

Dorney Parish News

November 2024



Harvest Festival at St. James the Less: 13 October 2024



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EDITORIAL

This column is celebrating. It has been since October 11th. On that date it was revealed that the Planning Inspector had dismissed all appeals by the owners of the Orchard Herbs site. Let me quote from the comprehensive coverage on the Parish Council website, which I advise everyone to consult: *‘Overall, this represents a comprehensive dismissal of the appeals and rejection of the appellant’s arguments, requiring the unauthorised uses to cease within 9 months’*.

This will crop up on other pages and Bill Dax will consider the planning aspects and implications. But now it is over (we hope), let us consider what a long, strange journey it has been. Have you ever tried to explain just why we have been so angry? I mean ‘Orchard Herbs’, it sounds so charming. I’ve a copy on my desk now of *Dorney Parish News* from December 1994, almost exactly thirty years ago. You could buy fresh smoked salmon and farm cheeses from the Orchard Herbs Farm Shop (they advertised with us), not to mention hanging baskets and then ‘domestic stoneware’ from ‘The Pottery’.

This benighted site seems to be cursed. As late as 2018 public bodies including the RSPCA and Dorney Parish Council were trying to force out the owner of an ‘Animal Sanctuary’ which reputedly had at one stage celebrity endorsement from the likes of Simon Cowell and Joanna Lumley. The owner went from staging open days for local school children to facing charges of animal cruelty. Then, I suppose, the lorries arrived...

The site was the biggest cause of complaint when this magazine was being delivered. One lady said, ‘what are they going to do about The Dump?’ Visions of Crowpiece Lane flashed into my head, but she went on ‘you know, in Lake End’. This uncertainty over what to call the site or what went on there was reflected in this week’s *Maidenhead Advertiser*. A fine article was under the headline ‘Builder’s Yard loses Appeal Over Land Use’. Many outside Dorney must have wondered why so much pressure was exerted on a ‘builder’ by councillors, an MP and much of Dorney’s population.

But pressure there was, and we know why, and the concerted actions of the Parish Council, co-ordinated by Cllr Robert Stopford, himself a Lake End resident, plus local County Councillors with support from our MP, lobbying by residents of course, and eventually and crucially Bucks Council, helped lead to this welcome result. This magazine recognised a turning point in 2022 when the owners overreached themselves. This column was asked by the occupants of a family saloon where the car park was – Orchard Herbs had set up an illegal transfer service to Heathrow – and ready-mix concrete lorries arrived in substantial numbers.

One of our favourite covers (from earlier this year) shows our MP and Parish Council chair gazing over the site as if to say, ‘how can this be?’. Well, now it isn’t, and we can hope for the return of green fields before too long.

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:

Lest we forget...

November brings our Remembrance Services for those who have fallen in the World War 1 and World War 2 and their families. Thank you. In addition...

There were also those who served and survived the wars. I believe they need our prayers as much. I can't imagine coming back from those wars and not suffering. In addition...

As each generation moves on, we seem more distant from what our parents and grandparents did for the UK and our allies. In addition...

I would ask you to pray for all those in the UK Military overseas, to ask they come home safe and that they don't experience modern warfare.

We would welcome everyone at one of the Remembrance Sunday Services as depicted on the website covering Eton, Eton Wick and Dorney.

As some of you are aware we also run a Thanksgiving and Commemorative Service each year which will be taking place this year on Sunday 3rd November. This service will remember those within our extended Parishes who passed away in the last year.

It seems highly inappropriate to talk about Christmas, so I'll share that next month.

Can I leave you with a simple thought. Whether you are religious or not:

The nations, we should look to the day when we will gather people from north and south, east and west, into the unity of a peaceable Kingdom, guide just and gentle wisdom all who take counsel for the nations of the world, that all the people may spend their days in security, freedom, and peace.

God bless,

Stephen

Church Services in November 2024

Sunday 3rd November

9.30 am	Holy Communion (said BCP)	St James the Less, Dorney
11.00 am	All Age Service	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 6th November

10.00am	Holy Communion (said BCP)	St John the Evangelist Eton
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Sunday 10th November (Remembrance)

9.15am	Holy Communion with Remembrance	St James the Less, Dorney
10.55am	Remembrance Service	St John the Evangelist, Eton
3.00pm	Remembrance Service with scouts	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 17th November

9.30am	Morning Worship	St James the Less, Dorney
11.00am	Morning Worship	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 20th November

10.00am	Holy Communion (said BCP)	St John the Evangelist Eton
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Sunday 24th November

9.30am	Holy Communion	St James the Less, Dorney
11.00am	Holy Communion	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick



Poems of Remembrance

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae

The Soldier

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made
aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to
roam,
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of
home.
And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by
England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her
day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and
gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English
heaven.

Rupert Brooke

The Dorney Fallen in World War I and World War II

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

For the Fallen by Laurence Binyon

World War I (1914 – 1918)

James (“Jack”) Henry Moriarty

Percy Charles Poolman

Albert Poolman

Bertie Belcher

Robert James Eustace

Lieutenant Courtenay Traice Lindsay

Frank Reginald Church

(St Mary Magdalene, Boveney)

World War II (1939 – 1945)

2ND Lieutenant Richard Vernon Cholmondeley

Colonel Andrew D. Clinch

Lance Corporal Percy Thomas Robert Evins

Sergeant Peter Arthur Ingram

Wing Commander Reginald Frederick Stuart Leslie

Lieutenant John Pendennis Dunning McCartney

Private William George Poole

Gunner Benjamin Rolfe

Lance Corporal Edwin Alan Sprackling

Sergeant Harold Stevens

Harold Tudor Thomas

Captain Alan Douglas Comyn

♪ “All the young dudes ... carry the news” ♪

One of my favourite rock'n'roll stars David Bowie had such a plethora of great songs that when he wrote 'All the Young Dudes' he gave it away to his friends Mott the Hoople who were struggling for a hit at that time. Of course, it got to #3 in the UK Singles Chart, back when these things actually mattered. I was singing it in my head as I walked down the garden in the sunshine this weekend. Having turned 50 this year, I've been reflecting on my own youth quite a lot recently. I was also struck by this headline on the BBC which covered the time I have been on this earthly planet.



Wildlife numbers fall by 73% in 50 years, global stocktake finds

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5y3j0vzpl3o>

It seems relatively extraordinary to me that I have ended up living through the beginning of what is coming to be termed the “Sixth Mass Extinction” which sounds suitably terrifying I'm sure you'll agree. As this title suggests, there have been five mass extinctions so far. The fifth period of extinction happened around 65 million years ago and is more commonly known as Cretaceous-Tertiary extinction (catchy, eh?). It was the fastest period of mass extinction (to date), occurring over one to 2.5 million years.

It's possibly the most 'famous' period of mass extinction because this was when dinosaurs were wiped out from the face of the earth. Scientists believe a meteor fall in today's Gulf of Mexico compounded with high volcanic activity (which produced a significant amount of carbon dioxide) killed half of the earth's living population.

Anyway, to try and distract myself from these apocalyptic thoughts, I decided to fire up my trusty Merlin birdsong app and leave it running at the bottom of the garden while I did some autumnal hedge trimming. Later, when I went to review the results I was quite taken aback at the list recorded (I hadn't heard much birdsong myself): Jackdaw, Chiffchaff, Robin, Magpie, Long-tailed Tit, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Goldcrest, White Wagtail, Kingfisher, Starling, Blackbird, Reed Bunting, Jay, Dunnock (hedge sparrow), Wren, Rook, Chaffinch, Kestrel, Greenfinch, Parakeet, Meadow Pipit, Goldfinch, House Sparrow, Canada Goose, Song Thrush and Firecrest.

I was buoyed by the breadth of these results and again felt very thankful to live in Dorney and close to the rewilded field. I'd seen a kingfisher on a dog walk the week before and was thrilled as always to see the distinct flash of blue zooming over the murky Thames. As always (I have no idea why), Merlin failed to record the sound of the Red Kite, two of which were perched on the tall poplar with a bunch of chattering

starlings watching me beadily and calling regularly and loudly to remind me (I think) to leave a treat out for them.



As well as this plethora of birds, I was also excited to find a tiny baby newt under a flowerpot I was moving (yes, I put the flowerpot back for now, so the newt didn't lose its home) but was later saddened to see a flattened hedgehog on Huntercombe Lane South. I couldn't decide if this was a good sign of a healthy local population, or the death of the last remaining one. I remain glass half full for now, although I note that the plight of hedgehogs in the UK (numbers have halved in a decade) is now so bad that a nationwide strategy has just been launched to try and save them (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/articles/cp95l9l99z9o>).

As you do your garden tidy up this autumn, please consider not tidying up too enthusiastically and leaving some wild corners for them. Think log piles and discreet mounds of leaves and grass clippings, don't use pesticides (kills their food sources) and consider holes in fences to allow them to move around.



In a weird twist of fate, as Britain's last hedgehogs potentially head for extinction, the British hedgehogs introduced to New Zealand in the 1870's to make British 'settlers' feel more at home have done remarkably well. Too well in fact. In many parts of New Zealand there are between 2 and as many as 8 hedgehogs per hectare and they pose a real threat to the already vulnerable invertebrates, lizards and ground-dwelling birds that are native to New Zealand. Perhaps we should round them all up and ship them back home to boost our own flagging population.

Andrew Oliver



Parliament is now back in full swing after a busy conference recess earlier this month. In this update, I want to touch on the work I have been doing in Parliament to champion the issues that matter most to you.

First and foremost, I was thrilled to learn the wonderful news that the appeal at Orchard Herbs has been dismissed. Protecting our Green Belt has always been one of my top priorities, and the damaging developments that had taken place on this site had gone on for far too long. I have been proud to work closely with your local Parish Councillors and residents to ensure that the enforcement notice was upheld. I look forward to seeing this land returned to its rightful use, preserving the character of our beautiful countryside.

As I write this, we are just over a week away from the Chancellor's Budget. Many residents across the constituency have contacted me regarding the issue of fuel duty, and I share your concerns. It is critical that we keep fuel prices affordable, especially for hardworking families and small businesses in Dorney and across the constituency. That's why I am proud to have co-signed a letter to the Chancellor, urging her to continue the freeze on fuel duty in the upcoming Budget.

A rise in fuel duty would place an unnecessary burden on drivers and small businesses, so I will continue to push for policies that ease the financial strain on residents across the constituency. Rest assured I will also hold the Government to account on their promise not to raise taxes on working people. It is vital that we protect families and workers from additional financial pressures in these challenging times. The Labour Government must keep this promise.

In Parliament, I was pleased to speak in a debate on support for carers. This is an issue close to my heart, as my husband is a carer for his mother. Carers, both paid and unpaid, dedicate so much of their lives to supporting loved ones, friends, and neighbours. We owe them our deepest gratitude, and I will continue to advocate for stronger support for carers in our society.

Lastly, I was delighted to attend the Animals Matter event in Parliament. I am proud to support initiatives that ensure all animals receive the care and respect they deserve. It's essential that we continue to champion animal welfare, protecting both pets and wildlife alike.

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. I hope everyone in Dorney has a fantastic November ahead!

Joy Morrissey MP

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



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

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

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 ShymanskyPortraitPhotographer

Shymansky



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Professional Photography

Dorney Planning Inquiry: Orchard Herbs Decision in our favour



The recent Planning Inquiry has dismissed the appeals related to the Orchard Herbs site, (which is shortly to be in Dorney Parish). The decision upholds the Enforcement Notice issued by Buckinghamshire Council and dismisses the appeal for a certificate of lawful use.

Key Points of the Decision

1. **Green Belt Protection:** The Inspector found that the development constituted inappropriate use of Green Belt land, impacting its openness and purposes.
2. **Landscape Impact:** The development was deemed to affect the character of the Dorney Floodplain Landscape Character Area.
3. **Heritage Considerations:** The ruling noted that the development did not preserve the setting of nearby listed buildings and the Huntercombe Conservation Area.
4. **Residential Impact:** The decision acknowledged noise and dust disturbance to nearby residents from the unauthorised activities.

Implications for Dorney

This decision is part of a series of recent planning outcomes in Dorney. The community has seen several planning applications and appeals dismissed, including:

- Previous Orchard Herbs hotel development application and appeal
- Boveney Court Farm Buildings planning application and subsequent appeal
- Boveney Court Stables (Mobile Boxes) planning application

Next Steps

The Orchard Herbs site owner has been given nine months to comply with the enforcement notice (July 2025). This includes ceasing all unauthorised uses and removing related structures and materials. This process will be monitored closely. However, the site owner can apply to the High Court for a judicial review into the process to arrive at the decisions.

Community Engagement



The Palmer Arms

Festive Menu 2024

£32.45 - 3 Courses / £28.45 - 2 Courses
Complimentary Crackers

STARTERS

PARSNIP SOUP, PARSNIP CRISPS, TRUFFLE OIL, CRUSTY BREAD (VG) (GF)

ROASTED PUMPKIN RISOTTO, SAGE FRITTERS (VG) (GF)

SMOKED DUCK, ORANGE, SPRING ONION SALAD, CHILLI PLUM JAM

CHICKEN LIVER & PORT PARFAIT WITH A FIG AND APPLE ONION CHUTNEY, TOASTED BRIOCHE

PRAWN AND SMOKED SALMON COCKTAIL, BREAD AND BUTTER

MAINS

TURKEY BREAST WITH PIGS IN BLANKETS, ROAST POTATOES, SEASONAL VEGETABLES, SAGE ONION STUFFING & RED WINE GRAVY (GF)

PAN FRIED SEABASS WITH CRUSHED NEW POTATOES, WILTED SPINACH, PRAWN AND GARLIC BUTTER (GF)

PORK BELLY WITH CRACKLING, APPLE CIDER SAUCE, ROAST POTATOES, CABBAGE & BACON

BEEF WELLINGTON WITH SPINACH DUXELLE, DAUPHINOISE POTATO & BUTTERED CARROTS, JUS
(+ £5.00 SUPPLEMENT)

LENTIL AND CHICKPEA MOUSSAKA WITH SEASONAL VEGETABLES (VG) (GF)

DESSERTS

CHRISTMAS PUDDING *WITH BRANDY CUSTARD* (VG) (GFA)

CHOCOLATE FONDANT *WITH MINT CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM*

SELECTION OF BRITISH CHEESES *WITH CELERY, GRAPES AND CRACKERS* (+ £3.00 SUPPLEMENT)

APPLE & RAISIN CRUMBLE *WITH CUSTARD* (GFA)

SPECULOOS CHEESECAKE *WITH VANILLA ICE CREAM* (VG)



DORNEY

PARISH COUNCIL



After years of disruption, pollution, and unauthorised activity at the Orchard Herbs site, Dorney Parish are celebrating a significant legal victory. The site, once a source of contention due to its improper use, has been the subject of numerous enforcement notices issued by Buckinghamshire Council (Bucks).

The case finally reached the Planning Inspectorate after years of legal wrangling. A two-week public inquiry, strongly supported by Bucks' legal department and an experienced barrister, resulted in a tense wait for the Inspector's decision.

To the relief of local residents, the appeal was entirely dismissed, and the site's owner has been given nine months to clear the area. The decision has been widely welcomed by the community, who have long called for the site to be restored to its original agricultural use.

A detailed document outlining the Inspector's decision, along with a summary of the outcome, is now available on the DPC website under 'Local Projects.' In the ruling, it was confirmed that the land must be returned to agricultural use. Residents and officials have expressed their gratitude to Bucks for seeing the case through to its conclusion.

Parish Litter Picking:

Many thanks to John & Joan Wraight for organising and hosting refreshments at recent Parish Litter Pick

Dorney Playground:

Congratulations to Dorney Playground for winning Bucks Community Board funding towards fencing the playground area. More still to be raised!

Proposed boundary change to move 7 properties at Lake End into Dorney Parish agreed by Local Government Boundary Commission

Request made to Bucks Council for replacement dog bin at Trumper's Field

DPC have asked for a Fire Hydrant Review, based on residents' concerns

**NEXT DPC MEETING
Wednesday
19th November
7.30pm at
Dorney School.**

Action Plan 2024/2025

Updated: 17th September 2024

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

DORNEY SCHOOL

*RESPECT * COLLABORATE * GROW*

News from Dorney School

Harvest Celebrations

As the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness descends on us, the children at Dorney School reflect on the bountiful harvest and how we can share this with everyone, especially those who are in need.



We welcomed again local farmer William Emmet to speak to the children about local farming and harvesting. The only disappointment was that he was unable to bring in his tractor due to the heavy rains. His knowledge and family history of farming always surprises us, and we learnt so much how climate change is farming's greatest challenge and threat.

Year 5 helped pupils and parents learn all about the celebration of Harvest around the world. It is a time of reaping, and also a time for sharing and giving. We were joined by Maidenhead Foodshare Charity that helped us to understand how many families in our local area are struggling with food poverty. They were extremely grateful for the food collection by our school community and explained how the charity works.



At our school we encourage kindness, compassion and empathy even as we pursue excellence in learning. We share what we have and understand that society is always stronger when we work together. We model our values of **Respect, Collaborate and Grow**.

Do get in touch office@dorneyschool.co.uk or visit our website <https://www.dorneyschool.co.uk/>

Mrs Sharifah Lee Headteacher

**DORNEY
SCHOOL**

**FIREWORKS
NIGHT**

Saturday 9th November 2024

5PM-7PM

MUSIC

HOT FOOD

BAR

DRINKS

TREATS

GLOW-TOYS

RAFFLE

TICKETS ONLINE:

TICKETTAILOR.COM/EVENTS/DORNEYPTA

- FAMILY SAVER TICKET: £25
- ADULT: £8
- CHILDREN (4yrs+): £6
- UNDER 4s: FREE
- BOOK EARLY FOR BEST PRICE!

email: dorneyschoolpta@gmail.com



DHS – A Successful Year with a Christmas Supper to come.

When we look back at the very end of the year at an active and happy 2024 for Dorney Horticultural Society, which event will really stand out most in the memory? Well, we would expect it to be a marvellously successful Annual Show or the highly anticipated Christmas Supper. But it's worth highlighting an evening meeting back in April, when Belinda Allen from Aldershot gave a talk on 'Herbs – Their Propagation and Care.' As was said in DPN, 'it's hard to recall another occasion when audience members afterwards thronged the stage to inspect and purchase the fruits of the speaker's own labours and expertise, in Belinda's case cuttings, oils and creams.' The oils and creams, by the way, were very effective.

During an evening meeting a few weeks back, Antony Powell, with perfect timing, reviewed in detail many examples of 'Autumn Colour'. Members will also fondly remember a super cottage pie supper served up that evening by our great stalwart, Chrys Fisher of the *Palmer Arms*. In 2023 the Society had its first Friday afternoon meeting. This year Tuesday afternoon made its debut in the schedule, as Lars Abildgaard, the Chair of Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead Beekeepers Society, with the accompaniment of teas, coffees and cakes, spoke on Honey Bees in the café annex of Crocus Dorney. We learnt a lot, but one fact will stick in the mind – it takes 22,700 bee trips to our flowers to fill a 1lb jar of honey.

Perhaps the biggest influence on our programme this year has been the weather. Just how different it can be within the same month – in this case June – was demonstrated by dark skies and rain for a visit to Stonor Park and that the super coach outing to the Oxford Botanic Gardens was blessed with the most gorgeous of English summer days. We said in this magazine that the weather at Stonor plus the interesting and intriguing tour of the house – for instance taking tea and cakes in the thirteenth century Pantry – emphasised the historical over the horticultural. There was so much to enjoy at Oxford – the Walled Garden, the cool herbarium, the seven tropical glasshouses cultivating plants from around the world, and of course, delicious coffee and ice cream.

The Annual Show was 'one of the most successful shows in recent memory'. Exhibitor numbers were up by nearly 40% on 2023, while entries to the children's section increased by over 50%. The stars of the Show were Alice Foxley, overall show winner, Zoe Eylek, this year's best newcomer, John Akerman who was presented with a chocolate cake inscribed 'Simply the Best' and Anna Snook's delicious looking focaccia. 2023's Annual Christmas Supper was probably the best ever, and most of its features will be retained this year, most notably Chrys Fisher's roast turkey supper, preceded by mingling over a glass of bubbly on the house. Mini quizzes with bumper prizes will keep the party atmosphere going along with crackers, bunting and a Village Hall dressed up in its party best. All this will take place on Friday December 6th at 7.30pm. Reserving a place beforehand by email or phone is vital.

See you there and at our 2025 events. Do follow us via our website or Facebook.

DHS Committee



Dorney Horticultural Society

Annual Christmas Supper

Friday 6th December

7.30 to 10.00 pm

at Dorney Village Hall



A welcome glass of bubbly on entry

Traditional Full Roast Turkey Supper with all the trimmings

Followed by Christmas Pudding

Fun mini-quizzes with hamper prizes full of goodies

Crackers, Bunting, Decorations Galore and much more

Come and join us for a great party evening

Don't forget to bring your own drinks and glasses



*Tickets £20/head for members, £22/head for non-members
(New members can join on the evening)*

ddhs@btinternet.com

Tel: 07889 912714

Dorney Parish Welcomes New Residents as Northern Parish Boundary Shifts

In a significant development for our parish, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England has approved a change to Dorney Parish's northern boundary. Effective from 1st May 2025, seven houses on (Old) Lake End Road, situated closest to the M4 and the Orchard Herbs site, will be incorporated into Dorney Parish from Burnham Parish.

Background of the Proposal

The initiative for this boundary adjustment came from the residents of (Old) Lake End Road in Lake End. They proposed aligning the boundary between Burnham and Dorney with the M4 motorway, arguing that this change would better reflect the community's identity.

Impact of the Change

This boundary modification will have several effects:

1. **Community Growth:** Dorney Parish will welcome seven new households to its community. The Orchard Herbs site and other agricultural fields are also included.
2. **Financial Implications:** The tax base for Dorney Parish Council will increase by seven households, while Burnham Parish Council will see a corresponding decrease.
3. **Administrative Shift:** The affected properties will now fall under the jurisdiction of Dorney Parish for local matters.

Below are maps illustrating both the current and future boundaries:



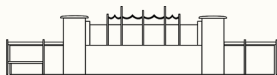
Figure 1 Existing Parish Boundaries



Figure 2 Proposed new Parish Boundaries (shown in dashed line)

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Delight and Doom in Dorney

The day had started badly as I waited for an hour in the dark for the alarm to end a bad night coughing my heart up, trying not to wake the lovely Mrs. Quincey.

I padded into the kitchen, filled the kettle and was surprised to find that I was short of breath. The first time Mr. Puffy and I met, I was really quite scared (see a previous DPN for the full story!!!), but by now we were old acquaintances, and I knew that a short dose of antibiotic would soon see him off.

Later that morning I was finally granted an audience with the lone Doctors' receptionist as my predecessor shuffled uncomfortably towards the exit.

"Can I help?" she asked in a bored monotone that did not portend good news.

I sought to impress her, perhaps appeal to her maternal instincts, or even perhaps instil some anxiety in that, if I dropped dead in front of her, she would fear clutching the rail in the local coroner's court.

"I'm short of breath," I wheezed dramatically, continuing "but I know from previous...."

"No appointments left today!" She barely looked up.

"But all I want is...."

"No appointments left today!"

"Was this AI?" I thought.

"But...."

"No appointments...."

"Yes, so you said. What do you suggest I do?"

"The urgent care centre in Slough."

"Where's that?"

"Priors Close. Can I help?" She raised her voice. I was dismissed.

I too shuffled uncomfortably to the exit, eased myself into the Dagenham Dustbin, found Priors Close and with some apprehension entered what I expected to be a scene from Blade Runner. (Ask your Dad).

The passage through the brief induction was kind, empathetic and quietly professional. Inside an hour I had had my vitals checked and seen a young lady doctor who must have been harassed but showed absolutely no sign of it, treating me in a way that made me feel that I was the most important patient that she would see that month, and a visit to the pharmacy provided the antibiotic I sought, as promised by the remarkable doctor in the Urgent Care Centre.

What a difference. Doom and delight indeed.

My reader, bless them, may recall that I have written much on these pages about the joy of transporting remarkable patients, some with proper grown up problems, while wearing with great pride my green uniform emblazoned with its NHS ambulance badge incorporating The Staff of Life which appears to be respected and loved by just about everybody. It gives me great delight every time I go to work, if indeed, work it is! We are the Rolls Royce of patient transport, or at least we think we are.



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"You won't like this at all," a colleague said, gazing at the computer screen, and there in electric black and white, was news that promised to burst my bubble. South Central Ambulance Service have lost the contract which has been won by a private company. We are to be transferred to this company, no longer a treasured part of the NHS. We are in the process of grieving, doom indeed.

What will become of our patients when, it could be argued, our employers overriding priority will be the bottom line?

What will become of us? We have been told that we will no longer serve from Wexham Ambulance Station which we share with the proper blue lights and siren heroes; rather at some base not yet announced.

What will happen to Slough's (and our) ambulance station if half the occupiers are removed along with their share of the rent and other running costs? Few of us like unplanned and unexpected change, the older we get, the less we like it. Oh, gloom indeed.

And then I pick up one of my frequent flyers with a proper grown-up problem. She looks much better, and can't wait to tell me, with a beaming smile, that treatment for her late-stage life threatening illness has worked, and this is her last appointment for a while. She has her life back, and I in my small way, have been part, albeit tiny, of that success and her joy.

My gloom fades into obscurity where it belongs. Oh, the delight!

We bell ringers occasionally put on our anoraks and spend a lovely day in good company ringing bells in different towers. I have to admit that I am a small anorak in these matters and enjoyed a beautifully organised trip recently. Bell towers are like cars in many ways. Hitcham, for example, is shiny and new in bell ringing terms but plain, reliable and cheap in that there are six, all quite light; what also helps is that they are scrupulously maintained. So in that sense, ringing them is like driving a three-year-old mid-range Kia; utterly reliable, but if you die in it, it will only be of boredom.

Another tower eight miles from Dorney has, what once was a grand heavy eight, installed no doubt when the living (income) from the village was considerable. Bells were a way of showing off the living; the heavier and greater in number, the better the living.

Sadly, the village's good fortune has deserted it over the centuries and the very old heavy bells are now an absolute disaster to ring; certainly not for the unwary. They remind me of an elderly Mark 2 Jaguar I ran in my youth; bought for a fiver, I was ripped off! It still drove frighteningly quickly but punished you if taken for granted.

Most bells fall into the mid-range Ford category, comfortable, forgiving, relatively easy without heart stopping moments. A very few are Rolls Royce gorgeous, delightful.

What are Dorney's likened to? Ask the tower captain.

This band of brilliant bell ringers and I just happened to ring for the following Sunday service at Hitcham. We rang a complicated method (a mathematical tune) so flawlessly that the congregation turned round and stared in awe at this beautiful moment, drinking in the perfect, serene sound.

It was a rare moment in a lifetime, and I was lucky indeed to be a part of it. Thanks Jo, Janet, David, Roger and Jake.

Stay safe.

Mike Quincey



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VETERANS

In the 1920s, many houses in Dorney were occupied by men who had served in the armed forces during the First World War. These were those who had survived that brutal conflict, though not necessarily unscathed. Similarly, after the Second World War, in many households there were former servicemen and women. It would have been commonplace, not an exception, for your neighbour to have been involved in some way. In this month of remembrance, let's take a look at some of these.

The first owner of our house in Dorney Reach, in July 1924, was Cecil Notley, a young man working in advertising. As an eighteen-year-old straight from school, he had joined the Royal Flying Corps in September 1917. He became a fighter pilot, flying low level ground attack missions in support of British troops fighting on the Western Front. He appears to have undertaken this dangerous activity unscathed and resumed his previous occupation when he was demobilised in 1919. I am not sure that he ever actually lived in the house, as he worked in London, and a few months before marrying he had sold it on.



Gordon Richard Smith purchased the house in March 1925. He had married the previous year; the young couple did not move in straight away but by 1930 they were in Dorney Reach with their young son.

Gordon came from Whitehaven. In 1916, aged 18, he was an apprentice mining engineer when he joined the army. By May 1917 he was a 2nd lieutenant in the West Riding Regiment and was sent to fight in France, taking part in several battles

– Arras, Cambrai, Lys, Playe. He was attached to the 10th Trench Mortar Battery, operating light mortar guns. On 18 July 1918, he was involved in providing artillery cover for a raid to take Pacaut Wood and capture a German garrison there. The mission was successful but a shell in a gun under Gordon's command exploded prematurely, leaving him severely wounded. He subsequently received the Military Cross for maintaining the artillery barrage despite his injuries.

Gordon's injuries were life changing. Invalided home to England, his other wounds healed but he lost the sight in both eyes and suffered from frequent headaches. He was judged to be 100% disabled as a result and was awarded a small army pension. Unable to pursue his previously chosen career, he retrained as a chartered

masseur. Gordon and his family left Dorney Reach around 1936, but he continued to practice as a masseur and was part of the Massage Corps in the Second World War.

The Smiths were followed by Hamish Macdonell, a retired banker, with his wife and teenaged daughter. In September 1939, Hamish was recorded as a lieutenant in the Royal Armoured Corps, which may have been his rank during the First World War. His wife and his daughter – who was unable to return to her school in France – had both volunteered as telephonists for the ARP (Air Raid Precautions) in the current conflict.



"In France many false orders--such as 'Retire' and 'Cease Fire"--were circulated with disastrous effects. Home guards can help to trace such cunning messages and pin them down to the senders"

A few years later, the house was purchased by Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Barry Costin-Nian, although I don't think he ever lived in it. He was Canadian by birth, educated at Sandhurst and then joined the Canadian army. In 1915 he transferred to the West Yorkshire Regiment and was sent to France. As a captain, he was awarded the Military Cross in January 1916 for distinguished service in the field. By 1918, he was attached to the Machine Gun Corps and promoted to acting major. After the war Charles continued his military career, including spells in Australia and Egypt with the Royal Tank Corps, and reached lieutenant-colonel in 1933. He had retired in 1937 but was recalled in June 1939 shortly before war broke out again, being finally released in 1943 having reached the age of 55. Between 1940 and 1944, he wrote regularly as military correspondent for the Daily Express and other newspapers, commenting on the progress of the war and providing tactical guidance for Home Guard volunteers, of which he was one. Advice covered subjects such as how to shoot down a dive bomber with a rifle and how to fortify your village and ambush enemy tanks with trip wires in the event of invasion.



In 1948 the house was sold again, to Herbert Buckmaster. He had been too young to take part in the First World War, and during the second he was engaged in other war work as technical director and works manager of McMichael Radio Ltd in Slough. The company spent the war manufacturing equipment for the armed forces,

producing bomb racks, suppressors, and even secret equipment for resistance movements. They also played a crucial role in the development of radar technology, producing components for early radar systems. Herbert was awarded the MBE in 1945 for his contribution to the war effort. In 1940, when the threat of a German invasion felt all too real, Herbert issued instructions to key personnel in the factory, concerning the disposal or destruction of equipment, parts and machinery if the worst happened. He was also a lieutenant in the Home Guard and led the company's own Home Guard platoon, equipped with rifles expropriated from the shooting section of the company's Sports and Social Club. Post-war the company resumed production of civilian radio and television sets, and Herbert became managing director in 1951.

Wartime service was still a feature of the next family to move into the house, in 1955. Peter Cane joined the RAF as a nineteen-year-old in 1933 and became a pilot officer a year later. Posted to Egypt in 1937, he was promoted to flight lieutenant and then in 1941 to temporary squadron leader. That same year he left the RAF and joined BOAC as a captain. The airline was unable to undertake normal commercial services during the war and instead transported personnel and supplies for the



Government. Peter took part in the operation to maintain supplies in the Western Desert, where BOAC made 270 flights in the first half of 1943, and he received the King's commendation for this in June 1943. After the war, he remained with the commercial airline and was heavily involved in the development and testing of new airliners, the Comet and later the Vickers VC10. He was described as one of BOAC's most experienced pilots in 1959 when he flew the Duke of Edinburgh from Heathrow to Delhi.

These people were all associated with just one house, and many other houses in Dorney would have similar stories to tell. This November, I will remember not only those who made the ultimate sacrifice but also the many ordinary people who came forward to help protect our country in time of war.

Virginia Silvester

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Data Centre Expansion and Renewable Energy: Slough's Tech and Sustainability Boom



In recent years, Slough has transformed from a town often derided in popular culture to a powerhouse in both digital infrastructure and renewable energy. Now home to what's claimed to be "Europe's largest collection of data centres" and innovative sustainable energy projects, Slough's evolution has put this unassuming town on the global tech and sustainability map.

Slough: The Unexpected Tech and Energy Hub

Slough's journey to becoming a data centre hotspot and renewable energy pioneer is rooted in its strategic advantages. Located just outside London, with excellent transport links to the capital and Heathrow Airport, Slough offers an ideal combination of connectivity and space. The Slough Trading Estate has become the epicentre of this digital and energy revolution, now considered the largest data centre hub in Europe and home to innovative renewable energy projects.

Since welcoming its first data centre in 2005, Slough has seen exponential growth, with current estimates suggesting between 30 to 35 data centres operating within the borough. This concentration has attracted major players in the tech industry, cementing Slough's position as a critical digital infrastructure hub.

Renewable Energy Innovation

Alongside its data centre boom, Slough is also at the forefront of renewable energy innovation. In 2008, SSE acquired Slough Heat and Power (SHP), a company that provides electricity and water to the Slough Trading Estate. SHP owns and operates a biomass plant, burning waste wood to generate clean, affordable energy, and steam and heat to the estate as a byproduct.

SSE is currently investing £400M in a new state-of-the-art energy-from-waste facility, expected to be fully operational by 2024. Once complete, it will have an electricity generation capacity of nearly 50MW - equivalent to meeting the annual energy requirements of 18,000 homes - and will be capable of processing approximately 480,000 tonnes of waste-derived fuels annually.

The Growing Demand for Data Centres and Clean Energy

The proliferation of data centres in Slough is driven by an insatiable global appetite for digital services. From AI and cloud computing to social media, online gaming, and virtual reality, our increasingly digital lives require vast amounts of data to be stored, processed, and transmitted at lightning speeds. The COVID-19 pandemic has only accelerated this trend, with remote work and digital entertainment driving up demand for data centre capacity.

Simultaneously, the demand for clean, renewable energy to power these data centres and other industries is growing. Slough's innovative approach to energy production, using locally sourced waste products and the latest technology, offers a glimpse into the future of sustainable industrial development.

Environmental Concerns and Resource Usage

While Slough's data centre industry brings economic benefits, it also raises significant environmental concerns. Data centres are notoriously resource-intensive, consuming vast amounts of electricity to power and cool their servers. The National Grid has warned that data centres' power consumption could increase six-fold in the next decade, straining existing energy infrastructure.

Water usage is another critical issue. During the 2022 drought, Thames Water scrutinized the water consumption of data centres in the area, highlighting potential impacts on local water resources. As climate change exacerbates water scarcity, the sustainability of data centre operations becomes increasingly concerning.

The renewable energy initiatives in Slough, such as the biomass plant and the upcoming energy-from-waste facility, offer potential solutions to these environmental challenges. By providing clean, locally generated power, these projects can help mitigate the environmental impact of the data centre industry.

Economic Growth and Government Support

The UK government has signalled a strong commitment to economic growth, with particular emphasis on sectors like data centres and renewable energy. Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) indicate that economic growth is to be given additional weight in determining planning applications, especially for data centres and digital infrastructure.

This policy shift could potentially accelerate the expansion of data centres and renewable energy projects in and around Slough.

Expansion Beyond Slough: Opportunities and Challenges

As Slough's data centre market approaches saturation, developers are increasingly looking to neighbouring areas for expansion opportunities. This trend has raised concerns among local communities and environmental groups, particularly regarding potential encroachment on Green Belt land, including West Town Farm, over the M4 from Dorney.

Balancing Growth and Preservation

As data centre demand and the need for renewable energy continue to grow, finding a balance between economic development and environmental preservation becomes increasingly crucial. Several strategies could help mitigate the impact of growth on neighbouring areas:

1. **Integrated Development:** Encouraging the co-location of data centres and renewable energy projects.
2. **Brownfield Development:** Prioritizing the redevelopment of existing industrial sites or brownfield land.

3. **Green Technology Investment:** Continued investment in energy-efficient technologies and renewable energy sources.
4. **Transparent Planning Processes:** Ensuring open communication and community involvement in decision-making.

Conclusion

Slough's emergence as a hub for both data centres and renewable energy presents unique opportunities and challenges. The government's focus on economic growth adds complexity to this dynamic.

For residents of Slough and surrounding areas, engagement with local planning processes is crucial as expansion pressures grow. Balancing technological needs with community well-being and environmental sustainability is essential in this digital age.

Slough's transformation exemplifies the broader societal challenge of reconciling progress with preservation. The future of the region hinges on striking a delicate balance between digital infrastructure expansion, renewable energy innovation, and maintaining local quality of life and environmental integrity in places like Dorney.

Bill Dax

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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A Year of Articles

I wrote my first article titled 'What is it like living in a small village as a teenager' in September 2023. I am now an adult and still loving writing these monthly articles. From the first article I tried to set my tone as light-hearted, weaving in the perception of a young person on various topics from the election to social media. I thought in this article I would reminisce on those previous articles.

In my first article, as I said, it was a little bit of an intro and talking about how I find living in a small village. At that point I hadn't passed my driving test (which I discussed in my second article), so trains were my best friend as well as my parents being my uber drivers. Now, being able to drive well, I'm my brother's best friend because I'm more convenient! Being able to drive and Dorney being so near the M4 allows even more options for travel. Dorney's location keeps being extremely ideal. Despite missing most of the village society events this year, which I'm pretty gutted about due to a busy school year and other commitments, the community continues to be friendly and connected.

My following articles discussed various topics such as Christmas, New Years resolutions and Leap Years. These focused on my own perspective or a 'young persons' perspective, making sure I am still following my own brief of bringing a new tone into the Dorney Parish News. These are the kind of articles I enjoy as I can do research and find out facts that I didn't know and then turning those facts and figures into something a bit humorous and engaging, as this tends to be what a younger person would be more interested in reading rather than a page of information talking about how the Leap Year was made by Julius Caesar in 45BC. Don't worry, I'll stop there!

I try and bring topics I'm interested in into these articles as it makes it more enjoyable to write and explore - well it's either this or just talking about myself in 500 words which I'm sure very few of you want to hear about. That said I still went and did it in one of my recent articles talking about my year out and my plans for the future, which is already changing as I get closer to jetting off to the city of Florence.

Another article I wrote was about social media possibly helping small villages. Social media did and still does have a large presence in my life as well as many peoples', as the world carries on fuelling the rise of it. I'm sure many of you heard about the circumstances of Liam Payne's death, but what you may not have heard of was how TMZ in fact posted photos of Liam's body for millions of people to see, including his 7-year-old son who will have to grow up seeing news reports about his father. So social media on a large scale I can't agree is always a positive thing, but in small, controlled environments with the idea to help and bring people together I can agree on. But a topic like this is something I have grown up with, so seeing it change, develop and affect people interests me making it something I like to write about.

That's a quick overview of the last year of articles. I hope you continue to enjoy reading the 'DPN'. If there are any readers that want me to write about a certain topic from a younger person's perspective, please do get in contact.

Laila Marples

30 Sept.2024

Dear Editor

Anyone for Hallowe'en?

Our former neighbours in Dorney of some 28 years, Sylvia and the late Charles Livsey went annually to a holiday home on the Isle of Purbeck. They continually invited us to go and visit them there and we finally took up their offer shortly before the lease on the property was due to expire. You take the chain link ferry toward Swanage and turn right after Studland, drive through some military owned land and at the North coast of the peninsular is an imposing house, completely isolated in a beautiful setting.

After a meal in Swanage, we retired to bed. Shirley and I were in what used to be the children's room with four single beds. We were soon asleep, but at around 2am something surprising happened. It was a warm night, and we had left the window ajar. I was woken by a gust of wind which moved the window slightly. Then Charles came in and sat on the foot of my bed and started to read my large AA atlas. It was the turning of the pages that really made me awake. I decided to say nothing so as not to disturb Shirley and for fear of waking him should he be sleep-walking.

At breakfast I looked at him quizzically, was he going to say anything, perhaps apologise? Nothing! Just a munching of cereals as he read his paper.

Sylvia suggested a walk with the dog along the coast, so I went to fetch the wellies from the car. There on the back seat was the AA atlas! I was confused. As we were walking along Sylvia asked if we had slept all right. "The children used to say that the room was haunted and a monk used to come and sit on the bed in the middle of the room and read a large Bible" she said. "We didn't really believe them".

My gob was totally smacked! My flabber was utterly gasted!

I had seen a ghost. AAAAAARGH!

It transpired that the house they had called summer home for 25 years used to be a retreat for monks who had transgressed, where they had to do the equivalent of a thousand lines by Bible reading.

So, beware if you visit the North coast of the Isle of Purbeck.

Forewarned is..... forearmed is..... quadruped!

Nick Teale

Fun in the Village Hall with the Studio's School

I've been to some breathtaking places over the last few weeks.

Try this one. It's a dark night in Soviet era Moscow. The night is full of menace. A man is making a recording to be heard after he has gone, a desperate man privy to secrets so explosive he is contemplating suicide. Why, he wonders, is that car always parked just across the street with its lights on?

Not impressed? OK, so next up was depression era California. Two migrant workers long for a better future. One may be a gentle giant, but with just him and the unhappy wife of his boss confined in that barn, his very next action might just be to murder her.

How come? Well, here's a clue. I was speaking words previously spoken by no less than Jared Harris and John Malkovich. Yes, this was me trying my hand at acting. Not Moscow but Dorney Village Hall, with the scripts of *Chernobyl* and *Of Mice and Men*. In July's issue, after reviewing their youthful production of *Grease*, we previewed the adult classes due to be launched by the Studio's School of Performing Arts, under the inspirational guidance of Corinne Carlisle. 'Give it a try' I had said, 'I will'. I had no choice, but I'm glad I joined in.



I must not give the impression that all is doomy and dramatic. It's just that I've most enjoyed the leader of the classes, Barry Callan, guiding us through the interpretation of a film or TV script. But most of the time so far has been with what Barry calls 'exercises'. These start with improvisation and are guaranteed to end with all involved falling about laughing.

It seems that informal acting classes for adults with no intention of becoming serious stage performers are selling out all over the country. It's probably a post-Covid thing. I read in my newspaper that the appeal may well be greatest to those with stressful lifestyles or those who just crave to escape the straight jacket of everyday life. So, it might be gaining confidence, it might be relaxation, it could be meeting new friends that is the appeal, but who wouldn't enjoy these roles I've performed at Barry's request?

A hard of hearing robber on the run who reveals that he stole a lion (which is in the car boot) rather than nick an iron; a computer dater whose new first date is revealed over dinner to be an alien; a chat show host in the style of Graham Norton confronted by the two biggest female stars on the planet who clearly loathe each other. Much fun was had by the whole company....

The initial run of six lessons started in September and is coming to an end. Corinne and Barry declare them to have been a success. Another set of six sessions will follow. They have been for an hour and a half on a Thursday evening. More details will be announced in this magazine and please see the current Studio's School's advertisement for contact details. I got an enormous kick out of being fleetingly 'Legasov', the Chernobyl whistle blower. You might enjoy more coping with an alien. Either way, see you in the next course. I'm going back.

Peter Bowman

Gillian Cox (1953-2024)



Gillian Cox, who sadly passed away in July of this year, was certainly a long time Dorney Reach resident. In fact, her husband John told us that she lived in the same house in Meadow Way for the whole of her life.

Gillian was born Gillian Morley seventy-one years ago. Her parents were originally from Slough and arrived here when the local council put up houses in Meadow Way in 1952. Priority in these homes was given to armed services personnel, and, indeed, Gillian's father (who died in 1998) was ex-army. He became a jobbing gardener. Some might remember him doing gardening jobs all around the village. Gillian had one older sister, Janet, who emigrated to Australia as one of the last of the '£10 poms' in the 1970s.

Gillian was a pupil at Dorney School attending firstly the old building in Village Road and then moved with the school to Dorney Reach. After that she attended secondary school in Slough. John told us that her fondest memory of her teenage years was of being a very young bellringer at St James the Less and was a regular, he said, at Sunday services and weddings on Saturdays. In fact, John believed that there were at least three young bell ringers from Meadow Way. She would recall first Colonel Palmer, and later Peregrine Palmer, arriving to give lifts to practices.

Gillian certainly was a consistent lady. After leaving school in 1968 she joined the staff of Marks and Spencer in Maidenhead and remained there for thirty-five years before taking early retirement in 2004. Gillian met John, who came from Cox Green, at a dinner party organised by a mutual friend to mark the Millennium in 1999. They were married at Maidenhead Registry Office in 2001.

John told us he had been a 'car maniac'. He had been an engineer at Vandervell's and Hewland's Engineering. After his own early retirement, John and Gillian enjoyed their caravan at Selsey Bill for many years.

But it seems Gillian's main passion for all those years was tending her garden in Meadow Way. It must have been in her genes. John says that his knowledge of gardening had previously stretched only to mowing the lawn. 'But Gillian taught me everything, which plants were best where in the garden...she would tell me plant names, the proper Latin names.' She must have been successful because they entered and won prizes at many Dorney Annual Shows.

Gillian was 'friendly and talkative', and John mentioned several of her special friends among the neighbours. I hope they will enjoy being reminded of Gillian, this true and very long term Dorney Reach resident.

Peter Bowman



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Collection Calendar: Oct 24/Mar 25

Year	Month	Food waste	Garden waste	General waste	Mixed recycling	Paper and cardboard	Textiles/Batteries/Electricals
2024	Oct	4, 11, 18, 25	4, 18	11, 25	4, 18	4, 18	4, 18
	Nov	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	1, 15, 29	8, 22	1, 15, 29	1, 15, 29	1, 15, 29
	Dec	6, 13, 20, 30		6, 20	13, 30	13, 30	13, 30
2025	Jan	6, 11, 17, 24, 31	24	6, 17, 31	11, 24	11, 24	11, 24
	Feb	7, 14, 21, 28	7, 21	14, 28	7, 21	7, 21	7, 21
	Mar	7, 14, 21, 28	7, 21	14, 28	7, 21	7, 21	7, 21

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Dorney Parish News

Published monthly (except January and August)

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

Advertising in Dorney Parish News

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

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

Rate Card:

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

Contact: Peter Bowman, Editor
peter.bowman@talktalk.net
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
National Health Service	For urgent medical problems. Need advice	111
Crimestoppers	Anonymously report information	0800 555 111
Water Leaks	Thames Water	0845 9200 800
Sewage Problems	Thames Water	0845 9200 800
Power Cuts	SSE Networks - Central Southern England	0800 072 7282
Gas Leaks	National Grid	0800 111 999
Reporting Pot Holes	www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk	
Reporting Fly-tipping	www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk	
Reporting Footpath Problems	www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk	
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