

Dorney Parish News

September 2022



My Dream Garden – Isobel Palmer
Winner Children's Section (8+) – BEST EXHIBIT

The Dorney and District Horticultural Society Annual Show
was held on 27th August 2022

For report and results, please see Pages 14 to 17



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EDITORIAL

What a strange summer it has been. After a month's interval for August, our pages reflect a time of contrasts. The apparently hopeless set against some hopeful developments. In her regular article, the vicar of St James the Less feels moved to urge us to help others by sharing and directs readers to the website of the Windsor and Maidenhead Foodshare scheme. In similar fashion, our local Head Teacher reflects the fears of her profession across the land that children will come to school 'hungry, tired and cold' as winter approaches. Mike Quincey, a columnist who sometimes makes us chuckle, tells how in his ambulance driving, he has witnessed the effects caused by the closure by some councils of day centres.

One hears that fire brigades are becoming regular visitors to this parish, and a few Sundays back, in common with other rural areas, we had our own extensive field fire near Dorney Wetlands on the Jubilee River. It's just the right time to be able to publish more details of the proposed Dorney Emergency Plan. Rising temperatures had other effects. In our last issue we rejoiced that the new trustees of the Playground were looking forward to their first Summer Party for three years. Hopes were dashed for the allotted date, July 19th, saw what must have been Dorney's record ever temperature as over 38C was recorded.

Talking of the unpredictable, one word 'Refused' in our last issue notified a rare victory in the long tussle with the owners of the infamous Orchard Herbs Farm site as outline planning permission for a 416-room hotel was withheld. We would not have predicted that another front would be opened up as much of the site, and all too often the surrounding roads, became a Heathrow bound park and ride. Prompt action may well have halted that little money spinner in its tracks, but prompt action seems foreign to our friends at Thames Water. The bursting of a three-inch main midway along Harcourt Road was reported to them on May 5th. Only now, well after dark on a Bank Holiday Sunday, as these words are being written, are noisy repairs being undertaken. It seems our MP was only recently told by the company that as the main served our school, the window of opportunity for repair has been limited. Meanwhile, just don't mention the hose pipe ban introduced on August 25th....

But against this background, this issue is intended to be very positive. We're happy to carry lengthy reports on two joyous occasions. As we go to press, the Dorney Annual Show has returned after missing two years. Would interest remain after an eventful two years? Would any produce survive those temperatures and an ongoing drought (not, it seems, 'unprecedented' as an interesting reader's letter points out)? The answer to both questions was 'yes!' Dorney residents also turned out in good numbers for a fine dramatic production as Maidenhead Drama Guild performed *Educating Rita* by the side of the Common. Finally, it was a deep pleasure to recall with Mary Baker the events surrounding the Olympics in Dorney just about a decade ago.

We rather hope that it is positive events like these which will eventually outweigh the effects of all those disturbing events and trends that have seemed so prevalent through this long, hot summer.

Revd. La Stacey has asked us to clarify that the new Church Room, see pages 6 and 7, is situated in Eton Wick, but is not just for Eton Wick. It is a resource for the whole benefice, serving some of the purposes for which Dorney vicarage was used. There will be room for holding meals, for example, and there will be a church office.

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: 'Give us today our daily bread'. That is what we pray every morning in our prayers for the parishes. It is a line from the prayer Jesus taught his followers, of course, which itself drew on ancient traditions of Jewish prayers. It's a prayer you will find on the wall of Dorney church, handily written out in the 18th century for all to read and learn by heart.

My brother had a ration card when he was born. By the time I came along rationing had ended and I have so far lived my life without having to worry too much about where the next meal was coming from. I remember being really hungry as a child – what child isn't? – but there was never a meal of some sort lacking.

The story for many families bringing up children now in our country seems to be different. In my role I am making more frequent referrals to food-share schemes. Food banks seem to have become a familiar feature of our social landscape, with even Gov.uk websites directing people to them. Food insecurity for the world is increasing rapidly. Looking at the UN food report, 'Nearly one in three people in the world (2.37 billion) did not have access to adequate food in 2020 – that's an increase of almost 320 million people in just one year.' It also says, 'Globally, 149.2 million (22.0 percent) of children under the age of five years suffered from stunting in 2020.' And that was before the recent droughts, fires and floods, and before war in Ukraine.

We cannot pray that we might be given our daily bread, while not caring that there are those today who will have no bread. It is 'our' daily bread we pray for. I've been re-reading something by someone who learnt about Christ's teaching by following Mother Teresa for a while. He said, 'I will never forget learning one of my best lessons in economics -- from a homeless kid in India. Every week we would throw a party for the street kids, kids 8-10 years old who were homeless, begging all day to survive. Each Tuesday we would get about 100 of them together and throw a party, play games, eat a big meal. One week, one of the kids I had grown close to told me it was his birthday. So, I got him an ice cream. He was so excited he stared at it mesmerized. I have no idea how long it had been since he had eaten ice cream. But what he did next was brilliant. He yelled at all the other kids and told them to come over. He lined them up and gave them all a lick. His instinct was: this is

so good I can't keep it for myself. In the end, that's what this whole idea of generosity is all about. Not guilt. It's about the joy of sharing. It's about realizing the good things in life – like ice cream – are too good to keep for ourselves.' (Shane Claiborne)

If you would like to help locally, the Windsor and Maidenhead FoodShare scheme serves our area and are always needing donations. Check their website for current needs:

<https://www.foodshare.charity/donate>.

Church Services in September 2022

Sunday 4th September

9.30 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

11.00 am Any Age Service

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 7th September

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 11h September

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 18th September

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 21st September

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 25th September

9.30am Morning Worship

11.00am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick



St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

This beautiful church on the Thames is open daily.

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

www.st-mary-magdalene-boveney.org.uk



Evening Talk by Frances Dimond

on her recently published book
Queen Alexandra: Loyalty and Love
"a new look at the life of Queen Alexandra"

8PM, THURS 29 SEPTEMBER 2022

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH, ETON SL4 6AP
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OR 0333 666 3366**

- TICKET PRICE INCLUDES LIGHT REFRESHMENT
- FRANCES DIMOND BOOK AVAILABLE AT REDUCED RATE

Event organised by the Benefice of Eton and Eton Wick in aid of the Eton Wick New Church Hall Project.

Main image courtesy of Ray Goselli

AN EVENING TALK BY FRANCES DIMOND ON HER NEW BOOK "QUEEN ALEXANDRA: LOYALTY AND LOVE" THAT IS A NEW LOOK AT QUEEN ALEXANDRA AND WAS PUBLISHED ON 28TH FEBRUARY. THE BOOK IS A CULMINATION OF A LIFETIME'S RESEARCH AS FRANCES WAS FASCINATED WITH ROYAL HISTORY FROM THE AGE OF 6 WITH QUEEN ALEXANDRA BEING ONE OF HER FAVOURITE ROYAL CHARACTERS. ALEXANDRA WAS A TRAILBLAZER FOR HER ERA. SHE COULD BE CONSIDERED BEING AN ENVIRONMENTALIST BEFORE HER TIME AND IF IN TODAY'S WORLD SHE WOULD PROBABLY BE HIGH UP IN THE "CELEBRITY CULTURE" DUE TO HER BEAUTY, KINDNESS AND CHARM.

- FRANCES WILL GIVE A 45 - 60 MINUTE TALK STARTING AT 8PM.
- DOORS WILL BE OPEN AT 7:15PM
- VENUE IS AT ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH, CHURCH CL, ETON SL4 6AP.
- THERE ARE ONLY A COUPLE OF DISABLED PARKING SPOTS DIRECTLY OUTSIDE THE CHURCH DOOR IN CHURCH CLOSE OTHERWISE PARKING IS ALONG ETON HIGH STREET OR IN SOUTH MEADOW LANE CAR PARK
- THE VENUE HAS LIFT ACCESS
- LIGHT REFRESHMENT AVAILABLE FROM 7:15PM

EVENT IS ORGANISED BY THE BENEFICE OF ETON AND ETON WICK IN AID OF THE NEW CHURCH HALL PROJECT IN ETON WICK



8PM, THURS 29 SEPTEMBER 2022

**ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH, ETON SL4 6AP
(ABOVE SOUTH MEADOW DOCTOR'S SURGERY)**

**TICKETS £10 FROM
WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/ETONPCC
OR 0333 666 3366**



BENEFICE OF ETON - ETON WICK - BOVENEY - DORNEY

Dorney Lake



The management team at Dorney Lake have confirmed to 'Dorney Parish News' that the site will be reopening to the general public for 'leisure purposes' from Monday 5th September. They point out that there will be days when they are closed for sporting events – and they've given us a list of these from September to the end of 2022. There may also be other last-minute closures for filming or private hire, but they will keep their website updated:

September	Sporting Event	Timings
Saturday 10th	The Fix UK	Morning Only (until 1:30pm)
Sunday 11th	Arctic One Triathlon	All Day
Saturday 17th	Human Race	Morning Only (until 1:30pm)
Sunday 18th	Human Race	All Day
Saturday 24th	Belron Triathlon - Votwo Events	All Day
Sunday 25th	Votwo Triathlon	All Day

October	Sporting Event	Timings
Sunday 2nd	Active Training World	Full Day
Sunday 16th	Run UK	Morning Only (until 1:30pm)
Saturday 29th	Votwo Night Run	from 5:00pm

November	Sporting Event	Timings
Saturday 19th	Votwo Night Run	from 5:00pm
Sunday 27th	Alzheimers Santa Run	8:00am to 4:00pm

December	Sporting Event	Timings
Sunday 4th	Winter Wonderwheels	2:00am to 11:00pm
Saturday 10th	RunThrough/ATWDuathlon & Run	Morning Only until 1.30p.m.
Saturday 17th	Votwo Night Run	from 5:00pm

They tell us that they are currently working on a new website which will be very exciting. This should go live mid to late September.

We've been asked to advise readers that is important to renew car park passes after September 5th if necessary.

It's crucial that they hold the correct car details as these details need to be held on the database that they manage which is shared with the car park enforcement patrol team. Failure to do this, they say, may result in a parking notice.



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Buckinghamshire Council and Orchard Herbs: A tragedy of errors

The Orchard Herbs site, to the west of Lake End Road on the approach to the M4 bridge, has had a lengthy and colourful planning history. Records indicate that a Mr Sweeney rented a small section of the current site alongside Lake End Road from 1985 to 2003 and used it for the “storage of machines and materials” connected with his construction business. A Planning Inspector reported on 16th April 2010 that such use by Mr Sweeney appeared to be lawful. So far so good.

In 2003, members of the Ball family, from Burnham, acquired the whole site. Since 2006 Buckinghamshire Council has issued a raft of Planning Enforcement Notices – none of which have been fully successful.

Pressure from Dorney Parish Council over recent months has resulted in a significant reduction of the storage of commercial vehicles – but that reduction appears to have ground to a halt.

New, recent unauthorised additions to the use of the land have been the storage and distribution of items associated with readymix concrete and a significant airport parking business.



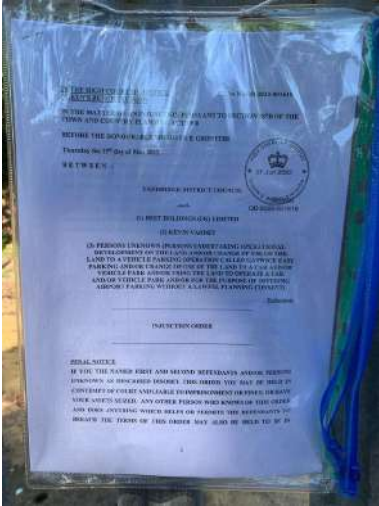
On 11th August Bucks Council, following pressure from Dorney Parish Council, issued a Temporary Stop Notice to the owners and operators of the three businesses listing the breaches of planning:

Without planning permission, a material change of use of the land to a mixed use comprised of open storage (Use Class B8) of plant, machinery, vehicles and miscellaneous commercial articles, airport car parking and shuttle services (Park and Ride) and the storage and distribution of aggregates and preparation and distribution of readymix concrete (the ‘Unauthorised Use’).

Unfortunately, in the specific businesses listed in the Notice, Bucks Council omitted the Readymix concrete business!

According to the government, temporary stop notices are “a powerful enforcement tool that allows local planning authorities to act very quickly to address some breaches of planning control, such as unauthorised activities, where it is expedient to do so. A temporary stop notice may prohibit a range of activities, including those that take place on the land intermittently or seasonally. A temporary stop notice requires that an activity which is a breach of planning control should stop immediately.

A temporary stop notice must state the date the temporary stop notice has been served, the activity that has to cease, and that any person contravening it may be prosecuted for an offence.” The “stop date” in this case is 11th August 2022 and it ceases to exist on 8th September 2022. To date, the businesses appear to be continuing to operate although the bookings website for the parking appears not to be accepting future bookings.



A similar airport parking operation run by the same person (Kevin Vardet) was set up near Gatwick Airport a few months ago. The site is within the Tandridge District Council area. This council decided to use the more effective High Court injunction route and the injunction was issued on 7th June 2022.

The government states that the use of such injunctions **“are the most serious enforcement action that a local planning authority can take because if a person fails to comply with an injunction they can be committed to prison for contempt of court. Additionally, once an injunction has been granted, it cannot be discharged except where there has been a significant change of**

circumstances since the order was made. In these circumstances a local planning authority should generally only apply for an injunction as a last resort and only if there have been persistent breaches of planning control over long period and/or other enforcement options have been, or would be, ineffective.”

Given the myriad of failed Enforcement Notices issued by Bucks Council against the owners of Orchard Herbs over the past 16 years one might have hoped that, instead of a tame temporary stop notice, they might have gone for the bazooka of a High Court injunction. But, unfortunately, they didn't. Their clear reticence to spend legal fees to resolve this 16 year issue is very difficult for residents to understand. Has it anything to do with the fact that this problem is taking place in a parish far away from Aylesbury where only a small number of voters live?

Prior to lockdown there were some interesting articles and letters in Dorney Parish News about the possibility of Dorney and Taplow opting to move from Buckinghamshire Council into the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. It was suggested that we should wait for the new Unitary Council to “bed in” before considering this further. It appears to have “bedded in” and no change on this matter has been identified. Has that time now arrived?

Dear Editor

The “Unprecedented” Heatwave of 2022 and a Hosepipe Ban

As I write the heatwave has subsided, but the promised thunderstorms and deluge have yet to arrive in Dorney Reach. The cloud cover is here retaining the ground heat, much of which had been dispersed under the former clear skies. The water still flows from the mains in Harcourt Road although the harbingers of impending repairs, “Road Closed” signs, have appeared then disappeared; thus far no actual remedial action (as of 24th August).

Against my better judgement, in early August I posted a reply on a certain “social media” site in response to an on-posted article headed “Source of the Thames dries out ‘for first time’ during drought”. My attempt to assuage the concerned party by referring to the 1976 (and 1995) drought backfired as is mostly the case on these sorts of platforms. I subsequently checked for information about the article headline. Over the years the actual, nominal source of the Thames has dried out a number of times, migrating eastward in periods of low rainfall. The River Thames has multiple sources from tributaries and ground drainage along its course. (Thank goodness). In recent times the word “unprecedented” has become overworked and denotes a laziness in checking history.

One could go back in time to the Permian and Triassic Periods when areas of what is now our country were deserts like those of the Arabian Gulf with Salt and Gypsum being deposited in the then high temperatures. But that is way outside human experience given that Homo sapiens only evolved around 200,000 years ago and related ancestors say 2 million years ago. Closer in time there was the Mediaeval Warm Period (around 905 to 1295); no thermometers then to give a definitive view of temperatures in the United Kingdom but in essence it was hotter than today. This was followed by the Little Ice Age estimated to have occurred between 1600 and 1850 as we have seen depicted in paintings of the Thames Ice Fairs and described by John Evelyn. The latter can also lead to water shortage, locking it away as ice in the waterways and the ground. We are living in an Inter-glacial.

So, to return to the matter of water scarcity: what defines a drought? First it relates to a lack of precipitation – measured in the UK by the Standard Precipitation Index (SPI). A Drought is any dry period of over 21 days with less than 30% of the normal precipitation. An Absolute Drought is deemed to be a period of 25+ days without any precipitation. 1976 was the longest with 40 days of absent rainfall. It does not necessarily mean water shortage unless there is insufficient storage for demand.

If one wants to understand empirically about drought and its impacts, John Steinbeck’s “Grapes of Wrath” describes in depth the US Dust Bowl of the 1930s that affected much of Kansas and Oklahoma and other States, leading to mass migration West.

Based on the longest weather records from the Radcliffe Institute, Oxford work by Burt, S and Burt, L since 1767 there have been over thirty important droughts identified. There have been about seventeen noted droughts in the United Kingdom between 1890 and 2022. Of the eleven since World War II, and the advent of broadcasting, only 2022 has been reported in hysterical terms, with deep crimson maps (before they always used to remain green) and much hyperbole.

The impact of drought in the UK has varied over time because of changes to the way the majority of the population lives. In the 1890 to 1910 drought period: WCs, plumbed in baths would have been rare and showers almost unheard of. Most of the water demand would have been for drinking, cooking and hand-washing of clothes. In Northallerton (N Yorks) in 1895 it was reported that only two feet of water remained in the local reservoir in February, yet the inhabitants had been keeping their taps running day and night to prevent the taps and pipes freezing (stopping their sole source

of water). I can recall as late as the 1950s my aunt living in a terrace house with only a cold water tap, there was no bathroom and the closet was at the top of the yard and it was certainly no WC. So, here we are today with a high proportion of citizens with bathrooms with WCs and showers, washing machines, some with dishwashers and some with cars that they like to keep well washed. Consequently, our per capita consumption of water has increased multi-fold and expectations are such that restrictions by way of hose-pipe bans create outrage. There has been a changing understanding of what is 'normal' water consumption. In other parts of the World their normal is very different.

In true British fashion, we never prepare for things that happen from time-to-time, such as: unusual snowfall; hot weather that may buckle railway tracks; energy supply shortages, lack of rainfall, and dare I say it, forewarned pandemics because the expectation is that "it'll be over soon or something will turn up" and "it's not economical investing".

The population has risen, more homes have been built, water consumption has grown but the provision for water storage in man-made reservoirs has remained near static for almost 30 years. Thanks mainly to our forebears in the 19th and early 20th Century there are about 570 reservoirs in the UK. The newest nearby, the Queen Mother Reservoir, was built in the mid-1970s and inaugurated in July 1976 (coincidentally at a time of drought). The last open-air reservoir to be built was at Carsington (Derbyshire) in 1991. Thames Water built in London the underground Ring Main between 1985 and 1993. Privatisation of the various water authorities took place in 1989. So, I think it is safe to say that our current water companies have not commissioned any new, major water storage facility. (I am ready to stand corrected on that matter).

It has been estimated that around 25% of water delivery capacity is lost to leakages; not surprising given the age of much of the infrastructure. However, some objectives of privatisation were to bring more efficiency and investment into the industry. Did this happen? One thing it did not bring was competition, for obvious, practical reasons, therefore each company is a monopoly supplier in its region. Also, there is little apparent intercompany cooperation. If there was, they would have created a network whereby those with ample reserves could sell volume to those with shortfalls. Such an idea was considered in 1976 but it was shelved once Dennis Howell brought the rains. If the energy industry was able to construct major networks for the delivery of natural gas and petroleum products to distribution points, why can't the water industry? If there was a leak of gas or oil, there would be fast action. But water doesn't constitute a hazard, does it? Well not until underground erosion causes road collapse or a leak is so severe that people have no water for days and hygiene becomes an issue – as those in High Wycombe experienced recently.

Perhaps when water company executive bonuses are linked to stopping leaks, preventing sewage leaks and providing service to their captive customers both in times of rain and drought, maybe the ineffectual hosepipe ban will be a thing of the past?

Clive Randle

I have to acknowledge some of my sources of information –

historicdroughts.ceh.ac.uk;

www.countryfile.com/countryfile/great-drought-of-1976-what-happened-and-what-was-the-impact-on-britain

Peak District – The Lost Treasures of Ladybower

Journal of Historical Geography – July 2009 – Drought is Normal

Dr Veronica Edmonds-Brown

And inevitably – Google and Wikipedia

Dorney's Annual Show – A Welcome Return

The 67th Dorney Annual Show, organised by the Horticultural Society, went ahead on August 27th in the Village Hall after a gap of two years. It was a successful, busy and happy occasion.

At 10.00am the tables were laid out ready to receive entries in 80 different classes, but they were empty. Would old friends and new entrants turn up after that unwelcome and enforced interval? Added to that concern was the heat and the drought. Had Dorney only withered runner beans and shrunken tomatoes to offer? For the first time we had a distinguished horticultural guest arriving to hand out prizes. With what an array would we greet him?

An hour later, cheerful and enthusiastic entrants, often in family groups, were streaming through the door. We had a Show! Indeed, the total number of entries was similar to 2019. John Barker, our judge for Vegetables, Fruit and Flowers, said entries he had judged were pretty good given the summer we have had. Andrea Alsworth, judge in the Domestic section had to sample 50% more jams, pastries and cakes. Jan Bowman, our third judge, singled out the quality in the Knitting and Needlework class.

The two special children's sections are sustained by a small number of families and the scale of entries is still a disappointment. But the omens are good. Members of the school PTA and the Playground Group came forward to suggest a concerted push with the Show organisers to enthuse younger Dorney residents to enter.

To list memorable moments and entrants on the day runs the risk of not highlighting many deserving a mention. DDHS chair Ron Alsworth, as always, masterminded the day and achieved the amazing feat of engraving all the plaques awarded with winners' names in time for the prize giving as well as appealing for some of those enjoying the day to join the committee. The number and quality of entries from the legendary John Akerman is the bedrock of the Show, and he deservedly again won both the DDHS Cup for most entries and the Dorney Show Cup as Overall Show Winner. The quality of tomatoes on show impressed all who saw them, and those entered by Anna Snook were of prodigious size. Winifred Lipscombe won a best exhibit award for a remarkable entry featuring multiple knitted figures. Isobel Palmer's 'My Dream Garden' painting won an award and a featured spot on this month's front cover. Ophelia Mawdsley's swan photo was a winner with brother Henry also winning an award.



Form Plants is a horticultural business based at Dorney Court and we were proud to welcome managing director and Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medal winner Jamie Butterworth to hand out our prizes. Visitors to the Show warmed to Jamie's expression of his love for quintessentially English annual shows like ours and enjoyed his tale of his Chelsea success for his Sanctuary Garden for the children's mental health charity Place2Be. Jamie, we thank you, and hope to see you back at DDHS again.

Thanks also to all who entered or supported the Show on the day, all who he helped out (thanks to Liz Stockwood for manning the registration desk and to Joanie Wraight who assisted the judges), and also the Playground tuck shop who served up ice cream on a memorable, sunny summer day.

Peter Bowman

DORNEY & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Awards 2022

DIVISION 1 - FRUIT & VEGETABLES

BEST EXHIBIT	Tomatoes	Anna Snook
OVERALL WINNER		John Akerman
JUDGES SPECIAL AWARD	Cucumber	John Akerman

DIVISION 2 - FLOWERS

BEST EXHIBIT	Mixed Flowers in One Vase	Jill Palmer
OVERALL WINNER	Floral Decoration for a Table	Linda Hackett

DIVISION 3 - DOMESTIC SECTION

BEST EXHIBIT IN JAMS & PRESERVES	Strawberry Jam	Jan Bowman
BEST EXHIBIT IN PASTRY AND HOMEMADE	Fruit Crumble	Christine Griffin
OVERALL WINNER		Christine Griffin

DIVISION 4 - ADULT HANDICRAFTS

BEST EXHIBIT	Knitting	Winifred Lipscombe
OVERALL WINNER		Kate Dunlop

DIVISION 5 - CHILDRENS SECTION

BEST EXHIBIT	Children under 8 years old - Swan Photo	Ophelia Mawdsley
OVERALL WINNER	Children under 8 years old	Henry Mawdsley
BEST EXHIBIT	Children 8 years old and over - Painting	Isobel Palmer
OVERALL WINNER	Children 8 years old and over	Isobel Palmer

OVERALL SHOW WINNERS

EXHIBITOR WITH MOST ENTRIES	DDHS Cup	John Akerman
BEST NEWCOMER	Judges' Special Award	Christine Griffin
OVERALL SHOW WINNER	Dorney Show Cup	John Akerman

Ready for the Judges



The Prizes



Some of the Winners!



Anna Snook



Linda Hackett



Winifred Lipscombe



Jan Bowman



Jill Palmer



Henry Mawdsley



Ophelia Mawdsley



Isobel Palmer



Christine Griffin



John Akerman



A new season

Welcome back September! I always look forward to standing on the school gates again at the start of the academic year, welcoming current and new pupils, and their families, catching up on news and wondering how some children seem to blossom and grow over the long summer days. Alongside welcoming back the school community is the sense that change is in the air. The shorter days, cooler mornings and evenings, the golden leaves signal the season of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness'. I have enjoyed the long summer days in the wonderful sunshine, although part of it was affected by Covid isolation, and now I look forward to autumn days, full of a different kind of promise – the promise of harvests, festivals, and celebrations.

The Autumn term at school is always busy with staff getting to know children new to their classrooms, helping them get used to routines that may be different from previous years. It is exciting, inspiring, and school corridors will once again be filled with chatter and laughter. It is a term that sets the standards and expectations for the rest of the school year, so extra time is taken to build positive, trusting relationships between adults and children, and vice versa. Only when children feel safe and happy, can they then thrive. This is the ethos of our school and I hear this echoed in the feedback from parents, old and new. Our school believes in supporting the unique child and staff adapt what, and how they teach, to ensure that every child is supported, challenged, and loved. Every child needs a champion, every child is entitled to nurture, and every child has the right to an excellent education. The values of our school are reflected in every classroom and corridor – Respect, Collaborate and Grow. Our mission is to ensure that everyone feels represented and accepted in our school.

And yet, our school's commitment to ensuring every child receives an excellent education is being shaken by what every school, and every family, is being faced with – an impending financial crisis that will rock and destabilise our society, and every community, unless more is done to support public services such as education. School budgets are set nearly a year before the new academic year. Government funding for schools is calculated based on the number of pupils registered at a school, and some extra funding rightly goes to schools that serve disadvantaged areas. There is currently no extra funding ringfenced for the rising costs of fuel, energy, and food. There is no extra funding for the rise in salaries for all school staff (well-deserved after 12 years of pay freeze), and there are currently cuts to children's services including services for pupils with additional needs. Schools are being asked to deliver the same standard of education without additional funding or increased investment.

Some school leaders are already predicting staff redundancies and holding back on school improvements such as fixing leaking roofs or replacing inefficient heating systems. They are also anxious about having to compromise the quality of hot dinners as food prices have risen to unsustainable levels and many more, including myself, are wondering how many more families will face crisis point this coming autumn, if they have not done so already. Most schools are already under-resourced and serving many more pupils facing hardships with increased mental health issues, means that schools require more staff, not less.

The current crisis highlights further the inequality in our society as I have personally observed how many more families can no longer afford to feed their children, heat their homes let alone equip their school aged children with basics such as uniform and books. I worry that many people will be faced with hardships that many have never experienced before, that children will

attend school hungry, tired, and cold. This is not fiction; this already reality for so many and will become reality for so many more. So, when the government talks about being ambitious for schools, and for schools to provide a world class education, I cannot help but shake my head in despair as this will only be possible when there is a stable economy, an improved infrastructure for all families to thrive, and proper funding and investments not only in schools, but in all public services including health and social care. The ins and outs of national policies are not within the remit of schools, but schools are impacted and affected by decision makers. It does not really matter which party leads the country, but how they lead will signal the direction of our collective future.

Even as I ponder on the issues that will affect schools and society in general, I cannot allow these issues to affect what we do at school. No matter the uncertainties of perhaps a 'winter of discontent' or the many difficult paths and decisions ahead, the staff and me cannot waver from our commitment to our pupils and their families. Somehow, I know that the chatter, laughter, learning and love will carry on and I also know that we will always do our best by our children, as we will always be their champions. That is a promise; just like the promise that every season will turn and change "Trust the wait. Embrace the uncertainty. Enjoy the beauty of becoming. When nothing is certain, anything is possible." — Mandy Hale

Mrs Sharifah F Jelany-Lee
Headteacher
Dorney School

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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

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

Email: bookings.dorneyvh@gmail.com

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Jubilee Trees in Dorney

With South Bucks increasingly resembling the Serengeti, with cows on the Common standing in for Wildebeest, there are now seven emerald-green exclamation marks dotted through Dorney and Dorney Reach offering welcome respite from the fifty shades of brown. These seven Jubilee Trees are flourishing thanks to the sterling efforts of a team of dedicated 'waterers' who have had more than they bargained for with the searing heat and dry conditions. From a great lime by the Village Hall to a magnificent Liquidambar by the cattlegrid, a Tulip Tree on Court Lane and a cherry opposite the old vicarage with three more unique specimens scattered across the community, planted as part of the Queen's Green Canopy and to celebrate the jubilee, this living legacy celebrates a great occasion.

Thanks to the sponsors: Crocus; Eton College, Form, Maydencroft, The Palmer Arms & Pineapple Pubs, Smits Nurseries and Pigeon House Farm who provided everything and covered all the costs. Even greater thanks to Jason Finlay (Smits), Jamie Butterworth (Form) and Richard George for the backbreaking efforts with the planting and enduring appreciation to those who are continuing to look after the trees and ensuring they endure.



So why an Emergency Plan?

Put it this way, if there was a total electricity blackout in your street/area of Dorney would you need help? Would your next-door neighbour need help? Do you know if they would? From the elderly couple who depend on their stair lift to get them up to bed to the young couple who have a new baby who needs to be kept warm and fed, we all of us might need help in any one of the 'Emergency Situations' that have been identified in the Dorney Emergency Plan.



If the last two years had taught us anything, I think we have all learnt that sometimes we need our neighbours to help, or even just to chat to, and they probably need us as well. In light of the events of the last two years and again brought to mind by the recent winds and storm damage locally, there is obviously a need to work together as a more cohesive group within the parish and to support the Parish Council in the implementation of The Dorney Emergency Plan.

A group of us have been working on this plan and are now hoping that with the support of the Parish Council and everyone in the Parish we can at last implement the plan.

As a number of people have found out over the last couple of years – to define Dorney as a single entity is like asking the Blind Men in the Indian fable to describe an Elephant. Everyone's perception of what Dorney Parish is like as an entity differs according to where they live. So, what each person considers they might need in the event of an emergency is dependent on whereabouts in the parish they live.

In fact, Dorney is a very complex Parish. It consists of Dorney Village, Dorney Reach, Boveney and Lake End. Thus, in trying to form one plan for the parish you need to take into account all the different points of view of a dispersed population. It is because of this diversity, that it has been necessary, for the Emergency Plan, to divide Dorney Parish into Zones.

With regard to these zones, it would be less than practical to expect everyone to be involved in reacting to an emergency that only affected one small area of the Parish. Equally it would be impractical, in the case of an emergency evacuation to expect a resident of Dorney Reach to go to the centre of Dorney Village if it were possible and safer to offer shelter in the Village Hall at Trumper's Field.

Despite the decision to divide Dorney into 4 Zones the Emergency Plan as a whole will not work without the cooperation of the whole village. We must work together to support each

other and the vulnerable in our community. We must all be prepared to contribute to a cohesive response to any emergency within the parish – an inclusive response will be called for but one where each person is supported and/or helps to support the whole community.

We have looked at other Parish Emergency Plans (at least the parts that are published – as much of such a plan will of course be confidential and known only to the Parish Clerk and those trusted people in each Zone.) I have also thought about other local villages and in so many cases realised how their village is so much simpler to plan for as a whole than Dorney is.

So, the emergency plan, with Zones, has come together – it is based very much on the suggested format by Bucks Council and will be made easier by the help of the community. We now come to the part where it is necessary to ask for help from all the residents. In previous editions of Dorney Parish News we have been asking for those people with specific qualifications and expertise to come forward and volunteer to do their part and we also need those people who have useful equipment to volunteer the use of this in the event of an emergency.

Now we are looking for the individuals in each street, road or small area to be willing to respond to help others on a very local level. Could you possibly be responsible for a few houses near you? Do you know who would need help? Please do let us know – or let your local parish councillor know or even just suggest someone you know who could be a help.

Thea Pine

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.

EDUCATING RITA ON DORNEY COMMON

'Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today' Malcom X

Through the summer the grass beneath our feet turned brown and crackled like slices of toast underfoot as the persistent heatwave and drought scorched our gardens.

Rehearsals for 'Educating Rita' took place once a week in the evening, cooler and



more tolerable. Our two actors, Tori and Cameron, played the part of Frank and Rita in this delightful two-hander play, and despite a minor setback of Covid, embraced the challenge to recreate this wonderful play. Fortunately, as partners in real life, they were able to carry on rehearsing, reporting back that they often remained in character whilst at home.

By the beginning of August, we had moved from the back lawn to the Wildflower Theatre, our stage set in place, covered in tarpaulins to prevent bleaching from the hot unrelenting sun by day and avoiding the damp dew fall at night. Despite hurdles, our small team enjoyed the banter that accompanied the journey, and occasional hiccups brought laughter to our faces.

My boyfriend Bob had the hardest job, which was to make the freestanding door (hammered into the ground with deep slats of wood) remain in a perfect rectangle to enable the cast to slam in and out, with the door staying closed when it should, and opening smoothly when it should. On the day it behaved perfectly well, with the entrances and exits flawlessly executed through the eleventy-eight comings and goings.

Under incessant scorch, the garden at Dells Cottage slowly withered under the intensity of the heat, the first casualty being the lime green courgettes, which paled

yellow and refused to grow beyond a dry stunted stub - an error in planting, as they should have gone straight into the earth in a semi-shaded spot but planted in wooden half barrels the soil could not retain enough moisture. However, the Sun Gold tomato plants took off in a big way and seemed not to mind the aridness and produced abundant fruit.

With the dryness came the moulting of browned leaves from the trees, to survive the drought. The premature change to a crispy brown leaf scorch took place as they put all energy into enduring the dehydration, an Aridzona of singe. Mowing now took on a different meaning, hoovering up brown leaves!

On the day of our charitable event, my co-Director, Julia Ashton, and I, sat about contemplating that an audience might not appear. We had delayed the start by three hours to attempt a cooler time, but this last-minute decision might have confused some and others could be put off by the weather. Our stage was set, the bar was stocked, the sound tech tested, and our Uke band tuned up, but would we have anyone brave enough to bear the searing heat?



Julia Ashton (L) and Kristina Perkins (R)

Half an hour before the event started, a car arrived, then another and yet another. Joy of joys our front drive filled up and the paddock overspill in demand. Around an amazing 60 folk supported our day, and the barman (Tim, such a super fellow) was in full flow with back-to-back drink serving. Our day made a fantastic £360 (profit £220) which was a gratifying result for our two chosen charities, Maidenhead Drama Guild and Alexander Devine (children's cancer hospice).

THANK YOU to everyone who came and supported our event.

Now that the end of August is in sight, the drama guild prepares for 'he's behind you' time with a production of Beauty & the Beast. Once again, the Desborough Theatre remains a vaccination centre, so we are back at Holyport Community Centre, with our stage extension so our chorus can stretch their legs fully.

By now the DDHS annual show must all be done, perfect pumpkins and correct carrots admired, and prizes distributed to those that battled with growing produce in the heat. Sadly, away on a venture I have missed this event but will return to give my willing hands to help facilitate our forthcoming Christmas Supper event on Friday November 18th. With the usual Chrys Fisher spectacular food this is one not to miss. The run up to festivities start with this event so be sure to save the date in your diary.

Kristina Perkins

Theresa

“By the time you read this...” says the old cliché, the gloriously problematic summer will be cooler and wetter. I do hope you enjoyed it, but I would ask you to consider this.

She was stunning in her own way; slim, a vivacious red head with eyes that shone in her undoubted enthusiasm for life.

She had a fulfilling job, with her own business card, never sick and with a rare ability to turn on the lights as she entered a room.

She made her wheelchair glamorous as she bustled around the humming workshop at Go Well, an organisation attached to a garden centre run by, and for the benefit of the mobility impaired and those in need of a little support. Ladies and gentlemen toiled at benches doing various menial tasks guided and encouraged by Theresa. The whole thing was managed by Antonio, an early forties handsome Italian.

Most Monday mornings I collected John, another supervisor, Theresa’s neighbour and friend, and took him there in the adapted minibus hired for the purpose and driven by me. Over the years we had become good friends inside and outside our organisations.

It was dull, drizzle floating in the air, cold and inhospitable, and he answered my knock moments later, speeding his electric wheelchair out onto the shiny surface.

“You’re a sight for sore eyes,” I ventured.

“Ain’t you got any mirrors in your house?” he grinned.

Suddenly serious, he said, “Go Well are packing up Mate. No more funding.”

“What will you do?” I asked.

“I’ve been offered a job with the local authority,” he stated, “but as for the others, well I can’t say.”

Weeks later, I collected John as workmates parted for the last time among tears and awkward hugs.

Days later still as I passed, the garden centre and workshop were being destroyed, along with the dignity of work to all those who worked there.

Months later in the course of my duties, I collected a youngster from a day centre, and there was Theresa at a table, colouring in with a few teenagers.

The vivacity and shining eyes had gone, and the image haunts me years later.

Antonio moved to a nearby day centre, but I understand that has since closed too, and Antonio has died.

John continues in his work, and we occasionally meet in a large supermarket café for coffee and a natter.

The place was quiet at two pm, as I had hoped, the lunchtime office rush was over and we enjoyed our drinks while catching up with news and gossip.

Alone at a table on the other side of the large room, a male in his fifties was scrutinising his knuckles from a distance of a couple of inches, gently rocking to and fro, while raising his eyes from time to time to look aggressively at his surroundings before returning to the close examination of his knuckles.

Nearer to us an old man sat alone, cup of tea going cold in front of him, greeting non-existent people or things, and laughing loudly at something no one else could see.

John was way ahead of me, recognising my puzzlement.

“This is the only place they can come to now,” he said matter of factly. “Most of the day centres are shut.”

I raged at my inability to do anything about such an injustice and, like most others, in time moved on.

I am an avid news junkie, and like all bad habits, I can't get enough, until the constant barrage of doom and despair makes me ill and I seek solace in my beautiful partner, my family and classical music.

As I drive my ambulance, the radio in it provides opportunities for indulging my addiction almost constantly, although classical music takes precedence when patients are on board who do not want to talk.

Thus, as I returned from Dorney, a 'phone in' was discussing the massive energy cost increases and the poverty that would be visited upon some who never expected it to happen to them.

“Hi Garry,” said the lady presenter.

Garry was in his late fifties and living in his car. He had lost his home in the Covid lockdown while working self-employed in construction for local estate agents, smartening up houses for sale, erecting boards and the like. House sales dried up as did his customers and the bank wanted their house back. To add to his difficulties, arthritis had returned and his ability to drive was in doubt. The loss of his licence would be the fast track to sleeping in bus shelters.

He explained that he and others meet to share the river with rats to wash, constantly search for places to park and sleep without being moved on, and frequent the more promising bins for food after the shops had closed, the favourite it appears, is wrapped sandwiches.

I was surprised how well he sounded, clear and articulate without a hint of 'poor me'.

“We were searching the bins together when a lady, perhaps in her thirties arrived in company with a small boy. ‘My Mummy's going to find me a nice sandwich,’ he said to me,” and at that point, Garry's voice trembled and choked.

He said he gave the mother all he had, a ten pound note and she said she would buy the boy a MacDonalds which was nearby.

After trying to get Garry to agree to stay on the line to get assistance, she said, “And thankyou Garry from Maidenhead.”

Someone wiser than me once said that society is judged by the way it cares for those less able to look after themselves.

Stay safe.

Mike Quincey

A very memorable day for Dorney – a decade ago

'It was the best time of my life!'

We thought that this magazine should mark a decade passing since this great event. Well, not quite a decade...to be precise it was July 10th, 2012.

On that day, Dorney's very own Mary Baker ran through parts of Maidenhead carrying the sacred Olympic flame on a small part of its journey. We all recall what happened later in the day. With the flame passed on to the next in line, Mary returned home, with her torch, to be greeted by a host of local well wishers gathered on the shores of Dorney Lake. Perhaps the largest contingent were the pupils of her beloved Dorney School. Later, some of the crowd along with the torch, found their way to the Palmer Arms, where many of us had a chance to hold that torch aloft.

Talking to Mary a decade later her pride in her role that day, and her undimmed enthusiasm for life and helping others, shine through. But we wanted to know just what it was that made the run up to the Olympics in Dorney the 'best time' for her.

Mary showed us a letter that she had received from LOCOG (remember them?). Her 'moment to shine', they said, was only a few weeks away. She was amazed to have been first nominated, and then selected to carry the torch a couple of months before the Games. It was intended that nominations should be decided by local communities and those deserving the credit for Mary's nomination were her colleagues at Dorney School. At that time, Mary was a tower of strength for our local school. She was a dinner lady. She was active in road safety training. But most of all, having been given by the Head the task of setting up the 'Walks to School' alongside another teacher who will be remembered fondly, Nick Pitson, the scheme had been a great success.

On the day, she was shuttle bussed from Bisham Abbey into town to carry the flame for about a quarter of an hour in the Marlow Road/Nicholson's Lane area. With military precision, she was to start at 11.12am. She admits that she thought 'I can't keep this up' but caught up in the excitement of the day, she found herself running enthusiastically.

Mary recalls a period longer than just this July day a month or so before the Games. She pays generous tribute to the efforts of others to build up Dorney's response to the Games. We recalled Leanne Kittel's Dorney Olympic Countdown Group and it's 'programme of events for everyone to enjoy'. Yes, I can remember being part of a smaller gathering at the Lake for an afternoon of dragon boat racing in April. In April and July, Dorney residents were already perfecting the 'Dorney Roar'! Of course, there were also those Olympic themed school walks, usually led by Mary.

Mary hails from Belfast. She arrived in Dorney in 1970 after spells at catering college and working for British Airways. Supported by husband Gerry, she's been active in community life from the start. She's a long-term member of the congregation at St James the Less and tells us that she's fascinated by the faiths and beliefs of all her fellow humans. 2012 even seemed to increase her appetite for community involvement – she told us of her role as a Windsor Ambassador and how she was looking forward to wearing the red uniform at the upcoming Battle of Britain service.

Mary said she loved that long day a decade ago and the build up to it. She remembered it all as an 'explosion of happiness'.

Now, that does seem to us to be an anniversary worth celebrating.

Peter Bowman in conversation with Mary Baker



Peter Tyler

2 August 1935 – 21 June 2022

This tribute is based on the eulogy delivered at Peter's funeral by his son Gerald. We thank the Tyler family for sharing this with us.



Peter, apiarist, artist, biologist, bassist, tuba player, husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. A friend and inspiration to many. Here are a few of my thoughts.

My father was born in Slough in 1935. His parents were Sydney, an engineering draftsman who worked on Slough trading estate and Dorothy, who had lived in rural Norfolk for many years.

He developed twin passions that he maintained all his life, insects, and music. As a boy he spent his free time observing and collecting insect specimens in the fields and woods of Stoke Poges and Windsor. He also learnt to play the tuba, and later the double bass, with the Boys' Brigade.

After Slough Grammar School, he joined the Pest Infestation Control Laboratory in Slough, as a Laboratory Technician.

At the age of eighteen, he left Slough for his national military service.

He spent two years playing music around the country and in Europe with the Royal Signals Band. On returning to Slough, he continued his education as a biologist and became a specialist in the treatment of insect pests in stored grain.

He met Jean, a photographer and work colleague, and they married in 1961 and moved to Dorney. In September last year, they received a message from the Queen to mark their diamond wedding anniversary.

Sue and I were born in the 1960's.

In 1968, Peter was offered an unusual job, which transformed his life. The family moved to Botswana for two years and Peter set up a programme to educate farmers in better handling and storage of grain. At the time Botswana was one of the world's poorest countries and travel was difficult. He often had to camp on visits to remote parts of the country. The insects and other wildlife were fascinating. Peter observed all kinds of creatures attracted to the lights on the house. I can recall him catching snakes in the flower beds and we kept some chameleons on the bushes by the path to the house.

Peter had developed a passion for Africa, and this shaped the rest of his career. On returning to the UK, he moved from the Ministry of Agriculture to work for the Ministry of Overseas Development. In the following 25 years he visited most of sub-Saharan Africa and many Caribbean and Asian countries too. He amassed a collection of wooden masks from his travels, which he displayed on the wall. Graham Child referred to the collection as Peter's CV.

As a practical biologist, Peter kept bees. I can remember we all helped to extract honey using an ancient centrifuge and steel tanks. The bees were really always in control. It was a constant challenge to prevent swarming or attacks by mice or wasps. But Peter considered the honey was worth it.

Peter has always loved music, although overseas travel often interfered with rehearsals and concerts. He was for many years a member of Slough Philharmonic Society and played in the band for local amateur musicals.

In retirement, he played with brass bands in Burnham and Maidenhead, with friends he had known throughout his musical life. He also commenced his second career. He applied his skills as a woodworker to repairing and trading in double basses. He developed a reputation in this specialist field and met musicians from across the UK and abroad. He even wrote a book called: 'About the double bass.'

Throughout his life Peter was an accomplished artist. He had a keen eye and produced well drawn cartoons and paintings of insects and landscapes.

Peter and Jean loved to travel, and together visited new countries that he had not seen through his work.

They also enjoyed spending time with their grandchildren Dan, Lauren, Robert, and Chris, and passing on their interests. Peter was a father-in-law to Linda and Stuart and delighted in his six great-grandchildren.

Lately Parkinson's diseases limited Peter's ability to follow his hobbies, although he still enjoyed listening to music.

We will all miss him, a much-loved man.

Peter Tyler – A Dorney Perspective

It is a privilege for this magazine to publish a tribute to the late Peter Tyler based on the words of his son Gerard. In that we hear of this gentleman in his family and professional capacity. But there was an immense public contribution that Peter made to life in Dorney that we also wanted to salute.

Let's start right here, with the magazine. With his passion for the natural world, especially insects and birds, there was no better authority to be the nature columnist. Typically modest, he insisted that these articles appeared under the pseudonym 'Wayfarer', a fitting name because Peter and Jean will be remembered as persistent walkers around these parts, continually inspecting daily changes to fauna and flora. We know that Peter developed his interests as a schoolboy and his articles could retain a youthful enthusiasm for humble creatures like stag beetles, ants and squirrels. Yet in recent articles he was facing head on what he called 'current environmental issues facing this parish' – global warming and climate change.

Alongside this, he provided wise counsel to the rest of Dorney Horticultural Society's committee. Traditionally the DDHS year would kick off with a quiz and recently he had been the (to some a little too rigorous) quizmaster. His 'table quizzes' which greeted members as they took their places in the Village Hall were legendary and loved. He could be more ambitious – one year, as a Christmas entertainment, he shared reading of literature about gardening with the late Geoffrey Atkinson.

Peter was an authority, a thinker and a writer on things Dorney. In 2000, as a Millennium project Peter wrote the *Natural History of Dorney Parish*. Peter was as aware as could be of the pace of change, and these environmental developments featured in a 2018 update. There is reflection on a beautiful neighbourhood with photos by Jean Tyler, lists of species locally identified but also 'Environmental and Conservation Challenges in the Parish'. Peter was also instrumental in a survey by Bucks Bird Club and the RSPB of *Dorney Birds 2000-2018* based on sightings at Dorney Lake and Dorney Wetlands.

These two publications can be read on the Dorney History Group website and are recommended. Peter played a leading role in preparing the first, and so far, only Dorney Parish Plan in 2005. This was based on research – a Parish Appraisal sent to 300 households in 2000. The Plan reflected a community 'subject to many developmental pressures' which would have to 'accommodate significant changes'. Ten sections were covered with issues identified, appropriate actions decided upon and achievement targets set out. The Plan can be found on the Dorney Parish Council website.

We hope this short tribute adequately demonstrates the enormous legacy left to Dorney by Peter Tyler.

Peter Bowman



DORNEY

PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD TUESDAY 19th July 2022, 7.30 P.M. AT DORNEY SCHOOL

Present

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair) Cllr. Euan MacLennan Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford
Cllr. Robert Stopford Cllr. William Voaden Cllr. Anna Palmer
2 members of the public

Minute notes for this meeting taken by Cllr. Westcott-Wreford in the absence of the Parish Clerk.

PC/84/22 Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr. Stephen Baker.

PC/85/22 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21st June and matters arising

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

Cllr. Westcott-Wreford met with Transport for Bucks on 23rd June regarding the cattle grid. The grid remains under Special Project Inspection for a 3 month inspection. Works have been agreed to place significantly increased rubber sound insulation to the grid, date to be agreed.

PC/86/22 Items of business carried forward

86.1 The Orchard Herbs Site

Cllr. Stopford stated nothing to report on concrete/parking on site.

Burnham Parish Council have not seen any decision on the hotel.

It was agreed that advice on how to proceed with a robust approach to Buckinghamshire Council will be sought.

86.2 M4 Digital Motorway

An update from Nick Cooper, National Highways

The motorway between J3 and J8/9 is now in the commissioning phase at 60mph and we anticipate opening at the national speed limit in September.

Monitoring of the bridge expansion joints at Marsh Lane and other bridges is ongoing and we will report back on the results at the end of summer.

Regarding the replacement path running from Meadow Way, this is being amended to include a like for like sloped access as before.

Regarding 2 Meadow Way, the work is ongoing to reinstate the access and prepare for property sale/let.

It was noted that the update did not include any information of the replanting scheme.

87.3 The Emergency Plan

Cllr. Dax reported that this needs more detail but is up to date.

PC/88/22 Planning

There was only one application to note – 20 Dorney Reach Road – After 20 years of extending the granted permission, the new owners have presented a new design. The Council suggested that more information on the new design is required before it can comment – **it was agreed** the Clerk will contact planning.

PC/89/22 Finance To agree/ratify expenditure and income to date

The cashbook was circulated prior to the meeting and approved.

It was noted that the insurance renewal of £1100 is high and could be excessive. Cllr. Westcott-Wreford questioned the schedule. **It was agreed** that the Clerk will forward the schedule to Councillors before the next meeting.

PC/90/22 Neighbourhood Plan update

Cllr. Voaden stated that we have a letter of Application Designation. **It was agreed** the Clerk will submit this application.

PC/91/22 To update on nuisance motorbikes

Cllr. Stopford stated that the bikes are still active, the Environment Agency is aware and working with Buckinghamshire Council. They have confirmed that the paths need to remain fully open and stiles are no longer permitted.

Cllr. Stopford confirmed that if registration numbers of the bikes or vehicles transporting them are made available to PCSO Ange O'Connell, the police will take action.

PC/92/22 To update on Slough Treatments Works

No further update, Cllr. Stopford will continue chasing.

PC/93/22 To ratify the Dorney Playground BBQ purchase

The Council agreed unanimously to the funding of £200 to assist with the BBQ purchase.

PC/94/22 To agree the replacement noticeboard

Cllr. Dax reported that a timber framed noticeboard will cost in excess of £500 to display 4 X A4 sheets. **It was agreed** that a black painted aluminium version at a cost of £158 would be sourced.

PC/95/22 To consider any complaints/comments received from residents

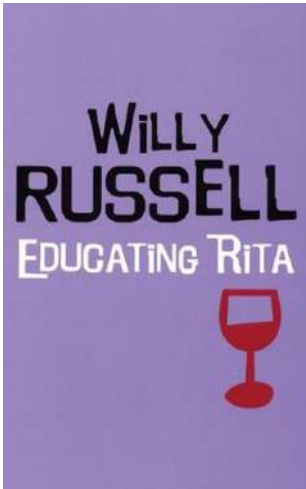
It was noted that there was a comment regarding the concrete blocks having been deposited in the area adjacent to the M4. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to the Environment Agency whose land they appear to be on. It was noted that expectations of any action were low due to the fact that the blocks have been in situ for approximately 20 years.

PC/83/22 Items to consider for discussion at the next meeting on 20th September 2022

None noted.

Meeting ended at 8.12 pm

Educating Rita



"Because I think your marvellous. Do you know you're the first breath of fresh air that's been in here for years." – Frank in awe of Rita

I wonder if 'DPN' has ever had a drama critic. There must have been reviews back in the halcyon days of the Dorney Players. Well, a performance like that which a gratifyingly sizable audience, mainly of Dorney residents, enjoyed in August on the Common deserves a review.

We've certainly never had a social correspondent and maybe the social side of this event was even more significant than the dramatic. Our host Kristina writes vividly elsewhere about the day, so we'll make just two social points. Firstly, it was an absolute pleasure to see so many residents, especially as everybody seemed to be friends. It's a long time since I can recall seeing so many 'mates' in the same place, especially as most seemed to be in family groups. We mustn't look

back, but there was a sense of release after the isolation of recent times. Secondly, it would be wonderful if of our new friends from Maidenhead Drama Guild could be persuaded to make this a regular annual event, hopefully in the same venue. Since the apparent demise of Bucks County Council's series of plays in village halls, we have been starved of live drama in the village. It would appear that an enthusiastic audience exists.

Last year the same team presented *Abigail's Party*, and this year a much larger audience saw Willy Russell's *Educating Rita*. The two main players last year and the only two players this year were the marvellous Tori Tomkins and Cameron Kinross. They must have faced quite a problem in that many in the audience would remember the TV production in the 1970s of *Abigail* and for *Rita* how do you match up to a celebrated movie starring Julie Walters and Michael Caine? In both cases it seems to this viewer that any such problem evaporated after a few minutes.

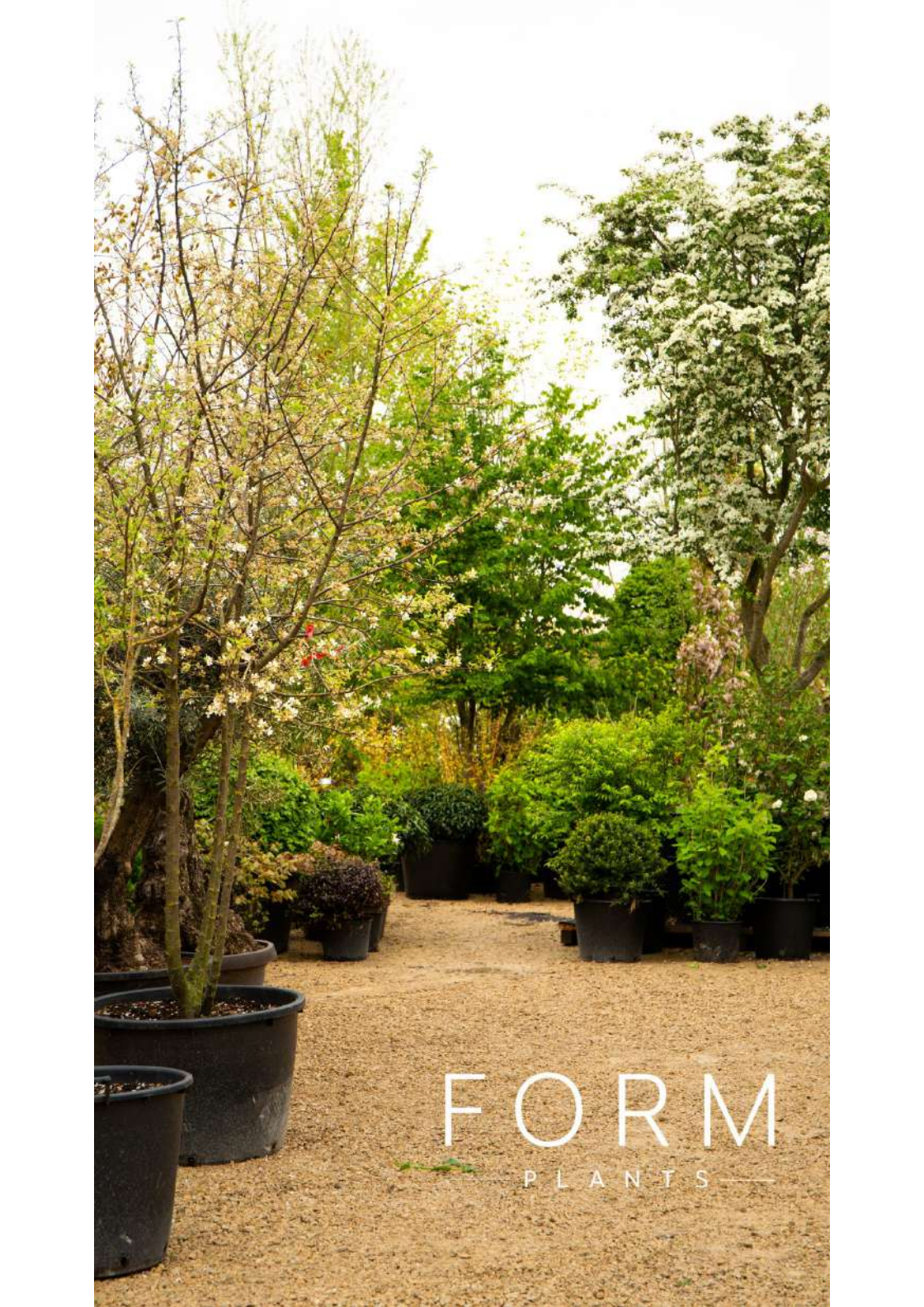
Tori seems to specialise in feisty ladies. Beverly last year who is middle class, from Essex and socially aspiring and Rita is working class, from Liverpool, and culturally upwardly mobile ('yeah, that's what I'm trying...to sing a better song...'). Poor Cameron is just too good at disappointed middle-aged men whose dreams are being crushed – Laurence, the estate agent last year and Frank, the university lecturer in English Literature who finds himself 'educating Rita'.

Another problem – Frank's study where all the action in the play takes place is enclosed and dusty, like him, but we witness the play in the open air in blazing sunshine on the wide open Common. Again, this is dealt with – by the skills of the actors primarily, but also by little devices in the play's set; piles of little read books, ever present whisky glasses and, best of all, a lone door unconnected to a wall which either sticks unopened or slams.

Thanks, Bob....

So, a triumph for two actors, the two directors, but primarily a joy for a very appreciative local audience. I think I'd better book those panto tickets now.

Peter Bowman



FORM
PLANTS —

JOY MORRISSEY MP

Standing up for the Beaconsfield Constituency



Working with Thames Valley Police to champion local priorities

Since my election in 2019 I have always had a focus on making sure that police resources are deployed to tackle the problems my constituents are most concerned about. This varies across the towns and villages of Beaconsfield but there are always some common themes and some issues that are particular to the locality. Working with police at both an area and a neighbourhood level has been vitally important to ensure that the right focus is prioritised in the right area and at the right scale.

This year I have been sending out my own crime survey to give people an opportunity to highlight their local concerns to me and I want to say thank you to everyone who has and continues to respond. It is a great way for you to quickly have your say and for me to hear from you directly. Whether it is vandalism and antisocial behaviour in Flackwell Heath, traffic offenses and fly tipping in the Ivers, or illegal encampments in Taplow, letting me know your concerns helps me stand up for what you want delivered.



We are very lucky to have great officers working in our area, and hopefully these will be bolstered by some of the 442 more police officers joining Thames Valley Police in the last few years. Nationally, 13,790 extra police have been recruited, which puts us well on the road to reaching our target of 20,000 more officers by the end of this Parliament. I am determined to make sure this is not just a numbers game but leads to real improvements for local communities.

Alongside more officers, we need the police to have the powers they need, and the courts to be able to hand down appropriate sentences. This is

why I was so pleased to vote for the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act which received Royal Assent earlier this year. With more police, tougher sentences and a focus on local issues, I hope we can make everyone feel safe on their streets and in their homes, as they should.

Joy Morrissey MP

Member of Parliament for Beaconsfield

Assistant Whip

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Dorney Parish News

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Dorney Parish News is an A5 newsletter that is circulated monthly (except January and August) to residents and businesses in Dorney Village, Dorney Reach, Boveney and Lake End.

Our current print run is 250. Estimated readership is around 400 people. There are approximately 300 residential properties in Dorney Parish.

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