

# Dorney Parish News

May 2021



*(With thanks to Paul Humpleman for this Spring picture in St James' churchyard)*



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EDITORIAL

It was a beautiful Spring morning. The sun was shining in the garden of one of Dorney's 42 listed buildings. Next to me, a ginger cat dozed contentedly, showing the usual feline disdain for earnest human conversations. A dog loped over, and likewise uninterested, loped off. The coffee was strong and black. The mood seemed celebratory enough to open the chocolate biscuit tin.

Our village is relatively far-flung, so journeying to a (socially distanced, of course) rendezvous can take you across half or more of the parish. On that day, this was no chore, but a pleasure. One noted that the new Marsh Lane bridge was open and there were no temporary traffic lights. The project's completion is delayed and those on the Oak Stubbs Lane front line deserve sympathy, but it seems quieter. It's always a pleasure to proceed southwards down Marsh Lane if early morning mist still wreathes the 'Thames Water Field'.

Passing Dorney Lake always generates mixed emotions. Regret that as of now the site is waking up behind it's protective wall, undisturbed by resident walkers and runners, but relief that complaints and even petitions by those from further afield who demand the re-opening of a 'public facility' have gained little traction and of course that the run through Court Lane is largely unimpeded by parked cars. But as we pointed out last month in recalling the area's archaeology, the site had a long history before '2012 and all that.' Must publish those 1980s photographs, I thought, of the old Barge Path, which ran down from Climo's Corner to the Thames, demonstrating that before the grandeur of the Lake here was an ancient rural beauty.

Past the entrance to Dorney Court and Crocus...must check out planned activities for the summer around the house and garden centre...wonder if Dorney Court will feature in the second series of *Bridgerton*? St James the Less – must watch out for opening up plans...Then on to Dents Corner. Whatever traffic calming measures may eventually transpire, as yet no sods of Dorney earth have been turned.

It occurred to me that I had passed a number of homes of our dedicated distributors. Although on the delivery run each month there is seldom time to chat, when there is, there are words of support and encouragement. Recently, a number have visited us, with immaculate lists of subscribers and, of course, their subscriptions. It also crossed my mind that I had been slow off the mark...which of Chrys Fisher's two pub gardens would I visit first, now that we can?

Then there was a stroll between the edge of Dorney Common and along Village Road. It was extremely peaceful, and the sun was even brighter now. Within seconds, a burst of traffic clattered over the grid. Hm...traffic noise is a problem here...

Hopefully, there is something of a mood of optimism around Dorney. The past year or so must have made many appreciate the simple joys of living in this place. But we are ever aware that amongst the enjoyment issues confront us, many of which are about how best to nurture this inheritance we hold. For the moment, the mood was celebratory. A few days before there had been, for us, the second vaccination at Burnham Health Centre. Now the first face to face meeting of the 'Dorney Parish News' editorial team for many months was about to start.

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Right now, 'Dorney Parish News' is not quite the publication we would like it to be. The magazine does need new contributors.

We'd also like to clarify one or two editorial aspects.

Let's deal with that first. It's been pointed out that there are anonymous articles. This seemed to have been a particular concern among some parish councillors. Our policy is that some articles are announced as 'Editorials' and some factual pieces have a similar status. We shouldn't claim to be on a par with the *Daily Telegraph* or *The Guardian*, but there has long been a tradition that comment is anonymous, thus taking on the mantle of the publication itself. If an item has no by-line, it is written by Peter Bowman or Bill Dax, individually or together, or with the aid and guidance of third parties. I can only think of one recent contribution from a resident which was anonymous, but we understood their wish and knew their identity.

I can't speak for the readers, but I'm tired of commenting on serious issues that are bound up with local politics. We are, however, unrepentant about our extensive commentary on the upcoming local government elections. We constantly hear that the community deserves the chance to elect parish councillors via a contested election, so over recent issues we have done all we could to encourage new potential councillors to put themselves forward.

Such commentary can lead to accusations of pursuing a personal or minority 'agenda'. In answer to this, over the years there has often been talk of establishing an 'editorial board'. This magazine, in recent times, had two extremely diligent and accomplished solo editors, TWE Roche for a decade and Charles Cody for half a century. 'DPN' has not grown out of a community group or a village hall committee as in some neighbouring communities. But it is the intention to broaden editorial input. Thea Pine has been added to the names on our 'Editorial Board' and her knowledge, particularly of online issues, has been welcome. Now, I think, is the time to call for further volunteers.

This leads us back to where we started. Circumstances arise whereby regular contributors may stand back for several issues. The magazine needs a columnist on natural history and environmental issues. Like all such publications, it's easy to lack a younger perspective...we would benefit from contributions from students or 'young professionals'. We need to adopt the values of Dorney School and reflect the diversity of our community in all aspects. I like to hear about the day to day lives of our residents, particularly the impressions of those new to this well-established community. When lockdowns are left behind us, we want more reports on community events, such as the Youth Club. Lastly, I hear regularly from our distributors and, especially, from some ex-residents who subscribe from a distance, of the joys of the Dorney of yesterday while a common theme, not least in my own family, is the great head start in life growing up in Dorney has represented. Nostalgia has a welcome role in our pages!

As I write in late April 2021, the 'flat plan' of the May issue is still beset by 'white space'. It would be wonderful if future issues see an end to that particular problem!

# 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.**

The beginning of May sees the end of our celebrations of Easter with Ascension Day on the 13<sup>th</sup> May and the Sunday after Ascension.

Ascension Day marks Jesus' ascent into Heaven on the 40<sup>th</sup> day after his resurrection and signifies the end of Jesus' time on earth and to prepare a place for his followers in Heaven. This is an important event within the Christian year, as you can imagine, and will be marked by our usual, if not slightly scaled down celebration of part of the service taking place atop of the church tower and the remainder of the service taking place on the ground floor as usual.

St. James the Less continues with its weekly Sunday services as we have done now for over a month, continuing to adhere to strict Covid-19 rules.

Pentecost becomes our next event within the church, where the Holy Spirit descended on the Disciples.

All our upcoming services continue to be published on our website and as we are able to further lift Covid restrictions we will return to a full list of services available within this publication.

<https://www.stjohnstjamesed.org.uk/dorney-church>.

Finally, it has been great to see the progress being maintained in moving through the points on Boris' 'Roadmap out of Lockdown' - the hustle and bustle in the locally area has certainly increased.

**Stay safe**

## All Change on Dorney Parish Council

There will be no election for Dorney parish councillors on May 6<sup>th</sup>. But after that date Dorney will have a very different parish council. What has brought this about and what happens next?

Over the last two issues, Dorney Parish News urged would-be councillors to submit their nomination papers to the Deputy Returning Officer by the deadline of April 8<sup>th</sup>. Our Parish Council has seven councillors. If there were more than seven nominations, a contested election would follow. The names of all candidates to elections across Bucks were announced on the next day, April 9<sup>th</sup>. When the names appeared on our screens soon after 4pm there were but three nominations for Dorney Parish Council.

### Dorney Parish Council



Cllr Jill Dax, an existing councillor, was there plus two newcomers – Euan MacLennan and Martyn Westcott-Wreford. Six out of the seven current councillors had decided not to stand. This was a surprise. Cllr Richard Ormond had already announced that he was not seeking re-election, but perhaps if the other five had let their intentions be known before April 8<sup>th</sup> more residents would have seen themselves as potential candidates. This all means that there are a potential four vacancies on the Parish Council.

Dorney residents will thank the six former councillors for a long record of service, which in combination, amounts to about 90 years. Former Chairman, Keith Harris, had been a councillor for more than a quarter of a century and Deputy Chairman, Andrew Purdie for 16 years. Thanks are also due to Peter Smith, Alice Foxley, Richard Ormond and Chris Stoughton. The Clerk to the Council, Sue Moffat, has also announced she is to stand down. This magazine thanks Sue for a regular supply of council minutes and other documentation.



If the April meeting of the Parish Council was the last for these councillors, at the same time Dorney is also wishing a grateful farewell to our County Councillor, Dev Dhillon. Maybe we will mark Dev's departure more expansively after the May elections. At his last meeting in Dorney, Councillor Dhillon wished us well with a 'sincere heart'.

The new council will be in place from May 10<sup>th</sup>, four days after the election date. May 11<sup>th</sup> will see the Annual Meeting of the Council when councillors are officially appointed. This Annual Meeting is not to be confused with the Annual Parish Meeting, which alas has been cancelled for the second year running. On May 11<sup>th</sup> councillors elect a Chair and a Vice

Chair, plus a Chair of the Finance Committee. Also, representatives are needed on outside bodies like the Beeches Community Board and Dorney Village Hall Management Committee. Given all this, I imagine the new council will need to agree a co-option process based on standard guidelines to allow residents to be appointed to the council in due course. Luckily, it seems that a new Chair could also defer some, or all, of the necessary representative appointments for another meeting.

The Government has decided not to renew the legislation passed in April 2020 that allowed councils to conduct remote meetings. As a result, the May Annual Meeting will be the first Parish Council meeting for a year where councillors meet face to face. At the time of writing a venue had not been decided. Residents will be able to attend the meeting via Zoom.

I'm sure there will be much support for and goodwill from local residents towards a new council getting underway with this reduced membership, especially in the light of the various issues facing Dorney. That is very much echoed by 'Dorney Parish News'. We understand that several in the parish have offered support for various projects which the Parish Council might be overseeing, such as the long-delayed Emergency Plan. Of all years, this should be the occasion for the village to come together for an Annual Parish Meeting. If this is not possible in 2021, let's start planning for 2022. A true 'Annual Parish Meeting' is a legacy from the Middle Ages, when local decision taking was carried out by meetings of the whole community, which took place in the church vestry. APM's should be held between the beginning of March and the end of May. One remembers fondly Annual Parish Meetings where each organisation in the parish reported on their work. Hopefully, this will return.

DPN received an email from a neighbour recently who said that 'Dorney has something special in its community spirit.' In due course, as the months pass, I think that will become apparent.

**Peter Bowman**

## **Elections 21**

Dorney voters may not be voting for parish councillors on May 6<sup>th</sup>, but after a few years of postponement, the opportunity now arises to take part in the electoral creation of the new Bucks Unitary Council. For those who enjoy wielding stubby pencils and revisiting our Village Hall, there are up to three votes to be cast for up to three would be county councillors.

There have been bewildering changes in the power structure in our county and confusing changes of faces among those who would seek to represent us in the meeting rooms (or Zoom calls) of Aylesbury. Here we try and sort out who has stood recently and who is standing this May for which ward.

Our current county councillor, hopefully familiar to readers of 'Dorney Parish News', is Dev Dhillon. Dev was elected, under the Conservative banner, to represent our

ward of Cliveden in 2017. Cllr Dhillon was one of 49 councillors on the former Bucks County Council. 41 of these were Conservatives.

Prior to April 2020, there was another layer of local government between our Parish Council and the County – South Bucks District Council. Dorney has been represented by three district councillors sitting for Burnham Lent Rise and Taplow – this ward has similar boundaries to Cliveden. By the way, researching this article has not been easy as Google searches for ‘Cliveden Ward’ only seem to yield referrals to an osteopath called Stephen. These gentlemen, elected as long ago as 2015, are George Sandy, David Pepler and, since a 2017 by-election, Matt Bezzant. Again, all Conservatives, but Matt muddied the waters by resigning from the party in 2019.

What of the postponements and how about those electoral changes? District Council elections scheduled for 2019 were cancelled because of the impending absorption of South Bucks District into the Bucks Unitary Council from 2020. Elections for a much-enlarged Bucks Council were scheduled for May 2020 but were postponed for a year, along with all other local elections across the nation, due to Covid-19. All 202 existing Bucks County and District councillors were entitled to remain as ‘Shadow Authority Councillors’ over the last 12 months or so.

May 6<sup>th</sup> represents a fresh start. To compensate for the ‘loss’ of a cohort of district councillors, the Unitary Council will have not 49, but 147 councillors. Each of the 49 wards in the county, including Cliveden, will be represented by three councillors. Who seeks to represent the voters of Dorney?

There is another complication. Dev Dhillon is standing not in Cliveden but in Farnham Common and Burnham Beeches ward. George Sandy, a regular at Dorney Parish Council and a Taplow Parish Councillor, is standing for the county alongside two other Conservatives, Kirsten Ashman and Paul Kelly. The Green Party candidate is Zoe Hatch, an active local campaigner who has just re-joined Taplow Parish Council and competed in the 2015 election. Chris Tucker and Ciaran Ferguson (the Chair of Beaconsfield Labour) are the Labour Party candidates. Sadly, in my opinion, there is no Liberal Democrat candidate, and no independents are standing. Voters can use up to three votes. This opens up intriguing possibilities of tactical voting or expressing more than one party preference. In fact, we have a fourth vote – in the election for a Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley Police Area. The three main parties have a candidate plus an Independent. Also, no stubby pencils; voters need to bring their own pen or pencil and, of course, to wear a mask.

**Peter Bowman**

# Dorney Parish Council



## JOIN YOUR COUNCIL!

Dorney Parish Council is seeking 4 dedicated and motivated members of the community to join the Council, helping to shape local services and providing a voice for its residents on local and regional issues.

We'd like to hear from those who live or work in or around Dorney who feel they can bring skills and knowledge to support and strengthen the work of the Council.

### What's involved?

The role of a councillor is voluntary. Dorney Parish Council has a complement of 7 councillors and meets on the second Tuesday evening each month. Prospective councillors will be expected to play an active role in the Council, participating in meetings, attending events and representing the Council on other bodies.

### Am I eligible?

To be a member of the Council you must meet the following criteria:

- be at least 18 years old, **and**
- be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any other member state of the European Union, **and**
- meet **at least one** of the following four qualifications:
  - a) You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector in Dorney from the day of your nomination onwards.
  - b) You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in Dorney during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.
  - c) Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in Dorney Parish Council.
  - d) You have lived in Dorney or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.

### Where can I find out more information?

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

Contact Sue Moffat, Clerk: 07743 588361 / [clerk@dorney.org.uk](mailto:clerk@dorney.org.uk)

Looking for responses before 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

# DORNEY SCHOOL



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**News from Dorney School**

Spring is in full swing at Dorney School! We ended the term with an Easter Trail which had the children following clues all around our school playground and fields – a chocolate egg being the coveted prize at the end of this seasonal event! I cannot begin to offer my gratitude to the amazing parents that work tirelessly to organise events that raise much needed funds for our village school.



**Easter fun!**

This brings me to the point of school funding. Readers may be unaware that school funding is generated by the number of pupils in any school. To put it simply, schools with a larger population of pupils will receive more funding than schools with fewer pupils. School funds are also supplemented by the number of pupils who are entitled to pupil premium. The pupil premium grant is designed to allow schools to help disadvantaged pupils by improving their progress and the exam results they achieve. So, for a small village school, in the second lowest funded local authority in the country, in a semi-rural setting, Dorney School has to be quite creative in increasing its income. Our PTA (Parent Teacher Association) is made up of a group of parent volunteers that organise fantastic fundraising events that are open to the public. Do look out for future events such as our popular Fireworks Night, fairs and fetes!

Even with a small budget, Dorney School provides an excellent curriculum for all our pupils. We offer outstanding teaching, learning and, we are true to our aims of being inclusive. We are driven to continually improve our provision and adapt our curriculum to suit these modern times. Our school is passionate in creating the thinkers, problem solvers, and philanthropists of the future. We are committed to social justice, equality and empowerment.

## Where will your wings take you?



As this is going to press, our school would have commemorated and celebrated Stephen Lawrence Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Stephen's death was a tragic loss of life which must be prevented from happening again. "On 22 April 1993, at the age of just 18, Stephen was murdered in an unprovoked racist attack. He didn't know his killers and his killers didn't know him. It led to profound cultural changes in attitudes to racism, to the law and to police practice. It also paved the way for a greater understanding of discrimination of all forms and new equalities legislation." (taken from <https://stephenlawrenceday.org/stephens-story/>)

The school will use age-appropriate resources to think about the part each of us can play in creating a society in which everyone can flourish. We will use this opportunity to focus on how we are all 'Special and different' and the importance of making good choices.

It is so important that we engage our young learners in learning about mutual respect, compassion and acceptance.

It is even more important that we educate our children to be the agents of change. To stand up to discrimination, racism, greed and work towards a society that will benefit all. This is why we learn we can be the best versions of ourselves, with the support of a values-based community around us.

This is the week that we celebrate Rachael Blackmore as the first woman jockey to win the Grand National against the odds!

This is the week that we participate in an international singing event along with 1000s of other schools as we understand the power of a global community – AmaSing!

This is the week we learn about Ramadan, the Muslim Holy month as some members of our community observe fasting during daylight hours. We learn more about Islam and how we can help our Muslim pupils and their families keep their pledge to abstain from eating and drinking. We also look forward to celebrating Eid at the end of this period with all our families because it is important that we recognise we are all members of the same village, the same community, the same nation and the same planet. Our role is to help others recognise this too.



Warmest wishes,  
**Mrs Sharifah Lee,**  
**Acting Headteacher**

## CHOCKS AWAY ON DORNEY COMMON

As an early Easter slipped away, along came a heavy frost that took the geraniums in the greenhouse by surprise. Nippy as it was, the occasional glimmer of sunshine spoke out that the arc of winter was fading, and the bloom of Spring was near. Here at the cottage, it was good to see the cows grazing, the clods of winter muck sticking to their matted winter coats which required a good rub along our new front fence to rid their knotty hair. In the distance the Royal Standard flapped sadly as the country shed a tear for our lost Prince consort, and for our Queen who felt the loss of her lifelong companion.

Following the announcement of diminished supplies of vaccine, I fully expected my shifts to dwindle, with supplies limited to second jabs only; it was with some surprise that the online GRS (Global Rostering System) fed through confirmed work at an increasing pace. Having only worked at the Harlequins in Twickenham, I was suddenly plunged into new sites such as Slough, Heathrow and Epsom all of whom had unique approaches and demographics.

My first new assignment was to the Salt Hill Centre in Slough, a busy unit split into two areas, one being a red zone, a mass vaccination side led by the NHS, and the other an open plan green zone which was PCN (primary care network). This green zone was very much open plan, manned by a mix of pharmacists, clinicians with just two vax volunteers, with our customers being referrals from local GP's.

In the Treatment room there were several large fridges stocked full of vaccines, with a busy lady drawing up at a terrific rate, nine from each vial into each blue dish, a conveyor belt of immunisation. My first task was to join her in drawing 0.5ml of Astra Zeneca into each syringe, then to head off with my dish to man my desk, tick box each person through a rigorous check then administer. Very aware that answers are critical, but above all, the eyes of the giver are the instrument most valuable.

The next day my car headed in a different direction, to Heathrow where my assignment was in the old BA building Compass House. Driving around the perimeter road to reach it, huge airplanes rose above, and the runway stretched beyond. Once inside, there was an urgency of attentive staff, so it was with some trepidation and new girl at school feeling that I found my way to the rest area which resembled a first-class club lounge. BA had not failed to keep their standards up.

However, the start this day did not take off too well. Having sat enjoying the coffee, it appeared nobody knew where I should go, and one lady looking after the care advocates told me vaccinators were not required that day. Well, the coffee was good, should I go? Just then a comforting NHS uniform appeared so I grabbed it, and this good lady laughed and said that I was very much needed! Following her down the corridors of exploration we finally entered the Vax area and the most amazing clinic. Bespoke clinical cubicles with dedicated IT desks and fully resourced stock of medical supplies in a cabinet. Matron embraced my arrival and announced that today was an open day, we would be inoculating Heathrow staff on a walk-in basis. However, she wasn't quite sure how many were arriving, but the queue was already three times round the car park. Chocks away!

My cubicle, number 6 out of about 12, contained everything I needed to push each person through the Vax hoop, but gave perfect privacy, which other locations

generally did not have the luxury of. However, outside my door was a chair that constantly had someone sitting in it, and every 5 minutes I called 'next'! No opportunity to take a break, I offered to just keep going, as there did not seem to be an end to this long line. Finally, heading out, we were given a package of hot food to take home, so very welcome. Finally, later than expected arriving home, I announced to my husband Dave 'I have just vaccinated half of Heathrow airport'! Well, it certainly felt like it.

Next week sees this journey continue to Epsom Racecourse. I have heard it is huge, I will be another green pea in the saucepan and just hope I can learn the ropes quickly without too much bumpy turbulence. The weeks spin past at a furious pace on a theatre of ever-changing scenery, different regimes and changes of protocol, coupled with new vaccines signed off that require different handling and yet another certificate.

Back home, in the intervals where there is a day off, a crisis with the Maidenhead Drama Guild arises as we are given notice on our current cuckoo home at Waldeck House. The building is coming down at the beginning of the new year as it is riddled with asbestos and very much past its sell by date. To add to our troubles, RBWM have given notice that the mass vaccination centre is staying in the Town Hall, so for the second year running our Panto is cancelled. Groan upon groan in the wings of this theatre group.

Every Wednesday morning when not working, I meet with a lady called Jenny, who has been in theatre for eleventy-eight years. She is a wonderfully resourceful character with a diction that enunciates every syllable. We are still on a mission to reduce the costume stock, but this week we are discussing our sure demise, without Panto for a second year running we are now up against a certain nosedive.

Hesitating for a few moments, Jenny then looks at me and says, 'well you can always take the Pantomime to the people, you can go on tour!'. This was the spark that ignited the wood that fired the oven of a concept to undertake a tour enduring two long weekends of our local village halls of Maidenhead and neighbouring villages. We still have the storage and rehearsal space issue to resolve, but as they say, when you come to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on.

*A husband delighted telling others of his wife's loss of hearing. On a visit to the doctor, he mentioned that his wife had an awfully bad problem with this. The doctor asked exactly how bad, but the husband said he did not know. The doctor told him to go home and find out, instructed him to go into a far room and speak to her. Then he advised the man to move nearer and nearer until she does hear.*

*Following the doctor's instructions, he spoke to her from the bedroom while she was in the kitchen, but she gave no answer. He moved nearer and tried for the second time, again no answer. He moved again into the dining room and tried for the third and final time, sadly no answer. So, he entered the kitchen and asked her if she heard him calling. She responded, 'What is it? I have answered three times to you'. This little story is dedicated to my lovely husband Dave.*

**Kristina Perkins**

## Jamie Turvey



Many residents know the Turvey family. Roger and Pam live in Harcourt Road and are stalwarts of the Horticultural Society and the Badminton Club.

They have a young grandson, Jamie, whose father is Clive, their son. Clive grew up in Dorney and then moved to Hampshire where Jamie lives. Clive worked at Bressingham garden centre before it changed hands to Crocus and also as a guide for Dorney Court.

Let young Jamie tell you about himself, his life and its challenges:

*“Hello, my name is Jamie, and I am 11 years old.*

*I was born with a rare heart condition (TAPVD), which came as a surprise to my mum and dad. A kind doctor saved my life when I was 7 days old and although I cannot remember him, I think how amazing that was. Another doctor who wore a bow tie, my mum and dad told me, also saved me again when I was 10 months old.*

*When I was 2, I had brain surgery and once again a kind doctor stopped my head from hurting.*

*When I was nearly 4, I was diagnosed with a super rare bone disease that most people haven't ever heard about, which came as another shock again to me, and my mum and dad. The bone disease is called Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva, or FOP for short, in simpler terms will stop me from moving.*

*Any knock, bump or fall will cause my body to grow more bone, on top of my existing bones. Which means my body will eventually stop moving.*

*I am unable to lift both my arms above my mouth and my back and neck are stuck, so I cannot turn my head or bend down properly, ride a bike, or run. There is no cure for my FOP, but some amazing people are working very hard trying to find one.*

*There are a lot of things in life that I cannot do, but then there are lots of things which make me smile, like computer games, listening to music and when mum and dad take me out for a pizza. I enjoy reading Roald Dahl and love watching and reading Harry Potter.”*

*In his own words,” with a little help from mum and dad...”*

The family have asked Dorney Parish News to help support an appeal to raise £10,000 for an electric wheelchair and balloon ride for Jamie.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jamies-independence>

Clive let us know what he and others are doing in order to raise the funds:

*“Myself and 20 others from Sky are currently participating in a virtual Land's End to John O'Groats challenge. This challenge was set rolling during the last lockdown, to alleviate the impact which some had been feeling, as life shifted course once more.*

*In essence, we all, each individual member, has to achieve the goal of 1100 miles in order reach the final destination in the northern climbs.*

*To spur us all along, a thoughtful soul (Royston Lewis), suggested to raise funds for Jamie, in conjunction with the challenge of each team member making it to the end. We are all having so much fun, with some choosing to walk, whilst others run and one attempting to notch up miles via paddle boarding.*



# Dorney Court

Dorney, Nr Windsor, Berkshire SL4 6QP

18 April 2021

Dear Editor

## Swings & Roundabouts

The aesthetic merits and jarring suburban horror of the proposed Dorney Roundabout require no further commentary. They are an insult to this picturesque village and a blight on those living nearby. However, those few dwindling champions of this grotesque folly turn a myopic eye to the design and prefer to claim popular support from as far afield as Romania and Spain. It is striking that our late, lamented Parish Council preferred to claim a democratic mandate for their white elephant resting on the wisdom of our European cousins rather than give a fig for the input of the half dozen nearest households all of which unanimously oppose this grim intrusion. Fortunately, work is afoot to survey the village properly in the coming weeks to determine whether the Dorney and Dorney Reach community (not the European Community) care for this carbuncular catastrophe once they are properly informed and aware of the designs. Watch this space.

Putting to one side subjective views and dodgy polling, residents will be glad to know there is now an independent, expert report which assesses the project and offers the sort of perspective beyond mere amateur enthusiasm. It is regrettable that a private initiative has been required to scrutinise the design and the technical virtues of the proposal for the roundabout. However, in the absence of any leadership from those in authority, there has been little choice to forge ahead and shine a light on the plans. The conclusions make for stark reading and it would be a brave councillor who wished to support the project in view of the expert's conclusions that a mini-roundabout would be "*entirely inappropriate*" and "*it has the potential to result in a worsening of road safety*" while remarking, damningly:

*"it is a serious concern that the design team at BC [Bucks Council] has produced a design without studying and taking into account the approach speeds of the traffic in the location or even considering the options for this junction. More broadly, I am very surprised by the lack of any evidence for any survey work and on-site analysis carried out by BC to inform the design whether in connection with traffic speed or other environmental factors ... it is worth mentioning in opening that, the design process is lacking in a number of significant regards and does not adhere to best practice based on my experience"*

The expert's report is available to anyone keen to read more but, at this point, it is to be hoped that the new Parish Council will show wisdom and press the pause button on this scheme to allow for a period of reflection, consultation and appropriate community dialogue about the important topic of traffic calming in Dorney. To quote the expert again "*If speeding traffic is the DPC's main driver for supporting the provision of a miniroundabout at this location, then I would advise that, in accordance with the Mini-Roundabout Good Practice Guide, it is unlikely to achieve their aims ... There are many other tried and tested measures that can be implemented to manage traffic speeds and I would advise that DPC investigates and promotes these*".

**James Palmer**



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## Stanley Hellmuth, 1929 – 2021

We have heard the sad news that long time Dorney resident Stanley Hellmuth has passed away.

His son John informed Dorney Parish News that he died in Wexham Park Hospital on April 14<sup>th</sup>. John said that he died 'quietly and peacefully through pneumonia at Wexham'. Family members were with him.

Stan was a well-known and popular figure in our community. Born in 1929, he was 91. He had been a Marsh Lane resident since 1965.

A more substantial tribute will follow in a later issue of this magazine.



St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

**This beautiful church is open daily.**

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals are, regrettably, not permitted at the Church; however, the Renewal of Vows and Blessings following a Civil Ceremony are very much encouraged. We also make the church available as a venue for concerts, readings etc. Seating for 100.

For further information please contact [bill@daxfamily.com](mailto:bill@daxfamily.com)



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

# TIME!

It passes by, minute by minute, day after day...and before our very eyes,  
our children are growing up.



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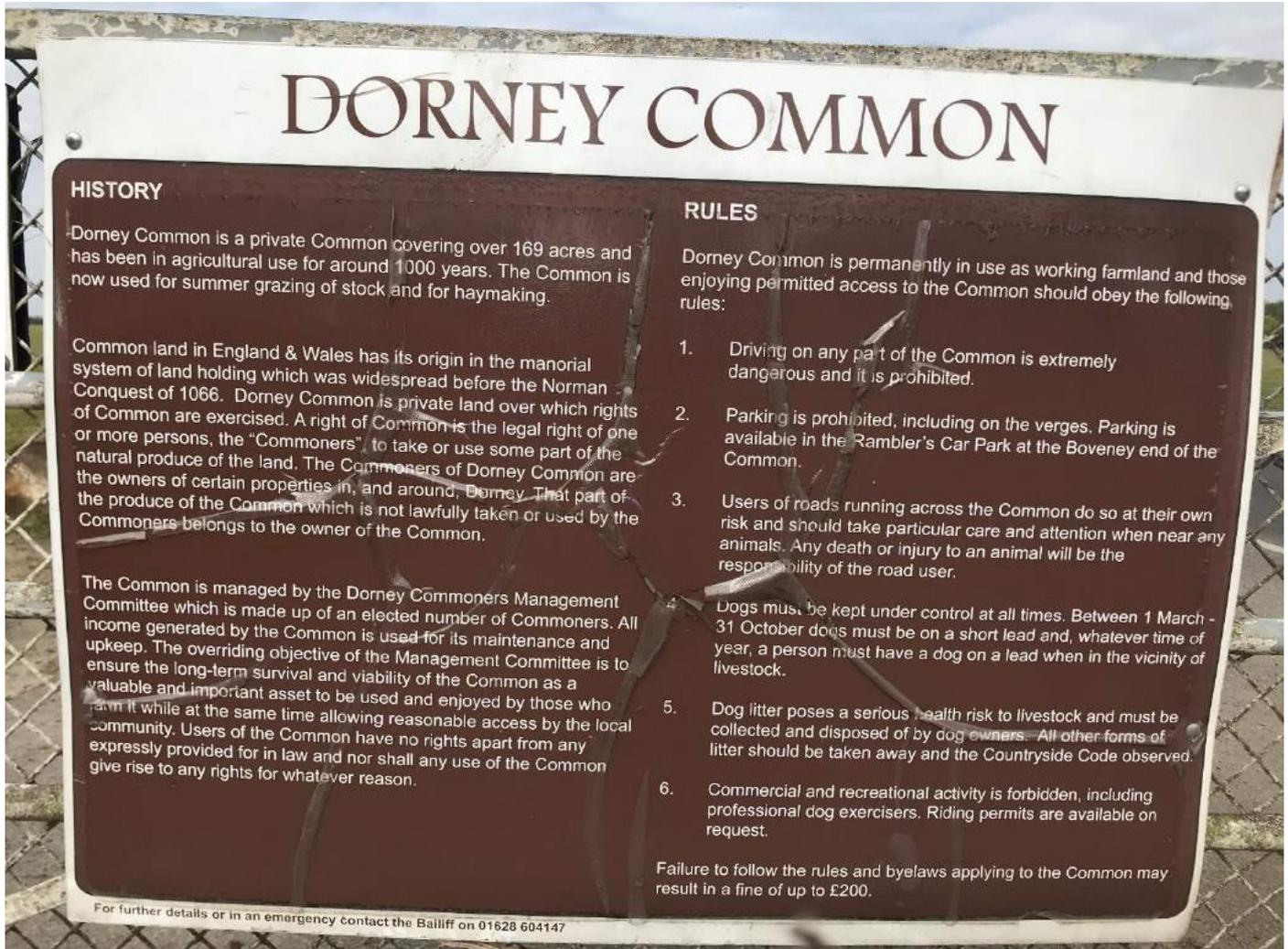
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## Dorney Common, Dog Walkers and Cows

People are revelling in both the coming of Spring and the greater freedoms offered to us by the easing of the Covid-19 emergency. Dorney Common looks particularly appealing for walkers at this time.

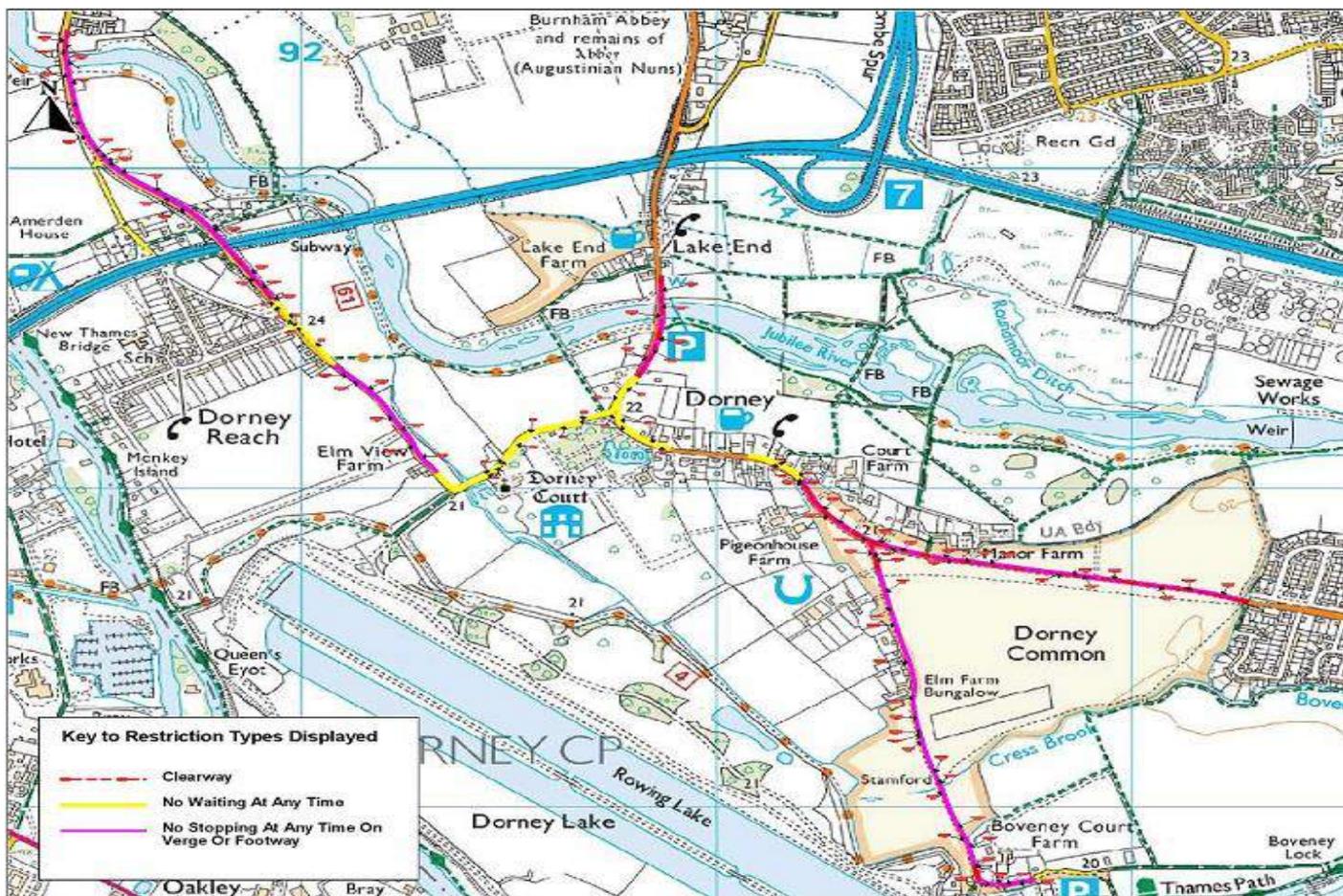


It must be easy to forget that Dorney Common has 'Rules' (see photograph). Dogs should be on a short lead between March and October. This reminded us of an article published here in May, two years ago. We wrote:

*Over the Easter weekend, I saw another angle on the Dorney dog poo problem. A local resident, who keeps cows on Dorney Common, posted a 'polite notice' on Facebook. It wasn't at all 'polite'. No wonder. At this time of the year, cows on our village common are pregnant. They eat grass with their tongue and 'pull it right to the bottom. When they ingest dog poo it probably won't harm the cow, but the toxins poison the foetus and kills the growing calf.' She told of a cow 'pacing every inch of the common mooing and mooing, searching for her dead baby that she had passed'. Talking of her animals, she says 'please don't take away their freedom by leaving dog poo behind, it would be a shame for the cows to be shut in a cattle shed during their pregnancy.'*

**Peter Bowman**

## Bucks Council - Dorney Area Parking Review 2021



Bucks Council are looking to go out to public consultation on restrictions to prevent inappropriate parking in areas in and near Dorney.

Before this takes place, Bucks invited Dorney Parish Council to take part in an information gathering exercise to ensure we cover all possible parking problem locations connected to Dorney.

The meeting was held on the 14th April and we understand that Keith Harris attended on behalf of Dorney Parish Council.

Above is a draft of the proposed restrictions for Dorney.



It includes double yellow lines throughout Dorney Village, 75+ No Stopping Signs on Verge or Footway all over Dorney Common, Lake End Road and Marsh Lane.

The Dorney Traffic Working Group has, over the last five years, been carefully considering all of the inter-linked traffic challenges that Dorney is facing now and in the future. These are many – and parking is only one of them. Traffic calming infrastructure, safe junctions, safe road crossings, road surfacing, signage and speed

limits are all integral to the safety of our roads.

We will carry a response from the Dorney Traffic Working Group in the June edition.

**Bill Dax**

## Take Paradise

It was a fine house, standing in its own grounds of perhaps half an acre. It stood double fronted and proud, and while in need of a little TLC, it would make a grand home for a growing family. Closer inspection revealed that it had been just that. There was a double children's swing, a lovely summer house draped in budding roses, a greenhouse with a couple of broken panes and a trampoline, now torn and covered in mould. The lawns were overgrown, the grass unkempt and weeds flourished in the driveway before the sagging doors of the garage. I warmed to it, surrounded as it was by a mature beech forest and damp fields. It was a lovely place to live and flourish. I stopped nearby and walked back. Clearly deserted, I was unable to get near it as eight feet high barriers had been erected along its front with 'Keep Out' signs attached by a security company.

I walked sadly along the fence line and came across a sign 'Route of HS2' scrawled upon it in crude letters, perhaps scrawled in silent rage. I followed the fence line to where the beechwoods were similarly cordoned off, where sinister men clad in high vis suits and white helmets stared back from inside paradise.



Opposite was a makeshift camp of pallets, waste timber and tents hanging in trees, packed with rusting elderly cars tyre deep in cloying mud. Makeshift gates had been erected from bits of scrap iron with a rough chain and padlock preventing entry.

I shouted, "Hallo. Anyone there?"

Silence! I felt foolish standing in the drizzle and mud shouting at trees and degradation, but persisted, suddenly aware I may be viewed as a threat.

"Hallo, I'm not from the police, or HS2 and I'm not serving anything!" I shouted, and eventually a thin tall young man dressed grubbily with filthy hands and face approached warily.

"What do you want?" he asked suspiciously in public school English, not unreasonably given the circumstances.

"I'm absolutely no threat to you or your friends," I tried to reassure, "but it breaks my heart what is going on here, and I wish I had your courage and your youth!"

My regular reader may have come to the conclusion by now that I am not in the first flush of youth.

The man relaxed in the rain. He smiled, "Thanks for the support. What do you want?"

"I just want to talk to you about what you're trying to achieve here, as I am absolutely on your side. This is shocking vandalism on a huge scale."

“You’re right,” agreed my new friend unsurprisingly.

He was joined by another still wearing a head torch in bright daylight. It was easy to surmise where he had come from.

“It’s OK,” said my guide. “He’s alright.”

“What are your names?” I asked innocently, to assist the conversation.

They both grinned.

“Fair enough,” I continued mildly embarrassed. “How are you being treated so far?”

“Well, not so good. They started felling trees at four o’clock in the morning last night, so we all went down there, and they cleared off.”

“It must be tough,” I ventured.

“Not at all,” the other said.

“But can you possibly hope to stop all this by what you’re doing?” I asked, fearing I sounded close to confrontational.

“Not at all,” one said. “We are making people who think they’re important reflect that perhaps they’re not. We’ll carry on until we’re forced out.”

“In my day it was called ‘sticking it to The Man’,” I grinned. I do wish you every success. Would you be insulted if I helped the coffers?”

“We could buy some shampoo,” they grinned, and we touched elbows through the fence Covid style, gave and received a little cash and walked in different directions, me back to my warm cosy home with my welcoming lovely partner, and them back to cold wet holes in the ground, hassle and confrontation.

Two weeks later as I drove by, the beechwoods were being destroyed as circling rooks looked down as their half-built nests crashed to the ground. High viz robots watched menacingly as I bade farewell to the woods. My house and the camp were still there, the latter noisily protesting at the vandalism watched impassively by uncaring high viz and helmets, but neither the house nor the camp had long, I fear.

I hooted by support as I drove by. “NHS not HS2!” shouted the loudspeaker and I smiled a wry smile. Further down the road, HS2 offices and huge groundworks scarred the countryside, surrounded by huge impenetrable fencing with high viz guards at the gates. The high fences were adorned with huge photographs of beechwoods in the sunshine. The irony was probably lost on them, but not on me.

In the words of the song from my youth, ‘Take Paradise and put up a Parking Lot,’ or a railway nobody wants, or a motorway designed to kill.

Stay safe.

**Mike Quincey**

# Dorney Village Hall

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



## Bookings Volunteer wanted

Dorney Village Hall would be most grateful for a local resident to join our friendly team and manage the bookings for the Hall.

These are bookings for regular events (dance/yoga/indoor sports) and casual events, primarily for children's and family parties, together with other events such as Macmillan Fun Runs and other charity events.

Dorney Village Hall is a successful registered charity and relies on volunteers to run the Hall.

We have recently upgraded our booking system to an online process, which is very easy to manage. The next step will be to add online payments to make it even easier for both the customer and for us.

We estimate, with the new booking system, that it would require a volunteer around a couple of hours a week to manage these bookings. Virtually all of the booking management is done by email at times to suit you, working from home.

All details of our much-loved Hall are on our website, including our ebooklet "Information for Hirers" which contains all of the information about the Hall.

If you are interested in both helping us out and being in contact with the local community, please email us on [enquiries@dorneyvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@dorneyvillagehall.co.uk) and we can provide more information if required.

This volunteer role would suit anyone interested in being involved with the local community, helping mums and dads to book their children's parties and assisting charities and others to book their events at the Hall. It would also be good work experience, if needed.

You will need to be comfortable with working online with the booking app and have your own computer and broadband access.

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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.

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## Mr Brightside Returns



In an article in the December issue, we looked forward to 'the gloomy days after Christmas'. Gloomy in weather and gloomy in all our anticipated lockdown blues. We forecast that one reason for Dorney residents to be cheerful was a wintry walk that included a coffee from Mark and Ann and the Mr Brightside van, which at the time was parked at the north end of Dorney Lake.

The necessary closure of the Lake meant no more Mr Brightside.

The opening of the Ramblers' Car Park in Boveney allows residents access both to the Boveney end of Dorney Common and to the towpath and River Thames. In the sunshine of late April, this area was a delight. St Mary Magdalene's looked a picture. There, serving delicious coffee to a friendly handful of dog walkers, cyclists and joggers was Mr Brightside.

Mark told us that the intention was to serve drinks and snacks in a low-key kind of way to these local customers for the immediate future as the future access to the area is resolved. 'Dorney Parish News' is happy to pass on the good news that a small number of picnic chairs are available and that the closure of the car park has been extended to 5pm.

Mr Brightside will be serving residents from around 9am to 5pm from Wednesday to Sunday.



## Barriers, Meadow Way and Further Bridge Closures – an M4 update

Councillors and residents alike have often asked questions about the noise barriers to be installed in Dorney Reach. Matt Orchard of Balfour Beatty has updated Dorney Parish News.

There are no changes in plan – 3-metre-high reflective noise barriers are being installed. On the Dorney Reach side this will run from 20 metres east of the steps down to the River Thames along to the Marsh Lane bridge. On the Taplow side, where work has started, this also will be from 20 metres east of the steps down to the river to Marsh Lane bridge, plus from the east side of Marsh Lane bridge for a distance of 250 metres towards the Jubilee River.

Installation of the noise barrier on the Dorney reach side cannot start until the retaining wall between No 2 Meadow Way and the motorway is strengthened. The strengthening of the retaining wall should start in June, subject to a few details still to be finalised.

Matt was unable to say what Highways England’s future plans would be for No 2 Meadow Way. The temporary access to Trumplers Field will revert to its original route upon completion of the works, and the garden of No 2 Meadow Way will be made good.

Issues raised in last months issue of this magazine were confirmed at the April parish council meeting. Smaller and younger trees than originally planned are being planted because of their faster growth rate and better survival prospects. There have been local and national press reports that the M4 upgrade will not fully open until new Stopped Vehicle Detection technology is installed. Highways England say full reopening will take place ‘later this year’.

As we write, Lake End Road bridge is closed for a week until May 4<sup>th</sup> and will close again in late May.

**Peter Bowman**

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**Minutes of the Dorney Parish VIRTUAL Meeting of the Council  
on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 8 pm**

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

**In Attendance:** - Buckinghamshire Council Cllrs Dev Dhillon, D Pepler and G Sandy,  
Mr Bowman (Dorney Village Pump), 14 Members of the Public and Sue Moffat (Clerk).

**184 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Cllr Harris reported on Updates on the new Roundabout at Lake End Road** – Cllr Purdie and himself had a meeting with the Head of Highways Officer regards the lighting. There is a 12 week’s waiting time from placing the order for heritage lighting. Also, the original quote last November 2020 was £40k then Cllr Dev Dhillon had another quote of £20k originally for 6 lights but the plans now show 9 lights at approx. £1600 per light and approx. £8k connection charges. Due to the confusion of pricing and the delay Joy Morrissey MP has become involved. The design and safety audit are now in place and Highways England are ready to start. In order to overcome the delay, it was proposed to write to the Highways Officer to proceed with the plans using heritage posts immediately and the lamps changed from ordinary to heritage at a later date when they have been delivered. Cllr Harris asked for guarantees from Cllrs Dev Dhillon and Sandy for the heritage lighting to be installed. Cllr Ormond added that it was the £5k from Dorney PC to pay for the difference between ordinary and heritage lighting.

**Cllr Dev Dhillon reported:** - (i) This is officially his last meeting at Dorney as Bucks Councillor representing this parish council. He has been representing Dorney for a long time, nearly 2 decades, since the time of the late Cllr Richmond who was chairman before Cllr Harris. He will sincerely miss working with Dorney Parish Council to which he has great respect and wished everyone best wishes for the future.

**Cllr Pepler reported:** - (i) He will not be standing at the next Buckinghamshire Council’s elections so this will be his last meeting at Dorney. He has been attending Dorney Parish Council’s meetings for 6 years and appreciates all the hard work the parish councillors have done. He was disappointed that only 3 people have stood for the elections of Dorney Parish Council bearing in mind the large amount of criticism made by residents. If people want change, they should stand to become a Parish Councillor.

**Cllr G Sandy reported:-** He is only a recent attendee at Dorney Parish Council but if he is re-elected he is looking forward to working with Dorney PC.

**James Palmer** had commissioned a consultant to report his own findings on the new Roundabout at Lake End Road which had circulate to councillors. The Chairman, Cllr Harris, inquired as to Mr Palmer’s actual objection to the roundabout but he did not receive a response.

**Martyn Westcott** thanked the Chairman, Cllr Harris, and all other and previous councillors, including Sue Moffat, the Clerk, for all their work during the last term of office.

**185 Apologies-** Apologies were received from Cllr Stoughton.

**186 Disclosure of interests** – Cllr Foxley declared an interest in the Village Hall being on the Village Hall Management Committee.

**187 Resolved** to receive and approve the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.

**188 Clerks Report** – None.

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

**190 Updates on the new Roundabout at Lake End Road** -After the discussion held in the Public Participation it was agreed to write to the Highways Officer to proceed with the plans using ordinary lighting and then to replace with heritage lighting at a later date when they have been delivered.

**191 M4 Smartmotorway** – Written report from Matt Orchard: - (i) Planting to verges and embankments- The trees being planted are smaller and younger than originally planned. The younger trees have been found to have a faster rate of growth and much better survival prospects in the soils that make up the motorway embankments. (ii) Court Lane/Lake End Road roundabout-Buckinghamshire Council have supplied the required detailed design information and the pricing of the work is underway. There has been a meeting today (Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> of April) to discuss the practicalities of building the roundabout and to determine a start date and duration for the works (iii) Marsh Lane should open to traffic in the small hours of the morning of Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> of April. (iv) Lake End Road will be closed immediately after Marsh Lane reopens 26<sup>th</sup> of May to the 4<sup>th</sup> of April and then again at the end of May. (v) The installation of noise barrier has started on the north side of the motorway. He will check with the team when they intend to start the noise barrier installation on the Dorney Reach side of the motorway. At the meeting the height of the sound barriers at Dorney Reach was requested. Also what is happening to the house by the entrance to the Dorney Village Hall?

**192 Eton Lake car park** – Cllr Harris has a meeting with Eton College tomorrow. The Lake remains closed and the parking situation has improved.

**193 Update on Roundmoor Ditch from Cllr Dax** - The local resident involved whose property is involved has met up and processes being carried out with Thames Water to alleviate the situation.

**194 Cllr Foxley to report on Web Support or Outsourcing.** Cllr Foxley has submitted 3 quotes. Cllrs Harris, Purdie, Foxley and Ormond recommended agreeing the lowest quoted from Hugo Fox, being the Gold quote for £400.

However, Cllr Dax asked this to be deferred until the next meeting of the new Council. Cllr Foxley did offer her support on IT until July 2021. To note:- Cllr Foxley was very upset about the anonymous report in the Dorney News where she was referred to as 'a hapless'.

**195 Dorney Parking Review 2021** – Nothing further to report from Cllr Harris.

**196 To appoint an Internal Auditor** – Another Internal Auditor is needed to be sought as sadly the newly appointed internal auditor has resigned after the Clerk received the following email from him:-

*'On Sunday 14th March I had sight of the 9th February 2021 meeting minutes of Dorney Parish Council, in particular 161 (e). Roderick Euan MacLennan's reported input is petulant, offensive and a slur on my integrity. Both myself and the Taplow Parish Council Clerk consider the content of the minute unnecessary and unacceptable. Unlike MacLennan, I have been in local government finance since 1964 (two City Councils, one County Council, one inner London Borough, District Audit (Audit Commission) and KPMG External Audit. As a consequence of the content of the February meeting minute, I do not believe Dorney is a Parish Council I wish to be associated with and I withdraw my acceptance of the offer of the position of Internal Auditor'.*

At such a late stage in the procedures, the Clerk did offer to ask another Internal Auditor who has worked for her elsewhere for many occasions as an interim measure. This was agreed.

**197 To agree to advertise the position of Clerk for Dorney Parish Council** including to agree payment to advertise this position with the Society of Local Council Clerks, BALC and any other sites as requested.

N.B. Newly appointed Clerks are recommended to have the CiLCA qualification (Certificate in Local Council Administration) or at least agree to work towards this at a cost of £420 plus study allowance. Cllr Harris added that a professional qualified Clerk was required to take over this position. It was agreed to advertise the position in BALC and SLCC.

### **198 Planning**

Resolved to note planning issues, decisions and appeals recently notified by South Bucks Planning.

Resolved to make comments upon applications – (as circulated).

**199 To ask Beeches Community board for a grant for another Mobile Vehicular Activated Sign for Marsh Lane - Deferred** until the next meeting.

**200 Resolved not to have the Dorney Annual meeting of the electorate on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2021** - (It is not a legal duty for a Parish Council to hold such a meeting).

**201 To decide on a venue for the Annual Parish Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2021** – The legislation to have remote meetings ends on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Now need to find a venue where participants to the Council meeting can be socially distanced and remain within Covid guidelines. It was agreed for the Clerk is investigating hiring the hall at Dorney Village School as the side room at the Village Hall would no longer be suitable with the Covid restrictions.

### **202 Finance**

**(a) At the request of Cllr Ormond, Finance Chairman, 'Statement for Repayments to Dorney Village Hall for 2021-22'.**

Cllr Ormond made the following statements: -The following is a statement of fact from the Parish Council (PC) regarding contributions from and to the Village Hall.

In 2014 Dorney PC was advised that from April 2015 the Parish would suffer a significant reduction from £8,000 per annum to £3,262 from the County Council's Devolved Highways Department. This money goes towards the costs incurred on the upkeep of the village. The PC has spent between £11,790 and £14,780 each year on the village's upkeep. This reduction of £4,738 represented 20.8% of our total income.

To help offset this reduction the late Graham Easton representing the Village Hall offered to make a contribution towards these costs of £1,250 per year. The hall had only just finished being refurbished so he made it clear at the time "that if the Village Hall could not afford this on an ongoing basis it would stop". The PC thanked the village hall and it was agreed that to help it would be paid by two six monthly instalments of £625. The village Hall asked the PC to issue invoices to cover these contributions stating "Ground Maintenance". The village hall went on to prosper and the payments continued for the next five years. The Village Hall has charged the PC £250 a year raising to £275 per year for the monthly parish council meeting held at the hall.

The offer to make contributions towards the PC's costs each year was made under no duress from the PC and both sides were always very clear that this has nothing to do with making any repayments towards the loan taken by the PC for the refurbishment of the village hall and given to them as a "grant".

Under item 3 of our agenda we have "Disclosures of interest in items on the agenda" Under clause 7B, Code of Conduct in our "Standing Orders", Councillors with a prejudicial interest may make representations but would be excluded from voting.

At the beginning of each PC meeting each councillor declares if they have an interest in any item on the agenda, at every meeting the late Graham Easton and Alice Foxley declared an interest in the village hall. So when matters concerning the village hall were discussed any input they provided was as a representative of the Village Hall not as a Parish Councillor.

There was no impropriety by the Parish Council.

Following the appointment in 2020 of new trustees at the Village Hall the contributions have stopped as they have stated that it is against their constitution to make any payments for goods or services not actual received. They have indicated that they might ask for all such previous payments to be repaid.

Our accounts are audited each year by our internal auditor who has always signed them off as being correct. He was also the Treasurer (Trustee) for the Village Hall.

**(b) Cllr Ormond's response to the anonymous article in this month's DPN regarding the precept charges** inviting me to correct the inaccuracies in the article. I'm very happy to do so and give a little more explanation to the Budgeting process.

The financial year starts in April but we have to create a budget for it in the previous November so that we can confirm to County the amount required for the following year by December.

The Budget is our forecast of expected income and expenditure. The only items which are certain at that time are our income from the precept and any devolved highways payment. All other items of income and expenditure are based on a forecast using either the budget number for the current year we are in or a predicted year end figure whichever is the higher.

The increase between income and expenditure without exceptional items like IT support and new PC and software was forecast to be £2,495.90 or 10.7% from 2020/21 precept of £23,222.38.

The PC settled on a precept of £25,000 an increase of £1,777.62 which relates to the 7.6% increase which was reported. County then take this amount and divide it between the number of homes in the parish paying council tax in full, the number with single occupancy receiving a discount and those on income support probably paying nothing. We have no idea how this will affect the increase percentage until council tax bills are issued. Obviously, this year we have more properties in the latter two categories meaning the precept charge on your council tax bill increase to 12.5%.

In 2021-22 the PC expects to spend £14,030 on the upkeep of the village that's 51% of the guaranteed income, we assume that you wanted this to continue. We still have more than 13 years outstanding on the loan you voted for to refurbish the village hall, that's a further 17% of the precept charge. We had to budget a further mandatory £933 which will be a charge by County if they have to hold a contested election for the next Parish Council.

The story that we have overcharged the village hall for ground maintenance has been explained in my "Statement of Fact" we felt that there is no fault on the side of the PC but we have made a prudent provision just in case. It seems the trustees made a genuine mistake, now corrected but they have the option not to ask for a refund. We have asked the Village Hall to provide reasons to the parishioners of Dorney as to why this money should be repaid.

The Village Hall's role does not vex the PC I think you will find it's the other way round, why do they want to put out the ground works around the hall out to tender rather than continue with the PC providing it? Why don't they let the PC have the room hire free of charge?

Exceptional items like IT support and additional PC's and software are just that they may be purchased or other methods of fund raising maybe explored for these items to be purchased but an expected budget is set.

I can confirm that electricity costs for street lighting are budgeted at £1,250 not the £2,500 quoted and are for the 27 village lights. Power for the new roundabout lighting will be paid for by County.

**(c) Resolved** to authorise payment of Accounts for April 2021 (as circulated).

**(d) Received recent bank statements.** Noted.

**(e) External audit** - In light of the newly appointed Internal Auditor resigning at such a late stage in the financial year, for simplicity and ease, to agree the Statement of Accounts will be presented as Receipts and Payments instead of Income and Expenditure for 2020-21 which is legally allowable for those Councils under £200,000 precept. This was unanimously agreed.

e) Cllr Ormond reported that there would be spare capacity in the budget to allow for the web site to be upgraded.

**203 Member's Reports** - Cllr Smith attended the Bucks Council Planning Policy meeting.

**204 Correspondence:** - (i) Members briefing from Cllr Sandy;(ii) BALC's Q&A session on the Elections;(iii) 17<sup>th</sup> February Beeches Community Board Minutes;(iv) Recent discussions about the plans for modifying the B3026;(v) 2021/22 Rates Precept enquiry;(vi) Signpost maintenance on NCN4 at Eton Wick/Dorney boundary DOR/3/1 - DOR/18/1 junctions.

**205 Resolve any complaints/comments received from residents**(i) Installation of Court Lane roundabout;(ii) Parking outside Eton Rowing Lake;(iii) Complaint about Eton Rowing Lake being closed;(iv) ) Complaint about the behaviour of the Members of Public attending Zoom Parish Meeting March 9th 2021

**206 Grounds Maintenance and Highway employee/work.** The groundsman has now has the tractor serviced thanks to Cllr Harris organising this.

**Lastly the Chairman, Cllr Harris, thanked everyone for their support during his 25 years' service on Dorney Parish Council. He was sad leaving the Dorney PC but hoped the new Council does well.**

**Date of next meeting – Annual Parish Council meeting at 8pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, venue to be decided.**



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# Dorney Parish News

Published monthly (except January and August)

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**The Editors are not responsible for the opinions of correspondents expressed in letters or articles published in this magazine.**

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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.

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