

Dorney Parish News

September 2024



One of the red kites nesting in Dorney Reach.

See Andrew Oliver's column on page 8.

Photo by Ian Silvester. For more of his work, see <https://www.flickr.com/photos/dorneyphoto>



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EDITORIAL

We hope you enjoyed the lazy-hazy-crazy days of summer. Or, at least, reminiscing about those in years past. But even during this mid-summer, serious events outside grasped our attention. This September issue always was intended to be concerned with *Planning*, and in particular, Dorney's Neighbourhood Plan, but one of those outside events was July's General Election.

On July 30th, the new Secretary of State announced consultation on plans to overhaul the current planning system and to increase national annual mandatory housing targets from 310,000 to 370,000 homes, an increase of 19% with much higher targets proposed for Buckinghamshire. The implications of this for Dorney are set out in the article by the Neighbourhood Plan group, which we strongly urge you to read.

Martin Tett, the Leader of Bucks Council described the new targets to Dorney Parish News as 'just awful' and in local newspapers has talked of 'cataclysmic' effects on the county. Indeed, our friends at Eton College have already sought to influence the outcome of their Boveney Court Farm appeal by asserting that this new 'direction of travel of national planning policy' should be a 'material consideration' in the inspector's considerations.

Perhaps more constructively, Mr Tett has declared 'importantly this is not about nimbyism – it's about protecting our communities and our environment from inappropriate sprawl and directing new growth to areas where growth can be properly planned with good well-funded infrastructure'. This must be close to the aims of our much-needed Neighbourhood Plan. To support the NP steering group, we plan a series of articles over the next few issues covering the preservation of Dorney's rural character, housing and development, the improvement of daily life and protecting our heritage and environment.

Thinking of our environment, the true heroes of this issue are our new aerial neighbours, the kites. We are blessed with Olly's lovely 'Nature Notes' and we thank Virginia and Ian Silvester for sourcing perhaps our most dramatic ever front cover. The environment struck back via an extraordinary outbreak of lethal to livestock ragwort on Dorney Common, and we heard reports of teams of Commoners cutting back the plague.

The focus remains on the Common as a resolution is awaited to more problems with the cattle grid, and hopes are high of agreement to a very popular speed limit reduction on Common Road. As always, life speeds up in September – read in this issue about the reopening of Dorney Lake and the long-awaited appeal hearing over Orchard Herbs, plus the search for a new vicar. We are proud to publish a eulogy for the late Robbie Gibbs, who I'm sure would have relished our update on the Dorney History Group, while our resident historian revisits the past of Taplow Station via wonderful railway modellers. Before we close, this column would like to recall two smashing summer events, the soggy July gathering organised by the Playground Group and Crocus' Summer Market. At the first we enjoyed hot dogs and the second, cheese! We're glad 'DPN' is back after the summer break!

Services in the Local Churches



St James the Less, Dorney

St. John the Baptist, Eton Wick
St. John the Evangelist, Eton

Vicar: Vacant

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...

Firstly, I hope that everyone has had a great summer and had an opportunity to enjoy some good (hot) weather.

So, it's been over four weeks since Carole's departure back to her Iver parish and things have gone remarkably smoothly. It just goes to show you what you can achieve with a year's planning. I need to give special thanks to our supporting Licenced Lay Ministers who have been supporting us in addition to the work they undertake in their own parishes (Jill from Wexham and Anne from Windsor). I also need to thank the clergy that have supported us not just in running services but also for blessing the holy sacraments outside of services to allow us to run a Communion by Extension on a Sunday and a Wednesday where necessary.

Our recruitment of a new Vicar (Priest in Charge) across Datchet, Eton with Eton Wick and Boveney and Dorney is progressing and after completing our 48-page profile of the three parishes will be advertised for four-weeks. Our aim is to have someone in position for early January. Once the Vicar is offered and accepted, we will then start to recruit for a part-time Associate Vicar (Associate Priest) with the new Vicar's input to bring the three parishes up to full strength.

As we roll into September, we move on to focus on the letters St. James wrote to the twelve tribes of Israel and to the early churches across the lands, sharing Jesus' teachings and asking them to be humble with others, to show respect and to have patience. Something that is just as true today as it was then.

With God's love,

Stephen

Church Services in September 2024

Sunday 1st September

9.30 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

11.00 am Any Age Service

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 4th September

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 8th September

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 15th September

9.30am Morning Worship

11.00am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 18th September

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 22nd September

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 29th September

9.30am Morning Worship

11.00am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick



St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

This beautiful church on the Thames is open daily.

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

Dorney Parish Neighbourhood Plan: A Journey of Progress and Patience

The Dorney Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been on quite a journey since our community came together for surveys and meetings in late 2023. While we've made significant strides, we've also encountered some unexpected turns along the way.

Our initial progress owes much to William Voaden and Mark Brand, whose research and groundwork set us on the right path. Though they've had to step back for personal reasons, their contributions remain invaluable. The torch has now been passed to Robert Stopford, our parish councillor for planning, who has taken the helm as chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Working with Robert, Bill Dax has stepped forward to draft a complete version of the Neighbourhood Plan. This draft will incorporate insightful feedback from the NP Team at Bucks Council, helping to shape a plan that aligns with broader regional strategies.

As we move forward, we're keen to involve more of our community in this process in reviewing the draft as it develops. We're extending an invitation to residents who've been involved in recent planning challenges, as well as those who've expressed interest in the Neighbourhood Plan, to join our review team. If you'd like to lend your perspective to this important work, please contact our Parish Clerk, at Clerk@dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk.

However, our journey hasn't been without its hurdles. The recent change in government has brought about several factors that are causing us to reassess. Bucks Council's housebuilding targets have seen a substantial increase of 42%, and the introduction of a "Grey belt" adds another layer of complexity to our planning.

These new developments mean we need to exercise some patience. We can't finalise our Neighbourhood Plan until we have more clarity on how these changes will affect Dorney Parish (if at all). But, rest assured, this doesn't mean work has ground to a halt. We're continuing to refine our draft, engage in necessary consultations with landowners, utilities, and government organisations, and assess the potential impacts of current planning applications for brownfield sites like Boveney Court Farm buildings and Court Farm.

Looking ahead, our path is clear, even if the timeline isn't. Once we complete our draft and receive the go-ahead from Bucks Council, we'll make the plan available on the Dorney Parish Council website for a six-week consultation period. This will be your opportunity to review and provide feedback, ensuring the plan truly reflects our community's vision.

Following the consultation, we'll prepare a final version to be reviewed by an independent assessor appointed by Bucks Council. The last, crucial step will be a parish referendum, where you'll have the chance to cast your vote at the Polling Station in Dorney Village Hall, just as you would in an election.

While the road to finalising our Neighbourhood Plan has been longer and more winding than we initially anticipated, it remains a vital tool for shaping Dorney's future. It's a framework that, with your ongoing engagement and support, will help preserve the rural character of our parish for generations to come.

We may face challenges and delays, but together, we have the opportunity to craft a vision for Dorney that reflects our collective aspirations. Your participation, your voice, and your vote will be crucial in making this vision a reality.

Jill Dax and Robert Stopford, Dorney Parish Council

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
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time.

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“So, when you’re near me, darling, can’t you hear me? S.O.S.”

Everybody loves a bit of ABBA, right? ‘Waterloo’ was the number one single when I was born. My wife and various friends have been to the ABBA Voyage “live” show at Queen Elizabeth Park and reviews have been glowing to say the least. But I had a real life S.O.S. a few weeks ago when I saw a post on the Nextdoor app about a red kite fledgling that was grounded in the Dorney area. I tried to help with some rescue suggestions and luckily the team from Swan Support turned up as the fledgling was under-nourished and clearly struggling. It turned out the red kites were nesting in my neighbour Cara’s garden in Harcourt Road, so although it was concerning that one of the fledglings was in distress, I was pretty excited that the red kites had decided to nest on our road! Later in the week, my neighbour Theo spied the two parents with another, healthier looking chick at the bottom of our gardens, calling quite frequently, so I did put out some extra food to help. Theo also shared a video of the third little owl chick, but as you can see it looks like it may have a deformity. He is going to check with his contacts at the BTO. Hopefully, it is not life threatening.



Struggling Red Kite fledgling picked up by Swan Support



Kite family with healthy fledgling



Third little owl chick

I have also been keeping a close eye on my bats and submitting counts to the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP), as well as submitting counts for the Big Butterfly Count, who have a really easy to use app. Has anyone else been concerned about the very low numbers of flying insects this year? The very wet winter seems to have had a very negative impact on breeding populations. I have a massive white buddleia in my garden and usually in July I would see up to 12 butterflies on it at one time in sunny conditions. This year I haven’t seen more than 2 concurrently. I have spotted many gatekeepers in the garden (mainly on wild marjoram), a few small whites and a smattering of small purple and golds, but only one peacock, one red admiral and one comma. On dog walks I have seen one speckled wood and one Tiger moth. I know enough about the birds and the bees to have two teenage sons, and I know that one individual butterfly is not enough to breed and continue the population. I try not to dwell too much on the devastating thought of a world without butterflies.

Anyway, back to the bats and because I submit surveys to the NBMP I was contacted by a young lady called Hannah Romanowski who is doing a PhD on researching insect declines as a potential driver of change in UK bat populations. She was looking for some bat roosts to survey and I readily volunteered. As you can imagine I was very excited at the prospect of being involved in some bat research by actual scientists to corroborate my own #batstats. The great day arrived where Hannah came round to set up the survey equipment. She laid out some plastic sheeting under the bat boxes to collect the droppings and put up a small sound recorder device on the wall.

Then she revealed the *pièce de resistance*: an enormous insect suction trap (yes, I thought it sounded menacing too) that resembled an enormous camo rocket launcher.



Rather terrifying looking insect suction trap



Theo's young newt



Crap reply from Bucks Council re: glyphosate

We did one overnight sampling session, and pleasingly the bats complied and left lots of droppings, and there were a good number of poor insects hoovered into the deadly suction trap (yes, I have felt conflicted with on one hand worrying about the lack of insects this year and then being complicit in allowing a whole bunch to be drowned in ethanol, although, you know, not the WORST way to go). Hannah's PhD overlord then suggested it would be interesting to sample over consecutive nights, so she brought all the kit back again and we sampled over 3 nights. Again, the bats left plenty of droppings every evening and I felt very proud of them. I did bat counts every night which varied between 2 – 7 bats, which again very firmly leads me to the conclusion that they are boy bats and are often too distracted partying / gaming to go out feeding. Hannah is planning to have her research complete by the end of the year, and will share the results with me, which will include DNA analysis to reveal the exact bat species, the insect species population and the recordings of any other species nearby. Needless to say, I await it all with bated breath and will publish the highlights here.

Theo also shared with me a picture of a young newt in his veg patch as you can see in the photos above. Amphibians are really struggling, and I was quite upset when a friend of mine brought to my attention that Bucks council have decided to spray all pavements with glyphosate which is toxic to all aquatic life if it enters the water course. This was their partial reply to my email of complaint:

“We are confident that glyphosate, when used correctly and in accordance with the guidance, does not pose a direct risk to the health of people or animals, acknowledging that some people have legitimate concerns about the use of this weed killer and its impact on health and the environment. However, as with any chemicals designed to kill plants, it will carry some level of toxicity. We apply glyphosate sparingly to minimise the impact on the environment and it remains licensed for use by the UK”.

Monsanto has settled over 100,000 Roundup (glyphosate) lawsuits, paying out about \$11 billion as of May 2022. It is not safe. In a biodiversity crisis it is crazy to keep spraying chemicals into the environment, both for nature, and humans, who, lest we forget, are also part of nature, not somehow separate and above it ...

Andrew Oliver

Taking a Gap Year

As mentioned in my previous article, I have just finished my A-Levels, so for this edition of Dorney Parish News I thought I would talk about me and what I am planning on doing after school. Thanks to this opportunity I have been able to consolidate my love for writing and will be going to Oxford Brookes to study Journalism, Publishing & Media. But first I am taking a gap year, something that continues to be a popular choice amongst my peers.

Finishing school comes with some very important decisions and results. There are so many choices for people of my age regarding the range of education courses, future careers which change by generation and whether you continue with studies or take the decision to start work straight away. It can be overwhelming.



However journalism is something that I have become very passionate about, something that I want to pursue in the future. This interest has influenced my choice of course and what I have decided to do after school. Like so many subjects the growth of AI is influencing and changing the shape of how we learn, communicate and inform, and this is certainly true for journalism and the argument of 'will journalism service change' after the rise of Chat GPT. So, I believe now is a really

exciting and interesting era to learn about and be involved in journalism.

Originally, I was going to go straight to university, but the thought of taking a year out sounded more appealing. But I don't want to waste the year so I'm planning on going on various writing courses and doing some travelling.

The plan is to explore Florence in early 2025 for a couple of months which includes a writing course specifically focused on journalism and following that I am planning on going to either Toronto or Vancouver and embark on a writing course there as well. After completing two writing courses and doing something productive and impactful in my year out I am planning on going to Southeast Asia for just over a month. I'm hoping that these experiences help me shape more content for when I get to university.

I suspect you have also heard about and have your own opinion about how journalism is being influenced by the rise of Chat GPT, but one thing Chat GPT lacks or can't easily replicate is personality. It may be good for getting facts and research on various topics, but it probably couldn't engage you as much as articles such as this one does (not to toot my own horn). Despite it being an amazing tool, I don't think it has the capabilities to provide true experiences and genuine opinions.



So, lots of change happening for me right now, half exciting half a little terrifying.

Laila Marples



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A DORNEY ARTIST

When I wrote about how others saw us earlier this year, I mentioned that when Telma Dufton wrote down her memories of living in Dorney during the Second World War, she commented that among the diverse characters living there was an internationally known painter. This was Nora Cundell.

Nora was born in London in 1889. Her grandfather Henry Cundell was a renowned landscape artist, and she studied painting at the Blackheath School of Art, Westminster Technical Institute and the Slade School of Art. By 1911 she was exhibiting at the Royal Academy, and she had her first solo exhibition, at the Redfern Gallery in London, in 1925. She painted people, interiors, flowers and landscapes, in oil and watercolours.

Inspired by JB Priestley's descriptions of the landscape of the American West, Nora travelled out there in 1934 with her sister Violet and brother-in-law Charles. It was to be the first of many lengthy visits, as she developed a deep love for the dramatic desert scenery and native Navajo people of the Colorado River Country in Arizona. She painted and sketched what she saw, often travelling alone, by car or on horseback, and she wrote a book about her travels, *Unsentimental Journey*, published in 1940.

How did Nora come to be living in Dorney? Nora's younger sister Violet had married Charles Eaton in 1930 and by 1931 they were living in Hither Dimmings in the village. Charles already had at least four children by his two previous wives and he and Violet do not appear to have added to his family.

By 1935, Nora's home address was Hither Dimmings in Dorney but by October 1937 she had moved into Further Dimmings, which remained her home until her death in 1948. She sailed to New York for her fifth annual visit in December 1938, but by September 1939 she was back in Dorney. During the war, Nora volunteered as a



Casualty Superintendent in London, driving an ambulance through London streets during the blackouts, transporting injured victims of bombing raids. She still found the opportunity to paint and in 1942 produced a portrait of what must have been a colleague, Air Raid Precautions Casualty Superintendent McGill. The title of the map hanging in the background includes the word "Bucks", so perhaps their unit was locally based. The 1939 register indicated that Nora was attached to ARP Burnham.



Meanwhile, Charles Eaton, a former army officer, was again called into service. Hither Dimmings became home to evacuees. In September 1939

there were four children from London living there, and later we know that Telma Dufton stayed there with her mother, brothers and sister.

After the war, Nora made one last trip to America in February 1947. When she returned home that summer, she was diagnosed with cancer. She continued painting in England until her death on 3 August 1948. According to her wishes, her ashes were taken out to Arizona by her sister Violet the following year and were scattered at the foot of one of her favourite locations, Vermilion Cliffs. A brass plaque on a rock there marks the spot.



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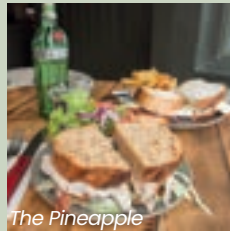
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Explore Dorney's Rich History Online

Did you know that our parish has a dedicated website chronicling its fascinating history? The Dorney History website (www.dorney-history-group.org.uk) has been serving as a valuable resource for both residents and history enthusiasts since 2013.

A Growing Resource

Created with the aim of preserving and sharing Dorney's history, the website has become increasingly popular. It now attracts around 2,000 visitors monthly, with over 23,000 visits in the past year. The site regularly receives inquiries from former residents and their descendants seeking information about their ancestors, local properties, and life in Dorney through the ages.

Recent Updates

The website is regularly updated with new material. Here are some of the latest additions:

- 1. Local History Articles:** Virginia Silvester has contributed 44 informative articles, originally published in Dorney Parish News. These excellent pieces offer fascinating insights into parish life from the 1300s to the present day. More recently added.
- 2. Dorney Manor Court Rolls:** Newly available are 30 PDF versions of Court Rolls dating from 1546 to 1949. These documents provide a unique glimpse into the agricultural life of Dorney's residents over the centuries.
- 3. Dorney's Waterways:** A new section (Dorney Waterways) features excerpts from Michael Bayley's book, "The Unwritten History of the Useful Waters of the River Thames." It covers local waterways including interesting anecdotes covering the Thames, the Dorney River, Roundmoor Ditch, Cress Brook, and Boveney Ditch.
- 4. Dorney War Memorial History:** Read about the history of Dorney's War Memorial, written by ex-Cllr. Ruth Robinson in 1996.
- 5. Dorney Anti-Aircraft Camp:** Discover the story of the anti-aircraft battery that was located on Dorney Common between 1940 and 1944.

Why Visit the Website?

- Research your family history or the background of your property
- Learn about Dorney's role in significant historical events
- Gain a deeper appreciation for our parish's rich heritage

Whether you're a long-time resident or new to the area, the Dorney History website offers a wealth of information about our community's past. Why not take a few moments to explore www.dorney-history-group.org.uk? You might be surprised by what you discover about our parish's fascinating history!

...it is a truly valuable site", Jane W, Queensland, Australia
"I was impressed by your website", Blair I, Old Windsor

Bill Dax

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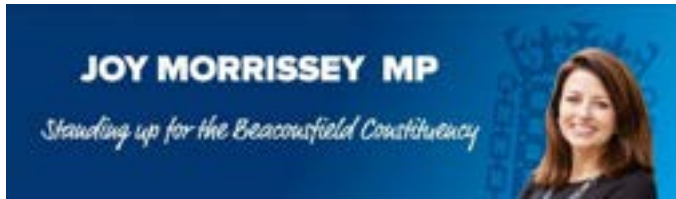
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I hope all Dorney residents are enjoying a wonderful summer. This is my first update since the election, and I remain committed to being your strong local champion in Dorney. I am here to stand up for the issues that matter most to our community. I want to take this opportunity to share updates on several key matters that I have been working on that directly impact residents in Dorney.

During the election, one concern expressed by residents was about the traffic speed on Common Road. I've discussed this issue with your local Parish Councillors who have stressed the need for a speed reduction in the area. This issue is currently with Buckinghamshire Council, and I will closely monitor any developments. Road safety is a top priority, and I will continue working with local authorities to address this concern.

The Green Belt is vital to our community, offering us natural beauty and protection against overdevelopment. Recently, I spoke in Parliament to stress the importance of Green Belt protection. This is an issue I am deeply committed to, and I will continue to advocate for the preservation of our local countryside.

During my first term as your MP, I worked closely with Dorney's Parish Councillors to oppose developments at Orchard Herbs, located on Green Belt land. I am fully aware of the continued activities at the site. With the appeal set for 10th September, I remain committed to working with local Councillors and residents to protect our Green Belt from inappropriate development.

Before the recent election, I heard from many of you about your experiences with the Burnham Health Centre. I am keen to gather more feedback on the services provided and any areas that need improvement. In the coming months, I plan to meet with the centre's staff to discuss any additional concerns you may have. Your input is invaluable in helping me advocate for better healthcare services in our community.

Finally, my role in Parliament has changed since the election. I am now a Shadow Energy Minister. In this capacity, I recently spoke in the Chamber on the crucial issues of energy independence and security. As your MP, I will continue to hold the government accountable for these matters, ensuring that our energy policies serve the needs of residents in Dorney and across the country.

I am here to represent you and make sure Dorney's voice is heard loud and clear in Parliament. As ever, if I can be of help to you on any issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk or 01494 977 505.

Joy Morrissey MP



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Dorney Playground Management Committee

would like to thank everyone who supported us with their

Tesco blue token

We have just received an email from the Tesco Stronger Start charity informing us that

Thanks to your support

we will receive a grant of £1500.

The initial application was made last summer, but took a while to be processed. The application was for money to help pay for the removal of the broken I-Play and installation of the timber snake swing. As you know, the timber snake swing has been installed and we had an opening ceremony on 1st May. However, we had to use money reserved for repairs and maintenance to pay for the swing, and this grant will replace that money.

Our next project is to have a fence installed around the playground to improve safety and keep dogs out of the playground area. We are applying for grants to help pay for the fence.

Our summer party in July raised £500. This was, unfortunately, a bit lower than last year, but the weather forecast was against us, with heavy rain forecast for the afternoon. We would like to thank all those who attended. Despite the weather, it was an enjoyable afternoon.

Our next event is the

Halloween Party on Wednesday 23rd October; 17.00 – 19.30

More details next month!

Lastly

Can you spare 30 minutes a week to help?

The Management Committee carry out a weekly check to make sure all is well in the playground. It's mostly a visual check and can be carried out at any time of the day / any day of the week. (We also do a three-month check which is more detailed, and we pay PlayDale to do a very thorough annual check.)

We need people to help us do the weekly check in October, November and January. Could you help? Obviously, we will explain everything.

Dorney Playground Management Committee
07737053409 Playground4Dorney@gmail.com

Dorney Horticultural Society

Invites you to:

**An evening with Antony Powell with a talk about
Planting for Autumn Colour**

Friday 11th October 7.30-10.00 pm in Dorney Village Hall



**The price includes a hot supper of cottage pie and peas
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Invite some friends and make up your own table

**Tickets £12/head for members
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(New members can join on the evening)**

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THROWING A WOBBLA ON DORNEY COMMON

"I still have a lot of tantrums to throw" Breaux Greer

August persistently lets us vent our rage against British weather, with either scorching heat or persistent rain boosted by gusts of gale from Lilian, who was the latest storm to breach our island, to intrude and spoil our garden events.



Usually, my boyfriend Bob enters his 1957 little red Corvette into Car Fest South each year. But the invite failing to arrive this year caused him to try out the Silverstone Classic Car Festival. As they say, a change is good as a rest, and the rest is good for a change. However, on the downside there would be no track driving or charity rides, but also no cramped campervan (fabulous) as there was a new on-site hotel, with modular spaces overlooking the racetrack.

However, a spanner in the works three days before departure caused dear Bob to spiral into a wobbling crisis, as we had news that this new accommodation

had failed to be finished on time. This caused a major dilemma, as we quickly had to source alternative lodging, may be some distance from the car show, which did not have paddock protection for his car. Luckily, we found Whittlebury Park Spa Hotel (Spa! Yay!) and convenient as only a 15-minute walk cross country to the track.

Silverstone was an interesting place, eleventy-eight square acres of tarmac, with a looping racetrack. Being flat, however, meant strong blasts of wind continuously blew, making stand-up hair the look of the weekend for most folk. Every type of car was in attendance, including some rare and others recognisable from my youth! Ayton Senna's racing cars made a guest appearance on the track, where all day many vintage cars took up the racing challenge of their compatriots, to create one hellava noise and belch fumes whilst zooming round. Spread out over such a large area, the steps raked up massively, so by the end of the day it was very necessary to sit down with a large tonic infused with a super long slip of gin.

At the beginning of this year, I happened across Keeeps Pottery (yes there is three e's, I do have my glasses on) in Marlow. Set on the High Street, a charming shop with comprehensive studios above, full of people manipulating mud. I joined a class to take up the learning and wobbled away with my clay spinning in varying speeds on a wheel, but not really having any idea or control. The lady next to me was 8 months near birth, couldn't quite get near enough to her wheel, but very adventurous in her clay turning, foot down, full acceleration all the time, a la Silverstone, so frequently caused lumps of nearly-pots to fly across the room like a clay skeet. Duck!

Sadly, this studio closed down in the summer, so I found a lady in Cookham who taught pottery in her home studio (converted garage), and although she was not keen on teaching the wheel it was here I learnt quite a bit about hand building, which is a different skill altogether. Using hands and hand tools only, we experimented with both design and underglaze. Much less structured, in fact not structured at all, boosted creativity and allowed experimentation.

But I still wanted to conquer the wheel, having only had a couple of goes at Cookham, and I mentioned to Jeanne, our tutor, that I had thoughts about buying my own wheel. This was met with a frosty response, part of which was *'it will take you 1000 throws to make a decent pot'*. So, of course, Bob was straight on the job making a good space at my cottage for this new activity. By mid-summer, Grant, the owner of Blue Matchbox Pottery supplies, arrived to install a Rohde wheel and kiln. As I had no experience of firing, I was relieved to see it came with a thick manual.

'The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place' George Bernard Shaw

The kiln had digital connection, and so could be monitored from one's smart phone, and also sported a complex wall mounted gadget. After installing, Grant asked me to name the kiln, (for digital reference) and of course, looking at the heat she could go up to, 1300 degrees Celsius, aptly called her 'Hot Pants'. Bob then named the wheel 'Dizzy' as she only danced in circles.

Now installed, we took on a VERY steep learning curve on how to use them, using my memory at Keeeps and time at Cookham. The first pot was small, more like a little shallow cat bowl, but actually perfectly formed. Hurrah! Short lived. The following couple resembled Hartley's jelly in the making, with both thin and thick walls on the finish... not so easy then. Frustrating, persistence was the only door to take, two steps forward and one and a half steps backward. Just when you think progress is being made the walls of Jericho collapse.

However, the next step is fettling, a skill that can really improve a badly thrown wobbla. Using tools to trim leather hard clay into a better shape, this process eliminates rough areas, trims off knobbles and slims down fat bits, ready for a first fire. Marvelous! Hot Pants is an Ecotop kiln, meaning she runs hot and lean, with low energy usage through German technology. I couldn't understand the manual, so passed it to Bob, who fed me information in small bite sized chunks, so that I could complete the first stage known as Bisque firing. This process gently reduces most of the water content, turns the clay to a pale colour, ready for decoration with underglaze, and subsequently a final super-hot fire that changes the clay into ceramic.



We loaded Hot Pants with my four wobbla's, and crossed our fingers that I hadn't left any air or pockets of wet in the formed clay, which is the common cause of big cracks or explosions! The first Bisque 950C fire took 30 hours (no cracks or explosions) followed by a final fire up to 1250C, taking a further 40 hours, both times constantly checking progress on my phone. After final cooling down was completed, I gingerly opened the kiln lid to see all intact and resplendent in colour, well except for the odd bobble and one small crack. However, I still have 984 to make before getting a perfect one!

I am a very long way from throwing a truly useful and substantial pot. My son, Robert, asked me to make him a cereal bowl. He's a big lad, he likes a big bowl of breakfast, but I have made one more suited for his Weight Watchers week, small but perfectly formed. I am sure once I have decorated it, he will kindly say its beautifully painted Mum, and it means I can have two kinds of cereal, one after the other...

Meantime, our Dorney Horticultural Annual Show is nearly upon us, gone by the time you read this. I hope that we all enjoyed the day, but most of all that you enjoyed the company of your fellow villagers comparing your produce and laughing at the most comic vegetable. Make a note in your diary of the next event, Friday 11th October, our Harvest Supper, where we shall all sit together to enjoy the excellent speaker, the delicious food and beverages along with the usual banter.

'No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it' H E Luccock

Kristina Perkins

The Demise of the Machine

A long, long time ago when I was knee high in shorts I have wonderful memories, some of which include banks! I kid you not! Banks! Really.

My brilliant Mum, a mixture of Mother Theresa and Sophia Loren took us shopping up town from our sleepy Essex village to the fleshpots of Chelmsford on a double decker (one and two halves to the uniformed conductor, complete with white cap and a huge shiny ticket machine that spat out paper ticks at the turn of the handle) where my brother and I would stare wide eyed at Foden lorries, AEC Buses, Humber Hawks and Austin Sevens, Woolworths, Burtons and iced marble open fronted MacFisheries (ask your Grandfather if you're under 30).

Our regular ritual was a milk shake treat (nothing like the goo in MacTrumps), a cream bun and a visit to the bank where Mum would hand over a cheque to the same cashier, a smart smiling old forty something in a sober suit and tie under pristine Brylcreamed hair, who in return counted out ten shilling, one pound and large five pound notes, together with a boiled sweet for my brother and I.

All this was replaced with an ATM bolted to the wall of the bank as my young family blossomed. With great ritual, my wife, two small boys and I fed the shiny plastic card into the machine for the first time, and upon entering the correct password on the third attempt, requested a modest £15. As it clicked and chuntered, our boys skittishly tiring of this brave new world, it suddenly produced a till roll receipt which informed me that there were 'insufficient funds available'.

In high dudgeon I marched up to the counter (I said it was a long time ago) and stated loudly,

"I have been issued this card, and the very first time I try to use it, there are 'insufficient funds' in the machine!"

The suave young man was placatory, with a hint of servility.

"Oh dear, Sir. May I see the card please, I'll see what I can do," and he peered haughtily at the offending article, consulting some ledger out of sight to me.

"And the printout please, Sir? Ah yes, I see what's happened. We have sufficient funds in our machine. Sadly, the insufficiency is yours."

"I'm sorry," I sighed theatrically. "I don't understand."

He smiled a patronising banker smile and breathed, "We have sufficient funds in our machine. Sadly, you do not in your account."

This was my introduction to the brave new world where 'The Machine' ruled, and it's disdain for me followed a steady downward path as 'The Machine' grew ever more complicated requiring we poor souls to do more and more of the work whilst dispensing with the services of people like Mr. Smug referred to above.

In my police career, arresting violent wife beaters, chasing criminals in stolen cars, even arresting murderers was less daunting than negotiating with a photocopier the size of a small car, now occupying a corner of what had been the typing pool. If I went anywhere near a machine with a brain of its own, disaster usually followed.

And so, on 25th July 2024 at 8.30 I had a Doctor's Appointment!!! Uncertain as to whether to use it or sell it on E Bay, I turned up shortly after 8.00am with the instruction ringing in my ear,

"When you arrive and see the queue outside the surgery, come to the front and tell the reception you have an appointment," having seen the long queue of sick people, my resolve faded at the

prospect of a lynching until I saw a kindly lady at the head standing in front of closed doors with a clip board.

With some trepidation, I mumbled "Excuse me please" to my fellow sickies as I squeezed my way to the front.

"Your date of birth please?" the nice lady enquired.

"I have an 8.30 appointment with a doctor," I whispered.

"All the computers are down," she announced. "All appointments are postponed."

I expected a groan from the waiting throng, but clearly, they were not surprised, as neither was I, of yet another failing of the key of the door into everything else NHS.

But on this occasion, it was not their fault!

It was worldwide and my fault...again. 'The Machine' saw my name inside its bowels and struck another blow.

"We'll call you," she said.

Did I get my appointment I hear you ask? Well of course I did, but not with a Doctor. They are becoming as distant as bank clerks. I saw a very nice associate instead.

Days later, I entered a petrol station in the fleshpots of Slough in my green suit, having filled the ambulance. Squatting to one side of the doorway was an early twenties man.

"Do you have any change Sir?" he asked looking up.

"No sorry mate," I answered without slowing down. He was clean shaven, neat but grubby, well-spoken and looked tired. I paid for the fuel (with the NHS fuel card!) and walked past him without looking back.

"You miserable git!" I scolded myself. He was somebody's son. He could have been one of mine in different circumstances. It could even be me one day. Who knows what Fate holds? I found some coins. Four pounds. Oh, to Hell with it.

I walked back and gave him a fiver.

"There you go Sir," I smiled as he looked up. Everyone loves the green suit, so I asked, "What's the story Mate. You're articulate and well-spoken at the beginning of your life. There's got to be something better for you than sitting in doorways. It's none of my damn business I know, so please tell me to clear off if you don't want to discuss it."

He started to talk, and I squatted down with him. A story of drink, drugs, violence and minor convictions made the path back difficult to say the least, if not impossible. After a while, introductions made and handshakes, with fervent wishes for good luck, I returned to the ambulance, and got behind the wheel. As I started it, I heard "Mike. Mike!"

I looked up. My new friend arrived breathlessly at the window.

"This is for you Mike," and he pressed a small chocolate bar into hand.

It was delicious.

Stay safe.

Mike Quincey

The Changing Face of Dorney Parish: A Planning Saga (September 2024)

As autumn approaches, the rural Dorney Parish finds itself entangled in a complex web of planning issues that threaten to reshape its very character. Let's journey through the current landscape of planning applications, appeals, and community concerns shaping our beloved parish's future.

The Orchard Herbs Odyssey

The Orchard Herbs site saga continues to captivate the community. While the recent refusal of a hotel development appeal might seem like the end, it's merely the beginning of a new chapter. This decision has provided valuable insights for the upcoming appeal concerning the continuance of the truck scrapyard, concrete suppliers, and scaffolding suppliers.

Picture a stern-faced Secretary of State penning words for the hotel refusal that would echo through local government corridors and will apply to the Enforcement Notice appeal:

"Weighing against the proposal is the harm to the Green Belt, which carries substantial weight, the potential harm to highway safety which carries moderate weight, the potential harm to flood risk which carries significant weight, the harm to the character and appearance of the area which carries significant weight, and the less than substantial harm to the setting of designated heritage assets which carries great weight."

Mark your calendars for September 10th, 2024. At 10 AM in the High Wycombe Council Chamber, a public inquiry will commence, lasting eight days over two weeks, to determine the Orchard Herbs site's fate. It is available on Microsoft Teams. Email planning.appeals.csb@buckinghamshire.gov.uk and they will send you a Microsoft Teams link.

A Parish in Flux

But Orchard Herbs isn't the only act in this grand performance. Court Farm's plans for 11 new houses, once thought to be the final frontier of major development in Dorney, now seem but one chapter in an expanding story.

Then there's the curious case of Eton College stables, with three planning applications submitted for rescue pony housing. One can't help but wonder about the old Cow Shed at Boveney Court Farm Buildings, owned by Eton College – doesn't it whisper of a ready-made solution?

The Supporting Cast

Our story's supporting characters include:

- Boveney Court Farm Buildings, awaiting a written appeal's outcome
- The pending Court Farm planning application

Each thread weaves into the tapestry of our parish's future, creating a complex pattern of change and preservation.

The Power of the People

Dear readers, you are not mere spectators but crucial players in this grand production. Your voices, raised in comments to planning authorities, have the power to shift the very foundations of these decisions.

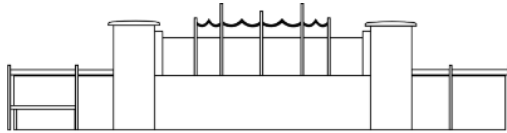
Imagine a chorus of concerned citizens, their keyboards clacking in unison as they submit their thoughts online. In the world of planning, numbers matter. The more voices join the chorus, the more weight it carries.

Even the esteemed Dorney Parish Council counts as but a single voice in this grand symphony. It is the collective voice of the community that truly has the power to shape our shared future.

As we turn the page on this chapter of Dorney's story, we look to the future with a mix of anticipation and concern. What will the next act bring? Only time will tell. But one thing is certain: the story of attempts to build major housing developments in Dorney Parish is far from over, and each one of us has a role to play in writing its next chapters.

Stay tuned, dear neighbours, for the saga continues...

Bill Dax



DORNEY LAKE

Many Dorney residents must be looking forward to the return of access to Dorney Lake in September.

'Dorney Parish News' was informed by the Lake management that opening was scheduled for September 3rd. Judging by the events of 2023, a definite date such as this might just be a little provisional. Then the site opened and almost immediately shut for a further fortnight. If you are looking forward to a quiet walk in the Lake grounds, pray for heavy rain. Last year, the Lake opened during a hot spell and almost immediately there were swimmers jumping off bridges and motor bikes speeding around.

But re-opening is imminent, and the Lake would like us to pass on the message that car park passes should be renewed ready for that. Easiest for everyone is to go to the Dorney Lake website and complete the renewal form. If anyone has any issues with that online form, the Lake assures us that phone callers will be able to renew their passes.

Eton College's plans for the Parish, and Dorney resident's hopes for controlled access to the Lake are matters of great discussion, so it is little wonder that many at the Annual Parish Meeting in May called for meetings between the Lake management and Dorney Parish Council. Following the July Parish Council meeting, it was clearly the intention that these meetings will be resumed.



The Engagement Ring

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 to arrange an initial conversation

or call 07785 566468

www.theengagementring.co.uk

www.lifecoach-directory.org.uk/lifecoaches/karen-kimberley

With sincere thanks to our friends at the Rotary Club of Langley and Iver and all of our regular litter pickers:

From: Rotary Club of Langley and Iver
Subject: Jubilee River Plastic Blitz
Date: July 2024

**Hello Jill (chairperson of Dorney Parish Council!)
The Rotary Club of Langley and Iver organised a Plastic Blitz on the Jubilee river this afternoon and three members of the Rotary Club of Burnham Beeches attended, me included.**

Plastic Blitz is where a 50m stretch of riverbank is meticulously searched and recordings taken of what is found and sent to the Environment Agency.

Two of us walked from the car park by the Pineapple toward Maidenhead as far as West Town pedestrian Bridge. One collected rubbish, the other recycling.

I am delighted to inform you that there was very little of either! Maybe half a dozen cans/plastic bottles and less than an A5 sized bag of rubbish, mainly tissues.

The six who went toward Slough also came back astounded at how little they had collected. We walked for about an hour. In total about three black sacks of cans/bottles and one half of rubbish.

**So, it looks as if your volunteer group is doing a splendid job!
Well done!**

Nick (Teale, our previous parish litter picking guru – much missed!)

**Orchard Herbs Appeal Hearing starts 10 September:
DPC is supporting the Enforcement Notice.
See Page 24 about joining online.**

Parish Litter Pick:

After our great success in April our next community litter pick is on 6 October with refreshments afterwards at The Old Cottage, Village Road from 11:00am. Please RSVP to jill@daxfamily.com

**NEXT DPC MEETING
Wednesday
17th September
7.30pm at
Dorney School.**

Last 2024 meeting will be held on 19 November.

**Vacancy for Parish Councillor
Dorney Parish Council has a vacancy following the resignation of William Voaden. If any resident is interested, please contact the Parish Clerk: Clerk@dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk**

We do regularly update the Parish Council website with new information. Please, especially, check Planning and Local Projects.

www.dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk

TAPLOW STATION MODEL UPDATE

In March I wrote about aspects of the history of Taplow station and the model railway layout of it being created by Slough and Windsor Railway Society. This project started with a lot of background research. Old Ordnance Survey maps which can be viewed at <https://maps.nls.uk/> provided snapshots of the development of the station and track over time. A detailed contemporary signalling plan was unearthed and an equally detailed report on the former footbridge by the Museum of London Archaeology Service was found online. Books and magazines were combed for pictures and descriptions. Photos were studied to understand better the way the station used to operate. A visit to the National Archives in Kew uncovered beautifully drawn plans of major changes to the station in the Victorian era and the specification for the new signal box in 1929.

Armed with this information, the modelling team drew up accurate paper plans for the layout. These are now being translated into actual track, complete with authentic points and signalling. Four of the eventual eight boards - which together will extend to 36 feet long - now have the railway lines in place and test trains have been run on them successfully. This initial layout concentrates on the station itself and the extensive sidings which used to run east of the station, to the goods yard and beyond. One of the surprising aspects of Taplow station's history to those of us who know it only as a passenger station is just how important it was for goods traffic, including serving local businesses. The image demonstrates how carefully these features are being reproduced.

It will take time to complete the full model of Taplow station especially recreating its iconic buildings. But you can see progress so far, among other layouts, at the SWRS exhibition in Burnham Park Hall on 26 and 27 October, 10am to 5pm on Saturday and 10 am to 4pm on Sunday. The price for adults is £8, children half price or £20 for a family.



Virginia Silvester

Robbie Gibbs (1941 – 2024)



Although to most he must surely have been ensconced at Dorney since the time of the famous pineapple and Barbara Villiers, Robbie first crossed the cattle grid and appeared in Dorney around 1990. He had been introduced to Peregrine and myself as a potential house sitter. We knew little about him other than he was reliable and loved dogs.

Robbie's parents married during the Second World War, both aged 20. His Father, a Fighter Pilot, who wanted little to do with him, vanished from his life to be replaced by a much beloved step father who died aged 41 leaving his wife, 5 siblings, 12 and under, and Robbie who was then 20. Robbie was an incredibly gifted school boy, academically gifted and a brilliant sportsman but after leaving Wellington his life became complicated for too many reasons to fully understand. As one Villager wrote "We

were intrigued by his interesting personal history, but the precise details often seemed a little elusive"

He made an instant impression as he would with all those he encountered. Always positive and in an unforgettable fashion. Mention any name and he would either be related or have some connection.

In 2004 Robbie arrived in Dorney for what was originally intended to be a brief pit stop on his peripatetic journey ended up becoming a 20 year stay until circumstances took him to North Marston.

So Robbie arrived in his caravan – Harry his beloved Norfolk terrier in tow and their lives in Dorney began at Pigeon House Farm under the watchful eyes of Liz and Richard George who made sure he was coping and who soon got him involved with various escapades – he became a proficient bundler of asparagus, although sensibly never a picker. It was also the start of his regular Sunday suppers with Richard and Liz which he relished as Liz is a superb cook.

Over the following years Robbie became a presence around the Village. He started taking guided tours round the house and it was not long before he was vying for the non-existent role of Head Guide much to the dismay of those who had started guiding in 1981! His extensive knowledge of history intermingled with the part some of the Palmers played in it over the last 400 years led to his tours being much acclaimed and many a letter singing his praises winged their way to me. He also ventured into public speaking with his 'Courtiers and Courtesans' lecture to many a University of the Third Age, WI or History Society Group.

I soon realised how invaluable Robbie could be to the many roles I had to play after Peregrine's death, film supervision being one of them. I found the film days starting

at the crack of dawn and often ending in the early hours of the following day hugely exhausting on top of everything else and Robbie volunteered to take on the role of a Film Supervisor. Soon his knowledge of all film workings was extensive and he even told me he got various jobs at Pinewood but I never followed those conversations up Despite the stresses and strains of the filming hours and responsibilities involved, Robbie kept everything under his own version of control until age and excruciating leg problems made it impossible for him – albeit he refused to countenance any limitations and denied any problems, much like the Monty Python's Black Knight.

On one occasion I was trying to track Robbie down with some filming issue and could not find him anywhere – someone eventually pointed him out to me – he had gone and got a part as an 'extra' and was dressed as a monk and relishing his AmDram moment. I was not overly thrilled that he was moonlighting but his filming role became a major part of his life over his Dorney years and he also snagged roles for his dogs including Thistle being 'cast' relatively recently by Kenneth Branagh as Shakespeare's faithful hound.

He helped the Lower Ward Caledonian Society in Windsor organise many a Burns Night Celebration along with his Military Knight friend, David Steele (who sadly died last week). Here his thespian aspirations could rival Ian McKellen as he boomed out the Address to the Haggis.

He also played a pivotal role at the many corporate dinners and lunches I was having in the house – as I welcomed at the front door most thought I was the maid so handed me their coats, going on into the house to be greeted by Robbie who they presumed was the Lord of the Manor, and he played this part remarkably well. Wherever our guests came from Robbie had been there, whichever company they worked for Robbie had too – it was quite extraordinary he seemed to have connections with everybody and extensive knowledge about everything.

Robbie had a wonderful bass voice, much needed in our congregation here at St. James's, and he also sang with the Windsor and Eton Choral Society and again took on various roles for them, along with being a member on our PCC for a few years, and I believe a bell ringer. All these positions he took on with great gusto.

The Dorney Palmers will certainly miss his thunderous voice carrying across the fields shouting for his dogs– HARRY, HOSTSPUR, BODIE and latterly his much-loved THISTLE. His stories were legendary, and he had a gift for covering three different subjects in a single breath. Keeping up was tough! His huge kindness to me – never a bad mood (although others might not have been quite so blessed), always willing and making my life so much easier after Peregrine's death allowing me some freedom away from Dorney trusting in his dedication of running things his way which worked for me.

Thank you, Robbie.

Jill Palmer

The Taplow Sea Bears: A Channel-Crossing Triumph

In just 7 months, a group of strangers transformed into the Taplow Sea Bears, tackling one of the world's most iconic swimming challenges - the English Channel. Named for their connection to Taplow Lakeside, this determined team defied the odds with an average age of 51, well above the typical 36 for channel relays.

Under the guidance of professional swim coach Stephen Gould, six swimmers - Katy, Bondy, Carine, Janet, Mike, and Claire - embarked on an intensive training regimen. They braved local lakes and lidos, honing their strokes, building speed, and steeling themselves against the cold.

But their mission extended beyond personal achievement. The Sea Bears swam to raise funds for The Samaritans, a vital lifeline for those in crisis. Team member Katy, a Samaritans volunteer, explained the impact: "Being able to give someone the time and space to be themselves, explore their thoughts and feelings with no judgment... can be the starting point to finding a way to get their life heading in a better direction."

After a false start due to weather, July 8th saw the team finally dive in. At 11:48 AM, Katy took the first plunge, initiating a strict rotation where each swimmer tackled an hour in the channel's challenging waters.

The initial hours brought unexpected visitors - jellyfish! Three team members felt their sting, but with laughter and mutual support, they pressed on. On the boat, a flurry of activity kept seasickness at bay as teammates prepared food, assisted with changeovers, and maintained morale.

By 7 PM, they reached the Separation Zone between English and French waters. As the sea grew choppy, Bondy likened it to "going a few rounds in the boxing ring." Yet spirits remained high, with silly dances and the



Image shows narrow separation zone between English and French waters. The curve is demonstrating how the swimmers are pulled sideways by the tide

Samaritans flag flying proudly from their boat.

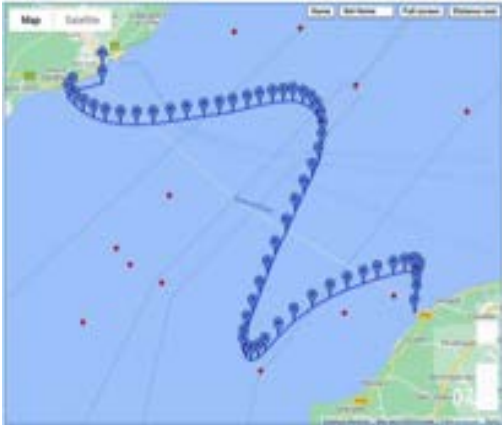
Nightfall brought new challenges. Mike and Janet found themselves swimming twice in the darkness, battling not just the waves but the disorienting lack of visual cues. The tide turned against them, threatening to push the team towards the dangerous shipping lanes near Calais.

It was a critical moment. Only one in five relay teams succeed in crossing the Channel, and the Sea Bears found themselves swimming against a seeming treadmill of tide and wind. But this "random group" revealed its true strength. When the pilot expected them to break, they dug deeper, encouraging each other with laughter and determination through the long night.

Their perseverance paid off. Breaking through the opposing tide, they made their final push towards the French coast. Katy, in a testament to the team's endurance, took on her fourth leg to bring the swim home.

At 6:40 AM on July 9th, after an epic 18 hours and 52 minutes, the Taplow Sea Bears touched French soil. Their triumph wasn't just personal - it was a beacon of hope for the countless individuals supported by The Samaritans.

The full route – what an epic crossing



One supporter beautifully captured the parallel between the swim and the charity's mission: "I can't possibly imagine what it's like out there in the cold water in the dark. That's possibly how people feel when they call The Samaritans."

The Sea Bears' journey embodies the very essence of The Samaritans' work - being there in the darkest moments, offering support, encouragement, and a helping hand to those who need it most.

To support the Taplow Sea Bears and The Samaritans, visit their JustGiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/page/taplow-sea-bears-1713707903093> or search for "Taplow Sea Bears" on JustGiving. Remember, Samaritans are there for everyone, always just a call away at 116 123.



The Taplow Sea Bears - L to R: Claire, Mike, Bondy, Stephen, Katy, Janet, Carine

Sally Sharp

Anti-Social Behaviour and Security Issues at Trumper's Field/Dorney Village Hall

Through 2024 there have been anti-social behaviour and security concerns at the Dorney Village Hall car park and surrounding the Trumper's Field area. Residents, particularly those on Meadow Way, have been experiencing disturbances from people using the car park late at night for activities such as dangerous driving, drug use, and loud music. Both Dorney Parish Council and Dorney Village Hall were advised of problems in June and immediately took action, within their legal powers.

A trial system was implemented whereby volunteers from the local community would lock the gates at night and unlock them in the morning. While this has been effective in reducing the anti-social behaviour, it is not seen as a sustainable long-term solution. The volunteers are becoming frustrated, and some have stopped participating due to abuse and threats.

The proposed solution is to install an automatic gate, like the one at Dorney Lake. However, there are complications around funding, ownership, and responsibilities since the land and current gates are owned by Buckinghamshire Council.

In June it was agreed to start a trial of volunteers locking and unlocking the gates. Padlocks and keys were purchased and distributed by Bill Dax of Dorney Village Hall. By July, the initial feedback was that the locked gate was deterring anti-social behaviour. Even if '100% effective' volunteers still have faced abuse. A new system using combination locks and earlier closing times has been proposed.

But who uses the gates? Quite a number of people it seems!

Event bookings at the Village Hall can be made between 0800hrs and 2300hrs, 365 days a year. During the week, it is usually regular users – dance classes, badminton, drama classes and the like. These finish at around 2200hrs. Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays it is usually children's and family parties which finish as late as 2300hrs. Dorney Village Hall cleaners need access by 0700hrs on three mornings a week. Biffa Waste and Bucks Council waste collectors have variable hours. Dorney School, during term time, needs access for children to be dropped off for 0730hrs Breakfast club. And people visiting the Playground.

As we go to press, all the parties are considering possible next steps.

For gates, quotes are being pursued and funding options considered for an automatic gate installation. This seems to be the preferred long-term solution, although it may present tail-gating problems. There could be repair and refurbishment of existing gates to enable combination padlocks to be used, short-term. Communication is being improved between all stakeholders with temporary signage installed at the gates and in the Hall with clear information about opening/closing times and procedures. Dorney Village Hall is taking the lead here.

The Parish Council continues to engage with local authorities (Police, Bucks Council) to push for their involvement in addressing the underlying anti-social behaviour issues. Short-term alternatives to the volunteer system are being looked, such as paid individuals or a security company to lock and unlock the gates or just making the volunteer system more sustainable. CCTV installation could be a deterrent.

Peter Bowman

CROCUS

at
DORNEY COURT




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DORNEY

PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
WEDNESDAY 16th JULY 2024, 7.30pm AT DORNEY SCHOOL**

Present

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair) Cllr. Anna Palmer Cllr. Euan MacLennan
Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford Cllr. Robert Stopford

County Cllr. Kirsten Ashman, Clerk Ruth Senior and 1 member of the public

Public Forum

No comments

PC/35/24 Apologies for absence

Cllr. Stephen Baker, County Cllr. George Sandy and County Cllr. Paul Kelly

PC/36/24 Declaration of interest on any items of business on this Agenda

There were none declared.

PC/37/24 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2024

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

PC/38/24 To receive the Clerk report

The Clerk report there was no update for this meeting.

PC/39/24 To agree the meeting dates for 2025

These were circulated by the Clerk before the meeting and **agreed** for distribution.

PC/40/24 To agree the policies and constitutional document updates

These were circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting. No changes were made other than the removal of an appendix and general formatting. All **agreed**.

PC/41/24 Items of business carried forward

41.1 The Orchard Herbs Site

Cllr. Stopford reported that there has been no movement on the enforcement notice and the appeal hearing is scheduled for September. Parking on Old Lake End Road from the site is causing problems and there is an abandoned vehicle which has been reported to the Council. Burnham Parish Council have also confirmed that they have written to Bucks in support of our work.

41.2 The Neighbourhood Plan

Following the resignation of William Voaden, the Clerk has been in touch with the Neighbourhood Plan team at Bucks and information has been passed to Cllr. Stopford. Cllr. Dax and Cllr. Stopford will meet with Bucks to work on the plan going forward.

Dorney Parish News have agreed to regularly publish the latest information on the plan to keep residents informed and there will be the re-introduction of a Working Group to manage the plan development, including Peter Bowman, Bill Dax and any other residents who would like to be involved.

PC/42/24 Planning

There is a new application for 53 Harcourt Road, Cllr. Stopford will update the Council. There are no changes to the Boveney Court Farm appeal or Court Farm application.

PC/43/24 Finance

The cashbook was circulated prior to the meeting and approved.

The Clerk confirmed that the AGAR has been submitted to the External Auditor.

PC/44/24 To discuss the replacement of resigned Councillor William Voaden

There are two options, advertise and co-opt a replacement now or wait until the elections next year. **It was agreed** that we will wait until next year however if anyone is interested in more information about becoming a Dorney Parish Councillor, please contact the Parish Clerk.

PC/45/24 To update on and consider the transfer of Dorney Village Hall (DVH) to Dorney Parish Council (DPC)

Following the information from the Charities Commission advising that the Governing Documents of the Hall should state how the transfer could take place, the Village Hall are seeking further legal advice.

PC/46/24 To consider a meeting with Eton College to discuss future plans

It was agreed that this meeting should take place. Cllr. Dax will confirm details.

PC/47/24 To agree the new security gate actions at Trumpers Field

Thanks were given to the team of volunteers from Meadow Way who will now open and lock the gate daily at 7am and 11.15pm. The padlock will be checked for security and fire safety.

PC/48/24 To receive an update on Dorney Playground

The summer party on 9th July raised £475 and there is another Halloween party planned for 23rd October. Funding is being sought for the new fencing around the playground.

PC/49/24 To update on speeding through Dorney, particularly Dorney Common including MVAS

There has been no further update from Martin Tett following the letter in May, other than the information was being passed on to Cabinet Member, Steven Broadbent. **It was agreed** that this will be followed up and County. Cllr Ashman confirmed that she will also ask for an update once the Clerk has sent all the information to her.

PC/50/24 To receive an update on the Thames Water Treatment Plant

Cllr. Stopford discovered that contractors are being put in place for the upgrade works and has contacted the Project Manager, David Mayfield for a full update.

PC/51/24 To discuss the cattle grid

The side of the cattle grid entering Dorney Village from Common Road has become very noisy again on entering the village. **It was agreed** that the Clerk will contact the Local Area Technician to report.

PC/52/24 To consider including the cost of strimming around playground equipment with our contractor

This was agreed.

PC/53/24 To ratify opening a savings account for DPC reserves

It was agreed that we will investigate opening two savings accounts, one with Cambridge and Counties with a 90 day access and one with our existing bank Unity Trust giving instant access.

PC/54/24 To consider any complaints/comments received from residents

Overgrown hedgerows and paths have been reported to the Clerk and has been logged on Fix My Street however Bucks have confirmed that their current priority is dangerous sight lines and junctions. The recent weather conditions have meant that the whole country is suffering with growth.

Dorney Common is suffering with a ragwort problem since the ban on pesticide use, there will be groups out on the common pulling the ragwort up by hand. If anyone would like to join, any help would be welcome.

PC/55/24 Items to consider for discussion at the next meeting on 17th September 2024

None

Meeting ended at 8.35 pm



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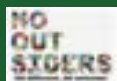
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| Aug | 2, 9, 16, 23, 31 | 9, 23 | 2, 16, 31 | 9, 23 | 9, 23 | 9, 23 |
| Sep | 6, 13, 20, 27 | 6, 20 | 13, 27 | 6, 20 | 6, 20 | 6, 20 |

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Dorney Parish News

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The Editors are not responsible for the opinions of correspondents expressed in letters or articles published in this magazine.

Advertising in Dorney Parish News

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

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

Rate Card:

| Advertising Rates | Height mm | Width mm | 10 issues | 1 issue |
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| Full Page | 190 | 130 | £100 | £13 |
| Half Page | 90 | 130 | £55 | £8 |
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| Quarter Page (Horizontal) | 45 | 130 | £45 | £6 |

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07889 912714

| Emergency Contact Details | | |
|---|--|---------------------|
| Dorney Reach (Village Hall) Defibrillator Code | | C123X |
| Trumper's Field (Dorney Village Hall) Security Gates in Meadow Way | | 07955 672150 |
| Fire, Police & Ambulance | Emergency Calls: Incidents in Action | 999 |
| Thames Valley Police | Non-urgent calls | 101 |
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