

Dorney Parish News

June 2022



*Into the Woodland Garden – Dorney Horticultural Society's visit to
'Wind in the Willows'*



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EDITORIAL

We're sorry – this edition's timing is not perfect. If you're reading this early in June, we hope you did enjoy/are enjoying your Jubilee celebrations! We're wishing all the best to events we know about – at the Palmer Arms, Crocus, Eton Wick and Windsor. Last month we looked back at events 45 years and 10 years ago. In 1977, children enjoyed a sports day and received a jubilee mug. It's good to read in this month's issue that the school plans a 'royal procession' and a picnic on the school field. In fact, things are looking up for younger people – congratulations to Playground 4 Dorney for securing the future of the Playground by recruiting several new volunteers, and now there is the end-of-term summer party to look forward to. Virginia Silvester takes us back further in this issue. In 1887 and 1897, Dorney knew how to party at Jubilee time, even if back then Marsh Lane residents weren't entirely happy with the arrangements.

The 'first since 2019' is becoming a bit of a theme. The Annual Parish Meeting returned after two years. Dorney Horticultural Society spent a wonderful afternoon at 'Wind in the Willows' in Denham; yes, the first garden visit for two years – an occasion marked by horticultural inspiration, good fellowship and chocolate cake.

But alongside all this inspirational stuff, the mundane workings of everyday life intrude. All along Harcourt Road full green bins still stand like sentinels as their owners wonder whether they will win in the lottery that is Veolia's new waste disposal contract, and their green bins will one day be emptied. Thinking of such matters, let us consider the case of two letters and two phone calls....

In the middle of May two letters arrived in Dorney Reach, one from Transport for Bucks and the other from Thames Water. 'Footway improvement' was promised by TfB imminently for Harcourt Road with 'footway closure' and 'give and take traffic management' and ominously 'any inconvenience' was apologised for twice in a short letter. There was no description of the exact nature of the work, the scheduling of work by households or whether restoring very uneven footpaths on the south side of the road would lead to any tree felling. Thames Water were even less specific – work related to boreholes would lead to an 'increase in noise and traffic movement'. Both of these adjacent projects were scheduled to commence on May 16th and when the letters arrived Marsh Lane was extra busy due to the closure of the Lake End Road Bridge. 'DPN' decided to ring the help desk numbers quoted in the letters.

With plenty of practice from contacting Burnham Health Centre, we were able to withstand the one hour plus wait to move from 'number 3 in the call queue' to a conversation with TfB. No, they had no details of the work, knew nothing of trees, said scheduling was decided on the Monday by the 'foreman' and, anyway, 'look on the website' for full details, which of course, had not been posted. By contrast, the friendly lady who answered for Thames Water seemed genuinely concerned that she knew no details and promised that someone of significance would call me. Within the hour, 'DPN' was called by the Communications Lead on the project who agreed that a 'standard letter' was not ideal given the concern about the TW Rewilding project and volunteered the helpful thought that it was about time that her organisation moved towards providing more information for their Dorney Reach neighbours. Makes you think again about just how far we are from Aylesbury....

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

RCCG Praise Embassy, Haywards Mead, Eton Wick, Windsor, SL4 6JN

Pastor: Olusegun Omotayo 07712 126334 www.rccgchurchatslough.com

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Burnham

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

Rev La Stacey writes: We have just been on holiday in France, and it happened to be the week when Emmanuel Macron was installed again at the Elysée. I have to say, there was something of a sense of relief among people that a particular brand of 'me first' politics hadn't got the upper hand. It so happens that we had also been in France on holiday the first time M. Macron was elected. We seem to have managed a few times to be in a place just when there is big political change: we were in Cuba in February 2008 when Fidel Castro was replaced by his brother, Raoul, and we were in Washington in November 2008 when Barack Obama had just been elected to the White House. Well, we're back home in time now for what we hope instead will be a celebration of continuation - the celebration of 70 years of the reign of someone who has also eschewed a 'me first' approach, who seems to have put the service of others first. She has taken as her model one who said, 'You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.'

By co-incidence, or divine design – who knows – we celebrate the Platinum Jubilee on the same weekend as we celebrate Pentecost this year. The coming of the Holy Spirit was a moment of regime-change par excellence. It is acknowledged that no single human being, other than Christ, can have the place of ultimate judge. No person or institution can be given supreme power. Always, whether we hold the role of Monarch, President, Emperor, or Lord High Anything Else, we are subject to a greater power. It is power characterised counter-intuitively by humility and service, power we cannot master and to which we cannot dictate. The Spirit of this power is given to any who genuinely ask and who genuinely seek. Our Monarch's long reign is a witness to that Spirit. We are told that the fruit of this Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. I would say Elizabeth has shown a pretty good example of many of those fruits, wouldn't you?

The extent of regime-change that followed Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension rightly understood, cannot be over-emphasised. We are offered an invitation to live under a reign

whose ways are ways of gentleness and whose paths are peace. It is a reign Elizabeth herself acknowledges, knowing that kingdom will even outlast her 70 years!

With Pentecost blessings. La

Church Services in June 2022

Wednesday 1st June

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 5th June (Pentecost)

9.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00 am Any Age service

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 12th June (Trinity Sunday)

9.30 am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00 am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 15th June

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 19th June

9.30am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Morning Worship

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 26th June

9.30am Morning Worship

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.

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

A Gold Medal at Chelsea for Jamie and Form Plants!



Jamie Butterworth, Kate Silverton and children from Viking Primary School in their Gold Medal garden at Chelsea Flower show

Just as this issue goes to press, we heard that designer Jamie Butterworth had won a Gold Medal at the Chelsea Flower Show. In our April issue, we told how Jamie and his team from Form at Dorney Court were creating a sanctuary garden 'Place2Be Securing Tomorrow' for Chelsea.

On awarding the medal, the RHS called it 'a beautifully planted garden'. It offers, they said, 'a safe space where children and adults can take time to relax and talk'. Uniquely, Jamie worked in close consultation with pupils from Viking Primary School, West London where the garden will be relocated after the show.

Jamie tweeted 'I cannot begin with I describe how happy I am right now. Gold at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show thanks to an exceptional team.'



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Dorney's Annual Parish Meeting – A Personal View

'Dorney Parish News' enjoys the Annual Parish Meeting. This writer has reported on eight in a row. It's pleasing that an APM was able to be held this month. In none of those previous eight did we have draft minutes, which now makes my task, and hopefully your reading of this issue, more enjoyable.

The meeting was *low key*. There was a bit of a feeling of a *fresh start* and there was the impression of a community *marking time*.

Low key? As I understand it, advice from on high was that if a Council co-ordinated an APM, that was a 'good thing' but that continued nervousness over Covid (this week there are over 2700 cases in South Bucks) called for modest gatherings with maybe less participation than normal. So, the Parish Council are to be thanked for arranging a meeting open to all villagers. This participant hopes that when full normality returns, proceedings will be less low key in terms of the range of those bodies and organisations who are willing to report on their activities which influence our lives.

As this was the first APM since 2019, there was bound to be a 'fresh start'. On the Parish Council sit six new councillors. They are supported and directed by a splendid new Clerk to the Council, Ruth Senior. In each of those eight previous APMs, we made the call for a fully functioning website and in www.dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk we have one. Please use the site – it has updates, it has news. There is a new contractor for grounds maintenance, RJC Landscapes. Here we have the opportunity to once again thank John Farrell who has retired, and also to make a request often heard by DPN – would it be possible to have a schedule of maintenance work carried out by location and date? It seems the Council is financially secure, and indeed, this year the precept paid by residents has not increased.

Our hard-working PCSO, Angela O'Connell gave a comprehensive round up. An experienced new sergeant is making a 'fresh start', but Sgt Rachel Dale will be missed. Ange confirmed burglaries remain the force's priority and these are down 45%, while thefts from cars are up 25%, and the curse of motor bikes in this and neighbouring villages seems to be recognised.

An innovation for this meeting and perhaps the item of greatest impact, was to have a local farmer, William Emmett, address the residents. West Town Farm had evolved through the stewardship of John Barker and the Emmett brothers, with different patterns of cropping and labour supply over recent years. Enjoy the full report in the minutes in this issue. We hope more of William's words might appear in this magazine in the future. Please heed William's concern over the growing dog population in this area.

Regarding the M4 Smart Motorway, the 'fresh start' many of us yearn for is to see the end of the whole ill-starred project. Nick Cooper, speaking for Highways England, pointed in this direction – they are 'on track to complete main construction in the next few weeks'. Normal running at the national speed limit with all the new safety technology operating should arrive by late summer. Depressingly, 'footpath work around Marsh Lane is continuing' but should be completed soon.

The report from our County Councillor, George Sandy contained much that was new for an APM. In 2019, we would never have imagined that 1,000 refugees would be seeking visas with Bucks as their destination or that our parish magazine would be recommending the Helping Hand for Ukraine pages on the county council website. George said that Bucks CC would be carbon neutral by 2030, the refuse collection fleet would be made up of electric vehicles and half a million trees were to be planted. It seems the greenbelt is to be protected and the nomination of

brownfield sites by the public is playing a part, providing potential for some 4,900 new homes. Bucks CC will encourage local areas like Dorney to produce neighbourhood plans.

If a new language is being spoken at APM's, why are we 'marking time'? To some extent, Dorney is waiting to hear the plans and see the actions of others. Will residents find common ground with Thames Water over 'rewilding'? Will the same organisation's plans for a pipeline across Dorney Common be as disruptive as it sounds? We appear closer to a resolution of the multiple threats posed by the Orchard Herbs Farm site, but will it be to our liking? Will Eton College's proposed development for housing on several sites around the parish finally come to fruition? It is encouraging that our council now has a regular dialogue with Dorney Lake, but will issues of access and parking, raised from the floor at the APM, be resolved? The construction might be over, but what will Balfour Beatty and Highways England leave behind where once was a semi-rural green landscape? Why do we hear no details of their planting plans?

Innovation is in the air. The Playground 4 Dorney group has secured five extra volunteers, so they can make the future of their facilities secure. A working group is to be set up to progress a Neighbourhood Plan for Dorney. The Emergency Plan will soon be revealed. I was impressed to read in the APM minutes for Taplow about the progress of their Taplow Environment Working Party, and now on Dorney PC's agenda is the subject of solar panel fields to provide cheaper electricity to Dorney, which was another subject raised from the floor at our APM.

I have a feeling that the APM in May 2023 will not be 'low key'. The venue might well be full.

Peter Bowman



The advertisement for Eton End school features two children in school uniforms. The boy on the left is wearing a blue and white shirt, a tie, and a blue and white skirt with red and white stripes at the bottom. He is holding a yellow and blue soccer ball. The girl on the right is wearing a blue and white shirt, a blue skirt, and blue knee-high socks with white shoes. She is holding a pencil and a book. The background is a blue sky with a white cloud line. In the top right corner, there is a circular logo with a bird and the text 'I am I can I laugh I will'. The main text reads 'I am Eton End' in a large, blue, sans-serif font. Below this, it says 'Co-educational Preparatory Day School for children aged rising 3 to 11'. Further down, it states 'Personal tours are always welcome. For more information, or to arrange a visit, please contact our Registrar to make an appointment.' At the bottom, there is a blue banner with white text: '35 Eton Road Datchet Berkshire SL3 9AX 01753 541075 • admin@etonend.org' on the left and 'www.etonend.org #WeAreEtonEnd' on the right.

LOVELY JUBILEE!

This month sees us celebrating an historic occasion – the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Last month's DPN recalled the way Dorney marked her jubilees in 1977 and 2012, and this June will surely create similar wonderful memories. To reign for 70 years is of course extremely rare, and the Queen will be the first British monarch to reach this milestone. But Dorney also celebrated the Golden and Diamond Jubilees of her great-great-grandmother.



Queen Victoria came to the throne on 20 June 1837, when she was 18 years old. Preparations for a week of events commemorating the 50th anniversary of her accession in the Windsor area were well underway early in 1887, and Dorney's vicar, the Reverend J Archer, was on the organising committee. A key feature was the installation of the statue of the queen outside Windsor Castle, which has since become such a familiar landmark. Dorney was one of the local parishes whose residents contributed to the costs of the statue and jubilee festivities.



The Queen travelled by train from Windsor to London on 20 June for two days of celebrations, including processions through the streets of the capital, a royal banquet at Buckingham Palace, and of course the balcony appearance in front of huge crowds. Meanwhile, in Windsor there was a week-long programme of activities. Bands played, horse troops demonstrated their skills and an open-air concert was held. Sports featured heavily - cricket, football, polo, tennis and athletics, and a regatta and water sports on the river. In the evenings there were fireworks, torch lit processions, bonfires and an ox roast. Windsor bridge and the streets of Eton and Windsor were heavily decorated and illuminated at night, with electric light from the Round Tower a notable novelty.

The Queen returned on 22 June and a grand procession took her from a formal reception at Slough railway station through Eton, where the College boys lined the road cheering, and into Windsor for the ceremonial unveiling of the statue. Among the representatives of parochial committees presented there to the Queen was Dr Waters from Dorney. The following day, seventy children from Dorney School were among over 6,000 school children aged 6 and over who were entertained to dinner and tea in the Home Park, where Punch and Judy shows, swings, see-saws and games kept them amused and the Queen came out in her carriage to greet them. Younger children and the "aged poor" in contributing parishes were provided with similar refreshments at home. The weather remained fine and sunny throughout the Jubilee week – the "Queen's weather", according to the Windsor and Eton Express.

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated in similar but even more extensive style, festivities in Windsor and the surrounding area lasting from 19 to 30 June 1897. There was again a festival for local children in Home Park, 5,000 of them, attended by 51 from Dorney, with refreshments, entertainment and sports. The highlight of this event was the presentation to each child of a commemorative Jubilee medal, a gift from the Queen who paid a visit during the afternoon in her carriage, lifting her veil so that the youngsters could see her face. The newspaper recorded that *"the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee will be a lasting memory for all who were fortunate enough to participate in it, and even the very youngest upon whom the Queen smiled so benignantly in the Home Park last Friday will not be allowed to forget such a red-letter day in the history of their young lives"*. I wonder if any of the older Dorney families still has one of the medals?

This time we know there were also celebratory events in Dorney itself. The school was visited by the 94 year-old Dowager Lady Palmer, grandmother of Charles Henry Dayrell Palmer who was Lord of the Manor at that time. Jubilee medals – presumably the same as referred to above – and a handkerchief were presented to each child, the girls also receiving an embroidered pinafore and the boys a cap. There was singing, accompanied by a zither, and the dowager spoke to each child before they sat down to tea. The occasion was also used to make a farewell presentation to the teachers, sisters Jane and Annie Trotter, who were leaving the school after five years (although they returned less than a year later).

A week later, Charles Palmer gave a Jubilee dinner for 120 villagers in the coach house at Dorney Court. Catering was by the village grocers, Messrs Grove and Hart. The Dowager Lady Palmer attended and spoke to several of the oldest inhabitants. After toasts had been drunk and speeches made, a concert was given by both children and adults. Similar celebrations took place in surrounding villages, but the Maidenhead Advertiser published a (tongue-in-cheek?) letter on behalf of residents of Marsh Lane complaining that they had not been invited to any Jubilee events and felt they were in No Man's Land. The writer commented that the smell from the dinner given in Dorney had been lovely and nearly broke their hearts.

Meals with neighbours, fireworks, decorated streets, concerts – there are many echoes of the Victorian celebrations in the way we mark royal jubilees in our own time. Like our own Queen today, in later life Victoria's mobility was constrained. She had to use a wheelchair to watch the fireworks in the garden at Buckingham Palace in 1887, and ten years later sat in her open carriage for a service of thanksgiving outside St Paul's Cathedral. But the enthusiasm of her subjects saw great throngs of people turn out to snatch a glimpse of her as she passed and to celebrate her long reign – just as we still do today.

Virginia Silvester

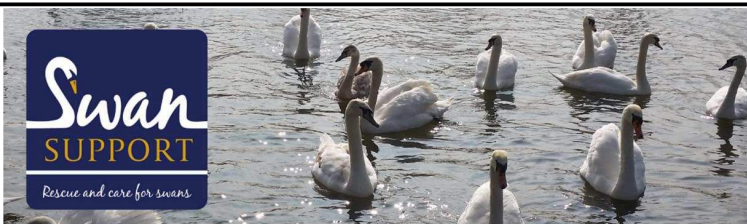
Solar power

It was interesting to read in the May DPN of the ideas for generating clean energy in Dorney. We installed solar panels (12) on the roof of our house in 2010 and have been very impressed by the results. Despite some shading by trees, the panels generate on average 1,835 kilowatts per year. This obviously varies from month to month. July is the best month, with an average of 271 kw; December generates the least electricity, averaging 28.5 kw. It's surprising how much can be generated even on bright cloud days – it's not essential to have full bore sunshine.

We soon got into the habit of switching on appliances at times of peak generation, as any excess electricity goes into the national grid. Four years ago, we added a 13-kw battery in which we can store some of the excess and use it later. We received no grants for the costs of installation, but we do benefit from the good rate paid at that time for electricity supplied to the grid, guaranteed for 25 years. So, as well as reducing our electric bills, the solar panels earn around £1,000 a year.

The financial arrangements are different now. There's a useful article about the current value of installing solar panels at <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/utilities/free-solar-panels>. Coincidentally as I was writing this, through the letterbox came information about a Buckinghamshire Council initiative to encourage take up of solar panels and batteries. Worth thinking about, I'd say.

Virginia Silvester



Please feed our swans! Wendy from Swan Support (www.swansupport.org.uk) has been spreading the word that it's OK to feed bread to our swans.... and lots of other food too.

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

Swans, ducks and geese need a variety of foods to keep them fit and healthy.



- Bread
- Wheat
- Leafy Greens
- Dried Grass
- Grains and Cereals
- Swan food or pellets

Swan Feeding Tips

- Feed small amounts at a time, making sure all food has been eaten before giving more.
- Always feed on water.
- Never feed them anything that has gone mouldy.
- Please remember to feed responsibly and follow any guidelines in your area

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News from Dorney School

I am always left amazed at humanity's resilience in adversity, and this is reflected time and time again in the way our pupils learn and behave. Their tenacity to try their best, try again, and try even harder next time is grounded in our school's belief that every child can be whoever they choose to be and that they are able to flourish, with the support of family, friends, their community, and their teachers. It takes a whole village to raise a child, and this is our aim at Dorney School. We pride ourselves as a school that is centred in its community, that works with and alongside every stakeholder, so that every child benefits and every child belongs.



This is even more important today, in a world full of hardship and uncertainty. This month we welcome children who have claimed a haven in our country, our community, and our school. Dorney School is humbled and privileged to welcome refugee families from areas of conflict and supporting them to rebuild a life and future with us. This is one of the reasons why we invited Dr Aayesha Hassan, a respected immunologist and a National Commissioning Manager who also works for NHS Health Education England. Dr Aayesha and her sisters (both who are chemical engineers) arrived on our shores at a very young age after their experience of being double refugees. They had to rebuild a life twice over as they escaped war and conflict. Her story of grief, loss, love, and compassion touched all our hearts. Her message was clear, 'Education changes lives and open doors you never even knew existed!' She recognised that her success, although due to personal determination, was made easier due to teachers and family who believed in her and supported her. It is even more important today that our children hear and see role models such as Dr Aayesha, who leads through words and deeds. What an inspiring woman from a diverse background! **Refugees are always welcomed here!**

We intentionally plan for our children to learn about the community they live in and belong to. This month, our pupils will visit local churches, mosques, gurdwaras and synagogues. Here is Year 5 at Guru Maneyo Granth Gurdwara in Slough:



They learned so much from this experience and have already been asking their teachers if they are able to visit this beautiful place again. Even as we learn about our diverse communities and families, we also incorporate learning about traditions and the history of these isles. In the next few weeks, our school will put up the bunting and will be participating in a range of activities to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. On top of the cake decorating and other fun activities, our pupils and their families will walk to school together from the car park by the Jubilee River in a 'royal' procession. This Jubilee walk will end

at school whereby all families are invited to a Jubilee Picnic on the school field. I know every child and their family will remember this special event in the years to come.

Our wonderful staff have started running a variety of clubs for our pupils on top of external clubs provided by qualified sports coaches. We now have cosmic yoga, construction, board games, skipping, art, book, well-being, and a fantastic gardening club generously supported by **Crocus at Dorney Court Garden Centre**. This local business has contributed seeds, equipment, and everything else we may need to inspire little green fingers.

I mentioned in a previous newsletter that we are welcoming visitors to our school again as all Covid measures have been lifted. Why not contact our school office for a visit to our school and see us in action? We may just delight you as our new to Reception children were delighted when they visited us in readiness for September. What I had failed to capture was their joy at meeting our pet hens and spotting the eggs that they had laid! I promise to include Ivy, Blueberry, Pinky Pie and Chip in the next edition of this magazine.



I leave you instead with the ducklings that hatched at school recently. I am sure these will make you smile!



Warmest wishes,
Mrs Sharifah Lee
Headteacher

News from Year 6 Dorney School

After a two-year hiatus, on Wednesday 6th April a group of twenty-seven Year 6 Dorney children set off to Woodrow High House for a long-awaited three-day residential trip. Excitable children could hardly contain themselves with what was in store at the venue - three full days of activities, two nights sleeping over with their friends, add a disco and campfire into the mix and we had a recipe for a fantastic time. What awaited us was a newly renovated 400-year-old property set in

its own grounds on the outskirts of Amersham, enthusiastic instructors and chefs who know just how to cook good, wholesome food to feed a multitude of different taste buds.

As our children invested their energy into the first activity - Scavenger Hunt, it was time for the adults to renew our love of Woodrow and discover just what the house had been up to for the last two years. Still very much part of the local community, it continues to offer swimming lessons, walking football, yoga and a place to come and feel safe and be adventurous for hundreds of young people.

Following a successful afternoon and a delicious evening meal, the children donned their sparkling outfits and headed into the cellar for the disco. The old-fashioned tuck-shop was opened, and the dancing started. Unfortunately, part way through the disco, the phone providing the music was needed elsewhere and I realised that I was to be the sole provider of the music and with only 'Mum's Favourites' to hand it was with some trepidation that I hit the 'play' button. Thankfully, I did have some up to date tunes, along with a few classics, the dance floor filled up and the children had a great night.

A quiet bus returned into the heart of Dorney Reach that Friday afternoon - expectant parents and siblings gathered and Year 6 children flung themselves into the arms of their family, alongside a suitcase of dirty washing! A fantastic time had by all and memories to last a lifetime.

Goodbye Woodrow, we hope to see you again soon.

Mrs J Barnard
Year 6 class teacher



Horticultural Society Garden Visit to 'Wind in the Willows'

Every May Dorney Horticultural Society traditionally sets out on a Garden Visit, and this May's, to 'Wind in the Willows' in Denham, was memorable because it was the first since 2019, because of the welcome we received from the friendly Ron James, owner of the house and three-acre garden for nearly 40 years, and because of the special character of his garden.

The first impression through a tree lined entrance leading off a country lane was of a wisteria clad house. There are areas of woodland and informal areas of shrubs. It dawns on the visitor that here is a unique setting sandwiched between the River Misburne and its millstream, with what was once a watercress bed meandering through the centre of the garden. This creates what Ron described as a 'mature woodland garden'.



Around the house the shrubs include tree peonies, a fine 'forest pansy' tree and a growing collection of day lilies. Across the lawn are bearded iris and hellebores. Ron aims for year-round colour. Our visit was perfectly timed because by early summer, those meandering riverbanks become the focal point, being planted with many varieties of damp loving iris, hostas, and candelabra primulas.

The party crossed over a Monet-style bridge leading to an oriental inspired area with acers, camellia, and bamboo. This area was part of the one-acre woodland

garden. Under mature trees there are rhododendrons, magnolias, hydrangeas, viburnums and many shade-loving plants.

Great fellowship was enjoyed by around thirty or so DDHS members who made the trip to Denham. Ron's welcome to us was key to our enjoyment. Members appreciated his deep knowledge of the common and botanical names of his plants. He was engagingly modest, encouraging us all by referring to his garden as a 'work in progress'. Gardening was after all a case of trial and error. Indeed, Ron aimed for a low maintenance garden.



Members referred to the peace to be found in this garden with the stream meandering through it. Others admired the various areas of light and shade. There was the variety in the garden, some of which it seemed, like the oriental garden, to be inspired by Ron's visits to Japan and other countries.

There were lots of engaging touches. Yet another bridge led to a wild garden area with a damp meadow and a bog meadow to encourage butterflies and birds. It seems 13 species of the former and 65 species of the latter had been spotted in the garden. Endangered water vole had made their home here – shades of Water Rat in the book which shares a name with this garden. Even slug control seemed humane with the help of gravel paths and a group of resident mallard ducks. The visit was rounded off by another DDHS tradition, tea and cakes. This writer found the chocolate cake especially enjoyable. The party was inspired by 'Wind in the Willows' – inspiration comes in very handy as attention turns now to the DDHS Annual Show in August. In the words of our chair, Ron Alsworth, this had been a 'great day out for garden loving amateurs'.

(DDHS thanks Ron Alsworth, Jan Bowman, John Wraight and owner Ron James for their impressions and photographs)

Peter Bowman



RESPECT *
COLLABORATE *
GROW *

DORNEY SCHOOL

CLEANER (with light Caretaker duties)

35 hours per week, term time only, plus inset days & two weeks, totalling 41 weeks pa.
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The Senior Leadership Team and Governors of this successful, ambitious and creative primary school are looking to appoint an honest, hard working enthusiastic and dedicated cleaner to join our team.

The Role

We are looking for a self motivated individual committed to providing a high quality of work to ensure the safety of our whole school community by keeping our premises clean and tidy throughout the school day, while also carrying out light maintenance/ health & safety duties.

Key Responsibilities:

- Keeping the school clean throughout the school day
- Light Maintenance tasks
- Periodic Health & Safety checks
- Security check and opening and closing of the school, when required

Our unique school offers you:

- Children who are keen to learn and are highly aspirational
- Supportive and active parents
- Opportunities for professional development and career progression.
- A rare opportunity to join a team of highly committed, talented and innovative staff
- Opportunities for flexible working for the right candidate

Please visit the school website for further information and an application form. Visits to the school are warmly welcomed and positively encouraged, please contact the school office on 01628 620871.

Application forms should be emailed to office@dorneyschool.co.uk



Closing date: 12 Noon, Thursday 9th June 2022

Interview date: Week Beginning 13th June

Dorney School, Harcourt Close, Dorney Reach

Maidenhead, SL6 0DY

Tel: 01628 620871

E-mail: office@dorneyschool.co.uk

Website: www.dorneyschool.co.uk

Dorney School is a member of the Beeches Learning and Development Trust, and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share the commitment. All posts are subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check and other relevant employment checks.



Let the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations begin! Flags courtesy of Dorney Parish Council.

Tickets available for hog roast lunch at The Palmer Arms Friday 3rd June from 12 midday.

At the first Annual Parish Meeting of this Council we were pleased to report that savings on maintenance and admin costs, along with a grant from the Forestry Commission for spraying the Oak Processionary Moth identified in the Memorial Garden trees, assisted in no increase to the precept. and finances are in a good secure position.

EARLY
REPORTING
OF OAK
MOTHS
RESULTED IN
GRANT FOR
SPRAYING

NEW
INFORMATIVE
WEBSITE AND
UPDATED
LOGO

ONLINE
BANKING -
INCREASED
EFFICIENCY

2021/22 Actions:

Re-established formal links with Dorney Lake

Robust monitoring of Orchard Herbs in liaison with Burnham PC

Emergency Plan in place in corroboration with two enthusiastic residents

Continued dialogue with Bucks Council to address speeding issues. Two additional MVAS signs applied for via Community Board

Councillors attend specialist training for planning, Common Land

Work continues in applying for designated status Neighbourhood Plan and Village Design Scheme

JOY MORRISSEY MP

Standing up for the Beaconsfield Constituency



What does the Queen's Speech mean for South Buckinghamshire?

On the 10th of May, the Queen's Speech marked the opening of the new Parliamentary session, setting out the Government's programme for the year ahead. While there was a broad array of Bills announced, there are a number which will really help deal with some of the issues that matter most to people in my constituency.

There are several Bills coming forward to help us fight crime and reduce antisocial behaviour. During the pandemic I was in regular contact with Thames Valley Police, including the Chief Constable, to help address some of the unique problems generated by lockdown restrictions.

Now that we are mostly back to normal, I have been reengaging with constituents to make sure that police actions reflect the changing times again, meeting with our new Area Commander Superintendent Amanda Burroughs to discuss this recently. Looking ahead, I have asked for direct feedback from residents through the crime survey which many local residents will have received already.

Another critical local issue is protecting access to cash, a problem which can have a devastating impact on our high streets. Towns across my constituency from Marlow, to Burnham, to Beaconsfield have seen a number of bank branches close in recent years, and the way in which usage of cash fell during the pandemic has only exacerbated the problem.

In the last few months, I have been taking this right to the top of Government, writing to the Chancellor to ask him to bring forward legislation to protect access to cash. I am delighted to say that in this year's Queen's Speech, the Government has announced exactly this! Combined with the very encouraging announcements about supporting our high streets through local growth, I hope this will see a bright and busy future for our wonderful town centres.

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

www.joymorrissey.uk | [@JoyMorrissey](https://twitter.com/JoyMorrissey) | [fb.com/joy4beaconsfield](https://facebook.com/joy4beaconsfield)

DORNEY PLAYGROUND

UPDATE

We are delighted to announce that a new team of volunteers have stepped forward to support Playground4Dorney, to ensure that the Playground, Multi-Use-Games-Area (MUGA) and Tennis Court can continue to be enjoyed by local residents and visitors to Dorney, ensuring that these valuable, much loved and well-used assets continue to be preserved for the future.

The current committee will be working alongside the new team over the next couple of months to ensure a successful transition and handover. We will also be working together in the organisation and running of our annual end-of-term summer party, which we have been unable to run since before the pandemic (more details to follow in the June edition of DPN). This event is a great fundraiser for the playground (100% of profits are re-invested) and is always a wonderful and joyful celebration at the end of the school year.



Elizabeth Line stumbles to an opening – just!



Dorney travellers have long been waiting for the arrival of Crossrail to whisk them quickly into central London. But huge delays to the project – not helped by a two -year pandemic – have left commuters wondering when they will be able to make full use of the track.

The announcement that Crossrail would be completed in 2018 is now a distant memory, but 24th May 2022 marked a key milestone for the project as it officially launched in central London.

But what does this mean for travellers in Dorney travelling from Taplow or Burnham stations?

What happened on 24th May 2022?

The central section of the Elizabeth line – from London Paddington to Abbey Wood in South East London – opened on that day.

When will the western section of the line, including Maidenhead, Taplow, Burnham and Slough, link up with the central section?

The above opening date will not have a huge impact on travellers from the west, as they will still have to change at Paddington to access the completed central tunnels.

When the Elizabeth line opens it will initially operate as three separate railways. Services from the far west of the line in Reading, which will pass through Maidenhead, Taplow, Burnham and Slough, are not scheduled to connect until the autumn.

How frequent will trains be on the Elizabeth line?

From 24th May 2022, the line will operate 12 trains per hour between Paddington and Abbey Wood, Monday to Saturday from 6:30am-11pm. Services will not run on Sundays.

When the western section connects to the central, frequencies will be increased to 22 trains per hour in the peak between Paddington and Whitechapel.

When the full route opens, four Elizabeth line trains an hour (six an hour at peak times) will run from Maidenhead, Taplow, Burnham and Slough to central London.

How long will it take me to get into London stations from Paddington when the full line opens?

The new railway will connect Paddington to Canary Wharf in 17 minutes. This journey takes more than 30 minutes to complete using the existing Tube network.

When was the line meant to be completed and why has it taken so long?

The line was initially supposed to be completed in 2018, but Crossrail Ltd chief executive Mark Wild said it needed further time to complete software and safety works.

Further delays then ensued over the following years before COVID-19 hit, which forced the project to delay even further.

The latest setback was announced in August 2020 when it was confirmed the central section would not open until the first half of 2022, and the entire scheme in 2023.

What other changes are being made?

A total of 10 new stations are being created in central London as part of the Elizabeth line. Meanwhile, all services between Reading to Paddington currently operating as TfL Rail will be rebranded to the Elizabeth line.

A series of upgrades have also been made to Maidenhead, Taplow and Burnham railway stations in conjunction ahead of Crossrail's arrival.

When will the entire Elizabeth line open, from east to west?

Full services across the entire route will be introduced by May 2023, Transport for London says.

With sincere thanks to the Maidenhead Advertiser for this article

DORNEY SCHOOL



Respect • Collaborate • Grow

"A little village school with a 'Big Heart' and a warm welcome"

Warm, inclusive, nurturing community that places the child first

Published results above local and national schools, over the last three years.

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- Ample parking for everyone*

"I love that it is culturally diverse and that everybody is so friendly. It feels like a really positive place to drop off your children every day"
~ Parent

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Love is there even in the Darkest Hour

Thirteen candles light the altar, flickering on the faces of the congregation. La Stacey, dressed in traditional clerical robes, stoops to wash the feet of her flock - an act of servitude and love. One by one the candles are extinguished in remembrance of Jesus' betrayal and death. Darkness descends.

This sacred Maundy Thursday service in St James the Less church, Dorney, is a favourite of La's, whom I had the great pleasure of interviewing this month.



La Stacey, vicar of Eton Wick and Dorney, mother, wife, occasional canoeist and Cambridge alumna, was born in a caravan.

'My father built it from a kit. There simply wasn't the money to pay for rented accommodation. There was no running water – we were sited in a field near Woodley Aerodrome'

A bright girl, she was the only pupil at her village school in Heckfield to pass the eleven plus exam in five years. She went to the grammar school in Basingstoke ten miles away (by bike, train and on foot), where she did reasonably well, and, to her surprise, won a place at Cambridge University. Quite a feat for a state-educated girl in the early 1970s.

Family life was happy, but there was little money and few luxuries. Her mother, a trained nurse, was very capable which was just as well because La's father was often away on business, leaving her to bring up La and her three siblings on her own.

La describes herself as a headstrong, stubborn child, determined to get her own way. Very independent, she used to take the train to dancing class alone from a very early age.

Her father, an expert on supersonic travel, was part of the team that designed Concorde. Its streamlined body with triangular-shaped wings and long pointed nose made it incredibly aerodynamic, allowing it to break the sound barrier. 'It was fascinating hearing his stories about creating this spectacular aircraft.'

When I asked La how she became a vicar, she explained that it wasn't until she went to Cambridge that she began to understand the incredible power of God's

love. A lady deacon invited her to bible study classes, and from that moment La started to look at things more seriously. It wasn't until the death of her grandmother, however, that she realised she had no faith, and began asking the really important questions in life.

'I didn't want to delude myself. I wanted to face up to reality, and I launched myself into the unknown – the huge feeling of love that caught me was overwhelming. I came to realise that this is what Jesus is about - an immense sense of love. Understanding the bible is about knowing the worth of each human being. I wanted other people to know that. too. To know that everyone is loved.'

After that, becoming a vicar was a natural progression, but it took many years. In the meantime, La, together with her husband, has raised a family, taught, and served as a company director. She has spent time travelling, notably in Canada, where she developed her love of canoeing.

One day, they were paddling up river towards what looked like a large black rock protruding from the water.

'It wasn't till we got closer that I noticed it was moving. The 'rock' raised its head, and we saw it was a bear. We froze, hoping we were mistaken, but it turned and looked right at us, before swimming away across the river. A moment we'll never forget!'

Eton Wick and Dorney is La's first parish after completing her training to enter the Church. She found it overwhelming, being responsible for everything – the services, the graveyards and managing multiple events, but quickly found she could rely on the help from the Church family and the local community.

'It's a huge privilege, being there at the significant moments in people's lives – baptising babies, conducting weddings, comforting a grieving family. I couldn't possibly do it without a selfless support network.'

I wanted to know if La had ever suffered a crisis of faith. Taking a moment, she explained that her whole world had been turned upside down by the death of her son at the age of twenty-three. 'Grief tears you apart. Nothing is a comfort at a time like that. The only thing we had to cling on to was the sense that he was all right. That love is there even in the darkest hour.'

A typical week for La starts on a Saturday when she writes her sermon. Often based on things that have happened during the week, it's geared towards the congregation and events in their lives. She checks her emails, prepares for upcoming weddings, funerals or baptisms and the following day's services.

On Sunday morning La takes two services, (Eton Wick and Dorney), then catches up on all the administrative tasks that come her way.

Monday to Thursday she attends a variety of groups, meetings and school assemblies, and deals with other matters such as the replacement of a room at the Eton Wick church.

There are toddler groups to visit, bible studies to take, as well as funerals to arrange and visits to parishioners in hospital.

Friday is her day off when she visits her children who live nearby. The loss of her son affected the whole family, which made them closer but not co-dependant. 'We can rely on each other but don't need to be together all the time.'

To relax she likes to spend time gardening, seeing friends and walking. She used to do a lot of sewing and knitting, and enjoyed visiting the theatre, 'but being a vicar,' she explained, 'is very intense.'

Freedom, reality, joy and love are the way La describes her faith, and when I asked which object or animal best describes her, she chose a cat, curled up in the sun, despite her intense life as a vicar.

Her favourite time of year is spring, for the sense of renewal and light after the darkness of winter, and her favourite flower is the primrose.

The best gift La has ever received are her babies and her best-loved hymns are 'Before the Throne of God Above', and 'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind'.

La is due to retire next year, but is yet to make any plans. She does, however, know what her best memories of Dorney will be.

'The care of the people in the church. There's a real feeling of a family here, one that is welcoming and supportive, and kindness too. A great sense of faith, not strident or forceful, but gentle and sustaining. The people of Dorney care deeply for the community and for each other, and will be part of me whatever life brings next'

She would like her ashes to rest with her son in St John's in the Vale churchyard in the Lake District.

La Stacey left me with an image of another of her favourite services – Easter Sunday at the "Friendless" Church of St Mary Magdalene, Boveney, beside the River Thames.

Five o'clock in the morning, a bonfire blazes outside the church, its flames warming the dark stones and lighting the open door. The congregation is waiting for the sun to rise, to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

And then, the first light of dawn appears ...

Mo Voaden





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

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 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

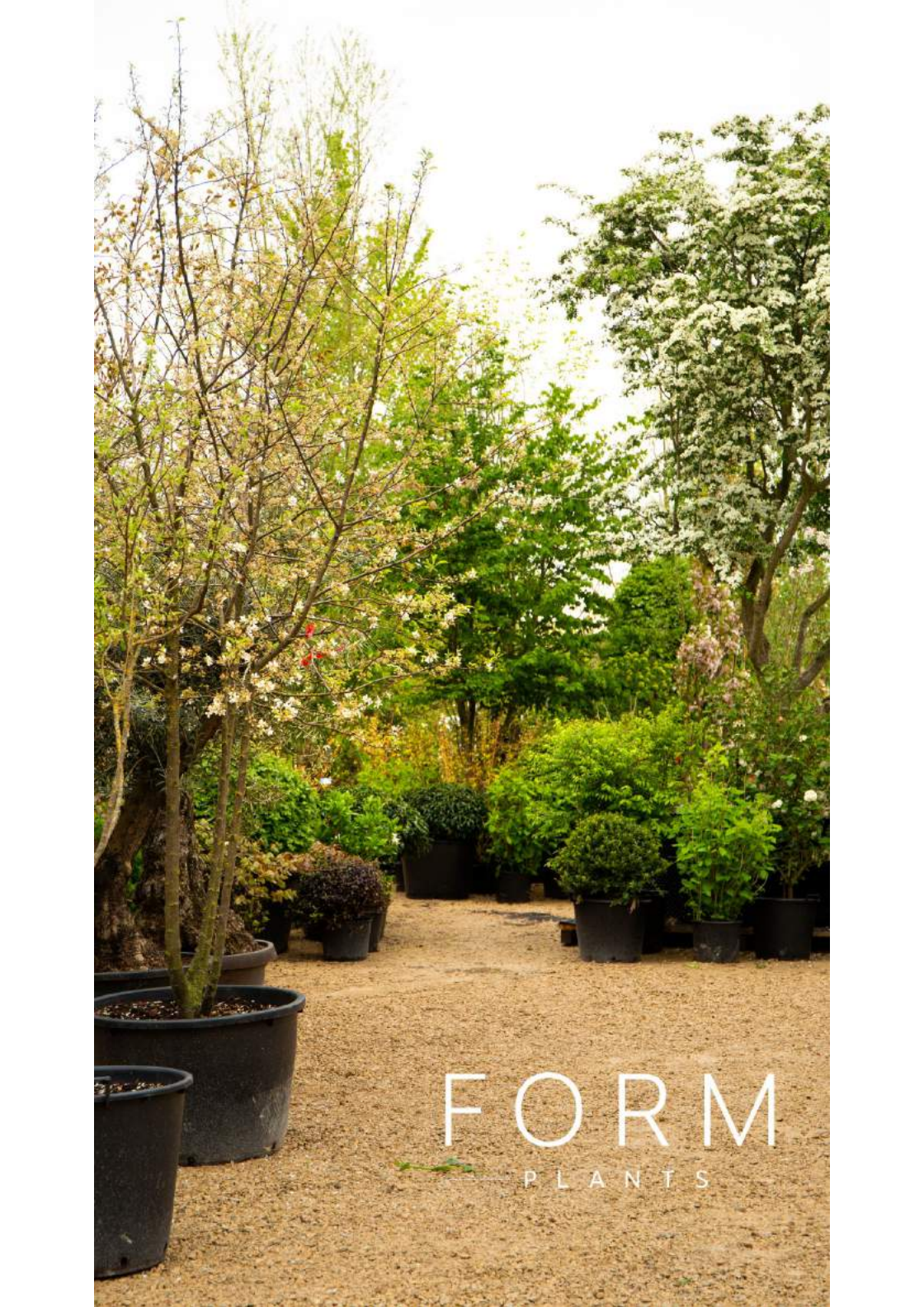
Beechwood suspended dance floor

75 space free car park

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

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FORM
PLANTS



DORNEY

PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES of
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**
held on Tuesday 17th May 2022
Dorney School

Present

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair), Cllr. Anna Palmer, Cllr. Euan MacLennan, Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford, Cllr. Stephen Baker, Ms Ruth Senior (Parish Clerk), Peter Bowman (Dorney Parish News), John Barker, Christine and Roger Marrett, PCSO Angela O'Connell, Virginia Sylvester, Judith Barnard (Dorney School) and William Emmett (West Town Farm).

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr. Robert Stopford and Cllr. William Voaden, County Cllr. George Sandy, County Cllr. Paul Kelly and Nick Cooper (M4 Project) and Lyndsey Oliver (Playground).

2 Report from Parish Council

Cllr. Jill Dax - Chairman

Good evening and welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting - the first one to be held since the Pandemic hit in 2020.

Just by way of explanation the Annual Parish Meeting, with the exception of the past two pandemic years, is held in May and is, in legal terms, a quite separate body from the Council, but it is invariably the Council that arranges it. Its decisions are not binding on the Council. This meeting has its own minutes, which should be kept separately from the Council minutes, and these minutes can only be approved by the next Annual Parish Meeting which will, of course, not be held until the following year.

Since the May 2021 elections your Parish Councillors are Martyn Westcott-Wreford, Euan MacLennan, Anna Palmer, Robert Stopford (who sends his apologies), Stephen Baker and our latest welcome recruit William Voaden and myself. We are very ably assisted by our Clerk Ruth Senior and I take this opportunity to thank my colleagues for their time, enthusiasm, professionalism and commitment over the challenges of the past year.

Our newly designed website is regularly updated with all Parish information and projects underway and current (and past) Minutes. A wealth of information! Financially we are in secure position given our current plans and we also managed to make some savings on administrative and maintenance matters for the current year.

Cllr. Euan MacLennan - Finance

Cllr. MacLennan confirmed the message from Cllr. Dax that the finances are in a good, secure position. The major changes over the past year have been savings on administration with the changeover of the Parish Clerk and also the retirement of John Farrell and savings from changing to a fixed contract for grounds maintenance.

With these savings in mind, the Parish Council was very pleased to be able to keep this year's precept the same, meaning no increase for Dorney residents.

3 Community Updates

PCSO Angela O'Connell - Thames Valley Neighbourhood Police's Report

Firstly I would like to welcome Sgt Hedley Gabriel who has now joined us as the Neighbourhood Sergeant for the area replacing Sgt Rachel Dale who has now moved away to Oxford. Sgt Gabriel joined us from Slough having served with Thames Valley Police for the last 12 years. PC Trevor Walker has also now retired from Thames Valley Police after having served 16 years as the Neighbourhood Officer for Dorney. Crime statistics cover Burnham/Farnham's/Taplow and the rolling 12-month figures from April 2021 – 2022 shows the following.

Burglaries continue to be a major problem and is still the forces no 1 priority.

Over the past 12 months there has been a reduction in reported incidents from 47 to 26, this equates to a 45% decrease.

Burglary remains TVP's top priority and as in previous years we will be teaming up with our Neighbouring forces including the Met Pol, Hampshire and Surrey. These operations are targeted, intelligence led high visibility proactive patrols to detect and deter those responsible

Theft from motor Vehicles, there's been an increase in theft from vehicles from 99-124 which equates to a 25% increase. To combat this NH teams are regularly patrolling our scenic car parks and raising awareness via clear car campaigns.

Theft of motor Vehicles, there has been a slight decrease in reports incidents from 38 to 39, this equates to an increase of 3%. These stats also include the rise in keyless thefts which were previously recorded in the Burglary figures. Has a response to any potential rise in these types of crimes the NHPT hope to continue with their joint awareness campaign called "Clear car" and working alongside Bucks County Council. Also, crime awareness signage being placed in locations being targeted by offenders.

The NHPT are preparing to take part in a number of Police led operations designed at tackling the core issues such as Burglaries, Vehicle crime as well as speeding and anti-social behaviour. This operation will continue to run throughout the rest of this year and into 2023.

Antisocial Behaviour, we have seen an increase in Antisocial Behaviour around the tow paths, Dorney Common and Amerden Lane with regards to scrambler bikes which we are working closely with the Environment Agency to resolve.

Unauthorised Encampments, this is a regular issue in this area and now that the pandemic restrictions have eased, we will no doubt see the number of unauthorised encampments increase. The NH teams have been making contact with local landowners to ensure they are making their land as secure as possible. A Land Watch WhatsApp group has also been set up for local landowners which is being managed by Beaconsfield Council, Tabish Wazir, if you are interested in joining, please contact him on Projectsupport@beaconsfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk

William Emmett – West Town Farm

My family has been farmers and growers in this part of the Thames valley since the early 1900s. I own the business that occupies the land at West Town Farm and also rent the land around Dorney owned by the Palmer family, in total adding up approximately 400 acres.

The land at West Town Farm was formerly owned by two gravel companies, until its sale to the merchant ventures of Bristol in 2014.

West Town Farm was farmed by the Barker family between 1958, incidentally the year before the pre M4 road was started and 1985.

During that period the Barkers grew a wide range of horticultural crops predominantly for the wholesale markets in London, which mainly served the retail greengrocers before the days of the mega supermarkets.

My late brother John and I took on the tenancy in the 1990s and our main focus until 2005 was growing a range of salads and vegetables including iceberg lettuce, all types of coloured lettuce,

spinach, leeks, salad onions, parsnips, cabbage and kale for companies such as Waitrose, Tesco and Sainsburys, growing, harvesting, packing and delivering throughout the country.

Being expected to deliver every day except Christmas Day.

A further change of cropping style came in 2005 when John and I sold our horticultural business to the management who relocated it to Spalding in Lincolnshire.

My brother then saw an opportunity to start a business producing herbs, in particular for the discerning ethnic market which has rapidly expanded, growing coriander, fenugreek, dill, parsley, thyme, tarragon, spinach, chillies, tender stem broccoli and many more.

Following his untimely death at the young age of 71, I have continued growing those crops alongside potatoes for Walkers crisps and milling wheat in a crop rotation.

The land around here is good, free draining land overlying gravel making it suitable for growing a variety of crops as mentioned, the water coming from shallow artesian bore holes across the land. Growing fresh produce has always been very demanding, both on quality and volume and requiring a large labour force as most crops are hand harvested.

In as much as the crops produced have varied over the generations but so has the workforce required to plant and harvest the crops.

In the years before our EU accession, it was local labour. As we went into Europe Italians and Spanish came to the UK. Following those countries prosperity, the Asian community became the major part of the workforce.

Then as Eastern Europe came into the EU many Polish, Lithuanian and other eastern countries filled the job opportunities.

Following our withdrawal from the EU, young people are coming in via Government supported schemes but numbers nationally are well short of what is required.

The last few years have proved very challenging dealing with the smart motorway improvements which show no sign of handing back land south of junction 7 but I hope we have not caused too much inconvenience with our farming operations as we are trying hard to produce your daily fresh foods for you.

Nick Cooper – M4 Smart Motorway

We are making good progress and are on track to complete main construction in the next few weeks. Opening the motorway to traffic i.e. normal operation will take place in stages over the summer. Further details will follow in June.

The key focus will be on ensuring that the new technology is installed, tested and operating as expected before we move to the national speed limit and the removal of all traffic management.

We have one more weekend closure between Junctions 6 and 8/9 scheduled this weekend, 20-23 May. There are no weekend closures currently planned in June due to the summer events season starting, but there will be some overnight closures.

The work at Lake End Road is already completed ahead of schedule and the closure has now switched to traffic lights which should be removed earlier than planned.

Footpath work around Marsh Lane is continuing and should be completed soon.

4 Report from County Council

County Cllr. George Sandy

Firstly, I'd like to thank the Parish Council for undertaking to read this short report to Dorney Parishioners. It comprises a few words about County activity over the last 12 months and a little about the Council's aspirations.

The situation in Ukraine is dire and refugees are arriving in Britain. Close on 400 have found refuge in Buckinghamshire and there have been many generous offers to provide shelter from residents. If you, or anyone you know has spare capacity in their homes and willing to provide temporary accommodation please check out the Helping Hand for Ukraine pages on the Buckinghamshire Council website. We are currently aware circa 1000 refugees have applied for visas with the destination being Bucks.

The Government's target to combat climate change is to be carbon neutral by 2050. County is to achieve this by 2030 which means all premises and vehicles under county control will be converted or replaced. The Council's fleet of refuse collection vehicles are to be renovated using a £578,000 grant from DEFRA. By converting to electric vehicles 10 tonnes of greenhouse gases will have been saved from polluting our air.

There is a target to plant 543000 trees so suitable sites must be found and you should suggest any you believe to be viable.

You will have likely heard that the boundaries commission has been working on a restructuring of electoral wards throughout the country and for Buckinghamshire it is proposed there will be 50 wards broadly containing between 5000 and 10000 electors and for every 5000 electors there will be one county councillor. This means that Cliveden Ward comprising Burnham Lent Rise, Dorney and Taplow which has a population of just over 8000 electors will have two seats instead of three. Across the County the number of seats will be reduced from 147 to 98. As part of the consultation the boundaries commission carried out prior research prior to ascertain how much time councillors spent on council activity and their findings indicate that there is quite a lot of spare capacity. With which I personally agree. In effect fewer Councillors will still be able to represent their voters efficiently and at a lower cost to the tax-payer

The last few months have seen increased engagement with the community boards. They are the local meeting point for residents, schools, and a variety of Businesses, clubs and parish councillors all of whom can propose ideas for projects they believe will enhance their activities, and which might benefit from some financial support. The CB has special committees dealing with Highways and Infrastructure, and Adult and Youth, Health Well-being.

Tougher measures against the unlawful establishment of Travellers encampments have resulted in a significant reduction of such across the county. From 38 encampments in the year 19/20 to 18 in 20/21, and only 14 in 21/22. Fingers crossed that Dorney parish will also benefit from the general reduction of such incursions.

Buckinghamshire's Conservative County Council is determined to protect the greenbelt. In a recent call to local residents to nominate brownfield sites resulted in 275 sites submitted which are now being assessed for their suitability, availability and achievability for development. The outcome is subject to the final assessment but it was encouraging that the initial estimate of new homes on the sites submitted showed potential for approximately 4900 new homes. A second call for brownfield sites was launched on the 6th of December 2021 which remains open and it will do so as long as possible. An additional 47 sites have already been submitted for assessment. As a consequence, it is hoped that development pressure upon the greenbelt areas around our ward will be correspondingly relieved.

Drafting of The Buckinghamshire Local Plan is still waiting for the government's proposed planning reforms so nothing can be finalised until these are known. Meanwhile an attitude survey was conducted as part of the discovery and exploration phase of the local plan for Buckinghamshire. It closed in February and attracted 3439 responses which is a very healthy response rate at such an early stage of plan preparation and they are currently being analysed.

County is keen to see local areas produce neighbourhood plans and it takes a proactive and positive approach by providing advice and support to those communities that are interested in producing their own; neighbourhood development plans, neighbourhood development orders, or community right to build orders, as part of its duty to support. Each

parish should decide whether it should create its own Neighbourhood Plan.

Gully cleaning and the repair of pot-holes are the subject of frequent complaints. In either case, or if you have any complaint relating to highways and footways, please register them online using the Fix my Street App. 70800 gully's have been cleaned at least once in the last year, but if you see any that need attentions, please do report them.

There really is so much more one could add, but if parishioners wish to ask questions, please address them through the parish clerk and they will be answered.

5 Questions from the floor on Parish/County issues

Judith Barnard asked if William Emmett would be happy to do a similar talk for the children at the school which he confirmed he is happy to do.

Judith Barnard asked if it is possible for the school children to be involved in the tree planting as mentioned in County Cllr. George Sandy's report, this question will be forwarded.

Virginia Sylvester asked that the gully cleaning programme be commended as very successful. This comment will be forwarded.

Virginia Sylvester asked for an update on the terrible road surfaces on Village Road and Marsh Lane as we were assured by County Cllr. Dev Dhillion that this would be resolved after the M4 works. These are major cyclist routes and are becoming very dangerous. This question will be forwarded to County level along with the question of criteria for a 'failed road surface'.

6 Any other business

William Emmett raised the point of problem dog walkers in the area letting dogs run amongst the growing crops and not clearing up after them, this is an ongoing problem he asks that residents please be more aware and careful.

Virginia Sylvester asked who will be responsible for the maintenance of local footpaths when the M4 project has been completed. Cllr. Dax is forwarding a footpath map to Virginia to mark the footpaths in question. The Clerk will then confirm ownership.

William Emmett questioned the Parish Council view on the closure of Dorney Lake causing parking issues in other areas of the village. Cllr. Dax confirmed that dialogue with Dorney Lake has been reactivated and we are in regular contact with them, so will forward the concerns raised.

John Barker enquired about the possibility of using land around Dorney for solar panel fields to provide cheaper electricity to residents. This will be added to the June Parish Council Meeting Agenda and also forwarded to County for consideration.

The Parish Council thanked everyone for their updates and attendance.



DORNEY

PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD TUESDAY 17th May 2022, 6.30 P.M. AT DORNEY SCHOOL

Present

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair)

Cllr. Anna Palmer

Cllr. Euan MacLennan

Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford

Cllr. Stephen Baker

Ms Ruth Senior (Parish Clerk) and 2 members of the public

Open Forum

Peter Bowman asked if anyone knew why the books have been removed from the phone box on Harcourt Road – Cllr. Dax confirmed she will ask her contacts as this was not Parish council.

PC/53/22 Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr. Robert Stopford and Cllr. William Voaden.

PC/54/22 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 26th April and matters arising

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

There were no matters arising.

PC/55/22 Items of business carried forward

55.1 The Orchard Herbs Site

Liz Aston from Buckinghamshire Planning has confirmed that the official decision on the application for the hotel should be completed by 10th June 2022.

55.2 M4 Smart Motorway

Nick Cooper from the project answered the questions previously asked regarding gaps in the sound barriers and the bumps in the road on Marsh Lane bridge.

“There will be small gaps in the barriers for access to utilities and in line with the design”, “we are checking the newly installed expansion joints by monitoring them over the next few weeks. If problems like this persist, then they will be rectified”.

It was agreed the Clerk will question gates being installed in the barriers rather than having gaps.

55.3 The Emergency Plan

It was unanimously agreed that the draft Emergency Plan that has been proposed can now be completed and published.

PC/56/22 Planning

It was agreed that the Parish Council has no comments on the plans submitted for 16 Harcourt Road and 4 Old Marsh Lane.

The Clerk confirmed that Burnham and Taplow Parish Councils are happy to join forces should there be a planning issue which effects all three parishes.

The number of plans for Harcourt Road was raised. Cllr. Baker confirmed that if these were to be staggered timewise to stop too much building activity at once, it would mean a planning application refusal and re-application.

PC/57/22 Finance - To agree/ratify expenditure and income to date

The cashbook was circulated prior to the meeting and approved.

It was agreed that the Clerk will contact RJC Landscapes regarding invoicing.

It was agreed that the Clerk will investigate the devolved services payment.

PC/58/22 To consider a Dorney Parish Councillor becoming a Playground Management Group representative

Lyndsey Oliver confirmed prior to the meeting that they now have 5 new Trustees in place to take over the Playground Management Group from the end of this school year which is great news.

The Parish Council **agreed** that we would put forward a representative for now until the new Trustees are established, at which point we will re-assess and look at having a Trustee from the Parish Council instead.

Proposed Cllr. Baker and seconded Cllr. Westcott-Wreford, Cllr. Anna Palmer for the representative role. Cllr. Palmer accepted this proposal.

It was agreed that the Clerk will inform Lyndsey Oliver.

PC/59/22 To confirm the Dorney Emergency Plan

It was unanimously agreed that the draft Emergency Plan that has been proposed can now be completed and published

PC/60/22 To consider Dorney progressing with a Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Voaden has been investigating the benefits and processes of Dorney having a Neighbourhood Plan. There has been a positive response from Buckinghamshire Council who have encouraged the process and offered their support.

It was agreed that on the June agenda the Parish Council will decide on a Working Group to move the plan forward.

PC/61/22 To update on Dorney Common speeding/signage

The Clerk confirmed that the questions of reducing the speed limit across the Common and cattle warning signage have been asked of the various departments at Buckinghamshire Council and will update as soon as answers are received.

PC/62/22 To discuss the RLC Landscapes ideas for planting around the Village

RJC Landscapes proposed a plan for planting at the welcome to Dorney signs around the village, which was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. **It was agreed** that the Clerk will ask for alternative planting options which would last throughout the year rather than seasonal plants and reduce maintenance costs. The possibility of asking Form Plants or Crocus to provide and sponsor the planting areas was discussed.

The overall view is that planting is a good idea both for aesthetics and speed reduction.

PC/63/22 To update on the Oak Processionary Moth treatment

The Clerk confirmed that the Forestry Commission's first spray took place on 10th May and the second spray will happen within 2 weeks.

PC/64/22 To discuss options for a new village noticeboard next to the Palmer Arms

The existing notice board is old, warped and becoming dangerous.

Cllr. Dax presented an option from Creative Solutions Direct which is a basic metal, 4xA4, lockable, wall mounted noticeboard for £135.96. **It was agreed** that unless there is a wooden option available for a similar price, we will go ahead with a black frame metal option.

PC/65/22 To consider any complaints/comments received from residents

The Clerk confirmed trying to resolve an issue with the Gatehouse streetlight on Village Road which has been an ongoing problem for many months, reported by resident Alice Foxley. The electrical contractor has confirmed that there is no electricity supply to the light. **It was agreed** that the Clerk will continue to chase this problem with SSE.

PC/66/22 Items to consider for discussion at the next meeting on 21st June 2022

To consider the Parish Council having a ZOOM subscription for continued online streaming of the Parish Council meetings.

To discuss the road surfaces on Village Road and Marsh Lane.

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 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 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

June 8th	London's Great Railway Stations Oliver Green ZOOM
June 15th	Britain's Forest Story Julian Hight ZOOM
June 23rd (Thursday)	Coach Outing – Windsor Great Park & Savill Garden £35 <u>Closing date 18th May</u> Meet 10am Spar SL2 3RP
July 7th (Thursday)	Guided Tour of Hatfield House £16. Closing date 8th June Meet 11am Hatfield House AL9 5HX
July 13th (Wednesday)	Guided Tour of Church Gardens £10 (includes Tea). Closing date 8th June Meet 2pm Harefield UB9 6DU
July 30th (Saturday)	Mikron Theatre – Red Sky at Night £15 (£13 concessions) 7pm Hedgerley Memorial Hall SL2 3UU. Outdoor performance – indoor if wet. Bookings http://www.mikron.org.uk 01484 843701



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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
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
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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
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Sewage Problems	Thames Water	0845 9200 800
Power Cuts	SSE Networks - Central Southern England	0800 072 7282
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