

# Dorney Parish News

March 2021



*(With thanks to Karen Furlong for this Dorney Common picture)*



As responsible publishers, we have sought advice from the local police regarding the distribution of the magazine during this lockdown.

We were delighted to be advised that we are permitted to distribute the magazine through our excellent, and willing, volunteers.

Our distributors have agreed to apply the government guidelines regarding hand cleanliness and social distancing.

Should you not wish to handle this printed copy, please dispose of it safely and email our Editor, Peter Bowman, on [peter.bowman@talktalk.net](mailto:peter.bowman@talktalk.net) or call him on 07889 912714 and ask him to email you a digital copy as a PDF file.



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EDITORIAL

**‘Quality of life and Community Well-Being’**

Sometimes I feel privileged to publish contributions from Dorney residents or those from nearby neighbourhoods. This month a special thank you for Teresa McGuinness and Emma Handy who have both penned inspiring tributes to family members who were loved and respected – and had long term links to our village. In pieces like this, not only is tribute paid to individuals but also remembered is a former Dorney that seemed vibrant and busy, a world that is remembered for happy childhoods, carol singing and village fetes.

I have also been inspired recently by an unlikely source for inspiration, Bucks County, who do seem to be talking the right talk on the importance of local representation. A draft *Town and Parish Charter* has been published which pledges a ‘shared commitment’ between the County and parish councils. It says “Local councils work towards improving community well-being and providing better services. Their activities fall into three main categories: representing the local community; delivering services to meet local needs; striving to improve quality of life and community well-being.’ The need to improve that ‘quality of life...and well-being’ seems as urgent as ever as at last, after an enforced delay of two years, local elections, including potentially to the Parish Council are scheduled for May. We devote a significant portion of this issue to encouraging you, Dorney residents, to stand in those elections.

I’m sure there is a mood of guarded optimism taking hold in our parish as much as anywhere else as more of us are vaccinated and a long period of lockdown may be eased in the face of immunity and the coming of Spring. But the last Parish Council meeting and daily events since have highlighted the issues and controversies we face. Read the meeting minutes, glance at Nextdoor, or take a walk to the area of Court Lane and realise that events are changing rapidly. By the time this magazine is printed, the world may have moved on – I’ve just heard this very moment that Dorney Lake is once again to close.

This magazine would like to remain neutral on whether a Court Lane roundabout is the answer to perceived traffic problems. But it’s hard to agree with the county councillor (see the minutes in this issue) who proclaimed that ‘discussion on this (the roundabout) has gone through the democratic process’. Much dissension remains – perhaps wry humour is the best response, and we thank James Palmer for his contribution to the debate.

Prior to any closure, the dire parking situation around the Lake has escalated rapidly, especially over the last two weekends of February. Residents will wonder why the interested parties – Eton College, local councils, the Police – seems as far away as ever from a solution – a solution that might be solved by measures taken outside the Lake perimeter (such as more yellow lines), or as this magazine has preferred, inside (more parking, free parking). Most residents surely hope that the site can, in some shape or form, remain accessible.

These last two issues make me recall a sentence from the evidence submitted by local pressure group DROPET to the appeal hearings that paved the way for Dorney Lake’s construction nearly a quarter of a century ago – *No amount of data can describe or define*

*the impact of the traffic and crowds on people in a rural community, who live in Dorney because of its peaceful environment. We are being asked to surrender the enjoyment of our living environment for the benefit of people who do not live here.*

### **Aiming High**

Whenever Dorney residents are up against it, we hear the same complaint. The M4, the Rowing Lake, getting your view over about roundabouts – Who do we talk to? Does anybody listen? Dorney Parish News wants to do something about that.

What's our main objective? To cover all the local issues in an attractive package that our kind neighbours are willing to pay a modest subscription for. But what about those who are not local, but still hold sway over our lives? Local subscribers aren't too keen on online versions of what you're holding in your hand (or so we think – let us know), but evidence is growing that the 'great and the good' appreciate receiving us online.

Our MP, Joy Morrissey, said DPN keeps her informed about the south of her constituency. Could she be of assistance, she asked, and sent us important information about Orchards Herbs Farm. Martin Tett, Leader of Bucks Council, said 'keep me informed' while the Bursar of Eton College called DPN 'a considerable achievement'.

We say this not to brag but to assure our readers that views expressed in this magazine, say in a letter to the Editor, can reach those at the top. We're expanding the list month by month. Rest assured, views expressed in this issue about that Roundabout will reach the Cabinet Member for Transport at Bucks CC.

### **Dorney Lake – Stop Press**

These words are written on what is scheduled as our press day. As we predicted elsewhere in this issue, events have moved fast. So, this is written in haste, but also with sadness. Sadness and frustration. Sadness because the Rowing Lake may well now be closed to all visitors indefinitely. Frustration because the majority of Dorney residents will regret that access is now denied to them entirely due to the behaviour of others.

For over a quarter of a century, Dorney Lake has had a profound effect on the lives of those living in this village. In the 1990s as gravel was extracted and removed through our narrow roads, the effect was not beneficial. After fears of Olympic chaos subsided, the site has proved an asset, one to enjoy and take pride in. Now, the desire to find outdoor escape during lock down by hundreds of visitors has led us to this impasse.

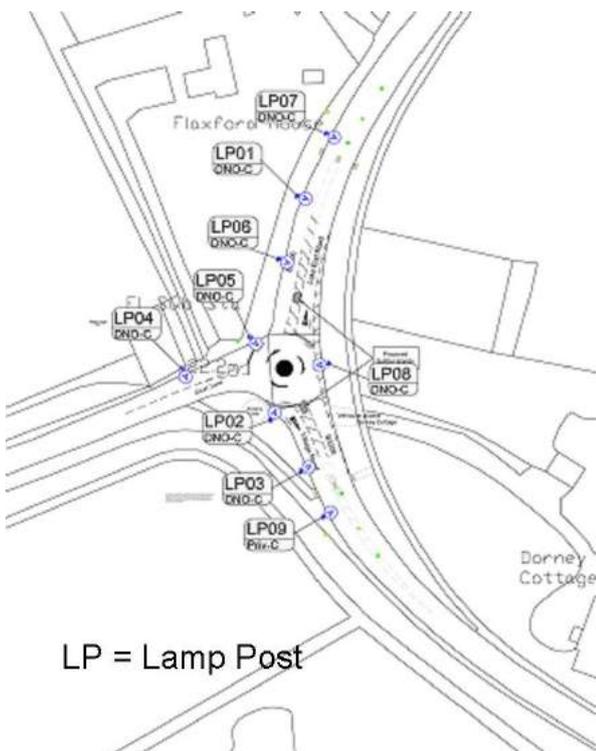
Rather than recrimination, it is hoped that co-operation and dialogue between we, the residents, and Dorney Lake including all the stakeholders, from councils to the Police, will find a way for residents to regain the access we value so highly. One route might be the revival of something like DEEP (the 'Dorney Eton Environmental Panel') which met for over a decade after the 1993 inquiry which gave the Lake the green light.

This magazine will do it's best to foster all such dialogue between the Lake and the village.

## Magic Roundabout

South Bucks' most southerly village has little in common with the County's largest town and notorious concrete cow sanctuary, Milton Keynes. Both settlements have their distinctive charms but, until now, one distinguishing feature that fortunately prevented any confusion was the roundaboutlessness of Dorney.

Briefly, during the 2012 Olympics, the village flirted with the thrill of a new arrangement at the intersection of Village Road and Court Lane but, as the rowers departed, so too did the temporary traffic circle. However, it seems that memories of that inglorious moment for Dorney's highways lingered dormant until recently stirred by the inspiring sight of vast amounts of concrete and tarmac being splashed across Marsh Lane and Lake End Road spanning our northern border otherwise known as the M4.



Now a circular, but extremely well-illuminated shadow looms over our community. Plans are afoot to invest tens of thousands of pounds in the village. Such an impressive sum could address all manner of priorities: from traffic to trees; from dealing with the dragracers who grace Dorney Reach and the Common to the cars that clog Climos' Corner - perhaps even the plague of potholes.

Yet it seems the bundles of cash are destined for a project that nobody honestly feels is necessary and for which there is little love. Few, if any, dream of a roundabout in Dorney certainly not those who live near the intended desecration. Rather it is a suburban nightmare that promises nothing but rank ugliness and the prospect of ruining the historical aspect of the village

introducing an alien feature, yet more concrete, lighting and plastic at a time when we should champion greener things and challenge ourselves to be more imaginative.

Calming the traffic that zips through along our lanes is a worthy cause but there are ways and means far more elegant than imposing a carbuncle on our pretty little patch. The Dorney Traffic Working Group has done admirable work on this and surely a 20pmh speed limit would find little opposition in contrast to this prospective grim intrusion.



Fortunately, this scheme is not inevitable. The brakes may easily be applied, and a wiser, more sympathetic masterplan might be conceived by the Parish Council after the May elections. Until then, this blighted plan should be paused. The community should consult and we should take care to preserve this beautiful part of the country otherwise before too long, the concrete cows will arrive.

**James Palmer**

# 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

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**Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Burnham**

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Joseph Udoh, M.S.P. 01628 605764

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**From Stephen J. Baker, Safeguarding Officer on behalf of the Rev. La Stacey.**

Well... we have some exciting dates to look forward to over the coming weeks and I don't just mean those on Boris' 'Roadmap out of Lockdown', although I am sure that every single one of those dates will be waited on with bated breath.

We are currently in the season of Lent, ending on Holy Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, where Christ went out into the desert to fast, contemplate his upcoming crucifixion and during which was tempted by the devil. Traditionally this is a time where we give up one or more things in our lives that we can do without. Other than all of us being able to tick pubs, restaurants, and gatherings of any sort, it is really a great opportunity to spend some time on self-reflection and to consider what we are grateful for.

Lent also includes Christ's return to his disciples, the last supper, his prayers for himself and the world and subsequently his betrayal by one of his most loved and the further denial by another of knowing him. Whilst I doubt any of us have committed such acts, I know that there have been, are and will be times where I have not acted with as much integrity and honesty as I should.

St. James the Less, Dorney will continue to remain closed for March, but we will continue to stream a live service from Eton Wick at 11a.m. on our Facebook channel (Church Community of Eton with Eton Wick, Dorney and Boveney) and we continue to offer a morning prayer service 5 days a week at circa 08:30 (if you like the page, you will get notifications of when we 'go live').

Finally, I would like to continue to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of everyone during the pandemic, whether you are a key worker, worker, parent, have supported a vulnerable person, or just adhered to the guidance given to us. I would ask you to hold in your hearts our schools over the coming weeks as children return to their classrooms and we take our first step in lifting lockdown.

**Keep safe.**



# Really Lovely PHOTOS

Local photographer in the Dorney, Eton and Windsor area. Several years experience and happy to take on most photo challenges

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Engagement Shoots  
Social media content images  
Fashion blog images  
Food photography  
and**

**I have a passion for wildlife photography.**

Check out my online shop and services at [www.reallylovelyphotos.com](http://www.reallylovelyphotos.com)



I am • I can • I ought • I will

## I am Eton End

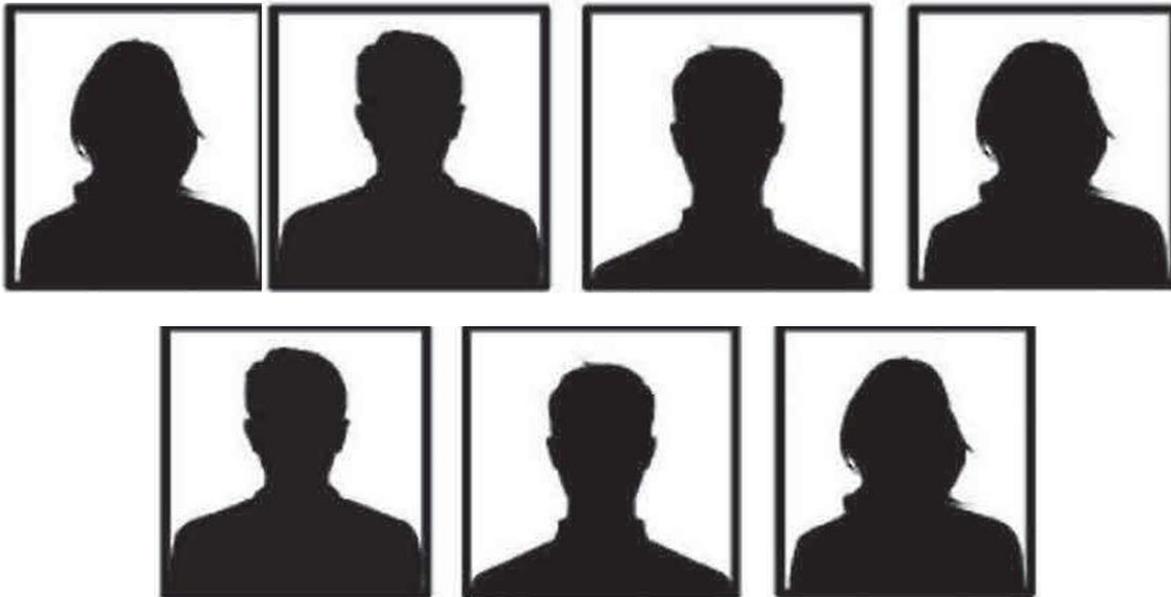
Co-educational Preparatory Day School for children aged rising 3 to 11

Personal tours are always welcome. For more information, or to arrange a visit, please contact our Registrar to make an appointment.

35 Eton Road Datchet Berkshire SL3 9AX  
01753 541075 • [admin@etonend.org](mailto:admin@etonend.org)

[www.etonend.org](http://www.etonend.org)  
#WeAreEtonEnd

# Have you thought about becoming a Dorney Parish Councillor?



## **Elections to Dorney Parish Council will be held on 6th May 2021**

On 6th May 2021 there will be the election of seven Parish Councillors for Dorney Parish Council for the next four years.

Over past months there has been a very welcome resurgence in attendance of residents at the monthly Parish Council meetings, with strong interest in protecting the Parish from the relaxation of the Green Belt, parking issues around the entrance to Dorney Lake, the “Smart Motorway”, the roundabout at Dents Corner and other important local matters.

This interest and commitment by residents to the protection of Dorney is to be both welcomed and admired. A number of these residents have indicated an interest in becoming parish councillors.

Uncontested elections can result in a lack of new energy and enthusiasm being brought into our local administration. Certain roles in public life do have a fixed period of tenure, resulting in new faces and ideas emerging. However, Parish Councillors may serve as long as they are elected. Our current parish councillors do have, collectively, a considerable number of years’ service – totalling nearly 90 years. The Chairman has served over 25 years and the Deputy Chairman over 16 years. Some others are well over 10 years.

Whilst we thank those who devoted their time to the parish over such time, we should also hope that room is made for new councillors who are also willing and able to serve the community. They will bring new faces, new ideas, new energy, much-needed positivity and a can-do spirit to the running of the parish council.

## **The benefits of being a Parish Councillor**

(with thanks to [www.beacouncillor.co.uk](http://www.beacouncillor.co.uk), Local Government Association, and [www.askyourcouncil.uk](http://www.askyourcouncil.uk))

### **Why should I become a councillor?**

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

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

### **I don't have the time...**

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

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

### **Could I be a councillor?**

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

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

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

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

- Communication skills
  - These include listening and interpersonal skills, public speaking skills, the ability to consider alternative points of view and to negotiate, mediate and resolve conflict.
- Problem solving and analytical skills
  - This includes being able to get to the bottom of an issue and to think of different ways to resolve it, including considering the advantages and disadvantages of each option.
- Team working
  - Being able to work with others in meetings and on committees and being able to complete any tasks that you agree to do on time.
- Organisational skills
  - Being able to plan and manage your time, keep appointments and meet deadlines.
- Ability to engage with your local community
  - You may have to make yourself available through meetings and on the telephone.
- You may have gained skills and knowledge through your professional, personal or community experience. These could include:
  - knowledge of the needs of specific groups such as children and young people, older people or
  - people with health problems
  - an understanding of financial management and reporting processes
  - legal and regulatory systems or procedures
  - housing, regeneration or environmental issues
  - any other skills that relate to the work or facilities provided by the council.

Don't worry if you don't yet feel that you have the skills or confidence to be a councillor. All councils provide support, information and training for new councillors. Whatever needs changing in your neighbourhood, you could be just the person to change it by becoming a local councillor. Perhaps you are already involved in local affairs and want to take the next step. Or you may be looking for a worthwhile and rewarding way to help your local community.

## **What powers do Parish Councils have?**

### **To provide facilities**

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

- Control of litter
- Provision and maintenance of public seats
- Creation and maintenance of footpaths and bridleways
- Provision of cycle and motorcycle parking

- Acquisition and maintenance of rights of way
- Maintenance of war memorials
- Bus shelters
- Signposting of footpaths
- Lighting of footpaths
- Off-street car parks
- Provision, maintenance and protection of roadside verges

### **Consultative powers**

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

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

### **Miscellaneous powers**

Parish councils may also exercise the following powers:

- Support and encouragement of arts and crafts
- Providing grants to local voluntary organisations
- Sponsoring public events
- Funding crime prevention measures

### **To stand for election you must:**

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

Nomination papers (nomination form, home address form, consent to nomination) must be hand delivered to the relevant election (DRO) office (see below) on a working day from the publication of notice of election, between 10am-4pm, but no later than 4pm on Wednesday 8 April 2021.

Candidates may hand deliver nomination papers themselves or may ask someone they trust to hand deliver them to the Deputy Returning Officer/elections office.

**Nomination papers cannot be sent in the post or electronically. Original signed forms must be provided.** Dorney Parish News is happy to arrange for any completed nomination papers to be handed in to the Council offices in Amersham on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021. We will get a receipt for them.

If you need nomination forms or any help completing the forms, please contact Sue Moffat : Clerk@dorney.org.uk or telephone 07443 58836.

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

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

## **What might residents expect from our Parish Council after 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021?**

With the Parish Councillors being elected on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021, Dorney Parish News felt it would be helpful to address the question above.

We have researched this through reviewing a number of sources, including NALC (National Association of Local Councils), askyourcouncil.uk and a number of similar sized parish councils' websites.

We have also asked some Dorney residents for their opinions and, from all of these, we suggest the following be considered by our new councillors:

### **Plan the Year**

- Review key actions in previous year and lessons learned.
- Agree a Parish/Community Plan with residents, through consultation.
  - Should be proactive not reactive.
  - Should include strategic issues, such as the Bucks/RBWM debate.
- Agree and publish updated policies – Freedom of Information, communication with residents etc.
- Establish a transparent, professional way to set the Precept, based on the Parish Plan.
- Encourage projects requiring funding within parish.
  - Agree funding policies and processes

### **Allocate Responsibilities**

- Allocate clear responsibilities amongst parish councillors.
  - Finance Committee (2x p.a.)
    - Agree financial policies and processes.
  - Planning Committee (every month)
    - Agree planning policies and processes.
  - Traffic Committee (2x p.a.)
    - Work closely with Transport for Bucks.
  - Environment Committee (2x p.a.)

### **Obey the Law**

- Ensure web site is fully functioning and complies with the law.
- Ensure all other policies and processes comply with the law or guidelines.

### **Communicate and Consult**

- Develop effective methods of communication and consultation with residents.

### **Cooperate with residents and other stakeholders**

- Identify residents with specialist knowledge who are willing to work with DPC.
- Actively cooperate with neighbouring councils.
- Ensure regular, formal liaison with major stakeholders in parish - Dorney Court Estate, Eton College (as a landowner), Dorney Lake, Dorney Village Hall, Dorney Playground Group, the Schools, the businesses.
- Ensure regular, formal liaison (outside DPC meetings) with other major stakeholders - Bucks Council, Environment Agency, Beaconsfield MP,

Burnham and Taplow parish Councils, Eton Town Council, Slough Borough Council.

- Establish a mutually beneficial working relationship with Dorney Community group

### **Organise and Manage Meetings**

- Organise and manage DPC meetings in a professional manner.
- Papers to be prepared on key issues requiring decisions. No paper = no decision (except in urgent matters)
  - All (non-confidential) papers to be circulated via website.
- Take decisions.
- Continue meetings on Zoom (if agreed and permitted) rather than face-to-face meetings (except Annual Parish Meeting)
- Annual Parish Meeting to be run as a part formal, part social village event including societies, charities, groups.
- Regularly appraise the performance of the Parish Clerk

### **Key Dates for the Electoral Process:**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Monday 22 March       | Publication of Notice of Election (local elections) |
| Thursday 8 April, 4pm | Deadline for receipt of nomination papers           |
| Friday 9 April, 4pm   | Names of candidates standing for election published |
| Monday 19 April       | Deadline for registering to vote                    |
| Tuesday 20 April, 5pm | Postal Vote application deadline                    |
| Tuesday 27 April, 5pm | Proxy vote application deadline                     |
| Tuesday 27 April      | Notice of Poll                                      |
| Thursday 6 May        | Polling Day 7am – 10pm                              |
| Friday 7 May )        | Town & Parish Council Counts.                       |
| Saturday 8 May )      |   |

### **Local Election Prospective Councillor Nominations**

- Nomination forms available from the Electoral Commission website now.
- Nomination forms must be hand delivered (not emailed or posted) to the relevant Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) area office on working days between 10am -4pm from Monday 22 March to Thursday 8 April (4pm)
- Nomination forms can be delivered by clerks (not good practice), collectively or individually or by candidate.
- Original signed forms must be submitted.
- Recommend early delivery of forms. The drop in system may involve a wait to be seen.

### **Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) office:**

Chiltern & South Bucks election Areas, King George V House, King George V Road, Amersham, HP6 5AW

# Dorney Parish News 2021 Annual Subscription

Dorney Parish News

February 2021



*(with thanks to Sharon and Peter Bywater for these seasonal Dorney pictures)*

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|    | <p>As responsible publishers, we have sought advice from the local police regarding the distribution of the magazine during this lockdown. We were delighted to be advised that we are permitted to distribute the magazine through our excellent, and willing, volunteers.</p> |
| <p>Our distributors have agreed to apply the government guidelines regarding hand cleanliness and social distancing. Should you not wish to handle this printed copy, please dispose of it safely and email our Editor, Peter Bowman, on <a href="mailto:peter.bowman@talktalk.net">peter.bowman@talktalk.net</a> or call him on 07889 912714 and ask him to email you a digital copy as a PDF file.</p> |   |

## **Dorney Parish News is now offering two ways to subscribe:**

1. In the usual way, via your Distributor.
2. Online, by Paypal or a credit/debit card, using our section on the Dorney Community website:

[www.dorneycommunity.org.uk/dorney-parish-news/](http://www.dorneycommunity.org.uk/dorney-parish-news/)

From the online information you provide we will know who and where you are and will advise your Distributor that you have paid online.

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# CROCUS

— at —  
DORNEY COURT



Set in the grounds of Dorney Court Estate, near Eton, visitors will find a unique and innovative garden destination offering a curated range of plants for all seasons, as well as inspired items for the home and garden.

Our shop blends practical and stylish products from around the world with plants that are often difficult to source, particularly from garden centres. With a full nursery of garden and indoor plants, eco-friendly growing supplies, home and garden décor, furniture, firepits, and gifts, Crocus at Dorney Court seamlessly offers something for every home and garden.

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Our café is currently open for takeaways only.

Please check our website ([www.Crocus.co.uk/Dorney](http://www.Crocus.co.uk/Dorney)) for any operational changes due to the current Covid guidelines.

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



## News from Dorney School

As I sit here writing this article from the comfort of my kitchen overlooking my garden at dawn, I am amazed at how light it is becoming. The days are getting longer and there is the breath of Spring in the air. It has been nearly a year since we started with the first lockdown, but with the advent of Spring, I know that real positive change is round the corner!



I am continually amazed at our resilience and our collective determination to protect our most vulnerable citizens. At our school, we are becoming more adept at teaching remotely although we have had to learn many new things quickly. When I reflect on the past few months, teachers have been modelling the learning process well. They have improved through learning by trial, application, and mistakes in how best to support pupils who have been isolating at home. What fantastic role models they are! This is exactly the growth mindset we want our children to have.

I am so excited to share some exciting developments at school. We have improved our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Emotional) curriculum by starting a new scheme of learning based on 'The No Outsiders' programme. <https://no-outsiders.com/about-us> The vision of the programme is to promote an inclusive education, promoting community cohesion to prepare young people and adults for life as global citizens. Our message at school is 'Everyone Belongs'. There is always room to grow love for one another and no space for hate or discrimination. The launch of this curriculum coincides with 'International Women's Day' and 'World Book Day'; two great days that promote equality and diversity. What better time to engage our children who have faced severe challenges in their young lives? The priority must be to help them build a mental and emotional resilience that will help them to face an uncertain future.

Our new 'Celebrate Diversity' corridor is filled with children's books by diverse authors and the books are representative of all the pupils at school and the families we serve. I started our first remote assembly in January (the things you can do virtually nowadays!) with a beautiful book entitled 'Each Kindness' by Jacqueline Woodson – a story about belonging and acceptance. We all know the importance of shared experiences and being able to empathise with the stories you read and the characters you encounter.

This World Book Day (4<sup>th</sup> March 2021) will be celebrated with a difference. Whether our pupils are at school or at home, we would like them to read stories that are important to them. Instead of dressing up as superheroes or Disney princesses, we will be encouraging our pupils to dress as themselves, in whatever colour, costume or culture that represents them. We would like every single child, to feel proud of who they are no matter their language, belief, culture, ethnicity, gender, or

background. If the children of today celebrate each other's differences and work together to improve our society, what fantastic global citizens we will have in the future! This can only strengthen the democratic foundations of this society.

Dorney School is also applying for the 'Green Tree School's Award' organised by the Woodland Trust. We are just about ready to receive our Bronze certification and pupils and staff are excited to think about how we can work with the wider community too. In February, the school received 40 strong young saplings via the Trust that will be planted around the school to encourage more biodiversity, improve the environment and our school grounds. Mrs Strydom, our Science subject leader, and Lead Eco Warrior, is excited at the prospect of our school, working with other local groups to improve our local landscape. We welcome ideas and support from readers. Do email the school if you have any great suggestions or resources at [office@dorneyschool.co.uk](mailto:office@dorneyschool.co.uk)

This is the season of new starts, new growth, and new beginnings and at Dorney School, we look forward to new challenges in whatever shape or form. We hope that as you walk among fields of daffodils, tulips, and bluebells, you too will look at our world with fresh eyes. We have the power to make the difference. We all need to be the change we want to see.

My best wishes to you and your family. Do visit our school website and see the work we do. <https://www.dorneyschool.co.uk/>

Warmest wishes,

**Mrs Sharifah Lee**  
**Acting Headteacher**



I would put the fruit trees close to the trees on the side fence, then the willows in front because they like partial sun and it will give some shade. Then

Eddie in Year 4 - planning where we will plant the 40 saplings.



Rueben's Rainbow and his description.



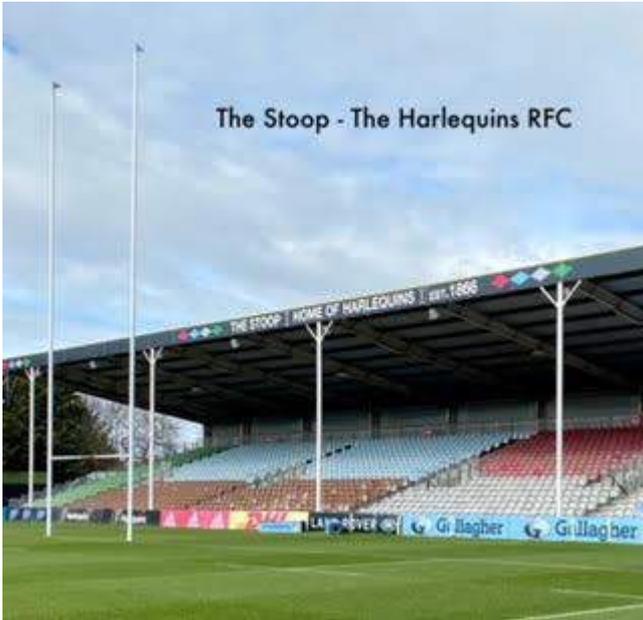
Isabelle's Rainbow and descriptive writing.



Rana experimenting with skittles and warm water.

## JABS ARMY ON DORNEY COMMON

February turned out to be particularly harsh and hoary, with hard frost and drifts of snow. The preceding persistent wet created large ponds across one side of the Common outside the cottage that iced over to form a series of rinks -a delightful distraction for some younger village members that tried and sometimes failed to cross the thick ice, which was fortunately only ankle deep. As our viral infection rates slowly drop, the army of vax medics continued their spiky journey, cascading vaccine delivery quickly down the generations and those clinically vulnerable.



Having now qualified as a Vaccinator, the day arrived when I should finally take up my position to administer the vaccine. With the nearer vax centre's currently fully staffed, I chose to head to Twickenham to work at The Stoop, the home ground of the Harlequin Rugby Football Club, and very generously lent to the vaccine effort by them. Familiar with the area, it was a pleasure to drive my car further than the supermarket.

This vaccination centre had been open for 6 days, but in that short time the set up was in place and functioning well, and despite the harsh weather locals turned out with optimism and relief. Another NHS marvel from well-seasoned staff with incredible personal resource and experience. Slipping quickly back into the NHS psyche, a return to my roots, the conversation flow was the same, the banter and 'remember when' anecdotes, but technology had moved on.

Working initially with Annie, a lovely lady with a similar London hospital background, showed me the processes, paperwork and checks before asking me to take over the administration of the vaccine. Feeling under pressure slightly, well hugely actually, oh the scrutiny, I injected a dose of Astra Zeneca to an oblivious young lady, who had come in with her elderly father, and as a Carer it was decided to cover her too. 'I didn't feel a thing' left me relieved and thankful!

Post procedure, Annie remarked, 'Perfect Kristina, a flawless delivery straight from the 1980's, now we just need to tweak your technique to the 2020's'. Happily, by the end of that morning I was lucky enough to have my own cubicle, and a rather large grin under my mask, but not until home much later, a rather large gin without the mask.

Now, returning frequently to The Stoop, eleventy-eight arms jabs each day, I look forward to each shift, the people, the buzz, the banter, and the fact that each jab into the arm means a safer, better protected person. I feel very humble to be part of the process, and grateful for the opportunity to help. Walking through the empty stadium at the start of each shift, small but perfectly formed and toweringly majestic, with its

manicured green grass like a Axminster carpet, I can hear the crowds roar for the success this vaccination programme has turned out to be.

Strangely, perhaps because I have worked for decades near engineering environments, I have always had a fascination with workshops. The old-fashioned wood benches with their bench drills and vices, the wall of tools that once removed reveal their page three outline. At the Drama Guild we have much reduced our spaces to a compact bijoux area encompassing costume, hand props, set build area and of course the uniquely quintessential workshop that houses all manner of gadgets that push stuff in, pull bits out and shape others to the desired design. Guns that staple snugly, drills that bore beautifully and metal saws with jaws that chomp wood for breakfast.

Spending a morning there once a week, to generally reduce then jenga our articles into small densely packed spaces, with the intention of emptying our old club room, to take on the new role as a rehearsal space. Amongst the debris that was due to hit the skip, lay a large ornate tin, with a charming but not very PC, picture of a black boy in a porter's outfit carrying a tray of fruit, surrounded by more fruit. The tin seemed well travelled, but was strangely heavy... so what lay within?

Prising open the lid, inside under a small piece of discoloured cloth, sat two dozen sticks of ancient greasepaint from Leichner, the famous theatrical makeup sticks from yesteryear. The scent of the grease rose from the tin, to hit my nostrils firmly, an aroma that is only familiar with those that use backstage dressing rooms. This box was a definite keep in the memories section.

At home, the weather thawed but our chickens remained in their protective coop, as Bird Flu continued to blight. Fed up now that their free-range activities had been curtailed for so long, with the help of my husband Dave, we moved our girls frequently instead. And then, as the weather warmed, one of our new Wyandotte pullets, now 8 months old, laid her first beautiful cream coloured egg, a sure sign that Spring is knocking on our door. As the climate changes, the occasional lukewarm sun on our faces, gradually the tide of Covid ebbs, whilst we stay connected, support each other, and hope that this virus continues to wither.

*A Professor gave a red balloon to each of his students, and asked them to inflate it, write their name on it, then throw it into the hallway. The Professor ran amongst the balloons to mix them up, then gave the students 5 minutes to find their balloon.*

*Despite a hectic search, nobody found their balloon.*

*At this point the Professor told the students to pick up the first balloon that they found and hand it to the person whose name was written on it. Within 5 minutes everyone had their own balloon. The Professor said to the students 'These balloons represent happiness. We will never find it if everyone is looking for their own, however, if we care about other people's happiness, we will find ours too.'*

**Kristina Perkins**



## Taplow, Burnham and The Farnhams

### Neighbourhood Priorities

The priorities for your Neighbourhood Policing Team (NHPT) will be decided by the Policing Issues Panel, comprised of representatives from Community Boards from the whole of Chiltern & South Bucks. The Police do not run the panel, although we do attend as representatives. This allows us to speak to a wide cross-section of the community, find out what you most want improved in the area and consider how we and others can accomplish these aims. The top three priorities are chosen by the forum every three months and are then assumed by your Neighbourhood Policing Team.

#### **Priority – Speeding**

The NH Teams have been out and about across the area carrying out speeding operations. In November & December we carried out checks on Dropmore Road, Burnham where 43 vehicles passed the check site but only one ticket was issued for speeding. Checks were also carried out on the A355 Beaconsfield Road where 151 vehicles passed the check site but only two were stopped for speeding. Our Roads Policing unit have been deploying our mobile speed camera vans during December. They have been out on 17 occasions to various sites around South Bucks, in which time they identified 924 speeding vehicles. In addition, we now have two very active Community Speed Watch teams. This is a great opportunity for residents who wish to volunteer their time to monitor speeding in areas highlighted for concern by fellow residents. If you are interested in helping out, then please contact the team or your local Parish Council.

#### **Priority – Burglary**

This quarter we have seen a reduction of 64% in Burglary from 22 to 8. However we would like to remind residents to remain vigilant and safe.

#### **Priority – Anti-Social Behaviour**

We are seeing more and more E-Scooters being ridden around the area and to date we have issued three section 59 warnings. Please remember these can only be ridden on private land with the owner's permission. In January this year a male was issued a S59 warning for riding an E-scooter around the Eastfield Road area. In February two males were issued S59 warning after being seen by police riding motorcycles in an antisocial manner and doing wheelies around the Bishop Centre car park, they were also issued tickets for breach of COVID 19.

#### Other News

After a call from a member of public the NH Team attended a property in Taplow where youths from Manchester and London had attended for a house party. Approximately 18 fines were issued for breach of COVID 19. We are currently preparing for the warmer weather to arrive with us hopefully in a couple of months. With unprecedented times last year and an increase in visitors to the area over the years, we saw a few pockets of disruption through anti-social behaviour and parking in the Dorney and Taplow areas,



particularly around areas of water. We really would like everyone to have a safe Summer this year. Therefore, we will continue to work with the local businesses/organisations, the Parish Councils and Transport for Bucks.

### COVID Compliance

Over many months, our Neighbourhood teams have worked closely with colleagues in Buckinghamshire Council. You may have seen us out and about in various locations with the Environmental Health officers from the Council challenging apparent non-compliance with COVID restrictions. Most locations across our neighbourhood have been supportive of the Government's guidelines, and those where the public have voiced concerns have greatly improved safe business practice, with the right advice. Recently we have visited Tesco, Sainsbury's and Taplow Railway Station amongst other small or independent shops, restaurants and Public Houses to reinforce Government guidelines.

Offenders Brought to Justice One male has been arrested and charged for shoplifting @ Sainsbury's, Taplow. A female was charged for public order offences in Farnham Common. A male was given a caution for shoplifting at Tesco, Taplow. Two males were arrested and given cautions after a public order incident in Burnham. A male and female have both received cautions in relation to an assault in Burnham.

Have Your Say Events During the Pandemic we have had to move away from 'HAVE YOUR SAY' Events as normally they encourage people to gather, which we are looking to avoid. We understand some people still want to see us face to face, therefore we have been looking at ways we can still give people the opportunity to speak with officers, pass concerns, information or a smile and a wave to your children. To overcome gatherings, we have identified areas for us to be present, visible and whilst completing our never-ending paperwork. We want the areas to be key points in each community where people are able to see us safely, varying times throughout the month and locations. Due to various reasons, on demand, operational commitments and to prevent large gatherings, we will not be publishing times and dates. However we wish to make the community aware of these locations and if you see a Police vehicle or officer at these locations, we are there for you to speak to us, please come and say hello and help us identify any concerns you have or any information, you may feel will assist us.

Taplow/Hitcham – The Parish Car Park, off Rectory Road.  
Dorney – The Dorney Lake Car Park off Court Lane

## News from Thames Valley Adventure Playground



Hello from all of us here at TVAP! Here's a little update on what's happening with us.

Well, we managed to make it through last year – what a shocker it was! – and are looking forward to a more hopeful end of 2021. Before lockdown, as schools and care homes had taken the

decision the necessary travel arrangements to get to us were too risky, the Trustees took the decision to make the most of the furlough and close for all but Fridays and Saturdays. We can stay open in line with government guidelines regarding outdoor playgrounds and so everything inside is closed off. Despite the biting cold we are full, although with much restricted numbers, every Saturday, and our families are so very grateful to have somewhere safe and accessible to go where others understand that all of us don't understand about the social distancing rules and can't wear masks. We continue to refurbish the soft play area which is a mammoth task and are getting on well although I think there have been a few moments when it has looked like it was never going to be useable again! You know that feeling when you are halfway through sorting a cupboard and wonder why you started!!

We have changed to booking for three sessions of two hours a day rather than for the whole day so we can meet demand to come but still restrict numbers. Currently we have 6 households per session and have to clean everywhere in between sessions.

The personal care involved in respite has meant we have suspended the respite breaks for the moment but hope to start again a.s.a.p., perhaps for those with less personal care needs first and then to scale up as vaccinations reach everyone. It's such a difficult balance to help but not put people at risk. The powers that be are monitoring regularly as more information and guidance comes to light. Hopefully, March will bring some good news and mean we can get back to giving more families a very much needed break.

Fun Club, which used to run in the building once a week, is now online and so being enjoyed by people from as far as Cornwall! We have had such great feedback we would like to keep connected when things ease too.

Our annual fundraising Spring Walk has been delayed from April to October 2<sup>nd</sup> (save the date!) at Dorney Lake (so no excuses!) and we are changing the format a little this year so that distance is not the objective, but fun and activities for all the family is! We can't wait to see families enjoying themselves and see familiar faces then if not before! Hope to see you all there.

Before then, this Easter we are launching our 'High Five for TVAP', a regular giving scheme of £5 a month to help safeguard our future. For more information and a form go to our website [www.tvap.co.uk/high-five](http://www.tvap.co.uk/high-five)

All the team sends their best to you all – stay well and take care, and Happy Easter when it arrives!

**Reama Shearman**

## **BT Broadband**

Dear Editor

When we moved to Village Road in 1982 the main means of communication with family, friends and businesses was either by 'phone or mail using the local post box. Then the internet crept up on us and we invested in our first computer. Connection was unreliable as we were 2.7 miles from the nearest green box near Sainsburys. I recall the indefatigable Bill Dax trying to somehow enable villagers to tap into the new lines being put into the rowing lake for the Olympics, but I don't think anything came of this. Connection speeds did improve but were never brilliant.

So, when we moved here there was great excitement as the nearest green box was only 200 metres from our new home. And the box had a sticker "Fibre Broadband is here". Speeds were better, but still we had interruptions, so we moved to BT's Halo One subscription which gave us a new router.

This year we were getting frequent "hmm, can't reach this page" messages, particularly frustrating when trying to do on-line banking or you are halfway through a purchase order on Amazon. It did not occur to us that these problems arose when we re-configured our office space and moved the computer desk into an alcove area.

I called BT Tech Help and talked to a chap working from home in Delhi! He was five and a half hours ahead and I was his last customer. The line was as clear as a bell. He said he would run a test on my line and this might take some time, so we discussed Agra and Gwalior and how lucky we were to be blessed with three Indian restaurants in our High Street. It was when I mentioned how well Joe Root and his team were playing in Chennai that miraculously the line was fixed, no fault found!

Three weeks on still the same old problem, so I requested a home call, for which I would gladly pay if necessary. Two days later an engineer from Cippenham came and hooked up his equipment. Everything into the router was fine, as was the ethernet connection to the computer. However, as the study is 20 metres from router, the wi-fi signal decreases as there are some walls in the way. He recommended going to Halo 3+ which comes with a new Smart Hub 2 router, a wi-fi booster Disc and Hybrid Connect device, which enables the computer to be connected to the Internet even if the telephone line is down. (Why don't they give this to everyone?)

We called BT to ask for this upgrade, it cost us £0.19p more per month and the three boxes arrived next day. I was able to install them easily myself and Hey Presto! Superfast connection. We skip from page to page at lightning speed. The most arduous task was typing in the new router password (a 14-digit jumble of upper and lower case mixed with numbers) to the computer, printer, smart TV, the Sky box, the iPad and the iPhones.

Why no one at BT suggested this solution on the many calls we made to complain about connection problems I do not know. All they would do was check the line to the house.

I hope this may be of use to anyone having connection problems.

**Nick Teale**

## Mr. Covid: My Part in his Downfall (with apologies to Spike RIP)

Oh no! Not again!

There was light at the end of the tunnel, but it seems it was merely the train coming the other way!

I had been unshielded, returning to my humble ambulance role, clinics were being dusted off, bulbs were thrusting into the light, and even the hint of some snow promised to brighten the immediate future until Mr. Covid sauntered through our pitifully unprepared borders all the way from warmer climes with a clever twist in his cabin luggage that made him in even more irresistible than before. We just couldn't get enough of him.

As a result of his tenacity and because I am old and frail, my employer bless them, ordered,

"Get thee gone Quincey back inside your shield again. No more ambulances for you Dad."

With a heavy heart, I patted my faithful steed on her front wing, and moist eyed whispered to her,

"Don't be afraid Old Girl. They will look after you till I come back."

I know you're puzzling, "What on Earth is he mumbling about now??" but I spent more waking hours with that ambulance than I did at home, particularly at that time, (those of you who are professional truck drivers will understand) and so I drove my car away from the station to join the rest of you, where the prospect of a weekly visit to Sainsbury's took on all the excitement of a holiday abroad.

What was all the more infuriating were the constant stream of tales of daring do from my green uniformed WhatsApp heroes, and I ached to be part of it once more. Anything!! I'll wash ambulances, answer the phone, sweep up! Anything.

"No Dad, you're old and vulnerable," (I paraphrase) "you've got to stay away!"

I seethed at home, attracted like a moth to light every time my phone whooped, and after much stamping of feet and hurling Teddy out of the cot, some kind senior ambulance soul pushed and shoved on my behalf and I received a phone call asking me if I would accept (yes accept!!) a role driving around the south of England as a very mobile gofer ( as in 'go for this, go for that' to you uninitiated).

Would I accept???

Lead me to it. "Of course I will accept the role," I blurted out before my saviour changed her mind.

"When would you like to start?" she asked sweetly. It was Friday afternoon.

"Absolutely no patients and no going inside stations for you," she ordered.

"Monday will be fine," I breathed, pulling out my redundant uniform from the back of the wardrobe and pressed it in celebration.

On Sunday night I could have shamed a ten-year-old on Christmas Eve, and I woke from exhausting dreams driving ambulances against the clock in increasingly narrow roads before the six o'clock alarm dragged me into the freezing January morning air.

"I've been pleading for this....Fool!!" I smiled to myself as my lovely partner grinned bleary eyed from the warm bed at my childish enthusiasm.

Tea drunk, wearing my pressed uniform and carrying my packed bag, I presented myself at my new station to be greeted smilingly by my new lovely temporary boss with whom I had happily teamed up with before this madness.

“Hi Mike,” she grinned. “Welcome to the team. Here’s your vehicle, exclusively for you and no one else,” as she tossed me the keys to a surprisingly new VW Caddy ambulance in sombre black, and I contentedly stowed my bits and pieces into it at the start of our new adventure together.

I returned to the office, ready to roll!

“Can you take these two phones over to Toytown, then to Holby to deliver this PPE and then pick up Sid at Dingley Dell and collect an ambulance ABC123 and both of you go to Downton Abbey and deliver the same, then back to Dingley Dell and call me,” smiled The Boss.

I was gone! My first mission; doing my bit and oiling the wheels for the proper heroes.

Five miles from my base the ambulance phone rang, making me jump.

“Have you forgotten something?” asked the Boss sweetly.

I turned round and went back for the phones, crept into the office, quietly scooped them up from the desk, and crept out to the front door of the station, carefully closing the door for security onto a finger, which started to bleed profusely. (well not that profusely, but I am a man!)

Already shamed, there was no way I was going back for treatment and I wrapped the offending digit in tissue and drove the forty miles to Toytown, presenting the phones to a senior person.

“What’s up with your finger?” he buzzed through his mask.

“I pwacked it in a door. I’m fine really,” I buzzed incoherently back.

He examined it and winced. “That’s nasty. Come with me,” and it was painfully cleaned and dressed with an impressive hero plaster.

Patched up, I was back on the road to my next call another forty miles away through deserted roads to my next stop where I met Sid, my new mask covered mate, to collect the aforementioned ambulance.

Two metre introductions over, he buzzed, “Can you thake a broken vheelchair back to your base for repair?”

“Of orse,” I muffled, heaving it into the back of Black Sabbath.

Pulling the tailgate down, I had failed to note that a portion of the back bumper had been removed and replaced on the bottom of the tailgate (to allow wheelchair access) extending it nine inches or so which clouted me hard on my forehead causing what I later saw reflected a spectacular gash.

“Oh dear, that smarted somewhat,” I yelled, (well words to that effect!).

A word of advice. If you plan to whack your own head, an ideal location to do so is outside an ambulance station canteen because within moments I was surrounded by green uniforms with very concerned faces.

Once more I was taken inside for first aid, a very experienced colleague attended and said grimly,

“Hospital for you. Nasty head injury, and it will need stitches.”

I unkindly suggested that the fear of a scar that may end my modelling career was less of a problem than increasing the risk of housing Mr. Covid, so she expertly patched me up with, I have to say, remarkable tenderness and ordered me home. Two drops in two stations and given first aid in both on day one may interest Mr. Guinness.

Next day, I sported a rather rakish Gorbachev look. It may catch on!

I'm glad to report that loss of service was very temporary and Black Sabbath and I were back on duty the following day, oiling the wheels for the heroes who carry Covid patients every day, without further damage to me.

Stay safe everyone. The novelty has most definitely worn off, but in the words of Nicola Sturgeon, we look forward to getting to the end of this 'horrible experience'.

I'm still not sure if she was referring to Mr. Covid or suffering her almost daily appearances in the media.

See you next month, unless I get wiped out on the M4 'Smart' motorway.

**Mike Quincey**

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Obituary: Allen Handy – Musician



Last summer during the first lockdown, once the churches were allowed to open for funerals, the Reverend La Stacey gave my father Allen Handy a very beautiful send-off at St James the Less where he is now buried in the most peaceful place we could have hoped for, Dorney churchyard, where he is amongst old friends.

Allen and his family were very much a part of the Dorney community and regular church goers at St James church from the early 1970's for a good 15 years. Allen was a sidesman and his wife served on the PCC. He played many a trumpet recital at the church to raise money for renovations and upkeep. Many of the congregation will remember his playing of The Last Post on Remembrance Sundays. Both of Allen's children were baptised at the church and the family were regularly in Dorney for Harvest suppers, jumble sales, carol singing round the village ending up at Dorney Court for mince pies and mulled wine. Also, he was a regular attendant at the annual Dorney fête where his wife provided the maypole and dance display.

Here is an extract from his obituary:

“From Bach to Bond”, Allen Handy specialised in piccolo G trumpet playing on many iconic film and television scores, jingles and signature tunes. “You may not know his name, but you will have heard his playing”.

Allen gained scholarships to study composition at Oxford with Oscar winning composer Sir Malcom Arnold and also to the Royal College of Music to study the trumpet.

A freelance musician, Allen played extensively with the London Philharmonic Orchestra for over 25 years as well as playing guest Principal Trumpet for many of the leading London orchestras. He also played regularly with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, Academy of St Martin in the Fields and the Northern Symphonia. He was Principal Trumpet of the London Mozart Players, Philomusica of London and the Bristol Symphonia.

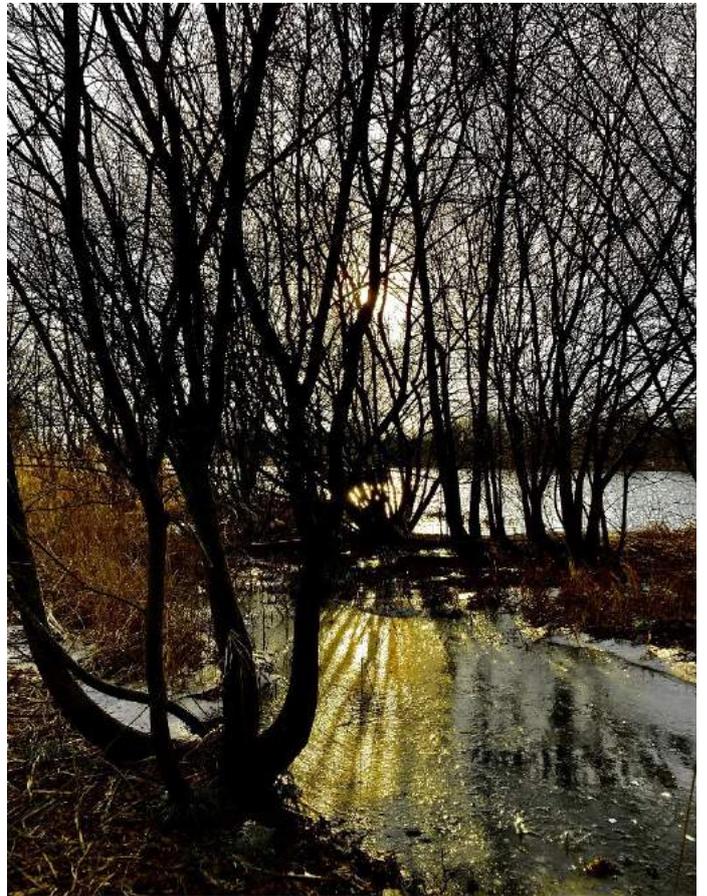
Allen's repertoire included both classical and jazz, playing with Duke Ellington, Jack Benny, John Dankworth & Cleo Lane and many seasons at the Aldeburgh Festival, Daytona Beach International Music Festival, Hong Kong Festival, Glyndebourne and The BBC Proms. Allen was invited to play for Pope John Paul II at The Vatican under conductor Leonard Bernstein.

Allen was part of many renowned classical recordings under great conductors such as Sir John Barbirolli, Daniel Barenboim, Klaus Tenstedt, Bernard Haitink and too many to list here.

As a prolific session musician Allen played on several iconic movie scores including the original Star Wars soundtrack, 2001: A Space Odyssey, The Mission and several James Bond films. He recorded many award-winning television and film scores for composers Jim Parker and George Fenton including Bergerac, Dangerous Liaisons, The Jewel in the Crown, The Monocled Mutineer and on several original television jingles and signature tunes such as Tomorrow's World, LWT, Channel 4 News to name but a few.

Allen very much enjoyed spending time at Lord's as a member of the MCC. He was a Governor of The Royal Society of Musicians, a Fellow of The Royal Geographical Society and a member of The Garrick Club. A keen chess player and a lover of fine wine! His great sense of humour and beautifully told stories will live on in many memories.

**Emma Handy**



Views of the Jubilee River in February (Jill Dax)



A view of Dorney Reach in the mist (Richard Shymansky)



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## **A TRIBUTE TO MALCOLM McINTOSH 1948 TO 2021 GROWING UP IN DORNEY REACH**

Malcolm was the son of Rosemary McIntosh and the late William (Bill) McIntosh, brother to the late John McIntosh, and Ann Munson and Teresa McGuinness. We all moved into Meadow Way in 1952. At the age of 5 Malcolm attended Eton Wick Primary school as the small Dorney School which was in the village at that time was full. We all went on to be educated at Eton Wick to keep the family together. A little blue bus would take us to school but if the weather was bad we had to walk. Meadow Way at this time was a cinder track full of fire ashes and it had crab apple trees growing in it. Tarmac and gas came later.

We had a happy childhood - we were well-fed and clothed and went to West Wittering in the summer for days out. There was so much space to play in and explore. We had homemade fishing rods to fish in the Thames, which we were told not to go near as we couldn't swim - swimming lessons weren't available until you started school. The Rec (recreation ground) where the tennis court is now had 3 swings, a slide and a sandpit, but the sand soon disappeared and we used our coats as football posts. We all enjoyed games with other children and some of the dads too. We built go carts from old prams wheels and bits of wood in which we used to transport our home-made Guys on collecting a "penny for the Guy". This meant that we were able to buy sparklers for 5<sup>th</sup> November and collect items for burning on the communal bonfire in Trumpers field. Everyone was welcome and those who could afford it supplied fireworks as well. The fire was so large it was still glowing the next day.

Also in Trumpers were the gypsy horses. They camped once a year on the land where the Rowing Lake is, and the horses were tethered on chains for grazing. It was nothing to see 3 or 4 of us bareback on one horse going round and round. We would quickly disappear when the men came to move the horses onto fresher grass. Sometimes the horses got loose and could be found in back gardens munching on our grass.

Malcolm attended Ragstone Road Secondary school. A coach was organised for all children attending this school. He was a member of the local Cubs and joined the Maidenhead Sea Cadets in his teens. We were a little mischievous and often played Knock Down Ginger, whereby you would knock on someone's door and run away before they had time to answer. We would also go scrumping for apples. On a lighter note, we went carol singing around the area and collected money for charity. We were bell ringers and often rang the bells for weddings and received pocket money. Also, in the summers we would go potato picking for pocket money. When the M4 motorway was constructed, for extra money, we used to collect the empty corona bottles the workman left and take them to the village shop and as long as we purchased the men's cigarettes for them, we were allowed to keep the deposit money to buy sweets.

After leaving school Malcolm joined the Merchant Navy as a steward for a couple of years and then joined the G.P.O (now Royal Mail) as a telephone engineer. He was a Mod and had a scooter and spent his spare time in Windsor, where the Mods and their rivals the Rockers, who had motor bikes hung out. He moved to Harrow where he met his first wife and then to Luton where he married again proudly wearing a specially made McIntosh tartan kilt. He emigrated to Australia in 1997 working for the same company and travelled the world. His last job was with Scott Automation and Robotic. His hobbies were his family, his boat and motor racing. The last Grand Prix he went to, even though he was ill, was the Melbourne Grand Prix and he even got to meet some of the drivers.

He fought cancer for 5 years but in the end he lost the battle. He will be much missed by his family especially the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

## Teresa and Ann

\*\*\*\*\*



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

# Dorney Parish Council – Finance Committee Minutes and Budget 2021/2

DPN carried the Minutes in last month's edition, but unfortunately, we didn't receive the Budget 2021/2 prior to our print deadline.

We now have the Budget for 2021/2 which is on the page opposite, so felt that it would be helpful to repeat the Minutes which relate to the Budget.

## **Minutes of the VIRTUAL meeting of Dorney Parish Council Finance Committee held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 9.40pm.**

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

In attendance: S Moffat (Clerk).

### **Part I**

1. **Apologies for absence** - None.
2. **Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda-** Cllr Foxley declared an interest in matters pertaining to Dorney Village Hall being a member of the DVH Management Committee.
3. **Budget 2020/2021** – to monitor, review and approve figures to 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (as circulated) –  
Cllr Ormond reported that as at the 30<sup>th</sup> October there was £40,664 in the bank. This will reduce to £26,610.16 by the end of the financial year if the remainder of expenditure is in line with the forecasted budget.
4. **Budget 2021/2022**– to review the draft budget and to resolve any amendments/additions. The proposed budget was discussed and it was agreed that £1000 additional expenditure was needed for IT support and an additional £300 for a new laptop for the Clerk. It was noted that election expenses of £933 have been included for elections next May and there is no longer any income from Dorney Village Hall Committee's contribution towards Village upkeep costs.
5. **Precept- Resolved** to recommend a precept of £25,000 to be agreed at the Council meeting in December 2020. This is a 7.6% increase from this year's precept of £23,222.
6. **Internal Auditor for 2020/2021 – Resolved** that the present internal auditor, Euan MacClennan, can no longer act independently for the Parish Council as he has a conflict of interest being a member of Dorney Village Hall Committee.
7. **Risk Assessment – Resolved** to approve the risk assessment.
8. **Insurance** – to review the level of insurance and ensure that the Council is adequately covered (as circulated with the agenda). **Resolved** that there is adequate insurance for the Council.
9. **Asset Register – Resolved** to approve the asset register with both defibrillators belonging to Dorney Parish Council.
10. **Standing Orders – Resolved to** adopt the amended Standing Orders as updated to reflect the Model Standing Orders 2019 as recommended by NALC.
11. **Financial Regulations – Resolved** to approve the Council's financial regulations and that they are adequate for the Council's current needs.
12. **Defibrillator Fridge Magnets** – Agreed to spend £250 out of general funds.
13. **Insurance Claim** for Solar Panelled VAS by cattle grid which was destroyed by vehicle accident.

Meeting Closed at 10.20pm.

| <b>Dorney Parish Council</b>          |  |                   |                   |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Budget Detail - By Centre</b>      |  |                   |                   |
|                                       |  | <b>Budget</b>     | <b>Budget</b>     |
|                                       |  | <b>2020/21</b>    | <b>2021/22</b>    |
| <b>Receipts</b>                       |  |                   |                   |
| Precept                               |  | £23,222.38        | £25,000.00        |
| Interest Received                     |  | £10.00            | £5.00             |
| Grants Received                       |  |                   |                   |
| Devolved Highways                     |  | £2,318.98         | £2,318.98         |
| Miscellaneous Income                  |  | £0.00             | £0.00             |
| Village Hall Contribution             |  | £1,250.00         | -£5,000.00        |
| Defibrillator grant                   |  |                   |                   |
| VAT Refund                            |  | £1,000.00         | £600.00           |
| <b>Total</b>                          |  | <b>£27,801.36</b> | <b>£22,923.98</b> |
| <b>Payments</b>                       |  |                   |                   |
| <b>Salaries</b>                       |  |                   |                   |
| <b>Salaries Expenditure</b>           |  | <b>£16,643.61</b> | <b>£16,643.61</b> |
| <b>General &amp; Administration</b>   |  |                   |                   |
| Postage                               |  | £50.00            | £50.00            |
| Photocopying                          |  | £25.00            | £25.00            |
| Subscriptions                         |  | £150.00           | £150.00           |
| Publications & Books                  |  |                   |                   |
| Telephone                             |  | £80.00            | £80.00            |
| Computer & IT Support                 |  | £25.00            | £1,125.00         |
| Data Protection                       |  |                   |                   |
| Insurance                             |  | £752.54           | £752.54           |
| Planning consultancy                  |  | £2,050.00         | £0.00             |
| Donations & Contributions             |  | £0.00             | £0.00             |
| Audit                                 |  | £325.00           | £325.00           |
| <b>General Expenditure</b>            |  | <b>£3,457.54</b>  | <b>£2,507.54</b>  |
| <b>Environment</b>                    |  |                   |                   |
| Grass Cutting & Maintenance           |  | £1,500.00         | £2,000.00         |
| Amenities                             |  | £100.00           | £100.00           |
| Highway Maintenance Materials         |  | £500.00           | £500.00           |
| Best Kept Village                     |  |                   |                   |
| <b>Environment Expenditure</b>        |  | <b>£2,100.00</b>  | <b>£2,600.00</b>  |
| <b>Street Lighting</b>                |  |                   |                   |
| Contract Maintenance                  |  | £750.00           | £750.00           |
| Electricity Charges                   |  | £1,250.00         | £1,250.00         |
| Repairs Not Under Contract            |  | £250.00           | £250.00           |
| <b>Street Lighting Expenditure</b>    |  | <b>£2,250.00</b>  | <b>£2,250.00</b>  |
| <b>Member's Expenses</b>              |  |                   |                   |
| Member's Expenses                     |  |                   |                   |
| Member's Training                     |  |                   |                   |
| Hire of Meeting Rooms                 |  | £290.00           | £0.00             |
| Chairman's Allowance                  |  | £50.00            | £50.00            |
| <b>Member's Expenditure</b>           |  | <b>£340.00</b>    | <b>£50.00</b>     |
| <b>Clerk Services</b>                 |  |                   |                   |
| Clerk's Expenses                      |  | £220.00           | £220.00           |
| Office Space Rental                   |  | £350.00           | £350.00           |
| <b>Clerk Expenditure</b>              |  | <b>£570.00</b>    | <b>£570.00</b>    |
| <b>Election Expenses</b>              |  |                   |                   |
| Election Expenses for SBDC            |  | £933.00           | £933.00           |
| <b>Election Expenses</b>              |  | <b>£933.00</b>    | <b>£933.00</b>    |
| <b>Capital Schemes &amp; Projects</b> |  |                   |                   |
| New Laptop & Software                 |  |                   | £850.00           |
| Defibrillator                         |  |                   |                   |
| Yellow Lines/ Roundabout              |  | £0.00             |                   |
| MVAS signs                            |  |                   |                   |
| Loan Repayments                       |  | £4,291.64         | £4,291.64         |
| <b>Capital Expenditure</b>            |  | <b>£4,291.64</b>  | <b>£5,141.64</b>  |
|                                       |  |                   |                   |
| <b>Receipts</b>                       |  | <b>£27,801.36</b> | <b>£22,923.98</b> |
| <b>Overhead Expenditure</b>           |  | <b>£30,585.79</b> | <b>£30,695.79</b> |
| <b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>              |  | <b>-£2,784.43</b> | <b>-£7,771.81</b> |

**Minutes of the Dorney Parish VIRTUAL Meeting of the Council  
on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 8 pm**

**Present:** - Councillors K Harris (Chairman), A Purdie, A Foxley, P Smith, 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), 13 Members of the Public and Sue Moffat (Clerk).

#### **148 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Cllr Dev Dhillon reported:** - (i) Still pressing for an outcome regards the Certificate of Lawfulness at Orchard Herbs Farm; (ii) Still pressing for the Community Boards to recommend that that parish councils play a bigger part of their operations; (iii) Elections will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> May, so Cllr Dev ~Dhillon will be in purdah at Dorney Council's meeting in March. After the elections, Cllr Dev Dhillon will no longer represent Dorney PC but having been the representative for Dorney for 20 years he will still help in any way he can. He will pursue the Capital funding to resurface roads in Dorney and support the objections to planning at Orchard Herbs Farm. After the elections, there will be 3 Bucks Councillors representing Dorney's ward of Burnham, Lent Rise and Taplow, so there will be more strength to make things happen.

**Cllr Pepler reported:** - (i) Parking issues in Lake End Rd – He is asking the authorities to extend the car park. However, it was pointed out to Cllr Pepler that he should ask the Environment Agency and Dorney PC first. (ii) Highways England have organised the sweeping of roads but what about pavements? Jim Stacey responded that he would ask his engineer to inspect the pavements.

**MoP, Lucy Feagon Earl, –** Illegal parking along Lake End Road is a danger to life. She has phoned the police but no response. Cllr Harris said he has spoken to Eton Lake about this. Cllr Dev Dhillon responded that there is a serious review of parking at Taplow and Burnham so Dorney PC could ask the review to include Marsh Lane. It is not too expensive to install double yellow lines so could be extended along Court Lane and Old Marsh Lane. Cllr Dev Dhillon is very happy to take on these concerns so perhaps they should be voiced at Dorney PC's AGM. Lucy Feagon Earl asked what will happen this summer? Cllr Harris replied that a lot of people did object to the double yellow lines e.g. The Church when they have services, weddings and funerals. It is a complex situation with a knock- on effects on Marsh Lane and Harcourt Rd. Lucy Feagon Earl replied that double yellow lines should be extended along the whole length of Court Lane and Harcourt Rd. Cllr Harris asked would we want to vote to close the Lake to which Lucy Feagon Earl said 'yes'. James Palmer suggested the reintroduction of the Clearway. Also, he would be happy to provide a field for Church parking if grass creting was laid in it which could then be manned by the Church. It was agreed in principal that earmarked Church parking would help users of the Church if the parking was able to be managed. Regards having a Clearway and double yellow lines, these are only meaningful if enforced by the Police.

**M4 Smartmotorway –** Matt Orchard reported that work is suffering a bit mainly due to Covid 19 so Marsh Lane will probably not be completed by the end of March but he

will provide a date once confirmed. Cllr Harris reported that there had been a road closure but no notification. Thea Pine asked if the east side of the footpath could be opened at Marsh Lane bridge to help pedestrians. Matt will look into both of these. Jim Stacey reported that he will receive the full drawings for Court Lane roundabout at the end of this week. He will then be able to get a price for the work. The lighting is being dealt with by TfB. Also, Marsh Lane will be closed for 2 days to complete the resurfacing work. Matt Orchard will send out a letter to inform residents.

**Court Lane/Lake End/Village road new roundabout** – James Palmer cannot see the need for a roundabout and there are better priorities that could be addressed with Council’s resources. He has carried out a straw poll with residents close by and no one wants the roundabout. It would create light and noise pollution. He asked Dorney PC to pause this work in order to first see the complete design of it and then have a consultation. Residents only found out about the roundabout via Nextdoor. Cllr Purdie responded that the installation of a roundabout has been discussed for many years, even in the time of Dorney Traffic WG and there was a lot of support for a roundabout. Now we have the opportunity to improve the roundabout and funds are available. Cllr Sandy agreed that discussion on this has gone through the democratic process by Dorney PC and he believes it would be the best thing for Dorney. Cllr Dev Dhillon recalls the roundabout being discussed when the late Ken Richmond was Chairman of Dorney PC so there has been many opportunities for members of the public to speak about this. Lucy Feagon Earl cannot remember being consulted and would appreciate having some say as the junction is a death trap at the moment but should write to residents. Cllr Dax believes a roundabout would not be a problem but now recognises that residents want their voice to be heard. Thea Pine thanked Cllr Dax on this and believes there has not been any consultation with residents that do not want it. Cllr Foxley pointed out that a number of times she has posted on Nextdoor the links to Minutes on Dorney PC’s web site that described the roundabout and the letter to TfB. It was recognised that speeding was a problem at this junction and traffic calming measures could be installed instead of a roundabout. Cllr Harris responded that the only traffic calming measures available would be speed bumps and these required lighting.

**Cllr Sandy, Jim Stacey and Matt Orchard let the meeting.**

**149 Apologies-** None.

**150 Disclosure of interests** – None.

**151 Resolved** to receive and approve the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.

**152 Clerks Report** – None.

**153 Chairman’s Report** – None as all included in the agenda.

**154 Eton Lake car park** - Cllr Harris did speak to the Manager of Eton Lake and they are aware of the problem in Court Lane but do not have the answer. If the public complain too much Eton Lake is likely to be closed so need to keep working with Eton College who have spent £300,000 erecting the fence around the Lake. Enlarging the car park may not be the solution as do we want more hard surfacing in a flood plain? Also what will happen when the Lake is closed for a competition? Cllr Stoughton said that, although the problem at Boveney car park has been resolved (as no access to Lake from there), by increasing Eton Lake car park will just result in more cars filling up the

car park. Cllr Harris will be having a meeting with Eton College who have got to drive this but no quick solution. James Palmer believes there is no complete solution but discussion and compromise would be needed.

**155 Updates on the new Roundabout at Lake End Road** – Cllr Dax reported that there has been no meeting since last month as the Environment Agency have been busy with the recent flood problems. Cllr Smith asked if the footpath could be built up to make it safer for walkers. James Palmer responded that there was no public footpath across the Common and it was not a simple solution to fill up the banks. Cllr Smith explained that the Common is sacrificial land to be flooded before others in times of emergency.

**156 Update on the Emergency Plan from Cllr Smith.** It was agreed to rename it ‘Community Plan’ so not to confuse it with Bucks Council ‘s Emergency Plan. The purpose of the Community Plan is to create a network such as a combination of Dorney PC, the Church, local people and other authorities, to work together in order to quickly to react to those in the community that need support. Work still in progress to create this. Cllr Smith will discuss with Peter Bowman how to publicise support for the Community Plan in Dorney News in order to ask people to sign up to the network.

**157 To comment on the Draft Town and Parish Charter BALCMK have developed in collaboration with Buckinghamshire's town and parish councils-** It was agreed that it was a well-meaning document. The Clerk will complete the survey and circulate it to councillors for agreement.

**158 Cllr Foxley to report on Web Support or Outsourcing** – Cllr Foxley has spoken to Vatu and she believes it is very reasonable that Vatu can make the web site accessible for £2500 as a one off payment and provide support for £100 per month. This will relieve Cllr Foxley of carrying out this work voluntarily as she does not have the time to do so. Cllr Stoughton agreed that this is a reasonable price. The Clerk will check with other parish councils what they have done, and the costs involved.

**159 Dorney Parish Council’s procedure for recording Council meetings** – Cllr Harris said that Dorney PC needs to investigate the media format and the cost involved of adding the recording to the web site. The Clerk will check out any legalities involved.

## **160 Planning**

- (i) Resolved to note planning issues, decisions and appeals recently notified by South Bucks Planning.
- (ii) Resolved to make comments upon applications – (as circulated).

## **161 Finance**

- a) Resolved to authorise payment of Accounts for February 2021 (as circulated).
- b) Received the list of income for February 2021 (as circulated). Cllr Ormond reported that £250 has been received from our Insurance Company for the bollards that needed replacing after the road traffic accident in Lake End Road last year.
- c) Received recent bank statements.
- d) Cllr Ormond reported that there would be spare capacity in the budget to allow for the web site to be upgraded.
- e) Cllr Ormond reported that there was no problem with the work of the retiring Internal Auditor, Euan MacLellan, had carried out over the years which was much appreciated. However, there is now a conflict of interests as Euan MacLellan is a member of the Dorney Village Hall Committee. Euan MacLellan asked for Dorney PC to rescind the appointment of the new internal auditor, Barrie Dancer, as it was reported in Taplow

PC's minutes that the The AGAR was not accurately completed and there was a discrepancy of £241. Dorney PC's Clerk explained that she had confirmation from the Clerk at Taplow that it was caused by a simple mistake made by the Clerk at Taplow who submitted an invoice that was dated 1/4/20. Unfortunately, this was not spotted by the Internal Auditor due to Covid not allowing the Clerk and Internal Auditor going through the paperwork together. The External Auditor apologised to Barrie Dancer. Dorney Parish Council accepted this explanation and agreed to invite the services of Barrie Dancer to be the new internal auditor.

**162 Member's Reports** - (i) Cllr Foxley reported that the fridge magnets have been printed and will be distributed around Dorney Reach area as soon as it is safe to do so with regards to Covid 19 ; (ii) Cllr Harris attended the Parish Liaison meeting which was interesting.

**163 Correspondence:** - (i) Here is the latest information on the M25 Junction 10; (ii) Parish Liaison Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> March; (iii) Cliveden Highways Mtg. with LAT; (iv) Disruptions to waste collections in the South Bucks area this week; (v) M4 junctions 3 to 12 motorway upgrade – Junction 7 (Huntercombe Spur) slip road closures; (vi) Dorney PC: Lake End Road, Dorney. Bulk bin in car park is full; (v) Agenda for meeting of the Beeches board, 2pm on 17<sup>th</sup> February; (vi) Letter from James and Jill Palmer; (vii) Election Pack.

**164 Resolve any complaints/comments received from residents:-** (i) Cllr Dev Dhillon reported the state of the footpath across the Common..

**165 Grounds Maintenance and Highway employee/work.** Unfortunately, the groundsman is still off sick at the present time. All councillors wish him a speedy recovery.

**Date of next meeting – Council meeting at 8pm on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 to be conducted remotely.**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **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.

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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 January and August) 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> |
|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Full Page                    | 190              | 130             | £90              | £12            |
| Half Page                    | 90               | 130             | £50              | £7             |
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| Quarter Page (Horizontal)    | 45               | 130             | £40              | £5             |

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## Emergency Contact Details

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|------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Fire, Police & Ambulance     | Emergency Calls: Incidents in Action   | 999           |
| Thames Valley Police         | Non-urgent calls   | 101           |
| National Health Service      | For urgent medical problems. Need advice   | 111           |
| Crimestoppers                | Anonymously report information   | 0800 555 111  |
| Water Leaks                  | Thames Water   | 0845 9200 800 |
| Sewage Problems              | Thames Water   | 0845 9200 800 |
| Power Cuts                   | SSE Networks - Central Southern England  | 0800 072 7282 |
| Gas Leaks                    | National Grid  | 0800 111 999  |
| Reporting Pot Holes          | <a href="http://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk">www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk</a>                               |               |
| Reporting Fly-tipping        | <a href="http://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk">www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk</a>                               |               |
| Reporting Footpath Problems  | <a href="http://www.transportforbucks.net/report-it-prow.aspx">www.transportforbucks.net/report-it-prow.aspx</a> |               |
| South Bucks District Council | <a href="http://www.southbucks.gov.uk">www.southbucks.gov.uk</a>   |               |
| Swan Support                 | 24/7 local swan rescue and rehabilitation  | 07968 868172  |

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- *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**

*[www.spanishbit.co.uk](http://www.spanishbit.co.uk)*