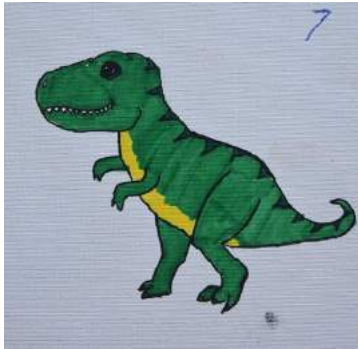


Dorney Parish News

July/August 2024



The Dorney Horticultural Society Annual Show

Saturday, 31st August 2024

For more information, please see details on Page 13



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EDITORIAL

Dorney Parish News likes to be, well, 'parochial'. Our pages might offer a diversion from the turbulent affairs of the wider world. As we write, two matters loom large. A general reaction to the General Election campaign and the Euros, or at least England's progress in them, might be boredom. After our copy date, football despair might kick in, but for the moment we can merely ask you to feel the pain of Olly, our Scots Nature Notes writer. But sometimes national concerns coincide with those of this parish. The collision of a wretched calf with a police car has re-opened the debate over the damage caused to cattle by traffic. At the Annual Parish Meeting the comments by the Chair of our Parish Council highlighted the campaign to lower the speed limit on Common Road from 60 mph to 40 mph. A letter was recently sent to Martin Tett, the Leader of Bucks Council, requesting that the speed limit be lowered, and indeed, lowered without the usual £10,000 charge being imposed. We urge you to read this letter, and the detailed supporting case offered in justification, on the Parish Council website under the Local Projects tab.

Between 150 and 200 cattle freely graze on Dorney Common, free that is under the Highways Act to roam over the highway. That highway, the unfenced B3026, carries 2 million vehicles annually. That confrontation has resulted in 31 cattle fatalities in the last 15 years. There have been two more since grazing commenced this year. The horrid 'stock killed ratio' runs at 1% to 3% each year. Crucial to the Dorney case is the experience of Hampshire County Council and the New Forrest Verderers, who after exploring options like fencing, corralling and reflective collars, reduced their limit to 40 mph. Their stock killed ratio reduced tenfold.

The Chair also talked of agreeing schedule improvements with the Dorney maintenance contractors. Discussions are underway and it is our ambition to share with residents much more detailed information about these schedules going forward.

But let us return to the matter of our first paragraph. We are able to report on so much that is positive. The Dorney Playground Group are planning a major summer event very soon after this issue is published – get your skates on or you'll miss it! The local Beavers held major activities on Trumpers Field. We are, incidentally, tempted to adopt the usual naming here and refer to 'Dorney Park'. This column was privileged to attend a marvellous production in the Village Hall by local young people of *Grease*. The Horticultural Society has enjoyed two successful day trips in June.

Then, of course, there is the Annual Show. We do not hold back from supporting the Show. It should be the wonderful community event Dorney deserves. Why not enter? If you do not tend towards the horticultural, there are classes for foodstuffs and craft. Encourage any grand children to enter the younger classes. Make it a combined project. The programme will be distributed by hand throughout the parish and beyond in July and will be available on the DHS section of the Parish Council website. Entry is free to all.

This magazine now takes a break. We will be back at the start of September with that month's issue. Do all have a lovely summer.

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

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

Stephen Baker writes...

At the time of writing this there are three things that are primarily on my mind, the first being 'is summer actually here?' We have had a few really good days of beautiful weather in the low 20s interspersed with on and off showers and a couple of thunderstorms thrown in for good measure.

The second is that when I come to write my piece for the next article, we will be truly at a place of vacancy across the parish churches in Eton, Eton Wick, Boveney and Dorney. Whilst we've officially been in vacancy for nearly a year now, we have had the Rev. Carole Gooding completing her training with us and she will have departed. The support we have received from Rev. Carole has literally been the definition of a Godsend.

You may think it is a bit cheeky of me including Boveney in my list of churches, but on day one of true vacancy it is the patronal service at St. Mary Magdalene (date for your diary - Monday 22nd July at 4pm at Boveney).

Thirdly is the upcoming General Election, not as in who I am voting for, that I know, but what it will mean for the country. It is a critical moment in the life of our nation, as who we vote for, and their policies will shape the future of our nation. By the time you read this you will have sent off any postal votes weeks ago, or be on your way to the polls, or will have already voted.

My prayers are with the candidates and our new government, hoping that they will act with integrity and that their policies are in line with the needs and wants of the electorate. There are so many critical systems within the UK that need support, the NHS, Social Care, Education, Housing and Defence. I pray that the plans put forward in the manifestos have substance and there is the will to deliver upon them.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a great summer.

Stephen

Church Services in July and August 2024

Wednesday 3rd July

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 7th July

9.30 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00 am Any Age Family Service

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 14th July

9.30am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 17th July

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 21st July

9.30am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Morning Worship

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Monday 22nd July

4.00pm Patronal Festival Service

St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

Sunday 28th July

9.30am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 4th August

9.30 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00 am Any Age Family Service

St John the Baptist Eton Wick

Wednesday 7th August

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 11th August

9.30am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Morning Worship

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 18th August

9.30am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 21st August

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 25th August

9.30am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

St. Mary Magdalene

Apostle to the Apostles



There will be a special service

4pm on Monday 22nd July

At the riverside church of
St. Mary Magdalene, Boveney

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.

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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

'Grease' was the word – and now it's your turn.



A year and a half ago, *Dorney Parish News* published an article about Corinne Carlisle's classes in which we said that 'something rather special and rather inspiring' was happening twice weekly in Dorney Village Hall. Since then, Corinne's classes and their participants have flourished, several shows have been put on, and on one Saturday morning in June, we attended a wonderful production of *Grease* that quite definitely was 'special' and very 'inspiring'.

Now it is the turn of the grown-ups. The Studios School of Performing Arts will be starting classes for adults in the Autumn. We hear that the early response has been positive.

Corinne and the students in her two weekly classes have staged shows in the summer and at Christmas. *The Wizard of Oz* has been featured. But on that Saturday morning '*Grease*' was quite certainly '*the Word*'. Your theatre critic (me) was knocked out by the performance and the occasion. You could say that before long I was 'hopelessly devoted'. It was memorable to be in a Village Hall that was packed. When I arrived, there was standing room only. A shout out here is appropriate for the Dorney Playground Tuck Shop. I was able to snuggle into the back of the Hall with a fortifying cup of coffee and Maria Holloway was soon doing a roaring trade in hot dogs to the hungry cast members after their on-stage triumphs. As Corinne said to us 'it's a full Village Hall that makes me do this.'

But the play, as they say, is the thing...and what a thing it was.

The young actors playing 'Sandy' and 'Danny' sang and danced with great style and poise, while the chorus supported them with enormous energy. This 'critic' from the boomer generation thought the 1950s costumes, all T-shirts and leather jackets, Levi's and prom dresses, with appropriate quiffs and ribbons, were highly authentic!

Corinne makes things happen but these events in our Hall have great back up. Drama tutor Barry Callan has years of experience in youth theatre and drama workshops, experience that has recently included the Royal Opera House. Barry may be known as Corinne's work-husband, but real-life husband Kevin has constructed a portable stage extension for use in the Village Hall. Dance tutor Auriol Hatcher joined the team last year – Auriol is a graduate of the Italia Conti School and has played the leading role in *Mama Mia*.



In our last article Corinne said that what she really wanted to teach was 'kindness'. This time the memorable phrase was 'kids have such busy lives with many challenges, I just want them here to enjoy being kids...' These classes are all about improving self-confidence, making friends and having fun. There appeared to be a tremendous range of natural dramatic ability and contrasting levels of extroversion. Of course, many of those gaining from these benefits are the sons and daughters of Dorney households. I hope they get as much pleasure from reading this article as we did preparing it.

OK, so if we've established that the classes are fun, and they are not auditions for big parts, and that no past experience is required, our readers will be eager to find out how adults can share in the enjoyment.

The classes are scheduled to start on 12th September. Initially they are likely to run for six Thursdays, and will probably last an hour and a half between 7.00 pm and 8.30 pm. Of course, they will be on our doorstep, in Dorney Village Hall. Needless to say, they are open to both ladies and gentlemen. Barry Callan will lead them. The cost will be £10 a class – I'm sure it will be possible to have a trial session. Details of the Studios School can be found in their advertisement in this magazine, but you can quite simply ring Corinne on 07710 968642.

Give it a try. I will. Who knows, maybe one day, Dorney might see a revival of the Dorney Players, and we've always wanted to enjoy a village panto.

Peter Bowman



Update on Parish Grounds Maintenance (Grass Cutting etc.)

Following a recent meeting with our contractor, RCJ, we confirm that grass cutting is now up to speed following delay due to the unprecedented wet Spring weather.

The schedule (weather permitting) is a two-weekly rotation between Dorney Reach (including areas around the Playground, Tennis Courts and Village Hall) and Dorney Village/Lake End.

The first round of three weed killing sessions annually has been carried out, the second is due shortly. Wildflower areas were discussed, and plans agreed to sow seeds within some of the areas best suited to a less formal appearance.

Please note that where any stones or logs have been placed on the grassed verges along the highways, these areas will not be mown due to the damage caused to mechanical equipment. We would very much appreciate householders who place such items to arrange the mowing of these areas themselves. Thank you.

Reinstating the Trumper's Field Security Gates in Meadow Way.

Residents of Meadow Way have been disturbed by late-night and early-morning antisocial behaviour in Trumper's Field, especially near the Village Hall. To address this, with sincere thanks to local residents, the lower security gate will be locked every evening at around 11:15 PM (or earlier if no cars are in the car park) and unlocked at around 7:00 AM. The higher security gate will also be locked if there's an imminent threat of a "traveller" incursion. An emergency phone number is available in the Emergency Contact Details section of DPN for those inadvertently locked in or out.

Dorney Common Speed Limit Reduction

Our proposal to Bucks Council for the reduction from 60mph to 40mph can be found on the DPC website under the Local Projects tab. Our primary rationale is to stop the slaughter of cows and calves, of which there have been more than 30 fatalities over the last 15 years. Awaiting response.

Parish Litter Picking:

Another litter picking event is planned in early October. Date will be announced in the September edition of DPN and on the DPC website shortly

Dorney Village Hall:

Following residents' requests, two disabled car parking spaces have been allocated at the Village Hall, on the right hand side near the door.

Orchard Herbs Appeal Hearing in early September: DPC will attend and will appear as a witness supporting the Enforcement Notice.

NEXT DPC MEETING
Wednesday
16th July
7.30pm at
Dorney School.

Rest of 2024 Meetings will be held on the third Tuesday in September, & November.

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DHS Visits a Rain Swept Stonor Park



In May or June each year, Dorney Horticultural Society traditionally visits a country garden. The visits are enormously enjoyable, and, let's be honest, a key ingredient in all the fun is tea and cake. This year, in early June, tea was taken in the distinctive surroundings of a Hall dating from the 13th century – 'The Pantry'.

Yes, our visit to Stonor did emphasise the historical over the horticultural. This was because our trip was in that horrid early summer cold spell, and it rained heavily for good measure, and by way of compensation, the conducted tour of the house at Stonor Park, not far from Henley, was just so interesting.

We did appreciate the extraordinary way the House nestled in the lee of the Chilterns, which meant that visitors stepped out of the first floor back door to cross the lawn. Maybe the Italianate Pleasure Garden and the Old Kitchen Garden must await another visit, but at the start of the tour our brilliant guide introduced us to Stonor's own Stone Circle, formed from Ice Age boulders.



The Stonor family, in more recent times taking the name the Camoys, have one very distinct identity. From the time of Henry VIII, the occupants of Stonor Park have been unyielding in their adherence to their Catholic faith. After Emancipation in the 19th century, their status may be somewhat restored but their struggles over several centuries created the ethos of this wonderful place. Whether it was the wonders of the unique Chapel of the Holy Trinity, with its art works by the likes of John Piper, the links to the martyred Edmund Campion or the game our guide taught us to spot the coded reference to their faith hidden away in family portraits, this was a visit that will be long remembered by our damp little band of gardeners.

Peter Bowman

DORNEY AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



The Sixty-ninth ANNUAL SHOW



Saturday 31st August 2024

In

DORNEY VILLAGE HALL

Everyone Welcome - Free Entry

Special Children's Section

Parents and Grandparents get the kids involved!

Exhibits registration: 10:00am to 11:30am

Exhibitors excluded at 11:30am

Exhibition opens to all at 2:15pm

Prizes presented at 2:30pm

DHS in Oxford June 2024



Oxford Botanic Garden is a walled oasis of tranquillity just off the busy 'High' opposite Magdalen College. A bus arrived outside on a beautiful June morning and 23 members of Dorney Horticultural Society got off expecting a day of wonders. We weren't disappointed.

The visitor finds at least three different aspects to the Garden. These were reflected in the tours on offer. We were so fortunate in having tour guides pre-arranged to enrich the experience. There were the medical origins implied in the founding of the garden in 1621 as a 'physic' garden. There was a stern scientific aspect focused on 'evolutionary genetics and taxonomic diversity' and enshrined in a fascinating (and cool) herbarium based on the work of Linnaeus, the founding father of botany. Finally, the Walled Garden and the Lower Garden allowed guide Peter to share gardening tips as we looked at giant lillies as inspired Monet and the country's largest herbaceous border.



Added to all that, the gardens are ideal for quiet walks and happy picnics (which were enjoyed), the delicious coffee and ice cream on sale were most welcome, views of Christchurch Meadows were savoured, and much fun was had in the seven tropical glasshouses cultivating plants from around the world. I think most of us intend to return.

For more pictures see the DHS website and Facebook pages

Peter Bowman



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Which Party?



With the upcoming General Election and finishing A-levels, there are plenty of parties to be thinking about in my world this summer! I have had a break from writing for DPN to focus on my academic work, but now I am back, and I have chosen an interesting and timely topic to write about, the General Election (not the Euros).

On the 4th of July, the 2024 election consists of 4,515 candidates who have been nominated to stand, which tops the standing record of 4,150 in

2010. Politics and individuals' preferred party can be a very sensitive topic, as people are entitled to their own views, and to avoid any conflicts or reactions, I will not be expressing any views, more talking about the younger person's perspective on the process and various parties reaching various age groups. With a report last year revealing that nearly 40% of 18- and 19-year-olds had not yet registered to vote, it becomes increasingly important for the parties and their Leaders to give young people a reason and the motivation to register and vote.

Annoyingly, I have just missed the deadline to vote this year, which is unfortunate as most people thought that it would be in November, and I was looking forward to contributing. As a younger person, I am a little less educated on politics (it is not a topic that is widely covered in the education system, unless you take Politics as a subject), but as a reader of the news, (by that I mean having the BBC News App and other social media platforms), and being aware of what is happening, I have gathered some knowledge as, although younger and still unable to vote, I believe it is key to understand the basics of politics to understand the society we live in and the changes that are happening. It is also a good conversation starter at social events, the other type of party I referred to at the start of the article.

So, what are young people looking for in their political party, and how do we shape our opinions? A lot of our early preference likely mirrors our parents' opinion, if they are open to share it. Or how the government and its policies play a factor in our daily lives, how dependent we may be on some of the policies the leaders speak so passionately about (not potholes). Some lasting impressions are likely to include the green benches of parliament where (in most cases) grown men just seem to be arguing against each other, while their friends laugh at what the other side says - a behaviour that, if carried out at school, would instantly result in a form of punishment or exclusion. Similarly, when interviewed politicians never really give the direct answer to the question and this just seems to be accepted, though that has never been my or my brother's experience when being asked something by our parents.

So, I think the youngest set of voters, the 18- to 19-year-olds, may be too young to fully understand or appreciate the difference between NHS cuts and high earning tax levels and how that will impact them for the next 4 years (at least). But they do want to respect the Leader who represents us in front of the rest of the world. They need someone they want to trust to protect the source of social resources we have been largely protected from until this point but will increasingly need to understand better.

It is a pretty impossible task to be something to everyone or to get everything right and I think many people in this country (indeed the world) can be unforgiving. People naturally gravitate towards people with similar opinions or to people who can help them - it is just understanding what each of us want to prioritise from our daily lives & values and lean towards a government that looks likely to protect that the most.

Meanwhile as I don't get to vote this time, I am prioritising what party to go to next this summer.

PS. Despite not knowing everything about politics, I do know that it is really important to use your vote, something that people sacrificed a lot to allow us to be able to do.

Laila Marples



The Studios School of Performing Arts

Classes 2024/2025

Thursdays-

The Teen Studio

5:45pm-7pm

Ages 13-18

The Adult Studio

7pm-8:30pm

Saturdays-

The Vocal Studio

9am-10am

The Studios SOPA

9:30 - 12:30

Ages 5 - 16 years .

(come for 1.2 or 3 hours the choice is yours!)

Dorney Village Hall , SL6 0DS

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Nature Notes

"Thiiiiiiiiiiiiings can only get BETTER!" Well, that was a blast from the nineties past, wasn't it? Those halcyon pre-internet days when people didn't sit staring at their phones all day and play loud TikTok videos on trains (really gets my goat that one). I did enjoy hearing it again and it made me feel quite nostalgic I must say. I was at University in Aberdeen when D:Ream originally released that song so have a lot of good memories from that time. We preferred the seven minute long '12" D:Reamix' which you can find on Spotify and YouTube. Oh to be young again with nothing to do but spend endless hours obsessing over the best version of your favourite tunes!

But hearing it also made me reflect that things have not really got better in some regards, certainly not for nature in this country. Politics has never been overly concerned with the environment - it doesn't really seem to be a vote winner – and it is noticeable that nature recovery does not seem to be a priority for the political parties (or the media) in this general election, except for the Greens who do feature it in their manifesto:

<https://greenparty.org.uk/about/our-manifesto/bringing-nature-back-to-life/>

There is a fair bit on "clean" energy policy elsewhere, but very little on increasing biodiversity, encouraging nature friendly farming or species reintroduction. There is some talk of creating new National Parks, but I fear these will be sheep-wrecked grass deserts like the Peak and Lake District or vast tracks of the Scottish Highlands that look stunning but are filled with nothing but grass, deer, grouse and sheep. This is not wilderness.

As always though, I feel fortunate that we do have so much nature surrounding us in Dorney. I am sure regular readers will be dying to hear how this year's bat counts are going. I often (well, not *often*) get asked for bat updates as I walk down the street. Well OK, Rob McDairmid asked me once. Anyway, as of last month our running total for the soprano pipistrelle maternity roost was at fifty-seven. My mum was down visiting a couple of weeks ago and she offered to do the bat count as I was out for the evening. When I saw her the next morning, she looked quite worried. Was anything wrong, I enquired. "Two hundred and thirty-eight", came her reply. I was not quite wide awake and now thoroughly confused. Two hundred and thirty-eight what? "Bats", she stated quite clearly. I won't write my actual response, which was short but most definitely unprintable. I shared this exciting breaking news with my wife who just shook her head, looked up at the roost and requested quite firmly, "please just clean all the [*something else unprintable*] bat poo off the window".

After rather awkwardly cleaning the bat mess off said first floor window with my specially bought telescopic cleaner, I then did a corroborating bat count a week later but "only" saw one hundred and ninety-eight. Noticeably no boy bats emerged from the bat boxes. Perhaps they were off flirting with another maternity roost, the wee scallywags. Helen the bat lady says they can move around depending on conditions. However, the maternity roost baby bats are still not ready to fly yet, so it's very likely that we get another boost in numbers in the next month. As ever I will keep you posted on these exciting developments.



Feeding time at the zoo



Lurking predator



Almost ready to fly!

The excitement around the huge bat counts was equalled if not surpassed by the long-anticipated trail cam footage of the little owlets finally emerging. The parents have been very busy catching rodents and worms etc to feed the young uns up and try and tempt them out to fledge. We started to see their wee heads bobbing up and down in the box entrance and there are at least two, possibly three. Our excitement turned to vague panic as a magnificent looking barn owl started stalking the box, but a friend reassured us that the chicks were *probably* now too big to be taken by the barn owl. I tried to put the dark thoughts of a limp little owl chick hanging from the mighty barn owl's beak from my mind. Everything seemed to be okay though and we soon had footage of a strong and healthy-looking chick emerging from the box and calling to its parents. According to my neighbour Theo's contact at the BTO little owls are declining in Bucks so it is heartening to see them breeding successfully here. As always, I firmly believe the rewilded Thames Water field has provided excellent habitat cover and forage for them. Would love to see more local landowners giving over more of their land to do the same.

And finally, as announced in last month's issue, I'm sure there is great anticipation for an update on how my career as a wannabe pop star is going. Well, I don't think Tay Tay will be looking over her shoulder in my direction, but I had a record 4,500 daily streams on Spotify for my football song "We Are The Tartan Army" in the pre-game excitement before taking on Germany in Munich, only to see us crash to a terrible, humbling defeat to what looks like a very good German team. Germany's Rudiger scored an own goal for us which rather embarrassingly makes him joint top scorer for Scotland in tournament football for the past 25 years. Nevertheless, the eternal hopes of the Tartan Army seem to be naively unlimited so perhaps we will get more engagement over the next two games. Sadly, I don't think I will be giving up the day job anytime soon on my 0.03p Spotify royalties. Good luck to both England and Scotland as the tournament progresses.

Andrew Oliver



The owls I've been observing are part of a classic British hedgerow wildlife habitat. They are just a small part of this bustling ecosystem and, although this is on part of Dorney's rural farmland, our garden hedges are no different. With that in mind I asked Olly's permission to hijack this column to remind caring members of the community of the RSPB advice re cutting our hedges in Spring/Summer:

"We recommend waiting until after the main nesting season (March-September) as the possibility of birds nesting is very high"

Out of interest, it is actually a criminal offence to do so on protected or agricultural land under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. For our gardens the legal obligation doesn't apply, and it's down to our moral conscience. The

advice goes on to acknowledge that if a hedge must be cut for some reason then good practice would be to observe for a few days to see if there is any wildlife that may be affected."

Theo Alexander

Dorney Playground Management Committee

are pleased to invite **YOU** to our

Summer Party

on

Tuesday 9th July 15.30 – 18.00

at

Dorney Playground, Trumper's Field

As part of Dorney Playground's fund-raising activities, we are having a summer party.

The star of the show will be **Basil and Crew mobile farm**. As they say on their webpage:

It's an exciting opportunity for both children and adults to gradually build their confidence around our friendly farm animals. During your visit, you might find yourself feeding, grooming, or even walking a goat alongside Basil and his assortment of furry and feathered companions.

The farm will have:

Donkey, Shetland pony, goats, lambs, ducks, chickens, rabbits and guinea pigs

There will be lots of other things to do including tombola, face painting, sparkly tattoos, zap the rat and (weather permitting) a wet area to cool off with water pistols.

There will be burgers and hot dogs and drinks for children and adults to purchase.

All money raised will go towards the cost of a fence around the playground.

Tickets cost £10 a child.

Accompanying adults and accompanying preschool children are free.

Tickets are available from Dorney Playground tuck shop – normally open between 3.15 and 16.00 on school days.

However, if you can't get to the tuck shop, you can always do a bank transfer to

Dorney Playground Management Group

Sort code: 20-03-84

Account: 33288889

Put your name as the reference and we will have your arm bands ready and waiting on the day.

You are all welcome

And of course – if you can help for an hour or so on the day, please do contact us.

Dorney Playground Management Committee

Playground4Dorney@gmail.com

07737053409

Summer Farm Event

9th July 330pm – 6pm



Come along and feed the animals, play some games, win prizes!!

£10 Per child

(accompanying adults and pre-school siblings **FREE**)

**Tickets available from Dorney Tuckshop or
Collection Burnham**

BBQ, Bar, Tombola, Face Painting....

**All profits will go towards fundraising for the new
fence around the play area**

A PINCH OF SALT ON DORNEY COMMON

*'If the wicked flourish and the fittest survive, nature must be the god of rascals'.
George Bernard Shaw*

Hot weather, brown lawn. Sums up the second half of June, where we rise early to drench our border plants in a cool soak and deadhead the brown wilt of our roses. Only dandelion stalks flourish, standing like mini soldiers on our grass wearing their yellow sunbonnets.

This month, whilst contemplating the root rot from previous prevalent rain, we now have a blast of blistering heat, but whilst watering in the garden, noticed something very peculiar with my Tree Fern. I have two in a minor clump, which have thrived well with the constant moisture provided by yours truly a dedicated garden servant. The taller Tree Fern, now well over 6 foot in height, was not faring as well as his shorter companion.

On closer inspection, it rather caught my breath, there was an ugly sinister growth on the bark that made we quite glad I was not eating a sandwich at the time. It looked like rotting flesh and had a black trail of goo tracking down the spiny bark. What was this?



Using my trusty gardening app, 'Picture This' this growth appeared to be a Stalked Puffball, part of the family of *Calostomaceae*. Worryingly, beneath this was a red warning triangle with an exclamation mark, which said 'CAN NOT be used as basis for EATING or TOUCHING ANY MUSHROOM'. Reading more about this family of fungi, it is in the order of *Boletales*, containing several genera of unusual fungi, and found growing naturally in the Americas and Far East. How did it get here?

The answer is, (thank you App), it travels by wind, water or animals. Is this what came down in that long deluge of rain we had recently experienced?

Ignorance is not bliss. Whilst cooking with the blare of Aga heat melting my forehead and curling my lashes, I seasoned a pot of food with some Camargue salt, paused for thought, then headed out into the garden to give my unwelcome guest a pinch of it too. Somehow, images of shrinking slugs liquidised in brine shot through my mind. Returning to the cooking pot, somehow my appetite had somewhat diminished. Not much happened at first, then several days later the fungi from outer space, turned a darker shade of pale and then slightly black, whilst the exuding goo continued to make a murky path down the trunk.

A few days later, I set off to Sainsbury's car park, to meet my fellow Dorney Horticultural chums (23 of us armed with water bottles, straw hats and factor 50), on a crazy hottest day of the year (30 degrees), on a coach trip to visit the University of Oxford's Botanic Garden, situated opposite Oxford's Magdalen College.

This 130-acre ancient garden combines world-class science, and 400 years of history and horticultural knowledge in a single space. We were allocated three guides and could choose our destination choice of medicinal plants, gardening enthusiasts or a historical

tour. Of course, I chose Peter, who was the gardening specialist, as I had an ulterior motive... but I had to pick my moment.

The spectacular gardens were full of interest, colour and artistic depth, and the guide so very knowledgeable and passionate, engaged us with his cheerful personality and encyclopaedic delivery of all eleventy-eight plant questions asked. On inspection of a very pretty border full of dramatic Angelica stalks, he mentioned that growing beneath, were clusters of Ivy Broomrape, (*Orobanche hederæ*) and were a terrible garden pest. Known within the gardening world as an obligate parasite, it did harm to the roots of our plants and could cause contact dermatitis. An interesting fact is that Broomrape does not have any chlorophyll, and thus is totally dependent on its host.

Parasite... this was the moment. Piping up that I may have a parasite in my garden, whipped out my iPhone to show Peter my picture. I knew it wasn't good when his eyes made a cartoon horror shape, and further exclaimed he had never seen such a thing before. However, one of our DDHS ladies sneaked a look and told me to contact the RHS for advice. Brilliant idea!

After our tour, we visited the hot houses, which not only felt way more than the outdoor temperature of 30 degrees but resembled a steamy sauna. Trudging along with soaked damp clothes and heavy feet, we were soon enlivened with what was contained within. We filed through five or more, energised by the magnitude of exhibits. Huge 2-foot-wide water lilies, carnivorous and pitcher plants, and exotic blossoms amongst many other fascinations.

Later collapsing under a shady tree, we bought ice creams and chilled drinks to cool our core. What a wonderful day! I would like to return in the winter with my sketch pad, maybe go on the medical plants tour, but hopefully sit under the tree in my winter coat with a hot chocolate watching the Oxford punts slip by. Watch out on our website or Facebook page for further adventures to other wonderful gardens!



Meanwhile, Dorney remains our vibrant home, surrounded by beauty that we find by the Thames, on our Common and along the Jubilee River. It is very hard to believe the proximity of our position to major landmarks such as our Capital city and Heathrow, that still retain an oasis of joy, where the natural nature of summer brings us medicine for our soul.

Update: while I wait for a response from the RHS, the Tree Fern and its offending appendage now seem to have stabilised, the invading fungi hardened, totally blackened and dry.

'The art of healing comes from nature, not from the physician. Therefore, the physician must start from nature, with an open mind'.
Paracelsus

Kristina Perkins

D Day

The weather was a dull and cold summer's day as I walked through Hitcham graveyard to bell ringing practice with Dorney ringers. We ringers aren't proud. We'll ring anywhere and Dorney and Hitcham are very close in every sense.

Suddenly a shaft of sunlight lit up a small gravestone Biblical style and out of curiosity I took a look. 'Private 180442 A. Beesley of the Machine Gun Corps aged 25 died on 18th November 1918' and I thought, "Poor lad. After all that, and he dies in 1918." I thought of my sons when they were twenty-five, full of life, hope and vigour; not dying in mud-soaked horror as the finest each side had to offer tried to kill each other at the behest of failed politicians slaughtering with the best technology of the time.

After practice, I pointed it out to a colleague.

"The war was over on the 11th. He died a week later," he said sombrely.

It was the week of the D Day commemoration, and history had repeated itself all over again as our finest, with courage I can't begin to imagine, ran into the hail of mechanised slaughter put down by Germany's finest, again all because of awful decisions made earlier since, perhaps, 1918.

For some survivors, it was a life sentence of hospitals, prosthetic limbs, years of plastic surgery rebuilding smashed burnt faces and patiently treating mental scars and anger seared into the minds of these youngsters who had seen and done the unspeakable.

"What a waste," I ponder until I recall, reminded by horrific jerky black and white images, that it was all so necessary in 1939 to stop the murder of whole races as an industrial process.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for the sacrifices you made to provide most of us with a very satisfactory safe life.

This all coincided with a general election, and while political views are not for these pages, by the time you read this, it will all have been decided.

My dear reader, I hope we chose wisely, and for those who took the view that it was all too much trouble, just remember 19-year-old uniformed bodies rolling in the surf on a Normandy beach.

While on the subject of courage, you may recall that the lovely Cheryl and I lost all three of our cats in a year and decided that either we sell up and move to a quieter road, leaving our pretty bungalow, lovely neighbours and very local shops or wave farewell to the serenity and comfort cats begrudgingly provide.

The upside of our decision is that we now seemingly have more birds than Burnham Beeches that visit, devour our offerings at an alarming rate and, while the outcome

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of this activity needs a lot of clearing up, they are wonderful; particularly a pair of blue tits raising their young in a bird box made from left over plywood. I gazed in quiet reflection and thanks for all the above when this serenity was marred by a pair of hectoring magpies that had nested in a tall tree nearby to harass our new friends in their sanctuary, and while I accept that they are all God's creatures, I take the view that magpies are the bullies of the bird world, and my support, backed up by clapping hands and much shooing, is most definitely on the side of their smaller victims.

A few days later in my sanctuary watching and waiting for our chicks to appear blinking into the bright sunshine, a whooshing above lifted my eyes to a stunning bird of prey, perhaps a buzzard, gliding at frightening speed ten feet above the ground trying to escape from a furious squawking magpie snapping at the wings of the bird ten times its size.

The battle continued for ten to fifteen minutes, the buzzard unable to lose the magpie, occasionally flying off only to return later to glide lazily over the magpie's nest whereupon one or both parents would fly up and chase it off once more, the big bird lazily circling while the tiny (by comparison) magpies pounded their wings as they snapped at the huge tail and wings.

Eventually, the magpies won, and I raised my beer to them in a salute to their courage in protecting all they held dear; exactly like those brave youngsters of eighty years ago.

I'll leave you to work out any connection.

Mrs. Quincey and I had occasion to visit Boveney Church on a recent wonderful cycle ride along our side of the Thames. It was completely open, but clearly redundant, although some good souls from the Friends of St. Mary Magdalene, Boveney cut the grass, lock and unlock it and provide the necessary TLC. We stopped in quiet contemplation; I removed my cycle helmet in His presence that was clearly there. A tall blonde man appeared alone. He said, like us, he was visiting this place of his youth where he used to worship with his parents.

He walked to the bare altar and disappeared from view.

Quite unexpectedly, out of the gloom, a honky tonk piano was knocking out hymns to an empty congregation save for us, and for a moment, the years rushed away.

Enjoy the summer.

Stay safe.

Mike Quincey

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 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:



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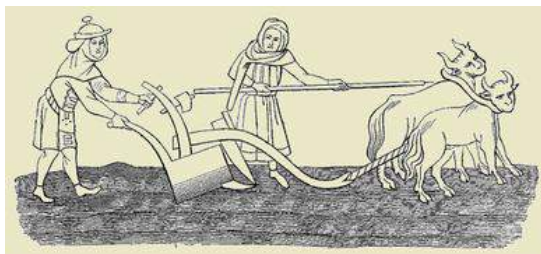
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A GLIMPSE OF DORNEY IN THE 1300s

Throughout the 1300s England was ruled by a succession of Plantagenet kings. This was a period of relative stability and peace. Although two of the kings were deposed and died imprisoned, there was no civil war, and the Hundred Years War was far away in France. But between 1315 and 1322 there was a Great Famine, when prolonged heavy rain and cold weather caused crops to fail, and 10% to 15% of the population died. Then in 1348/9, the Black Death killed around a third of the population and was followed by further epidemics of plague in the 1360s. The reduction in the labour force, particularly after the Black Death, was one factor behind the gradual breakdown of the old feudal system under which most people were tied to the manor they lived in, and the requirement to provide services by working for the lord was replaced by cash payments.

In Dorney, life revolved around farming. There were three or four large open fields where people owned or rented strips growing the same crops as their neighbours. Hay meadows ran alongside the streams, passing through the arable fields. Common pasture was available on Dorney Green (Dorney Common) and there were commons also at Lake End, West Town and Boveney. A detached portion of Dorney parish on the higher ground at Dorneywood provided woodland. The church of St James the Less had been built in the 12th century; the font where local babies were baptised dates from the same time. Much of the fabric of the medieval church remains today, but the walls would have been covered with paintings and the chancel separated from the nave by a rood screen, of which only traces survive. Nearby, the church at Boveney was also built in the 12th century and Burnham Abbey at Huntercombe had been founded in 1266.

At the beginning of the 1300s, the lord of the manor of Dorney was William Cave. He died in 1305 when his son and heir Nicholas was only 14. Nicholas could not inherit until he came of age, up to which time he was the ward of Adam de Braye who looked after his estate during this period. When Nicholas reached the age of 22, an enquiry called an "Inquisition post mortem" was called to make sure he really was old enough; there were of course no such things as birth certificates or even parish registers. Thirteen local men aged between 40 and 60 gave evidence that Nicholas was 22 at the last feast of the Purification and had been born in Dorney on that day in the 18th year of the reign of King Edward the king's father and baptised in Dorney church the following day. They remembered the year for various reasons – it was the year they got married, or their father died, or their son was born. Thomas Worthingpole knew it for the year he returned with his brother Richard from Gascony where they had been in the king's service; he had gone to William Cave's house and seen baby Nicholas in his cradle.



This example of a document from 1312 highlights several features of those times. Surnames were only just solidifying and people were identified in various ways. The men giving evidence included Richard atte Lente (as in Lent Rise), John of Burnham and John of Dorney, and they spoke of Walter the son of Walter the son of Robert of Dorney, who was the same age as Nicholas Cave. In other documents we find Nicholas, son of Walter the blacksmith of Dorney, Robert of Brutewell (Britwell), Henry the fisher of Boveney and Richard the merchant of Dorney. As the century progressed, it became more usual to develop a surname, although even in 1364 the vicar of Dorney was described as William of Shiplake, because that is where he came from.

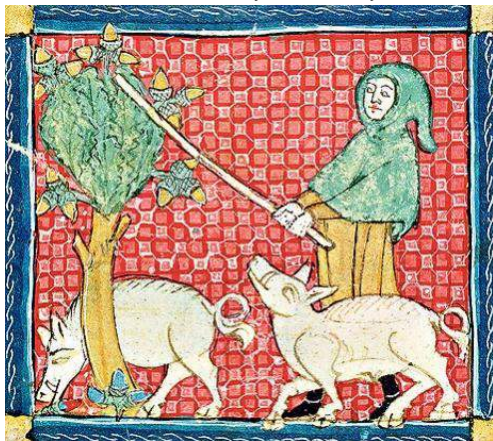
People also recorded dates differently from the way we do today. It was common in official documents for many centuries after 1300 to define the year by the regnal year – the number of years the current or a previous monarch had been on the throne. King Edward I became king in

November 1272 so the 18th year of his reign began in November 1289. Edward had visited Gascony – a region of France which he owned, south of Bordeaux – in 1286 and returned in 1289. The feast of the Purification, or Candlemas, was celebrated on 2 February, so that pinpoints Nicholas Cave's date of birth – 2 February 1289 as it was then, when the year began on 25 March rather than 1 January. Just about every day could be associated with a saint; Dorney documents name Monday next before St Matthew the Apostle, the feast of St Thomas the Martyr, the feast of St Peter ad Vincula, Saturday next before St Perpetua the Virgin and so on. It was a different way identifying a date, but it worked fine for our 14th century forebears.

Nicholas Cave continued as lord of the manor of Dorney well into the middle of the century. In 1348, he was sued for debt in the court of Chancery by William de Evesham. We don't know for certain who this William was, but a man of the same name was buying houses in St Clement Dane in London at this time. Nicholas owed £112, equivalent to over £100,000 today. At the request of the court, the sheriff of Buckinghamshire made a valuation of Nicholas' estate in October 1349. In Dorney, he owned the manor house with its garden, 244 acres of arable land, 17½ acres of mowable land and 200 acres of woodland (this would have been at Dorneywood) and heath which were common land. He also had 11 acres of mowable land in Hitcham and received rents from free men in Dorney. The total annual value of his estate came to £18 16s. 6d.

By 1373, Dorney manor had passed to Nicholas Newnham who was succeeded by John Newnham. John also found himself pursued for debt, in 1395. These debts were owed to London traders, one for 18 marks and another for 40 marks. A mark was two thirds of a pound sterling, so John owed just under £39 – around £40,000 in today's money. John was also taken to court by the abbess of Burnham Abbey. The abbey was entitled to receive the rectorial tithes from Dorney,

which in those days were given in actual produce rather than cash. John Newnham seized the abbess's carts loaded with produce and her horses and carried them off to his manor house.



It was not just the lords of the manor who left traces of their lives in Dorney. Records of land transactions in particular include many names of people who lived and worked there. We have already met Thomas Worthingpole, born about 1260, who served the king in France. Thomas was married to Christine and had a daughter Alice and a son Simon, who married

Agatha. The Worthingpoles owned land and houses in Dorney and Thomas was able to provide for his married daughter and for his wife after he died. Rather sweetly, the rent for

the few acres in the strips on the open fields which Thomas granted to Alice and her husband was a rose. Later generations of the family were still in Dorney in 1384. The name Worthingpole is very unusual; could it be a corruption of the place name Warrnyngpole noted in Dorney in a deed of 1386, or maybe the place was named after the family, as often happened.

Another Dorney family who owned houses and land was the Fitzwalters, who appeared in the mid-1300s and may have come from Cippenham. Like others, they held land in Boveney and Burnham as well as Dorney. Hitcham, Cippenham, Eton Wick and Eton were other places where Dorney farmers acquired land. The Fitzwalter family seem to have sold their remaining property to Eton College in 1511.

The earliest Dorney manor court roll, dating from 1514, mentions these earlier owners in identifying land held by current villagers. A farm and land formerly owned by William Fitzwalter and

some land once held by Simon Worthingpole were described as “free land”, while a farm once owned by John Worthingpole was held by “knight service”. Free land equates to freehold, for which only minimal payments were due to the manor, while “knight service” was probably copyhold tenure, involving more payments and less freedom. An individual could and did hold both types of land and could also rent it out to a sub-tenant.

Farms, houses, cottages and land, even parts of gardens, were constantly being traded. A significant buyer of property from 1365 was Thomas Comberton and his wife Margaret. Over a period of 25 years, they bought up small and big parcels of land from various owners, including houses and a farm called Bygauntes. This may have been named for Robert Bygaunt, who had been killed by Richard Cave, who was pardoned for the death in 1358, claiming self-defence.

A frequent name throughout the 14th century documents for Dorney was Lovell. The Lovells lived in Boveney where in 1246 Henry Lovell, the king’s cook, was given a farm with 10 acres which he already rented in Boveney. Over time, this became the manor of Boveney, and the family also owned West Town. The last Lovell in Boveney was Richard who died in 1479, leaving two small daughters, Agatha and Joan, and Boveney was sold.

Many other names pass through the records – Simon Saffrey and his son Richard, the Dents who had a little farm with 6 acres, Richard Kenebald and his wife Magota and son William, Ralph Elys who left his cottage to his daughter Margery, Robert and Matilda atte Sawegere who had a cottage; the list could go on.



These people, who lived in our village so long ago, knew the same major landmarks that we know today. To identify the location of a piece of land, they referred to the river Thames, to the common and the church. Some field names are still familiar to us. South Field near the common is remembered in the name of Southfield Close, and North Field has a house named after it. West Field may well be what was later called Thames Field, as it was also linked to Oakley on the opposite bank of the Thames.

These open arable fields were divided into furlongs, designed originally to be the length of furrow which a team of oxen could plough without resting. The furlongs, which might also be given names, contained groups of strips which were individually owned or rented but which all grew the same crop (or remained fallow) at the same time. Typically, a farmer would have strips in several different places. When these strips changed hands, other names were used, reflecting specific local characteristics. Twamthorne would have been either two thorn trees or one that was split. Tordeland was where the dung was spread. Foxhurst denoted a place where foxes lived. Swetelonde was a fertile plot. Middelslade referred to low lying or marshy ground. Wythemed was where willow trees grew. Parkfere probably references the former deer park in neighbouring Cippenham, which had become a royal stud farm by the mid-1300s. These specific landmarks are no longer recognisable, but the features they describe mostly still exist in today’s landscape. The echoes of these people’s lives remain in the church where they were baptised and married, the churchyard where they were buried and the fields and paths they trod as we do today.

Virginia Silvester

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Sunday 14th July 10-4pm



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DORNEY SCHOOL

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News from Dorney School

Summer is always the busiest term with so much to do, learn and enjoy. As the weather gets warmer, there is always the pull of the outdoors.



Pupils in multiple classes enjoyed a whole day at the local Cliveden Estate enjoying many fun adventures.



The children in year 1 and Reception did a fantastic assembly displaying the poems they have learnt from The Poetry Basket and Makaton they have learnt in class.

Day of Welcome

The children enjoyed participating in a national webinar where the author of the book **Bobble** read their book. This book was inspired and produced by Asylum Speakers, an organisation providing a platform for people to share their lived experience of displacement. Asylum Speakers builds awareness, education and empathy through storytelling. **We highly recommend this book to everyone.**

HSBC workshops



Children from Year 2 onwards attended workshops organised by HSBC on different aspects of savings, online fraud, and how banking works. The workshops tie very well to Maths, learning about money, and place value.

Come and see us in action, or join us on Friday 5th July from 3.15pm onwards for our annual summer fayre. So much to see and experience. **Drop us an email office@dorneyschool.co.uk**



DORNEY SCHOOL

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How I found my fear of flying – and lost it!



True story.

If you get nervous flying from Heathrow Airport (or know someone who is) you might be interested to read this...or you might just be curious about how as a therapist, I cured myself of my fear of flying.

It all started when I missed my flight back to the UK when I was 18. I lived in the airport for two days sleeping on the floor and all our luggage had gone

back to Manchester without us (as it did back then).

A kind airport policeman took pity on my friend and I and bought us a meal while we grappled with the difficulties of finding another charter flight in peak holiday season.

We had been so proud of having a last swim, leaving the beach, dressed in shorts and bikinis, and managing to get 2 ferries and a train back to Athens airport in time for our flight home and our second year at university.

But as 18-year-old girls tend to do, we got distracted by a group of off-duty pilots flirting with us. So, we hadn't even reached the main departure lounge when a check in assistant pointed out our flight leaving above our heads and my friend burst into hysterical tears. We had a few coins to phone our desperate parents and let them know the bad news.

After two days of stress, sleeping on the floor, being kicked and woken and treated as vagabonds we appealed to the check in desk, badgering them yet again. (We must have been quite smelly having come straight out of the sea two days ago).

We were frantic to get back to university for the start of Fresher's Week where we were volunteer helpers. I saw the pilot behind the desk and said to my friend 'cry, just cry!' There and then we had more hysterics in front of the pilot who insisted on us flying back on the next plane. I actually flew in the cockpit with the pilots and have a photo included to prove it. My friend sat in the jump seats with the stewardesses. None of that would be allowed now!

We were so relieved (as were our parents) but that was just the start of developing my fear of flying. It's what's known as the ISE - the 'initial sensitising experience' for a phobia. The first thing you recall about your fear.

Compounding the fear

The next thing is that the initial fear gets compounded. Mine developed with a short and very bumpy flight to Edinburgh where the tea and coffee was flying out of our hands as it was so turbulent. (Now, I quite enjoy turbulence amazingly).

Then I took a business flight to the USA when we lost one of the engines over Ireland. To be honest I might not have noticed had the American pilot not said we were boldly carrying on.

He said in typical gung-ho cowboy style that this was 'a normal situation...er, well maybe it is abnormal... but hey, we practice this type of thing all the time in simulators so we're carrying on!'

My heart dropped into my stomach as I realised these problems do happen. However, my colleagues were all strangely confident that we could fly on even one or two engines if necessary.

This was the second episode that compounded my fear.

Interestingly I wasn't really aware of this until it started to affect me going to the airport and catching, or rather missing, flights. I live so near Heathrow, but I would avoid going and chat with friends as if I was 'oh, so relaxed' about my upcoming flight. And then promptly miss it!

I often found myself in long queues at the airport frantic about where I needed to be.

On one occasion I actually got compensated for inadvertently missing a flight. Instead of being on my way to Zanzibar I spent the evening in a curry house in Twickenham!

On another trip I gratefully received compensation to be bumped and take a flight the next day ...I could avoid flying for another day and get £150 quid and a free hotel stay too!

When I finally got on the long flight to Zanzibar where I was alone, I was petrified of missing connections, so I asked BA for the 'special service' for vulnerable passengers. Normally it's used for old, infirm people and children, when I was in my early 30s! Surprisingly, I got the service, but it didn't help much...I never saw the words Zanzibar on the departure boards...only Casablanca and Blantyre which made me fear I was on my way back to Scotland! But I made it.

I was now even becoming afraid of ***going to the airport, being in the airport ...as well as flying itself!***

I was constantly watchful of the signs and departure times when I was at the airport.

It was time to act.

Overcoming the fears

At this time, I'd started learning how to be a therapist with various techniques including NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programming), CBT (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy) and hypnotherapy.

It meant that I was able to practice on myself and learn how to overcome my own fears. I did this via simple tools with complex names. Changing the 'VAKOG sub modalities of my ISE' which in simple terms means altering the powerful memories installed by the initial experience. The picture in my mind was bright and vivid so I learnt how to tone it down, the noise volume was high so I found I could lower it and do the same with the other senses.

I also learnt fast phobia cures, relaxation with hypnotherapy, the power of positive suggestion and how to change the negative language in my head. I could become more logical and rational like those colleagues who had been fine about flying on one or two engines.

And so, slowly I learnt how to fly again. It took time but as I gained confidence and learnt new techniques and coping strategies, I was able to fly comfortably and safely. I even flew to Australia on my own which was probably the final step in curing myself.

Now I am fine flying and even though glitches happen with overbooked planes, cancelled flights and bad weather I know I'll be OK.

But I still keep a watchful eye to make sure I never miss a flight again!

Karen Kimberley

[Karen Kimberley - Maidenhead - Life Coach Directory \(lifecoach-directory.org.uk\)](http://lifecoach-directory.org.uk)

An expanded version of this article is to be published in the August edition of Top Sante magazine.

Lent Rise and Dorney Beavers' Adventures at Dorney Playground





On Monday 10th June, the Lent Rise & Dorney Beaver colony embarked on a community-focused adventure at Dorney Playground. Their mission? To carry out a litter pick as part of their Community badge requirements. But that wasn't all – these enthusiastic and energetic Beavers also worked toward their Cyclist badge, taking full advantage of the playground's excellent facilities under the supervision of a British Triathlon coach. Keeping with the cycling theme, they were also thrilled to meet a London Ambulance Service cycle paramedic who explained their role and demonstrated the equipment they use when responding to emergencies in the nation's capital.

The Dorney playground committee opened the tuck shop, providing welcome snacks for the young environmentalists and their parents who stayed to watch or assist with the activities – hot dogs in particular proved a popular choice! One of the Beaver leaders commented enthusiastically on the playground and its facilities, being unaware of it despite having lived in the area for decades. He was particularly impressed that all the facilities are funded and maintained by a small team of volunteers from across the community as it does not receive any regular or ongoing funding from other sources and relies entirely on grants. Thanks to their efforts the Beavers provided some valuable support to keeping their community playground safe and enjoyable for everybody and demonstrated what can be achieved when local community groups work together – most importantly, however, they appeared to have fun doing so.

Isy Hall



DORNEY

PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Wednesday 15th May 2024 at The Boathouse, Dorney Lake

Extracts of Minutes for July/August 2024 Dorney Parish News. Full Minutes are available on DPC website

1 Report from County Council

County Cllrs. Paul Kelly & George Sandy

As independent democratic bodies parish councils work within defined financial constraints and represent your community at a truly local level. We recognise the parish council is a key connector between the unitary council and your residents to help improve services, foster greater community empowerment, and we remain committed to working with the parish councils.

It is important to note some of the current challenges that local government as a whole is facing. Setting this year's budget was the toughest on record with escalating costs and growing demand particularly in key areas, children and adult social care, supporting children with additional needs to get to and from school and providing accommodation for an increasing number of homeless people.

We are pleased with our record of prudent financial management because Buckinghamshire is not in the position of a growing number of Councils that are in serious financial trouble. Instead we are pleased to have produced a balanced budget for the next three years taking us to 2027 however this isn't without making some really difficult choices and we are having to find significant savings during that period and it's an incredibly tough context in which to operate.

It has also been a very wet winter, indeed one of the worst on record, and this is having a continuous, severely detrimental impact on our road network. We are all aware of the damage the weather has caused in terms of Potholes and flooding and our teams have been working around the clock to address these issues. It is a situation that is impacting upon all parts of the country. National media coverage recently reported the asphalt industry alliance citing Potholes to be at an eight year high with councils expected to fix about 2 million Potholes this year.

Although faced with ever decreasing resources we are doing everything we can to improve things. In Buckinghamshire we have 29 gangs responding to emergency callouts and repairing defects arising from last winter's weather. We have repaired 30,000 Potholes and anticipate that number will be even higher this year. We welcomed the news that over £8 billion of funds saved by cancellation of HS2 is now allocated to road repairs nationally but we know this is long-term and we won't see the impact of this investment in the immediate future. With better weather on the way this will allow us to fully embark on a program of longer term maintenance and improvements. In addition, we have also released an extra £5 million from our reserves to spend on the roads which will benefit our plane and patch program. We are currently prioritising this work based upon input from local councillors and area technicians.

Four key elements of our corporate priorities are: strengthening our communities, protecting the vulnerable, improving our environment, and increasing prosperity across the County.

In strengthening our local community it's important to recognise that due to boundary changes our electoral ward now comprises the three parishes of Burnham, Taplow and Dorney and will have three representatives on Buckinghamshire Council. There are 16 community boards across the county, ours is The Beeches. The CB Managers keep in regular contact with their County Cllrs and the Parish Councils. Each community board is allocated a budget to support local issues and improvements. During the year 2023/24 over 270 projects were funded across the county. It is commendable that each pound of community board funding from council tax also benefited with

an average £1.80m extra coming mainly from parish precepts and donations. £966,000 has been invested in replacing and improving seven children's play spaces, and Dorney's playground received a grant of £8,000 towards a super new snake swing.

Buckinghamshire does so much to protect the vulnerable in society. There isn't time to mention everything but a few that may interest and surprise you are; over 14,000 children in this relatively wealthy county are eligible for free school meals, £81,000 of support was given to the NHS to fund booster jabs for the elderly, accommodation provided to 25 Afghan Families threatened with persecution by the Taliban plus finding accommodation for 1800 guests who've fled the war in Ukraine, needy residents received support to stay warm, and we provided 'welcome spaces' in libraries and other community areas, 7500 financially vulnerable folk were supported with furniture, white goods, emergency food and fuel, and a 58,000 food vouchers were provided to eligible families during school holidays and so on.

A major step towards improving the environment and roads was made by launching a new Buckinghamshire Highways Service in conjunction with Balfour Beatty, and in recent months you may have already noticed the improved quality of 'plane and patching' and pothole repairs. A new 'Strict Permit' scheme has been introduced with 'zero tolerance' to ensure the utilities who dig up our roads are off-site on time and penalised if not.

Grants totalling £1.9M enabled 110 older buildings to be brought up to levels of acceptable thermal comfort. Over £300,000 has been allocated to replacement of the Jubilee River footbridge which is due to reopen next month thereby restoring this popular footpath from Burnham through Taplow to Maidenhead.

Initiatives to increase prosperity across Buckinghamshire include working with the parish councils and the Community Boards to encourage collaborative working: for example, on a quarterly basis the Chesham and Villages Community Board hosts a village forum where all the parishes are invited to come together to receive updates from the Board, listen to guest speakers (connected mainly with Council Services) and share updates from neighbouring parishes. These meetings are productive, as good practice is shared, and problems within parishes addressed and resolved.

To complement these meetings the Board Manager organises 'Parish Walkabouts' with the Chairmen to look at potential projects, any 'Parish pinch points', and generally catch-up with local matters. This format is also being used in other Board areas following discussions with the clerks and there is no reason whatsoever why Taplow, Dorney and Burnham should not do likewise.

The Planning and Enforcement Teams within the Council have established bi-weekly surgeries for Parish Councils, to provide a means for discussing planning/enforcement issues and for them to build up a better knowledge of Planning. Many Parish Councils have used these surgeries to build their knowledge of legislation, which can be difficult to understand. There have been a number of examples where officers have taken Parish Councils through the following policies to support them to confidently perform their roles; Cato-in Process which seeks to limit County's role in domestic and ethical government, Enforcement policies, Beechwood Special Areas of Conservation Policies.

Planning Surgeries have helped foster positive relationships with Officers and Councils and are a means to removing unnecessary communication often better dealt with by discussion.

Finally, as we move towards an election later this year there is one extremely important consideration for all our council tax-payers that stands above national politics and it is that your county's finances are sound, in good shape, and in good hands.

2 Community Updates

PCSO Angela O'Connell

Crime statistics cover Burnham/Farnham's/Taplow and the rolling 12-month figures from April 2023 – 2024 shows the following.

Residential Burglary; Dwellings

Overall to date South Bucks LPA has seen an increase of 1% in terms of all burglary offences when compared to 2022/23.

- All burglary offences: 883 offences this year compared to 873 in 22-23 – increase of 1%
- Dwellings: 719 offences this year compared to 672 in 22-23] - increase of 7%
- Unconnected buildings: 164 offences this year compared to 201 in 22-23 - decrease of 18%

QUARTERLY COMPARISON

There have been a total of 200 offences this quarter compared to 295 in the last quarter, a decrease of -32%.

YEARLY COMPARISON

There have been a total of 883 offences in 2023-24 [873 in 2022-23], 30 outcomes [37 in 2022-23] and a detection rate of 3% [4% in 2022-23];

Breaking this down further we had 30 burglaries in Burnham, 14 in Farnham and 12 in Taplow/Dorney between this period.

South Bucks LPA continues to be targeted in respect of residential burglary. We have seen a slight decrease in offences across High Wycombe and surrounding areas overall [-6%] but have seen a significant increase in offences to the east of the LPA, especially in Chalfont's, Missenden's, Burnham and Iver areas [+17%].

Geographically, the LPA is constantly vulnerable to cross-border offending due to the main arterial routes surrounding our borders. The LPA has by far the highest burglary offending rate in the force with 883 offences recorded, of these offences, 719 specifically relate to dwellings.

We have initiated a number of operations to combat burglary this year, Op Grotto was our winter burglary campaign and we currently have Op Guyet which is focused on a pattern of cross border offending. We continue to suffer from offences whereby offenders utilise cleaning fluids / chemicals in an effort to counter forensic opportunities and it is thought that the persons responsible for these offences regularly interchange vehicles and crews, often between offences making identification extremely difficult. We have also seen a rapid rise and continuing series of first floor entry offences where cash and jewellery are stolen, this is an issue that a number of forces are suffering from and it is believed offenders in these series of offences are mainly Eastern European. Despite the low detection rate we have seen some successes in terms of convictions this year which have led to several persons receiving varying terms of imprisonment. Op Geothermal was an intelligence-led PCT operation to target a burglary series in the Chalfont's and Gerrard's Cross by disrupting criminal use of the road network.

Theft from motor Vehicles

Vehicle offences

including:

- Theft from motor vehicle
- Theft of motor vehicle
- Unauthorised taking of motor vehicle
- Aggravated vehicle taking

There have been 2344 offences to date this year compared to 2280 offences in 2022-23, an increase of 3%. There have been 42 detections [40 in 2022-23] and a detection rate of 2% [2% in 2022-23].

Theft from vehicles we have seen 28 for Burnham, 38 for Farnhams and 21 for Taplow & Dorney. The LPA sits 10th out of 11 LPA's in terms of offences recorded and in response to this issue we have initiated Op Hoover which is the LPA response to vehicle crime, specifically the theft of tools from vans at identified hotspots. Local tasking's are requested daily and through bids we have also had assistance from other departments.

With regards to reports of theft of vehicles we have had 22 reports in Burnham, 14 in Farnhams and 23 in Taplow & Dorney

Antisocial Behaviour

The NH team are working closely with Bucks Community Safety team and Bucks and Berkshire Fire and Rescue to promote awareness around water safety and cold water shock. We have been visiting schools and giving joint talks

to pupils as well as working together with partner agencies to create a new video to raise awareness around these issues.

Maria Holloway – Dorney Playground

Dorney Playground needs a bottom line of £7000 per year to run, this includes insurance, surveys etc. Successfully raised £15,000 for the recent addition of a snake swing. Currently fundraising for a new fence to surround the playground for child safety and to keep animals out, this will cost around £20,000.

There are only 5 committee members and fundraising is a continuous job.

The tuck shop operates after school, weekends and holidays and is all volunteer run.

The next fundraising is the summer event, everyone is welcome along on 9th July for a petting farm and BBQ at 3.30pm.

Please visit the facebook page for all playground information – Dorney Playground & Tuck Shop. Any help or donations always welcome.

Peter Bowman – Dorney Parish News

Dorney Parish News need your help – Deputy Editor position available to help with the production of the magazine, add an extra viewpoint and hopefully secure the future of DPN.

Thank you to everyone for subscribing and for the encouragement and to Bill Dax. Thanks also for accepting the £2 increase in 2022.

There are currently 210 copies sent out each month which is great for a village of around 300 households but DPN would like to have more. DPN tries to reflect interests of all in the magazine however it cannot reflect/report on short term changes and events as it only produced once a month, what can be done about short term communication? Perhaps a new/extra team could introduce an information service.

If anyone has a great picture of the Northern Lights over Dorney, please contact me.

Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford on behalf of Cllr. Euan MacLennan – Finance Chairman

The Parish Council is funded by a slice from the council tax paid by every household. We have managed to keep our funding constant for the last three years but 2024/25 we have had to increase it by 8% just to meet our commitments, although the overall effect on the total council tax is minimal. Even with an 8% increase, it is likely to leave us slightly out of pocket so we will have to dip into reserves.

There is nothing to cover unexpected costs such as falling trees and branches and damage to traffic and speed signs or new projects in the village – if there are any, we will have to use more reserves.

3 Questions from the floor on Parish/County issues

- How much is currently in the Parish Council finance reserves? Circa £30k – at least one year of spending is advised as best practice to have in reserve.
- Court Farm Planning? This has been *called in' and we are awaiting a date for the Planning Committee. *the Parish Council can ask our County Councillors to call in an application which means if all 3 do this, the application will automatically go to the Planning Committee.
- Can the Common areas be protected as Village Green Status? Dorney Parish Council are currently producing a Neighbourhood Plan and these areas will all be a part of this.
- Is there a possibility of meeting with Eton College? This will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on 16th July.
- Thames Water field update? Cllr. Dax is still in contact regarding the re-wilding project but there is no update at present other than Thames Water looking to engage with a local land owner.
- Orchard Herbs mud on the road and HGVs? There is a body called the Traffic Commissioner that licences the HGV use, this is for anyone to use and report to. Orchard Herbs site currently sits in Burnham Parish however this may change as the boundary review consultation is currently open for comment – <http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/burnham-dorney-boundary>
- Pothole? Please report all potholes and other problems such as fly tipping on the Buckinghamshire Fix My Street portal.

Dorney Village Hall

www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk



Floor completely sanded and repolished in December 2023!

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

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Month	Food waste	Garden waste	General waste	Mixed recycling	Paper and cardboard	Textiles/Batteries Electricals
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Aug	2, 9, 16, 23, 31	9, 23	2, 16, 31	9, 23	9, 23	9, 23
Sep	6, 13, 20, 27	6, 20	13, 27	6, 20	6, 20	6, 20

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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.

Rate Card:

Advertising Rates	Height mm	Width mm	10 issues	1 issue
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
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Emergency Contact Details		
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