

Dorney Parish News

November 2022



World War 1 – St James' Church



World War II – Memorial Ground



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EDITORIAL

A neighbour rang the other day. Inevitably conversation turned to one of those local items. The sort that turns up in the pages of this magazine. Probably it was concerning the interminable M4 Smart motorway project – oops, sorry ‘digital motorway’. I keep forgetting.

So as to be better informed I turned to the National Highways website. The name change was explained in paragraph after paragraph of technobabble. It seems that digital roads will deliver an ‘enhanced customer experience for all’. Well, those that survive the journey, I suppose. It’s interesting that we’re not ‘drivers’ or ‘passengers’ anymore but ‘customers’. But they do ‘support growth’, so we wouldn’t want to be anti-growth.

I digress earlier than normal. We both agreed that it seemed strange to talk about small, local, or ‘parochial’ if you like, issues. For months it seems we have been witnesses to history be it royal transitions or unprecedented convulsions at Westminster – not to mention war in Europe or deepening worldwide recession. But cheer up, as the song says, things can only get better.

I hope this magazine can always avoid party political controversy, but I sometimes wonder how those politicians on all sides who behave so abominably at PMQs or prioritise factional fighting can sleep at night knowing the problems which beset us all in our day to day to living. In a recent issue Mike Quincey raised the issues of day centre closures and we thank Lesley Honey-Green for picking up so spiritedly on that topic from personal experience. It was also good to hear of some public policies within Bucks that might be said to work.

An encouraging development is the adoption by the Parish Council of the ambition to create a Neighbourhood Plan. The notion of a working group with potentially wide membership around the Parish reporting to the PC on the priorities held by residents going forwards has much promise. I’m not sure how much of a precedent it is but I have the 2005 Parish Plan, along with the 2009 update, on my desk beside me. The issues raised then flowed from a village Appraisal Questionnaire circulated earlier in the century. I wonder if a similar exercise would be repeated. One finding I do recall was that Court Lane was voted the favourite village feature.

Returning to the idea of everyday matters, I read somewhere that the way to keep well balanced in these hard times was to develop a ‘sense of wonder’. For me the best source of that is great writing. I’ve discovered an American novelist, Elizabeth Strout, who chronicles the everyday lives of the citizens of modest communities in New England. She was expected to win the Booker Prize this year but didn’t. No, we’re not introducing book reviews but while Elizabeth’s name must have filtered into my consciousness via the book pages, the actual discovery was in the ‘library’ which is to be found, when it hasn’t been mysteriously stripped bare, in the Harcourt Road telephone box. Thanks to whoever deposited a book of hers there. I like the idea of finding ‘wonder’ in a humble, redundant GPO facility.

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: Our bible story in church this week was the parable of the unjust judge. You know the one? Jesus is telling his disciples not to give up and encouraging them to be like the widow who keeps coming to the judge with her plea. His judgements are unjust, but the widow persists, and in the end, gets justice through her perseverance.

It just so happens that I was sitting in front of a judge this week. I'm very sure he wasn't an unjust judge, but the decision we were appealing against had felt unjust. The policy about school transport in RBWM is not easy to understand. Parents in Eton Wick can get caught out because the 'nearest school' for application purposes is not the same as the 'nearest school' for school transport purposes. Recent changes in transport policy mean that if you get it wrong, you could end up paying £702 per year for the school bus for your child when you didn't expect to.

I felt great sympathy for people who find themselves on the painful end of a decision. You need a lot of energy to keep making appeals, navigating computer forms, trying to get through telephone systems, negotiating the traffic along the A4 to get to a hearing... and this wasn't a life-threatening situation. What about people who are trying to combat the injustice of something that is deeply damaging for society as a whole, like the repression of women in Iran or Afghanistan, how much more difficult is that? And dangerous?

How do you persevere and continue to stand up for those who get caught in the cogs of a system and get squashed? We were thinking about gospel music and the songs that the people caught in slavery used to sing. 'Tell Old Pharaoh to let my people go', 'I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield down by the riverside, I ain't gonna study war no more', 'O Mary don't you weep' and so on: powerful words of scripture turned into song which gave oppressed people courage to withstand until eventually an unjust system was changed. Who knows when we might need such

courage again? The story of Jesus will always speak courage to the oppressed and challenge the oppressor.

Church Services in November 2022

Wednesday 2nd November

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 6th November

9.30 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00 am Any Age Service

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 13th November (Remembrance)

9.15am Holy Communion with Remembrance

St James the Less, Dorney

10.55am Remembrance Service

St John the Evangelist, Eton

3.00pm Remembrance Service with scouts

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 16th November

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 20th November

9.30am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Morning Worship

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 27th November

9.30am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick



St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

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❖ Starters

- ❖ Chicken liver pate with a caramelised onion chutney and toasted ciabatta,
- ❖ Prawn cocktail, with pink grapefruit, mixed leafs and brown bread and butter,
- ❖ Pan fried woodland mushrooms, in a white wine and garlic cream sauce served on toasted sourdough,
- ❖ Soup of the day, served with a toasted sourdough roll,
- ❖ Parma ham with mulled poached pear, and goat cheese salad, with toasted walnuts and mix leafs,

❖ Mains

- ❖ Roast turkey with all the trimmings, roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables, stuffing, and pigs in blankets, gravy, and cranberry sauce.
- ❖ Pan fried sea bass, with minted tender stem broccoli, sautéed new potatoes and a lemon caper cream Sauce
- ❖ Beetroot gnocchi, with asparagus, sundried tomatoes, spinach and parmesan,
- ❖ Roasted root veg wellington with pumpkin seeds, roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables,

❖ Desserts

- ❖ Traditional Christmas pudding with brandy Sauce
- ❖ Apple crumble tart with vanilla custard
- ❖ British cheese selection with grapes, celery crackers and a spiced chutney
- ❖ Vegan chocolate brownie with vegan vanilla ice cream



Better Lives 2022-2025, a Strategy for the Future of Adult Social Care in Buckinghamshire

I began to write this article in early September, but these tumultuous times have delayed my further thoughts until now.

When reading the September edition of the Dorney Parish News, I was spurred on by Mike Quincey's article 'Theresa' in relation to his concerns regarding the closure of day centres for adults with learning disabilities. His final comment, that society is judged by the way it cares for those less able to look after themselves, made me reflect on my personal experience of these concerns.

My daughter Jeni has multiple complex learning disabilities, and a sense of belonging is of the essence for her well-being. I started my teaching career in 1971; and with 38 years of experience in twelve very different Primary schools/ Early Years settings but have always believed in the ethos that for every school there is a community and I extend my view to the day centre setting as a community for my daughter and her friends.

The closure of day centres as well as respite care mainly due to financial pressures and bankrupt councils, as well as the constraints of Covid, leaves vulnerable adults without a community, a place to go. I wonder why it's the vulnerable that lose out first, sometimes with little warning, leaving families in despair.

When my husband Colin (sadly passed away) and I moved to Dorney Reach over 37 years ago, we hoped to make this our home for life. Ben was born in 1985 and Jeni arrived in 1987, making her entrance in an ambulance by the Sycamore tree outside our house and bringing with her a range of disabilities. How family life changed at that point! Jeni has needed special support all of her life.

Dorney Reach has always been a supportive and caring community with many kind friends and neighbours. The local community were amazing in helping out, as well as families of Ben's classmates at Dorney School. Sadly some of our local community have passed away or moved on.

A paediatrician very early on in Jeni's life suggested that if we moved a couple of miles down the road to Maidenhead, the multi-services she required could be met through a single Council authority. However our preference was to stay where we were, keeping Maidenhead in postcode terms only. Thus begun a liaison with a network of services, meeting and interacting with many pro-active professionals and amazing people who went 'the further mile' for Jeni. I cannot begin to explain in this article the masses of people who have been involved in making Jeni's life important.

In the same edition of the Dorney Parish News, the article 'Buckinghamshire Council and Orchard Herbs: A tragedy of errors', suggested that the time may have arrived to opt to move into the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead as the new Unitary Council had made no change to the concern.

Whilst I fully endorse the sentiment regarding the Orchard Herbs battle, I must highly commend the effective strategies being implemented for the future of Adult Social Care in Buckinghamshire, through the 'Better Lives' focus. When Buckinghamshire became a Unitary Authority, the two long-standing issues were addressed for vulnerable adults with learning disabilities, these identified as day centres and respite care provision. The support offered changed to a geographical footprint North, East, Central and South. The day centres became known as 'Short Breaks' reflecting a respite care approach for carers, but also offering a range of activities based on the individual client's abilities and strengths. Jeni has been attending the day centre (now Burnham Short Breaks) since 2007. In the past there have been on-going concerns as to the likelihood of closure when it was part of South Bucks, but as a Unitary Authority, it seems that provision has now gained equal status to other areas.

The gains for Jeni have been considerable. She has an almost bespoke existence! Should our local area become part of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Jeni as a vulnerable adult could be added to Mike Quincey's list. We already reside in a mishmash of boundaries in the area and have to find a successful way forward. Jeni requires 24/7 care to meet her needs and care to give her a good quality of life. She is fortunate to receive an appropriate care and funding package provided through Buckinghamshire.

Lesley Honey-Green

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Two War Memorials, seventeen names.

Our front cover this month features Dorney's two war memorials. Between them, the memorials commemorate 17 brave men with strong connections to this village.

In St James the Less in Dorney is a memorial plaque honouring 5 men who died in the Great War. Maybe that list is mercifully brief. It is on a brass plate on a litany desk or kneeler.

In the Memorial Garden in the heart of the village is another plaque with the names of a further 12 casualties, this time from World War 2. I have always believed that it was not common for the public remembrance in a village to be more extensive for 1939-45 than for the earlier conflict. Can anyone confirm that?

In recent times, Virginia Silvester and myself have published several articles in Dorney Parish News detailing what is known about each of the war dead from Dorney. Much of this information is collated on the Dorney History Group website with further input from Bill Dax. Please visit the site for more information about two world wars and much else besides.

Can we relate these names to a recognisable Dorney of today?

Two **Poolman** brothers, **Percy** and **Albert** died in the Great War. Their father had been a shepherd at Pigeon House Farm. The 1901 census had Percy living at 'Dorney Village Cottage'. Albert lived before the war with a wife and children at 1 Vicarage Cottages. **Bertie Belcher**, a farm labourer, had lived at Manor Cottages, Dorney Common.

Richard Vernon Cholmondeley, who was killed in 1940 in France, had settled in 1938 in the Old Pond House, Dorney and with wife Margaret raised two young daughters there. **Percy Evins** who was killed in 1944 had lived with his parents at Sunnyside on Boveney Road before he enlisted in the Royal Sussex Regiment. His father, Percy Snr, later became one of the founder members of the Dorney Memorial Society which was set up to look after the memorial gardens.

I wonder if any other similar church memorials bear the name of the vicar's own (and only) son. Revd Moriarty had become vicar in 1914 (the family then moved from Devon) and his son **James Moriarty**, a Lieutenant in the Royal Garrison Artillery died in France in 1915. Early in the conflict, 'Jack' Moriarty was mentioned in dispatches & returned home to recuperate from wounds. It seems he then sketched a design for a stained-glass window, which remains in St James to this day.

Early in the Great War, a shepherd named James Eustace was living in Dorney at Court Farm Cottages. His son **Robert Eustace** had emigrated to Canada to farm and had become a Canadian citizen. He enlisted in Moose Jaw, joining the Saskatchewan Regiment. He returned to Dorney to recuperate from wounds, died in hospital and is buried in St James churchyard.

Where did they see service? **Andrew Clinch** was a Colonel with the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and died in 1942 in Malta. **Reginald Leslie** was a RAF Wing Commander who died in 1943, having been awarded a DFC alongside other

decorations and is buried in Tunisia. **John McCartney** was a lieutenant with the Indian Armoured Corps in the Burma campaign – killed in 1945 he is buried in Myanmar. **William Poole** whose parents were from Taplow was killed in Germany two months before World War 2 ended and is buried there. **Benjamin Rolfe**, also with parents from Taplow was a gunner with the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry and died in Holland in 1944.

Edwin Sprackling was with the Royal Army Service Corps in Germany and died barely a week from the end of the second war. **Harold Stevens** was with the RAF in North Africa and died in 1941. **Harold Thomas** was with the Royal Navy on HMS Ullswater and died in 1942.

Peter Ingram, also with Taplow parents, was with the RAFVR. He died in 1941 and has no known grave. **Alan Comyn** was a Royal Marine Commando and died in 1942.

Going back to the Great War, Percy Poolman died in Belgium and his brother Albert was a prisoner of war who was buried in Kassel, Germany. Bertie Belcher fought in Mesopotamia, and he is buried in Amara, Iraq. James Moriarty is buried near Calais. Thinking again of World War 2, Richard Cholmondeley was killed in France and Percy Evins died in the bloody battle of Monte Cassino, Italy.

The Dorney War Memorial was created in the early 1950s on the south side of Village Road, adjoining Dorney Common. The site was originally a large pond.

The twelve oak trees planted on the site commemorate those twelve fallen servicemen who died in World War 2.

The Dorney Memorial Society was set up in 1954 to help Dorney Parish Council to care and tend throughout the years to come for the War Memorial 'with pride as a fitting and enduring token of their esteem for their fallen parishioners who gave their lives for their country in the War'.

It is not known when the Society disbanded but the conservation of the War Memorial is now managed by Dorney Parish Council.

In 1996 the War Memorial Ground was refurbished and in 2016 local resident Jeff Day repainted the lettering on the War Memorial stone.

Two other names are memorialised in Dorney. Lieutenant Courtney Trace Lindsay is buried in St James graveyard and his grave is recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. He died in 1916 at Burnham Abbey which we believe was acting as a hospital in the Great War. He is buried in Dorney, but his name is on the Burnham memorial.

The Friends of St Mary Magdalene, Boveney are particularly proud of the memory of Lance Corporal Frank Church, a choir boy at the church and a scout master in Eton Wick before the Great War. A plaque commemorates his death during the Battle of the Somme having bravely volunteered to bring in the wounded from no-man's land.

Peter Bowman

Update from the National Highways M4 Junctions 3 to 12 upgrade project

Overall, the project is due for completion by the end of this year, and we expect to switch the eastern section of the M4 from Junctions 3 to 8/9 back to the national speed limit imminently. We would like to thank the local community for their patience while we have carried out this work over the last few years.

Marsh Lane bridge

A further programme of work is required in order to replace expansion joints on several of the new bridges that the project has installed. Expansion joints allow the concrete on bridges to expand and contract with the temperature in order to avoid cracking. On these structures, including Marsh Lane bridge, we have identified some performance issues within the installed expansion joints and these require correction before the winter. There's no impact on the safety of the bridge but local drivers may have noticed bumps on the joins between the bridge and the local road - that's part of what we need to address.

There will need to be five overnight full closures of the bridge for this work. The closures will start at approximately 20:00 and finish by 06:00. A diversion route will be in place for vehicular traffic utilising Lake End Road bridge, while pedestrian access will be maintained along Marsh Lane. This will be in November, and we'll write to the local community, the school and the parish council to update you on the precise dates.

Planting

It was a very difficult summer for anyone with a garden or who is trying to look after plants, but on the M4 upgrade project we faced a huge issue from the lack of rain as we were trying to establish thousands of young trees and plants. Our first big planting season for the eastern half of the scheme was over the autumn / winter of 2021 / 2022 and as you probably saw we suffered from significant loss of saplings and seedlings over the course of a very intense heatwave in the Summer.

The good news is that the project's landscaping and arboricultural contractors Tihill (www.tihill.com/) have responsibility for maintaining the planting for 5 years after completion of the project. This includes replacing trees and plants as required every year to ensure sufficient coverage. Naturally this planting will take time to establish, and we are at the early stages of this process. The team is soon to start the new planting season for 2022 / 2023 - hopefully next year will be a milder summer. Despite the issues, nature is quite resilient and with the return of decent amounts of rain, quite a lot of the planting is re-emerging alongside the natural growth that establishes itself.

Pedestrian access from Trumpers Field

We are also about to start construction of the pedestrian ramp that will provide more convenient and step free access from the field to the pedestrian route along the motorway to the River Thames. This should be complete by the end of the Autumn.

Nick Cooper, Engagement and Communications Manager to the M4 project



CHRISTMAS AT DORNEY LAKE

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Shared Christmas Party, Saturday 10th December 2022

£55 per person

Exclusive Christmas Parties, November and December 2022

£65 per person

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Saturday 17th December

Both children and adults can enjoy a hearty and delicious breakfast, with activities for the kids and of course, a very special visit from the man himself.

Adults - £19.95

Children (aged 3 to 13 years) - £14.95

Under 3's - £6.95

FESTIVE AFTERNOON TEA

Sunday 18th December

The classic indulgence with a festive twist. Enjoy sweet treats and savoury delights whilst overlooking our 400 acres of grounds & rowing course.

Adult Afternoon Tea - £23.95

Prosecco upgrade + £5.50pp

Junior Afternoon Tea - £13.95

The Studios School Lights Up Dorney Village Hall

Something rather special, and in my opinion, rather inspiring, is happening in Dorney's own Village Hall twice weekly.

'What I really want to teach here is kindness.'

Those were the words of Corinne Carlisle, Principal of the Studios School of Performing Arts. That ambition was expressed when Dorney Parish News visited one of her classes.



Thursday evening is when the Youth Classes for boys and girls aged 12 to 18 take place between 6.00 and 7.30pm while on Saturday mornings between 9am and midday there is the Performing Arts School. The Thursday evening classes cover 'everything drama' and the teaching is by very experienced industry professionals. Those who attend the Saturday School can choose from a menu of courses including Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre with classes running simultaneously.

We recommend that those interested in finding out more – and you should! – consult the school's website or Facebook pages for details of timings, fees (which can include sibling discounts) and the courses on offer.

Corinne says she's proud to have six members of staff and one of those experienced teachers was taking the class as we talked to Corinne. Drama tutor Barry Callan was as passionate about the aims of the classes as was Corinne. Barry, who has years of experience in drama workshops and youth theatre, plus being a renowned theatrical academic, told me how he had been working with the

'teens' attending the Thursday class in imagining themselves in various scenarios he had drawn from John Buchan's 'Thirty-Nine Steps'. On that evening, there was no doubt the participants were having the time of their lives.

Although Corinne has much experience of drama coaching, she readily assured us that this is 'not a stage school'. The benefits which could flow from her classes were many, and she believed this was particularly true as young people put the experience of lockdowns behind them. Supportive friendly classes can improve self-confidence, overcome anxiety and teach new skills while, of course, making friends and having lots of fun. Corinne is fond of saying that the classes help her youngsters to 'shake off the week'. She quoted many examples of how individual participants had blossomed and thrived, socially and even academically.

The Thursday evening classes often linked into GCSE and A Level set texts such as Shakespeare while preparation classes for LAMDA exams could be included in the Saturday sessions.

It's very exciting when Corinne talks of the future of drama in Dorney. She rates our Village Hall highly as a venue – her classes have moved down from Taplow fairly recently. She can foresee shows being put on for residents. She has an ambition to extend her classes to adults – I think I'd sign up! There's more good work to be done – young people's usage of social media could be made safer and more positive by training in enhancing their online presence via creative video blogs and the like.



Corinne grew up in Dorney. Her parents continue to live here. Many will remember her as Corinne Comer appearing in drama events while a pupil at Dorney School. She told us how happy she was to come back to Dorney and especially the Village Hall. She remembers that back then the Village Hall was indeed the school hall, and she recalls filing out of one building to take her place in the next-door building.

Corinne has had a lengthy and very varied career in many aspects of theatre and TV. She has excelled in everything from Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing* and Regan in *King Lear* with the Cambridge Shakespeare Company to being a guest presenter on shopping channel QVC. She has worked with Bill Kenwright at the Theatre Royal

Windsor and appeared in TV commercials. She told me that she had played in Snow White many times and has taught at film school and been an agent.

It's great to have the Studios School active in Dorney. It's lovely to have Corinne back in her home village. It's a matter of pride that such events are going on in the Village Hall. But best of all is the obvious joy that Corinne's classes bring to those young people who take part in them.

Peter Bowman

Dorney Playground Management Committee – what do we do?



A few people have said to us that they don't really understand how the playground works, so I thought this would be a good opportunity to explain.

Dorney playground is situated in Trumpers Field, outside Dorney School and next to Dorney Village Hall. It is managed by a group of people known as the 'Dorney Playground Management Group'.

The idea of a children's play area was first suggested in May 2008, and a Management Group – a group of volunteering mums and dads – was established as an independent charity. After thousands of voluntary hours, £170,000 of fundraising and numerous successful grant applications, the playground was established. The responsibilities now include the playground equipment, the picnic tables and benches in the playground area, the MUGA (Multi-use games area) and the tennis court. This Management Group is totally independent of the Parish Council and is fully responsible for all costs, including maintenance, inspection and repairs. However, we do work closely with Dorney Parish Council and appreciate their support (please see point 3 below). We would also like to thank the Dorney Village Hall Committee for their support. The Village Hall provides us with a room from which to run the tuck shop. They have also agreed to let us use the Village Hall for our Halloween Party at no cost.



So, what do we do? Our main responsibility is to keep the playground, MUGA and tennis court in a good and safe condition. A member of the group will do a weekly playground check which includes picking up any litter, emptying the bins if required and a general check of all equipment. Anything that needs doing is noted and arrangements are made to get the work done. A more detailed three-month check is done, and once a year we pay PlayDale to do

a professional playground check.

In order to keep the playground, MUGA and tennis court in good condition, the Management Group are also responsible for fund raising. We have three potential sources of income.

1. We open a tuck shop (sited in Dorney Village Hall) every school day between the beginning of the summer term – normally April – to October half term, between 3.15 and 4.00ish. All profits from the Tuck Shop go into the Playground fund.
2. We try to do an end of year summer party and Halloween party, with all profits going to the Playground fund
3. We apply for grants and awards. This year Dorney Parish Council gave us £200 to buy a barbecue to use at the parties and they also pay the public liability insurance for the playground as part of their own DPC insurance. We are very grateful for this as, if the Management Group had to take out this as a single insurance, it would be much more expensive.

In the year ending 2021, the total income for the year was £2066.00, with an expenditure of £2807, so on a year-to-year basis, without grants, we can only maintain the playground as it is.

The i-play in the playground is no longer working (that's the structure in the playground that says hello to you when you pass by). It has been 'repaired' several times but keeps breaking down. The Management Group would like to have it removed and replaced by another swing structure but the overall cost will be about £25000. In order to do this, we will need to get some grants, but these are becoming more difficult to get and, as a new committee, we are finding this quite challenging! So, if there is anyone out there who has experience of raising funds, or who doesn't mind trying – your help would be appreciated. You don't have to become a trustee of the charity unless you want to. So if you would like to be part of the Playground Group, either as a trustee, or just a supporter, please contact me and you will be welcomed with open arms.

Dorney Playground Management Group - [Ettie Brand 07737053409](mailto:Ettie.Brand@07737053409)

Email: Playground4Dorney@gmail.com

BELOW STAIRS

The Victorian era was the heyday of employment of domestic servants in Britain. In 1851, three quarters of a million women and about 100,000 men worked in private domestic service in England and Wales. From the great households with a hierarchy of flunkies to the lone drudge in a middle-class semi, anyone who could afford it provided themselves with help in the home. Dorney, a small agricultural village, was no different. Who were these servants and what were their lives like?

There were no great mansions in Dorney, but at the top end of the scale in 1851 were two households which would have been considered the homes of gentlemen. At Dorney Court, the Palmers were served by a footman, a cook and two housemaids living in the house. Thomas Panther, who was probably their coachman, and several gardeners lived elsewhere in the village. Like Dorney Court, the Vicarage had no young children at this time, and their household was even more modest – cook, footman, coachman and gardener. Probably someone living in the village would have come in to clean.



Typically for gentlemen's servants, these staff were predominantly not local and had been born all over the country – Northants, Banbury, London, Egham, Shrewsbury, Hampshire. Several of the young men found their brides while living in Dorney. Live-in staff were expected to remain single although exceptions could be made – the cook at the Vicarage was married but had to live apart from her husband. Marriage was an easier option for outdoor servants such as coachmen and gardeners who lived in separate accommodation.

For some, this job would be a stepping-stone in a career in service, moving on after a period of years to a better paid or more senior position. Others changed occupation. The footman at Dorney Court went on to work as a porter, a coachman and a painter. The gardener at the Vicarage, who originally came from near Aylesbury, moved to London and became a hay salesman, ending up with two servants of his own.

The remaining servants in Dorney in 1851 all came from the local area, some from Dorney itself, others from Eton Wick, Wooburn, White Waltham and so on. Joseph Trumper, a large local tenant farmer, employed three young women to help his wife with their five young children. Two other farmers had 6 or 8 farmworkers living in, and each employed a middle-aged unmarried woman to cook and clean for the household. For these women, their jobs provided accommodation and food as well as a wage.

Sometimes circumstances meant that even less well-off households had to employ help. Richard Curtis was a farm worker, widowed with three young children, and he had taken on an older unmarried woman as housekeeper. Eliza Bunce was also widowed, with three very young children, and needed help because she worked as a laundress. Her house servant was Elizabeth Burnham, aged only 11. Another young

girl, aged 14, worked for blacksmith George Hawkins, probably to help look after his four young children. Both these teenaged girls were luckier than their counterparts in big cities, because their families were living nearby. There were several laundresses living in Dorney at this time and some if not all did laundry for Eton College. Maybe it was this connection which enabled Elizabeth Burnham to move on to a job as kitchen maid at the College before she married.

The pattern of domestic service in 1861 was very similar, although only two servants who had been working in Dorney in 1851 were still there ten years later. The main difference was at the Vicarage, where the new vicar, Lambert Edwards, had dispensed with the genteel trappings of his predecessor and employed only two housemaids to assist his wife in looking after three young children and catering for four students also living there. Unusually, the lady's maid at Dorney Court was a local girl, Harriet Hazell, and aged only 19. A lady's maid was expected to be skilled at fine sewing and hairdressing and would typically have had previous experience in a different role. But Harriet was the daughter of a gardener at the Court and must have come to the notice of the Palmers as a suitable individual. She was obviously successful, as in 1871 she was working for the Dowager Lady Palmer at Dorney House, alongside the cook Matilda Shaw who had also previously worked at Dorney Court, and Harriet's older brother Henry who was Lady Palmer's coachman. Their father William Hazell was still a gardener at Dorney Court. Harriet's brother George also worked as a gardener on the estate as a boy and their sister Anne was Joseph Trumper's housemaid in 1861.



There were no fewer than four coachmen in Dorney in 1871 and none remained so long term. Henry Hazell had been in service in London in 1861 and later moved back there, working first as a cabman and then a gardener. James North was born in Dorney where he was a carter on a farm before obtaining a post as coachman to a wealthy income. After marriage, he settled in Lake End and worked on farms and as a gardener. In a sign of changing times, in 1901 his son-in-law was a motor driver. William Keepence came from Wiltshire where he was a groom and then a farm worker, before moving to Burnham where he also kept a beer house for a time. After a spell as coachman at Dorney Court he returned to Burnham and labouring work. Charles Wyeth was born in Basingstoke and started his working life as a farm worker and then a bricklayer's labourer in Reading. For some years he was a coachman or groom, but spent his later years working in a biscuit factory in Reading. For all these men, domestic service was an interlude rather than a career, in contrast to Thomas Panther who was in service his whole life.

Decent wages plus tips meant that a lifelong gentlemen's servant could save towards a comfortable retirement. Susannah Hazell, mother to Harriet and Henry and widow of William, was housekeeper at Dorney Court in 1881, but was able to be self-supporting when she retired, in an era long before old age pensions. She was the only servant in the house at that time because the Palmer family was elsewhere,

in St John's Wood with a cook, two housemaids and a German governess. In 1901 the Palmers were at Dorney Court, with six indoor servants – housekeeper; two parlour maids who would have answered the door and served meals in the absence of a footman; a housemaid; and two kitchen maids. Their ages were very young – the oldest was the housemaid at 29 and the two kitchen maids were only 14. The gardener lived in the garden cottage and the coachman/groom in the coachman's cottage.



By 1901 the number of domestic servants in private households in England and Wales had risen to one and a half million and remained the main occupation for working women. For many girls, it provided a job and a grounding in the skills needed to run a household in married life. Those domestic servants who spent time working in Dorney often did not have roots in the area and were a transient part of our population. An exception was the Hazell family, who as we have seen worked for the Palmer family for many years. William Hazell was born in Pinkneys Green and came to Dorney as a young man, certainly by 1834 when his first child was born. He

worked as a gardener at Dorney Court until his death in 1880. His wife Susannah was recorded as schoolmistress in 1851 and 1861, presumably at the school provided by the Palmer family for the children of their tenants and employees. At least three of William and Susannah's children started their working lives in service at Dorney Court. This family of servants became a part of Dorney life and is commemorated in the graveyard where they were laid to rest, on a headstone erected by the Dowager Lady Palmer as a tribute to William Hazell's long service in the family.

Two further memorials were put up in the 20th century by Colonel CHD Palmer in appreciation of long service – Thomas Saunders who worked as gardener for 30 years, and James Alfred Watson who began his 64 years' service as a farm worker and ended as the colonel's coachman. Valued servants indeed!

Virginia Silvester



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(From 29th November 2022)

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One Chance in Thousands

In this week of all weeks, I could bang on about government, or lack of it, Ukraine, Covid, inflation and if all else fails, smart motorways, but frankly, I need a break, and hopefully so do you, so here for your delectation, is an adventure from my youth, always remembering of course, that the older I get, the better I was.

It is the year of our Lord 1971, and, following an unremarkable scholastic career culminating in a single 'O' level, my meteoric rise in the world of work seemed to be following a depressingly familiar path, albeit I was happily unfamiliar with the Labour Exchange, unemployment and 'signing on'; the good fortune continuing throughout my life to even today in my mid-seventies where I am still working and loving it. The difficulty was that there seemed no structure or future in my endeavours, and while I was blissfully content pounding my employer's tipper lorry around Reading, driving huge earth scrapers at mega money building motorways (not Dorney's bit) and lots of other adventures... no structure. I know my parents worried, as perhaps you do if your offspring or their offspring are treading this path.

Perhaps I can reassure you, or perhaps not.

I had glamorous females in my family (sadly bypassing the males), and June was a stunning cousin; and still is in her late sixties.

My parents lived in an Edwardian pile in a remote part of the New Forest, a heavenly place for Christmas, and it was there that my family, all unmarried and childless at that point, (Mum and Dad excepted!) met for celebrations, weather permitting, often around large bonfires and long bouts of inebriated ember gazing and, on this occasion, June attended with her current suitor Graham.

He was charming, self-effacing and ultra-smooth, as expected, and we found ourselves sitting together, bottled beer in hand in the dark gazing into the embers as others threw on logs and topped up beer.

Occasionally in life, one meets a stranger and conclude after a few minutes, "If we live to be a thousand, we will not get on," whereas the reverse applies, perhaps less frequently, and you are chatting like old friends, and so it was with Graham.

Within minutes, we were chatting about our lives and our hopes and fears for our long futures. We chatted amiably about seemingly everything, our lives to date and our ambitions.

"What do you do for a living?" I asked in the flickering fire light, as June seemed to be attracting a new admirer nearby.

"I play the 'cello," he stated matter of factly.

I was, indeed still am, a classical music bore, and rather patronisingly imagined an amateur band somewhere in the leafy suburbs scratching out The Enigma Variations.

"Oh really," I replied rather pompously, "who do you play for?"

"The London Symphony Orchestra," he replied.

Caught on the hop, I hurriedly reconsidered the course of the conversation I had planned, as he asked,

“And you?”

“I drive a lorry,” I ventured sheepishly.

The LSO had just finished a tour in Hong Kong and he was about to commence another in the USA.

I had been busy running sixteen-ton loads of ballast from Mortimer into a new business park in Reading, which up to that point, seemed fulfilling, at least for the time being but the same little voice niggled through the alcohol, “Where’s the future in that?”

“How interesting,” said Graham. I was preparing to be patronised.

“We need a lorry driver!”

“Sure you do,” I mumbled, “the LSO needs a lorry driver? Sorry Graham, but why?”

“For our instrument van. I think it’s what they call a heavy goods vehicle. Have you got a licence to drive one of those?”

“Well er, yes. I have, but I’m not sure.”

“Well, here’s the address and the name of the manager. Write to him anyway. What have you got to lose?”

And so, dear Reader, I did just that, on Mum’s finest Basildon Bond and in my very best handwriting, wrote,

“Dear Sir,

I understand from one of your musicians that you are looking for a lorry driver.

I am a lorry driver, and if such a vacancy exists, I would like to apply for the position.

Yours faithfully,”

And I waited and waited, scouring the post each morning, until three months later, a garish red headed letter ‘London Symphony Orchestra’ arrived.

“Dear Michael

Thank you for your letter.

Our current Transport Manager would be glad to see you at the Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, London on this date for interview.

Please reply at your convenience.

Yours

The Manager

My brother drove me and my new suit to London in his freshly gleaming old Jaguar, and bang on time, I arrived nervous as a kitten in the hall as dozens of men walked by me into a huge room at the rear.

“Are you here to see Danny?” a cheerful balding stick thin man smiled.

“Is he the Transport Manager?” I asked.

He grinned, “Yes, and the driver and general dog’s body. You’re Michael? Mind being called Mike?”

I followed him to a side street, and there stood the ultimate poser vehicle, a large black and gold removal van with ‘London Symphony Orchestra’ emblazoned down each side.

“Hop in,” he said climbing into the passenger side. “You’re driving.”

It was smaller than the tipper and presented no difficulty as we threaded through traffic as I noted the envious glances of other drivers and pedestrians.

“Smoke?” he asked, and passed me a lit Benson and Hedges.

“It’s bloody hard work and they’re very demanding. Don’t get it wrong, be late or careless and you’ll be fine. I like your driving. When can you start?”

“What?” I was incredulous.

“Well, I have to move up to London, find somewhere to live, but there must be more to it than that?”

“No,” he said. “I’ve been asked to check your driving and have a chat. You’ll be fine. You’ll have an interview with the manager, but he’ll go with what I tell him.”

We returned to the Kingsway Hall, and as I bade farewell to Danny, a huge orchestra crashed into The Enigma Variations.

I had found home.

Stay safe.

Mike Quincey

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.

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Annual
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**Friday 18th November 7-30pm
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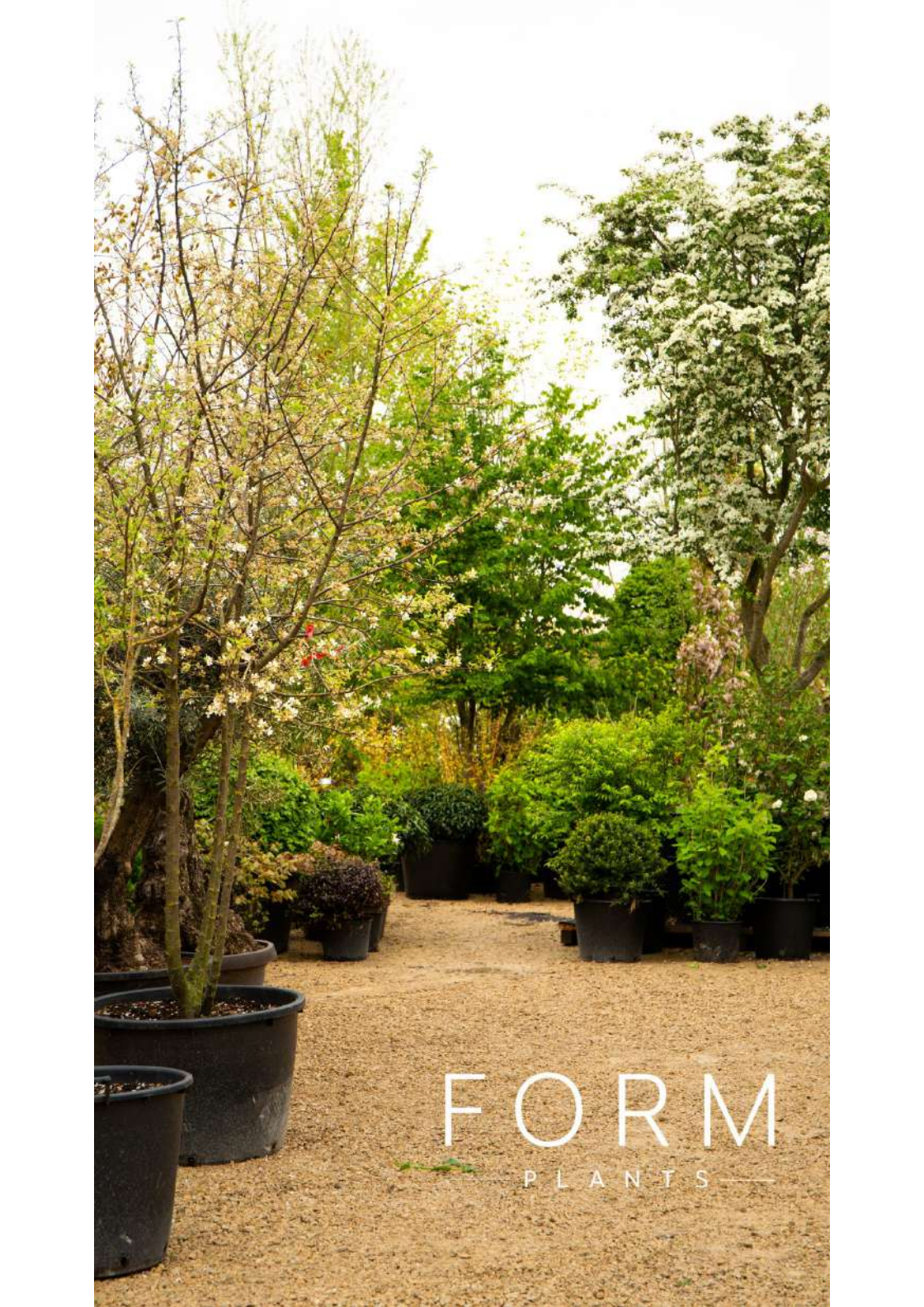
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DORNEY

PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD TUESDAY 18th October 2022, 7.30 P.M. AT DORNEY SCHOOL

Present

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair) Cllr. Anna Palmer Cllr. Euan MacLennan
Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford Cllr. Robert Stopford Cllr. Stephen Baker
Cllr. William Voaden
1 member of the public

Public Forum

The fallen tree at the end of Harcourt Road was raised, the removal of this has been requested and will continue to be chased.

One of the new road layout signs has not been collected by Highways, near the Jubilee River car park, which will be reported.

PC/97/22 Apologies for absence

There were none

PC/98/22 Declaration of interest on any items of business on this Agenda

There were none

PC/99/22 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 2022

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

PC/100/22 To receive the Clerk report

There was no report for this meeting.

PC/101/22 Items of business carried forward

101.1 The Orchard Herbs Site

The applicants of the hotel development have 6 months to appeal the decision which expires in mid-December.

Mitchel Pugh (Planning Enforcement, Buckinghamshire CC) is still putting together the paperwork for further legal action against the site.

The Certificate of Lawfulness is going to the court of appeal however there is no date set for this as yet. **It was agreed** that Cllr. Stopford will attend.

101.2 M4 Digital Motorway

Nick Cooper (Digital Motorway) sent an update prior to the meeting confirming that the whole project is still due for completion by the end of the year. There will be further overnight closures for 5 days on the Marsh Lane bridge for works on the expansion joints in the next month, dates to be confirmed.

It was agreed that the Clerk will ask for more information on the planting programme and maintenance of planting, the walkway into the village hall and confirm project completion date.

101.3 The Emergency Plan

Cllr. Palmer has contacted various companies and individuals in Dorney regarding what they could do and provide in case of an emergency and if they would be happy to be a part of the plan.

101.4 Playground

A formal agreement between the Parish Council and Playground Charity is being developed following a meeting in September with Cllr. Dax, Cllr. Palmer, Ruth Senior and Ettie Brand.

Cllr. Palmer will continue to be the representative for the Parish Council on the Playground Committee.

It was agreed that the Clerk will clarify bin emptying at the playground and that litter collected only from direct use of the village hall will be deposited in the village hall bin.

PC/102/22 Planning

Cllr. Stopford confirmed that the majority of applications for the last two months has been applications for tree work. There are however two planning application for building work, which we should review as follows

Reference: PL/22/3037/FA - Application type: Full Planning Permission

Location: Piemans Way , 4 Old Marsh Lane, Dorney Reach, Buckinghamshire, SL6 0DZ

Proposal: First floor side extension and change to front elevation window following removal of existing dormer and porch.

Reference: PL/22/3043/VRC - Application type: Removal or variation of a condition following grant of planning permission

Location: Tirra Lirra , 20 Dorney Reach Road, Dorney, Buckinghamshire, SL6 0DX

Proposal: Variation of condition 8 (approved plans) of planning permission PL/19/3486/FA (Demolition of existing dwelling. Erection of detached dwelling. Construction of front boundary wall.) to allow changes to design.

It was agreed that the Parish Council will support the objection lodged by a neighbour of Tirra Lirra.

PC/103/22 Finance To agree/ratify expenditure and income to date

The cashbook was circulated prior to the meeting and approved.

Cllr. MacLennan reported that there was a mistake in the AGAR results, this was a small error of copying the wrong year's figure into one box and was rectified immediately.

PC/104/22 Neighbourhood Plan update

Cllr. Voaden confirmed we now have Neighbourhood Plan Designation and will proceed with the full plan as soon as possible. The Parish Council have established a Working Party and welcome Dorney residents to join this party for a wider input of views. Please contact the Parish Clerk for more information.

PC/105/22 To update on and discuss the MVAS installations

The application to the Beeches Community Board for 2 more Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS) has been successful and the exact locations are now being decided. One will be on Marsh Lane and one on Lake End Road close to the Pineapple pub.

PC/106/22 Installation of white gates on entering Dorney and Dorney Reach

It was agreed that the Clerk will seek clarification from the Local Area Technician on specifications for the gates and agreement of locations before proceeding.

PC/107/22 To consider options regarding the Oak Processionary Moths

Local company Maydencroft are investigating the Oak Processionary Moth situation in the Memorial Gardens, they have identified 9 nests and will provide a quotation for the nest removal and the installation of bird nest boxes.

PC/108/22 To discuss the annual insurance premium

It was resolved to assess the insurance premium in full before the next renewal.

PC/109/22 To consider the remembrance wreath purchase

It was agreed that the Clerk can purchase the annual remembrance wreath from the Royal British Legion at a cost of £26.

PC/110/22 To consider any complaints/comments received from residents

There were none

PC/111/22 Items to consider for discussion at the next meeting on 22nd November 2022

Slough Treatment Works update

Meeting ended at 8.50 pm

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DORNEY

PARISH COUNCIL

Neighbourhood Plan for Dorney Parish

Why a Neighbourhood Plan? The principal reason is to allow the Parish Council and the residents of Dorney to have a greater say in the future development of the Parish.

1) Neighbourhood Plan Designation

- Neighbourhood Plan designation – the application was submitted on 1st August 2022 and was approved by Buckinghamshire County Council on 5th September 2022
- The detail of the submission and designation will be posted on the Dorney Parish website

2) What next?

- The Council has set up a Neighbourhood Plan Working Party to consider how we can benefit from the designation and plan
- Currently the working party comprises three Councillors: Jill Dax, Robert Stopford, and William Voaden
- We are calling for residents to step forward, if you would like to be on the working party, please contact the Parish Clerk. We are looking for 3 residents to take the working party up to 6 in total (clerk@dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

3) What sort of issues would the working party consider?

- What type of future housing developments should be considered for the Parish? For instance, should future development be environmentally friendly, such as built with timber frames, greater insulation and with ground heat pumps, thus reducing the huge material wastage of brick and mortar?
- Should there be a review of speed limits throughout the Parish?
- Should the Dorney Conservation area be extended?
- Greater access to re-wilding and consider other areas for re-wilding
- What is missing in Dorney that residents would like to see?

Ruth Senior
Parish Clerk

Dorney Village Hall

www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk



**In January we completely redecorated the whole inside of the Hall.
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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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BHS & ABRS Approved Riding School and Pony Club Centre



**Elm Farm, Boveney Road, Dorney Common
Nr Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 6QD**

**We are a family run Riding School based on
Dorney Common established for over 40 years!**

- *Qualified Instructors*
- *Lessons available from 7 years upwards*
- *Pony Rides available for children as young as 4.*
- *We offer very popular Birthday parties*
- *Large Indoor and Outdoor schools*
- *Pony Club and Own a Pony activity days*
- *Open 6 days a week, Tuesday-Sunday*

Gift Vouchers available through the website

For bookings and enquiries please call us on

01628 661275

www.spanishbit.co.uk