

# Dorney Parish News

June 2024



The Northern Lights (*Aurora Borealis*) over Dorney

11<sup>th</sup> May 2024



*Renaissance*  
BATHROOMS  
& KITCHENS



BATHROOM & KITCHEN SHOWROOM



DESIGN // SUPPLY // INSTALL

THE GREAT BARN | CIPPENHAM LANE | SL15AH  
01753 693333

[RENAISSANCEBATHROOMS.CO.UK](http://RENAISSANCEBATHROOMS.CO.UK) | [RENAISSANCEKITCHENS.CO.UK](http://RENAISSANCEKITCHENS.CO.UK)

SUPPLY ONLY OR FULL INSTALL SERVICE AVAILABLE

EDITORIAL

Ever since one of my favourite books (or movies), *Day of the Triffids*, I've been reluctant to gaze at spectacular displays in the heavens. Remember, on that occasion universal upward gaze at spectacular comets led to near universal blindness. I was not expecting to be in the garden on the night of Friday May 10<sup>th</sup>. Then one son posted with just a single word 'Aurora!' just before midnight. Then my phone exploded. Not too far away, the streets of Burnham had filled in an instant, it seemed.

I wonder how many less well-versed users of their devices were warned 'use your phone cameras'. Those cameras led to the spectacular local results included in this issue. It seems that our Northern Lights are the hardest to see with the naked eye, being blue or purple. Purple, it seems, is the result of ionized nitrogen, and as one website said, 'not seen as often as others and is a treat for those lucky enough to witness it'. It must be the Dorney DNA again....

This column tends to bang on about how Dorney faces mighty struggles and fierce dangers. Throughout the centuries and in many ancient cultures, the Lights were seen the harbingers of great events or even omens of evil to come. For instance, in the months before the French Revolution in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, bright red aurora were seen in the skies over England and France, and French peasants reported the sound of huge armies battling in the sky. Our Lights were witnessed just days before an Annual Parish Meeting that a writer predicted to be a 'showdown' took place (it wasn't), let alone the events in a rainy Downing Street, all in the same month.

The Vikings believed that mighty female warriors, the Valkyries, with clashing shields and spears led dead earthly warriors to Valhalla. The Lights were the reflections of their armour. Many cultures link the aurora to magic chariots crossing the heavens. The aurora were seen by other ancient Nordics as a glowing arch across which the fallen mortals were led to their final resting place. Surely, the sight of our Lights predicted the Valkyries of Bucks and Dorney Councils leading with a mighty clatter the chariots from the Orchard Herbs site, across the Lake End Bridge far away from the earthly realm of this village?

We tend to see the Northern Lights through the eyes of northern European myths, but in Asia, where admittedly their appearance is less common, the omens are more pleasing. In Vietnam, their appearance is seen as a special blessing. The Aurora bring good fortune, happiness, luck, and fertility to those who witness them. Maybe for those out with their cameras, as Friday night turned into Saturday morning, a prize in the Annual Show next August will be the result.

It is very tempting to make a reliance on ancient myths and legends the guide for the future content of this magazine. But rest assured, these events, especially the Annual Parish Meeting, the practices of our local councils, and the preparation for the Annual Show are all covered in an entirely rational fashion in this month's edition of Dorney Parish News.

# Services in the Local Churches



## **St James the Less, Dorney**

St. John the Baptist, Eton Wick

St. John the Evangelist, Eton

Part-time Assistant Curate: Rev. Carole Gooding  
(07786) 290162

Churchwardens: Stephen Baker & Mark Procter

Correspondence Address: St. James the Less, C/O

St. John the Baptist, Eton Wick Road, Eton Wick,  
Windsor, SL4 6JA

Email: Helen O'Neill [stjohnstjamesed@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stjohnstjamesed@hotmail.co.uk)

For information about our churches, activities and church history please see our parishes' web site: [www.stjohnstjamesed.org.uk](http://www.stjohnstjamesed.org.uk)

---

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

**Pastor: Olusegun Omotayo 07712 126334 [www.rccgchurchatslough.com](http://www.rccgchurchatslough.com)**

---

**Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Burnham**

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

---

## **Farewell from Rev Carole**

The saying 'time flies' seems so much more apparent the older I get; do you find that too? I have been part of the benefice of Eton with Eton Wick and Boveney and Dorney for 3 years now and my curacy, or practical training to be a minister, is coming to an end. My last day is the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024 when I will be leading my final Sunday services at 9.30am in St James the Less, Dorney and 11am in St John the Baptist, Eton Wick, followed by a 'bring and share lunch' at Eton Wick to which everyone is welcome. The years have flown by.

I want to thank everyone for their support and encouragement as I have stepped into the role of a 'curate in a vacancy' this year. It has given me great insight and admiration for Rev La as she coped with such a large workload. I can honestly say I would not have been able to fulfil this role as a part time curate if it were not for so many people from the benefice that have stepped up and taken on extra responsibilities. The highlights have been the major festivals of Christmas, Easter and Remembrance and all the 'extra' celebrations that happen during these seasons such as the Christingle services in all 3 churches and inviting the schools to 'Christmas Unwrapped' and 'Easter Experience' where the children can take part in interactive activities to help explain the meaning of these festivities. I have also had the privilege to book and preside at many weddings and a few baptisms, always a joyous part of my ministry.

I have come to realise that relationships are key for not just the Christian faith, but for everyone. I have made some deep connections with people during these 3 years, and it will be a struggle to move on. It has especially been a privilege to lead funerals and help people through the sadness of bereavement. God has created us

to be in relationship with each other, we are not meant to be isolated and alone, even introverts need fellowship. This is one of the reasons we are encouraged to go to church, so that we can support each other as we worship together and learn more about the love that God has for everyone. Perhaps if you used to come to church, I would encourage you to return and see what you have been missing. Or if you have never attended, why not give it a try, you might be surprised about how it lifts you! Christians believe in one God in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They are in the ultimate relationship or fellowship with each other. We are made in the image of God and therefore are 'made' for relationship with each other, it is a basic human need.

As I move on to work as an Associate Minister in Iver, alongside my husband who is the Parish Priest, I will hold you all in my prayers because of the deep connections I have made with you all. Finally, I want to thank all of you in the wider local community, both inside and outside the church, who have welcomed me so warmly and made me feel at home in this very special area. I pray that you will flourish and be mindful of those that are lonely.

God bless you all,  
**Rev Carole**

## **Church Services in June 2024**

### **Sunday 2nd June**

9.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
11.00 am Any Age service

St James the Less, Dorney  
St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

### **Wednesday 5th June**

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

### **Sunday 9th June**

9.30 am Holy Communion  
11.00 am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney  
St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

### **Sunday 16th June**

9.30am Holy Communion  
11.00am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney  
St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

### **Wednesday 19th June**

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

### **Sunday 23rd June**

9.30am Morning Worship  
11.00am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney  
St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

### **Sunday 30th June**

9.30 am Holy Communion  
11.00 am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney  
St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

# The Northern Lights as seen in Dorney on the night of 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024



*Matthew Gannon (Boveney)*



*From Eton Wick (Tilson Bridge)*



*Alice Foxley (Dorney Village)*



*Sandy Shaw (Dorney Reach)*



*More from Dorney Reach (Peter Bowman)*

Time is passing by, leaving its marks on our lives in the form of minutes, days, and years. As time goes by, our children grow up and transform, and we also change as we watch them.



So, why not cherish those precious moments now?  
You can capture them and create beautiful wall art for your home and soul that will freeze those fleeting moments in time.

**The Studio**  
9 Oak Stubbs Lane, Dorney Reach  
Maidenhead, Buckinghamshire SL6 0DW

T. 07878162452

E. richard@shymansky.co.uk

 ShymanskyPortraitPhotographer

     

*Shymansky*  
Portrait Photographer



British Institute of Professional Photography



## **Comments made by Jill Dax, Chair, at the Annual Parish Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

Good evening and welcome to the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting.

First and foremost, I extend my sincere gratitude to Janet Walker, Bursar of Eton College, and Phillip Highy, MD of Dorney Lake, for hosting our gathering once again this year. Their generosity provides us with a delightful venue for our important discussions.

Tonight I am joined by fellow councillors: Martyn Westford-Wreford, Deputy Chair, Robert Stopford, Planning, Anna Palmer, Dorney Playground PC rep, Stephen Baker, Footpaths and signage and William Voaden, Neighbourhood Plan.

I extend my thanks to my fellow dedicated Parish Councillors who tirelessly serve our community for their hard work and support.

In addition to our esteemed Councillors, we welcome guest speakers: Councillor Paul Kelly (apologies from George Sandy), Will Barnes representing Joy Morrisey who sends her apologies, PCSO Angela O'Connell, our Parish Clerk, Ruth Senior, Maria Holloway, Dorney Playground and Peter Bowman, Dorney Parish News

Before we delve into their updates, I'd like to touch on a few ongoing matters of significant interest to our community.

The Orchard Herbs Planning Application for the hotel and associated amenities was refused by the Secretary of State. The lengthy and robust report highlighting illegal businesses on the site is now available on our website. The hearing for the lorry park and other businesses is scheduled for late August or early September, spanning seven days. DPC will present our case, and we extend our gratitude to Joy Morrisey and George Sandy for their invaluable support in this matter.

Following Eton College's appeal for the refusal by Bucks Planning Committee (South Area) of the proposed development at Boveney Court Farm, we await a result from the Planning Inspectorate.

Furthermore, the planning application for a development on the Court Farm, Common Road site has been called in by DPC and underscores our commitment to ensuring thorough consideration of issues regarding proportionality and our rural parish's Green Belt and conservation areas. No date for the Planning Committee has yet been announced.

The resurfacing of Village Road from the cattle grid marks a positive improvement and we continue to advocate for further upgrades to our local roads. Following regular meetings with the Local Area Technician we are assured that Lake End Road, Marsh Lane, Court Lane and Common Road are all on their 2024/25 'to do' list but, to date, no dates have been released. In the meantime, please continue to use the Bucks Fix my Street portal as this does seem to trigger fairly rapid response.

Our participation in the Bucks Great Tidy Up at the end of March highlighted our community's dedication to maintaining cleanliness and a pride in our surroundings.



Thank you to all who turned out on a drizzly morning with their bags and grabbers. 35 dustbin bags were transported straight to the local dump. Another gathering is proposed later in the year, date to be agreed.

Our thanks to the residents who regularly patrol many parts of the parish with a trusty grabber as this makes a noticeable difference.

Update on maintenance. The very wet lead up to spring has interfered with grass cutting. Strimming should now have been completed and the programme of weed killing road edges. Once the bulb areas have fully died down these areas will be cut.

However we are very aware that improvements to the schedule are required and a meeting with our contractor has been arranged to discuss this.

Regarding road safety, our efforts to address the speed limit change to 40mph on Common Road with Bucks Council persist. A further report which will be sent to Highways holds promise, and we remain hopeful for a successful outcome at minimal or no cost to DPC. Sadly, a recent incident highlights the urgency of this matter, with a cow already killed by a local driver ... claiming the cow "stepped out in front of me." A tragic, unnecessary and unpleasant loss of the animal's life.

I am pleased to announce the date for the Dorney Lake Tour kindly offered by Phillip Highy. This will take place on 6th June. Meet in the top car park at 2.15pm. The tour, by minibus, takes approximately an hour and ends with refreshments in the Olympic Suite, then return to your car. Spaces are limited to 14 on a first come first serve basis. Please send your request to the Parish Clerk quoting your vehicle registration number. This was a fascinating tour last year and it will be of great interest to see the areas we visited a year on.

As we reflect, discuss and engage with our community this evening let us be reminded of the strength found in our unity and the impact of our collective voice in shaping the future of this parish. We have to look to the future and accept that we need to allow some development (as has happened over the generations) at the same time ensuring it is in keeping with our surroundings whilst protecting our Conservation and Green Belt areas.

Thank you.

### **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.

## Action Plan 2024/2025

Updated: 15th May 2024

		In Progress
Action	Purpose	Completed
<b>Heritage</b>		
Review of Dorney Conservation Area	Consider expansion to include other parts of Dorney Village and Lake End	NP Working Group
Orchard Herbs Site	Work with Burnham PC and Bucks Council for new enforcement notice/injunction and to revert to permitted usage as soon as possible.	Robert Stopford
Orchard Herbs Site - Hotel Application	Support Appeal Dismissal	Robert Stopford
<b>Environment</b>		
Review management of roadside verges	How to manage a less manicured look	Jill Dax
Planting at Dents Corner, Marsh Lane/Harcourt Road areas	Improve appearance of Dorney Reach entrance and centre of Dorney Village	Jill Dax
Thames Water Field Rewilding	Proposal sent to Thames Water for local volunteers	Jill Dax
Trumper's Field, Dorney Reach Review	Review ownership and usage	
Memorial Garden, Village Road	Review planting in Memorial Garden	
Memorial Garden, Village Road	Conduct Tree Survey	Parish Clerk
Trail bikes in fields and on Jubilee River footpaths	Work with Slough, EA, police to prevent trail bike incursion on Jubilee River/local fields & footpaths	Jill Dax/Robert Stopford
Annual Footpath Audit	Ensure all footpaths are usable and maintained according to standards.	Stephen Baker
Volunteer litter-pickers	Continue to support large group of volunteers with necessary equipment	Jill Dax
Best Kept Village competition	Consider re-entering in 2025 - involving Dorney Horticultural Society and others.	
Dorney Lake	Meetings with Dorney Lake to gain summer access for residents	Jill Dax
<b>Community</b>		
Transfer of Dorney Village Hall charity to DPC	In consideration	Anna Palmer/Parish Clerk
Possible parish boundary change - Lake End	Support parish boundary change	Robert Stopford
<b>Planning and Architecture</b>		
Complete Neighbourhood Plan 2024	Support Neighbourhood Plan Working Group as required	NP Working Group
<b>Infrastructure</b>		
Potholes	Pressure on Bucks Council to repair all potholes on FixMyStreet	All
Resurface certain roads	Pursue previously agreed resurfacing of certain roads	Jill Dax/Parish Clerk
Dangerous Parking outside Pineapple	Resolve dangerous parking at the junction of Ashford Lane and Lake End Road	Jill Dax
Village Road Cattle Grid	Pressure Bucks Council to make good and reduce noise	Martyn Westcott-Wreford
Review reduction in speed limits	Lake End Road (Sainsbury's into Dorney): reduce speed limit from 60mph to 40mph. £10,000.	
Review reduction in speed limits	Common Road/Boveney Road: reduce speed limit from 60mph to 40mph using National Parks precedent	Parish Clerk
Review reduction in speed limits	Marsh Lane (from entry to Dorney)/Court Lane: reduce speed limit from 40mph to 30mph. £10,000.	
Reduce speed on entry to Parish	Review installation of white entry gates on verges - Dorney Reach at Marsh Lane from Taplow and Lake End Road from Sainsbury's	Jill Dax/Parish Clerk
Replace damaged Dorney Sign at Tilstone Bridge		Jill Dax/Parish Clerk
Install Wildlife warning sign on Marsh Lane		Parish Clerk
Reduce amount of street furniture and signage	Annual Street Furniture/Signage Review	Stephen Baker
Flooding of Lake End Common (Ashford Lane)	Investigate flooding on Lake End Common/Ashford Lane with Thames Water and Environment Agency	Parish Clerk

## Celebrations at Dorney Playground



On the 1<sup>st</sup> May about 100 people joined the Dorney Playground Management Committee to celebrate the opening of the new timber snake swing.

The red ribbon was cut by Simon Brades and John Hellmuth, who had each generously donated money towards the purchase of the swing.

The removal of the i-play and installation of the timber snake swing cost over £15,000 – money raised through grants, donations and fund raising. We would again like to thank Beeches Community Fund for their grant of £8000 and Dorney Village Hall for a donation of £500.

### So, what's next?

The Dorney Playground Management Committee have decided that the play area needs a fence to surround it. The main reasons are:

- To stop dogs entering the area. Not only do owners allow their dogs to roam freely in the playground while children are playing, we also, regularly, have to clear away dog faeces. We have also witnessed dogs chewing on some of the swing seats – the teeth marks are there as proof!
- Although Dorney Playground is, overall, a safe area, there are cars around. A fence around the playground will make this a safer area for all.

The estimated cost is £16,000 + VAT.

### So please join us on

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 15.30 – 18.00**

for our **summer party** at Dorney Playground (by Dorney Village Hall)

The main attraction will be “Basil and Crew” Mobile Farm, where children will be able to feed and groom farm animals, or even walk a goat alongside Basil and his assortment of furry and feathered companions. Obviously, there will be a barbeque and drinks and lots more.

Tickets are £10 each for children. Adults and accompanying pre-school children are free. Tickets are available from the tuck shop (Dorney Playground, open most school days between 3.15 and 4.00ish). Alternatively call Ettie on 07737053409 or email [Playground4Dorney@gmail.com](mailto:Playground4Dorney@gmail.com).

All funds raised go to maintaining and improving Dorney Playground.

**Dorney Playground Management Committee**  
**07737053409**  
**[Playground4Dorney@gmail.com](mailto:Playground4Dorney@gmail.com)**

## APM – what we learned



Our reporting of the Annual Parish Meeting by necessity must be in the form of minutes and reports. This doesn't necessarily convey the mood of a meeting and maybe the significant points can be lost on the casual reader. What might the resident sitting in the audience (with, it must be said, the magnificent sunset streaming into the room) have picked up?

**Politicians by and large support the Green Belt** This magazine has been rather keen on preserving 'Dorney's DNA'. Our MP, or strictly speaking our 'former' MP because parliament will have been pro-rogued by the time we publish, tends to talk the talk and walk the walk over the Green Belt – 'Dorney is truly a gem'. County Councillor Paul Kelly's focus seemed rather more on wider county council concerns, but 'improving our environment' was one of the county's four main priorities (does that mean roads?). Jill Dax was commendably pragmatic, wanting to preserve our Green Belt and Conservation areas (a very moot point with Eton College overshadowing all such future speculation), while allowing 'some development'. This resident is disappointed that the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, designed to address these issues, is not more transparent. There will be a public consultation followed by a public vote, but when will that be?

**Is Dorney getting less safe?** We all respect how PCSO Ange O'Connell carries out her duties, and how she diligently turns up each year to enlighten us residents, but I'm going to pay more attention to her statistics in future. It's hard to extract data for Dorney from the wider 'Local Policing Area', but burglaries from 'dwellings' have increased by 7% in the South Bucks LPA in the last 12 months, but 'outcomes' are dropping severely, and the detection rate is down to 3% (and it's lower for vehicle crime). OK, so there were only 12 burglaries in Taplow/Dorney, but 21 thefts *from* vehicles and worryingly, 23 thefts *of* vehicles. Perhaps the newly re-elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley could be invited to an APM.

**Anger is growing over Eton College's development ambitions, sparking lively debates at the meeting.** Residents from Boveney and Dorney Common voiced serious concerns about specific issues causing them considerable worry. While the DPN has generally opposed Eton College's plans, this level of opposition was unexpected. In the 1990s, the community's resistance to the Rowing Lake was driven by widespread environmental concerns, congestion, and noise. The current situation presents new challenges. Some residents suggested that Eton College should engage with the Parish Council to address these issues directly. Until now, efforts to oppose Eton College's proposals had been concentrated on persuading the Bucks Planning Committee to reject the Boveney Court Farm application and ensuring the Court Farm application was also 'called in' by the same body.

**Successful fund raising for the Playground is a cause for celebration.**

Remembering past APMs there is usually a star speaker, and arguably this year it was

Maria Holloway of the Dorney Playground group. Of course, the focus should be on that £15,000 raised for the newly installed snake swing plus the upcoming events (see article elsewhere in this issue for news of kind donations made to the fund) but after a tremendous burst of initial fund raising a decade ago, the future of the Playground looked uncertain a couple of years ago, so the turnaround is so welcome. The new Beeches Community Board, lauded by Paul Kelly in his address, seems to have been instrumental in raising funds here, and this magazine did predict four years ago that would be the most positive part of the new Bucks Unitary Council.

**‘Something has been done’ about Orchard Herbs** We pointed out that the big question asked of the magazine was ‘is anybody going to do anything about that eyesore’ or variations on that theme. Enforcement orders have been issued against the owners, which is an indicator of success being possible when forces act together – Parish Council, Bucks Council, our MP, even in the teeniest of ways, this magazine. But a victory roll seems a bit premature as the owners have appealed and a hearing (lasting 7 days!) should take place in August or September. It may be some while before trucks roll out. I hope the PC hires a bus to take residents to the hearing.

**Are there editors in waiting for Dorney Parish News?** The editor of ‘DPN’ reminded those present that the combined age of the two-man editorial team was 152. Thought should be given to issues of succession. The number of writers from Gen Z has risen to two, but any replacement of the boomer generation seems a long way off.

**After a lull, issues of road safety loom again.** Our pages quite recently were full of traffic management issues. Regrettably these could be divisive in the past. Good advice has been given to report issues like potholes via Fix My Street. We’ve counted 35 different complaints made from Dorney in the last few weeks. The official view is pessimistic in general – potholes nationally are at an eight year high with councils having around two million potholes to deal with. But it seems 29 gangs are out in Bucks dealing with some 30,000 potholes. They have £5 million extra to spend. A good development in these parts has been the closer liaison between the Parish Council and the Local Area Technician, which is a recent positive move. There is no doubt that the resurfacing of Village Road was of enormous benefit to all who used that route. One of the bigger questions facing us is whether the undertaking to continue the work in Court Lane, Marsh Lane, Lake End Road and Common Road is followed through. This writer has come round to the idea that a speed limit is needed across Dorney Common, not least after recent cattle fatalities. It would be a triumph if this could be implemented by Bucks Council while incurring little cost to our community.

**Are we to be submerged by litter?** A staple of past APMs has been discussion about entering or withdrawing from the Best Kept Village Competition. Not this time. But the omens are good. We did have a Sunday clean up operation and there is a growing number of volunteers who individually patrol the village with grabbers supplied. I went out that Sunday (who can resist a free breakfast?) and was amazed how much refuse could be removed from around the Village Hall. I’ve resolved to return. It’s all back, ankle deep. We love highlighting threats to the village. Here’s a new, more deadly opponent - twenty-four-hour McDonalds at the Bishop Centre.

**Peter Bowman** (NB. Full APM Minutes are on DPC website – Annual Parish Meeting Minutes)

# Dorney Horticultural Society Your Annual Show



**Dear members and friends of the Horticultural Society,**  
With everything in the garden happening all at once, you are no doubt up to your eyes in bedding plants after trudging round the garden centres spending a small fortune as well as pruning, feeding, tidying, potting etc and dusting off the BBQ hoping for a sunny Sunday afternoon.

By the time you read this the danger of late frosts should have passed and you can safely introduce your precious young plants to the outside world.

The Annual Show is on 31st August this year and we thought a timely reminder to start preparing would be welcome so we can make this year a record year. Last year we had almost 200 entries in categories including vegetables, fruit, flowers, preserves, domestic, handicrafts and special children's sections.

Let's see if we can make 2024 a record year, especially with more children's entries.

**Best wishes and happy gardening**  
**Dorney Horticultural Society Committee**



## Nature Notes

“We are the Tartan Army, We are the Tartan Army, We are the Tartan Army”. Not the sort of thing you are likely to hear chanted in Dorney, but for many around the country, excitement is building for Euro24 in Germany and I’m particularly excited about Scotland making a rare appearance at an international tournament. So excited in fact that I’ve only gone and written a dance track to celebrate the occasion! It even features my dulcet tones (yes, as well as being a wannabe rewilder I’m now trying to be a wannabe pop star!) Anyway, help out my streaming stats on your favourite music platform and search for “We Are The Tartan Army” and you will soon find it. And send it to ANYONE Scottish that you know ☺ This is what it looks like on Spotify (please excuse the shameless plugging!):



Having a track on Spotify is fascinating, as you get access to analytics behind the scenes. The track is listened to most in London, followed by Glasgow and Edinburgh (unsurprisingly) and then a whole host of UK locations but also in such far flung places as Melbourne, New York, Prague, Oslo and Hamburg.

Anyway, as well as being excited about the football and potentially being number 1 in the pop charts, I’ve also been VERY excited about the return of our soprano pipistrelle maternity bat roost. Regular readers may recall that this roost first appeared in 2022 which we only discovered after one rather unlucky bat almost drowned in our toilet. They skipped 2023 (according to a rewilding friend soprano pipistrelles (or “pips” as she refers to them) do often move their roost around depending on environmental factors). I’m sure it wasn’t the toilet incident that put them off and I hoped they had found somewhere nice to hang out, but I was disappointed nonetheless. However, on returning from a weekend away this Sunday, my wife noticed they were back as some of their tiny droppings were stuck to the outside of our bedroom window. Thrilled at this news I immediately decamped at dusk to my favourite bat viewing chair and didn’t have to wait long for the bat action to start.

First to emerge at 20:55 were the two lonely boy bats that have been in the wall bat boxes for some weeks now, swooping off down the hedgerow in determined fashion. Maybe they were going to choreograph some special bat moves to impress the lady bats. Then, as the light began to fade and a few dozy insects floated gently above, the maternity roost started to emerge in bursts of three to five bats at a time. 18 ... 27 ... 36 ... 43 ... 57! 57 bats tucked in a tiny space in our eaves. One hilarious rewilding wag commented on WhatsApp that if I had 57 bats, they must be Heinz Soprano pipistrelles. I confess it took me a few seconds to get this reference and rather embarrassingly I even googled to see if such a variety existed.

The show was all over only fifteen minutes later at 21:10. I proudly announced the news to my wife and she looked less than enthused, especially when I checked my #batstats on the bat





**ADMIRE CARE LTD**

PROVIDING QUALITY CARE, EVERY DAY

**CARING FOR YOU OR  
YOUR LOVED ONE,  
IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR  
OWN HOME**

**Tel: 01628 604555**

**Email: [office@caah.co.uk](mailto:office@caah.co.uk)**

**Please ring for discounted rate.**

conservation website and reminded her that in 2022, we had 65 bats in the roost in mid-June, but this more than doubled to 145 by mid-July (after most of the mum bats have a single baby bat). Am intrigued to see what happens over the next couple of months and if the same trend unfolds.

The Dorney little owls are still doing well in their box. The male is regularly bringing back rodents to presumably give to the female to feed on, on her nest. Theo shared some excellent pictures with me with various rodent limbs and tails hanging out of their beaks. I know I say it every month, but I really can't wait to see the owlets emerge. Sadly, a friend in Farnham had to rescue an owlet that had fallen from its nest and was being attacked by magpies and crows. She rushed it to Tiggywinkles animal rescue centre so hopefully they were able to help it pull through as it was not in a good state. She later found another owlet dead in the field.



Farnham fallen owlet



Dorney little owl with mouthful of unfortunate and unidentifiable rodent



Northern Lights from a plane at 35,000 feet on 10<sup>th</sup> May

We were glamping near Elstree on the weekend of the big Northern Lights show and unfortunately retired to bed too early and missed it all but awoke the next morning to a plethora of pictures on WhatsApp, from Dorset to Aberdeen and Cardiff to Kent. A friend who was flying that night posted the picture above on Instagram. What a spectacle.

I love this time of year. Not only is it my birthday in May, but everything is bursting into life. I feel very lucky to be living in Dorney and to be surrounded by such a nature rich environment. As well as the bats and little owls, we have starlings nesting in our roof, a dove raising a chick behind a down pipe, blue tits in a nesting box and newts spawning in the pond. But, as a front-page article of the Independent today reminds us, the decline of nature and biodiversity in the UK continues to decline and "is in crisis right now":

<https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/news/biodiversity-crisis-uk-habitats-species-loss-birds-fish-mammals-plants-government-b1072760.html>

If you care about this as much as I do, perhaps consider writing to our MP to highlight your concerns, like I have this morning. Even in the worst projected Tory apocalypse at the next elections, Joy Morrissey will still be our MP so worth letting her hear your support for nature.

**Andrew Oliver**

## Upscaling for the RNLI

A splendid event was held in Dorney Village Hall on Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup>. This was a sale featuring, alongside much else, beautiful up-cycled furniture in aid of a wonderful charity, the RNLI. It was a happy day as neighbours met up, with many volunteer helpers on hand. Friends reported that they had loved the occasion and had found items to purchase. Our village has many people to thank for this day, but, above all the tireless drivers behind it were John and Kathy Farrell.

The RNLI have thanked the Farrell's for the resulting donation of £1,570. To quote their letter, 'every penny we receive is crucial to our lifesaving work and without fundraisers like you, we simply couldn't continue.' This donation should grow. 'Dorney Parish News' urges all those reading these words to donate via the website Just Giving to add to the several hundred pounds already raised by a page set up by Kathy. Her words on that page describe the motives behind this appeal far more movingly and eloquently than we can here.

We should just point out that, before his retirement, John had been the Dorney Parish groundsman for the previous decade. A long conversation with John and Kathy revealed two key motivations behind their organisation of that Sunday in our Village Hall – a deep support for rescue charities, primarily the RNLI and a long term and growing interest in the recovery, restoration and recycling of furniture and other discarded household possessions.



As Kathy writes on Just Giving, *'My son Iain sadly passed away through drowning in May 2019 doing a coasteering activity in Dorset with his two young sons. Although we are devastated by the loss of our truly loved son Iain, we are extremely grateful for the efforts the RNLI and coastguard gave to endeavour to save his life and those of his two wonderful sons'*.

John and Kathy have accumulated, and originally paid for, most of the items on sale. Trip after trip has been made to shops, depots and restoration centres around the south east. Kathy paints a picture of John unable to pass an inviting skip without asking the owner if there is content fit for upscaling, a chest of doors or a cabinet. John particularly mentions as a fruitful source the Marlow and Sunbury centres of recycling company Suez.

### Iain Farrell

Even today, the visitor to the Farrell's will notice the clutter. A nice, friendly, homely clutter. That is because bargains from the Village Hall remain for sale. Just think what their home must have been like over the winter as the collection accumulated. Every shed, every cupboard, upstairs or downstairs, sitting room and hallway became a storeroom. If John had repaired and refurbished furniture, Kathy had spruced up and re-stuffed countless cuddly toys. They made certain that all had new batteries. Talking of toys, I spotted a super rocking horse, from mamas and papas. He looked immaculate now; even bright new stirrups had been supplied by a well-wisher from outside our area. At the time of writing, the rocking horse is *still available for sale*.

John showed me a list collated by their daughter Helen of all the objects collected by her parents. Believe me, it went on for page after page. So, it's hardly surprising that all were not shifted from the Hall that Sunday. If you want to know more, call John on 01628 662211.



John started to move the items from his home to the Village Hall at 5.30am on that Sunday. He wanted to thank Steve Townsend for helping out with his van, while Paul Boshier provided a trailer. The Trustees of the Village Hall waived any hiring fee. Village Hall secretary Ruth Senior was very helpful, as was Jill Dax of the Parish Council. Daughter Helen arranged much of the extensive publicity, especially on social media. John and Kathy also wanted to thank their other daughter Katie and her husband David plus their grandsons and their partners Ciaran and Tyler and Ethan and Imogen. Far away in New Zealand, son Matthew, who just happens to edit the community magazine in Omokoroa, was giving his support.

Fund raising was not limited to selling items – a raffle was supported by a major list of prize donors. Around a dozen donors contributed representing a long list of major local retailers and others, but John highlighted that stalwart of such fund raising, Chrys Fisher of the Palmer Arms. His donation of a Palmer's meal plus wine kickstarted the campaign. There were too many volunteers on hand to mention, but DPN noticed another stalwart of these occasions, friend of the magazine, Mary Baker, selling toys.

The event lasted from 11.00 to 17.00. Kathy reckoned that 'hundreds' attended. There is still chance to increase the proceeds, and the Farrells are likely to try again. Maybe any next time might support another organisation, maybe the Air Ambulance Service. If the indefatigable John and Kathy do try again, this magazine will be right behind them, as we hope will be our readers. In the meantime, why not support this cause via Just Giving?

**Peter Bowman**

Create. Inspire. Together.



DORNEY LAKE



Mention this advert for an exclusive 25% discount\*

# Your space... for spectacular celebrations

Celebrating a special birthday, anniversary, or big family get-together; whatever your style our events team will work with you to make the event your own.

info@dorneylake.co.uk . 01753 832756 . dorneylake.co.uk . @dorneylake

\* Offer valid for 25% off room hire for bookings made for 2024. Excludes wedding bookings.

## DIY in Dorney

What is it with bikes? Especially our bikes. Another one gone, this time from the fleshpots of Slough High Street, and Cheryl was not happy; not happy at all, and who can blame her. We rang Thames Valley's finest. It didn't warrant a 999 call, so we tried 111. I had forgotten how tedious this was, (see my piece 'Now You See It!' in a past issue), and after the first recorded threat of prosecution if I wasn't nice, I gave up.

"Maidenhead Police Station is open," advised a work colleague cheerily, and Mrs Google confirmed as much; eight to four no less.

It looked closed from the road; a bit sad really, the only sign of life being two men leaning against the building enjoying a smoke.

We approached speculatively.

"Is it open?" we asked.

"Yep."

"Are you police officers?"

"No."

"Oh, are you waiting in the queue then?"

"No," one smiled. "We are waiting for a result."

We walked in and waited a short while. A smart uniformed young lady enquired, "Can I help?"

"We've had a bike stolen from Slough High Street," I said, and she professionally wrote all the details on a slip of paper, including, clever old us, the frame number obtained with some difficulty in order to assist the apprehension of the lowlife now, no doubt, sniffing the class A proceeds of Mrs. Quincey's property. She disappeared behind a screen on her side of the counter.

"Is there any CCTV evidence?" she asked remotely.

"I should think so," I replied voice raised because of the screen as she pounded on a distant keyboard out of sight. I was surprised. "It's Slough High Street. I thought you would do that."

"Oh no," she replied, "we're far too busy to do all that. Is there anything else we can help you with?"

Mrs. Q has a flat and a parking space. Some selfish driver had taken up residence of the bay with a huge, tattered Range Rover. I had a photograph.

"Actually, there is," I said, and showing the photograph I explained to her colleague that the vehicle appeared damaged though secure and had not been moved for a month; nor had a note under the windscreen been disturbed. Was it stolen I ventured to suggest?

Apparently, a check on the Police National Computer (PNC) in order to find out would be inappropriate and could not be justified. The poor man was tying himself in knots to help, but appeared terrified at the prospect of having to justify this intrusion into the privacy of either a selfish driver or a car thief.

"I understand I can't have the owner's details; I just want to know if it's stolen. Surely you do too," I uselessly protested politely.

We left clutching our crime report number and no nearer getting our parking space back. "Don't forget to tell us if you find any CCTV!" the lady implored as we reached the door.

A day or so later a Sergeant rang us about the case and assured us that the police do look for CCTV evidence; about two weeks after that, another caller stated that they could not find any evidence and the case was closed.

All this made me think.

"Good morning Sir, how can Bowman's Bank assist you this morning?"

Yes, yes. I know banks don't have branches anymore, let alone people behind counters eager to help, but this is fiction after all.

"Good morning. I'd like to see what CCTV you have protecting your bank. You see, we had our bike....."

"BRRRRRRRRRR!!!!!!" The alarms wail as a solid wall drops between us and the bank staff and security and police (it's fiction, like I said) rush in and throw us to the floor.

# MEET, DRINK & EAT *Dorney*



## THE PALMER ARMS

Classic British food using the freshest seasonal ingredients. From light lunches, more formal a la carte menu and delicious traditional Sunday roast dinners.



## THE PINEAPPLE

Famous for our extensive Pineapple Sandwich menu and a choice of freshly made stonebaked pizza. We also offer sandwiches and pizza takeaway, just give us a call with your order!



The Palmer Arms



The Palmer Arms



The Pineapple



The Pineapple

### The Palmer Arms

Village Rd, Dorney, Windsor SL4 6QW  
[www.thepalmerarms.com](http://www.thepalmerarms.com)  
01628 666612



### The Pineapple

Lake End Rd, Dorney, Windsor SL4 6QS  
[www.thepineappledorney.co.uk](http://www.thepineappledorney.co.uk)  
01628 662353

What would happen if we find some CCTV and identify a suspect?

"That's Billy," shouts Cheryl in delight, and sure enough, there's the evidence of a drug raddled Billy levering the lock of Mrs. Q's bike with a crowbar brought for the purpose.

"Come with me Billy," says I in my best Sweeny. "You're nicked son," and Billy in his semi-comatose state, waddles from his free flat into the waiting Ford Granada, (well a Mondeo actually). Back in my garden shed, the interview goes well as 'Chummy' coughs to the blag and signs a confession. This policing lark is easy. What's all the fuss about?

The Old Bill seem a trifle reticent to finish off what I have started, so I release Billy telling him, "Be in no doubt Son, you've not heard the last of this. I'm taking out a private prosecution."

Well, if the Post Office can do it, why can't I?

A few days later, we get a letter from Sue Grabbit and Runne, Solicitors. Billy's got himself a brief!

"Dear Sir," it reads. "We represent our client Billy Smith in the matters listed below.

Our client alleges kidnap, unlawful detention and torture forbidden under Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights in that you forced a confession by threats of intimidation and violence amounting to torture.

It is further alleged that you unlawfully kidnapped my client and failed under the Police and Criminal Evidence 1984 to caution him, to ensure that he was fit for 'interview,' he'd had sufficient rest, he was refreshed, had access to legal advice, and the 'interview' was not recorded either on tape or contemporaneously.

We will pursue these matters in due course and advise that you obtain legal advice.

Yours

SGR."

It seems there's more to this policing lark than Ford Granadas and testosterone!

Here's a thought!

On reading last month's DPN, I note our MP's pleasure in her part in the passing of the "Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill".

My reader may recall that I am a retired Metropolitan Police Sergeant, and Magistrate.

Consider this fiction very much based on fact. I am sure similar conversations actually take place in some form or other.

It is 2024 in London.

Colin is a probationary constable enjoying a well-earned cuppa in the canteen of his station and is approached by his reporting Sergeant.

"Well done young Colin with those illegal immigrants today. You did well getting them on that bus to the airport. Good Lad."

"Thank you, Sarge, but I'm a little confused. Don't we in the UK accept asylum seekers from Rwanda because it's an unsafe country for them?"

"Now, now young man. Don't you worry about all that. Our nice Mr. Sunak, the Prime Minister no less, says it's fine and they'll be looked after. Now keep up the good work!"

It is Berlin in July 1939.

Klaus is a new member of the Schutzpolizei, the State Protection Police.

He is enjoying a break from his busy morning.

"Well done young Klaus rounding up all those undesirables today. You did well."

"Thank you, Sergeant. I am confused. I have a mate in the Munich Schutzpolizei and he tells me they are going to a small town nearby called Dachau. He says terrible things happen in a camp there."

"Now now young Klaus. Your boss Mr Himmler says it's fine. They're being re-educated. Just obey your orders and carry on the good work."

Stay safe.

**Mike Quincey**





# The Studios School of Performing Arts

Classes 2022/2023

Thursdays - 6pm - 7:30pm  
Ages 12 - 18 years .  
Dorney Village Hall , SL6 0DS

WE HAVE MOVED !!!....  
Saturdays - 9am - 12pm  
Ages 5 - 16 years .  
(come for 1.2 or 3 hours the choice is yours!)  
OUR NEW HOME!! - Dorney Village Hall , SL6 0DS

[www.studiosschool.com](http://www.studiosschool.com)



## Do you want.....

- \* Improved Self confidence ?
- \* Improved social skills ?
- \* To make friends and have fun ?
- \* To learn in a friendly & supportive environment ?
- \* To be taught by working Industry Professionals ?
- \* Opportunities to audition for TV , Film & Theatre ?

### Classes cover

- \*Acting
- \*Singing
- \*Dance
- \*Voice
- \*Devising
- \*Audition technique
- \*Sight reading
- \*Public speaking
- \*Lamda examination prep

We are thrilled to offer a FREE trial session so please  
Call or email us today to book your place !

[www.studiosschool.com](http://www.studiosschool.com)

07710 968642 - [studiosschool@hotmail.com](mailto:studiosschool@hotmail.com)

## Dorney Parish Council and Dorney Lake Management offer residents a tour of The Meadows of Dorney Lake.



The tour will be by minibus, kindly provided by Eton College, and will take place, starting at 2:15pm, during the afternoon of Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024. We will meet in the car park of Dorney Lake (free parking). Tour lasts approx. 1 hour.

The tour will include a visit to the “Far Side” of the Lake which is usually not open to the public. Grounds Manager Lee Marshallsay will conduct the tour and will be able to answer any questions that residents might have about the landscaping strategy and execution.

There are 14 free seats available, and seats can be booked by emailing the Parish Clerk on [Clerk@dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk) (stating your car registration number). First come, first served. Refreshments will be served at the end of the tour in the Olympic Suite.

Dorney Lake has been implementing a landscape strategy over the past decade to encourage biodiversity. Grounds Manager Lee Marshallsay and his team have been working on this 400-acre parkland to transform the traditionally heavily managed environment into a more natural and diverse habitat. Meadows are emerging, and the term "rewilding" accurately describes the changes occurring at the site.

**Jill Dax, Chair, Dorney Parish Council**



# Tour Dorney Court in June



Widely regarded as one of England's finest Tudor Manor Houses, Dorney Court welcomes visitors from near and far to join a guided tour this June 2024.

Concessions for visitors (and up to 3 friends) who bring a hard copy of Dorney Parish News.

## Opening Times

In June 2024 Dorney Court is open every day

Doors open in the afternoon at 1230 with last admissions at 1530.

Tours take approximately 1 hour

## Admission Prices

	ADULT	CHILD (10-16YRS OLD)	CONCESSION
House, Garden & Grounds	£13.00	£7.50	£11.00

There is no need to book tickets in advance as you can simply pick them up from the front of the House on the day

[www.dorneycourt.co.uk](http://www.dorneycourt.co.uk)

*In May 2021, we introduced readers to Jamie Turvey. Jamie's Dad, Clive, grew up in Dorney Reach. Clive's parents are Roger and Pam who live in Harcourt Road. Jamie lives in Alton, Hants with Clive and his Mum, Suki. Our article then featured an appeal to give Jamie an electric wheelchair and a balloon ride. Jamie is now a promising young writer. He won the 2023 Harrison Cup presented to writers who attend secondary schools. Jamie received his cup at a ceremony at The Stationers' Hall in London. The judging panel said that they were 'moved, humbled and inspired by his story' and were unanimous in their verdict. When we heard about his success, we asked Jamie to send us an article for publication:*



## **Musings From a Country Boy**

### **Moments in the garden**



Whenever I go into the garden in May, I always find there is so much to do. There are lots of flowers all full of colour. At this time of the year the birds are singing which is such a happy sound to me.

It is the sort of thing to do when something is on my mind that is bothering me. One of the things I also like doing when in the garden is just relaxing & watching the flowers weave in the breeze. The gentle wind rustling through the leaves sounds like a piece of music.

I like to find somewhere to just take a moment and sit down, often with a nice hot drink which helps me to unwind and be happy.

Every time I have gone out into the garden during this month, so far I see a lot of new flowers that have come up, it is almost like a sea of different colours every day.

The colours from each flower have a bright effect on me.

Above there is a picture of one of my favourite plants.

It is a Purple Rain Allium. I love the way this plant bobs about in the breeze.

When the flowers are in bloom, the shape of the florets reminds me of a sparkler.

**Jamie Turvey**

# Crocus Summer Market

Sunday 14th July 10-4pm



Please come and join us!

We are thrilled to welcome a range of local producers to sell their products within in our beautiful walled garden at Crocus at Dorney Court SL4 6QP

Food, drink, Jewellery, Art & Craft & more....

For more info please check our social media. If you would like a stall please email [events.dorney@crocus.co.uk](mailto:events.dorney@crocus.co.uk).

CROCUS

## AS OTHERS SAW US

We who live in Dorney have our own views about our surroundings. But what have people coming in from outside thought about Dorney over the years?

Being away from the main roads, a little isolated in our curve of the river, we have not had as many travellers passing through as other places. Those who have recorded their impressions paint a picture largely recognisable today.



A reporter in the Buckingham Advertiser and Free Press in 1885 wrote enthusiastically about Dorney. The common was a “*splendid piece of grazing ground*” and he admired the “*very agreeable landscape*” with the view of the Windsor Castle in the background, the Royal Standard floating “*in the breeze from the round tower*”. On his way to visit Dorney Court and the church, he passed the “*neat*” village school and “*a collection of wooden buildings of antiquated date on one side, and some of a more modern character on the other*”.

When the schoolteacher Miss Bennett later wrote down her recollections of arriving in Dorney in 1919 to take charge of the village school, she said: “*How different the old village was then. The water supply only wells and pumps. No street lighting, only oil lamps and candles in houses and church. No public transport, so it was bicycle or walk to shop in Windsor. Motor cars were still a novelty, and horses were used on the farms and by tradesmen delivering goods.*”

*There was a village smithy where horses were shod, and one of the sights I liked best was the return of teams of horses ambling up the village after a hard day’s ploughing, their weary teamsters sitting side saddle on their backs.*

*The roads were in poor repair after the war years. We could never have competed in a tidy village competition for the wooden garden fences were old and untidy. There were no proper side paths and no curbs. Drainage was very primitive, so water lay about in the gutters.*

*The entrance to the village from the Common was spoilt by a rubbish dump on the piece of ground now used as a War Memorial, and the field on which the (Old) Post Office now stands was often a camping place for gipsy caravans.*

*In spite of these drawbacks Dorney was then as now a delightful village in which to live.”*

A newcomer to Ye Meads in Taplow in the 1920s was enchanted by the pretty countryside though she commented on the “*saffron coloured gravel lanes, often rutted and puddled*”. However, the Acton Gazette in 1926 noted that the character of the countryside was changing. “*A mere decade ago, much of this district was as rural as if it had been a hundred miles from London*” but the development of new homes for people working outside the village was encouraged by the increased use of motor cars and the establishment of Slough Trading Estate. “*Nevertheless, much of the rural charm of this district remains untouched*”.

Country Life paid a visit to Dorney Court in 1924 and wrote about the area from the perspective of a former Eton schoolboy: “*The country round Eton and Slough is plain, not to condemn it as austere. And that particular road from Eton which leads to Dorney led from the haunt of amenities and beauty into a forbidding region overhung by the blights of ignorance.... Beyond Arches the way to Dorney grew drearer. The sewage farm....lay close to the next village, and probably the least*

for Children & adults with Special needs



# THAMES VALLEY ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

Reg. Charity No. 278336

Bath Road, Taplow, SL6 0PR [www.tvap.co.uk](http://www.tvap.co.uk)

We have a very exciting opportunity at TVAP this summer where Lavender Green Flowers are very kindly donating us pre-loved cut flowers and plants (indoor and outdoor) which have been used at various events, including Chelsea, Ascot and Wimbledon, to name but a few. We were overwhelmed by such generous support at our last Flower Drop, re-homing flowers donated from the Royal Windsor Horse Show and a couple of gorgeous weddings. Together we raised over £500, and we can't wait for the next one!

If you would like to know when the plants and flowers are at TVAP please

text 07362653199 and ask to join the WhatsApp group. Key dates can be found in the description, and we will add more details when we know them.

PRE-LOVED (BUT STILL BEAUTIFUL)  
FLOWERS AND PLANTS KINDLY DONATED  
BY LAVENDER GREEN FLOWERS



Text 07362 653199

and ask to join the WhatsApp Group for information



Registered charity No. 1201368



*seductive hamlet in all the county. In Eton Wick it seemed that one had come to the uttermost confines of human habitation.*

*Yet immediately after, the road cheers up. You cross the sunny and shade streaked meadow of Dorney Common, with Windsor fantastically framed in huge elms. And then the huddled village at the common's edge. It is like a new world, an ocean, a desert, between you and known haunts. Here all is magical."*

During the Second World War, among the temporary residents of Dorney was schoolgirl Telma Dufton, who in 2018 recorded her memories of that time. She wrote of the dairy farm opposite the Palmer Arms from where the cows were taken out to the common each morning and back again in the evening. Her overall verdict was that *"Dorney was slightly scruffy, because it was a working village, but beautiful just the same. It contained a remarkable diversity of people among its inhabitants, almost a stationary Canterbury Tales.... 'old' family with roots going back centuries, with the ancient traditional relationship with their staff, a sprinkling of theatre people, an internationally known painter, a real master baker, one or two city people who had retired there, a farm and all that went with it, a charming and eccentric parson indeed a long list of diverse characters"*. The internationally known painter mentioned by Telma was professional artist Nora Cundell who lived at Further Dimmings, next to her sister and brother-in-law at Hither Dimmings.

Murray's 1948 Buckinghamshire Architectural Guide, of which John Betjeman was one of the editors, summarised Dorney succinctly: *"A preserved Thames Valley village among elm trees, with some seventeenth-century cottages, mostly restored as residences."* More effusive were the words of someone who was not actually an outsider – TWE Roche, who lived in Dorney Reach and was a prolific author among his many other activities. In the introduction to his book *"A Pineapple for the King"*, published in 1971, he wrote of a final stretch of country before the Thames which was still rural England beyond the urban sprawl of Heathrow and Slough:

*"The motorist on the M4 can just detect it, if he can take his eyes from the road long enough, but the most effective route to it lies past Eton College. Suddenly the bricks and mortar are left behind and ahead lies the broad sweep of Dorney Common where the cattle graze unhindered as their forebears have done since the 12<sup>th</sup> century. On the far side lies the village, still barely extended beyond its mediaeval shell: some of the houses are very old and even the petrol-pumps stand in front of a 16<sup>th</sup> century cottage!"*

*One of the two inns, The Palmer Arms, stands in the Village Road, the greyhound and trefoils magnificently painted on its sign. At a curve in the road at the far end of the village is a junction, the major road bearing right past the secluded village to the outlying hamlet of Lake End, where the second inn stands. This is The Pineapple, a vivid picture of the fruit swinging before it. The left turn at the junction is Court Lane, pursuing a sinuous course under great chestnut trees with arable land on the right and the woods bordering the manor estate on the left.*



*The traveller rounds the sharpest curve of all and there, half-hidden from the lane, the gabled Tudor Dorney Court stands opposite the ancient church"*.

Who would not warm to this affectionate portrait of Dorney!

**Virginia Silvester**



# Dorney Parish News is looking for a Deputy Editor

We're seeking an extra pair of hands to help the magazine move forward. Initially we are looking for additional subscriptions and more advertising to assist us to make the magazine more salient and impactful.

We would also welcome someone who could write articles, participate in our weekly editorial meetings and become part of a small team.

If you are interested in such a volunteer role, which could assist with work experience if that applies, please contact Peter Bowman, Editor on [peter.bowman@talktalk.net](mailto:peter.bowman@talktalk.net) or 07889 912714

---

## Karen Kimberley

Karen Kimberley (BA, DCH, DHP, NLP, GQHP, MAC, ITOL) is a Taplow-based therapist and coach specialising in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP), Counselling & Hypnotherapy to help with:



- Lack of confidence and low self esteem
- Anxiety and depression
- Communication, business or relationship problems

**Contact Karen: [kk@karenkimberley.co.uk](mailto:kk@karenkimberley.co.uk)  
to arrange an initial conversation**

**or call 07785 566468**



**The Engagement Ring**

**[www.theengagementring.co.uk](http://www.theengagementring.co.uk)**

**[www.lifecoach-directory.org.uk/lifecoaches/karen-kimberley](http://www.lifecoach-directory.org.uk/lifecoaches/karen-kimberley)**

Harcourt Close, Dorney Reach  
Maidenhead, SL6 0DY  
Tel: 01628 620871  
E-mail: [office@dorneyschool.co.uk](mailto:office@dorneyschool.co.uk)  
Website: [www.dorneyschool.co.uk](http://www.dorneyschool.co.uk)

# DORNEY SCHOOL



**RESPECT \* COLLABORATE \* GROW**  
Headteacher: Mrs Lee



In our school and community, we celebrate the diversity of language and the different ways we communicate with each other. We raise awareness on how we can all work together to reduce the barriers that the deaf community face. In Reception and Year 1, Mrs Thomas teaches children and staff Makaton every week so that everyone learns a common way to communicate, whatever our needs may be.

Our children participated in **National Gardening Day** and LOVED it!  
Some feedback from our children:  
The best day ever! – Ravleen  
I loved planting my sunflower seed – Otilie  
I liked doing the gardening because we got to use the shovels! - Emilia





The children in Year 1 enjoyed a trip to complete a Bear Hunt (based on the well-loved book by Michael Rosen) at Alfriston School. The trip was organised and run by the sports partnership and the Sports Leaders from local secondary schools took the children around a variety of activities and obstacles while the re-enacted and re told the story "We're Going on a Bear Hunt". The children enjoyed all the activities, showed perseverance when things were hard and enthusiastic to complete all the challenges offered. Well done Year 1!

### English Curriculum Session Parents' drop-in



Our parents enjoyed 'dropping in' and learning with all pupils!





# DORNEY

## PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024, 6.30pm AT THE BOATHOUSE, DORNEY LAKE

#### **Present**

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair)  
Cllr. Stephen Baker  
County Cllr. Paul Kelly

Cllr. Anna Palmer  
Cllr. William Voaden

Cllr. Robert Stopford

Clerk Ruth Senior and 1 member of the public

#### **Public Forum**

No comments

#### **PC/17/24 To elect a Chairman and Declaration of Office of Chairman**

Cllr. Baker proposed, Cllr. Palmer seconded, Jill Dax as Chairman, who accepted the role. **AGREED** – all in favour. Declaration of office completed.

#### **PC/18/24 Apologies for absence**

Cllr. Euan MacLennan and Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford

#### **PC/19/24 To elect a Vice Chairman**

Cllr. Baker proposed, Cllr. Dax seconded, Martyn Westcott-Wreford as Vice Chairman, who accepted the role. **AGREED** – all in favour.

#### **PC/20/24 Declaration of office signed by each elected Councillor**

This was duly completed with the exception of Cllr. MacLennan, to complete on return.

#### **PC/21/24 To elect a Finance Chairman**

Cllr. Dax proposed, Cllr. Baker seconded, Euan MacLennan as Finance Chairman, who accepted the role. **AGREED** – all in favour.

#### **PC/22/24 Declaration of interest on any items of business on this Agenda**

There were none declared.

#### **PC/23/24 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

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

#### **PC/24/24 To receive the Clerk report**

The Clerk report there was no update for this meeting.

## **PC/25/24 Items of business carried forward**

### **25.1 The Orchard Herbs Site**

Cllr. Stopford reported that the appeal for the hotel application has been rejected and the appeal for the Enforcement Notice will take place in September with the Certificate of Lawfulness appeal being rolled into this.

Many comments were made regarding the HGVs and traffic on site, these should be reported to the Traffic Commissioner and can be reported by any member of the public.

### **25.2 The Neighbourhood Plan**

The Neighbourhood Plan is now in draft format and **it was agreed** this should now be submitted to Buckinghamshire under regulation 14 for approval.

After this stage, the plan goes to an external assessor before the 6 week public consultation.

## **PC/26/24 Planning**

There is no date set for the Boveney Court Farm appeal.

Also awaiting a date for the Planning Committee for the Court Farm, Common Road application.

## **PC/27/24 Finance**

The cashbook was circulated prior to the meeting and approved.

**It was agreed** that the finances are correct and ready for submission for Audit and Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

## **PC/28/24 To update on and consider the transfer of Dorney Village Hall (DVH) to Dorney Parish Council (DPC)**

The Clerk is still awaiting formal advice from the Charities Commission.

## **PC/29/24 To receive an update on Dorney Playground**

The snake swing which the playground received funding and two very generous £1000 donations from residents for, is now in use following a successful opening event on 1<sup>st</sup> May. They are now fundraising for fencing.

## **PC/30/24 To consider the annual insurance renewal**

Clear Councils insurance renewal of £884.81 **was agreed**.

## **PC/31/24 To update on speeding through Dorney, particularly Dorney Common**

The Clerk reported support for this from Eton Town Council and the Eton Wick Village Association. It was agreed that Cllr. Dax will respond to Buckinghamshire Council. Sadly another cow has been killed and one injured following accidents this month.

## **PC/32/24 To receive an update on the Thames Water Treatment Plant**

There has been no response from Thames Water despite requests for an update. Cllr. Stopford and County Cllr. Kelly will continue to chase information. **It was agreed** that the Clerk will also contact Eton Wick Council regarding their latest water testing.

## **PC/33/24 To consider any complaints/comments received from residents**

The online consultation for the boundary review is currently open for comment <http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/burnham-dorney-boundary>

## **PC/34/24 Items to consider for discussion at the next meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

Cattle grid

**Meeting ended at 7.05 pm**

# Dorney Village Hall

[www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk)



Dorney Village Hall has a large main area with stage, a smaller annexed room, and kitchen. It has recently been redecorated throughout.

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

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

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

**From £15 per hour (minimum of 3 hours) for Dorney Parish Residents**

Email: [bookings.dorneyvh@gmail.com](mailto:bookings.dorneyvh@gmail.com)

Online on [www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk)



- Carpentry
- Extensions
- Loft Conversions
- Roofing Specialist
- Bespoke Garden Rooms/Offices
- Renovations and Refurbishments

All aspects of building work undertaken – no job too big or too small

**07876 275129**

[varneyandson@gmail.com](mailto:varneyandson@gmail.com)

[www.varneyandson.co.uk](http://www.varneyandson.co.uk)

## **G & J Decorating**

Local decorators with 20 years' experience.

All aspects of decorating undertaken to the highest standard.

Free estimates and references available.

**Gav 07795 081141**

## Cleaning & Ironing by Flori

Your cleaning & ironing my mission!

Ironing: £2.50 per 1lb. Minimum 10lbs.  
Collection and delivery free.

Cleaning:

- 1 bedroom house is £40 (Inc. 1 kitchen, 1 Bedroom, 1 Living Room and 1 bathroom. Any other rooms are £10 extra)
- 2 bedroom house is £50
- 3 bedroom house is £60
- 4 bedroom house is £70

Please contact Flori on 07879626434

[Florentinateisanu@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Florentinateisanu@yahoo.co.uk)

Or on Facebook: Ironing & Cleaning by Flori  
I have more than 15 years of experience



# Dorney Waste Collection Calendar

Month	Food waste	Garden waste	General waste	Mixed recycling	Paper and cardboard	Textiles/Batteries Electricals
<b>Jun</b>	1, 7, 14, 21, 28	1, 14, 28	7, 21	1, 14, 28	1, 14, 28	1, 14, 28
<b>Jul</b>	5, 12, 19, 26	12, 26	5, 19	12, 26	12, 26	12, 26
<b>Aug</b>	2, 9, 16, 23, 31	9, 23	2, 16, 31	9, 23	9, 23	9, 23
<b>Sep</b>	6, 13, 20, 27	6, 20	13, 27	6, 20	6, 20	6, 20

*Provided by Bucks Council*

## TYRE FIT

**NEXEN  
DEALER**

### TAPLOW

*We fit tyres at a price that fits you*

Need new tyres?

Plus:

**TYRES & EXHAUSTS. BATTERIES.  
STEERING. SUSPENSION. SERVICING.  
CATALYTIC CONVERTORS. MOTs. TRACKING.  
ALLOY WHEEL REFURBISHMENT.**

Old Station Yard,  
Station Road,  
Taplow, Bucks SL6 0NU

Tel: **01628 665778**

Mobile: **07884 111500**

[www.tyredealermaidenhead.co.uk](http://www.tyredealermaidenhead.co.uk)



# Dorney Parish News

Published monthly (except January and August)

## **Editors:**

Peter Bowman, [peter.bowman@talktalk.net](mailto:peter.bowman@talktalk.net) Mobile: 07889 912714

Bill Dax, [bill@daxfamily.com](mailto:bill@daxfamily.com) Mobile: 07802 365448 (Production)

---

## **Distributors:**

Mr Cobb, Mrs Leishman, Mrs McCabe,  
Mr Penfold, Mrs Stockwood, Mr Temple  
Miss Snook, Mrs Tuddenham, Mrs Wood-Dow

**RATE OF SUBSCRIPTION:** £7 per annum for 10 issues

Bank Transfer Details: Sort Code 60 04 53, Account Number 13611690

**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:**

<b>Advertising Rates</b>	<b>Height mm</b>	<b>Width mm</b>	<b>10 issues</b>	<b>1 issue</b>
Full Page	190	130	£100	£13
Half Page	90	130	£55	£8
Third of a page (Horizontal)	60	130	£50	£7
Quarter Page (Horizontal)	45	130	£45	£6

**Contact:** Peter Bowman, Editor  
[peter.bowman@talktalk.net](mailto:peter.bowman@talktalk.net)  
07889 912714

## Emergency Contact Details

<b>Dorney Reach (Village Hall)</b>	<b>Defibrillator Code</b>	<b>C123X</b>
Fire, Police & Ambulance	Emergency Calls: Incidents in Action	999
Thames Valley Police	Non-urgent calls	101
National Health Service	For urgent medical problems. Need advice	111
Crimestoppers	Anonymously report information	0800 555 111
Water Leaks	Thames Water	0845 9200 800
Sewage Problems	Thames Water	0845 9200 800
Power Cuts	SSE Networks - Central Southern England	0800 072 7282
Gas Leaks	National Grid	0800 111 999
Reporting Pot Holes	<a href="http://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk">www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk</a>	
Reporting Fly-tipping	<a href="http://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk">www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk</a>	
Reporting Footpath Problems	<a href="http://www.transportforbucks.net/report-it-prow.aspx">www.transportforbucks.net/report-it-prow.aspx</a>	
South Bucks District Council	<a href="http://www.southbucks.gov.uk">www.southbucks.gov.uk</a>	
Swan Support	24/7 local swan rescue and rehabilitation	07968 868172

## Electrical Services (Burnham)

Napit Part "P" Approved Installer

- Additional Sockets - Lights
- New Fuse Boards - Updates
- Security - Attic Lighting
- Home - Landlords Certificates
- Portable Appliance Testing



Free advice and estimates  
All work guaranteed  
No job too small

Contact Rob on  
**07801 832792 or 01628 603063**  
[electricalservicesburnham@gmail.com](mailto:electricalservicesburnham@gmail.com)



## THE TRADITIONAL RESTORATION COMPANY LTD

The Coach House, Dorney Court

**01628 660708**

[www.TraditionalRestoration.co.uk](http://www.TraditionalRestoration.co.uk)

[enquiries@TraditionalRestoration.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@TraditionalRestoration.co.uk)

*Restorers of Fine Antique Furniture*

# SUSAN HANDY DANCE

FROM BABIES TO ADULTS

A COMPLETE DANCE TRAINING

FREE  
TRIAL  
CLASS

BABY BALLET 18 MONTH+  
PRIMARY BALLET  
PRIMARY MODERN  
PRIMARY TAP

ACROBATIC ARTS

BALLET

BODY CONDITIONING

CONTEMPORARY

CREATIVE DANCE

GCSE DANCE

MODERN JAZZ

TAP

ADULT BALLET STRETCH  
ADULT BALLET  
ADULT CONTEMPORARY  
ADULT BEGINNERS TAP  
ADULT INTERMEDIATE TAP

BOYS CLASSES



ETON WINDSOR DATCHET OLD WINDSOR ETON WICK ICKENHAM  
WOKING RICHMOND

[WWW.SUSANHANDYDANCE.CO.UK](http://WWW.SUSANHANDYDANCE.CO.UK)

OFFICE@SUSANHANDYDANCE.CO.UK / 07515 270432

**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](http://www.spanishbit.co.uk)*