houses were aimed at those who wanted to live in the country, where they could have a tennis court or keep chickens in the back garden, but with ready access to London via the train from Taplow. Dorney Reach was advertised as *"only 30*

minutes from Town; fare 1s 1d a day". Quite a few of the houses had garages, indicating that their owners had motor cars. The backgrounds and occupations of the newcomers were varied, but there were many men who had been educated at boarding school, had served as officers in the war, and now held white collar jobs, often in London. They tended to name their new homes after places that were important to them. A young couple from Cumberland called their house Lingmell after a place in the Lake District; another couple, who travelled frequently to Brazil for work and had married in Rio de Janeiro, gave their house the name Boa Vista. Many of these new residents remained for only a few years, but they left the house names behind them.

Four of the new houses in Dorney Reach were aimed at a different group of people. The restoration of cottages in the village meant fewer homes for farm workers. Oak Stubbs Cottages were built by Eton College towards the end of the decade, a terrace of four cottages in Marsh Lane. Three of the four families moved straight in from the village. Nationally, there was a severe housing shortage and a lot of concern about the quality of pre-war housing. This resulted in a boom in local authority house building. "*Homes fit for heroes*" were intended to provide good quality houses with bathrooms and gardens, at affordable rents. Eton Rural District Council was tendering to build 6 houses in Dorney as early as June 1921, but it doesn't appear these plans came to fruition.

Another national initiative involved county councils establishing smallholdings for ex-servicemen. In Dorney in 1921, Bucks CC leased 16 acres of Lodge Farm for this purpose. It's not clear how the smallholding scheme worked in Dorney. Albert Climo had moved into a new bungalow at Elm View and set up as a dairyman. In 1928 he was renting 16 acres of Lodge Farm land; was this the area leased by the council? At the same time, Arthur Woodley, previously landlord of the Palmer Arms, had taken on a smallholding at Elm Farm on the common. He won awards in competitions for smallholders run by Bucks CC, and a prize for his pigs at Slough Cattle Show. I have found no evidence that either man had served in the armed forces during the war.

A short-lived group of newcomers was the Children's Home sited in the village between 1923 and 1928. This provided a refuge for some 40 orphans and illegitimate children, who lived in a house in Dorney and attended the village school. Little is known for certain about this home. It has been suggested that it was funded by a Major James Walker, of the Scotch whisky family, and his wife Violet; and that the matron was Mary K Ferguson. Mary King Ferguson may have been the matron, but in 1928 she was living at Dorney House, not at the home where the only adult seems to have been Annie Olive Minnie Stacey. The families of those who were children at the home have sought in vain more details about its operation.

Gradually, the area was changing. In 1925, a local newspaper wrote of a "*constant stream of traffic*" along the Bath Road and complained that "*Slough is advancing daily*" in terms of new building. The following year, a motoring correspondent described the area as "*passing through an evolutionary stage. A mere decade ago much of this district was as rural as if it had been a hundred miles from London, but the steady growth of motoring and the tendency of City men to find homes outside the suburban area tends greatly to change the character of this countryside.... Nevertheless, much of the rural charm of this neighbourhood remains untouched....*". The traffic census showed that the weight of traffic through Dorney, between Eton and Taplow, more than trebled between 1920 and 1926. By 1931 there were nearly 400 people living in Dorney, up by a third in 10 years.

So, the 1920s was a decade of quiet but significant change for Dorney as it adjusted to post-war life. Who knows if the 2020s will have a similar lasting impact on our neighbourhood?

Virginia Silvester

THIS IS WORTH READING!



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Write for Booklet "W." with full particulars, photographs, and plans sent free, or phone, or call.

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401, STRAND, W.C.2.
Phone: Regent 2654.



[Burnham/Farnham's/Taplow & Dorney](#)

Burglary

The Neighbourhood team have been out and about carrying out targeted patrols and leaflet drops reminding residents that with the dark night's drawing in. You may find you are coming home to a dark house so please ensure you leave a light on! Make sure all doors and windows are locked and keep keys in a safe location. Ensure your side gates are locked to prevent access to the rear or side of your home. Don't forget the clocks go back on **25th October**

Other News

After reports of tents being pitched on the Jubilee River the neighbourhood team carried out joint patrols with the Environment Agency. The two sites located around the Dorney Wetlands have now been removed by the Environment Agency

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

BurnhamFarnhamsTaplowNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or TWEET us on
[@TVPChiltSBucks](https://twitter.com/TVPChiltSBucks)

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

www.thamesvalley.police.uk



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.

Decision made on the Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan – Dorney reprieved, for now!

On 21 October, Buckinghamshire Council resolved to withdraw the Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan (CSB Plan). This means that the independent examination of the plan, which has been on hold because of COVID-19 and pending this decision, will close. The plan and its supporting documents will also now be removed from the Council website and all locations where they have been available for public inspection.

So, at least for the moment, the Green Belt changes proposed for Dorney Village and Dorney Reach, within the now withdrawn Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan, have been put on hold.

Buckinghamshire Council inherited the draft Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan (CSB Plan) on 1 April 2020 and took the opportunity over the summer to review the plan in the light of the Planning Inspectors' comments in May, the unprecedented impact of COVID-19, and the new Government White Paper *Planning for the Future*, which envisages a new plan-making system for England.

Councillor Warren Whyte, Cabinet Member for Planning and Enforcement, said: “In May 2020 the Planning Inspectors who were examining the draft CSB Plan pointed out that there was a strong likelihood that the only option will be for the Council to withdraw the Plan. This was because, in their view, Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils had not cooperated with Slough Borough Council to identify sites in the plan for meeting some of Slough’s housing needs which would otherwise not be met. Whilst we did not agree with the findings of the Inspectors, we do believe the time is right to refocus our efforts and resources on completing a new Local Plan for the whole of Buckinghamshire.”

He added: “The impact of COVID-19 has also been considerable and has brought significant changes to how and where we work, future shopping needs and our town centres. All this will need careful consideration and our strategy for addressing these issues should now be incorporated into the new Buckinghamshire Local Plan.”

The Government's recent changes in planning law, and the Planning White Paper proposing a brand-new way to create local plans, reinforces the benefits of a new Buckinghamshire Local Plan. The Council is currently reviewing the proposed changes set out in the White Paper: *Planning for the Future*. This consultation document proposes significant changes to the current planning system in England covering plan-making, development management and development contributions.

The Council responded to the White Paper before the close of the consultation on 29 October.

Work has started on the new Buckinghamshire Local Plan which will set out the Council’s planning framework for years ahead. It will respond to the Government’s planning reforms, identifying areas for growth, renewal and protection across Buckinghamshire.

This announcement appears to put on hold the completion of the joint Bucks Council/RBWM/Slough Borough “Wider Area Growth Study Part 2” which was due on 26th October 2020.

We anticipate that this will be incorporated into the new Buckinghamshire Local Plan.

The next step will be the consultation on this – which appears to be targeted for 2025.

Bill Dax

News in Brief

Ramblers' Car Park

Ramblers' Car Park is managed directly by Eton College and not Dorney Lake. It appears to be open from 6.00am to 3.30pm each day. If we get changes to the opening hours we will publish them in Dorney Parish News.

At the moment the car park is closed when Dorney Lake are hosting sporting events. They do this to ensure that site is not accessible to the general public for a Covid-safe event for participants only (no spectators are permitted).

When Dorney Lake is open, access to the lake is now possible either via the main entrance, the pedestrian gate from the towpath by Andrews Boathouse or through Ramblers' Car Park. This pedestrian gate will only be open from 1st October to 1st April and closed during the summer months. During the summer months the only way to enter Dorney Lake will be via the main entrance or Ramblers' Car Park. Footpath No. 8 around part of the perimeter will remain accessible at all times even when Dorney Lake is closed.

Erratum

In the article on Roundmoor Ditch, in the October edition of Dorney Parish News, I incorrectly stated that local farmers abstract water from the Jubilee River. Such abstraction is not currently permitted, and all irrigation water has to come from licensed boreholes, which it does. My sincere apologies.

Bill Dax

Dorney 'Something New' (and anyone else) Christmas Cards.

It is that time of year again and as at Easter I will be making up some packs of cards, papers, cut outs, ribbons etc. for you to make your own cards as usual. (Sorry no glue!)

Please phone or private message me (or contact DPN) if you or anyone you know would like to have a pack, give me your address and I will put one through your door.

As usual I will include a design sheet if you need ideas.

All you will need is scissors and glue or possibly double sided Sellotape.

Thea Pine

Please Donate to TVAP (Thames Valley Adventure Playground)



I was sad to read about the shortfall in donations and contributions to the TVAP in October's issue of 'Dorney Parish News'



So, I have made lots of bread baskets (see pics) and I'm asking you to make a £10 donation to TVAP in return for one.

They are reversible and quilted and in many different patterns. You can choose and collect, and make your donation at 12 Harcourt Road, Dorney Reach Tel : 01628 623228

TVAP advise us that cash in an envelope is best as they can gift aid groups of cash donations of £20 or under, but cheques are very welcome too, made out to TVAP.

Jan Bowman

Dorney Village Hall

www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk



Coronavirus – COVID19

Unfortunately, social gatherings like the popular children's parties are ruled out for the moment.

The good news is that exercise classes, which avoid socialising and maintain two metre distancing in a safe environment, are currently able to continue, just like they would in a gym.

Please contact us by email: 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

Email: enquiries@dorneyvillagehall.com

Online on www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk

Nature Notes - Seasonal Cactus

A flowering houseplant that has something to offer as a contribution to the richness and diversity of festive decorations is provided by 'Schlumbergeras' - check the title for details and surprises. Common names are *Christmas Cactus* and *Christmas Cactus hybrid* for hybrids of the true species.



In the wild, these jungle inhabitants inhabit moist pockets of leaf debris in the clefts of tree branches. They do best if kept under indoor conditions approximating to those of their natural habitat. A good size plant should grow to a height and spread of about twelve inches. The densely branching, mainly pendant stems, consist of many thin, flat, green segments. Each of these composite leaves is approximately two inches wide and has a permanent mid-

rib. The precise shapes and other features of the leaf and flower vary considerably among the various species and hybrids.

The leaves terminate in blooms, either single or as a pair. There is a relatively long flowering period extending from early to late winter according to variety. The appearance of flowers during the Christmas season in some of the hybrids has given rise to the name Christmas cactus. Loosely applied to several forms, the flowers and leaves are not symmetrical in shape having both right and left halves (the same as its relatives, snapdragons and pea flowers). Individual terminal blooms may be in flower for several weeks.

The plant should not be exposed to full summer sunlight, Shade is best throughout spring, summer and autumn. Flowering is restricted by the shortening daylength. Once the cactus has begun to bud, the plant requires careful daily attention including moving the plant.

Although it is common to see Schlumbergeras covered with buds or in full bloom in florists' displays at Christmas time, do not be disappointed if plants kept in the home fail to flower by the calendar. They will usually bloom later unless they have been forced through the hands of the professional nurserymen.

Some growers admit to finding that flower buds drop off prematurely. This can result from obvious causes such as exposure to drafts, sudden changes in temperature and failure to maintain a careful balance of the plant not becoming dried out or water-logged

Wayfarer

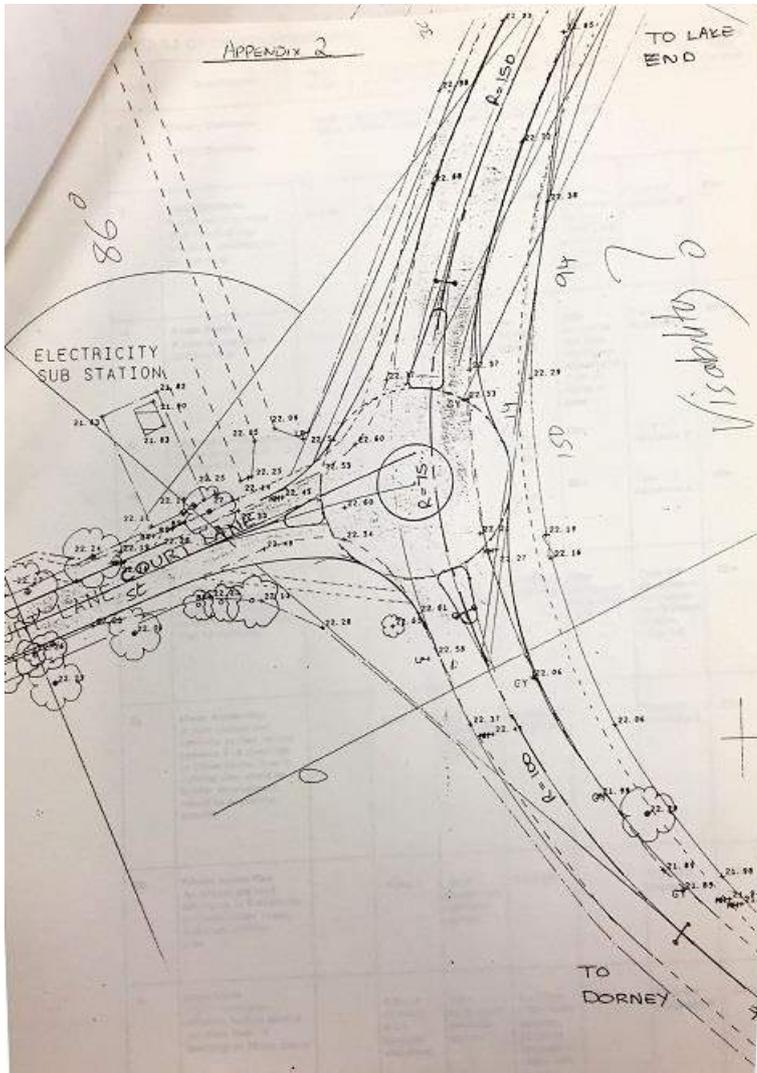


Photos of Marsh Lane Bridge and Thames Bridge during construction
(With many thanks to Richard Shymansky for the photographs)

Dent's Corner: Roundabout History

A roundabout at the junction of Court Lane, Lake End Road and Village Road has been a discussion point for residents for many years.

The only detailed, documented proposal for it, to date, was contained in the Eton College Rowing Lake Development Proposals in their 1991 paper, accompanying the initial Planning Permission.



The accompanying text included the following:

This existing bend into Dorney is very substandard and could be improved by incorporating a small normal or mini roundabout at the junction of Court Lane. Even so the approach visibility from the M4 direction is substandard but could be improved by detailed design. The visibility across the adjacent land is blocked by an existing brickwork wall [since taken down and replaced with an iron fence]. Such a roundabout would delineate between Dorney's 30 mph speed limit and the remainder of the B3026 but adequate signing and lighting would be required.

In 2016 the Dorney Traffic Working Group researched this 1991 proposal and, based on the research available at that time, specifically related to traffic calming and as an accident remedial measure, included

it in the list of possible measures that Transport for Bucks were to be asked to professionally consider.

It is most encouraging that Transport for Bucks are now undertaking a Road Safety and Design audit of this junction.

Whether a roundabout is the final professional solution to the various issues that have been raised over the past 29 years or more regarding this junction remains to be seen.

Bill Dax
Dorney History Group

Letter to the Editor

From Vanessa Thomas, narrowboat owner, who recently visited Boveney and Dorney:

To the residents of Dorney,

Firstly, I would like to congratulate you on maintaining and preserving your beautiful village and its Common. I travel around the country on my narrow boat and often spend a week in each different place that I moor. Dorney is now one of my favourite places in which I have stopped.

In addition to this, because you have worked so hard to protect your local environment and its natural history, I was able to experience my first ever starling murmuration on your Common, a sight that will stay with me forever!

Finally, as a hobby, I make YouTube videos of my narrow boat adventures and I have pasted you the link of my film which outlines my stay in your special village. I hope I have done it the justice that it deserves!

[Vanessa's vlog which covers her trip to Dorney and the starling murmuration on Dorney Common may be found here:]

<https://youtu.be/8D2jVXDycX4>

Many thanks for taking care of Dorney, so that all of us visitors, and those passing by, are able to take a piece of its magic home with them.

Vanessa Thomas

The Dorney Reach defibrillator – don't forget the keycode!



The Community Access Defibrillator is installed on the side of the Village Hall near the Playground Tuck Shop.

Should you need to use it, the defibrillator will lead you through the necessary steps.

The defibrillator case is locked. The keycode is **C123X**.

The information has been added to the Local Issues page on the Parish Council website so that it is always available.

Dorney Parish News will continue to provide Keycode details.

The Defibrillator in the old phone box on Village Road does not require a Keycode.



Beeches Community Board minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Beeches Community Board held on Thursday 17 September 2020 Via Microsoft Teams, commencing at 2.00 pm and concluding at 3.32 pm.

Present

D Anthony (Chairman), M Bezzant D Dhillon, T Egleton, B Gibbs, L Hazell, N Naylor, D Pepler, G Sandy, Carey (Burnham Parish Council), J Hall (Farnham Royal Parish Council (Clerk)), K Harris (Dorney Parish Council), S Lynch (Stoke Poges Parish Council), and S Moffat (Dorney Parish Council (Clerk)), J Ellis (Thames Valley Police), Rachel Dale (Thames Valley Police), Aleksandra Turner, Keith Greenough, George Chapman, Paula Prince, Helen Mee and Marie Hammon

Officers in attendance

Tom Fowler (Democratic Services Officer), Roger Goodes (Service Director Policy & Communications), Simon Garwood (Localism Manager for the South) and Jack Pearce (Community Board Coordinator for Beeches)

Apologies

R Bagge, P Kelly and M Lewis

Agenda Item

1 Welcome and Introductions

The chairman welcomed the members and guests to the Beeches Community Board meeting.

2 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillors Bagge and Kelly.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2020 were agreed as an accurate record.

5 Introduction to Community Boards

The Community Board received a video message from Council Leader, Martin Tett which introduced Community Boards.

6 Senior Officer Community Boards Update

The Service Director Policy & Communications, Roger Goodes, gave an update on the aspirations for the Community Board. It was noted that representatives from the Police were in attendance and would be eager to attend future meetings.

Action:

- **Jack to liaise with Police to organise continued attendance**

7 Updates from Sub-groups

Members considered the Sub Group updates.

- Councillor Egleton provided an update for the Supporting Older and Vulnerable sub-group. The establishment of street associations were proposed to check up on the elderly and vulnerable. The detrimental effect of isolation on mental health and increased vulnerability was noted.
- Councillor Dhillon gave an update for the Young People sub-group, it was noted there was no Youth Council in the Beeches area. Further research into a 1-1 scheme for youth with anti-social behavioural problems was being pursued.
- Councillor Sandy gave an update for the Infrastructure and Highways sub-group. The effect of child shaped mannequins on speeding outside schools had been considered ineffective by Transport for Buckinghamshire. The sub-group recommended approval for the 3 applications being considered at the Community Board meeting. It was noted that a representative from TfB would be invited to attend a future sub-group meeting.

Actions:

- **Jack to enquire about traffic mannequin usage**
- **Jack to meet with Parking Manager**

8 Highways Applications 2020/21

The Community Board discussed the 3 Highway applications being considered for funding.

- The application from Stoke Poges Parish Council for waiting Restrictions on Rogers Lane for £6024.09 was approved using the Community Area Priorities funding stream.
- The application from Farnham Royal Parish Council for A355 Farnham Common Infant & Junior Schools road traffic installations for £5001.49 was approved using the Community Area Priorities funding stream.
- The application from Burnham Parish Council for Dropped Kerbs on Burnham High Street for £3984.86 was approved using the Community Area Priorities funding stream.

Resolved:

- **That funds from the Community Area Priorities Funding Stream be allocated as detailed above.**

9 Community Matters

The Community Board considered matters arising from the Community Board area.

- The quick response to move travellers on from Broadway Car Park from the police was noted and praised.
- Dorney Youth club had requested funding for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and repair costs. A formerly Buckinghamshire County Council scheme for PPE provision was identified as a line of enquiry.
- Brownfield sites were being built upon in the Beeches area and it was queried whether this would affect the funding for the Local infrastructure fund. These calculations were based on previous versions of the Local Plan. Planning Officers were looking into this and calculations for the Local Infrastructure Fund may change.

Actions:

- **Jack to look into PPE scheme for Dorney Youth Club.**
- **Simon to update the Community Board on changes made to Local Infrastructure funding**

10 Funding Update

Jack gave an update on funding for the Community Board.

- Community Area Priorities Fund budget was confirmed as £86,513.
- The Health & Wellbeing Fund budget was £27,506. Of which, £17,757 remains to be allocated for 2020/21.
- There was no funding from the Local Infrastructure Fund, but this is currently under review.
- Funding criteria were laid out specifying what was permissible for applications.

Action:

- **Jack to circulate funding criteria information.**

11 Beeches Community Board Action Plan

The Community Board Action Plan was noted.

**Minutes of the Dorney Parish VIRTUAL Meeting of the Council
on Tuesday 13th October 2020 at 8 pm**

Present:- Councillors K Harris (Chairman), A Purdie, P Smith, A Foxley, J Dax, R Ormond and C Stoughton.

In Attendance:- Buckinghamshire Council Cllrs Dev Dhillon, D Pepler and G Sandy, Matt Orchard (Balfour Beatty), Jim Stacey (Highways England), Mr Bowman (Dorney Village Pump), 7 Members of the Public and Sue Moffat (Clerk).

The Chairman, Cllr Harris, announced this meeting is being filmed.

73 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr Dev Dhillon reported:- (i) The infection rate of Covid-19 virus is rising although the rate is still low for Buckinghamshire compared with other parts of the Country but we still need to take care; (ii) A public announcement from Bucks Council is that it is considering to withdraw from SBDC and CDC's Local Plan and make one Local Plan to cover the whole of Buckinghamshire. There is no need to worry if a Local Plan is not yet in place as planning rules are covered by NPPF and GB so will still be protected; (iii) The Government has issued a White Paper on proposed new planning regulations and he would encourage people to respond; (iv) Beeches Community Board is asking for Highways projects to fund and he has suggested speedreduction signs by the school. He has also asked for £2,500 for sanitiser stations and masks by the Play Group Committee which has been agreed by the Community Board; (iv) Regards the proposal for Lake End Rd roundabout, Bucks Officers are in the process of designing a safe but simple design which Cllr Dhillon will share with Dorney when it is ready; (v) A query was raised about a local newspaper article that Lake End Rd/Huntercombe Lane South is being closed from 7pm to 6 am for 18 months? Cllr Dhillon will investigate this matter; (vi) Clearway will along Court Lane will be lifted on 22nd November.

M4 Smartmotorway – Jim Stacey reported that they have applied for a Lake End Rd road closure on 23rd October to 2nd November whilst carrying out demolition works. Cllr Harris responded that in this application for road closure it will divert traffic through Eton not Marsh Lane? Jim Stacey said Bucks County never deemed Marsh Lane as a suitable diversion route. HE Communication Team will notify residents of the road closure by a letter drop. Regards the proposed Lake End Rd roundabout, HE has funding to install it in this current year. The entrance to Dorney Village Hall should be back to normal by the end of this month. Matt Orchard will investigate and report back regards the query of the slip road on the new bridge which is understood not to be part of the plans.

Cllr George Sandy reported:- Nothing further to report in addition to Cllr Dhillon's report except he worried that the delay in not having a Local Plan in place may provide a window of opportunity for unwanted development.

Cllr David Pepler reported:- Nothing further to report in addition to Cllr Dhillon's report except we are lucky in Buckinghamshire that Covid-19 has increased less than other parts of the country.

Questions from Members of the Public:- (i) Bins by Dorney Village Hall have not been emptied. The Clerk has made enquiries and entrance is often blocked by Smartmotorway work and refuse lorry unable to gain access. (ii) Playground maintenance – Cllr Dhillon has asked Beeches Community Board for £2,500 towards maintenance; (iii) Rewilding of the Water Field – Dorney School and the wider community may be interested in helping with this. Cllr Dax responded that there have been no minutes since the last meeting of 17th September with Thames Water and James Palmer but will circulate these when she receives them. She believes they will be keen to involve the local community in this work and envisages no parking on site, just a community area. Next meeting TBD.

Cllr Sandy left the meeting.

74 Apologies- None.

75 Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda – None.

76 Resolved to receive and approve the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on the 8th September 2020.

77 Clerk's Report – None.

78 Chairman's Report – Cllr Harris reported that:-(i) Eton College will be re-opening the Ramblers car park; (ii) Jubilee River is closed to flood water while repairs are done at the railway bridge due to erosion of the bridge foundations; (iii) The cattle grid that was damaged will be repaired within the next 2 weeks.

79 To consider highways projects to put forward for funding to Beeches Community Board:- (i) 20 mph signs around the school - two metal road signs and one electronic flashing sign managed by the School. Locations suggested were Harcourt Lane and Old Stubbs Lane but will first consult with residents and the School. Also it was suggested to tentatively ask Highways England to relinquish the house by the entrance to Trumpers Field to provide a double entrance to ease congestion at School drop off and pick up time but this will need adequate

security i.e. height barriers. This matter will need to be discussed by DVH Committee. Cllr Dhillon suggested asking Beeches Community Board for funding for the height barrier.

80 Updates on the M4 Smartmotorway - As discussed during Public Participation.

81 Updates on the proposal to install a roundabout at the junction of Village Rd/Court Lane/ Lake End Rd.- As discussed during Public Participation i.e. waiting for a design plan and costs.

82 To respond to the Emergency Plan – To consider the proposal circulated by Cllr Smith – Dorney ‘People Network’ Emergency Plan. Cllr Smith proposed that we should invite comments from the community regards the proposed Emergency Plan and seek possible co-ordinators and volunteers. Advertise this on Nextdoor, Dorney Parish Pump and the web site.

83 Website Accessibility – Cllr Foxley reported that Cllr Stoughton has completed the work on the Androids and she has corrected the links that were not working correctly. Cllr Smith thanked Cllr Foxley for all her hard work on updating the website. Cllr Foxley will discuss at the Budget meeting any further help she may require.

84 To adopt a Social Media and Electronic Communication Policy -A Model Policy from SLCC has been circulated. Cllr Foxley will adapt this to fit the needs of Dorney PC. Still disappointing that Nextdoor will not allow the Parish Council to have an account but she will ask one more time. It was agreed for all councillors to have a Council email address which Cllr Foxley offered to set up. Cllr Harris asked for all emails sent from councillors’ email addresses to be copied to the Clerk.

85 To consider filming Council meetings which are open to the public and the press and make these recordings available on the web site (*A Guide on Open and Accountable Local Government has been circulated.*). It was agreed that filming of the meetings will change the depth of discussions as no personal experience will be divulged. It is not always appreciated that parish councillors are unpaid volunteers who invest a lot of time into parish council work. Also, there is the worry of personal security if sensitive subjects are discussed, such as travellers. In any such instances these matters could be discussed in Part 2. It must be made clear to those attending any council meeting that the meeting is being filmed. It was agreed that Dorney Parish Council should officially record the meetings and then it will be available on the web site for a period of time yet to be agreed (Clerk to check if there is a set period). Further consideration on this matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

86 Planning

(a) Planning issues, decisions and appeals recently notified by South Bucks District Council were noted.

(b) Planning applications - Agreed.

87 Finance

a) Resolved to authorise payment of Accounts for October 2020 – Agreed. It was also agreed for the claims for damage in recent car accidents to be pursued through the Council’s Insurance. It was agreed to go ahead and order the new VAS sign that was knocked down by the cattle grid. Cllr Foxley reported it will cost £150- £250 for the fridge magnets for Dorney Reach and parts of Taplow. Then organise the distribution to people’s houses. Cllr Harris offered to help with this.

b) Resolved to receive list of income for October 2020 - Noted.

c) Resolved to receive the budget for 2020/21. Noted. Cllr Ormond reported that all income has been received for this financial year.

88 Member’s Reports – None.

89 Correspondence – (i) Working with you - Virtual TFB conference - 15th September; (ii) Planning White Paper Summaries, Links & Response; (iii) New legislation on Permitted Development and change of use - Town and Parish update; (iv) Beeches Community Board 17th September; (v) Event Notification 19th Sept 2020 at Eton Dorney Lake; (vi) BALC Change of Uses Classes; (vii) Full closure of the M4 this weekend between Junctions 7 and 8/9; (viii) Thames Path No Cycling Route; (ix) Call in Process Update for Towns and Parishes from Cllr Warren Whyte.

90 Resolve any complaints/comments received from residents:- (i) Local resident objecting to lack of consultation regards the proposed new roundabout; (ii) Complaint from the Editor of Dorney Parish News regards the use of the word ‘derogatory’ in the Minutes of Dorney Parish Council September meeting. In response to this the Parish Council pointed out that the word ‘derogatory’ means ‘low opinion’ and some articles in the Parish News did suggest this even if the personal opinion of the Editor did not believe this; (iii) Overgrowing vegetation by the corner of the Rowing Lake. Cllr Harris will ask for this to be cut back; (iv) Cllr Foxley and Cllr Dax will organise for the Village Road telephone box to be cleared out to allow accessibility to the defibrillator. Cllr Dax has arranged for the books to be shredded and for the shreddings to be used by the Swan Sanctuary

91 Grounds maintenance- Nothing to report.

The next VIRTUAL meeting of Dorney Parish Council is 8pm on Tuesday 10th November, 2020 followed by the Finance Meeting.

DORNEY

‘PEOPLE NETWORK’

EMERGENCY PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The Parish Council are looking into the Emergency Plan for the village in the event of some disaster or emergency.

Buckinghamshire Council (formerly Buckinghamshire County Council) have a comprehensive Emergency Plan involving all the emergency services etc. and it is quite long and complex. There seems little point in reinventing the wheel by Dorney Village having the same yet again and we can all refer to the existing Council Emergency Plan which is online.

Dorney Parish Council feels that the village Emergency Plan should be based on the principle that everything else has failed, including the Buckinghamshire Council Emergency Plan. This would be in the event of no electricity, no internet, no telephone communication, no mobile telephones – just communication through word of mouth.

COMMUNICATION STRUCTURE

In order to achieve a structure for communication with no technology facilities, it's necessary to have a neighbours' word of mouth system and hierarchy. In order to do this, ironically, we need to use technology as of course, that is the most efficient way of communicating. This can be called the "People Network"

The principle for setting up the People Network.

Using facilities such as Next Door, WhatsApp, the Parish Magazine and the Parish Council minutes, residents of the village can set up a coordinated project for understanding who takes the initiative to move forward, promote and publish the project for all the residents to understand. The principle is that everybody in the village would have some form of communication with their neighbours or friends, or designated person.

Working from the bottom up, this could be:

1. Each person in the village would have a nearby neighbour or a friend to talk to. It's important that this person is nearby because there will be no mobile phone or landline connection.
2. There can be designated people who are responsible for communicating with a number of nearby residents so that it makes it easier to communicate and less people in the system.
3. Given that this is all word of mouth and must be based on a proximity issue (walking or cycling) there needs to be designated people in each road who then communicate directly with five or six, or more residents.
4. These people might be called "Group Coordinators"

5. There should be one or two people to pass the word for each "Village Area". These could be called "Village Area Coordinators".
6. The Village Areas could (by way of example) be Dorney Reach, Dorney Village, Boveney and Dorney Common. Dorney Reach may be divided into two if it was thought that the Village Area was too big for one or two people.
7. These Village Area Coordinators who would pass information to and from the Dorney Village Coordinator.
8. The Dorney Village Coordinator would be responsible for ensuring that the network is reliable. He/She would also be the point of contact for all Villagers and those outside the Village. He/She would be responsible for ensuring that information is accurately and reliably filtered down to every resident or to those that need to know.

The process only works given that the criteria are:

1. That is agreed and understood who are the designated Coordinators..
2. That there is a succinct and formulated method of communication to avoid '*Chinese whispers; e.g. Mrs Jones has fallen – Mrs Jones is injured – Mrs Jones is going to hospital – Mrs Jones has died*'.
3. There is also the process of reciprocal information feeding up from the residents and the frequency of that happening. This would be best achieved by agreeing a system for feeding information back up with structured methods of communication. Paper notes are the obvious solutions with the requisite information headings printed, for the information to be filled in for each message.

In order to instigate this, we need to establish those people who are most active in communicating with the community and then from there, establishing the various tiers for the Village Emergency Plan Communication Network.

NOTICE BOARDS

These can be temporary, to be erected in the event of an emergency, or permanent.

Permanent notice boards would be better because residents would be familiar with them and know where to find them. These would need to be regularly (and maybe frequently) updated to make them interesting and relevant.

Further research is required to organise the production, location and management of these boards. Planning permission may be necessary.

SOCIAL ADVANTAGES

You may be aware that From, has for many years, created a community network which is inclusive of all the members of the community. This is where people are encouraged to communicate with each other and, in a relaxed fashion, get involved with their neighbours or friends to have activities and generally be more sociably involved. There are a lot of people who have a lot to offer but are not necessarily predisposed to being highly sociable or having the confidence to stand up in public. The advantage of

network systems such as this is that this can be used to encourage people to share their skills and interests and thereby create a more inclusive, interesting, happier – and healthier community.

POSITIVE ATTITUDES

This system will only ever work (like most community organisations) if there is positivity. Negative criticism does not have a place in this system and if something is wrong or somebody has not done something in the correct form, then polite, sensitive, and positive suggestions, are the way forward.

NEXT STEP

The next step is for Peter Smith to communicate with a selection of people in the village who are already communicating with the community. If there are others who are not contacted by Peter Smith, please do not be offended, make contact with him, so that he can start building the network. Peter Smith, for instance, is not a natural '*community communicator*' and therefore it is likely that somebody else in the community will take the lead as this idea progresses - if it progresses

Peter Smith July 2020

peter@pjsa.co.uk 07778 848 255.



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Dorney Parish News

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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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