

# Dorney Parish News

March 2022



*Storm Eunice hits Dorney: 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022*



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**EDITORIAL**

Emergencies happen quickly. OK, so the rubbish bins had to be righted and a fence propped up, but I might have said 'I think it's easing off'. Amazingly a builder was arriving to continue home improvement whatever the elements threw at Dorney Reach. He thrust his phone screen at us and said 'look, a tree is down'. So, the credit for this month's cover picture goes to Paul of Royal Ascot Roofing.

In fact, it was sad and had been potentially dangerous for nearby housing. One of three stately poplars on the green patch adjacent to the Marsh Lane M4 bridge had gone, slowly and elegantly I'm told, blocked the road and caused major collateral damage to a bus stop sign and a litter bin. We rather liked them, and I was surprised to find they were only planted around the time of the M4's original construction. More worryingly, nearby residents had been concerned about their stability for some time and Bucks Council had promised to undertake an inspection which never happened due either to Covid or complacency. There is still anxiety about those still standing – 'take away the ivy that covers one of them and it will fall down'.

Back to the idea of 'emergencies'...Storm Eunice's severity was well forecast, but the effect of a sudden gust still can shock and dismay. There will be more such events. Our Parish Council is wise to pursue the formulation of an official Emergency Plan for this village. Response to announcements in this magazine and on the council website has been paltry. Think what the effects of an even heavier storm might have been, not to mention flooding. If you can offer skills, facilities and equipment, please respond to those advertisements.

This locality has faced another 'emergency' of a very different kind. I'm sure many readers very much appreciate what Norden Farm in Maidenhead has to offer. I believe this magazine used to publish their upcoming events – we'll have to think about that. The emergency was nothing less than likely closure as RBWM council threatened to cut all 'arts and culture' funding in its 2022-23 budget. To widespread relief, a £115,000 'social investment grant' has been announced for the venue. The prime saviour appears to have been a sober report from consultants Counterculture, but this episode was marked by two factors – an unprecedented popular response by several thousand residents to consultation on the budget and the intervention of Maidenhead's MP.

Turning from a former PM to the current premier, our MP Joy Morrissey has expressed a willingness to provide us with regular updates and many might be heartened by what she has to say on the Green Belt's future in South Bucks. She has been recently appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, so can we hope that we are represented at the highest level in the land?

Our world seems full of consultants' reports and public lobbying. I recommend to you the exposure in this issue of Thames Water's plans to transport treated water from the Slough Treatment Works across the Common to the Thames rather than to the adjacent Jubilee River. Also, of great interest to those local MPs, a reminder that consultation by the Boundary Commission on the replacement of our Beaconsfield constituency by the new 'Marlow and South Bucks' ends on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

# 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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**Rev La Stacey writes:** There have been some wacky things going on in church over the centuries. We were talking about our custom of 'passing the peace' in the service the other day. From the earliest times in Christian worship there has been a practice of making sure that the congregation were at peace with each other. If you remember, Jesus had encouraged people to sort out feuds and grievances before going to worship: 'If you're on the way to offer your gift at the altar', he had said, 'and remember that your mate has something against you, then go and make things right, and then come back and offer your gift'. The letter writers in our Bibles told their congregations to 'greet each other with a holy kiss'. I think at various times this kissing may have got rather eager, so a custom arose of passing round a board for people to kiss instead. Some of the boards would have been a simple flat piece of wood held out for the congregation on the end of a stick for them to kiss in turn.



Some of them were rather more elaborate, like the one in the picture made of ivory. Doesn't sound like a very healthy practice to me! We latter-day English folk mostly had the custom until recently of shaking hands in a polite fashion. Of course, with good pandemic protocol we now just look round to greet each other and wave in a distant way! I wonder if there was ever a pax board at Dorney? However wacky the custom though, the underlying thought is still valid. It is not a bad idea to have the discipline of reminding ourselves once a week that we aren't the centre of the universe, that each person matters, and that the world doesn't have to be seen through our eyes. When we get ourselves caught up in a

tight spiral of worry and blame, it is quite handy to step away for a moment and connect with the peace that is both at the depths of our being and outside ourselves. That re-connection gives us a calm place from which to give another person the

freedom to be themselves. It gives us the strength to realise that there are some things we can't control, such as other people's thoughts and actions, and in that realisation, there is peace. As we say, 'the peace of the Lord be always with you.' And we respond, 'And also with you.'

## Church Services in March 2022

### Wednesday 2nd March (Ash Wednesday)

10.00 am	Holy Communion (said BCP)	St John the Evangelist, Eton
7.00 pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion	St James the Less, Dorney

### Sunday 6th March

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

### Sunday 13th March

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

### Wednesday 16th March

10.00 am	Holy Communion (said BCP)	St John the Evangelist, Eton
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### Sunday 20th March

9.30am	Holy Communion	St James the Less, Dorney
11.00am	Morning Worship (children welcome)	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

### Sunday 27th March (Mothering Sunday)

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



St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

**This beautiful church on the Thames is open daily.**

Easter Day Sunrise Service - 0545hrs on Sunday 17th April 2022

St Mary Magdalene Patronal Service - 1600hrs on Friday 22nd July 2022

Christmas Advent Service by Candlelight - 1500hrs on Sunday, 11th December 2022

[www.st-mary-magdalene-boveney.org.uk](http://www.st-mary-magdalene-boveney.org.uk)

# Help us to maintain and preserve Dorney church and churchyard



At the heart of Dorney, tucked safely between the Village and the Reach, linking the two in spirit, is the very ancient church of St James the Less.

It carries so much of the history of Dorney within its flint walls, from the Norman font, in which village babies have been baptised for 900 years, through 13th century retellings of the bible in wall-art, through traces of the tumultuous reformation years, through

evidence of local 19th century philanthropy, through the village history of the 2 world wars, up to the present day. The beauty and peace of the place continue to speak comfort to those who have laid their family members to rest in the graveyard. And it continues to be a place of worship and prayer for the life of our community.

All of this continues to require the support of those who live nearby and those who find a spiritual home here.

We have some fabulous gardeners who keep the grounds neat. That costs around £3000 per year.

Insurance, heating, printing, candles, staffing - all these costs, large and small, need to be met to the tune of about £20,000 per year in total.

And on top of that there are always repairs needed to the fabric.

If you would like to donate to these costs, here is some information about giving.

Do visit our website too, to see all that the benefice offers - <https://www.stjohnstjamesed.org.uk/>

**Donate Online – via your mobile phone camera:**

<http://easydonate.org/STJD>



**Or by Text message**

To donate £3, text STJD to 70331

To donate £5, text STJD to 70970

To donate £10, text STJD to 70191

**Thank you!**

Fundraising, payments and donations will be processed and administered by the National Funding Scheme (Charity No: 1149800), operating as DONATE. Texts will be charged at your standard network rate. For Terms & Conditions, see [www.easydonate.org](http://www.easydonate.org)

# Crafty Creations



St John the Baptist  
Church Room,  
Eton Wick  
Wednesdays  
2-4pm  
Starting  
January 5<sup>th</sup> 2022

Try out a new craft or show us your  
favourite craft. Come and join us  
for some fun for the afternoon  
whether you are 18 or 80!



For more information call  
Carole: 07792 346906  
(Tues, Wed, Thurs or Sun)



## News from Dorney School

I am conscious that I am rather late for this publication. Being punctual is something I value, and I always feel as if I am letting someone down by not keeping to a deadline. My only saving grace, if you could call it that, is that this half term has been yet another roller coaster of a ride. There has been no let up as staff try to bring some form of normality to school amid rising cases of Covid in our primary aged children and trying to redeploy staff across school to cover staff absences. To say that it has been a challenging and anxious time is an understatement.

What frustrates me, and many other school leaders, is the lack of consultation from the Department of Education on how to mitigate the impact of Covid and how best to support our children whose education has been continually disrupted for nearly three years. The latest announcements that all school testing in primary and secondary schools will go ahead as normal in its usual format fill schools with dread as we are dealing with an increased number of anxious children, families and staff who are suffering from poor mental health amongst other hardships. Teachers are continually assessing the gaps in learning and there is a large amount of catch up that needs to happen if we stick to the pre-Covid curriculum. There is no one reason for this scenario as every child's progress and needs are unique. Many more families are facing economic and emotional hardships due to Covid, and rising inflation. Unfortunately, school funding is not matching education's current needs and without proper investment, schools will be 'catching up' for many more years to come.

However, as dedicated and committed educators at Dorney School, we face these challenges with our usual resilience, compassion, and pragmatism. In the eye of continual storms, we are the calm and steady ship. We steer strongly towards our vision of equipping our learners with values and knowledge that would serve them well in an unpredictable future. During a pandemic, political and economic turbulence, Dorney School pupils have succeeded in, among many other things,

- Raising £3000 for Children in Need
- Becoming national anti-bullying ambassadors
- Getting silver in a national scheme for healthy lifestyle
- Participating in regional sports events e.g. swimming gala
- Participating in National Holocaust Remembrance Day
- Participating in Children's mental health week and safer internet day
- Welcoming author Adele Bates, a specialist in building positive relationships

At the time of writing, we are also looking forward to celebrating World Book Day and welcoming Laura Henry Allain, creator of the characters Jojo and Gran Gran (award winning CBeebies series) and author of My Skin Your Skin. Laura was awarded the MBE for her services to education.



Our pupils will also be participating in upcoming events such as British Science week, Red Nose Day and our school council has plans to work closely with the local parish to serve our local community.

We truly are a Little Village School with a Big Heart, and we have big ambitions for all our children. We will continue to face challenges throughout our journey in life, and especially at school. It is how we deal with these challenges that matter most. We stand up stronger, wiser, and smile brighter. We line our pockets, not just with pebbles and conkers, but with wisdom, perseverance, friendship and the knowledge that everyone is equal in law, and it is our responsibility to ensure equal rights are laid in the very foundations of our school community.

**Come and see us in action on our open events on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March and Monday 21st March 2022. Both events start promptly at 10am and will last an hour. You will be guided on a personal tour of our school, ending in the hall where there will be light refreshments and a question-and-answer session. Please email [office@dorneyschool.co.uk](mailto:office@dorneyschool.co.uk) to book a place as these are limited. Let us know which date you prefer and who will accompany you on the visit. Please be aware the dates are subject to change depending on any further rise in Covid transmission, but you will be notified by email if this happens. Do contact the school if you are unable to attend our guided tours and we can arrange school visits where possible. We look forward to welcoming you to our school.**

**Mrs S Lee**  
Headteacher



**Handa's Surprise** – The ever-popular children's book in Reception. The fruit was donated by **The Community Champion, Petra at Tesco Taplow**



Some artwork for Children's mental health week

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## **DORNEY PARISH CELEBRATES THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE**

**FROM MIDDAY ON FRIDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2022 AT  
THE PALMER ARMS, VILLAGE ROAD, DORNEY**

**HOG ROAST, BURGERS AND SAUSAGES, VEGAN  
OPTION, SALADS, STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM**

**ADULTS £15, CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER £7**

**TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON EVENTBRITE IN  
ADVANCE UNTIL 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022.**

**MORE DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE  
APRIL, MAY AND JUNE EDITIONS OF DORNEY  
PARISH NEWS AND ON EVENTBRITE**

## COPING WITH A CRISIS

As we approach the second anniversary, and the ending, of restrictions to protect the country from the effects of Covid-19, I have been wondering about how the impact on our daily lives compares with that experienced during the last major crisis, the Second World War. There's a



very good book which tells us how ordinary people felt during that war, in their own words. Called "Blitz Spirit 1939-1945", it's a compilation of extracts from the Mass Observation Archive, to which contributors recorded their thoughts and experiences in diaries. It's a great way to discover what was going on.

In a time of crisis, Government exercises powers that would seem unthinkable in normal times. One of the most painful aspects of our present situation has been the enforced separation from loved ones for long periods, which left people isolated and lonely. At the same time, home working or furlough combined with home schooling meant families spending more time than usual in each other's company. At the start of the war, mass evacuation brought over a million people out of the cities where bombing was expected into safer areas. Many of these were children, parted from their parents but accompanied by their teachers. In Dorney, as in many other places, the children were divided up round local families, and the school adapted by teaching one group in the

morning and another in the afternoon. As the war went on, many adults also found themselves living away from home – office workers evacuated with their work, armed forces separated from their families for long periods. Rather than spending all their time with their closest family as many of us have done during the pandemic, the war meant long years of separation from nearest and dearest. One MO diarist wondered what effect the widespread break-up of family life might have on the next generation. There was, however, no restriction on weddings and funerals like we have endured.

In September 1939, nightly blackouts were introduced, which made it illegal to show even a chink of light from a window after dark. This was strictly enforced, and fines were imposed for transgression. People hated the blackouts, which converted the winter months into a very dark time. Vehicles were not allowed to use lights at night, which was the cause of many fatal accidents, and so a limit of 20mph was introduced in built-up areas. A Dorney Reach man was fined £3 in February 1941 for driving at excessive speed during the blackout.

If you were happy to find your way around in the complete darkness of the blackout, there were plenty of opportunities for entertainment during the war. Theatres and cinemas were initially closed when war began, but quickly reopened and stayed open throughout, along with pubs, restaurants and dance halls.

It took some time before the wearing of masks or other face coverings was brought in to reduce transmission of the Covid virus. By contrast, gas masks were issued to every adult and child at the outbreak of war. Designed to protect against an attack by gas, your cumbersome gas mask in its cardboard box was supposed to be carried with you at all times, and fines could be imposed for failure to do this. Over time, attitudes became more relaxed. It could hardly have been imagined, at the end of the war, that failure to wear a mask would be similarly liable to a fine seventy-five years later.

One feature of the beginning of the war familiar to us today was the phenomenon of panic buying. Then, hoarding was made illegal, but this did not stop the self-inflicted creation of

shortages, and shop assistants were abused when customers couldn't buy all they wanted. In January 1940 the need to ensure fair distribution of limited supplies led to the gradual introduction of rationing, of foodstuffs and later of clothing. We may have had nowhere to wear new clothes during lockdown; our forebears struggled to get new clothes anyway! To help with supply of fresh fruit and vegetables, the wartime Government encouraged people to "dig for victory", sacrificing their lawns and flower beds, and many did so. It was perhaps different motivation that encouraged the increased popularity of gardening during lockdown, such that packets of vegetable seeds sold out in the spring of 2020.

Rationing also applied to petrol, from September 1939, and motor fuel was withdrawn completely for private use in 1942. It was this that curtailed people's ability to travel for leisure, unlike the lockdown requirement to stay at home. The result was however the same – a significant reduction in road traffic. During the war, public transport remained an option, but the trains were very crowded, not least with troops travelling around, and liable to be disrupted by enemy action. The diarists were critical of those they thought were obtaining fuel on the black market or going on holiday unnecessarily.

In the early months of the pandemic, this household routinely tuned in to the 5pm press conference to hear the latest statistics and any news of future measures. Perhaps this was driven by uncertainty about the future course of events, trying to find something to hold on to. Such behaviour echoed the wartime habit of listening to the frequent information broadcasts on the radio. Then as now, people were sometimes sceptical about the Government's policy or approach, and they grew weary of the restrictions on their daily lives as the years dragged on.

One characteristic which shone through during the war and again in the spring of 2020 was the willingness of people to help each other by volunteering, either formally or informally. In September 1939, many Dorney residents were involved in the voluntary effort in such roles as air raid warden, auxiliary police driver, evacuation officer, Red Cross helper, ambulance driver, special constable, nursing auxiliary, stretcher bearer. Some had specialist skills to offer; others helped with organisation or passing messages. The same spirit of helpfulness has been in evidence during the pandemic, from offering to fetch shopping for those isolating at home to taking part in the vaccination programme. No doubt the same support will materialise for Dorney's emergency plan.



I wanted to focus in this article on the changes to normal life resulting from the war and the pandemic, but it would be wrong not to acknowledge the appalling loss of life underlying both events. During the Second World War, out of a population of 47.76 million the UK lost 450,900 citizens to the conflict, of whom 67,200 were civilians. As of 21 February 2022, the number of deaths with Covid-19 on the death certificate stood at 181,424, compared with a population (estimated June 2021) of 67.08 million. After the end of the war, Dorney – like other villages and towns – commemorated twelve servicemen who had died by creating the war memorial near the common. Will we, I wonder, in due course, decide to mark our losses to Covid in some way?

**Virginia Silvester**



I can · I laugh · I will

# I am Eton End

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Preparatory Day School  
for children aged rising 3 to 11

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

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01753 541075 • admin@etonend.org

www.etonend.org  
#WeAreEtonEnd

## 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

## PARISH COUNCIL

### Dorney Emergency Plan – Residents' Skills and Resources



For the Dorney Emergency Plan that is in preparation, it is suggested by Bucks Council that we identify volunteers who may be able to help in an emergency / event. These may be individuals with specific skills or organisations or businesses who would be willing to support the community in some way.

Voluntary organisations / groups / clubs may also be willing to help.

Dorney Parish Council would like to maintain a confidential list of people with useful skills (with their consent).

Together with the skills and experience offered by the above, an equipment list, including who owns it, is key to the whole plan.

Dorney Parish Council would be most grateful if you would complete the form on our website – [www.dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk) - and send it to the Clerk.

Your information will be held confidentially and will only be passed to those people responsible for the Emergency Plan.

#### **Relevant Skills that we are seeking (in alphabetical order) are:**

Doctor, Electrician, First Aider (e.g. St John, Red Cross), Farmer, Fire Fighter, Mechanic, Nurse, Plumber, Radio amateur, Social Worker (qualified), Vet, Volunteer (e.g. Women's Institute /WRVS)

If you tick any of the Relevant Skills on the form on the website, we will contact you to better understand your skills and how you might wish to be involved in an Emergency situation.

#### **Relevant Resources that we are seeking (in alphabetical order) are:**

4 x 4 Vehicles, Alternative Water Source or Operating Well, Boats (Rowing/Canoes/Ribs etc), Chain Saws, Heating & Fuel Stocks (Authorised Fuel/Logs/Red Diesel), Lighting (Free-standing), Portable Generators, Sandbags & Sand, Substantial Ropes (>10m), Tractors / Trailers, Water Pumps, Two – way Radios.

If you tick any of the Relevant Resources on the form on the website, we will contact you in order to ascertain the specifications of the item, whether you would prefer to operate it yourself or you would permit a skilled operator to use it and any other conditions.

We thank you, in advance, for your assistance on this important matter.

**Ruth Senior, Parish Clerk**

# JOY MORRISSEY MP

*Standing up for the Beaconsfield Constituency*



## Green Belt: How to save the lungs of London

My top priority for 2022 is protecting our green spaces and particularly preserving our Green Belt land in the south of the county. The last two years have taught us how precious these spaces are, their importance to the character of our communities, and the vital role they play in all of our health and wellbeing.



**Joy Morrissey in Dorney**

We are uniquely placed in south Buckinghamshire, in that the green spaces that mean so much to us, are also incredibly important to our neighbours in London. If you live in the west of the city and want to get out into the wonder of the English countryside, the chances are you will end up in Buckinghamshire.

Without the green spaces that we provide there will be nowhere for people to go, nowhere for London to breathe. In many ways we are the

lungs of London in Buckinghamshire, but we

can only continue to be so if we have proper protection for our Green Belt.

My campaign is centred around getting more protections in place for our Green Belt. We are lucky to have some fantastic local assets in the south of the county such as the Colne Valley Regional Park and Burnham Beeches. These are the building blocks for securing our green spaces in the future.

I was delighted, a few weeks ago, when the Prime Minister agreed to help me secure more protections for the Colne Valley Regional Park at PMQs. I think the best way to do this, and to secure the future of the lungs of London, is to extend the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to cover the Colne Valley Regional Park, Burnham Beeches and the surrounding villages.

### Joy Morrissey MP

Member of Parliament for Beaconsfield  
Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Prime Minister

House of Commons | London | SW1A 0AA | 020 7219 8708

Disraeli House | 12 Aylesbury End | Beaconsfield | Buckinghamshire | HP9 1LW | 01494 977505

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## DORNEY REWILDING: A PERSPECTIVE



Rewilding – what a marvellous idea, our very own Dorney nature reserve! There's a lot to like about Thames Water's plans for the field at the end of the gardens on the south side of Harcourt Road. But a few questions do come to mind...

Where did the consultants get the idea that this is former grazing land? Old maps which you can find on the Dorney History Group website show that at least by about 1800 the field was used for arable crops, except for a narrow strip of meadow alongside the riverbank. This was confirmed by the tithe apportionment of 1840. The land was still arable when put up for sale in 1919, and indeed when we moved to Dorney Reach in 1981, when it was growing field beans and maize for animal feed. A few years later, Thames Water took the bottom strip of the field for water extraction, and the remainder became grassland. The field was fenced around with a post and wire fence, some metres in from the perimeter, and for a few years was grazed by ponies – some said polo ponies, but I couldn't say. This limited period of grazing is all that I'm aware of in the last two centuries.



The ponies left, and the field quickly became a mix of tree seedlings and scrub, turning into a wild place all on its own. In 2015, a resident took on the field as a tenant with a view to providing horse grazing and the land was roughly cleared. This project did not however materialise, and since then the vegetation has grown unchecked. It may well be that the land has been the subject of a grazing tenancy for a number of years, but that does not mean it was grazing land, and certainly not meadow. Its underlying nature is cultivated land, and I imagine this means

the seedbank in the soil is quite different from grassland. Does this, I wonder, affect the species of flora which rewilding is intended to encourage?

Has the rewilding project carried out any survey of the fauna already using the site? Surely this is important to provide a benchmark for measuring the success of the scheme in the future. There are many creatures already living in or using the field – roe deer, foxes, rabbits, badgers, harvest mice, slow worms, grass snakes, pheasants, hunting owls and other birds of prey. Has any assessment been made of the impact on these species, and others, of the disturbance which might be caused by the clearing and planting involved in rewilding? Has the project looked at Peter Tyler's biodiversity survey?

I'm aware of the benefits of grazing large herbivores to develop particular habitats. I do wonder however whether this would be feasible in Dorney Reach. It would certainly require good fencing to be installed all round, and what about interactions between livestock and the many dogs which currently enjoy walks in the field? Might it be possible instead to encourage soil disturbance by the badgers who already visit?

Has any consideration been given to adding one or more ponds to the site? Water is an attraction to many different species and would enhance the visual appearance of the area. The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, who have been working to regenerate Salt Hill stream in Slough, are experts in this field and have a new initiative to encourage people to build ponds or mini-wetlands in their back gardens or other local spaces. Has the project talked to other organisations promoting good conservation practice, such as the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust or the RSPB?

What are the implications of the plan for access to the field by residents of Dorney Reach whose gardens back onto it? For as long as anyone can remember, there have been gates into the field through our boundary fences. While there is no formal right of way, informally householders have always been permitted to enter the field from their gardens and make their way along the field edge down towards the river.

It would be good to get answers to these questions. Even better would be an ongoing dialogue between the rewilding project and residents, to the mutual benefit of both. I'm sure we all want this exciting new development to work!

**Virginia Silvester**

# ***Dorney Horticultural Society***

Spring Supper Evening  
with Guest Speaker

Friday March 18th 7:30pm - 10.00 pm

Dear members and friends of the horticultural society, as you can see we are back.

We will be holding our first event of the year in the village hall, Dorney Reach. Entrance is £10.00 per person and the evening will kick off with a splendid buffet supper (all home-made). This will be followed by a fascinating talk on gardening by Stefan White a local expert on gardening and gardening history.

Members who paid their subscriptions back in 2020, this will carry over and you will receive your new membership cards through your door shortly. New members are very welcome, subscription is £10.00 per year and this covers the whole household.

Why not bring a few friends and make up your own table, reserve your places with our secretary Peter Bowman at [ddhs@btinternet.com](mailto:ddhs@btinternet.com) or any committee member.

Very best wishes to all on behalf of the horticultural society committee and we hope to see you on the 18th.

Ron Alsworth - Chairman

## DULCE ET DECORUM ON DORNEY COMMON

*Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori (Horace)*

Just as the pandemic has a seasonal remission, one gasp later, the Russian tanks trudge ruthlessly across Ukrainian borders to trample and bleak the future. 'It is sweet and fitting to die for the homeland', adopted by Wilfred Owen, but originally penned by Horace, a Roman lyric poet. As the Ukraine's brave citizens stand solid to protect their country, sadly, it is no longer a joy to die for the fatherland, a futile waste, whilst a tangible horror sweeps across Europe. Our hearts bleed as we watch the media bring the brutality to our front rooms. A brutal man, who sits in a square of red blood, snuffs out the lives of many innocent victims.

Having worked (assisted in a very loose way) for a few years in Moscow in the 90's, (my boyfriend at the time a ballet promoter) coming and going quite frequently, meeting with business partners (sitting in on conversations), and socially mixing, it seems that the flower that gradually opened to bare its stamen, has petals which now seem to be decaying and brown, drop nearer to the ground as these invasive actions proceed. Our colleagues from various ballet organisations, Bolshoi and the Russian State Ballet, both dance just off Red Square, were proud, dignified people, with artistic perfection and hearts that are dedicated to their Art and country.



At that time, the Artistic Director was an imposing, refined, and measured man called Vyatcheslav Gordeev, (Slava), previously married to Nadezhda Pavlova. When I first met him, he was Art Director for the Bolshoi but left to concentrate on his own company, the Russian State Ballet, (around the corner) where I had the great fortune to witness some of the loveliest modern interpretation ballet. His

home address was number 1, Gorky Street, just off Red Square, and one day we were invited for lunch. He served up a suckling pig, and continuously topped up the shot glasses with excessively strong Russian vodka. Now, there was a problem here, as I am not a big drinker, so it would be fair to say that his house plants may have been a bit tipsy by the time we left.

The Bolshoi Theatre was a hugely interesting place, housed in a building that was not in good repair externally, but remained internally wonderfully decadent, unaltered with its charming uniqueness. Inside the auditorium was beautifully grand, the boxes sumptuous, but the main seating furnished with individual wooden chairs. Luckily, we were fortunate to have a box, and the luxury of soft seats, to view many of their wonderful productions.



One evening, December 1994 (I still have the newspaper clip from The Moscow Times) there was a demonstration before curtain up for

'Giselle', the artistes refusing to start the show (beginners to stage) for 20 minutes as a protest over contract changes which meant working even longer hours. The audience stood up (from their wooden chairs) and applauded support in a reserved fashion, for the entire 20 minutes. It hit the headlines as it was unheard of to disrupt a performance and was called an 'embarrassment'.

Having the opportunity to explore, I was shown that lying directly beneath the main stage, on a lower floor, was a full-size rehearsal stage identical to the one above. This is where the daily rigorous regimes and rehearsals take place, for many extended hours, until perfection and beyond is achieved. This is where I met his right-hand helper, a fabulous kindly lady, Olga Kokhanchuk, a dancing coach, who travelled on the tours to mother the artistes. I had fun one day, when one of the office girls, Marina Starostina, invited me to go have a dance on the main stage, so tramping with my size 7 snow boots centre stage, twirled in an ungainly fashion whilst hoots of laughter emanated from the wings. These were Boris Yeltsin days, his ideology aligned with liberalism.

This is not support for Putin's actions, but huge sorrow for the wonderful people who are now trapped in his administration.

Following the arrival of Arwen, Barra, Carrie, Dudley and Eunice, it seems quite obvious this is an alphabetical storm in a teacup, which leaves us mystified exactly who decides on the name. Apparently, the Met office collaborate with Met Eireann and the Royal Netherland Met Institute to make a final decision compiled from choices sent in by the General Public from these three countries. A name is then given if the storm flags up an amber or red warning. Is this to soften and endear us to the violent forces that tear down our greenhouses and flatten our wooden fence panels? If your name begins with Q, U, X, Y or Z (Queenie, Ursula, Xavier, Yvonne, or Zena), don't hold your breath as these five letters are never used!

As March arrives the weather seems to become more lenient with us, the sun shining occasionally, so my husband Dave rushes out to mow eleventy-eight stripes on the lawn, whilst I wrestle an overgrown honeysuckle bush. Not only had it been swept 45 degrees sideways by Eunice, but it had also quadrupled its size since being planted two years previously. My good friend, Elaine, advised me to invest in a Hori Hori knife, which apparently is a very effective Japanese way of trimming large shrubs and other overgrown areas. It hasn't arrived yet, but the shears did a fair job of trimming in the interim.

Here in the village, new shoots have started to sprout, as Dorney & District Horticultural Society firm up their dates and organise events. Our first event is on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> of March, kicking off our 2022 programme with a Spring Supper Evening with Speaker, doors open at 7:30pm at Dorney Village Hall. This is an exciting moment, as the pandemic halted activity for such a long time, but it promises to be a warm and delightful evening, so do try and come along. You don't have to be a member to attend as you can join on the night. It does help to let us know food numbers so email or text any committee member (my email is down below). This village group needs all the support you can give it - remember, use it or lose it! We look forward to seeing you.

**Kristina Perkins**

Kristina.perkins555@outlook.com

# Dorney Village Hall

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



Dorney Village Hall has a large main area with stage, a smaller annexed room, and kitchen. It has recently been redecorated throughout.

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

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

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

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

Fixed stage with curtains: 4.5 x 6m

Annexe: 9.8 x 3.5m, ceiling height 2m

Licensed to seat 100 people

Children's tables and chairs available

Beechwood suspended dance floor

75 space free car park

**From £13 per hour (minimum of 3 hours) for Dorney Parish Residents**

Email: [enquiries@dorneyvillagehall.com](mailto:enquiries@dorneyvillagehall.com)

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

## Spotlight on Dorney Folk - The Many Colours of Joy: Mo Voaden meets Joy Richmond

Joy Richmond, 82, has lived a fairy-tale 'rags to riches' life.

Wealth, or the pursuit of wealth, however, isn't what drives her.

Joy is the epitome of kindness. She exudes a special quality that comforts and lifts the spirits. An hour in her company left me feeling refreshed, revived and ready to face the world.

Born in Ruislip, Joy was the second of six girls, the eldest of whom was handicapped. Her sister's disability affected the whole family, and Joy spent a lot of time caring for her, learning patience and resilience from her mother.

'There were only three daughters when father went off to war. His homecoming present for mother was twin girls. Ten years later the last baby was born.

'I think my parents kept going, hoping for a boy!'

Joy's father worked long hours, mending roads. It was a hard life and left him tired and short-tempered.

'As a child, I thought he could have been kinder, but I had no idea of the difficulties he faced.'

It was the proudest day of Joy's life when she won a place at the grammar school in Wembley, and an unusual achievement for someone from her background. Her grandfather bought her first uniform but after that, she made do with hand-me-downs.

Did you mind? I asked.

'Not at all. I felt privileged. We wore a felt hat in winter and a straw boater in summer. Even children I grew up with called me 'madam' in the street. No, I didn't mind until a girl told the class I wore 'second hand clothes' and word spread.' Joy thought for a moment. 'I took a little while to understand that it wasn't something to be ashamed of. Poverty was a fact.'

Joy's faith shone through when she spoke about the importance of not judging others. 'We must suspend judgment if we want to be truly kind. It's not for us to judge the right or wrong of another person's situation, but to recognise the opportunity to be kind.'

She's very proud of her two daughters who've grown into kind and generous women, and her late husband, Ken.

Was it love at first sight when you met? I asked.

'Oh no. I was a clerk and he was the head accountant who was going out with a very sophisticated P.A. She wore make-up and lipstick, which my father prohibited. Why Ken chose me I'll never know!'

Joy and Ken arrived in Dorney Reach in 1966 after saving to buy a house. Their marriage was long and happy, and he introduced her to cricket, which she grew to love. They travelled to matches all over the world, and she learnt to score. Ken was chair of the parish council for years and wrote a lively column for Dorney Parish News.

Joy has an eye for colour – as shown in her beautiful patchwork quilts, her décor, and cards she creates for friends. Three brightly painted nutcrackers stand above her fireplace, and colourful prints adorn the mantelpiece.

'I soaked up books as a child, particularly Dickens where you can find plenty of colourful personalities and descriptions.'

Her favourite character is the Artful Dodger ('Oliver Twist'), renowned for his cunning as a pickpocket, and leader of a gang of thieves on the streets of London. She likes him, despite his criminal tendencies, because he cares for his gang and treats the children with kindness.

Joy believes in equality, which was one of her reasons for serving on South Bucks District Council for nearly ten years. When Peregrine Palmer encouraged her to stand, she told him, 'Peregrine – the peasants have learnt to read,' meaning the world had changed and people have become equal.

Her main reason for joining the Council was to oppose Eton School's plans to build the rowing lake.

'They planned to use agricultural land, earmarked (because of its size) as a landing strip for planes from Heathrow to land in an emergency.'

With Eton planning further development, Joy hopes the local residents will enter into constructive dialogue so both parties can work together.

'I chose not to join the parish council,' Joy said. 'Because Ken and I sometimes had different views, and we didn't want to clash in public. Talk about airing your dirty laundry!'

Serving on the council's housing committee was interesting, and she enjoyed visiting sites all over the district.

Does anything stand out? I asked.

'I was always shocked when people lied. Once we inspected some stables that the owner swore were derelict, but there was a new TV aerial on top! And a number of houses in Gerrards Cross were spectacular. Camp Hill, in particular. But the people were the same as you and me.'

When their children were born, Joy took a part-time job as a secretary in Ascot, bringing the respective baby along in a carrycot. 'My form of 'hybrid working'. It was a wonderful time. A group of us with young children went to the village hall in Dorney, which was an old wooden hut [a former army barracks]. There was a real sense of community. There still is, but there aren't so many young people and children now.'

Joy was a prize-winning gardener and found time to help establish a ladies' social club.

'It was a good chance to meet others and listen to some interesting talks.'

We were back to colour when I asked Joy for her favourite book. 'The Color Purple' she said, without hesitation. Its publication sparked controversy and the novel was banned from schools in the US 1984 - 2013 for different reasons, including religious objections, homosexuality, and African history.

'It shows how to rise above adversity to find happiness and fulfilment, and I enjoy reading about different and diverse cultures.'

She remembers with great fondness the American soldiers who threw the girls gum (as well as kisses), and a strange fruit called a banana.

'And the first gentleman of colour I saw was a Sikh selling door to door. Mother invited him in for tea and cakes and explained that as we were poor and lived in council houses, he was unlikely to make any sales.'



To finish, I asked my usual quick-fire questions:

Do you prefer:

- Chocolate or cheese? Definitely cheese!
- Wine, spirits or beer? Wine please.
- Letter or email? Letters. I love receiving Christmas cards and trying to guess the sender.

And one life tip?

‘Collaborate. Talk. See the other person’s point of view. And remember to be kind.’

I was about to leave when Joy said, ‘Look. There are people at the bottom of my garden. They probably think it’s part of the field. Leave them - they don’t do any harm – like the daisies on the lawn.’

**Mo Voaden**

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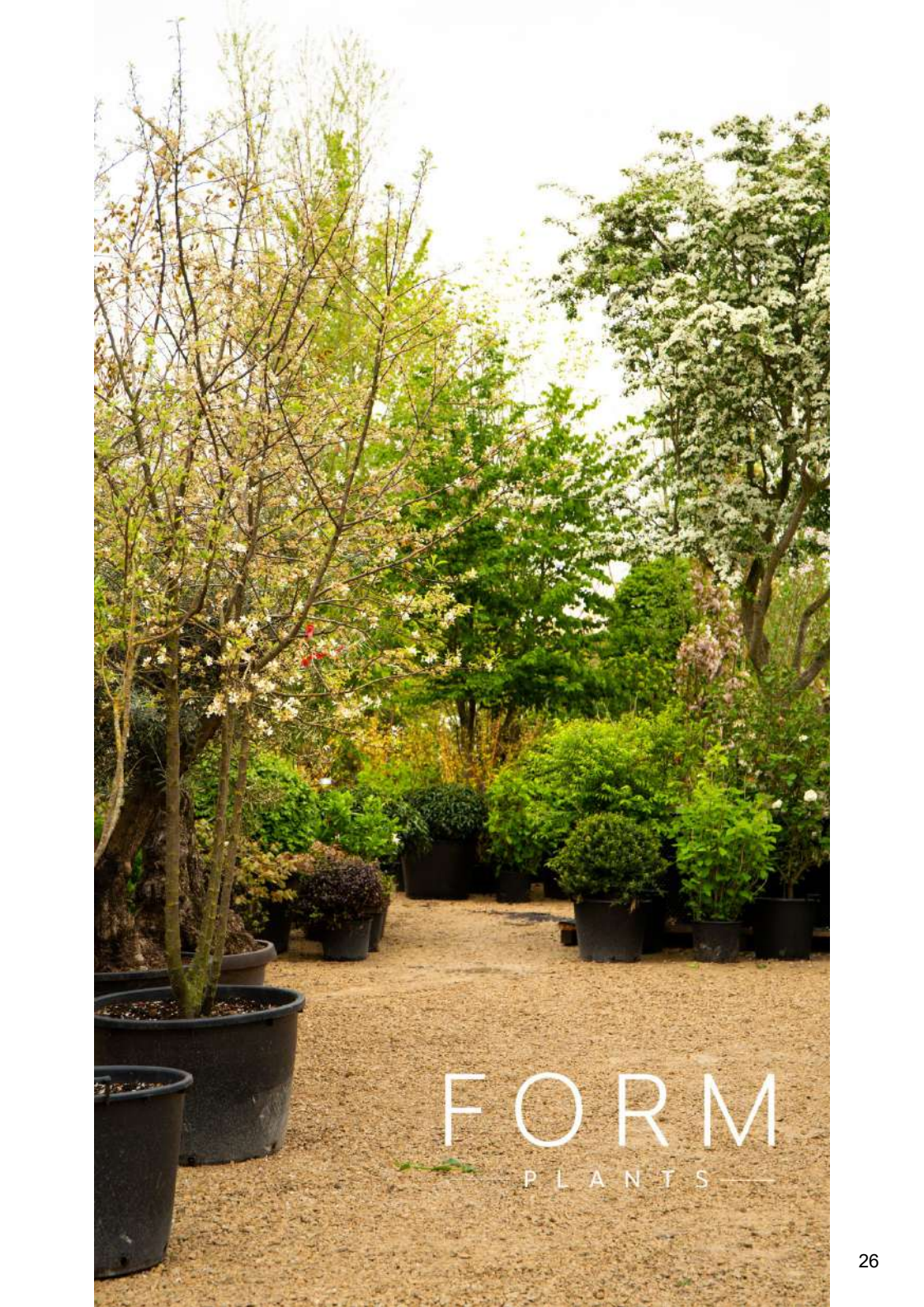
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FORM  
PLANTS —

## The Luck of the Draw

You've all met my new friends Dudley, Eunice and Franklin. My relationship with them was brief but violent, as I suspect was yours, Franklin being kind enough to take several fence panels from my fence and stack them untidily in another part of the garden. My lovely neighbours and I now unwittingly share a sizeable plot, the main beneficiaries of this arrangement being Emily and Katie, my two roving cats that no longer have the inconvenience of having to climb the fence.

So, whilst Dorney was being slammed by the three amigos, half term loomed and the glorious Cheryl needed a break from her charges, as did I, and we decided on a holiday.

What can you do in a week when turmoil reigns weatherwise, and Mr. C still makes me think twice about flying anywhere, for fear of only being allowed back to spend ten days in a viciously expensive guarded room?

So, flying to somewhere hot?

No.

Perhaps going on a local cruise?

Once having been on a ferry from Hamburg to Harwich with my truck strapped down on the cargo deck below as we battled through a massive storm in the North Sea, I wasn't keen to repeat the experience, especially as I would pay for the privilege and not BE paid for it as before.

So no!

Got it!!!

A seaside holiday in February, preferably in an open topped car!

"What about the three amigos?" I hear you ask.

"Wimps," I say. "Frightened of a little puff of wind?"

And so we loaded what we could into the tiny boot of my classic Mercedes convertible (OK so I'm a poser! And showing off with it. Shocking!) and, hood very much up, drove through hammering rain and high winds to Exeter where, in a brief lull, we had a magical evening sitting round a fire in my son's garden discussing important issues in life with remarkable nine and eleven year grandchildren, matters the like of which so often arise while gazing into the flames and embers, as owls hooted in the dark and silent trees that surround their home.

A late start next day, necessitated by the effects of beer consumed the night before, and a sad farewell, meant that we arrived at our hotel that evening to start our tour of the Lizard Peninsular.

The hood stayed firmly up as we drove through seventy miles an hour wind, parked near the first beach and walked away from the shelter of the high cliffs to be whacked as the full force hit us, staggering around like a couple of drunks, holding onto hats. We braved it to the cliffs and huge waves rolled in crashing onto the rocks, shooting water eighty feet into the air and covering our grinning faces in salt water. Before I had left, I saw news footage of idiots standing on beaches irresponsibly watching the huge seas. I thought, as I suspect you did, "Idiots! What on Earth do they think they're doing!" and there we were, being irresponsible.

Other brave souls were doing the same, and we all enjoyed the shouted conversations above the din, still relishing the freedom to meet and mingle now that Mr.C appears to have released us from his grip.

We went to Mullion in the early evening, prematurely darkening in the storm. I knew it well as a small protected safe harbour for the thriving small fishing boats there, but even in this tiny harbour, the sea crashed around the walls and up the slipway, trying to claw back the boats that had secured at the top.

A young couple crouched in the lee of the sea wall, a bottle of beer in hand, and we smiled at each other guiltily. Others there joined in the spectacle as we all watched mesmerised.

The following day after a late breakfast we found a small coffee shop in Helston. An elderly couple sat on stools gazing over the rim of their cup out of the window as we entered. We ordered drinks and our host asked,

“Where are you from?”

“A village near Maidenhead,” I replied. “Actually, it’s nearer Slough, but we don’t mention that” I added cruelly.

The lady at the window spun round at speed. “Did you say Slough?” she enquired. “I taught in Slough years back. We lived in Taplow. My husband worked in Taplow Court.”

They moved to our table and sat for a delightful half hour or more while we discovered that the husband was in his nineties and worked in the same company at the same time as my late father; the time whizzed by and later long walks along the spectacular cliff tops and in the days following looking up old friends similarly inspired wonderful conversation and memories.

As the week flew by, we explored new parts of the Lizard and came upon St. Anthony, a tiny hamlet at the end of a steep sided wood covered creek complete with thatched cottages, a handsome Edwardian pile and a Heavenly church. The sun was setting, the quiet was revitalising, and we sat, hand in hand like teenagers drinking it all in.

“This is heaven,” murmured Cheryl as we watched in the calm of the recently departed mayhem.

“Isn’t it lovely,” I agreed, watching birds swoop low over the rippling water, not wanting the moment to pass. “Aren’t we lucky.”

She smiled contentedly as we reluctantly eased ourselves from the rock on which we had been sitting, and wandered back to the car, anticipating a drive through the dark twisting lanes, hood down with the heater on full.

I turned on the ignition and the car radio rudely interrupted the peace.

Russia had invaded Ukraine that day. We sat in silent rage listening to reports both desperately sad and frightening. I could not turn it off, drawn like a moth to the flame and felt guilty that I had enjoyed this peace while three days drive away, people like us were running from their homes clutching children and anything they could carry, wondering no doubt, if they would ever return.

Lucky indeed.

Stay safe.

**Mike Quincey**

# DORNEY PLAYGROUND NEEDS

# YOU!

**After thousands of voluntary hours and having raised over £170,000 Dorney has a toddler and junior playground, a multi-use games area and a managed and maintained tennis court that Dorney can be proud of.**

The hard work of fundraising and building is complete, and it is now time for the current committee to stand down and hand over the running and maintenance of this valuable community asset to a new team. We are looking for volunteers to step forwards to form a new committee thus ensuring the continuation of these facilities that so many parents, carers and children enjoy.



**Please email Leanne ([leanne@kittel.co.uk](mailto:leanne@kittel.co.uk)) to register your interest in ensuring that these facilities can continue to be enjoyed by so many. Thank you.**

Past members: Leon Williams, Andrew Purdie, Zoe Brooker, Trudi Harwood, Kelly, Alison Michael, Jo Ellis  
Current members: Leanne Kittel, Emma Stanton, Miranda Scott, Lyndsey Oliver, Jane Dawson, Kris Purdie, Mary Nelson, Adam Seels

## LET'S TALK ABOUT SOIL .... For the next 100 days

I am writing this on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February whilst watching the effects of storm Eunice from my office window. I think we are all aware of the changing weather patterns we are experiencing on our planet and the more extreme these events have become over recent years. I listened to a podcast a couple of weeks ago titled "Humanity's Gravest Crisis – Which No One Is Talking About". The take home message was an initiative to bring awareness to the threat of losing the planet's healthy cultivatable soil within the next 45 to 60 years - approximately 100 more global harvests - by talking about soil for 100 days from 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – the Spring Equinox.

Discussions at COP 26 in Glasgow in November 2021 focused on fossil fuel burning, carbon emissions and pollution. There is no doubt that fossil fuel burning, and carbon emissions need to be reduced. Both are important and have to be curtailed. But how can you address climate change, how you can address sustainability on the planet, without addressing SOIL?

Healthy soil is disappearing fast. Agriculture, deforestation and other factors have degraded and eroded topsoil at alarming rates. Globally, 52% of agricultural land is already degraded. Much of what remains is stripped of organic matter resulting in dramatic declines in agricultural productivity of the soil.

Soil is the habitat in, and on, which zillions of lives thrive, including humans. Soil is a living entity and as such requires care to stay alive. Compost – green organic garden matter is key to that care.

*"Soil is the biggest ecosystem on the planet and so few people know anything about it. One teaspoon of healthy soil contains more microbes than people on earth."*

**(Quote: Jane Goodall, Conservationist and Primatologist.)**



Soil is home to a quarter of all Earth's species and is a highly sophisticated living ecosystem. It can hold 65% of the world's fresh water. And it provides 95% of the food we eat. It is one of our most precious resources – and when we look after it, soil can make a huge contribution towards tackling climate change. Healthy soils act as a carbon sink by drawing carbon down into the soil and storing it – they have the potential to store more carbon than all the world's plants and forests combined. Healthy soil promotes healthy vegetation, and healthy vegetation, by the process of photosynthesis, removes carbon dioxide naturally.

Scientists agree 32-36% of global warming could be due to agricultural activity, especially ploughed soils being left open during summers with no shade and no cover or any living crop on top of it. The absolute minimum of organic content required to keep the soil alive is 3%. Rain forests' organic content in the soil is over 70%. The microbial life in the first top 12 to 15 inches of topsoil is the basis of our existence. Soil becomes sand if you take away the organic content.

## What can we do to regenerate our soil?

*“From a very early age, my father (a vegetable gardener), taught me ‘the soil is your livelihood, look after it!’ All my life I have become obsessed with Soil Structure – its compaction, friability and fertility. A loose soil is able to breathe, drain and is essential to growing, hence the adaption by up- to-date gardeners of raised borders, a system of the commercial Bed system as used by Growers.*

*In the 1920’s, (the horse era), my forefathers had contracts with large West London stables (J Lyons’ Cadby Hall, Knightsbridge Barracks), to clear their manure daily. This, before the days of artificial fertilizers, was used to bring their Middlesex soil to such a high standard in order to produce such early excellent crops of fruit and vegetables. This was a practise I used in my tenure at West Town Farm. Hence, its success. So with your gardens – Keep Off when wet and muddy. Add copious quantities of compost to encourage the worms and living organisms. Dig in green manure and enjoy the fruits of your labour. Bon appetit!”*

**Quote: John Barker, Dorney Resident and Agricultural Farmer, Advisor to RHS.**

Open soils ripped open by ploughing, open to sunlight, are the basis of destruction of microbial life, so focus should be on agriculture and seeing that land should be under shade as much as possible - natural grasses, herbs, bushes, trees. Farmers need to be committed to keeping their soil alive and need economic support to achieve this. Farmers are suffering right



now, so the responsibility for the care of the soil needs to be supported by governments. There is a movement to encourage the government of 192 countries to bring in a law of a minimum 3% organic content in agricultural soil. 6% or higher, would be preferable, but 3% is a starting point.

Organic content comes from only two sources, animals (manure) and green organic material (compost) produced from your land. Fortunately for Dorney residents we have lots of this available from local farmers and stables. Let’s get using it!

Rewilding and biodiversity are to be encouraged. Thank you to the enthusiastic local volunteers who came out to lend a hand with the planting of the recent projects in Dorney. The Queens Green Canopy project to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee planted by the Palmer family is another great initiative in our village. Thank you to all involved. And whilst we’re on the subject of climate change, please take a moment to offer your skills and /or machinery and other resources to help produce a robust Dorney Emergency Plan for our community. Forms available online or through the Parish Council Clerk.

Soil is not our property – it is our legacy, and it is our responsibility to pass it on to the next generation.

### Joanie Wraight

References: Podcast – Humanity’s Gravest Crisis; The Conscious Planet

<https://www.consciousplanet.org/the-problem/>

5<sup>th</sup> International Agronomy Congress – Agricultural Scientists and Experts;

United Nations; Soil Association; RHS

## **Incompetence, mismanagement and deliberate obfuscation by Thames Water?**

Recent Freedom of Information requests to Thames Water and the Environment Agency regarding the bizarre plan to create a 1.7km outfall of treated water from the Slough Sewage Works to the main Thames River rather than using the part of the Thames River (a.k.a. the Jubilee River) next to the current Sewage Works outlet appear to indicate incompetence, mismanagement and deliberate obfuscation by Thames Water on this issue.

When asked by DPN for *“full details of the changes to the planning permission”* required to enable the nearest part of the Thames (a.k.a. The Jubilee River) to be used, Thames Water replied *“we’ve not determined the full details to the changes to the planning permission that would be required”* and *“It was concluded that a new discharge to the Jubilee River had no real prospect of being delivered within the timeframe required to meet our regulatory commitment of March 2025. As such a detailed review of the changes to the planning permission for the Jubilee River wasn’t considered necessary.”* The Environment Agency responded that *“we haven’t assessed what these are”*. There appears to be nothing stated in the 340 pages of the 1993 Planning Inquiry that would prevent such planning permission being given. The reason for these responses appears to be that nobody in Thames Water has sought to establish what planning permissions might be required or the time that they might take.

When asked by DPN for *“the full details of the potential amendments to the licences, legal obligations and the procedures which the Jubilee River operates”*, Thames Water replied, *“We haven’t determined the full details of the potential amendments to the licences, legal obligations and the procedures which the Jubilee River operates”*. The Environment Agency responded that they hadn’t been asked by Thames Water.

When asked by DPN *“what are the water quality requirements for any new discharge to the Jubilee River?”*, Thames Water replied, *“these would need to be determined through further detailed studies and investigations”*. The Environment Agency replied, *“It is a recommendation of this work that, if the Jubilee River did become a serious candidate for discharge [from Slough Sewage Works] more accurate flow gauging and water quality sampling would be required”*. It appears that Thames Water decided not to examine more accurate flow gauging and water quality sampling processes.

Thames Water asked environmental consultants, Jacobs, to provide a report in order to support a request for an Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Opinion from the local planning authorities, Buckinghamshire Council (South Bucks Area) and Slough Borough Council, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 for the proposed upgrade to the Slough Sewage



Treatment Works and the associated new outfall to the River Thames. Jacobs has carried out an assessment of the scheme on behalf of Thames Water Utilities Limited (TWUL) and prepared the report to enable Buckinghamshire Council (South Bucks Area) and Slough Borough Council to provide a formal Screening Opinion of the scheme.

This comprehensive 233 page report (October 2021) included, as Appendix L, Outfall Option Route Plans. These, apparently, included the following options:

- Route 1 – Romney Lock discharge point (Lock-Southern Gravity Route)
- Route 2 – Romney Lock discharge point (Lock-Northern Gravity Route)
- Route 3 – Boveney Lock discharge point
- Route 4 – Jubilee River Discharge point
- Route 5 - Roundmoor Ditch

Unfortunately for those of us examining the apparent lack of justification of the proposed scheme, the Appendix page was blank except for the heading! Possibly redacted to avoid difficult questions?

The brief comment in the Executive Summary of this report stated: *“Route 3 was considered the preferred route as it ensures compliance by discharging to the River Thames and it is the shortest route diverting flow to the River Thames with the least interaction with stakeholders, infrastructure, and natural features.”*

Clearly, this conclusion would more accurately apply to Route 4 - discharging to the part of the River Thames closest to Slough Sewage Works – the so-called Jubilee River!

The National Rivers Authority (now the Environment Agency) stated at the 1993 Planning Inquiry, regarding water quality, that "the new Flood Relief Channel [Jubilee River] would be a controlled water and **an integral part of the Thames and the NRA would apply the same objectives to it as apply to the River Thames in the same area.**" Page 36 Item 2.185.

The inevitable conclusion that one is forced to reach from the above facts is that there is no need whatsoever for the 1.7km pipe for treated water from Slough Sewage Works to the main part of the River Thames. A 30m pipe into the part of the Thames closest to Slough Sewage Works [a.k.a. The Jubilee River] would be quite adequate, considerably cheaper, less disruptive to the communities of Dorney and Eton Wick and would release significantly less carbon into the atmosphere during construction.

Please start again, Thames Water – and apply some common sense and professionalism to the problem. Surely that’s not too much to ask?

**Peter Bowman and Bill Dax**



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

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

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD  
TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2022, 7.30 P.M. AT DORNEY SCHOOL**

**Present**

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair) Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford

Cllr. Stephen Baker County Cllr. Paul Kelly

Cllr. Anna Palmer joined via ZOOM

Ms Ruth Senior (Parish Clerk) and 9 members of the public (including 6 via zoom)

**Open Forum**

Lyndsey Oliver and Mary Nelson from the Playground Management Group reported that they are still actively looking for new volunteers to take over running the group and welcome anyone getting in touch. The playground insurance was questioned and the Clerk clarified no changes are being made to the level of cover on the insurance policy.

Judith Barnard (Yr 6 teacher at Dorney School) presented a new outreach programme to make more links with the school and the wider community, this positivity was warmly welcomed by the Parish Council.

**PC/14/22 Apologies for absence**

Apologies received from Cllr. Euan MacLennan, Cllr. Robert Stopford and County Cllr. George Sandy.

**PC/15/22 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January and matters arising**

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

There were no matters arising.

**PC/16/22 Co-option of councillor**

We still have one vacancy for a Parish Councillor. Anyone interested, please get in touch with the Clerk (clerk@dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk). Many thanks to Dorney Parish News for continuing the advert.

**PC/17/22 Items of business carried forward**

**17.1 The Orchard Herbs Site**

Elizabeth Aston, the Case Officer at Buckinghamshire Council has reported that a decision on the planning application for the hotel should be made very soon after Highways maintaining their objection.

There is no update on the Certificate of Lawfulness as yet.

A local resident has photo evidence and a log of vehicles moving in and out of the site which has been presented to Buckinghamshire Council.

**17.2 M4 Smart Motorway**

We were joined via ZOOM by Nick Cooper and Jim Stacy to update on the Smart Motorway progress. Nick reported that the completion is still planned for the end of Spring and all Government requirements are being met, including the 'stopped vehicle detection radars'.

Jim updated on the project locally;

Marsh Lane area - Buckinghamshire Council inspected on 14<sup>th</sup> Jan and overall were happy with the works with only one area of thick pavement joints to resolve.

Reinstating areas of private land is now progressing quickly.

Works on a shared cycle and footway into the Village Hall are going ahead plus extending the Marsh Lane to Meadow Way footpath.

Lake End Road area – the overbridge completion is expected on 14<sup>th</sup> March however the expansion joint works will mean a full road closure for up to 2 weeks in late April. A request was made that the Parish Council and Dorney School are kept informed of any road closure dates well in advance.

Overall the planting programme is moving on well and they are awaiting date confirmation from the Environment Agency for the sound proofing barriers.

### **17.3 The Emergency Plan**

Cllr. Palmer reported that Dorney Parish News will continue to promote residents filling in the additional/helpful skills form on the Dorney Parish Council website. The Parish Council would like to reassure anyone that this is fully GDPR compliant.

#### **PC/18/22 Planning**

There has been no update on Dorney Parish planning applications. We have contacted Buckinghamshire Council to offer support from the Parish Council to the objections raised regarding the development of 17 Harcourt Road.

#### **PC/19/22 Finance - To agree/ratify expenditure and income to date**

The cashbook was circulated prior to the meeting and approved.

Following the budget review and Precept application, the Parish Council insurance policy was reviewed to ensure we have adequate cover and are not duplicating insurance, also to remove some items of grounds work machinery no longer in use.

The Clerk clarified that no other changes are being made to the levels of cover on the policy.

#### **PC/20/22 To discuss the upgrade of the Slough Treatment Works and the impact on Dorney**

The link to the Environmental Impact Report for the project is available on the Parish Council website.

Cllr. Westcott-Wreford is liaising with Keith Dolan (Buckinghamshire Council) and Jordan Harris Jones (Thames Water) regarding the traffic implications and possible damage to local roads and in particular the cattle grid.

#### **PC/21/22 To discuss the recommendations for works following the tree survey**

The survey was very positive with only minor work recommended on targeted reduction and dead wood removal. **It was agreed** that the Clerk will seek three quotes for the recommended work to 6 trees.

Some orange fungus has been reported on one tree which will be checked when the works are completed.

#### **PC/22/22 To consider speeding issues around the village**

The Neighbourhood Policing Newsletter reported the some speeding operations happened around Dorney in October.

There are two very active Community Speed Watch Teams now up and running who are looking for volunteers. Please get in touch and we can pass on your details.

The funding application for 2 Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs for the village is being considered by the Community Board.

**It was agreed** that the Clerk will seek information on the failed MVAS which is currently being stored by John Farrell.

#### **PC/23/22 To consider parking issues around the village**

The reported pavement parking issues outside the Eton Dorney Therapeutic School are being monitored by Cllr. Dax and PCSO Angela O'Connell.

#### **PC/24/22 To consider any complaints/comments from residents**

There have been concerns raised regarding the Thames Water re-wilding project and this area becoming a new attraction for visitors. Cllr. Dax is liaising with Rebecca Elliot and will raise these concerns on behalf of residents and the Parish Council.

#### **PC/25/22 Items to consider for discussion at the next meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

Spraying of the oak trees for processionary moths.

Thames Water re-wilding area.

Continuing with ZOOM or Teams for meetings and costs involved.

Groundsman - review of new contract and to ratify the purchase of machinery by RJC Landscapes from Dorney Parish Council.

**Meeting ended at 8.25pm**

**Dorney Short Mat Bowls Club**  
**Every Sunday evening at Dorney Village Hall**  
**7:00pm to 9:30pm**



Short Mat Bowls is played on a carpet 45 foot long and 6 foot wide. Dorney Short Mat Bowls Club has 7 members at the moment, and we can take up to 16 maximum. Bowls are available. You only need flat bottomed shoes, like trainers, to wear on the mat - not your ordinary shoes. We enjoy a social cup of tea and biscuits at half time. You get three free evenings before you decide if you want to join. Membership is £20 per year. And £4.00 an evening. Training is available.

**Please contact Dave Spalding if you would like more information:**  
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**Please contact Bernice Jackson if you would like more information:**  
**Email: [bernice@littlelearnersuk.com](mailto:bernice@littlelearnersuk.com) Mobile: 07944478517**

## 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.**

### 2022 Programme

13th April	'Frogmore House in Windsor Great Park' with Joshua Lovell
25th May	<b>The Early Medieval Monastery in Cookham</b> with Professor Gabor Thomas
13th July	<b>A Woman of Wax</b> with Tony Weston
14th September	<b>'The Village History Through the Website'</b> with Steven Denham
26 October	<b>'The War Horse Memorial'</b> with Alan Carr MBE

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. In Hedgerley Memorial Hall, Kiln Lane, Hedgerley Buckinghamshire SL2 3UZ

### 2022

March 16 <sup>th</sup>	<u>The Harry Kirby Memorial Lecture</u> Harvey Watson The first Blitz – Zeppelin and Gotha raids in WW1
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
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	Your House Through Time – Research Launch Julian Hunt/Archivist
May 10 <sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)	11am Outing (Self Drive) to London Transport Museum Acton Depot Bookings close on 8/4/22



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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.**

## 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:**

Advertising Rates	Height mm	Width mm	10 issues	1 issue
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Half Page	90	130	£50	£7
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Quarter Page (Horizontal)	45	130	£40	£5

**Contact:** Peter Bowman, Editor  
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07889 912714

### Emergency Contact Details

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National Health Service	For urgent medical problems. Need advice	111
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Power Cuts	SSE Networks - Central Southern England	0800 072 7282
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Reporting Footpath Problems	<a href="http://www.transportforbucks.net/report-it-prow.aspx">www.transportforbucks.net/report-it-prow.aspx</a>	
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