

Dorney Parish News

April 2022



Replanted Thames Water Field and additional boreholes site (P.20)



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EDITORIAL

The clocks have gone forward. The weather in late March was beautiful. We're moving past Covid (just a little difficult proving that last one as cases rise). A rather apt metaphor for all these 'new starts' could be walking through the doors of the Village Hall into a beautifully redecorated community space. Congratulations to all involved.

In fact, there's been a bit of a focus on the Hall recently. A picture spread in the *Maidenhead Advertiser* this week reported on 'an unparalleled celebration' as '200 people danced in a burst of colour as they enjoyed a Holi Mela event at Dorney Village Hall'. Appropriately, the Hindu festival of Holi marks the start of Spring and celebrates life, love and diversity. In this issue we also report on the first Horticultural Society meeting for two years and the regular Sunday Short Mat Bowls Club sessions in that same Village Hall.

The call for volunteers continues. Lyndsey Oliver again urged new trustees to come forward to aid Playground 4 Dorney before the last Parish Council meeting and DDHS kept up the call for new committee members before that memorable supper. One call has been answered as the Parish Council is again at full strength as William Voaden becomes a councillor. William has talked of his interest in Conservation and speaking of this it was encouraging to hear councillors express concern over the trend towards planning applications in Dorney Reach that seek to massively extend the area and size of dwellings. Such applications, and some that already have been granted, are arguably changing the nature of this part of the parish.

More volunteering – driving along Marsh Lane I saw more planting going on for the Queen's Green Canopy project which we're told has moved towards completion. Thanks are due to James Palmer and teams from Smits, Form Plants and Maydencroft.

More sadly, our report from Thames Valley Police and the Parish Council minutes highlights concern over the almost daily disruption caused by motor bikes along the tow path and into Trumpers Field. There seems no easy answer.

But perhaps the most significant issue now facing our community, which prompted a host of questions at the March Parish Council, is Thames Water's Rewilding scheme getting underway in Dorney Reach. One of the concerns was a perceived lack of consultation and information for local residents. Over the last two issues, Dorney Parish News has sought to give a general overview of the plan as we understood it, and to publish a first response from a resident. We would like to thank Thames Water's Biodiversity Manager Rebecca Elliott for taking us through every aspect of the project (and for providing a number of striking visual images of the site in March) and we recommend to readers the statement in this issue from Thames Water which has emerged as a result.

Hopefully, this will ease many concerns about the long-term ambitions of this 'pocket rewilding vision', but it appears that the next step will be a dialogue between Thames Water as the owners of the site, residents and charity stakeholders.

Services in the Local Churches



St James the Less, Dorney

St. John the Baptist, Eton Wick

St. John the Evangelist, Eton

**Vicar: Revd. La Stacey, The Vicarage,
69a Eton Wick Road, Eton Wick, Windsor,
SL4 6NE**

Tel: 01753 852268 email: revlastacey@gmail.com

For information about our churches, activities and church history please see our parishes' web site:

www.stjohnstjamesed.org.uk

Methodist Church, Eton Wick Alma Road, Eton Wick, SL4 6JZ

Minister: Rev Margaret Dudley, 01753 867117

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Burnham

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

Rev La Stacey writes: There's a song, isn't there, 'ooh heaven is a place on earth'? Well hell is a place on earth too, much of it caused by President Putin and his henchmen, or by other bullies, large or small. We have been praying for Ukrainians in our congregations, and for those round the world caught up in other conflicts or disasters, for relief and for deliverance and for an end to horror. The awkward thing is that Jesus told us to pray for our enemies too. He is quoted as saying, 'You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.' Really!? Pray for Putin and co? Why???

Well, maybe because it is better to act with the end in mind. The end that we want is for all countries and peoples to be able to live safe, free lives, with different cultures flourishing together. In praying, we are putting Putin's ultimate comeuppance into the hands of God (however we understand that) and not taking it into our own. It gives us a distance from which to appraise. Acting with violent hatred feeds the fear and violence of any opponent and in this case, it could end in nuclear holocaust. It puts an end to any possibility of negotiation. I heard someone say that if we write him off as a madman, then we miss any hope of understanding where he is coming from and so miss the subtle moment or clue which may give an entry into a negotiating point.

How on earth any negotiation is to happen is beyond me – peace is hard, delicate and courageous work. We need to work not just with the people of Ukraine to support them, but with the Russian people too who are prevented from access to real journalistic reporting. We need to work hard, not just in this situation, but more generally, to build in more resilience, both with regard to lasting peace and with regard to local provision for our food and fuel needs without depleting the atmosphere or exploiting others. That is the reality underlying our Lenten practices and fasts. Where does deep truth reside? What is the reality that matters? It is not found in power-posturing.

In the roots of our being is a knowledge of reality: of our worth and of love. Love is costly. It demands our commitment to it. It demands our whole selves. It refuses to exploit others for our own glory. It recognises the worth of each human being – tiny or big, able or disabled, trapped or free etc. It allows space for others to be themselves. It gives of itself to enable another person just to be.

I think this is what is going on when Jesus allows himself to be crucified. I think this is what is going on when we pray for our enemies. And as we saw with Jesus on Easter day, hatred doesn't get the last word, life does. Let us pray!

Church Services in April 2022

Sunday 3rd April

9.30 am Holy Communion

11.00 am Any Age Service

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 5th April

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 10th April (Palm Sunday)

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 13th April

6.30 pm Passover Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Thursday 14th April (Maundy Thursday)

7.00 pm Foot Washing and Tenebrae Service

St James the Less, Dorney

Friday 15th April (Good Friday)

Walk of Hope:

9.30 am Beginning of Walk

10.30 am Middle of Walk: Good Friday Service

12.30 pm End of Walk

St John the Evangelist, Eton

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

St James the Less, Dorney

Sunday 17th April (Easter Day)

5.45 am Sunrise Service

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Holy Communion

St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 20th April

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 24th April

9.30am Morning Prayer

11.00am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

The Return of Dorney Horticultural Society

On the evening of Friday March 18th, Dorney Village Hall was in a celebratory mood. Dorney Horticultural Society had, at last, met after an interval of just over two years. A good number – upwards of 40 – attended. Others, unable to come, had expressed continued support to the Society.

Members mingled, members were welcomed with news of upcoming events, members enjoyed a 'warm buffet' provided by Jackie Williams and then they were entertained by an accomplished speaker.

Most local organisations are seeking volunteers, and the call still goes out for new committee members for DDHS. John Wraight has come forward and will make a big difference. But events conspired on this particular evening to limit committee members present to two. Thanks are due to old friends who leapt into the breach. Jackie and Mary Baker performed wonders in the serving of the buffet. Liz Stockwood expertly manned the box office and Louise Whaley deserves credit for ensuring that the evening ran smoothly.

The Society is keen to put on this year as complete a normal programme as possible. The traditional Spring garden visit also returns with a private conducted tour of *Wind in the Willows Garden* in Higher Denham. This will be on May 12th and, as always, the tour will be followed by tea/coffee and homemade cake.

The first Annual Show since 2019 is scheduled for Saturday August 27th in the Village Hall. You've all been intending to enter each year. Make 2022 the year you do! Chair Ron Alsworth has reminded Dorney residents that once again, John Akerman is the man to beat.

Our speaker, Stefan White, is an authority on gardening history. His talk *Skulduggery in the Shrubbery* focused on the 'sad, true and fascinating' story of three generations of the Tradescant family. John Tradescant the Elder was Charles I's



'Keeper of His Majesty's Gardens, Vines and Silkworms', having earlier been Head Gardener at Hatfield House and gardener to the royal favourite, George Villiers, 1st Duke of Buckingham. The 17th century saw the introduction of familiar plants to English gardens after the likes of John Tradescant and later his son journeyed far and wide. He brought fruit trees from the Low Countries and travelled to Russia while John the Younger brought back magnolias, cypress, tulip trees, phlox and asters from Virginia.

John the Elder assembled a collection of curiosities, natural history and ethnography and opened the first public museum housed in 'The Ark' in Lambeth. Eventually this came into the hands of one Elias Ashmole, whom our speaker did not approve of, and became the basis of Oxford's Ashmolean Museum.

Do please join the Society and enjoy these events with us. Membership is only £10 per household and remember, presentation of a membership card gains 10% discount from our friends at Crocus. For more information, contact me or email ddhs@btinternet.com

Peter Bowman



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Dorney Parish Council



Dorney Parish Council agreed to purchase the Union Flag bunting for Dorney in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration being held at The Palmer Arms on 3rd June

Beautiful sunrise followed some windy days.

Thanks to RJC, our new maintenance contractor, who were out bright and early clearing lots of debris after storm Eunice swept through.

Following a very detailed tree survey and quotes for ongoing maintenance of the trees in the Memorial Garden, Maydencroft, our local contractors, have been appointed to carry out the annual schedule of work required to keep these trees in good condition.

Following reported sightings of Oak Processionary Moth nests last year, Dorney Parish Council advised the Forestry Commission. As a result of this they have included the trees in the Memorial Garden in their control programme of spraying in the Spring

WILLIAM
VOADEN JOINS
DORNEY
PARISH
COUNCIL

DISCUSSIONS
CONTINUE
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News from Dorney School

WOW! I must start with our World Book Day celebrations in early March! What an amazing day we all had, which included the visit of Laura Henry-Allain, MBE. Laura is the author of *My Skin Your Skin* (as displayed) and, is the creator of the characters of Jojo and Gran Gran, a very popular children's series on CBeebies. Her characters are based on herself and her grandmother as part of the Windrush generation who grew up and settled here.

I loved to see the choices pupils made in choosing the outfits they wore and the books they read, and I enjoyed talking about stories and books all day. It is obvious that there is such a love for reading in our school and it is even more obvious how passionate our pupils are about inclusion and representation. Laura was eager to give me feedback after her visit about how welcoming the school was and how wonderful our school culture is.

We truly believe there are no outsiders in our community; everyone is accepted, everyone is



welcomed, and everyone is included! Do take a moment to wonder at the cultures, nationalities, languages, and beliefs represented in our school. The self-portraits you see truly reflect the community we serve.

International Women's Day



On Tuesday 8th March, our pupils learnt more about the importance of celebrating this event. In our pursuit for gender equality, we have a moral obligation to ensure all our pupils have equal access to opportunities, regardless of gender and background. The theme for this year's event is encapsulated in the paragraphs by the UN below:

This International Women's Day, 8 March, join UN Women and the world in coming together under the theme "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow", and call for climate action for women, by women.

With the latest data, we now understand the vital link between gender, social equity and climate change, and recognize that without gender equality today, a sustainable future and an equal future remains out of reach.

Women and girls experience the greatest impacts of the climate crisis as it amplifies existing gender inequalities and puts women's lives and livelihoods at risk. Across the world, women depend more on, yet have less access to, natural resources, and often bear a disproportionate responsibility for securing food, water, and fuel. As women and girls bear the burden of climate impacts, they are also essential to leading and driving change in climate adaptation, mitigation and solutions. Without the inclusion of half of the

world's population, it is unlikely that solutions for a sustainable planet and a gender equal world tomorrow will be realized.

In the next few weeks, we also welcome Dr Ayesha Hassan, an immunologist who works for the NHS Education service. Dr Ayesha is a National Commissioning Manager for the NHS and is part of the Education Funding reform. She is exactly the type of keynote speaker and inspirational woman leader that our children, and our community, need to see, hear and celebrate. Dr Ayesha is a double refugee; she fled Somalia and was given sanctuary in a refugee camp in Yemen, only to become a refugee again when civil war struck the country. She arrived in England at the tender age of six, and through adversity, is now a national leader in her own right. Her story is heart-breaking, but it is also full of hope, especially in this time where many more families across our world seek refuge and help. As Dr Ayesha says, 'no one chooses to be caught in conflict; no one chooses to leave their families and their homes. These are not choices; it is a matter of life or death.'

Year 5 Football Tournament

A squad of nine enthusiastic Year 5 children represented our school in a football tournament against nineteen other schools at Claire's Court School. In the true spirit of Dorney we thrived on teamwork and respect. However, we came up against some tough opposition in our group games. Undeterred, the children battled against tough conditions of VERY muddy pitches and improved throughout our first four games. In our final game Dorney dominated the play but it finished in a draw and, we closely missed out on a win during penalties. Our children certainly showed that even in a little village school, we never, ever give up!



What an amazing Red Nose Day we had at school with all our little and rather big superheroes! We raised over £200 by challenging ourselves in activities and games.



Spring is truly here. The sunshine and birdsong cannot fail to lift even the most hardened hearts. As I reflect on the past year, I wonder if we are able to identify what has kept us, individually, and as a community, anchored and hopeful in the face of such national, and global adversity. For me, it is the children and the families I serve. It is in the smiles even on sad days or the laughter on especially bad days that help me understand that what we do together, will enable us to become stronger in the future. I wish everyone a beautiful and happy Spring; and may the sun shine in your lives as it does in mine.

Warmest wishes,
Mrs Sharifah Lee
Headteacher



DORNEY PARISH CELEBRATES THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

**FROM MIDDAY ON FRIDAY, 3RD JUNE 2022 AT
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**MORE DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE MAY
AND JUNE EDITIONS OF DORNEY PARISH NEWS
AND ON EVENTBRITE**

THE MYSTERY OF LITTLE CONNIE

Sometime probably in the spring of 1907, a little girl named Connie was brought from her home in Aberdeen to spend two weeks with a couple living in Dorney. These people were her parents. At the end of the visit, Connie returned to Aberdeen and never saw them again. Who was Connie and who were her parents?

Connie had been born in London on 24 December 1904. Her mother was Mary Agnes Smeaton and three weeks after giving birth she married Connie's father. The following day, Mary travelled to Scotland, her home country, and left the baby in the care of Mrs Collie, a woman in Aberdeen who looked after illegitimate children. But Connie's parents had married, so why didn't they keep the child? The answer probably lies in the identity of Connie's father, and it was to be many years before she discovered who he really was.

The little girl was brought up in Aberdeen by Mrs Collie and then, after her death, by Mr and Mrs Bain, Mrs Collie's daughter and son-in-law. Mary was supposed to send weekly payments to pay for her daughter's care, but these eventually fell into arrears and then stopped. Twice Connie was taken to see her parents – the first time in Edinburgh when she was six months old and the second time in Dorney in 1907. Unsurprisingly, Connie later had no recollection of these meetings. Occasionally letters or presents arrived from Mary, and she appeared anxious at one point that someone might come making enquiries about Connie and maybe try to take her away. Mary asked Mrs Collie to burn this letter, but she didn't, and she and Harry Bain kept enough clues to be able eventually to unravel the mystery. In due course, Harry made enquiries on Connie's behalf, and all was eventually revealed in a court case in spring 1924.

Mary met Connie's father in March 1904, at a dance in Edinburgh where she lived. She was 19 and worked as a shop assistant. He was 21, a young officer in the Black Watch regiment. His name was Hubert Bowes-Lyon and he was a grandson of the 13th Earl of Strathmore, of Glamis Castle, from whom he had inherited £8,000. He could afford to set Mary up in a house in Edinburgh, where he visited her. Later, Hubert resigned his commission and the couple moved to live together in London, where Connie was born on Christmas Eve. Although Hubert and Mary married shortly afterwards, it was reported that Mary, at least, did not want her parents or Hubert's family to know about the baby, because she had been born before the wedding. It is likely that the latter, in the end, did know about Connie, who may well have met Hubert's widowed mother during the visit to Dorney, as she lived in Horton.

After Connie had been left with Mrs Collie, Hubert and Mary continued with their lives. They seem to have lived in Maidenhead early in 1905, but by June 1905 they were living in Dorney Reach, in a house called Villa Etelinda which I believe is the present-day Riverdale. It was one of the houses on the riverbank newly built by Colonel Palmer for letting to upper class tenants, and Hubert and Mary may have been the first people to live there. The accommodation included a drawing room, a separate billiard room, and space for the servants – a servants' hall and two servants' bedrooms in the attic. The house was smartly furnished – oak and bamboo bookcases, a smokers' cabinet, a mahogany card table, Wilton and Axminster pile carpets, skin rugs, cane and wicker easy chairs, Italian and French bedsteads. The spacious garden plus a section of riverbank beyond the towpath completed the picture. The author Jane Dismore, who wrote the story of Hubert, Mary and Connie in her book "Princess: the early life of Queen Elizabeth II", believes Hubert named the house after the Villa Etelinda in Bordighera, Italy, owned by his uncle Claude, the 14th Earl of Strathmore.

Dorney Reach at this time comprised only five houses. Three were north of Villa Etelinda, along the river towards Maidenhead, and two of these were rented out. Then there was one house next



to the villa – Bray View (now Touchdown). Between the two, a path led to the river (not where the snicket is now routed) and the ferry over to Monkey Island. Bray View had been rented since December 1904 by Eugene Richard, the Swiss manager of the Hotel Metropole in Brighton. Hubert was sufficiently friendly with his teenage neighbour Stanley Richard to take him for a ride in his motor car. Although building work was starting on further riverside houses, the general environment was quiet and secluded. As Lt Col PDS Palmer later wrote, the early residents of Dorney Reach “*came there for complete privacy*

with a river frontage in unspoiled rural surroundings. Their spendable income was such that they could employ and get resident domestic staff and with the resulting freedom and leisure enjoy the amenities of the river. Punts, canoes, rowing boats, white flannels, straw boaters, punting races at Maidenhead Regatta and so on were the order of the day on a river unspoiled by motorboats and riverside development. The towing path was little used and one met there only friends and neighbours. Public intrusion was limited to the passage of the infrequent river steamer. A whistle brought the Monkey Island ferry to meet you when you wanted.”

Most of the residents must have had use of a motor car to get around, and Hubert had a 16 horsepower four-cylinder Argyll. Mary had been in trouble driving this in March 1905 in a narrow Surrey lane, when she hit two horses, injuring both them and their riders. One horse had to be put down. It was alleged that a witness to the accident was so incensed by seeing Hubert grinning in the passenger seat that he said he never met a gentleman who drove a motor car and that motorists were blackguards going about the lanes killing people. Hubert encountered similar doubts about the safety of motor cars after he moved to Dorney. In June 1905, he was accused of driving too fast, both up Marsh Lane near the Z-bend, where there were children playing in the road, and along the Bath Road towards Maidenhead, where there were a lot of other vehicles and bicycles. The magistrate commented that even 12mph was dangerously fast along a road where children were playing. Reportedly, Hubert was fined again, for reckless driving, following a smash at the time of Connie’s visit.

This pleasant way of life in Dorney was not to last for Hubert and Mary, who were running out of money. By May 1907 they were living in Bourne End when their first son was born, and then in Maidenhead again. On 6 June 1907, the furnishings and contents of Villa Etelinda were put up for auction. The house was rented to a new tenant from 24 June 1907. By November 1907, Hubert and Mary were living in a flat in Maida Vale, and he was working as a motor agent. The following month Hubert was declared bankrupt, having spent all his inheritance and unable to pay his creditors in the Maidenhead area. Hubert and Mary went on to have another son in 1912. Mary died in 1914. Hubert served in the First World War and afterwards remarried and had another daughter.

Meanwhile, their daughter Connie grew up in Aberdeen and went to work in a newsagents’ shop. She knew that her surname was Lyon; Harry Bain had had to obtain her birth certificate when she went to school and this named both parents. In the years after 1915, Harry began to make efforts to track them down and when she was eighteen Connie tried to contact her father, including through legal channels. He did not respond. Eventually, in 1923 Connie brought a case in the Scottish courts seeking a declaration that she was the lawful and legitimate child of Hubert and Mary



Bowes-Lyon. Public interest in the case was heightened because Hubert's cousin Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon had recently married the Duke of York – later, of course, to become the parents of Queen Elizabeth II. While Hubert failed to respond even to the court, he did not contest the case, and there was sufficient evidence for the judge to give the declaration that Connie sought. There was however no reconciliation with her father who continued to ignore her existence.

Despite the lack of contact with her birth family, Connie appears to have found happiness in her life. In 1933, after a whirlwind romance she married a Scottish tobacco planter and settled in what is now Malawi, in Africa. The small part of her life played out in Dorney remains largely unknown, just another long ago incident in our village.

Virginia Silvester



The advertisement for Eton End school features a blue and white background. On the left, two children in school uniforms are shown: a boy holding a yellow and blue soccer ball and a girl holding a paintbrush and palette. In the top right corner, there is a circular logo with a dove and the text "I am • I can • I ought • I will". The main text reads "I am Eton End" in a mix of blue and black fonts. Below this, it says "Co-educational Preparatory Day School for children aged rising 3 to 11". A paragraph of text invites personal tours and provides contact information for the Registrar. At the bottom, a blue banner contains the school's address, phone number, email, website, and hashtag.

I am • I can • I ought • I will

I am Eton End

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

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

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From Dorney to Chelsea

It's very likely that many readers of 'Dorney Parish News' have avidly followed events at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show on TV. Many will have visited this magnificent event, back in 2022 to its traditional dates in late May. The same readers might well have visited Form Plants at Dorney Court.

Jamie Butterworth, Form Plants' Managing Director, has told us about their major involvement in this year's Show. Form will be creating a sanctuary garden as well as supplying five leading designers with beautiful plants for their five gardens.



Illustration of the garden by Sarah-Leigh Willis

The Sanctuary Garden is being created for the children's mental health charity, Place2Be. Every year, Form chooses a charity to support and this year Jamie is creating a planted haven called the 'Place2Be Securing Tomorrow Garden'. Jamie, one of the youngest designers at the Show, says 'I'm incredibly proud to be working with the Place2Be charity that does so much amazing work in helping support children's mental health. This is a unique project for me and is very close to my heart – my mother is a teacher and my father a mental health nurse, so I know first-hand how important supporting children with their mental health is.'

The garden has been developed with input from staff and pupils at Viking Primary School in Northolt, West London, which has been working in partnership with Place2Be for 12 years. Place2Be's expert teams work in school communities across the UK, offering one-to-one and group support to help pupils to cope with life's

challenges.

The garden will aim to be safe and peaceful, a place where children can feel calm and are able to talk, while also taking in the beauty of plants and being outside. This connection with plants and the natural world is something that has proven increasingly important for mental health and wellbeing over the past two years.

The garden uses a limited range of hard landscaping materials and majors on planting. The trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials help cool the space, slow the rate of rainfall onto the surface below, as well as bring diversity for nature. Jamie went on 'The garden in essence is quite simple: stone, wood and plants. It's about what the garden offers and delivers for children and Place2Be that's really important. I'm so excited about getting the planting to work really well together, to give that feeling of security and sanctuary that is so needed.'

A team of ten is working at Dorney ahead of Chelsea to prepare 54 specimen trees and 15,000 home grown perennials.

In 2019 Jamie won the four top awards at the RHS Chatsworth Flower Show and for the 2021 RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival he designed 'A Garden for a Green Future'.

Peter Bowman

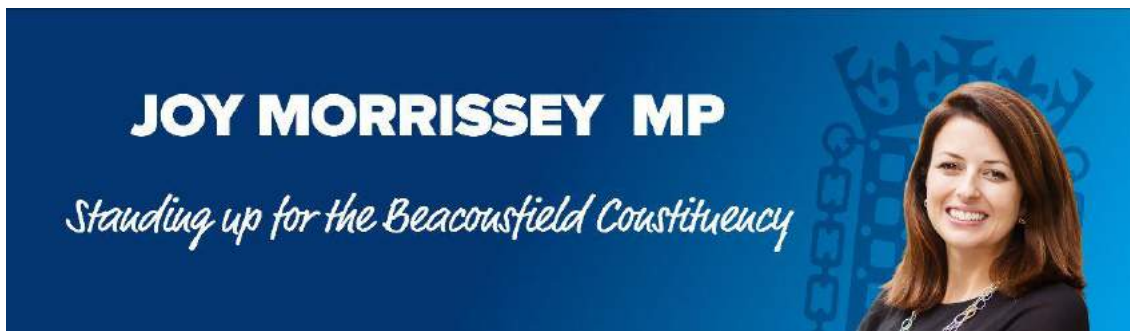


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Crime and Anti-social Behaviour in South Buckinghamshire



In my discussions with people from across the constituency, there are certain issues that come up consistently. One of these is the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour. Recently I met with Superintendent Emma Burroughs, who has taken over as Area Commander for South Bucks, to discuss policing priorities in the area.

There are some problems which are already clear in their need for attention. Anti-social behaviour, fly tipping, and

vehicle theft are regularly brought up with me in correspondence with constituents and I have worked in a number of areas to bring together the police and community groups to coordinate reporting and response.

As we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic, and the pattern of criminal behaviour is likely to shift, I want to hear from you about the problems in your area and where you think policing priorities should be focussed. Some residents will be receiving crime surveys, providing an opportunity to feed back on problems in your area, and I am always keen for constituents to get in contact with me directly with their concerns.

I will use this feedback to build a detailed picture of the situation across the constituency, which will inform my work with the police on local priorities, and also my conversations with Ministers on national crime and policing policy. I have been very pleased to see the good progress we have made in increasing police numbers, with over 220 officers already recruited to Thames Valley Police, and the progress of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill which will give police the powers they need to protect us, as well as toughening sentences for serious violent and sexual offences.

Joy Morrissey MP

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

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Dorney Lake

Our grounds will be closed to the general public from Monday 11th April 2022.

Following the trial period, unfortunately it continues to be unviable for our grounds to be open to the general public alongside our main day-to-day business, to operate as a centre for rowing, and as a haven for wildlife; particularly as we enter into spring and into the summer months.

We are very mindful that you as our neighbours also incur unacceptable levels of anti-social behaviour in the neighbourhood throughout the spring and summer, and we want to avoid this. With these concerns in mind, we currently plan to re-open our grounds to the general public for leisure purposes in September 2022. The public footpaths around the perimeter of site remain unaffected.

For those of you who would like to be kept up-to-date with events happening at the lake over the next few months, please see our calendar of events below from April to June.

April

Saturday 23rd – Private Regatta

Sunday 24th – Runthrough/Active Training World Marathon

May

Sunday 1st – Wallingford Regatta

Monday 2nd – Junior Sculling Regatta

Saturday 7th – The Fix UK Triathlon

Sunday 8th – Ball Cup Regatta

Saturday 14th – Human Race Triathlon

Sunday 15th – Human Race Triathlon

Saturday 21st – Runthrough/Active Training World Triathlon

Friday 27th to Sunday 29th – National Schools' Regatta

June

Wednesday 1st – F3 Events Evening Triathlon

Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th – Metropolitan Regatta

Sunday 12th – Runthrough/Active Training World Triathlon & Run

Saturday 18th – Marlow Regatta

Sunday 19th – Private Regatta

Sunday 26th – Private Triathlon

From all of the team at Dorney Lake, we would like to wish you a joyful Summer and we look forward to seeing you all again in the Autumn!

Dorney Re-wilding Project

At Thames Water, we care about the natural environment. As one of the largest landholders in the South of England, we have a responsibility to make a positive contribution towards nature recovery. We can do this by enhancing the biodiversity value of our land, alongside the operational tasks we perform every day.

In 2019, Thames Water set an ambitious target to enhance the biodiversity value of 253 of our largest operational sites, across our 18 County estate, by a set target of 5% by 2025, using a biodiversity metric produced by DEFRA to demonstrate results. This is recognised by our regulators Ofwat as industry leading and requires alignment across all areas of the business. We are achieving this target by improving the condition of existing habitats through grassland restoration, and through the creation of new habitats with improved connectivity, such as wetlands, ponds, woodlands, and hedgerows. We're also contributing to the planting of 11 million trees by 2030, alongside 11 other UK water companies. We are working with our colleagues in Capital Delivery to create a standard of 10% biodiversity net gain on all our engineering projects, whether permitted development or through planning permission.

The Thames Water site at Dorney, that sits to the north of the clean water operational site, is one that was highlighted to Thames Water as an asset to be protected for biodiversity by a local landowner. There have been various internal discussions about development on the land, including a solar panel farm, over the last two or three years. A site visit took place in early 2020 with the local landowner, and representatives from Thames Water including the Sustainability Director, Property Director, Operational site manager and biodiversity team, where the destruction of locally important habitats through previous developments was highlighted to Thames Water and we were encouraged to focus efforts for biodiversity protection on this site.

The biodiversity team were excited to take on the challenge and spent 2020-2021 negotiating to use this land for biodiversity protection which was finally secured in August 2021. After covid rules relaxed in Autumn 2021, the biodiversity team at Thames Water employed the services of Ecosulis Ecological Consultancy to meet with the Parish Council and to also establish a detailed ecological baseline of the site, including birds, bats, soil quality, as well as habitat surveys. We have also been presented with historic bird data from local recorders. The Ecosulis team came up with an innovative management plan which uses re-wilding on a relatively small scale to look at a 'hands off' technique as the preferred management approach for this site maintaining a mosaic of locally important habitats complementing the wetland and river community next door. This technique has been commended by the local wildlife trust, as this fits in with their nature recovery strategy for the area, and by Buckinghamshire's local records centres ecologists, who are returning to the site in a few weeks to update their habitat survey records.

The lack of active management on site over the years has led to much of the site naturally rewilding and creating a fantastic habitat on site for a variety of species, but the hawthorn and blackthorn scrub has expanded at rapid rates. If this continued, it would grow up in a uniform manner eventually covering up the important grassland areas; many areas which contain orchids. To prevent this becoming a single scrub habitat, Thames Water employed the services of local contractor based in Dorney to carry out the management



proposed by Ecosulis on their land and commenced 'active re-wilding'. This included trimming back small areas of scrub outside of bird nesting season, planting copses and orchards of native trees and thickening up the hedgerow that runs parallel to the main road, protecting the animals and in time, protecting the site from the road. This

would formulate the baseline of the re-wilding 'hands off' management approach. Through the Parish Council, local residents were invited to the tree planting event in December where they had the opportunity to chat and ask questions with Thames Water, who were hosting the event.

Additionally, an engineering project to install the last borehole on site has commenced in February, which has led to a patch of vegetation to the south of the site being cleared on a temporary basis. All vegetation clearance for this project was done under the supervision of a technically qualified ecologist outside of nesting bird season. This is a separate project which has its own biodiversity net gain compensations including the planting of a native species-rich hedgerow around the border of the site.



It is important to note that the land at Dorney is private land with no public liability insurance to cover the members of the public walking across the site. The Biodiversity team acknowledges this from an operational health and safety and legal concern, but also does not want to restrict access of those few local people who use the site for recreational purposes. The best way to achieve the best of both worlds is to restrict the site to locals only and have a charity group lease the site from us taking on this public liability. We are exploring a number of management models with the Wildlife Trust and other charity organisations to decide which one will work best for this site. This will enable further consultations with the public, with a local charity group leading on stakeholder engagement, who are able to take on board all of the questions and concerns that have arisen since we have adapted the management on our site and planted over 12,000 trees. Currently the Thames Water site is the same as it has been for many years, but with additional trees being planted to support nature recovery. We have no plans to make this site into a park with picnic benches; it is predominantly a site for biodiversity protection.

Thames Water

Short Mat Fun on Sunday at the Village Hall

Somebody said to me that the Village Hall, the Playground and Dorney School are the core of the village. Some people will be like me and, in normal times make many visits to the Hall – there's Hort. Soc. meetings and in the past for me there was badminton and the Parish Council. But none of us probably appreciates the breadth of activities going on in the Hall. We thought 'DPN' should investigate.



It seems there has always been one fixture, not least in this magazine when we published a 'Social Diary'...the Sunday evening meetings of Dorney Short Mat Bowls Club. On a March Sunday evening, I went along to see for myself.

The bottom line is simple. The Club wants more members. On the evening I went there were six players. They would be happy to more than double that number. It seemed a friendly yet competitive set up. My recommendation is to go along and give it a try. I've no doubt you'd enjoy it.

A modern variation on traditional lawn bowls, it's perfect for Village Hall Sundays. Designed for indoors, it's played all year, unaffected by weather. Easily set up, it's ideal for venues like the Village Hall, where normally lots of other activities are going on. I'm told it's seen as the ideal exercise for North Sea Oil Rigs.

The game is played on a carpet 45 feet long and 6 feet wide run diagonally across the Hall floor, corner to corner. You probably don't need me to tell you that the object of individual players or teams is to take turns rolling 'woods' (lawn bowls equipment can be used) down the mat, getting their woods as close as possible to the 'jack' and closer to this target than their opponents.

The Dorney club is run by a cheerful and welcoming chap called Dave Spalding. Dave told me that the sport is well established in these parts with his members (a good proportion of whom seem to be related to Dave and his wife) playing on week-nights for teams in leagues based on venues like Windsor Leisure Centre. Bowls might be seen as a traditional pass time, but the Short Mat variety only really took off in this country in the 1980s. Dave said he'd been playing since the 1990s, and the Dorney club started in the 2000s. Despite this relative novelty, Dave and his colleagues told me during the traditional and very convivial half time break for tea and biscuits that all clubs were very keen to recruit new members, particularly younger players.

It was all taken seriously, with members having their own differently coloured woods. I did spot woods rolled aggressively to remove other woods, but it was more common to subtly roll the woods into spaces opening up as the 'end' progressed. This is quite definitely a game of skill. Dave reassured me that beginners were very welcome, tuition and encouragement would be given, and the Hall layout made it very feasible to operate not just one mat, but two, with one dedicated to the less accomplished.

I hope Dorney residents will be encouraged to have a go. For contact details and how to become a member of the Club, please see the advertisement elsewhere in this issue.

Peter Bowman

Dorney Village Hall

www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk



**In January we completely redecorated the whole inside of the Hall.
It is looking very fresh and welcoming.
We also installed blinds to replace the old curtains.**

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

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

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

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

Main hall: 15 x 7.4m, ceiling height 7m
Fixed stage with curtains: 4.5 x 6m
Annexe: 9.8 x 3.5m, ceiling height 2m

Licensed to seat 100 people
Children's tables and chairs available
Beechwood suspended dance floor
75 space free car park

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

Email: enquiries@dorneyvillagehall.com

Online on www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk

Spotlight on Dorney Folk - Mo Voaden meets Sam Wood-Dow



A pink baseball cap was the object Sam chose to illustrate his personality.

'You can wear it any way you like – backwards, forward, sideways, on a slant... The possibilities are endless.'

Why pink?

'It's attention-grabbing. Bright. Positive and happy, like me!'

Sam is a successful entertainer on a prestigious cruise line. He can act, sing, dance, perform magic tricks and play several musical instruments, all to an exceptionally high standard. He grew up in Dorney Village where his talent for entertaining was quickly recognised. By his early teens, he was producing his own magic shows in the village hall.

'My early experience gave me a good grounding. I learnt how to engage an audience and create a show from nothing but a box of tricks.'

He studied film, photography and theatre, and loved mixing with other creative students. *'That was where I learnt that art doesn't judge – something I struggled with growing up, and I used performing as a way of expressing myself.'*

He set his sights on a performing career and applied to a US training scheme where all-round entertainment skills are taught, with job placements at theme parks and on cruise lines.

'Competition was fierce. I thought it was way out of my league, but as I progressed through the rounds, my confidence grew. I started to believe I could do this.'

The final audition was tough. In front of a panel of English and American judges, he had to perform a monologue, an improvisation, and present himself in a magical way.

A magical way? I imagined unicorns and dragons but his idea was much cleverer.

'I came on as a chef with a cake tin, which was actually a magician's dove pan, and added lots of ingredients as if I was making a cake. I slammed the lid down and when I opened it, the tin was empty - except for a photograph of me.'

For any non-magicians, the gimmick of the dove pan lies in the lid's design. The deep shouldered rim conceals an additional pan (or liner) that fits snugly into the main pan. When the lid is shut the liner is deposited inside, making it resemble the main pan when it was empty.

What's it like, working as an entertainer on a cruise ship?



'Fabulous. You meet wonderful people, travel to amazing places, and do what you love best - make people happy.'

The work is varied – during the same cruise he can be a game-show host, star in his own show, perform magic tricks, and appear in a huge deck extravaganza with dancers and actors, fireworks and zip wires, and pyrotechnics.

But doing this day after day takes a huge amount of energy and enthusiasm.

'There are times when you wake up and think – where will I find the energy today? Then I remember I'm here to entertain, to bring people joy and you never know what's happening in people's lives. They could have spent a lifetime's earnings on the cruise, or it could be the last thing on their bucket list.'

And the life can be tough. The entertainers work every day for six months at a time, sacrificing sleep to keep up with their daily chores like washing clothes.

The shows can be challenging too - complicated dance routines with lots of lines to learn, sometimes performed on a rocking ship in high winds. The whole cast could be sea-sick but the show must go on.

When I asked how he'd sell the job to others, Sam said, *'You'll perform to your best ability, grow as a person, and improve every aspect of your craft. You will meet amazing people, travel the world and get paid for it!'*

And his advice to a budding entertainer: believe in yourself. Be passionate. Don't give up and don't allow self-doubt to be the reason you fail. You have to learn to take criticism as constructive feedback.

Don't take it personally and do your very best.

As well as being talented, Sam is highly empathetic and has the additional responsibility of training others, especially 'new strugglers'.

Confidence, he explained, can be a major issue for people who are struggling because performers are competing with each other. Constant comparison often leads to confidence issues. Once the strugglers understand that, they can accept themselves, and their talent shines through.

Sam remembers his parents recounting their adventures in foreign countries, and longed to do the same. *'I wanted to get out there, experience everything, and have my own funny stories to tell.'*

And now he has his own anecdotes, including performances that crashed and misbehaving audiences, but one incident stands out. He was hosting a game show during which three couples are invited onstage. The men go to the bar, leaving the women to be questioned about their partners. When the men return they discover what had been said. The same happens the other way round, with the questions getting more interesting and more risqué.

Sam told the men, *'You're stuck on a desert island with your partner's family and you have to kick someone off. Who would you choose?'*

One man, Barry, started ranting about his mother-in-law, cursing and swearing – which the audience loved of course. Then his wife returned and Sam asked her to guess whom Barry had chosen to throw off the island.

'No one. My husband loves every member of my family,' she said.

At that point, the mother-in-law herself arrived. Sam brought her on stage to join her daughter and Barry, with the audience chanting *'Tell the truth! Tell the truth!'*

Barry scarpered and might have gone overboard if Sam hadn't intervened. By the time they returned, the show was over.

Sam's ambitions lie in producing and directing shows, preferably in an international theme park or entertainment space, because he loves their grandeur and scale. He explained that while theme parks are magical and whimsical places, there's a very strong corporate side with a lot of investment and risk.

'Growing the business fascinates me, but I still get a fabulous thrill when I step out to perform.'

And how do you see the future of mankind?

He hopes there will be more acceptance, and that people will come to understand we can tolerate but not change each other.

And what does your future hold?

'I love coming back to Dorney to spend time with my family, and I'm here as often as my schedule allows, but it's such a wonderful world out there, I don't think I'll ever stay still. My home is wherever I lay my hat – or my pink baseball cap, right?'

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 PLAYGROUND

UPDATE

At the March Dorney Parish Council (DPC) Meeting the Playground4Dorney committee requested the nomination of a trustee from the Dorney Parish Council. The DPC has had a councillor on the Playground4Dorney committee, since its inception, and provides an important role in ensuring the ongoing collaboration and support of this valuable community asset.

It was also requested that a trustee be nominated from the Village Hall committee. On many occasions those that hire the Village Hall, by extension, also make use of the playground and Multi-Use-Games-Area.

However.....

We are still seeking a minimum of 3 volunteers to join the committee.

The hard work of fundraising and building is complete. We are seeking a minimum of three new volunteers (but the more the merrier) to help with the organisation and maintenance of this valuable community asset to ensure the continuation of these facilities that so many parents, carers and children enjoy.

A full and comprehensive handover will be completed to ensure new volunteers are supported as they transition into the team.

WHAT ARE THE TIME COMMITMENTS?

Time commitments vary but, on average, committee members can expect to spend a maximum of a couple of hours a month on playground duties.

WHAT WILL YOU GET IN RETURN?

A wonderful sense of achievement, increased community spirit, teamwork and camaraderie! As a cohesive and aligned group you will ensure that the playground continues to remain at the heart of the village and means that this fun and valuable asset will continue to be enjoyed by the community for many years to come.



**Please email Leanne
(leanne@kittel.co.uk) to register your
interest in joining the committee and
ensuring that these facilities can
continue to be enjoyed by so many.
Thank you.**

Not so Smug Now?

My dear reader, bless him or her, may recall that in spite of leaving the first flush of youth way behind in the mists of time, I refuse to retire, and drive an ambulance three days a week. Sadly, not the blue lights and siren, CPR and white helmet type ambulance, no, not that; more the leg ulcer, day centre rehab, and lots of taking home from hospital. It's just as vital, but less box office. Holby City does not appear to have one of me!

In this role I have been through this pandemic unscathed in spite of being old and immediately behind the front line, helped, it must be said, by my brilliant employer (you don't hear that very often these days – I'll make sure they get a copy of DPN) who ordered me home when Mr. Covid was at his most active.

Whilst I wore the pathetic PPE provided and increased the profits of Palmolive soap, and masked up like a baddy from The Sweeney, a few people coughed dangerously close, threw up spectacularly and fewer still shouted out of fear or something else; all of which passed me by as colleagues fell foul of the lurgy, and one tragically died. You may recall the matters in previous scribblings in this august journal

But not me! I was invincible.

You have surmised by the use of the past tense that this turned out to be not so.

Two weeks ago, I had a torrid night where I was chasing impossible targets, first in a police car that morphed into an ambulance. I forgot where I had parked it and wandered around Bristol looking for it and the patients in it when I woke with a pounding headache, sore dry throat and an interesting cough.

I padded miserably into the dark kitchen, frightened a cat and sat with that rod up my nose, sloshed it around in the liquid, dropped the two drops onto the little 'Lego' like brick and wandered off to go through drawers looking for year old Lemsip. On my return, banging the kettle, I cast a watery aching eye over the brick. Two little horizontal lines gazed viciously back at me, the positive getting stronger by the second. I refused to believe it, turned on the lights, screwed my eyelids in pain in the sudden brightness, and looked again. There was no mistake! Bum!

Lemsip in hand, I returned to my bed and the aforesaid cat snuggled cosily against my lovely partner, both sleeping soundly. I eased the cat away in order to resume my rightful place, she yowled testily at me (the cat – not the partner!).

"You alright Honey?" she enquired, (not the cat).

"I've got Covid," I declared dramatically

"That's nice," she replied sleepily. The cat, unimpressed, moved between us and spread out, emitting little snores of satisfaction.

I sat miserably in the dark sipping superheated lemsip, contemplated my pounding head and a hint of toothache, and felt sorry for myself, as one does in these situations. It was 4.45am.

In spite of the pounding head and a very bad case of man flu there were certain commitments to be cancelled and people informed of my demise, some of that at 6.00am that day. I sat back in the kitchen with the phone on quiet speaker in order not to wake either occupant of my bed, listening to an awful rendition of some minor classical work interrupted frequently by a voice stating the obvious. I was in a queue and would be answered by the next available staff!

"I know that!" I muttered angrily as a lovely lady said, "Hallo," and listened to my tale of woe with an occasional "Oh you poor dear" thrown in. She efficiently e mailed my boss who would be thrilled to walk into the problem an hour later, and having done that, sat at my laptop cancelling what had for me, been a busy week.

I was once told by a Mum, "children get colds, men get flu, and women get on with it," which perhaps explains apparent feminine reluctance to mop the author's fevered brow at times of incapacity, but other peoples' lives continued as before while I, if I'm honest, was pleasantly surprised at the apparent health I felt save for the interesting cough. I tested daily and was beginning to think I had a faulty test kit.

"I should be back on Monday," I told my boss on the preceding Thursday. "Sunday is the witching day when I should be negative. I'll do a quick check again on Monday morning and come in."

"Be glad to see you," came the cheerful response.

Sunday evening was irritatingly positive and Sunday night, there I was, back in Bristol looking for an ambulance/police car full of patients.

I staggered out of bed, barely made it to the bathroom, after which I sat on a lounge settee wrapped in a blanket complete with cat cursing the cough, sore throat, pounding head and stabbing teeth, watching a programme about the late Fred Dibnah. It was 3.30am.

I hope dear reader, that you have a good supply of tissues, because matters did not improve and within hours I was rolling around in agony watching night-time TV with the cat whilst waiting for the diminishing supply of pills to go to work. Daytime was fun too as I struggled to function through pain. I learned a new heightened respect for my regular patients who struggle through continuing pain with far more courage than me.

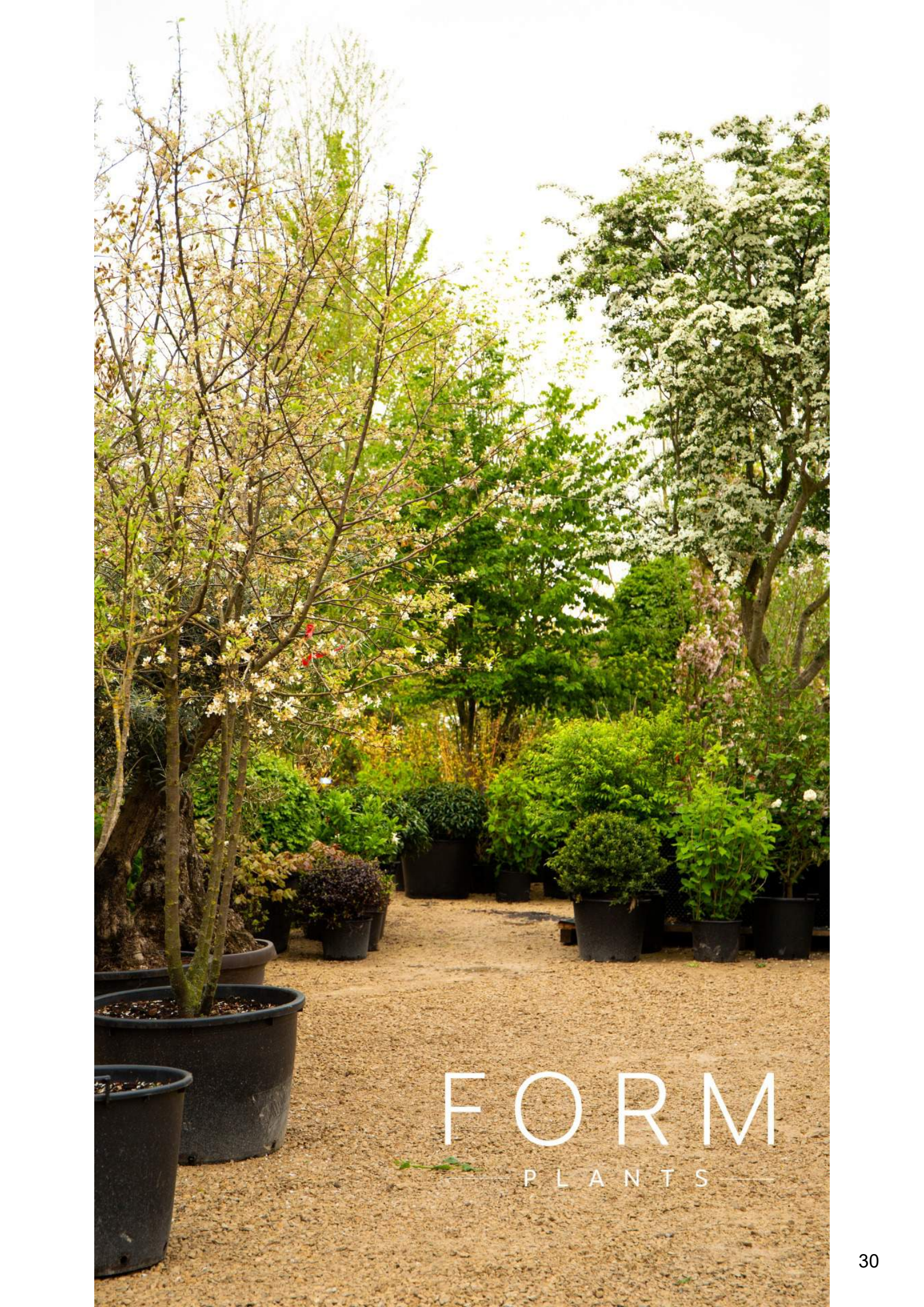
And now, two lines no longer mock me from their Lego brick. I now have just the one lonely line indicating that Mr. Covid has had his fun with me and is after another victim, preferably he hopes, unvaccinated, where he can wreak real havoc.

So, for me, life will return to normal next week, and wild successes will thrill some while tragedies will befall others in Dorney and Ukraine as has happened to close friends of mine, while I was busy feeling sorry for myself.

So, where Covid is concerned, not so smug after all.

Stay safe and get vaccinated.

Mike Quincey



FORM
PLANTS

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD
TUESDAY 8th MARCH 2022, 7.30 P.M. AT DORNEY SCHOOL**

Present

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair) Cllr. Euan MacLennan Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford
Cllr. Robert Stopford Cllr. Stephen Baker
Ms Ruth Senior (Parish Clerk) and 12 members of the public (including 2 via zoom)

Open Forum

Lyndsey Oliver from 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. They would also like someone from the Council to be a Trustee as per previous years.

Concerns were raised over the Thames Water field re-wilding project. It was reported that there has been a lack of information from them and there are issues over parking, overcrowding, anti- social behaviour and wildlife currently on site.

Louise Whaley reported that there is still an abandoned vehicle on Oak Stubbs Lane which has been there since December and expressed an interest in flower planting on the two new motorway bridges.

PC/26/22 Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr. Anna Palmer.

PC/27/22 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 8th February and matters arising

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

PC/28/22 Co-option of councillor

Dorney resident William Voaden applied for the vacant Councillor position following the February meeting. The current Councillors considered this application and unanimously voted to co-opt William into the position. We would like to welcome him to the Parish Council. **It was agreed** that the Clerk will complete the relevant paperwork and provide Cllr. Voaden with reading materials on Parish Council.

PC/29/22 To discuss the Clerk position

The probationary period of the current Clerk Ruth Senior has come to an end. The Councillors voted unanimously for Ruth to carry on with this position on a permanent contract and this offer was accepted.

PC/30/22 Items of business carried forward

30.1 The Orchard Herbs Site

Cllr. Stopford reported that Mitchell Pugh visited the site in February and was not satisfied, finding little to no progress on the clearance. The Council are now looking to take legal action on the matter. There is currently no update on the Certificate of Lawfulness.

Liz Ashton confirmed to Cllr. Stopford that following the report that Highways were not in agreement with the hotel planning application, the applicant has since objected.

30.2 M4 Smart Motorway

There was no official update on the motorway progress. **It was agreed** that the Clerk will ask for the latest news and report back on the Parish Council website.

30.3 The Emergency Plan

In the case of an Emergency locally, nationally or internationally, the Parish Council must have an Emergency Plan in place.

If you think you can offer anything at all to assist in an emergency; first aid, equipment, shelter,

please do complete the online form on the Parish Council website – this information is fully GDPR compliant. Local companies are also being contacted for the same information.

As part of the plan, we hope to have a system in place of contacting individuals to ensure everyone is safe and to establish what needs to be done.

It was suggested that the group developing the plan contact every resident individually to give more information on the plan and ask for skills and equipment to be listed.

Dorney School have also asked to be kept informed of the plan.

PC/31/22 Planning

It was proposed by Cllr. Stopford and seconded by Cllr. Baker that the Parish Council will write to Buckinghamshire Planning objecting to the plans for knocking down the garages in Harcourt Close to be replaced with 3 houses. Concerns were raised over child safety, parking, additional traffic and construction traffic.

It was proposed by Cllr. Stopford and seconded by Cllr. Dax that the Parish Council will write to Buckinghamshire Planning with concerns over the application at 17 Harcourt Road as the application is very extensive, a 48% increase in floor area.

It was agreed that Cllr. Stopford and the Clerk will contact planning on both applications.

PC/32/22 Finance - To agree/ratify expenditure and income to date

The cashbook was circulated prior to the meeting and approved.

Cllr. MacLennan confirmed that we have now received the insurance payment from the MVAS sign accident and we have received a payment of £850 from RJC Landscapes for the grounds maintenance equipment that the Parish Council owned.

PC/33/22 To consider the proposal of gating the alley between the tow path and Trumpers Field from PCSO Angela O'Connell following reports to the Antisocial Behaviour Team at Buckinghamshire

There have been numerous reports of youths riding around the alleys, footpaths and towpaths on mini motorbikes. PCSO Angela O'Connell has informed us that this is an almost daily problem but the youths have yet to be caught in action.

It is believed that a gate may not work as they seem to kick open the gates in place at other locations, some suggestions were put forward to help; reinstating the ditch in the entrance to the village hall, CCTV installation, redeploying the posts from the M4 works to the towpath.

It was agreed that Cllr. Dax will continue liaising with PCSO O'Connell and put forward the suggested ideas.

In the meantime, residents are asked to report any incidents to the police on 101 or BurnhamFarnhamsTaplowNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk and to the Antisocial Behaviour Team at Buckinghamshire Council - anti-social-behaviour@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

PC/34/22 To update on the Thames Water rewilding programme

Cllr. Dax has been and will continue to be in contact with Thames Water regarding the programme and it was agreed that she will raise all the concerns that Dorney residents have regarding the wildlife on site, parking issues, overcrowding and the possibility of anti-social behaviour.

Cllr. Dax confirmed that all residents should have been contacted by Thames Water with information on the plan.

Thames Water are currently looking for a partner in the project, should the plan then go ahead, they will undertake a public consultation.

We at the Parish Council can only put forward our concerns as ultimately it is Thames Water land.

PC/35/22 To discuss funding for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations

Jill Palmer is organising a celebration for the Queen's Jubilee to take place at the Palmer Arms on 3rd June. Please see the Dorney Parish News for full information.

It was agreed that the Parish Council will purchase Union Jack bunting to put up on the main streets in and out of Dorney for the celebration.

PC/36/22 To update on the upgrade of the Slough Treatment Works and the impact on Dorney

Cllr. Stopford confirmed there has been no further update but he will continue to chase.

PC/37/22 To discuss the recommendations for works following the tree survey

We received two almost identical quotes for the recommended tree works from R Watts and Son of Burnham and Maydencroft of Dorney.

There was a unanimous decision to instruct Maydencroft to complete the work, mainly down to their understanding of the Oak Processionary Moth problem and their suggestion to wait until the trees have been treated by the Forestry Commission. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact both companies.

PC/38/22 To update on speeding issues around the village

We are currently awaiting the decision for funding new Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs for Dorney from the Community Board.

PC/39/22 To update on parking issues around the village

Cllr. Westcott-Wreford is currently in discussions with both the Pineapple and Palmer Arms regarding parking issues around both pubs and there are options being considered to discourage motorists from parking on the pavements.

PC/40/22 To consider any complaints/comments from residents

There have been a few streetlighting issues which have been reported to the contractor.

PC/41/22 Items to consider for discussion at the next meeting on 26th April 2022

Playground trustee

Closer Dorney School liaison

Litter

Neighbourhood Plan

Wildlife awareness signs

Cattle grid

A Helping Hand for Ukraine in Bucks

Martin Tett, Leader of Buckinghamshire Council, has sent several helpful emails about how we can ease the plight of guests from Ukraine right here in Bucks. Encouragingly, Martin says that our county has already recorded the second highest number of expressions of interest in the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme of all council areas.

The Bucks website has links to the main programmes like the 'Homes for Ukraine' visa scheme and to the government site where those without existing links to a Ukrainian household can express interest in being a sponsor. There are dedicated 'Helping Hand for Ukraine' pages on the Bucks CC site.

Perhaps of greatest immediate interest to the people of Dorney is the Ukraine Crisis Fund set up with Bucks CC's partners Heart of Bucks to be found on the Total Giving platform intended to allow Bucks people to give direct help to Ukrainian families as they arrive in our county to set up a new life. Finally, if you can offer services ranging from toys for the children of these families to translation services, please email ukrainesupport@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



thames valley adventure playground

supporting children & adults with
special needs and their families

Thames Valley Adventure Playground is 40!

This year Thames Valley Adventure Playground is celebrating 40 years of offering its unique range of adventurous, therapeutic and educational play activities in a safe, caring and stimulating environment, for both children and adults with all types of disability.



Its humble beginnings were in the summer of 1982, when the charity began and was opened by Terry Wogan as a Summer Playscheme, with one playleader, supported by volunteers with just 12 children visiting. Compare that to today when they regularly welcome over 15,000 visitors a year - it's been quite a journey. Over the years over half a million children have benefitted from spending time at the playground, plus of course their families and carers who enjoy their visits just as much.

As the years have gone by many new facilities have been added, including specialist indoor and outdoor play areas, and recreational and learning facilities, including a large sandpit and wet play area. As a charity all these facilities are added and paid for purely by donations to the charity. They receive almost no funding from local or central government.

To celebrate 40 years of supporting the local community with its unique range of services, the Playground will be running a series of events including an open day when any one can pop along, have a look around and find out more about what they do and how you could help. Keep an eye on their

website and Facebook page for dates for all activities and events.

If you want to help or do something to raise money to support them, they are always happy to talk to you and are always on the lookout for new volunteers and offers of help. No matter what you have to offer, they can usually make use of it! Why not pop along for a chat or drop them an email if you'd like to get involved.

Keith Hanks, Engagement and Fundraising Manager





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www.crocus.co.uk



Neighbourhood Priorities

Priority – Speeding

Now that the weather conditions have improved the NH Teams have been out and about across the area carrying out speeding operations. In February we carried out checks on Marsh Lane, Dorney, Lake End Road and Hill Farm Road, Taplow. In Marsh Lane 25 Vehicles passed the site between 12.30-1300 hours and 3 vehicles were identified as driving over the speed limit. The highest speed recorded was 53mph.

In Lake End Road, Dorney 84 vehicles passed the site between 11.30-12.00 hours, 9 vehicles were identified as being over the speed limit and the highest speed recorded was 45mph.

In addition we now have two very active Community Speed Watch teams. This is a great opportunity for residents who wish to volunteer their time to monitor speeding in areas highlighted for concern by fellow residents. If you are interested in helping out then please contact the team or your local Parish Council.

Priority – Anti-Social Behaviour

This quarter we have had reports of increased antisocial behaviour around the Stomping Ground in Burnham where we have received reports of vehicles parking up and being a nuisance to local neighbours by playing music from their vehicles and littering. In addition we have had reports of motorbikes riding around footpaths in Marsh Lane and around the common in Dorney.

To combat this the team are doing increased patrols at peak times and working closely with the local parish councils to look at other ways to prevent ASB such as gating.

Other News

Sadly we have had to say goodbye to Sgt Rachel Dale who has now moved to Didcot. Rachel was the NH Sergeant for this area for over three years and was always out and about in the community, she will be missed by us. You will soon be seeing our new Sergeant Hadley Gabriel who will be joining us from Slough at the end of March.

In December you would have seen our Police Cadets escorting the parade at the Burnham Christmas Fayre. This is a lovely community event which we enjoy attending every year. Police cadets is a programme which aims to give young people between the ages of 13-18 years an opportunity to participate within the community, provides training which will encourage positive leadership skills and volunteering opportunities. If you would like to join police cadets please contact us at thamesvalleypolicecadets@thamesvalley.police.uk

Have Your Say Events

We have now started our Have Your Say events again so please keep an eye on our social media where we will advertise where we will be.

Dorney – The Dorney Lake Car Park off Court Lane

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, with over 18,000 web visitors each year.

Eton Wick History Group

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	The Early Medieval Monastery in Cookham with Professor Gabor Thomas
13th July	A Woman of Wax with Tony Weston
14th September	'The Village History Through the Website' with Steven Denham
26 October	'The War Horse Memorial' with Alan Carr MBE

Further details from: Teresa Stanton teresams35@virginmedia.com

Hedgerley Historical Society

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

April 20 th	Widows of the Ice Anne Fletcher
May 4 th (Wednesday)	Outing to the Boxford Heritage Centre and Boxford Roman Mosaic talk 10.30am Joy Appleton <u>Booking required</u> Closing date 30 th April 2022 School Lane, Boxford RG20 8DX
May 7 th	Your House Through Time – Research Launch Julian Hunt/Archivist
May 10 th (Tuesday)	11am Outing (Self Drive) to London Transport Museum Acton Depot Bookings close on 8/4/22

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:
Email: d.g.spalding@hotmail.co.uk Mobile: 07707 818076

Little Learners
Every Thursday morning at Dorney Village Hall
10:15am to 11:05am



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www.littlelearnersuk.com

Please contact Bernice Jackson if you would like more information:
Email: bernice@littlelearnersuk.com Mobile: 07944478517



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Dorney Parish News

Published monthly (except January and August)

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RATE OF SUBSCRIPTION: £5 per annum for 10 issues

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

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
Full Page	190	130	£90	£12
Half Page	90	130	£50	£7
Third of a page (Horizontal)	60	130	£45	£6
Quarter Page (Horizontal)	45	130	£40	£5

Contact: Peter Bowman, Editor
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
National Health Service	For urgent medical problems. Need advice	111
Crimestoppers	Anonymously report information	0800 555 111
Water Leaks	Thames Water	0845 9200 800
Sewage Problems	Thames Water	0845 9200 800
Power Cuts	SSE Networks - Central Southern England	0800 072 7282
Gas Leaks	National Grid	0800 111 999
Reporting Pot Holes	www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk	
Reporting Fly-tipping	www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk	
Reporting Footpath Problems	www.transportforbucks.net/report-it-prow.aspx	
South Bucks District Council	www.southbucks.gov.uk	
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