

# Dorney Parish News

November 2021



Dorney Parish Council is arranging for similar large poppies to be displayed throughout the parish from 30<sup>th</sup> October to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021, in cooperation with Eton Wick Village Association.



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**EDITORIAL**

In recent weeks there has been much disturbing comment on the tragic consequences that result from the epidemic of abuse which is aimed at public figures. Many, including this writer, have reflected on remarks that might have been said or written in the course of public controversy. That reflection is more pressing when that abuse is targeted, not on an MP or a celebrity, but at a respected local figure and that abuse flows from words published in this very magazine. It is so sad that Mrs Sharifah Lee's now regular report from Dorney School was met a year ago by hate mail.

Perhaps we all, including Dorney Parish News, should strive to promote that which unites us. After recent controversies in the village, there will be ample opportunity in the near future to display unity and public spirit. I suppose we all expect someone else to plan those celebrations which used to be (so many people tell me) so frequent in Dorney. But many say to me that they hope that the Jubilee celebrations that were memorable in 2012 – we seem to fondly recall a feast in the Village Hall – could feature again next year. Dorney Horticultural Society needs support after such a long absence forced on it by the pandemic. Come forward and join the committee or at least offer to help with the meetings and the Annual Show. All those who discovered horticulture or found solace in their gardens during lock downs should join and help rejuvenate an erstwhile bedrock of our community.

Five new parish councillors represent us, but one remaining place is still unfilled. Hopefully, there will be a resident who will come forward. One of the Parish Council's priorities is the creation of a local Emergency Plan. For more see the council minutes and the website, but there will be an opportunity for volunteers, especially those with specialised skills and resources, to come forward.

In the past public meetings have brought us together. At least two are imminent. One may be pleasurable, the other less so. Thames Water should be welcoming residents' involvement in their rewilding project at their site in Marsh Lane, especially in the planting of wildflowers. Rather more menacingly, that very same Thames Water may well be updating us about their plans to dig a pipeline from the Slough Treatment Works bisecting Dorney Common across to the River Thames. This column last month raised the notion of village consultation on future traffic plans, especially parking and traffic calming. The death of a cow last month, allegedly caused by a speeding driver, gives an added urgency to these moves.

Life in Dorney goes on, with positive and negative aspects. The former may well outweigh the latter. Dorney follows in the footsteps of our Eton Wick neighbours with poppies on display. A visit to the boathouse on magazine business revealed the Lake peaceful and near deserted (may it remain so). A meeting with the team at Form Plants revealed plans for community involvement and the hospitality at local venues Crocus and The Pineapple has been enjoyed as hopefully it will be by many of us in the upcoming festive season. But some aspects never seem to change. One groaned to hear the representatives of Highways England breezily assure the last council meeting that they would soon be gone – in six months....



# DORNEY

## PARISH COUNCIL



Dorney Parish Council are pleased to have linked with the Eton Wick Village Association with the display of poppies commemorating Remembrance Day. These will be on display from 30th October to 20th November. Rev. La Stacey will start Remembrance Sunday on 14th November at 9:15a.m in the graveyard of St James the Less and a wreath will be laid in the Memorial Garden on behalf of Dorney Parish Council

### Smart Motorway

See October Minutes on website for further information

We still have a vacancy for a volunteer to join the Parish Council. Applications via the website

See the website for details on how to report on potholes/fly tipping/overloaded public bins and more

With the exception of public event closures (see website for info) Dorney Lake will be open until March 2022

## THAMES WATER

### Re-wilding project

Volunteers can join to plant a whip. Dates will be published on the website

## PARISH COUNCIL TO QUESTION THAMES WATER PROPOSED ROUTE FOR TREATMENT WORKS UPGRADE

Orchard Herbs site - clearance progresses. DPC continue to monitor enforcement notifications



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

# 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](mailto: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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**Rev La Stacey writes:** A refrain that my mother used to sing at this time of year has been running through my head recently: 'Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat...'. I suppose it has been brought on by all the geese on Dorney Common.

I have a vivid childhood memory of my father returning from a work trip to Sweden with a goose. It was a white wooden goose with a little boy sitting astride it. He brought me the book to go with it which tells the story of naughty Nils, lazy and disrespectful, who is magically turned into a gnome. (Look out when you go to Scandinavia at this time of year – gnomes get everywhere!) He climbs on the back of his father's domestic goose who wants to fly off and join the migrating wild geese. They go on a geography trip around all the provinces of Sweden before returning home, both Nils and the goose very much improved characters.

The author of this book was Selma Lagerlöf, who in 1909 became the first woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. She was appalled by the atrocities of the first World War and among other efforts to help, she donated her medal to support the Finnish fight against the Soviet Union.

There is a spiritual slant to Lagerlöf's writing. In her observations of the natural world, moral and spiritual depths are revealed. Maybe we sense that too as we observe the wonderful birdlife on the Common. Those geese are amazing. They are specialists in teamwork: flying in a V formation saves energy and increases their range by about 70%. The strongest geese take it in turns to lead, dropping back like peloton cyclists when they tire. When a goose is sick, or falls out of formation, two other geese will fall out and stay with it, until it either dies or is ready to fly again when they will help each other back. Not a bad illustration for us as we struggle with finding ways to live in a rather less predictable and stable world.

It is an example which invites us to find parallels with our faith practice. In his life Jesus modelled the path of service, simplicity of life, forgiveness and healing, the

preference for the poor, and grace which cannot be earned or deserved. Maybe the geese and Scandinavian Christmas gnomes, which no doubt will soon be appearing, will help us keep this in mind!

### **Church Services in November 2021**

Wednesday 3rd November

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 7th November

9.30 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00 am Any Age Service

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

3.00 pm Thanksgiving and Commemoration

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 14th November (Remembrance)

9.15am Holy Communion with Remembrance

St James the Less, Dorney

10.55am Remembrance Service

St John the Evangelist, Eton

3.00pm Remembrance Service with Cubs

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 17th November

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 21st November

9.30am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Morning Worship

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

2.30pm Healing Service

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 28th November

9.30am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick



**St Mary Magdalene, Boveney**

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Christmas Advent Service by Candlelight - 1500hrs on Sunday, 12th December 2021

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# Join us for a Coffee Morning!

Every Wednesday 10.30am to Midday  
in the Church Room

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

## Everyone welcome!

We will also be offering:

Benefit advice every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday

Stay for soup & a roll after coffee every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

## Spotlight on Dorney Folk - Mo Voaden meets John Barker



This month I welcome John Barker, ninety one year old Dorney resident, master horticulturalist, and lettuce guru.

I had the pleasure of interviewing John in his home, a beautiful house in the heart of the village. Gazing out at his lovely garden, *'designed,'* he told me, *'for all seasons'*, it was hard to believe that the house had almost burnt down ten years earlier.

*'I stood outside, watching the blaze,'* he said, *'and could do nothing.'*

The burglar alarm went off at one in the morning.

*'I hurried downstairs, but had to return for my glasses, aware of a crackling noise in the skylight. Then the fire took hold.'*

The roof was ruined. The smell and smoke caused lots of damage and it took fifteen minutes for the fire brigade to come. *'Then eight engines turned up. Eight fire engines in Dorney Village. They closed Village Road that night!'*

Many of the upstairs walls had to be demolished and the kitchen was ruined.

*'But there's always a silver lining,'* John said, with his characteristic charm and good humour, *'and luckily I had very supportive friends.'*

It gave him the opportunity to redesign and refurnish the house but it took almost a year to do. He lived across the road while the builders were working, and chuckled as he remembered that whenever he approached his property he heard a knocking sound. *'It was one of the builders alerting the others that Mr boss was on his way!'*

John was born in 1930 on Warren Farm, the family's vegetable farm at Whitton, Middx. The youngest of four boys, rumour has it that on learning the gender of her new baby, his mother said to the doctor, *'another little boy? Couldn't you tuck his tail in?'*

John's father worked for his own father growing vegetables at Barnes before starting up on his own at Warren Farm. When more land was needed for housebuilding, the family moved to Datchet.

His first memory is lying in a huge hand-me-down pram amidst the noise and bustle of a busy household.

One day his nursemaid pushed him to Datchet riverfront where she met an old acquaintance. John, taken out of the pram, amused himself by pushing it along the riverbank. A strong little fellow, one hefty push sent the pram careering down the bank and into the river. It was fished out, but the pram was never the same again and the nursemaid was 'released' to find another job.

John's father's 300 acres at Datchet were devoted to growing lettuces. *'And luckily, there weren't too many rabbits,'* he said. Next door was Ditton Park, used as the Admiralty Compass Observatory. In its grounds was the Radio Research Station, later the Appleton Laboratory, where the idea for the development of the British radar defence system was conceived.

*'It was very hush hush,'* John told me. *'Nobody was allowed near except in the cold winter of 1940 when we, the Barkers, were asked to go and break the ice in the moat which surrounded the big house and factory buildings.'*

John wasn't brought up in a religious home but taught to obey the Ten Commandments. This, and his father's belief that you should never ask someone to do something you wouldn't do yourself, has served him well.

Education was very important, especially maths, and a good grounding in this subject has helped him tremendously.

He attended Windsor House School in Slough, which he liked, making life-long friends with the boy who sat behind him, '*a great pencil chewer!*' Later he went to Haileybury School where one early morning they heard what sounded like a tremendous clap of thunder. All the boys ran to the window and saw that a V2, known as the Nazi rocket that launched the space age, had landed at the end of the sports field.

Back home on the farm, life was hard and there were always problems finding sufficient labour. Women from Datchet were employed to bind radishes with a willow rod (in keeping with tradition), and tied together spring onions – which in those days were as big as walnuts.

I asked John when he started growing vegetables himself. He laughed and told me that he was apprenticed at the age of four. Every mealtime the boys listened to conversations about stock and managing produce, and as they got older, they tried to persuade the tradesmen not to send their bills on Monday morning as this could set the tone for the rest of the week.

At the age of 28, John took over West Town Farm (415 acres) in Taplow. The farm was owned by a gravel company that had allowed the farm to deteriorate. John arrived to find a worn down staff, old machinery and very little stock. '*It was like a sinking ship,*' he said, with a chuckle. '*But I was determined to succeed.*'

Bit by bit, John made progress by insisting on high standards and everyone taking pride in their work. Over time, he became interested in starting crops off under glass, and built many greenhouses, some of which were mobile. This allowed them to be moved from site to site, as required, to protect plants and promote growth.

One day an Ordnance Survey man arrived with an aerial map of the farm. He quizzed John about an orchard he'd spotted and allowed him to see the photo which showed a number of lines that looked like trees. John laughed. He explained to the man that a contractor had brought in heaps of farmyard manure, which were six metres by six metres apart, which from the air must have looked like trees.

Lettuce was sown in rows, and thinned out by staff. John told me that for some reason, English people didn't like bending their backs so he employed all nationalities, housing them in the onsite hostel at Taplow. He was especially fond of the Italians and Spaniards because they worked hard and were lively.

A typical day on the farm started at 7.30 with an inspection of the rain gauge. This determined whether or not it was too wet to go on the land. A call would be made to Covent Garden to find out which vegetables were selling and decide on the next day's production. The workers would then be told how many boxes to prepare. After breakfast at 8.30, the women started work, harvesting light crops. These included radishes, spring onions, and parsley. When supermarkets came on the scene, John set up a packhouse on site to pack the goods, which is where the women then worked.

There was rivalry among the farmers, with each trying to be the first to get their produce into Covent Garden. '*The Surrey growers always seemed to be a week earlier than us, with Taplow being five days earlier than the Datchet farm.*' However, the advent of soil blocks changed all this.

Covent Garden came down to supply and demand, and irrigation allowed the farm to provide a constant supply. Hence the supermarkets showed an interest in local fresh produce.

The family learnt a valuable business lesson when a major customer stopped ordering from his farm, leaving a gaping hole in their income. After this, they spread the risk by insisting that no customer received more than 40% of the farm's supply.

One day he picked up a booklet from the Government Advisory Service about polythene tunnels and started producing them for his own use. They proved very successful. The polythene lasted two years and provided effective cover for the crops as well as encouraging them to flourish.

'*Greengrocers were very fussy,*' he told me. They wanted lettuce with a flat base, which could be achieved by growing them in blocks. John introduced a new technique by compressing peat in a machine and dropping a lettuce in a small pellet into each peat block. This gave the crops a head start as well as producing the required flat shape.

When supermarkets started, a fixed price was required for the following week's stock, which proved difficult as there were no reliable weather forecasts. Farmers like him were used to the cut and thrust of Covent Garden where there were bidding games for each box of produce, with prices set on the morning.

John told me that lettuce was a favourite vegetable. In the beginning, potatoes were grown on the farm but the process proved too labour intensive as lifting them in October was difficult and it was a very busy time for planting succeeding over-wintering crops.

*'The best early crop for growing in this area is cauliflower,' he said. 'We always started them off in greenhouses, planting them out as soon as possible.'*

John was at Taplow for 27 years. Shortly after retiring, he was asked to serve on the lettuce panel at the National Institute of Botany at Cambridge. He became a highly respected member of the panel, one of his notable achievements being to persuade the others to re-classify iceberg lettuce, which proved to be good forward thinking.

During retirement, he was also asked to serve on the RHS vegetable committee, to help judge vegetable produce and decide which should be given *The Award of Garden Merit*. He made many great friends and enjoyed the fact that the trials took place at Wisley where an excellent lunch was provided.

John met his wife, Pat, at a dancing class. She was awarded a silver medal for her waltz, *'but I was a devil at the foxtrot,'* he said. When I asked what he remembered most from his wedding day (always a tricky question), he explained that when they got into the taxi after the reception, everyone threw confetti, except for his brother, who chucked a bucket of water. *'That made the confetti stick of course.'*

They had two sons, both of whom went on to have their own careers. *'Those days were very different,'* John mused. *'We gave the doctor who delivered our first son two hundred Marlborough cigarettes to thank him. Unthinkable now!'*

John and Pat enjoyed their holidays, especially to the Far East. One year they visited Pat's father who'd remarried and settled in Bangalore. His new wife was very keen on animal husbandry and John remembers people throwing their sick animals over the garden wall at night for her to tend.

On holiday, one of John's greatest pleasures was to study local growing techniques, and exchange growing tips.

John and Pat moved to Dorney in 1958, and stayed. He's seen many changes, and met a good number of notable people, but still loves the village.

It's always a shame when an interview draws to a close, especially when the interviewee is such a charming and interesting man, but I did manage to slip in a few last minute 'quick-fire' questions:

Which animal would you be? - *A cat – they live charmed lives.*

What is your favourite book? – *The RHS Encyclopedia of Plants.*

Favourite plant? - *I have fads but probably camellias (although I've been told the PH is wrong for them here). The trick is to spray them with manganese sulphate.*

Favourite activity? - *Sitting here and looking at the garden, listening to 1940s dance bands. I have developed a garden for all seasons. The crocus bank under the large ash tree comes out in spring and it all starts from then.*

Favourite food? - *BBQ sardines. In Portugal. With a dry white wine.*

And finally...

What is the hardest part of growing older? - *Not being as agile.*

And the best part? - *Being the old boy and getting sympathy. The politeness and respect from youngsters never cease to amaze me!*

*Benefice of Eton with Eton Wick & Boveney & Dorney*



**SERVICE OF  
REMEMBRANCE**

**St James the Less  
Dorney**

**November 14<sup>th</sup>**

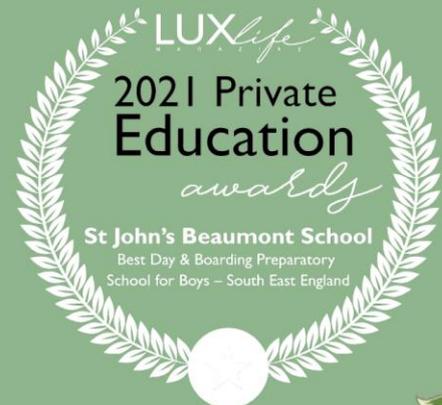
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Our swan numbers are down as sadly some have flown elsewhere and permanently moved, searching for food.

**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 SCHOOL



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**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021/Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021/Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

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## News from Dorney School

It has been almost exactly a year since I first published an article for the Parish News as the substantive, permanent Headteacher. I remember setting out my vision not just for Dorney School, but for education and society in general. The month was October 2020 and the school was celebrating Black History Month. I remember being excited and proud about the learning we would be doing at school to ensure inclusion, diversity and representation were at the forefront of the school's ethos. I had a vision of a future where every child and family, no matter their race, gender, background or circumstances would be accepted in society and share equal rights and equal access, even if their history was tainted with discrimination or indeed, oppression.

Unfortunately, I also remember getting hate mail for this vision. I remember being told to 'go home' as an ethnic minority person even though England is my home. I was advised to go to Africa and 'sort out' the issues there first and not promote an anti-racist curriculum at school. The work of Marcus Rashford and other social activists was mocked, and the tone of the letters was arrogant and discriminatory. There was a lot more of this hate mail that arrived at school. I think I can safely say that the outcome the writer(s) wanted was the exact opposite of what then happened.

These letters triggered and fuelled the passion for the work that I and my colleagues do every single day. It gave us the impetus to ensure our curriculum truly serves and empowers every child. It helped me to understand that education is indeed the driver for change as we educate not just ourselves, but future generations. Such extreme views, as the ones I received, are outdated, have no place in our society and they are dangerous. We are all protected by the Equality Act 2010 which makes it unlawful to discriminate against someone on the grounds of any of these characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion/belief, sex (gender) and sexual orientation. We live in a multi-cultural and diverse society which can only flourish when we respect and accept each other. We must not deny the past, no matter how difficult it sometimes can be, but acknowledge, learn, change and improve the future for all, especially our children.

So, this year in October 2021, we did not just celebrate Black History Month, we have made it our business to celebrate black history and tradition every single day within our school curriculum. We have planned to include diverse stories and authors from all races and backgrounds. The sign outside our school does exactly what 'it says on the tin' – No Outsiders; Everyone Different, Everyone Welcome. We ensure everyone is equal, everyone is celebrated and everyone is safe.

I hope you are able to join me in our vision at Dorney School. A person does not have to agree with all our values, although I hope you do. It would be a pleasure to show you around our little village school with a BIG heart. Do contact the school office to arrange a

personalised tour or visit the school website to get an idea of what pupils, staff and families get up to.



Year 3 pupils learning from the Highways Agency about the M4 improvements.



Comparing pumpkins in Reception class



Car Free day at Dorney School



Y5 enjoying a visit from a scientist and also took part in a live 'Careers in Space' webinar featuring guest speakers from a range of STEM backgrounds. They learned about the study of exoplanets and black holes, space craft engineering and BepiColumbo - the satellite sent to space to reach Mercury's orbit.



Harvest collection in aid of Maidenhead Foodshare.

Warmest wishes,

**Mrs Sharifah Lee, Headteacher**

Are you always too busy to focus on your family that you love the most?

# Have a Family Portrait Session



A Portrait Voucher, The Perfect Gift

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## EXIT STAGE RIGHT ON DORNEY COMMON

*“Death is nature’s way of saying, ‘Your table is ready’” Robin Williams*

We lost a good friend last month. His extravagant personality lit the space he walked through, and his attire was beyond flamboyant. Known to his friends as ‘Drew the Shoe’, Drew Thomas was an extraordinary character, a kindly generous man, with exceptional acting and Directorship skills, along with the ability to laugh at himself and take a tease.

For many years he was Artistic Director of the Maidenhead Drama Guild, living in close proximity of the town centre, actively promoting all theatre, and involved in many productions both as an actor and as a Director. I first met Drew many years ago, on a production called Baskerville, where he superbly played the part of an American, to such an extent that my husband Dave and I were surprised that he wasn’t!



Off stage, Drew strode around Maidenhead in more eccentric clothes than on stage, a distinctive figure with his unique fashion flair and snake hips. I personally witnessed the large room that entirely occupied his wardrobe, which included a vast collection of exotic shoes, in various shades of the rainbow, some reaching the corner of a street before he did. Hence, he gained his nickname of Drew the Shoe. He was fond of making his own stylish belts complete with a multitude of adornments that turned heads.

The final play he performed in, where he took the leading role, was a hugely wordy lead part including reams of Shakespeare. He was cast as Jeffrey Steel in ‘A Bunch of Amateurs’ playing the faded actor from the States (accent still perfect) who

arrives in England to play the role of Kind Lear, thinking that the Stratford mentioned was on Avon but in fact was a rural village in Suffolk. He was reluctant to take on this part as by then he was heavily involved in singing and wanted to switch exclusively to vocals. Attending various open mic events, including Eton Wick Football Club, and practising in our music studio (shed) with Dave plonking his keyboards, now occupied all of his spare time - to such an extent that drama took a back seat, he failed to bother to learn his lines, which amused those that knew the real Drew, who could have done this standing on his head. The Director frazzled and bewildered by the constant need to prompt, gave him a curt word to learn his lines, while I sat there knowing full well he was out singing most nights of the week or in our music studio perfecting the delivery of his, by now, huge repertoire of eleventy-eight songs.

When singing in public, due to his charismatic acting skills and strong delivery, audiences would fall quiet to be entertained. With strong vocals and actor inspired and polished movements, whilst always dashing in his trademark attire, Drew never failed to bring a smile to faces when he stepped up for his turn.

Of course, back at the rehearsal studio nobody should have been concerned, as on the final week, three days from opening night, he was foot and word perfect to steal the show with ease. Many who knew he was stepping away from drama, came to see his final performance at Norden Farm, pronouncing 'I've come here to see the legend in case it is the last time', which sadly it turned out to be.

His last performance in Eton Wick FC was a memorable one, as he perfected 'Through the Barricades' by Spandau Ballet. This powerful song, delivered by Drew at his best, silenced the house, made the ladies teary and received a standing ovation.

Moving to Norfolk three months ago, Drew and his partner Claire bought an idyllic house in an idyllic village. He planned to hit the music venues in Norwich, and she secured work as a Stage Manager in the local theatre. It was almost too perfect. However, I received a call from Claire late one night to tell me had passed away unexpected, with no warning, that afternoon, from a fatal heart attack.

The shock rippled through Maidenhead and beyond as the amateur dramatic colleagues and friends paid homage in stunned disbelief. We lost him at the age of 64, exit stage right (the good side) with memories that would never fade, but leaving a huge vacuous hole in the lives of people who knew him. An event next March at Norden Farm will mark the celebration of his life where clips of this great man in action will be pieced together.

At the cottage the wind whips across the Common, and as the cows pack their cases to retreat to sheltered barns, I recall a joke Drew once told me after a couple of beers:

*An Irishman and an Englishman walk into a bakery. The Englishman steals three buns, puts them in his pocket and leaves. He says to the Irishman, "That took great skill and guile to steal those buns. The owner didn't even see me."*

*The Irishman replied, "That's simple thievery, I'll show you how to do it the honest way and get the same results."*

*The Irishman then proceeded to call out to the owner to the bakery "Sir, I want to show you a magic trick." The owner was intrigued so came over to see the magic trick.*

*The Irishman asked him for a bun and then he proceeded to eat it. He asked for two more and after eating all three buns the owner says, "Okay my friend, where's the magic trick?"*

*The Irishman then said, "Look in the Englishman's pockets."*

**RIP DREW THOMAS**

**Kristina Perkins**



join us for

# CHRISTMAS IN ETON WICK

**Saturday 4th December, 2021**  
**Entertainment from 4.30pm**  
**Light Switch On 5pm**  
**Refreshments at the village hall**  
**following the event**



*including entertainment from The Enchanted Dance School and  
songs with the RCCG Choir & Sing4You*



*with funding assistance from Eton Town Council, & RBWM and thanks to Eton Wick Village Hall Committee for their support*

## Form Plants

*Dorney Parish News paid a visit to Form in Dorney. Impressed, we asked them to tell our readers about their objectives.*



The unique tree showroom that Form Plants created in June 2021 is located within the stunning Dorney Court estate. Characterful multi-stems trees, topiary in all shapes and sizes, specimen trees, shrubs and more are all available on display. The showroom is designed to allow you to immerse yourself with a walkthrough experience, and expert advice is on hand from the friendly team. Form has been working alongside landscapers and garden designers to provide the industry with a wide range of quality plants.

In July 2021, Jamie Butterworth, Managing Director of Form Plants, was asked to design and create 'The RHS Garden for a Green Future' by the *Daily Telegraph* to help raise awareness of the current climate change crisis. Adapting to the changes that are happening meant that plant selection was key, choosing varieties that are best suited to withstand our increasingly unpredictable weather and water management too, such as drought tolerant perennials and tough meadow mixtures.

Chelsea Flower Show, September 2021, saw Form Plants with a striking stand in the Great Pavilion, with some of the largest pieces of topiary at the show and a huge array of grasses. Taking the concept of 'Size matters', 4m *Taxus baccata* cones stood towering above the rest. The impressive stand saw Form Plants awarded a 'Silver-Gilt' medal.

The Form Plants Team looks forward to inviting you all down to the tree showroom and working closely with the Dorney Parish Council and the local community.



## Green Disruptive Capitalism

One of Dorney's residents is closely involved in the COP26 Climate Change meeting in Glasgow – but his primary concerns are carbon credit trading and Gabon. More of that in a future edition.

Before embarking on ways in which Dorney is, and could be, contributing, in a small way, to the solution it is worth considering how capitalism (with a dose of philanthropy) might actually be able to achieve the net Zero goal before 2050. Relying on governments to do everything is more than a little fanciful.

In a recent interview the Duke of Cambridge took a pot at Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos and others by saying, *'We need some of the world's greatest brains and minds fixed on trying to repair this planet, not trying to find the next place to go and live.'*

Whilst one might, on the face of it, enthusiastically agree with this comment, the facts may already point to the fact that that is exactly what many of the greatest (and richest) brains are doing and have been doing for a number of years.



Elon Musk's Tesla company has led the world in developing electric cars and, virtually single-handedly, ensuring that electric cars will be cheaper to buy and operate than fossil-fuelled cars within a few years. The end of dirty cars. Elon Musk's Tesla (Battery) Storage company is a world leader in energy storage with large units recently installed in Sussex and Essex. His solar roof tiles unit is combining a solar roof, a Tesla Powerwall and the electricity storage in

a Tesla car into one integral green home energy pack. This sounds attractive with the much awaited \$25,000 Tesla car arriving shortly. Nissan offer something similar now.

Jeff Bezos' Amazon has committed to the business of being zero carbon by 2040 but will almost certainly achieve it way before then. His commitment of \$2 billion to The Climate Pledge Fund demonstrates his desire to repair this planet – as well as encourage space exploration.



Bill Gates, together with a raft of other billionaires (including Jeff Bezos and Richard Branson), has founded Breakthrough Energy Ventures



which is an investor-led fund that aims to build the new, cutting-edge companies that will lead the world to net-zero emissions. Their strategy links government-funded research and patient, risk-tolerant capital to bring transformative clean energy innovations to market as quickly as possible. To date they have invested in 44 companies who are focussed on profitable climate change solutions.

All of these investors are putting up risk funds in order to assist in achieving the goal of net zero by 2050. Whilst some of their motivation may be philanthropic, the main motivation is unquestionably about making money. That's what gets things done – quickly.

RethinkX is an independent think tank that analyses and forecasts the scope, speed and scale of technology-driven disruption and its implications across society. A recent report of theirs opined that *"technology disruptions already underway in the energy, transportation,*

*and food sectors have extraordinary implications for climate change. Three sector disruptions alone driven by just eight technologies can directly eliminate over 90% of net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions worldwide within 15 years. Market forces can be leveraged to drive the bulk of global GHG emissions mitigation because the technologies required are either already commercially available and competitive today or can be deployed to market before 2025 with the right societal choices. The same technologies will also make the cost of carbon withdrawal affordable, meaning that moonshot breakthrough technologies are not required to solve the 'Last Carbon Problem' and go beyond net zero from 2035 onwards."*

Ambrose Evans-Pritchard's article in the Daily Telegraph recently made the same point: "Eliminate the word "cost" from the net zero lexicon. The relevant concept is how much we gain.

*A team of mathematicians at Oxford University has carried out the world's best study so far of the economic windfall to be had from a turbo-charged decarbonisation based on unstoppable leaps and bounds in known technology.*

*It concluded that the net gain is \$26 trillion (£19 trillion), or \$14 trillion under cautious assumptions. The faster it happens, the bigger the benefit. It can be achieved in 25 years, beating the global target of 2050. Most changes do not require lavish state funding any more than public money is needed to make mobile phones."*

The Prime Minister reinforced this point at the roll out of the government's Net Zero Strategy: "I know that there are some who say we are going too fast. I say to them first that there is a force out there stronger than government. That force is the market. And the market is going green."

Encouraging, eh? Let's hope that they might be right – and that somebody persuades China!

## **Kermit**

*"It's beautiful, and I think it's what I want to be" – last line of Bein' Green song*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **SUPPORT 4 PARENTS**

### **Have you ever thought... If only I knew then what I know now..?**

**Now you can help in a really practical way.**

**We're looking for volunteers to work in a structured way with families in your area who are struggling to parent children under 8.**

**If you are interested in working with families and have experience in looking after children, you can make a difference.**

**If you can spare about 3 hours a week, we'll train you in how to pass on your precious skills and knowledge and we'll support you in doing a really worthwhile job.**

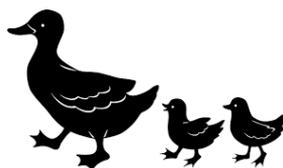
**Want to know more?**

**Telephone Barnardo's Support 4 Parents for an informal chat on 07715 428 690**

**Or email [support4parents@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:support4parents@barnardos.org.uk)**

# SUSAN HANDY DANCE

ETON WINDSOR DATCHET OLD WONDOR ETONWICK WOKING ICKENHAM RICHMOND



NEW  
CLASSES

## MOTHERS & TODDLERS CLASS

From 18months

MONDAYS 10:15 - 10:45 ETONWICK VILLAGE HALL

NEW  
CLASSES

## ADULT BALLET STRETCH

BALLET FIT CLASS

MONDAYS 11:00 - 11:45 ETONWICK VILLAGE HALL

WITH

NEW  
CLASSES

## ADULT BALLET

MONDAYS 11:45 - 12:15 ETONWICK VILLAGE HALL

**Dear members and friends of Dorney Horticultural Society....and Dorney residents.**

Over the last couple of years, many members have said how important DDHS is to them and to our whole community. Some even say it's one of the few remaining links with the friendly community Dorney once was. As the months have gone by, the Society's meetings, outings, and of course, the Annual Show, have been missed more and more.

Societies across our area seem to be planning to return with their normal programmes as 2022 gets under way. At this point, we don't have any firm plans or dates. But we're working on it, and we do hope to announce shortly meetings in the Spring. Ideally, they will have good speakers, good food and will pave the way for the best ever Annual Show. After two years with no Show, we hope entries in 2022 will be booming.

But we must share with you that DDHS has problems. Real problems. There are the after-effects of the pandemic. Will we have been forgotten? Will the appetite for our friendly, sociable meetings still be there? But the big issue is, once again, the membership of the committee. In the intervening couple of years our number has been reduced from six to four. Peter Tyler has stood down after years of service. Peter, we thank you and we'll miss those quiz questions. Wendy Shephard, alas, no longer lives in our area – we've lost Wendy's enthusiasm after far too short a time. All those ambitions may come to naught if we don't get the needed extra help on the committee. Whether you are a regular supporter or a newcomer (you might have discovered a flair for horticulture during that long lockdown) please come forward. Our last two committee members were newcomers to the Society. Alternatively, if you'd like to help out with individual events, that would be very welcome too.

There are other ways you can help the Society. Our mailing list might be barely up to scratch after two years with no mailings. Let us know if you'd like to stay on it or be put on it. Maybe your phone number or email has changed. Also, you can tell us what sort of Society you would like to see. Should we, as someone once said, be 'building back better'?

Exciting things are happening with horticulture in Dorney, with businesses like FORM and Crocus flourishing. That vibrant scene will, we hope, be reflected in some way in our activities as our return gets under way.

DDHS would like to hear from you - please email us at [ddhs@btinternet.com](mailto:ddhs@btinternet.com)

Let's look forward to meeting up again in Spring 2022.

**With best wishes from the DDHS Committee - Ron Alsworth (Chair), Kristina Perkins, Janet Messitt and Peter Bowman**

## Thames Water - “We’re upgrading Slough Sewage Treatment Works” – by digging up Dorney Common.

Around 100 years ago, Slough Borough Council rented and then compulsory purchased Manor Farm, Dorney in order to build a sewage treatment works. The Treatment Works has created quite a stink in Dorney for many years – especially in the early days when the raw sewage was spread over the fields behind Manor Farm!

In the 1920s Slough needed a new sewage works because the population was growing – especially due to the amount of new labour required to convert the “Big Dump” of World War One rusting vehicles into the Slough Trading Estate.

The ever-increasing population of Slough now needs to both increase the capacity of the site and improve the quality of water that currently outfalls into Roundmoor Ditch.



The recent letter some Dorney residents received from Thames Water advises that laying an underground 2km tunnel of steel pipes from the current Sewage Works outfall to the Thames – under the Jubilee River, Dorney Common and agricultural land in Boveney – was selected as “*it offered the best outcomes and the lowest impact within the timescales required for these works*”.

This is despite the fact that the distance between the Sewage Works outfall is but a few feet from the Jubilee River (“an integral part of the River Thames” according to the National Rivers Authority at the Public Inquiry in 1992) and connecting the outfall to the Jubilee River could be achieved with a very short length of piping and no pumping station!

In the four-page document on the Thames Water website, they attempt to explain the rationale for this in “Why aren’t you taking the new outfall directly into the Jubilee River?”.

<https://www.thameswater.co.uk/media-library/home/about-us/investing-in-our-region/Improvements-in-your-area/slough-sewage-treatment-works-information-pack.pdf>

Thames Water makes the following statements on Page 2 [**our emphasis**]:

*"The Jubilee River is a flood alleviation scheme and there are significant protections in place to protect the local community from flooding. Constructing a new outfall to it would **require changes to the planning permission for the Jubilee River. The licences, legal obligations, and the procedures under which the Jubilee River operates** would all need to be extensively reviewed and potentially amended to accommodate a new outfall.*

*We have analysed the **indicative water quality requirements** for a new discharge to the Jubilee River and have determined that these are unlikely to be technically achievable with respect to current wastewater treatment technology.*

*These challenges have led us to conclude that **there is no real prospect of having an implemented solution within the timescales** required for these works."*

Dorney Parish News have put the following questions to both Thames Water and the Environment Agency :

- What are the full details of the "changes to the planning permission" that are required?
- What are the full details of the potential amendments that might be required to the "licences, legal obligations, and the procedures under which the Jubilee River operates"?
- What are the "water quality requirements" for any new discharge to the Jubilee River?
- What are the precise reasons that lead you [Thames Water] to believe that "there is no real prospect of having an implemented solution within the timescales required"?

Only when detailed answers are provided to these questions will residents be able to determine whether Thames Water should dig a huge trench across Dorney Common, bring masses of equipment down Lake End Road, Village Road and Common Road, use tonnes of carbon through the manufacture of steel pipes, diesel and earth disturbance for a two year period and build a pumping station that could go wrong which would probably result in more of a stink over Dorney and Eton Wick. All at a projected cost of around £20 million of residents' Water Rates money.

The simple, alternative option is to use the Jubilee River.

We await the answers to the questions we have put to the Environment Agency and Thames Water to determine whether their rationale is legally correct or if it has a closer relationship to the stuff that goes into Slough Treatment Works!

Some residents thought that, having gone through the turmoil of the construction of Dorney Lake, the Jubilee River and the M4 widening, Dorney might be left alone for a time. Not at all – here comes yet more disruptive construction in the parish unless we, or the courts, can ensure that the EA and Thames Water juggernauts can be stopped.

**Peter Bowman and Bill Dax**

## SUPPORTING HENRY VIII'S WARS

It's the year 1522. Henry VIII has been on the throne for 13 years. He hasn't yet started dismantling the Church and the internal conflicts of the Wars of the Roses are a thing of the past. Richard Hill is the Lord of the Manor but has not yet fallen out with the locals or the Abbess of Burnham. The people of Dorney are getting on with their lives as usual, the daily routine of growing the crops and tending the livestock.



Dorney is not however so isolated as to be unaware that the king is pursuing warfare elsewhere. Earlier in his reign, Henry invaded France and fought off a Scottish attack on the north of England. Since then, he had sent a small army to Ireland and was now embarking on a second war with France. And the king expected his subjects to support him in these endeavours, both financially and by providing manpower. There was no permanent army, other than a small royal protection force, so each campaign required men to be recruited to fight and money to pay for armour, weapons and other costs. It's been estimated that as many as 30,000 English fighters took part in some battles, a not insignificant number. These men came from their work in the fields and returned

there, God willing, when the fighting was over. Gradually, the system for raising troops was changing from the medieval practice of noblemen bringing their estate tenants and servants to serve as soldiers, to a requirement for each town and village to provide a quota of armed men.

Dorney residents are therefore not altogether surprised when there is a survey of military capability in each parish. The assessors carefully list the name of each person who owns land, buildings or goods, showing the value of these. They also note who holds what weapons, but it is widely – and rightly – suspected that the main purpose of the survey is not to assess fighting strength but rather to provide a solid database for taxation. Cardinal Wolsey, who is organising the survey on the king's behalf, is keen to increase the tax yield in the face of mounting costs. And indeed, a couple of years later taxes are levied. Twenty-six men and women in Dorney are assessed for tax in 1524, most of them paying tax on the value of goods at 4d or 6d in the £1, raising the grand total of 34s 10d for the king's coffers.

Ten years later, faced with further campaigns against the Scots and the Irish, an attempt is made to identify able men who could be mobilised to fight. In Dorney, eleven names are put forward. Two men, one a foot soldier and the other a horseman, are provided with what was called "almain rivets", a light half-suit of armour. Another horseman has no armour. All three of these, plus another foot soldier, are archers who would have carried longbows, while the remaining seven men are armed with bills, a dual-purpose weapon with a point at the end and a blade at the side, capable of thrusting like a pike and hacking like a battle axe. The body armour, and possibly the weapons too, has to be maintained by the parish, needing a lot of work to clean and then oil the metal to prevent rust as well as repairing or replacing the fabric, leather and nails which hold the plates together. All fit men are expected to practice using their weapons, especially archery, so that they are ready when called upon.



So, who were the people living in Dorney then? Three of the wealthiest residents on the 1524 tax list were Alice Goldwyn, John Carter and William Wollward. Although some of these families

owned small parcels of land, their goods were worth more, and mostly they rented their homes and land. Dorney still had common fields, such as South Field, where villagers farmed individual strips, as well as common grazing, but some farms were named, for example West Town Farm.

Alice Goldwyn was a widow, and her sons William, John and Robert Goldwyn were also taxed. John was a farmer and the survey recorded he had four good bows to fight with. When Alice died in 1539, she left a red ox each to William and Robert, plus a black cow to William. Each of her three married daughters received a cow, grandchildren were left a ewe and a lamb each, and every godchild got a bushel of barley. Son John inherited what was left of her estate, which was worth in total £21 15s 6d – the equivalent of over £9,000 today. Among the prized possessions of an earlier John Goldwyn when he died in 1513 were nine silver spoons and a wooden drinking vessel chased with silver. He rented small areas of land in different fields of Dorney, including Rush Acre and Upcottes. So, we have the picture of a comfortably off farming family, able to afford a few luxuries and to leave something of worth to the next generations.

John Carter was one of several Carters in Dorney; there was a younger John as well as Richard, Thomas, William, Nicholas, Joan and Alice. William had four good bows and Nicholas nine bills. It was perhaps the younger John Carter whose name was put forward to fight armed with a bill in 1534.

William Wollward was a farmer and was permitted to graze as many sheep as he wanted on the common fields, unlike everyone else who was restricted. He was also furnished with nine bills but was identified as an archer in the list of potential soldiers. When he died in 1548, only one of his five daughters was married; his son Thomas was still a child, and his wife was expecting another baby. His estate was valued at £87 16s, worth over £24,000 today. Each of his unmarried daughters was to have ten sheep and five quarters of barley. In addition, the eldest, Katherine, was left a black cow with a white face, and a gown and a kirtle for her wedding outfit. Thomas was to receive £6 13s 4d at the age of 20 while the unborn baby would have half that amount. As a successful sheep farmer, William was able to make good provision for his family.

Thomas Dolwyn was taxed on the farm he had inherited from his parents. His mother Alice had died in 1521 and her will mentioned oxen, which were used for field work, a cow, a colt, a sow with litter, wheat, barley and malt. We can imagine the farm produced grain for sale, while the cow and the pig would have provided the household with milk, cheese and meat. Malt was essential for beer brewed on the farm, as water was not safe to drink. Alice had successfully raised a large family, leaving three married daughters, two unmarried and two sons; at least three of her children were living in Dorney.

Three men in the King family, Robert, William and Edward, all paid tax. William and Edward each had six bows and Robert and Edward had their names put forward to serve as archers in 1534. Robert was married to Alice Goldwyn's daughter Alice.

The parish registers show that these families intermarried and the manor court rolls record when farms changed hands and who broke the rules by enclosing a bit of the common or grazing animals where they shouldn't. They witnessed each other's wills, which give us the detail of the things that were important to them. They were God-fearing people and those who could afford to often left money for the church of St James. As well as the vicar, there was a priest attached to a chantry chapel in the church, established by an earlier Lord of the Manor. Rich and poor gathered together at Mass in St James and perhaps they prayed for a speedy and successful conclusion to Henry VIII's wars.

**Virginia Silvester**

## Jamie Turvey

In May we wrote about Jamie Turvey whose father Clive grew up in Dorney. Jamie has a rare bone condition, FOP. We publicised an appeal to fund an electric wheelchair for Jamie – and to give him a balloon ride. To say thanks to those in Dorney who contributed to the appeal, which is going well, here is a picture of Jamie on his exciting trip.



\*\*\*\*\*

## WANTED

Up to three good quality Dorney Millennium Mugs to replace those carelessly lost or chipped over the intervening years.

Name your price. Contact Nick Teale at [nickteale@btinternet.com](mailto:nickteale@btinternet.com) or call 01628 605177

Buyer will pay cash and collect.





**We are now taking bookings for 2 and 3 course Christmas lunches at Dorney during December.**

**Treat or meet Family, Friends or your Work Colleagues to celebrate Christmas in Style in our cafe.**

**For a menu and booking form please email [admin.dorney@crocus.co.uk](mailto:admin.dorney@crocus.co.uk) or call 01628 600566 during office hours. You can also book now in person in our cafe.**

**£5 deposit required per person.**

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



*The Queen's Green Canopy* (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to **"Plant a Tree for the Jubilee"**.

Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girlguiding groups, villages, cities, counties, schools and corporates will be encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees during the official planting season between October to March. Tree planting will commence again in October 2022, through to the end of the Jubilee year.

With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, *The Queen's Green Canopy* will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

James and I have been keen to organise some tree planting to mark the Queen's Jubilee next year, as encouraged by the Queen's Green Canopy initiative: <https://queensgreencanopy.org>.

We have approached the following businesses in Dorney to see if they would each be interested in sponsoring a tree, in the hope that we might get planted 7 decent sized and lovely specimens around the village to mark the 7 decades of the Queen's reign:

1. Dorney Court
2. Crocus at Dorney Court
3. Form Plants
4. Smits Tree Nursery
5. Maydencroft
6. Eton College/Dorney Lake
7. The Fishers at The Palmer Arms & The Pineapple

Happily all have expressed an eagerness to sponsor a tree as well as help with picking the right specimens, where they might go and the planting, which is great news.

If any resident has any good ideas about where a tree might go then please let us know.

Each tree can be marked by a small plaque to show that it was planted in celebration of the Jubilee.

Hopefully you all agree this is a nice idea.

**Anna Palmer**

## Floyd

It's a shocking admission really, and one that makes few friends, but I'm not a great dog person.

There. I've said it, but please don't abandon me. It doesn't make you a bad person, but I do have the utmost respect for working dogs, and this tale (no pun intended) may explain why.

Back in the halcyon days when towns had police stations, my regular reader (bless you) may recall that I had the privilege of serving in an unglamorous corner of the Met.

Mine was mainly a hard working committed team of men and women, shovelling wet sand uphill for the most part in the unequal struggle to keep the streets safe. Conrad, a twenty-four-year-old vet's assistant joined us from Hendon Training School and soon became a respected thief taker, such was his talent for the task. He was married to a hauntingly beautiful lady who was constantly ill, and he worried about her constantly.

After about eighteen months, he arrived for duty one day with a pretty Alsatian pup, and announced that he was joining the dog section; hardly surprising given his previous calling. They were to train together and occasionally Conrad would be radio operator in my area car while Floyd travelled in the boot section of the SD1.

He grew into a handsome dog, with a floppy left ear, endearing to onlookers but frowned upon in Keston dog training school where his career may have ended prematurely but for the application of super glue to the offending ear prior to Floyd's attendances, where finally both he and Conrad passed out and we lost them both to the Dog Section.

By dint of good fortune, they were posted to our part of London and we saw them regularly when sniffing out suspects who had run to ground, hunting for abandoned drugs or stolen property and the less frequent but more scary public order incidents.

"How's it going?" I asked Conrad a couple of months after he left.

"Floyd's a good tracker, and can sniff out most things, but I'm worried that he doesn't like confrontation. He'll have to shape up or Keston will get rid of him," he replied, concern written over his face.

Floyd's salvation arrived in the unlikely form of the drug ridden Ricky looking for his next fix in an elderly female's ground floor maisonette one late evening when he was careless enough to disturb her in her nightie whereupon she screamed her lungs out causing copious 999 calls from neighbours. Ricky ran out of the French window by which he had entered into her back garden and found his escape route blocked by London's finest from the Nick six hundred yards away. His only remaining escape was to turn left and stagger over garden fences as we fruitlessly battered on the delirious victim's firmly locked front door trying to find a way into the garden while she continued to scream.

Conrad and Floyd arrived and we decided to put Floyd over the first fence at the end of the block to chase the suspect through the back gardens. Conrad heaved Floyd over the first of many six foot fences, Floyd ran to the next fence and barked furiously, so Conrad heaved over the next, and the next; you get the idea.

Meanwhile Ricky had come to a dead end by a thirteen foot factory wall. He was trapped. Floyd arrived, and confronted Ricky as the exhausted Conrad arrived.

“Give it up Son,” wheezed Conrad.

“Call the dog off!” pleaded Ricky.

“Floyd, heel!” ordered Conrad and Floyd obeyed. Conrad stepped forward to handcuff Ricky and received a hard punch in the face as Ricky bolted for the opposing fence, only to be grabbed by Floyd and admonished for biting his best friend Conrad.

Above the screams to call the dog off Conrad managed to call Floyd to heel once more, only to receive a second punch and a kicking to unconscious as Floyd administered more correction.

We finally arrived to find a terrified Ricky sitting back to the wall guarded by Floyd as Conrad stirred.

I saw Conrad a couple of weeks later. “How’s Floyd?” I asked rather unkindly.

“Well,” grinned Conrad, “he’s tasted blood and he’s looking for more.”

Later in a weak moment I agreed to help Conrad on a tracking exercise.

“Can you hide behind that shed, I’ll release Floyd and he can track you across this football field?” he asked innocently.

“Will he bite?”

“Course not, he doesn’t bite police uniforms,” and off I ran the two hundred yards and backed into the blind side of the shed.

“Go find him!” I heard Conrad order and within the minute the huge dog appeared, barking furiously, then he stopped, thrust his snout into my groin and lifted me off my feet.

Terror doesn’t begin to describe it, and Conrad appeared moments later laughing.

“I’ve been training him to do that!”

Years later I was chasing a pea green (yes, pea green!) Rover SD1 all over my and the surrounding areas on a glorious summer afternoon. The ‘bandit’ was maniacal and we approached a blind railway overbridge up which were grinding two loaded eight-wheel tipper lorries. The bandit raced up to the blind crest on the wrong side of the road, and I pulled back to be harangued by my operator, but not wishing to kill anyone, or indeed us. By the time we cleared the bridge, the bandit was lost.

A slow search of the area led to a row of council garages at the back of semis with an old boy tending his garden, and there was the green monster, doors open, engine running, empty.

“Oi,” beckoned the old fellah, “you wanna know where those two wrong’uns from that car went?”

“Yes.”

“Didn’t hear it from me?”

“Forgotten already,” I assured.

“Went through them open French windows about ten minutes ago,” he indicated the house.

After giving thanks and further reassurance we walked quietly into the house, and there on a settee was a frightening individual similar in appearance to ‘Wolf’ from The Gladiators, face up and spark out.

We carefully lifted a huge wrist and agonisingly slowly, applied the first handcuff, and then the second, without him waking. We went upstairs and, on a vomit covered double bed, we found number two in a similar state. We did the same, woke him up and surprisingly he got to his feet and quietly walked him downstairs, arresting and cautioning him on the way.

We woke Wolf who was sleeping soundly and he too acquiesced until we got to the front gate of the house where his alcohol sodden brain finally realised the predicament in which he now found himself.

He lunged at me hard, lost his balance and fell to the ground face down, whereupon, arching his back he tried to head butt me as I sat on his back to prevent him getting to his feet, but he was much bigger, meaner and stronger than me. I radioed for urgent assistance and within a couple of minutes Conrad and Floyd arrived. Conrad took his time over getting Floyd out.

“In your own time Conrad!” I protested, bouncing on Wolf’s back.

“Get off him Mike,” soothed Conrad.

“He’ll kill us all. No!”

Floyd dropped to his chest within an inch of Wolf’s face, teeth slightly bared, a low growl emanating from deep inside him.

Conrad announced, “If you move mate, he’ll bite your face off! Get off him Mike.”

“I’m cool. I’m cool,” stammered Wolf. At that point, the surprised lady owner of the house appeared.

Working dogs?

I love ‘em.

Oh! What happened to Conrad and Floyd?

Sadly, Conrad later transferred north for his wife’s family and I never saw them again. I often wonder what became of them.

Stay safe.

**Mike Quincey**

## A Morning with the Burnham Shedders



This month Dorney Parish News attended a Friday morning meeting of the Burnham Shedders. We had two objectives. We wanted to spread the word about a group which appeared to both friendly and community minded. Also, on this occasion there was to be a guest speaker – Nick Teale, recent resident of Village Road and regular contributor to this magazine.

Nick had a long and successful working life with Stanley. In a talk full of interest, Nick told of the tremendous enthusiasm there was among collectors

for vintage Stanley tools, and he handed round many examples from his own collection. A succession of planes, screwdrivers and measuring tools were lovingly circulated and admired.

Even though Nick intrigued everyone by describing a flourishing market in antique tools, it was clear that to his audience the true value of these tools and their modern counterparts lay in sharing their use and sharing the fruits of their collected skills.

The national Men's Sheds Association say that they run community spaces, as in Burnham, for men to 'connect, converse and create.' They 'help to reduce loneliness and isolation, but most importantly they are fun.' It seemed that meetings of Burnham Shedders set out to be sociable and enjoyable, and around a third of those attending, and it seems among the most active participants, were ladies. The Association was set up in 2013, there are over 13000 active shedders and nationwide around 600 sheds are now open. There isn't a shed in Dorney, but there are sheds in Maidenhead, Stoke Poges and, of course, Burnham.

The leading lights in Burnham are John Vernon, the Secretary and Chairman Tony Jones who chaired my meeting. Tony told me that the Burnham Shed first opened in June 2019, but the pandemic ensured a very rapid shut down – 'we were hit pretty hard and were very close to folding up.' The original space rented from Burnham Bowls Club had to be given up, but a new purpose-built shed has just opened on spare ground donated by the Club.

A bigger shed means that more work can be undertaken in the shed alongside the social side of the meetings, further developing 'teamwork and a community spirit'. Now the group is keen to welcome new members to meet every second and fourth Friday of the month.

Tony told the meeting that much had been achieved. It seemed that generous grants from various supportive bodies had helped. Several DIY projects were underway to benefit both members and the wider community. Next to the shed vegetables had been grown and donated to Burnham Care and Share. The upcoming big project focused on Christmas, with members' skills devoted to personal gifts and for craft fairs and the like to raise funds.



If all this activity appeals, we'd urge Dorney residents to get involved. Tony can be reached on 01628 662753 and Burnham Shedders run a flourishing group on Facebook.

**Peter Bowman**



# DORNEY

## PARISH COUNCIL

## JOIN YOUR COUNCIL!

Dorney Parish Council is seeking a dedicated and motivated member 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 seven councillors and meets on the third 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 or an eligible Commonwealth citizen, **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.
  - d) You have lived in Dorney Parish or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination.

### Where can I find out more information?

Visit [www.dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Contact Ruth Senior, Parish Clerk: 07769 704010

[Clerk@dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk)



# DORNEY

## PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD TUESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021, 7.30 P.M. AT DORNEY SCHOOL

#### **Present**

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair)                      Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford  
Cllr. Stephen Baker                      Cllr. Robert Stopford  
County Cllr. Paul Kelly                  Cllr. Anna Palmer (joined on ZOOM)  
Ms Ruth Senior (Parish Clerk) and seven members of the public (including four via zoom)

#### **Open Forum**

Ewan Larcombe presented his views against the proposed pipeline across Dorney common from the Slough Treatment Works.

Lyndsey Oliver, representing the Playground Trustees, informed the Parish Council of the Trustees decision to all step down from their role as Trustees of the Playground Charity by end March 2022 and a letter will be forthcoming in this regard. The Chair advised that the Parish Council will await all details relating to this matter.

#### **PC/42/21 Apologies for absence**

Cllr. Euan MacLennan

#### **PC/43/21 To confirm the minutes of the Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> Septmeber 2021**

These were **approved** with no amendments required and signed by the Chairman.  
There were no matters arising.

#### **PC/44/21 Co-option of councillor**

No candidate has come forward. The available position was recently advertised in the Dorney Parish News.

#### **PC/45/21 Items of business carried forward**

##### **45.1 The Orchard Herbs Site**

Cllr. Stopford updated on the clearance of the site and the hotel plans. **It was agreed** that the Clerk will respond to Mitchel Pugh to express the Council's disappointment of the delays following his latest update email.

Historic England have responded and stated they do not think the hotel development will impact on St James's or Dorney Court however the planning decision is on hold, still awaiting a response from Transport for Bucks.

##### **45.2 M4 Smart Motorway**

Nick Cooper and Jim Stacey joined on ZOOM to update on the M4 project.

The whole project is expected to be completed in around 6 months. Work to barriers, fencing and village hall entrance will take place in January. The plans for Glebe Close have been agreed and scheduled for end November. Bridge landscaping on Marsh Lane and Lake End Road will begin in November. There will be another Lake End Road closure (scheduled for 5 days in January) to

replace the expansion joints in the bridge. The Parish Council requested advanced notice and correct signage.

### **45.3 The Emergency Plan**

Cllr. Palmer updated on the Emergency Plan progress. **It was agreed** that the Parish Council should have a form on the website and ask for people to register how they could personally help in an emergency (Doctors, nurses etc). When this is up and running it should be advertised on Nextdoor and Dorney Parish News to raise awareness. The Emergency Plan should be finalised by the end of 2021.

### **PC/46/21 Planning**

Cllr. Stopford updated on 2 applications with nothing further to note.

### **PC/47/21 Finance - To agree/ratify expenditure and income to date**

The cashbook was circulated prior to the meeting and approved.

The Clerk was thanked for setting up the new bank account which has made transactions much more efficient.

### **PC/48/21 To receive an update from Jack Pearce on the Community Board**

Jack Pearce from Buckinghamshire Council updated on the Community Board. There are 16 across the county, Dorney is in Beeches. The aim of the Community Board is to bring the Council together with local groups. There are 4 actions groups within the Board – Infrastructure & Highways, Economic Recovery, Improving Environment and Wellbeing. The Board has £280k to allocate to local projects this year. For more information anyone is welcome to the Community Board meetings (the next is online on 28<sup>th</sup> October) or to sign up to the newsletter.

### **PC/49/21 To discuss the upgrade of the Slough Treatment Works and the impact on Dorney**

Local residents should be receiving a letter explaining the plans from Thames Water this week. The plan is to put in a pipeline from the Treatment works under Roundmoor Ditch and Dorney Common leading excess water to the Thames. Cllr. Dax, Cllr. Westcott-Wreford and Cllr. Stopford attended a zoom presentation on the project and **it was agreed** that the Clerk will write to Thames Water for explanations on; why the pipeline across the land to the Thames and not to the Jubilee River which is much closer and what will their plan be for the heavy works traffic and machinery in and out of Dorney and Security on the Common.

The Parish Council do acknowledge the need for the upgrade to the Works due to rising population.

### **PC/50/21 To consider speeding issues around the village**

Cllr. Westcott-Wreford is in the process of downloading and analysing the data from the 2 speed signs in Dorney and will report back in the January meeting.

### **PC/51/21 To consider parking issues around the village**

**It was agreed** this item will be reviewed again in January when we have seen the full impact of Dorney Lake opening.

### **PC/52/21 Update from Thames Water on rewilding project in the Thames Water field on Marsh Lane**

Thames Water are planning a wildflower and tree planting project on this land which will remain fenced but open to locals to enjoy. The planting is due to commence at the end of November with help from Maydencroft for bigger planting but Thames Water would love local volunteers for the wildflower planting.

### **PC/53/21 To consider options for potholes (particularly Boveney Rd) and re-surfacing around the village**

County Cllr. Sandy is chasing an update on the resurfacing plans for Lake End Rd, Marsh Lane and Village Rd, that were initially raised in November 2020. County Cllr. Kelly agreed to raise this

at the Local Area Technician meeting and advised to keep reporting potholes on Fix My Street and copy in the County Councillors.

**PC/54/21 To consider issues relating to the cattle grid**

It was agreed that the Clerk should respond to Keith Dolan as the Parish Council do not agree with the response from him on the cattle grid as there is clearly a failing with half of the grid.

**PC/55/21 Gulley clearance in Dorney**

There is no update on this, it was agreed that the Clerk will chase.

**PC/56/21 To consider any complaints/comments from residents**

There were none to report.

**PC/57/21 To review any matters relating to the Groundsman/Maintenance**

The Clerk confirmed that the Groundsman will be off for the next month but as it is end of growing season, there will hopefully be nothing too urgent however should anything need attention we will appoint a local contractor temporarily.

**PC/58/21 Items to consider for discussion at the next meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

Cllr. Dax has sourced lamp post poppies for Dorney, these will go up on 30<sup>th</sup> Oct and come down 20<sup>th</sup> Nov.

County Cllr. Kelly reported that Sergeant Rachel Dale from Taplow Police Station has asked if parishes can collate and ongoing issues that the police should be aware of to forward to her.

**Meeting ended at 9.01pm**

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.

# Dorney Village Hall

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



**Dorney Village Hall will be closed from 3rd January - 22nd January 2022 for redecoration of all rooms.**

**There will be no daytime events, but Badminton on Tuesday evenings and Dance Lessons on Thursday evenings will continue to run during this period.**

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

It is served by a large private car park and adjacent there is a tennis court, a multi activity games area (MUGA), playground and a playing field.

It is used by residents for a multitude of activities such as dancing classes, keep fit, yoga, badminton, horticultural and hired out for parties, dances and weddings.

The management committee welcomes non-residents, organisations, clubs, businesses, and societies to hire the halls.

Main hall: 15 x 7.4m, ceiling height 7m

Fixed stage with curtains: 4.5 x 6m

Annexe: 9.8 x 3.5m, ceiling height 2m

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

## Dorney History Group

The Dorney History Group has no meetings, currently, but it has a wealth of information about Dorney's past on its website: [www.dorney-history-group.org.uk](http://www.dorney-history-group.org.uk), with over 18,000 web visitors each year.

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## Eton Wick History Group

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

The Eton Wick History Group has been meeting regularly since 1992. Eton Wick and the surrounding area is rich in history and the village has a heritage dating back to 1217.

Meetings are held at 7.30 pm in Eton Wick Hall, Eton Wick, and everyone is welcome. Refreshments are served, and there is a charge of £2.00 to cover costs.

**Visitors and new members are always very welcome.**

### 2021 Programme

8th December	'A Window on Windsor's Medieval Past' with Dr David Lewis
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Further details from: Teresa Stanton [teresams35@virginmedia.com](mailto:teresams35@virginmedia.com)

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## Hedgerley Historical Society

[www.hedgerleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hedgerleyhistoricalsociety.org)

Hedgerley Historical Society (HHS) was founded in 1976.

All evening meetings begin promptly at 8pm, unless otherwise stated. Arrival from 7.30pm is advised.

November 17th	Ladies can't climb ladders	Jane Robinson
November 27th (Saturday 8pm)	At Home in the 20th Century Tickets £10. Closing date 20th Nov Hedgerley Memorial Hall Centenary Fundraiser	Paul Atterbury Booking Required
December 15th	A History of High Wycombe in 10 objects	Keith Spencer

### 2022

January 19 <sup>th</sup>	London's Great Railway Stations	Oliver Green
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	History of the National Gardens Scheme	Janice Cross
March 16 <sup>th</sup>	<u>The Harry Kirby Memorial Lecture</u> Blitz – Zeppelin and Gotha raids in WW1	Harvey Watson The first
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Widows of the Ice	Anne Fletcher
May 4 <sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)	Outing to the Boxford Heritage Centre and Boxford Roman Mosaic talk 10.30am Joy Appleton <u>Booking required</u> Closing date 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	School Lane, Boxford RG20 8DX



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# Dorney Parish News

Published monthly (except January and August)

## **Editors:**

Peter Bowman, Tumbleweeds, 12, Harcourt Road, Dorney Reach, Maidenhead. SL6 ODU

[peter.bowman@talktalk.net](mailto:peter.bowman@talktalk.net) Tel: 07889 912714

Jean Spencer, Dorincourt, 45, Harcourt Road, Dorney Reach, Maidenhead. SL6 ODT  
Tel: 01628 624213

## **Editorial Board:**

The Editors, Bill Dax, Thea Pine

## **Production:**

Bill Dax Tel: 07802 365448

---

## **Distributors:**

Mr Cobb, Mrs Cox, Mrs Leishman, Mrs McCabe,  
Mr McGuinness, Mrs Oxlade, Mr Penfold, Mrs Stockwood, Mr Temple  
Miss Snook, Mrs Tuddenham, Mrs Tyler, Mrs Wood-Dow

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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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## **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
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Third of a page (Horizontal)	60	130	£45	£6
Quarter Page (Horizontal)	45	130	£40	£5

**Contact:** Peter Bowman, Editor  
[peter.bowman@talktalk.net](mailto:peter.bowman@talktalk.net)  
07889 912714

## Emergency Contact Details

### Dorney Reach (Village Hall) Defibrillator Code

**C123X**

Fire, Police & Ambulance	Emergency Calls: Incidents in Action	999
Thames Valley Police	Non-urgent calls	101
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Crimestoppers	Anonymously report information	0800 555 111
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Swan Support	24/7 local swan rescue and rehabilitation	07968 868172

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