

Dorney Parish News

March 2023



The Dorney Lake Millennium Lime Avenue In Springtime

(with thanks to Philip Highy for the photograph)



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EDITORIAL

Dare we use this editorial column to talk about the magazine itself for a second month in a row? Well, actually it's more about the readers...and the distributors.

Last month we set out how this magazine's future could be challenging given the rising cost of production. There has been a tremendous response. A higher number than expected have rushed to pay, either online, which remains easier for us or by handing over (a little more) cash to our very diligent distributors. Each month the Editor sets out on quite a trek to get the title in the right people's hands. Several have volunteered to make that trek shorter for him, while those bumped into have been full of support and encouragement and, of course, cash.

Suddenly it seems, the Coronation is close. Hard to believe maybe that our next issue will be April's. This issue, March, sets out potential Parish Council support for those planning community events to mark the memorable day. Let's hope that in April we will have news of public celebrations in the Parish.

Our February issue was dominated by potholes and the Orchard Herbs site. There is some optimism about progress in these areas. Incidentally, our campaigning poster-style cover seemed to be well liked last month. But alas, some dark shadows cloud the future. Things are not always what they seem.

'It might be attractive, but it is not safe at all' headlined the *Maidenhead Advertiser* reporting the coroner's remarks in the inquest for a schoolboy drowned last summer. No doubt we will carry pictures of swans this summer on the Jubilee River, but let us hope that the next fatality doesn't occur on our stretch of the waterway as temperatures inevitably rise.

'Talk to the Water Board' said our plumber in regard to a pressure issue, clinging to that benign image of utilities we hold dear – or did hold before Thames Water became identified in minds round here with sewage discharge into rivers and pipes carrying said effluent across Dorney Common. See a reader's anger expressed in this issue.

When I was a boy, 'family doctors' were bastions of reassurance, a surprising number of whom I recall smoked pipes. Now surgeries, or to be precise Burnham Health Centre, have become synonymous with frustration and, increasingly, fear, as it becomes impossible to surmount the telephone system let alone secure a much-needed appointment. Mike Quincey's wit skewers these shortcomings while delivering good advice - namely, put your faith in NHS 111. DPN would like to hear of readers' experiences dealing with this problem.

I worked in communications and tutored students in internet marketing. I recall fondly the euphoria that greeted the coming of vast enlightenment and data provision from the 'information superhighway'. Not expected was the Head Teacher of our local school having to write in the parish magazine of the need to work together to keep children safe from internet *harm*.

Oh dear, four reasons to be gloomy. So, enjoy the Spring sunshine, stay safe – and continue paying those subscriptions.

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: I was in an earthquake once. We had just moved to Athens and there had been a large earthquake just before our arrival in the spring of 1981. We were in one of the aftershocks. We grabbed the children and dived under the table, following advice we had been given. After crouching there for a few seconds, which seemed like an age, we decided it was probably better to get out of the house, so we rushed into the street along with many of our neighbours. There was a balcony that was damaged on the building next to us, but that had already been affected in the previous quakes. I don't remember there being any damage to our building. It seems that the authorities had been strict about the building regulations so that all new blocks of flats were indeed built to withstand seismic shocks – unlike in Turkey and Syria where we have seen the terrifying cost of dishonesty and laziness, or so it seems. Whilst nothing could have prevented massive damage to the area affected by the recent earthquake of 7.8 magnitude, well-constructed buildings may well have meant that fewer lives were lost.

Our reading in church, on the Sunday following the earthquake, happened to be St Paul writing to the church in Rome explaining that all of creation is groaning. It is groaning and waiting with intense longing for the action of the Spirit in us and through us "in hope that creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God." It says the earth is waiting until the children of God "come into their own."

I wonder what difference it would make if we had the courage to "come into our own", to step up when opportunities present themselves? We talk self-limiting talk: "I'm not going to have a go at that. I know I won't be any good at it", "I'm not confident enough to stand up for this thing I believe should change: my voice won't let me speak". If we really are children of God, what are we afraid of? Each of us is as much a child of the universe as any other. Each of us is of infinite worth and value. In fact, how dare we not speak up? Are we prepared to let people who are

cheating continue in post, or those who should protect us, continue to exploit us for their own ends, or to let the planet get in a sorry state because we don't shout loud enough for change? Lives are at stake and the earth is groaning because we haven't yet stepped up. I challenge you (and myself) to take the next opportunity that comes along to make a difference and step up! I'd be interested to hear your stories of bravery!

With Lenten blessings. La

Church Services in March 2023

Wednesday 1st March

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 5th March

9.30 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00 am Any Age Service

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 12th March

9.30 am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00 am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 15th March

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 20th March (Mothering Sunday)

9.30am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Morning Worship (children welcome)

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 26th March

9.30am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick



St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

This beautiful church on the Thames is open daily.

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



Community Board Beeches

As one of Buckinghamshire's 16 Community Boards, Beeches Community Board works with organisations, groups and residents to explore matters of local concern. Led by Chairman Cllr David Anthony and your other Buckinghamshire Council councillors, it provides opportunities to raise and explore concerns, to support local initiatives and to collaborate on addressing the issues that matter to residents.

We are grateful to the Parish Councils of Dorney, Farnham Royal, Burnham, Stoke Poges and Taplow for their support, helping us to identify local priorities and concerns. The Board's current priorities are Wellbeing, Supporting the Environment and Highways & Infrastructure – each has an Action Group comprising local representatives, groups and residents that considers issues and makes recommendations to the wider Board and representations to Council services. The Board also has access to networks of partners and funders that can help develop and deliver worthwhile projects across the area.

Beeches Community Board has responded to requests from the community for support across a wide variety of topics - from contributing to Eco Audits in support of local climate action initiatives to hosting a return visit of the Virtual Dementia Tour Bus and providing seed funding to GLL for a new gentle exercise class in Stoke Poges. We were pleased to support the area's first Pride event and, in the run up to Christmas, we helped Burnham Beeches Rotary Club with its Christmas Parcels project and contributed to the successful Festive Fun & Carols event in the Farnhams.

On the highways side of things, we know that speeding and safety are key local concerns and have partnered with the Parish Councils in Dorney, Taplow and Burnham to purchase Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs, and worked with Farnham Royal Parish Council to deliver the Blackpond Lane Footway Extension project.

Residents tell us that they would like to see more activities for young people, to build on the great opportunities already available. To help with this we are planning an event in May where those who work with young people can collaborate on designing a youth engagement plan to find out exactly what our young people would like to see locally. Please get in touch if you would like to be involved.

Whether you would like to take part in an action group, have thoughts on how an issue could be improved or would just like to receive our newsletters, drop us a line at beechescb@buckinghamshire.gov.uk, follow us on [Facebook](#) or see our page on the [Buckinghamshire Council](#) website. We'd love to hear from you!!

Andy Chapman – Manager, Beeches Community Board

Beechescb@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

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News from Dorney School

I usually begin with a positive report on Dorney School and its activities. However, this month is somewhat different as we participated in national campaigns of Safer Internet Day and Children's Mental Health Week.

I was shocked recently to learn of this statistic that I would like to share with you. According to Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner, 10% of 9-year-olds have watched graphic, violent pornography online. That is around 3 to 4 children in a classroom in every school. What these children have seen, will now remain in their minds, most unable to disclose to anyone for fear of being in trouble. The risk to these pupils, and now their friends and peers, when they share such explicit videos, are extremely high. Imagine the confusion, fear, and curiosity that access brings. This is just the tip of the iceberg. I have spoken to many parents who are troubled by the language and behaviour that the youth of today are using at home and outside the home. It may be easy to dismiss this to the influence of peers or classmates. However, do we know what our children have access to? Do we supervise their internet use properly? Even simple games aimed at children are no longer that innocent. We know that sick minded individuals and gangs target these seemingly innocent children's games.

Amanda Spielman, Ofsted Chief Inspector, also suggests that children under the age of 11 do not need a smartphone. She explains that there will be long periods of time each day when parents are unable to monitor their child's use, the influence of social media, and their child's communication and network systems. All these pose a grave and invisible danger to our children. The harm that is caused may be irreparable and we may be faced with a generation of children whose mental and physical health decline to such an extent, that it will be beyond our means to repair.



This is a heart-breaking video on Molly Russell, the 14-year-old who took her own life due to online influence and poor mental health. Her father explains how everyone, including the family missed the signs. We know that younger children, even in primary schools, are exposed to these harmful influences and we also know that many more children, even as young as 7 are self-harming. Do be advised that this video contains disturbing scenes and violent images.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-46966009>

I am taking the opportunity to lead a campaign to raise awareness to our families and the wider community. There is a clear need to work together to ensure all our children are kept safe from internet harm. We need to use our voices and all our networks to hold social media platforms to account and implore the government to do more to protect all our children. Schools such as ours can only do so much but together, we are always stronger!

Do email office@dorneyschool.co.uk and arrange a visit to see what we do, or if you are interested to volunteer or work alongside us. I look forward to hearing from you.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Sharifah Firza Jelany-Lee
Headteacher



DPC continue to press for action to repair our roads. A response from Bucks indicating that surfaces have been badly affected due to the weather conditions has not been accepted and a response sent accordingly.

Two new MVAS signs will shortly be in place, along with yet another replacement for the one knocked over on Village Road. Speeding problems are high on the agenda.

At the February meeting DPC agreed to take up Joy Morrissey's offer of engagement with Bucks over the lack of enforcement on the Orchard Herbs site. It is hoped that pressure from our MP through to Bucks Cabinet level will assist in our plight to address the illegal operations being run there (currently worse than the above picture).

PROGRESS CONTINUES WITH THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN. FULL PRESENTATION AT MARCH MEETING

DO TAKE A LOOK AT THE EMERGENCY PLAN WHICH IS NOW ON THE DPC WEBSITE UNDER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TAB

DPC have submitted a robust response to the Savills submission on behalf of Eton College's proposed development for Boveney Court Farm

The King's Coronation. Bunting will be put up throughout the Parish in recognition of this event. Does anyone have plans for a Parish celebratory event? If so, do contact The Parish Clerk, DPC with your ideas as we may be able to make a contribution.

The Meadows of Dorney Lake

Dorney Lake literally looms large in the lives of Dorney residents. But it seemed that coverage in this local magazine was limited to questions of opening dates, events and any subsequent parking issues. What is going on within a site that many of us enjoy spending time in? What changes might visitors notice as the Lake approaches two decades of existence?

'Interview Lee Marshallsay, our Grounds Manager, about what is happening with the flora and fauna at Dorney' suggested the Bursar, helpfully. DPN was intrigued. Lee, who has worked in grounds management at Harrow and Charterhouse before his three years or so at the helm of the thirty strong team responsible for Eton College sports grounds, gardens and the Lake, turned out to be both helpful and very enthusiastic about the future the College had embraced and how that would work out for Dorney Lake.

It seems there is no written policy and I don't have a catalogue of horticultural innovations, so I hope I can do justice to the vision Lee and his team are following. Lee outlined how Eton had adopted a landscape strategy over the last ten years involving tree planting, hedgerows and a general policy of encouraging biodiversity. This was now being fully implemented across the 400-acre parkland site which is Dorney Lake.

The Dorney Lake environment has been traditionally 'heavily managed'. A favourite word of Lee's is 'manicured'. I learned from our drive around Lee's domain that a good deal of the site will be less manicured in appearance. Meadows are emerging. I asked Lee whether 'rewilding' was an appropriate description, and, yes it was, in the sense that many previously heavily managed environments were now to be left relatively undisturbed.

Residents will be entering the site from the main entrance on the north side. Get past the avenue of trees at the entrance and the public car parks and you walk or drive generally southwards until sooner or later the boat house area comes into view. Lee summed up the current policy in the phrase 'until you see the boathouse, you will see meadow.'

Over 30,000 trees have been planted. The vista of Windsor Castle in Springtime from the Millennium Avenue of lime trees features on our cover this month. Open areas between the tree groups are being left uncut in summer to encourage wildflowers and wild life. I said to Lee that I enjoyed walking within the groups of trees, and he told me about the 'copsing' that was going on to thin out these areas and improve the growth of trees and the accessibility to them. The centrepiece of the land to the north of the Lake, which is parkland using the soil removed during the Lake construction, is the arboretum. Footpaths are being opened up there to encourage walking.

Lee pointed out the sturdy growth of the horse chestnut trees which line the drive down to the Rowing Centre entrance. Lots of whips had been planted in that area. The rewilding of the north end of the site would be leading to the creation of wild life ¹⁰

corridors between the site and the areas outside the perimeter. Past the newly created meadowlands, the boathouse area with its collection of around 150 of Eton College Boat Club's boats, would remain as is. Some areas have to retain that degree of 'manicure'.

Lee told me that visitors would benefit from an increased provision of notice boards detailing the history and design of the site and the flora and fauna to be found there. These are indeed very handsome and very informative. A personal plea here – the rich archaeological heritage of the site dating from extensive investigations facilitated by the Lake construction, culminating in the unveiling of a timber bridge dating to around 1400 BC, and which used to feature on the first generation of notice boards, seems to have been forgotten. May it also feature?

The highlight of Lee's tour for me was a glimpse of the 100-acre Nature Conservation Area between the Lake and the River Thames, normally inaccessible to the public. I was surprised just how beautiful this has become, being an area of riverside meadows offering, as one of the new notice boards says, 'secluded shelter, feeding and breeding grounds for wildlife'. It provides 'diverse habitats of grassland, hedgerows, spinneys and wetland...supporting a wide range of flowering plants, insects, amphibians, mammals, wildfowl and other birds.' Of course, the drawback of such natural evolution is that public access is not possible.

It's at this point that the statistics start to flow. Over 350 types of flora have been identified around the lake. 140 separate bird species have been sighted. The waters of the Lake – all 350 million gallons of them – are home to 60,000 perch and 72,000 green tench. Lee and I did briefly discuss two questions that I'm nervous to ask. How did the Lake fill up without, it seems, human help? It's fed by underground aquifers percolating through a natural gravel filter from the River Thames. Without stocking ever having happened, where do the fish come from? Still not quite clear about that one.

Looking at the sheep grazing and wetlands which ebb and flow with the rainfall, all under a very big early Spring blue sky, it suddenly struck me that this was what the enormous Thames Field looked like thirty years ago before excavation began. I admire what has been achieved at Dorney Lake whether it's the manicured, or now the meadowland, phases. But a regret would be the loss of the old Barge Path which ran down from Climo's Corner where the entrance to the Lake now is to the Thames. I remember a group of us gathering in the Path, sharing our fears with a camera crew from ITV News, back in the mid-1990s. What we wished to avoid, we said, was a manicured landscape in those lovely surroundings.

Now, as the site has become established and fashions and priorities in land management evolve, it seems as though the aims of the Lake management are to avoid precisely the same thing. Judged by my tour with Lee, the Grounds Manager, they will make a rather good job of that objective.

Peter Bowman

DHS – Jamie Butterworth, ‘Securing Tomorrow’

A talk by a gold medal winner at the Chelsea Flower Show? Tea and cake in the middle of the afternoon? Not the hallowed Village Hall venue, but the café at Crocus at Dorney Court? The announcement in last month’s magazine heralded ‘an exciting new format’ for the first meeting in 2023 of Dorney Horticultural Society. Thanks to the speaker, DHS’s new patron Jamie Butterworth, and the efforts of manager Peter Leach and his team at Crocus on February 24th, that format pretty well delivered.

It better be pointed out that the writer here is a DHS committee member, so possibly prone to bias, but it would be great to hear from anyone cosily seated in the side room of the café that afternoon as to the event’s success.



Jamie was the star attraction, but it’s worth saying a word or two about the Society. Maybe it was the aftermath of a two-year enforced cessation of meetings, but much thought has been given to refreshing what DHS offers its members. With the discount offered by Crocus to members to build on, it makes sense for a horticultural group to work closely with local gardening operations like Crocus and Jamie Butterworth’s FORM Plants. An afternoon meeting offered the chance of reaching out to a new audience. Membership is flourishing and it looked like a steady stream of new subscribers seemed attracted to Crocus that Friday. For all this activity, the bedrock of the DHS programme will remain supper meetings in the Village Hall, garden visits, and, of course, the Annual Show.

Jamie was intent that his entry in the 2022 Chelsea Show should be inspired by and supportive of a charity. This motivation behind horticulture, even more than Jamie’s celebrity, made this presentation unlike any other witnessed by Society members. I also doubt if a speaker has ever featured a video hosted by Monty Don. I urge those who were not fortunate enough to be there, or those wishing to relive the afternoon, to catch up with this film which describes the creation of a sanctuary garden – ‘Securing Tomorrow’ - for the children’s mental health charity Place2Be, supported by Sarasin and Partners – it’s on YouTube, and is Episode 13 of the BBC’s Chelsea 2022 coverage, kicking in at around 17 minutes.

The road to a Chelsea medal was a long one. Jamie declares he is a ‘plantsman’ and he decided that was his destiny at a remarkably young age. Swamping his parents’ garden with cabbages was a painful memory while pride in winning a boyhood accolade for growing the longest carrots in Wakefield seemed to rival that in his gold medal.

I hadn’t realised that the garden which won prizes in May was relocated in November 2022 to the Viking Primary School in Northolt. Jamie had been inspired by the input of the kids from this tough inner-city neighbourhood. I didn’t realise that expensive and distinctive seats carved by sculptor Alison Crowther for the garden could be inspired by school kids’ Play-Dough modelling.

Two bon mots I picked up – in gardens ‘trees provide structure, plants provide texture’ and our speaker’s favourite tree? Flowering dogwood.

Next DHS Meeting? April 28th, Village Hall, 7.30 PM, Spring Buffet with Speaker.



Peter Bowman

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MEET THE ABROOKE FAMILY

When Queen Elizabeth I came to the throne in 1558, Dorney was a thriving little community. During the 1550s, sixteen couples tied the knot in Dorney church and seventeen families brought 35 babies to be christened. For most of these residents, we have no information beyond the parish registers, but sometimes wills and other sources offer us the chance to learn a little more about them. That's the case with the Abrooke family.

On 26 April 1551, Thomas Abrooke married Joanna Culverhouse in Dorney. Thomas came from Bray and Joanna was a widow. Born Joanna Carter, no doubt part of the extensive Carter family in Dorney, she had married widower Richard Culverhouse in June 1549, acquiring four stepchildren. Richard had died seven months later, leaving her pregnant with son John. Life could be short in the mid-16th century, but now Joanna had another chance at family life with Thomas.



The couple settled in Dorney, and their family grew and flourished. First came four sons – Henry, William, Robert and Richard – and then two daughters, Margery and Joanna. All except the last child are known to have reached adulthood, which was quite an achievement. Thomas was a farmer, almost certainly renting from Dorney manor, but he also bought an acre of arable land from Abraham Carter. This land was described as being part of a field in Dorney, beside the Thames and opposite Water Oakley on the Bray side of the river. It sounds as though this was in Thames Field, one of the village open fields, now occupied by Dorney Lake.

The eldest son, Henry, married and his first child, a first grandchild for Thomas and Joanna, was born about 1578. Two more children followed. Then, after over 30 years of marriage, Joanna died in 1581. Daughter Margery married John Willis in 1587 and they had two children. Robert too married, settled in Bray and had four children, his wife pregnant with a fifth when he died in 1593. In 1592, Thomas remarried, to widow Margaret Milland.

Thomas died in 1595 and was buried in Dorney churchyard. We don't know how old he was, but he would have been at least 65 – a good age. He had made a good life, raised a family and earned enough to make provision for them in his will. Henry was settled somewhere outside Dorney, in a property leased for £4 a year by Thomas, who left this to him. William, who remained in Dorney, was left the acre of land by the river. Thomas bequeathed varying amounts of money, livestock and barley to his children, grandchildren, godchildren and servants. There were three servants – a male farm worker and two maids who would have helped on the farm as well as in the house. One of these was Alice Milland, no doubt a relative of William's wife Margaret.

Thomas's will illustrates some interesting features of contemporary life. He specifically provided for his wife to keep the goods and chattels which she owned before she married him, which had been her dower in her previous widowhood. At that time, a woman's possessions became those of her husband when she married. It was also common for a pre-nuptial settlement to set out financial arrangements in case the woman should be widowed. This had obviously been the case for Margaret in her earlier marriage.

In the 16th century, and indeed for a good while afterwards, there were no banks, and so if you wished to borrow money, you had to find someone able and willing to lend it. Often this transaction would be recorded in a bond. Thomas had lent £10 to his son Robert, who had not repaid this before he died. In his will, Thomas asked Robert's executors to pay the £10 to his son Henry.

William was the executor of Thomas's will, but he also asked two friends to be overseers of it. This was another common practice, designed to help with any difficulties that might arise and to provide advice to the executor. One of the witnesses to the will, Thomas Friend, had married Jackaman Abrooke in Dorney in 1565, no doubt a sister or other female relative of Thomas.

Thomas hoped that his widow Margaret would remain living in his house with his son William. It looks as though she did, as she was still in Dorney when she died in 1600 and left most of her possessions to William. In her will, she was particularly concerned to pass on the best of her clothing, to her sister and to the eldest daughter of Henry Abrooke. Margaret's wardrobe was

typical of a countrywoman in 1600. She had a russet gown, a best petticoat and a red petticoat. Aprons were habitually worn and she left several, including one made from coarse linen and another from canvas. To protect her skirts from dirt while riding, she had two saveguards, a kind of overskirt. Several kerchiefs might be used to cover her hair or across her shoulders, while the neckerchiefs were tied round her neck. Margaret's attire was finished off with a hat and shoes.

William now took over as head of the household in Dorney, and in 1598 he married Alice Milland. He was 44 and she was 17. They had 5 children – first a daughter, Elizabeth, and then four boys, William, Thomas, John and Richard. However, William did not live to see his family grow up. On 22 April 1612, he made his will; four days later he was buried in Dorney. His will set out detailed arrangements for the maintenance of his wife and support of his young children, aged from 2 to 12. He owned a farm called Bean Readings in Oakley Green, Bray, which he left to Alice and after her death to their son William. When William junior reached the age of 23, he was also to inherit the rented farm in Dorney where the family lived and the riverside acre of land opposite Water Oakley. Meanwhile, revenue from these properties was to be used to bring up the children and to provide each of them with a nest egg for adulthood. The two friends William appointed as overseers – Rowland Hind of Dorney and William Mountague of Boveney – were asked to look after these savings and “put out” the money, in other words lend it out at interest.

The most interesting feature of William's will is the detail it offers of the family's lifestyle. William parcelled out the contents of his house between his children, with the greatest part going to William junior, then Elizabeth and so on down the ages. The rooms mentioned were the hall, chamber, malthouse and loft. There were two feather beds, which were the most comfortable type available, and plenty of sheets, blankets and coverlets. In the hall was a long table and a great cupboard, and the family had a surprisingly large number of tablecloths and napkins, pewter platters and dishes. There was another table and two chairs, including a “great joined chair”. Additional storage took the form of seven further chests or presses. For cooking, there were spits for roasting meat, and pots of all kinds, including long-legged pots which would have stood over the fire. Some items were clearly heirlooms – the Milland furniture (unspecified) which must have come from his wife or stepmother, and “the great cawdron that was my grandfathers”. This all suggests a significant degree of comfort in the home.



With the need to provide for his immediate family, William made few other bequests. He left 20s to his servant John Culverhouse, who is likely to have been his stepbrother or relative. He also remembered his brothers Harry (Henry) and Richard, Harry's daughter and a relation of his sister.

Six months after William's death, his widow Alice remarried, in a small church in the City of London, to George Cleave, a vintner who was five years younger than her. It is believed that he came from Somerset and later ran an inn in Shrewsbury where he remarried in 1618, before emigrating to America in 1630. If this is so, then Alice must have died by 1618. There is no indication what happened to her children. The records are silent on whether they went to London or Shrewsbury or remained living with family in or near Dorney.



The Abrooke connection with Dorney was nearly at an end. Richard Abrooke – probably William's brother – died in 1616. Elizabeth Abrooke – perhaps William's daughter? – gave birth out of wedlock to a daughter who lived only a few days. By 1657, when Sir James Palmer drew up his will, he referred to a farm on the estate “called the Outhouses lately Abrooke Farm”. The family had gone.

There was one last link. In 1672, a coat of arms was granted to William Abrook, a London merchant, whose roots were in Dorney. There is no indication who he was, but he was proud that his family had come from Dorney.

Virginia Silvester

THE PALMER ARMS

MOTHER'S DAY MENU

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GFA = GLUTEN FREE ALTERNATIVE*

Letter to the Editor

Sewage in our waterways

I read with interest our MP lauding her achievements in environmental campaigning for cleaner rivers and beaches (Dorney Parish News, February 2023). In October the government, including Ms Morrissey, voted to delay the requirement for water companies to comply with the existing regulations from 2027 to 2050. Currently 14% of England's rivers are rated good, the rest being moderate, bad or poor. By 2027 this is forecast to be just 6%. There is no detail behind Ms Morrissey's stated ambition to restore three quarters to their natural state.

Ms Morrissey applauds the 48 prosecutions against the water companies over 7 years. Thames Water have amassed fines of £32.4m since 2017, but this has not changed their behaviour. Why would it, when they have just announced profits of £398m in just 6 months? Their CEO continues to earn £2m in salary and bonus, whilst the expected increase to water bills this April is 7.5%. Environmental crime pays.

Thames Water's sewage discharges can be tracked here

- <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/edm-map> .

Sewage flowed into Roundmoor Ditch and through to the Thames from 8th - 19th January for an average of 13.5 hours every single day. The monitor is now offline and Thames Water have ignored requests to restore it. The answer is not to improve the sewage drain into the Thames as has previously been reported, it is to improve the sewage works themselves.

For more information (and to really ensure you will never let your dog near the Thames) follow The Times "Clean it up" campaign, and Fergal Sharkey on Twitter.

Alice Foxley

DORNEY BADMINTON CLUB

I have been running the Badminton Club for over 20 years so goodness knows how long it's been running. Most of us are of a certain age i.e. over 50 and enjoy our Tuesday nights together, playing, having fun, getting some exercise and catching up on all the local gossip. Some take the games more serious than others (they like to win) but all in all it's a good fun evening in the Village Hall, 8 to 10pm.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we are now looking for new members. You have to have some experience of the game and are able to score. We play mixed doubles, ladies' doubles and men's doubles depending on numbers on the night.

For further details please contact me on 07776364046

Teresa McGuinness

Jean Spencer, Editor Supreme



I doubt if many of our readers turn to that page towards the back of the magazine which lists those necessary things like distributors, advertising rates and the names of those responsible for bringing all this to you. Such eagle-eyed readers might have noticed the absence of one name from that page this year. Jean Spencer is no longer listed as one of the editors. Now is the time to reflect on the enormous contribution made by Jean Spencer to 'Dorney Parish News' and, indeed, to our community.

Words have always been of enormous importance to Jean. But these days she only reads the words in this magazine after her regular couple of copies have been pushed through her letterbox. For several decades, every word published was scrutinised by Jean because she brought professional experience of publishing, and in particular proof reading, to bear on the publication which I think she rather loved. If the issues are now more prone to the sort of grammatical or spelling errors she abhorred, we apologise to her, and our readers. At least we are now leaving her more opportunity, in her mid-nineties, to read the five books she gets through weekly and the

'Telegraph' crossword she completes daily.

I've often enjoyed sitting in Jean's kitchen and hearing her talk of the very different world of her childhood and early working life but also a more recent time in Dorney when she was a housewife and young mother, and maybe the world was a little more settled and more kind.

Jean was listed as an 'editor' but, in reality, she only actually contributed an article once, when her colleague was away. She approached the task with enormous trepidation, she recalls. Because that colleague was the legendary Charles Cody who edited 'DPN' for half a century from the sixties onward. Charles and Jean forged a formidable double act and remain friends to this day. Jean was a stern proof-reader, but she had to see every word submitted anyway because she typed up the lot in pre-word processor days, when articles were submitted written by hand.

Jean was active in many of the organisations that featured in the pages of this magazine. Oh, that we had that steady stream of copy nowadays! Dorney Women's Institute ('the WI') was paramount and young housewives like Jean were in awe of those who ran it and

who Jean dubbed the 'better people of Dorney' who lived in big houses on the Common. The magazine's pages hinted at the likes of the Dorney Social Club, the Country Dancing Society, the Horticultural Society (some things never change) and a Ladies' Reading Group set up by Jean.

Jean was born in Bristol, but her childhood was largely spent in India, where her father, a Doctor of Theology, was a Congregationalist minister in the south of the country. She remembers India well and talks fondly of its culture, language and food. She claims her life was 'lovely' until she was nine, when she began to be sent back to boarding school in Sevenoaks. Language was always important – she talks of waiting for the delayed 'Madras Mail' to arrive, and should DPN produce an issue in Telugu, I'm sure Jean could proof read it.

Eventually she read English in the post war years at Bristol University. I detect here a degree of feminist frustration emerging as she explains how a single young lady emerging into the world with an English degree at that time was told that two avenues were open to her, teaching and secretarial work. She quite definitely did not want to teach.

Time at secretarial college in London led by chance to an opportunity at the Oxford University Press. She recalls typing in a basement, and furthermore, typing out large sections of the 'Oxford Dictionary of Quotations'. It seems that her employers imagined all young ladies had Oxbridge degrees and were supported by trust funds. Despite being rebellious, she clearly picked up formidable proof reading skills, which probably didn't surface again for a number of years.

A local connection emerges next. Her father had become the minister at Cores End Congregational Church a few miles from Dorney. Here she married Russell Spencer, who many in Dorney will remember. She was not married by her father but the procession from the manse to the church stopped the traffic according to a press cutting from the local paper. They lived in Wimbledon and Lincoln before taking up residence in Harcourt Road, Dorney Reach. Here they raised a family consisting of daughter Claire and son Paul.

Russell, a keen Rambler, also had literary interests. In retirement, Jean tells me, Russell took himself off to London for tuition in Russian. He had the ambition to read *Crime and Punishment* in the original language. Dr Claire Spencer, now a leading expert on North African affairs, has had brilliant recollections on growing up in Dorney Reach in the 1970s and 1980s published in Dorney Parish News in the last twelve months. Claire, we hope for more... Brother Paul is a successful hi tech entrepreneur.

Jean, we wish you many happy days in your book lined sitting room. We hope this magazine continues to reach the lofty standards you have set. I remember your 90th birthday party in a large marquee at Paul's house. Then last summer, you were surrounded by neighbours in your own garden for your ninety-fourth.

I think I might just nip along the road and once more push a hard copy of this article through your letter box and request one more proof-read.

Peter Bowman

Just Three Plants

By means of introduction, I am the new horticulture manager at Crocus at Dorney Court. I joined last November and having completed my RHS level two & Garden Design Diploma some 12 years ago, I have worked commercially in design with both interior and exterior plants most of that time. So suffice to say, I love plants but my mantra is very much 'Right plant, right place'. My ethos at Dorney is to buy those interesting & beautiful varieties for our customers - yet commercially sound and awarded the Award of Garden Merit (AGM).

I have had the pleasure of meeting and chatting with a few members of the local community and horticultural society, and I'm very happy to explore a certain border you may have, offer some suggestions, what we might stock, what combinations would work together and why. Why do some plants just "work together" and some may seem uncomfortable companions? The conditions may suit some plants and not others - nature's natural selection process.

So we struck the idea to review "Just three plants". It's finding combinations of plants and varieties that can be bought to embellish, change, add the subtle beauty without screaming that delights the gardener. Layer upon layer of foliage form, colour & interest that suit the conditions in your own garden.

This month; three plants that are very suited to natural borders, happy in shady conditions but still need to look beautiful ...think cottage garden and informality.



Brunnera Macrophylla 'Jack Frost'. Almost Forget-me-not type sprays of blue flowers that sit atop heart shaped silvery leaves edged and veined with green. Exquisite. Flowering April/May and will sit happily amongst Epimediums, Ferns - and the two I suggest below. But they die right down in winter, nothing but a root stock and are only just emerging now after a cold winter.

Pulmonaria 'Sissinghurst White'

The more ubiquitous but still beautiful *Pulmonaria officinalis* has clusters of flowers opening pink and soon changing to blue.

Pulmonaria 'Blue Ensign' has more silvery leaves and dark blue flowers.

The *Pulmonaria* 'Sissinghurst White' is a Beth Chatto favourite with dainty snow white flowers from March/April/May. It's a front of border star in my opinion. Lift and divide large clumps every three to five years after flowering or in autumn. Just be aware Ms Chatto might suggest to plant this with *Gallium Odoratum*. Such a beautiful plant in the woods & peaty soils of Devon, Cornwall, Yorkshire Dales.....but not the chalky Chilterns. *Pulmonarias* are happy on chalk, clay or loam, *Gallium* are not for chalky/alkaline soils.

I call this the 'Chelsea match'. Stunning combinations for a short time only, that in nature would never survive together on one soil type.



Tiareella 'Sugar & Spice'

Giving more height than the other two above, so potentially a little further back in the border, the *Tiarella* will reach around 30/35cm when flowering. Being rhizomatous, they will spread in drifts and allow nature to plant more for you. The flowers of *Tiarella cordifolia* are creamy white but adding that 'je ne sais quoi' is *Tiarella* 'Sugar & Spice'. More interesting foliage with dark brown central markings and clusters of flowers that are white/pale pink. *Tiarella* give a frothy, wand like appearance - and again - like the shade. They pick up the flowering from late Spring to early summer.



Linda Wadley, Horticulture Manager, Crocus at Dorney Court



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

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

www.crocus.co.uk

A Fairy Story

“By God you look rough Mike!” a dear friend of forty years admonished as I wheezed pitifully around the Badminton court in a futile late effort to hone my ageing body. “What’s the matter?”

She was always lovely, but now angry. I was being told off in no uncertain terms.

“I’ve got a bad cough,” I mumbled guiltily.

“How long has that been going on?” she barked, hands on hips, head thrust menacingly forward.

Lying with Angela was never an option. She could always read me like a book, and I was in deep enough already.

“Twelve weeks,” I muttered.

“Twelve weeks????!!! What have you done about it?”

I am a man. We men (or some of us) think we’ll live forever and ignore even persistent symptoms in the vain hope they will go away; but the other side of this equation is that we are utterly convinced that, if we seek help, it will always be serious. Indeed, in those twelve weeks of sleepless coughing nights, I had planned my funeral, even to the Faure’s Requiem, the ‘Agnus Dei’ of course, that I wanted played to my weeping throng including my reader and their dog; and my will needed updating.”

“I can’t get a doctors’ appointment,” I ventured timidly.

“Nonsense!” glared Angela. “You are not working tomorrow, so get an appointment and sort it out!”

It was most definitely an order. Further mumbled excuses would not be accepted.

“I’ll do my best,” I succumbed, convinced that I would spend the morning listening to recorded medical excuses why all the appointments had gone two minutes after the phone had been switched on with a vicious invitation to go through the same sad timewasting exercise the next day. As I drove home, I had already resolved not to torture myself at 8am the next day, but rather to avoid Angela until the cough diminished.

That night it didn’t diminish. I sat up through most of it sipping cough mixture between coughs with a little light relief (no pun intended) sitting on the loo for the obvious but also to give the lovely Cheryl a break while being glared at by the angry awakened cat.

In the morning I took Cheryl to work and returned to my bed at 7.30 to resume my acquaintance with the contents of my lungs and thought how ridiculous I appeared to any sane onlooker, in that I needed to grow a pair and “get it sorted” as Angela had demanded.

I did not waste time or stress on going through the fruitless charade my local doctor had devised, but bravely dialled 111.

“Ring Ring! Ring Ring” it squeaked in my good ear (don’t ask! The cough’s enough for now) and it clicked encouragingly. I thought that what with the return of Mr Covid accompanied by his friend Flu, I would be hours, but no. Here was an entreaty to ‘go online’ for the pharmacist or the undertaker or anywhere not in a surgery or a hospital; I listened like a good boy, made a coffee with the thing on speaker, returned to bed when all of a sudden, I heard a human voice, not a recording. I knew how Robinson Crusoe must have felt.

He was charming, helpful, attentive and reassuring as I ran through the symptoms and did not lie about the twelve weeks. I did not receive an Angela type telling off, but rather,

“From what you have told me, you need to see a clinician. Are you free tomorrow at 8.30am?”

“Yes,” I croaked.

“Good. I will make a telephone appointment for you at 8.30 tomorrow.”



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"There are never any appointments," I said. "You won't get one."

He was even more reassuring. "They have to reserve slots for us. You'll be OK. I have booked a telephone appointment for 8.30. Is there anything else I can help with?"

Oh, Bless him! I couldn't thank him enough, and warmly, and settled into the pillows cough free, basking in the warm glow of a job..... "Ring Ring, Ring Ring."

"What now?" I huffed (carefully).

"Good Morning, Is that Mike Quincey?" asked the pleasant male voice.

"Er, yeeers," I replied suspiciously. "Who's this?"

"Your doctor," he replied. I thought it was a wind-up.

"You rang 111?"

Well, I had but was I expecting him tomorrow. There was no way I was going to pass up the appointment now.

"I did," I replied and we went through the same diatribe that I won't bore you with again.

"You need to come and see me," said the doctor.

"When?"

"Now if you like."

"Really?"

"Sure.

"I'll be there in fifteen minutes," I wheezed pulling clothes back on.

"Go on through," the nice receptionist waved and moment later I was sitting in a real doctor's surgery with a real doctor who was warming the works end of his stethoscope in his hands before placing on my wracked torso with a faraway look in his eyes listening to the stirrings and rattles from within whereupon we swapped smug heroic tales of giving up smoking and, not so smugly, my lifestyle.

"You need antibiotics and a chest x ray. Can't hear anything but just to be sure," he stated while passing the magic prescription.

"Over the way should have that," he smiled pointing toward the chemist in the same building and ten minutes later walked out with a bottle of jollop with instructions.

Fifteen minutes after that I pulled up at St Marks, Maidenhead in the Dagenham Dustbin and fifteen minutes later I was out again having been zapped by two white coated ladies, and back home by 10.30, just over 2 hours after I had dialled 111.

I told you it was a fairy story!

I hope you're sitting down because actually IT'S ALL TRUE!!!

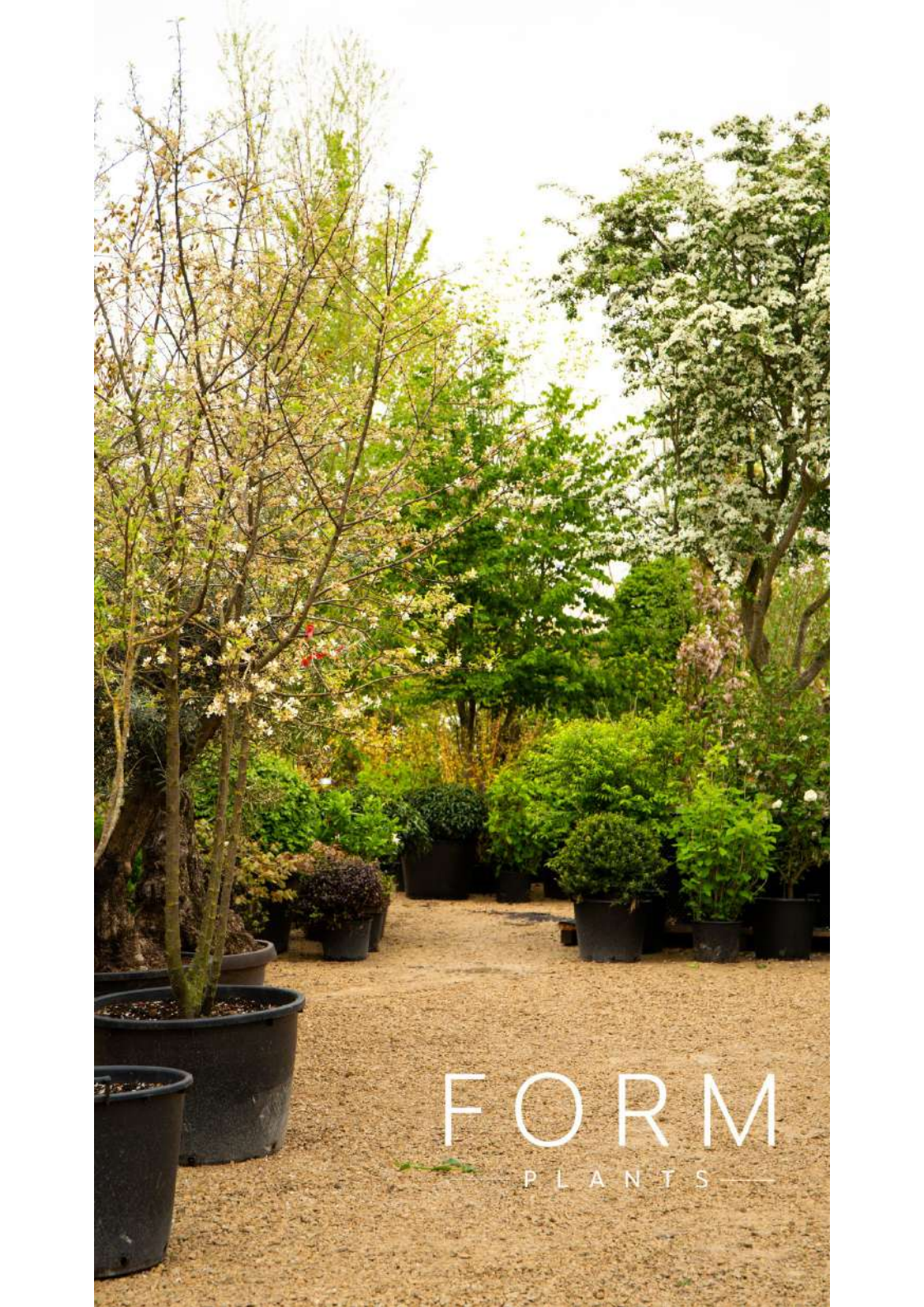
Here's a phrase you don't hear often. 'Well done the Doctors' Surgery'.

Oh, the outcome?

Well, I was fine. The jollop did the trick, and I could have hugged the lady who said, "It's all clear. There's nothing wrong," but I might have got arrested. Only the good die young.

Stay safe.

Mike Quincey



FORM
PLANTS —



DORNEY

PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD TUESDAY 21st February 2023, 7.30 P.M. AT DORNEY SCHOOL

Present

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair) Cllr. Anna Palmer Cllr. Robert Stopford
Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford (arrived during item 5) Cllr. William Voaden (left after item 5.3)

Clerk Ruth Senior and 1 member of the public

Public Forum

Peter Bowman reported that following that he had had a positive response from MP Joy Morrissey with regards to the Orchard Herbs site, to be discussed further in item 5.1.

PC/15/23 Apologies for absence

Cllr. Euan MacLennan, Cllr. Stephen Baker

PC/16/23 Declaration of interest on any items of business on this Agenda

None disclosed

PC/17/23 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2023

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

PC/18/23 To receive the Clerk report

The Clerk report updating minutes actions from January was circulated to Councillors prior to this meeting.

PC/19/23 Items of business carried forward

19.1 The Orchard Herbs Site

Cllr. Stopford confirmed that Mitchel Pugh from Buckinghamshire Council who was dealing with the Enforcement has now left and he has made initial contact with his replacement.

It was agreed that following the response from MP Joy Morrissey to Peter Bowman, Cllr. Stopford will contact the MP to arrange to meet and discuss the site and the Buckinghamshire Council responses.

19.2 M4 Digital Motorway

It was agreed that the Clerk will contact Burnham Parish Council regarding the planting on the Burnham side of the motorway bridge.

It was agreed that this item will now be removed from the agenda in future.

19.3 The Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Voaden confirmed there will be a full presentation to update on the Neighbourhood Plan during the March Parish Council meeting.

It was agreed that initial contact with residents will be made soon, in the form of a flyer, to inform them of the Neighbourhood Plan and a link to a questionnaire for public views.

It was agreed that the Clerk address and email will be added for further information or responses.

19.4 The Emergency Plan

It was agreed that the Emergency Plan is now ready to publish on the DPC website following the addition of the contact pyramid and agreement from local companies such as Maydencroft to be added to the plan in case of the need of equipment.

It was agreed that a Community Emergency Plan Working Party should be set up for ongoing plan work and communication, Cllrs Jill Dax, Martyn Westcott-Wreford and Anna Palmer will be in the working party and Cllr. Palmer will contact Joanie Wraight for her input.

It was agreed that this item will now be removed from the agenda in future.

PC/20/23 Planning

Boveney Court Farm planning applications PL/22/3562/FA and PL/22/3563/HB were discussed as they have made comments on the planning portal with regards to the objections lodged. **It was agreed** that Cllr. Stopford will draft a response on behalf of DPC to submit on the portal as some of the comments made do not appear to be correct.

PC/21/23 Finance

The cashbook was circulated prior to the meeting and approved.

PC/22/23 To consider adopting General Power of Competence (GPC)

The Clerk circulated information regarding the Parish Council adopting GPC following completion of the Certificate in Local Council Administration and **it was unanimously agreed** that Dorney Parish Council will adopt GPC from now.

The Councillors congratulated the Clerk on this achievement.

PC/23/23 To update on pothole/road surfaces

Cllr. Dax wrote to Martin Tett and Highways on behalf of DPC regarding the problem of potholes and road surfaces around the village which have been this way since prior to 2019. The response was disappointing as the recent bad weather was used as a reason despite the letter confirming that this has been the state for a number of years and assurances were made in 2020 by Cllr. Dhillon and County Council that this would be resolved after the completion of the M4 works.

It was agreed that a response will be sent.

Cllr. Dax confirmed that at the recent SBALC meeting where each Parish had been asked to report their main concerns, planning and enforcement and the state of the roads were the main issues and SBALC will be having a meeting with Cabinet to discuss further.

Dorney Parish Council would like to reiterate that it is imperative that every resident logs potholes and road surface issues on FIX MY STREET as the more reports that Buckinghamshire get, the more chance of repairs.

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

PC/24/23 To consider options for replacing the damaged MVAS

It was agreed that we should go ahead with the insurance claim to replace the damaged MVAS using a bigger pole and deeper concrete base.

PC/25/23 To discuss expanding the DPC website to include other Dorney based groups

It was agreed that DPC will add pages on the website for groups in Dorney unable to have their own websites with a disclaimer that DPC holds no liability for the information added.

PC/26/23 To begin discussion on Coronation events and decorations

It was agreed that DPC will not hold an official Coronation event but will put up the bunting purchased for the Jubilee celebrations and if residents do want to organise events in their smaller communities, DPC may be able to support the event in some way.

It was agreed that Cllr. Dax will include this information in the newsletter.

PC/27/23 To consider any complaints/comments received from residents

It was agreed that the Clerk will forward the email from Sheila Brown regarding Trumpers field to Buckinghamshire County Council.

It was agreed that following the email from Rebecca Mackay regarding parking problems and pavement blocking outside the Pineapple Pub, the Clerk will contact the Local Area Technician to suggest bollards are fitted on the grass verges.

PC/28/23 Items to consider for discussion at the next meeting on 21st March 2023

Slough Treatment Works update.

Meeting ended at 9 pm

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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Dorney Parish News

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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.

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Third of a page (Horizontal)	60	130	£50	£7
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Contact: Peter Bowman, Editor
peter.bowman@talktalk.net
07889 912714

Emergency Contact Details

Dorney Reach (Village Hall)	Defibrillator Code	C123X
Fire, Police & Ambulance	Emergency Calls: Incidents in Action	999
Thames Valley Police	Non-urgent calls	101
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Power Cuts	SSE Networks - Central Southern England	0800 072 7282
Gas Leaks	National Grid	0800 111 999
Reporting Pot Holes	www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk	
Reporting Fly-tipping	www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk	
Reporting Footpath Problems	www.transportforbucks.net/report-it-prow.aspx	
South Bucks District Council	www.southbucks.gov.uk	
Swan Support	24/7 local swan rescue and rehabilitation	07968 868172

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- Security - Attic Lighting
- Home - Landlords Certificates
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