

# Dorney Parish News

December 2024/ January 2025



Happy Christmas and New Year  
From Dorney Parish News

*(with thanks to Kaz Furlong for the seasonal photograph of St Mary Magdalene, Boveney)*



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EDITORIAL

This magazine doesn't nominate a Dorney 'Person of the Year'. It has crossed my mind. In 2024 perhaps, as 'TIME' magazine is prone to do, there should be a generic award. How about 'The Inspector'?

For the purposes of this review, let me assume that broadly speaking our readers are supportive of attempts this year by a number of interested parties to preserve Dorney's Green Belt and heritage. At various times this has included our Parish Council, Bucks Council, our MP, this magazine and, most important, residents who commented during the planning process or generally expressed their views, for instance, in the lively audience at 2024's Annual Parish Meeting in May.

If that is true, then the Event of the Year was the decision that emerged from The Planning Inspectorate in mid-October, after a September inquiry, dismissing the appeals of the Orchard Herbs site owner against Bucks' Enforcement Notice. After a process we estimated to have endured for around eighteen years, the owner was given nine months to 'cease all unauthorised uses and remove related structures and materials'. Furthermore, in our October issue we wrote that 'Eton College recently received a setback in its development plans' as another Planning Inspector had dismissed in August their appeal regarding the refused (in Summer 2023) planning permission for Boveney Court Farm Buildings.

Dorney has rather basked in the afterglow of another important decision – that by the Secretary of State to refuse (in April) the application to build a 416-bedroom hotel and energy park adjacent to the Orchard Herbs site, a judgement that we thought would be helpful in dismissing further threats to Dorney's Green Belt. Those with their eye on Boveney are quietly pleased that another application by Eton College to develop Boveney Court Farm stables has recently been refused. But, as we write, Eton's Court Farm application remains under consideration and it's possible that a revised Boveney Court Farm planning application will be submitted in the future. Although many may be sympathetic to the new government's objectives, a new application could take advantage of the expected Planning and Infrastructure Bill.

Another generic award, a little less obvious perhaps, would be to 'The Historian'. Only the other day, this column was talking to a loyal DPN reader who expressed the view that readers can't get enough reading on history in general and the history of Dorney in particular. Some months we do have plenty of local historians to choose from, and we thank them all. If we believe that understanding Dorney's past helps us better shape its future, then among the significant events of 2024 is the publication of a new history of Dorney. OK, this column is biased because *Dorney Through Time: Preserving a Parish's Heritage* is written by our co-editor, Bill Dax. It is a recommended read!

We happen to know that the relevant research involved reading a large number of our past editions. It seems readers' opinions may have been more frequent and trenchantly expressed in the past. So, now comes my annual appeal for new writers in general and 'letters to the Editor' in particular. I have a feeling that we will hear more impassioned

opinions as we move forward in these turbulent times. 'DPN' endorses no particular such viewpoint. The qualification for publication would be some relevance to Dorney or to be the viewpoint of an official elected to shape our future.

Could we nominate a Dorney 'organisation of the year'? We would make honourable mention of Dorney Horticultural Society and Corinne Carlisle's Studios School of Performing Arts. DHS organised a wonderfully successful Annual Show with entries up year on year by 40% while Corinne and team's troupe of young actors mounted a super production of *Grease* in the Village Hall. Perhaps star billing should go to Dorney Playground Group who, apart from running a now wonderful village facility with a flourishing Tuck Shop alongside, raised £15,000 for the newly installed snake swing and are three quarters of the way to funding a necessary Playground fence via grants and summer, Halloween and Christmas parties.

Perhaps the occasion of the year was the remarkable solo effort by John and Kathy Farrell to run a day long sale featuring upcycled furniture in the Village Hall in aid of the RNLI to honour the memory of their late son Iain. We were honoured to mark the passing in our pages of three long term Dorney residents – Ted Longden, Robbie Gibbs and Gillian Cox. We salute their memory.

Some aspects of Dorney life prospered in 2024. A boundary change meant that 7 Burnham households in Lake End were lucky enough to move into Dorney. Regular volunteer litter picking days became fixtures. The Beeches Community Board were praised for their grants to our Playground, Dorney Village Hall seems to be moving towards Dorney Parish Council, and some wildlife flourished like the red kites who graced both our skies and our front cover and the little owls growing up in their Marsh Lane boxes. In May our Northern Lights were spectacular in blue and also were awarded a front cover. A draft Neighbourhood Plan has gone to Bucks Council and our six-week consultation period (currently being enjoyed by Burnham and Maidenhead) can't be far off.

On the other hand...despite evidence of 40 bovine casualties over 15 years, Bucks Council seems unresponsive to DPC's request for a 40 mph speed limit over the Common, despite arranged meetings, residents seem no closer to year round entry to Dorney Lake and the repaired Village Road surfaces featured on our cover a year ago have not been followed as expected by Court Lane or Marsh Lane. Dorney is still without a vicar despite moves to share with Datchet Parish, Thames Water seem unwilling to act on Dorney Reach rewilding proposals, Dorney is more than ever an island as the Ashford Lane Bridge over the Jubilee River is shut and Summerleaze Bridge to Bray looks about to be, while the Dorney Reach 'library' regularly vanishes from its phone box home.

*Dorney Parish News* has had much to report on in 2024. We hope our reports have been useful and enjoyable to the majority of Dorney households who subscribe. Happy Christmas to contributors, advertisers, distributors and, above all, to our loyal readers.

Keep in touch, and when the time comes, please, please pay your subscription. We will be back, after a break for the holidays, at the beginning of February.

# Merry Christmas

to all our present and future clients



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# 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](mailto:stjohnstjamesed@hotmail.co.uk)

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

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

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

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

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

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### **News from St. James the Less:**

THE YEAR 2024 seems to be passing very quickly so when you read this article preparations for Christmas will be in progress.

Although we are still without a vicar, our church activities continue along with our worship each Sunday at 9.30am.

With Christmas approaching there will be the usual changes to our patterns of worship which are as follows:

<b>December 8, 3pm</b>	<b>Advent Carol Service at St Mary Magdalene's, Boveney</b>
<b>December 15, 6.30pm</b>	<b>Service of Lessons and Carols at St James</b>
<b>December 22, 9.30am</b>	<b>Morning Worship at St James.</b>
<b>December 24, 3pm</b>	<b>Christingle Service at St James</b>
<b>11.30pm</b>	<b>Midnight Communion at St James</b>
<b>December 25, 10.15am</b>	<b>Family Communion at St John's Eton Wick</b>
<b>December 29, 9.30am</b>	<b>Morning Worship at St James</b>

You are more than welcome at all of these services.

As we look ahead to 2025 we pray that the right clergy person will be found to be appointed as Priest in Charge of our Benefice.

**David Pepler**

## Church Services in December 2024 and January 2025

### Sunday 1st December

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

### Wednesday 4th December

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP) St John the Evangelist, Eton

### Sunday 8th December

9.30 am Holy Communion St James the Less, Dorney  
11.00 am Holy Communion St John the Baptist, Eton Wick  
3.00 pm Advent Carol Service St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

### Sunday 15th December

11.00 am Holy Communion St John the Baptist, Eton Wick  
4.00 pm Carol Service St John the Evangelist, Eton  
6.30 pm Nine lessons & Carols St James the Less, Dorney

### Wednesday 18th December

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP) St John the Evangelist, Eton

### Sunday 22nd December

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

### Tuesday 24th December: Christmas Eve

3.00 pm Christingle Service St James the Less, Dorney  
4.30 pm Christingle Service St John the Baptist, Eton Wick  
11.30 pm Midnight Communion St James the Less, Dorney

### Wednesday 25th December: Christmas Day

10.15 am Combined Family Communion St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

### Sunday 29th December

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

### Sunday 5th January

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

### Sunday 12th January

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

### Wednesday 15th January

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP) St John the Evangelist, Eton

### Sunday 19th January

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

### Sunday 26th January

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

*St. James the Less, Dorney invites you to...*



*Come and celebrate Jesus' birth with us!  
You are welcome to all of our services*

**8<sup>th</sup> December**

Advent Carols

3.00 pm St Mary's Boveney

**15<sup>th</sup> December**

Nine Lessons and Carols

6.30 pm St James' Dorney

**22<sup>nd</sup> December**

9.30 am Morning Worship St James' Dorney

**24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve**

Christingle Service

3.00 pm St James' Dorney

Midnight Mass

11.30 pm St James' Dorney

**25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day Family Communion**

10.15 am St John's Eton Wick

**29<sup>th</sup> December – Morning Worship**

9.30 am St James' Dorney

Contact: [stjohnstjamesed@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stjohnstjamesed@hotmail.co.uk)





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## TAPLOW STATION COMES TO BURNHAM

Over the last weekend in October, hundreds of visitors made their way to Burnham Park for the model railway exhibition previously advertised in these pages.

For the children, the star attraction was a track where they could operate the controls to run the trains themselves. Who knew that little girls not yet two years old could be so entranced by an opportunity to play the Fat Controller!

Adult locals were more drawn to the first public outing of the Taplow layout. There was general surprise at how extensive the railway at Taplow once was. Now reduced to only four lines, the model shows how 70 years ago sidings branched off in all directions. Most people had no idea about the goods yard, the cattle pen, the coal yard and the banana depot, now all built over by housing or light industrial units.



It was so rewarding to share the history of the station and hear others' stories about it. Only one person could remember actually seeing the banana depot (after it had closed). But several people shared their recollections of the station. A former Marsh Lane resident, who originally made contact through the Dorney History Group website, was part of the trainspotting group led by TWE Roche when he lived in Harcourt Road.

This visitor travelled all the way from Hampshire to see the exhibition and recalled the grumpy porter on the (now disused) platform 1 who shouted at little boys

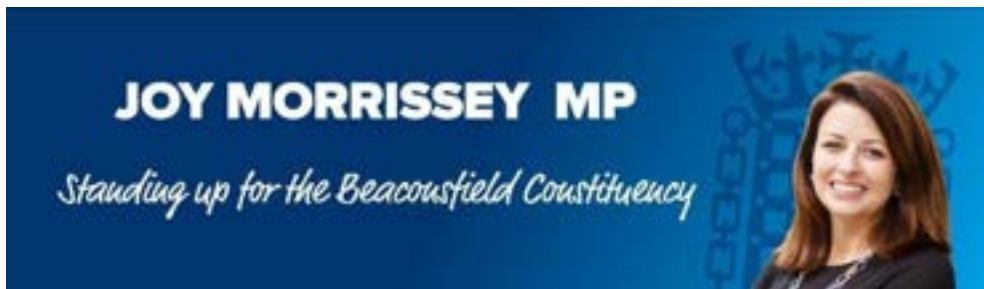
watching the trains over the fence. He remembered which sidings were used to unload horse boxes for Cliveden and which to put together the goods trains for the High Wycombe branch. There were memories of the gradual transition from goods hub to today's commuter service – the old goods yard used as a temporary car park after the track was lifted, the road sign indicating a former ungated level crossing on the line to the gravel workings north of Institute Road. Someone who lived in Harcourt Road as a boy recalled going to the house of a school friend whose family still lived in the station yard in the early 1960s.

These snippets of information are the life blood of local history – lived experience which brings colour to the bare facts. And that has been one of the key reasons for creating the model – to engage with the local community.

Anyone interested in helping with this project still has the opportunity to do so; there's plenty of track to lay and buildings to create! Slough and Windsor Railway Society welcomes new members keen to get involved. If you didn't manage to visit the exhibition this year, there'll be another chance next year, when the Taplow layout will be back bigger and better. See you there!

**Virginia Silvester**





As the year draws to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a busy and fulfilling month in Parliament and across the constituency. I'm especially grateful for the opportunity to connect with so many of you in Dorney and to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year in this final edition of Dorney Parish News for 2024.

This year has been one of incredible moments for our community. A particular highlight was the dismissal of the Orchard Herbs appeal, a victory for local residents and our cherished green spaces. I will now work closely with your Parish Councillors and residents to ensure this site returns to its former glory, reflecting the beauty and character of Dorney. It was also a tremendous honour to be re-elected in July. Thank you for placing your trust in me once again. Whether you're spending this Christmas season at home or enjoying a festive meal at local gems like the Pineapple or the Palmer Arms, I hope it is a time of joy and togetherness for all. Please do get in touch if you would like to raise an important issue with me.

Since my last piece for Dorney Parish News, the Government has announced its budget. One concern I've heard repeatedly is the impact of Labour's planned National Insurance rise on our businesses. In November, I met with local businesses from across Beaconsfield, Marlow, and South Bucks to discuss these changes. It was devastating to hear firsthand how this increase would harm businesses already working hard to weather economic pressures. I will continue to stand against measures that hurt our local economy and livelihoods.

Another highlight of the past month was attending the Farmers' Rally in Westminster. Standing alongside thousands of hardworking farmers, their families, and supporters, we voiced our strong opposition to Labour's Family Farm Tax. This unjust policy threatens the backbone of our rural communities, putting generations of cherished family-run farms at risk. Our farmers deserve better, and I remain committed to ensuring their voices are heard in Parliament.

November is a time of reflection and gratitude, as we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedoms. It was a profound honour to lay a wreath at this year's Remembrance Sunday Service in Beaconsfield, paying tribute to the brave men and women who have served our country. I was also deeply privileged to plant a cross in the Constituency Garden of Remembrance on behalf of Beaconsfield, Marlow, and the South Bucks villages. We will never forget their courage and sacrifice.

As we enter the festive season, let us reflect on the strength and resilience of our community. I look forward to continuing to represent Dorney in the year ahead and working together to build on this year's successes. Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

**Joy Morrissey MP**



Ashford Lane footbridge over the Jubilee River has been closed off now for nearly a year. We are advised that an engineer has inspected the bridge and we await the report on whether it needs repair or full replacement. A request has been lodged for details of the report under Freedom of Information. Taplow pedestrian bridge also experienced a failure. Repairs or replacement for that bridge were recently completed. Once we have the report and can determine whether the two bridges have encountered the same issue, DPC will initiate the process of advocating for Ashford Lane bridge to be addressed.

**Village/Lake End Road  
Street lights reported  
not working.  
Now fixed.**

**Wildflower seeding to  
commence in areas of  
the Parish  
Jan/Feb 2025**

**Planning permission for Boveney Court Stables refused on basis of Heritage Officer Report**

**Car Access at the Eton Dorney Therapeutic School to be discussed at next DPC Meeting**

**NEXT DPC MEETING  
January 14th 2025**

**DPC Finance meeting at 1830 hrs followed by Council meeting at 1930hrs**

## **“2000 miles...is very far through the snow...I’ll think of you...wherever you go”**

Do you have a Christmas playlist? I have one hard rule: No Michael Bublé. I love Canada, I have family who live on Vancouver Island and my wife and I honeymooned on the West Coast Trail that traverses the coastal wilderness on the island. There are no facilities, cafes, shops, or showers. You had to bring all your own food and shelter. You could be confronted by a black bear or a cougar. Who said romance is dead? So I love Canada, and I am sure Mr Bublé the Canadian is a very nice man, but I have a strong aversion to any of his musical output.

My Christmas playlist has 37 non-Bublé songs on it. It includes a variety of the Wham, Mariah, Pogues and Chris Rea classics you’d expect, but also some slightly more off the wall choices like East 17’s “Stay Another Day” and St Etienne’s “I was Born on Christmas Day”. I am a child of the 90’s after all. My absolute favourite Christmas song though is “2000 Miles” by the Pretenders. I love Chrissie Hynde. Like, I LOVE her. The tousled hair, the skintight denims, the shiny leather boots, the pulsing vibrato, the attitude, the songs, *everything*.

I’ve had a schoolboy crush on her since around the mid 80’s when the band released the “Get Close” album at the height of their fame. I lived in North Queensferry in the Kingdom of Fife then, and I later discovered that Chrissie had married Jim Kerr of Simple Minds, and they were living in brief matrimonial bliss in South Queensferry directly across the silvery grey Firth of Forth. She was within touching distance! Her autobiography “Reckless” is a good read and worth putting on your Christmas list.

My favourite Pretenders song is their classic “Brass in Pocket” and I am probably now into double figures in terms of the times I have seen them live. The band line up has changed through the years as drugs and death have taken their toll, but Chrissie (who is 73) now has three strapping young lads on guitar, bass and drums, and they play proper energetic, powerful rawk’n’roll. I most recently saw them play live at the London Palladium last month, a quite special and historic venue right on Oxford Street that I’d never been to before. I don’t think the band have ever sounded better. Mojo magazine described it as a “rock and roll masterclass”. As always, I felt very privileged to listen to them doing their thing.

<https://www.mojo4music.com/articles/stories/pretenders-live-review/>

Anyway, this article is supposed to be about nature in Dorney, not about my infatuation with the lovely Chrissie! This past month I have mainly been trying to wrest some control over my wildlife garden. Hog weed has begun to dominate the meadow, hedges have sprouted by about 20 feet it seems with all the rain, two self-seeded willows have overshadowed the pond, the veggie beds are overrun with chickweed and the seedlings of old man’s beard. Young teasel is sprouting everywhere, a bramble has invaded the greenhouse and the ancient apple trees need to be pruned and protected from the enthusiastic ivy tendrils wrapping around the gnarled trunks.

Luckily my rewilding friend Josh had been booked to come and stay for the week and we focused on the vegetable garden. The apple trees were carefully pruned to allow

more light in and the ivy cut at the base so the habitat will remain for small creatures, birds and bats, but the expansion will cease and not smother the poor tree to the point of death. The hedges are initially brought down to head height and we utilise all the cuttings to make a dead hedge along the rear perimeter of the garden. It may sound like an oxymoron, but a dead hedge provides a fantastic habitat that's full of life. As it rots down it is naturally absorbed back into the earth, and provides great instant cover for insects, beetles and hedgehogs and useful potential nesting habitat for blackbirds, wrens, robins and dunnocks.



Hedge laying cut



Consider leaving leaf piles this year to provide shelter and food for wildlife and to improve your soil fertility



Theo's birds nest kindling basket

We stacked the cuttings of maple, hawthorn, dog rose (watch those fearsome spikes!) and put to one side the thicker trunks for firewood, or perhaps a wildlife friendly "stumpery" or log pile. Some of the hedge trees have grown so extensively that we need to cut them at ground level to sprout again, but for others Josh "lays" them using special cuts to allow them to fall over but keep enough connection through the bark to allow new hedge life to begin again. I am very keen to see how the hedges adapt and recover next year. As we worked, the bird feeders were busier than the M4 as various tits, finches, woodpeckers, parakeets and the naughty grey squirrels went to and fro. The Merlin birdsong app also picked up Hawfinch, Bullfinch and Blackpoll Warbler. Blackpoll Warbler is a North American bird that can migrate this far over the Atlantic, but I did wonder if the Merlin app was having one of its more creative moments as I have never had it identified before.

As we cut down a rather overgrown buddleia, we found a perfect, round birds nest near the top of it, and my neighbour Theo shared a beautiful photo of a birds nest he found intertwined in one of his handmade kindling baskets in the shed. Hopefully, by re-shaping the garden and letting more light in, but creating alternative habitat in other areas with the material, there will still be plenty of nesting sites for the garden birds next spring as the sap starts to rise and everything buds up and life springs into action once again.

Wishing you all a fantastic festive season, and I encourage you all to leave some leaf and log pile presents in your garden for our wildlife friends this Christmas!

**Andrew Oliver**

## News from Dorney Playground



I think it is safe to say, that if you were at the Dorney Playground Halloween Party – you had a great evening! You may have suffered ear drum injury from the noise – but it was fun. As well as the entertainer, there were burgers, hot dogs and an array of things to eat and drink. About one hundred children (plus parents) attended and we raised £600 towards the new fence around the playground.

If you have read previous Dorney Playground updates, you will know that we are trying to raise £16,100 to erect a fence around the playground. So far, we have raised:

Grant from Beeches community board	£8000
Grant from Tesco	£1500
Grant from Louis Baylis (Maidenhead Advertiser)	£1000
Summer party	£ 500
Halloween Party	£ 600

Obviously, we still have a way to go with **£4500 still to raise!**

### **Our next fund raising activity is the Christmas Party On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

All details are provided in the poster opposite. ALL Key Stage 1 and 2 children are welcome!

This is the first time this committee has held a Christmas party, so if you have any spare items / unwanted decorations that could be used to give Dorney Village Hall a festive feel, we would be happy to pick them up.

Apart from improving the playground, we also have to maintain the existing facilities.

There are two 'maintenance jobs' that the committee would like to do in the next 12 months:

Both the surfaces of the tennis court and MUGA (MultiUse Games Area) need cleaning. We have been advised that they need treating with a moss killer and then power cleaned. We have had some quotes from professional tennis court cleaners, but it is very expensive.

#### **Do you know anyone who could clean the courts at perhaps a reduced rate?**

The surface of the aerial runway ramp is covered in a synthetic material. It is starting to fray at points, and probably, will soon need replacing. We are having trouble getting anyone to even quote us for the job as it's a bit unusual.

#### **Do you know anyone with the skills to resurface the aerial runway ramp?**

**Dorney Playground Management Group, 07737 053409, Playground4Dorney@gmail.com**



# Dorney Playground CHRISTMAS PARTY

THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER  
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DORNEY VILLAGE HALL

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## REMEMBRANCE

Last month's Parish Magazine gave due tribute to the local men who lost their lives in war and Virginia Sylvester's article brought life to some of those from these parts who participated in two wars. As I write, it is Armistice Day, 11<sup>th</sup> November or now, as it is retitled, Remembrance Day. This year, the reasons for this act of remembering were heightened for me, and my sense of the enormity of events awakened, by a weekend journey in August through northwest France and southwest Belgium.

My grandfathers were both colliers, reserved occupations during wartime. For reasons unknown to me or the records (destroyed by a bomb on the Imperial War Museum in World War II), my paternal grandfather enlisted, in June 1915, at the age of 34, to join the Welbeck Rangers, 17th Bn., Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment). He was mobilised to war and landed in Le Havre on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1916. By 8<sup>th</sup> May 1916 Lance Corporal Randle was dead. A short war: like it was for so many. He was a tunneller, literally a "miner" setting underground mines beneath the German trenches. He left behind my grandmother and five children aged 11 years to a babe-in-arms. A man who did not have to go on the basis of occupation and age but did so for country and his own reasons. Not at all an unusual happening in the so-called Great War.

In Dorney we see seven names from that war. On the memorial in Sutton-in-Ashfield (where my grandfather is named) there are 432. Not large numbers but significant to population and great losses for the individual families.

For the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice in November 1918 we attended the service in Sutton-in-Ashfield to honour this man I never knew, or even recall being spoken of in my family, other than he had died in the war. We noticed that there were a few other Randles, brothers, cousins, unrelated? After that event, I thought I would like to visit his grave in France at Le Touret Military Cemetery. I doubted if any of my family had ever previously been again, unmentioned. Thanks to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Maidenhead, locating the cemetery and gravesite were made easy. Had I ventured off on my own, I would probably have gone to the cemetery, then returned home but I have the fortune of having a son-in-law who has taken many school excursions to the WWI battlefields, and he persuaded me to see the broader picture.

Le Touret is relatively a small cemetery with 13,400 names/graves. Like all Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries, immaculately maintained. We found Thomas, we said a few words, my two grandchildren gave a reading and left tokens; a simple hello, thank you and goodbye. As we walked around, the Empire as it was then, was fully represented in death. One striking headstone – Pt G Paterson, Scots Guards, AGED 16 (in 1916); such waste of youth.

Of course, the countryside is a now serene, arable landscape with pockets of acknowledgement in the form of cemeteries and places of memorial. At Vimy Ridge the Canadian Memorial has remnants of trenches and tunnels, manned by young, Canadian, student guides, the proximity of the enemy trenches vividly close. At Beaumont-Hamel there is the intact Somme battlefield preserved by the

Newfoundlanders. The Lutyens designed Somme memorial standing high on the hill at Thiepval bears the names of over 72,000 service personnel. Of particular interest to me was Lochnagar Crater, which is a preserved crater, the result of "miners" tunnelling, one of a programme of 19 mines at the outset of the Battle of the Somme; digging through Chalk at the rate of 90cm per day over 300 metres to load 27 tonnes of explosive. That was before my grandfather's time at war but indicative of the work he may have engaged in.



1 Lochnagar Crater (Depicting Miners)

On into Belgium where we took a detour to one of the two small cemeteries at Brandhoek (522) where one of the two WW1 Double VCs rests – Captain Noel Chavasse RAMC. Sanctuary Wood (Hill 62) is a battle-site that remains ungrumbled, with its corrugated iron clad trenches and tunnels it gives quite an authentic feel for conditions. Its privately owned museum is a little haphazard and random but nevertheless interesting. The Passchendaele Museum at Zonnebeke is much more structured and organised. Outside there is a striking memorial to the Maori that fought together with the many other nations. The most overwhelming cemetery we visited was Tyne Cot, rising up the hillside row upon row of white headstones towards the memorial walls commemorating over 35,000 servicemen: the largest Commonwealth war cemetery anywhere. One also has to remember that the soldiers of the opposing side also died and left behind families so, to finish our cemetery visits, we walked round the Langemarck German Cemetery. A very different style with flat-laid, dark headstones and Oak trees that have grown tall, making it quite gloomy.



2 Sanctuary Wood

Our tour closed in Ypres (Leper). We stayed in a house just opposite the Menin Gate; unfortunately, currently girded in scaffolding and wrapped in plastic. In WWI the Cloth Hall on the market square was almost flattened along with the rest of the city but now fully restored, it houses a comprehensive, and interactive museum to record events of the war. As a nation we commemorate once a year on the Sunday of November closest to Armistice Day. In Leper they commemorate every evening at 8 pm under the Menin Gate to remember and pay tribute to the soldiers who fought and died for peace, by a simple bugle Last Post Ceremony. The ceremony is maintained by the Last Post Association, a group of Belgian volunteers, passionate about keeping alive the memory of those who fought to free their city. Over 54,000 missing casualties are recorded at the Menin Gate. One has to remember too that many, many French and Belgian citizens were killed or maimed by what is now called “friendly fire” in the war to liberate their countries.



3 Ypres Cloth Hall 2024



The ruined Cloth Hall, Ypres, as seen in May 1918. Imperial War Museum image (2017)

This was a well worthwhile voyage of discovery. I was surprised to be so affected by being closer to where the reality of that war took place: just a glimpse at the more than 8 million who died. Numbers too large even to imagine. Even grandchildren of 11 and 14 found the visits interesting and moving. I would encourage anyone with the vaguest interest to see for yourself and better comprehend.

So, it was “the war to end all wars” but 20 years on the battles started again; fought, in part, over some of the same territory. I was born in the latter part of WWII and alas, I find it hard to recall a year that war was not raging somewhere in the World.

**Clive Randle**

## Do we celebrate Christmas too early?

The 5<sup>th</sup> of November was when the Christmas lights were turned on in Oxford Street, only 5 days after Halloween and with some of the larger stores in London already having opened their Christmas shops, is this too early?



I love Christmas, it is arguably one of my favourite times of the year, but for me it only truly starts to feel like Christmas in the later days of November and the start of December, despite the shops trying to start the Christmas spirit in much earlier with the typical Christmas goodies being stocked on the shelves. I understand that some people are Christmas enthusiasts and wait every single year for it to begin, this being their

happiest time so wanting to make the most of it and not limit it to 25 days .... but there is the argument against starting quite so early.

I recently had a conversation at a wedding in which this topic came up with people celebrating too early, which inevitably makes the year feel like it's going too fast. It starts with Christmas, as soon as Christmas is finished everyone's thoughts go to Valentines Day (a smaller holiday but yet effects what the shops display) shortly after its Easter with shops getting full of Easter eggs and bunny decorations. Then it's summer before you know it, with people getting hopeful that it will be sunny for more than 3 days in the entirety of the English summer and buying new garden furniture which gets stored away faster than London put up the Christmas decorations nearly 2 months in advance! By the time summer is over its Halloween, then bonfire night and then you're back to Christmas. All of this leaves us with the impression that the year is going faster and faster, exasperated by the rise in commercialisation with shops taking advantage and constantly seeking the next event or holiday to entice shoppers to spend money.

So, should we wait to put Christmas lights up, stock Christmas goodies and decorate our houses or should we embrace the festive season? In my opinion waiting till at least halfway through November to start celebrating is the appropriate timing. I have to agree that Christmas is a special time of the year and people want to celebrate it, but I also argue that there needs to be more of a break between these big events before quickly moving on and feeling rushed into the next holiday. Yet saying this I did attend the Eton light switch on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November, and it was a very joyful evening kick starting Christmas spirit. In my family we don't decorate our house till after the 1<sup>st</sup> of December when we go and choose our tree and get down half a dozen boxes of Christmas decorations we've collected over the years from the loft (just to put half of it back up in the loft), so maybe this is why I believe and don't feel fully in the Christmas spirit till December. I wonder what you readers' opinions are.

Whenever they go up, remember make sure you have taken your decorations down before the 6<sup>th</sup> of January!

**Laila Marples**



# 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 Through Time: Preserving a Parish's Heritage

A Brief History of Dorney and the Need to Protect its DNA

Bill Dax



*Dorney Court: A Living Monument to 500 Years of Local History*

Dorney History  
[www.dorney-history-group.org.uk](http://www.dorney-history-group.org.uk)  
2024

## **New Book Chronicles Dorney's Rich Heritage and Future Challenges**

I am delighted to announce the publication of "Dorney Through Time: Preserving a Parish's Heritage," a comprehensive exploration of our parish's history and the challenges we face in protecting its unique character for future generations.

As founder of the Dorney History website and a participant in preparing our Neighbourhood Plan, I've long felt the need for an accessible account of Dorney's past and present. While the website offers extensive information, its depth can sometimes overwhelm casual readers. This book distills that knowledge into a more approachable format while addressing the crucial concept of Dorney's "DNA" - the essential characteristics that make our parish unique.

The book explores Dorney's journey from its Saxon origins to present-day challenges, examining our agricultural roots, connections to the Thames, and the influential families who shaped our development. It covers landmark events from various wars to modern developments like the M4 motorway, Dorney Lake, and the Jubilee River, showing how these have impacted our community.

However, this is more than just a historical account. It's a call to understand and appreciate what makes Dorney special, and a guide to navigating the complexities of preserving our heritage while adapting to inevitable change. As someone who has called Dorney home for nearly half a century, living in three different houses and now settled with Jill in an improved version of the cottage we first bought in 1976, I've witnessed firsthand our parish's recent evolution.

The book is 82 pages and includes 15 chapters covering everything from our churches and manor court rolls to natural history and the impact of wars. It concludes with a detailed examination of current development pressures and the urgent need to protect Dorney's essential character.

Special thanks go to my wife, Jill, for her unwavering support, James, Anna, and Jill Palmer for their invaluable information about Dorney and the Palmer family, Virginia Silvester for her excellent historical articles in Dorney Parish News, and Peter Bowman for granting access to the DPN archives.

The book is intended as a living document, with updates planned as events require. For instance, the imminent transfer of the houses in [Old] Lake End Road, the fields behind and the Orchard Herbs site to Dorney Parish will necessitate future revisions.

**"Dorney Through Time" is available through the Dorney History website [www.dorney-history-group.org.uk](http://www.dorney-history-group.org.uk) – as a bound book.**

**The Recommended Retail Price is £6.00, but for DPN readers it is £5.00.**

I hope it will serve not only as an informative read but as a tool for residents and policymakers alike. By understanding Dorney's past and the essence of its character, planners and others can, hopefully, make more informed decisions about its future.

**Bill Dax, Dorney History online**

**[www.dorney-history-group.org.uk](http://www.dorney-history-group.org.uk)**



*The Eton Wick Waterways Group (EWWG) plays a vital role in maintaining and protecting the local waterways that connect our communities.*

*Dorney Parish News asked if we could reprint for Dorney readers information that was set out in the November issue of the Wick 4-weekly newsletter for November. Here is an updated version of that report on action by the EWWG and Thames Water to improve the waterways and on a major project to increase TW's capacity to treat and store effluent.*

*We would like to thank the EWWG's Laura Regazzacci for her help with this update.*



Water levels on all our waterways have been very high over the last year or two, due to persistent heavy rainfall and an increased outflow from Thames Water's Slough Treatment Works (STW). In addition to this, partially treated effluent has frequently been released when the treatment works have reached full storage capacity. This can be tracked on the EDM ('Event Duration Monitor') tracker <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/edm-map>.

After EWWG negotiations with a new project management team, Thames Water (TW) have now committed to clearing the Roundmoor/Boveney rivers twice annually until the planned improvements to processing and storage of effluent at the Slough Treatment Works prevent any future sewage releases into the Roundmoor. Their contractors have now cleared dense weed from Boveney and Roundmoor for a second time this year. Some issues have been identified along this watercourse including low bridges and fallen trees, which have prevented some sections from being cleared. However, the overall effect of the weed culls has been to reduce the resistance to flow, allowing water to flow faster to the Thames and therefore mitigate against winter and spring storm overflows.

Now that TW are taking on the weed clearance of the main rivers, our team of volunteers has not been idle! They were out every weekend in September to clear weeds, fallen branches, and other debris from the smaller streams. The issue of



flooding on the footpath between Eton Wick and Cippenham should be addressed by Slough Council who own the land and the Environment Agency, who were responsible for its alteration over the Jubilee, and both have been made fully aware by us of their responsibility to safeguard residents who use this path regularly for work, school and shopping.

We have an update from Thames Water regarding planned improvements to the Slough Treatment Works. TW acknowledges that STW is due for an upgrade and states that whilst it may seem that no work has been happening, behind the scenes a lot of engineers and designers have been working to find a solution that does not just shift the problem from location A to location B. The original proposal to route the wastewater through a tunnel from STW directly to the Thames has been shelved, and the revised plans are to implement a robust solution to the process and treat the incoming sewage on a flow to fall basis.

So, what does that mean? TW advise there will be greater odour control and the high nutrient levels that have fed the weed growth resulting in spring and summer flooding will be removed before the water is released into the Roundmoor to make its journey to the Thames.

New storage and treatment tanks and other infrastructure are proposed to be built at STW, and TW advise that this is a complicated build in a live working environment with hazardous areas so there are risks that they must plan for. This is not only for the safety of the live operations of the builders and engineers, but also to ensure that no part of the facility is taken out of service without that process being able to run in a safe manner to protect the works and the environment. They plan to make their final contractor selection for these works at the back end of 2024 with a contract award around March 2025. There will then be 12 months of designing from the contractor with the build starting in 2026. Some works have already started on site as you might have seen. Meetings between senior project managers at TW and SSE (the energy provider) have resulted in an earlier date for the additional power supply installation. There is no firm date yet for completion but we understand that Thames Water is fast tracking this project. They have been asked to present their project either online or in person and to engage with residents who will be affected, as promised in the original planning proposal of 2022.

Meantime, the EWWG has submitted a bid for Water Restoration funding from the Rural Payments Agency to restore our waterways independently of any plans by Thames Water. If the bid is successful, the planning will start this winter, and landowners and riparian residents will be involved in the consultation throughout. EWWG have received new guidance from the Environment Agency for Riparian Owners, who have rights and responsibilities for their stretch of the river. This includes the removal of impediments to flow such as fallen tree trunks. It also offers guidance on what permissions are required for any construction on or near the river, such as flood defences, bridges and the use of herbicides. Link below.

<https://engageenvironmentagency.uk.engagementhq.com/your-watercourse-rights-and-roles>

## **TVAP offers Family Support – Gary Warrington**

When TVAP opened all those years ago we were determined to make play more accessible to those who find it difficult to or even impossible to enjoy mainstream provision. To give people choices. Even in those early days our mantra was very much 'people not just things' and that is still true today. Whilst the provision of exciting, accessible and appropriate play equipment remains vital we firmly believe that having someone to share them with and enjoy the experience together is even more important. TVAP has become a community over these many years – as one mum recently put it - "TVAP is my place of happiness and hope" and a visit to TVAP is not just about the equipment and resources (as important as they are) but it is about belonging and being respected for who you are. Covid really brought home how much our families rely on us, and we take that very seriously. TVAP is about friendship, understanding and equity, a safe space where families and individuals with disabilities can play and learn together in a creative non-judgemental and supportive environment, whatever their individual needs and abilities.

Families of children with disabilities often have very few recreational choices that suit the whole family - we have learnt from them just how inaccessible and scary mainstream provision can be. TVAP has always offered a unique opportunity to relax and have some quality time away from the life of caring, making happy family memories to get you through the harder times. Whilst I think that we deliver on our original promise really well, if there is one thing we have learnt over the years it is that we can always do more, we want to do more.

We are really excited to have secured some funding enabling us to create a new Family Support role. We have exciting plans but are starting small to make sure we can learn more to deliver what is really needed. We are so proud to be part of the local disabled community and hope that this service will help make life easier to access information and gain much needed support both from professional bodies and volunteer groups but also essentially from each other. We want to make connections and in turn to connect people with each other in a positive, fun and empowering way.

Beckie, one of our long-standing team with a wealth of experience has agreed to take on the initial role and will be working hard to build a team of volunteers to support our visiting families - we are not thinking rocket science here or reinventing the wheel but things that matter - everyday. Beckie has been researching the types of things that our visitors need and surprisingly they are, in the most part, things that we all take for granted, such as how to teach personal care, finding a hairdresser, accessing legal advice or even just having somebody to bounce ideas off. This is where we started and Beckie is putting together a programme of practical support sessions and coffee morning type affairs to help our families feel less isolated and more empowered. We hope that these will be a springboard.

Beckie is busy putting together a library of local resources and signposting opportunities to increase choice and together with Lucie, our Community Engagement Co-ordinator will work to foster better links with our local community.

But it is not all about information - many families also expressed a need for more practical support to make their visits even more enjoyable. We are recruiting support volunteers for Saturdays to be on hand and help support our families in simple ways but ways that make a difference. A welcome smile and a helping hand when you arrive after a fraught journey makes such a difference, having another adult to chat to whilst your child plays can be a real bonus. Having someone available to look after their child whilst you go to the loo or grab a quick coffee – or just 5 minutes to go for a quiet walk, on your own, in the grounds and recharge might be just what you need.

We fully intend, as funding allows, to move this service forward to the next stage of our grand plan and partner with local business and volunteer groups to create an active information hub, both online and on site that can be accessed by our disabled community to ask questions and be signposted to available help and advice as needed.

It is really important to us that we provide a holistic experience that is fun but is also relaxing and helps the family in their 'away from TVAP' life too. We hope our new services will go a long way to making your visits to TVAP even better. See you soon for a play, a chat, a coffee and a haircut!



DORNEY LAKE

# WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE DORNEY LAKE TEAM

## CHRISTMAS GROUNDS OPENING HOURS 2024

Dorney Lake's grounds will be open every day throughout the Christmas and New Year period.

Our gates will be open from  
7.00am to 4.00pm daily.

Please do exit by 3.45pm to ensure that the gates do not close on you.

For the most up to date grounds opening times, visit  
our website at:

*[dorneylake.co.uk/seasonal-grounds-visiting](https://dorneylake.co.uk/seasonal-grounds-visiting)*

# DORNEY SCHOOL



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

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

## Fireworks Night Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Every year, I am amazed how this event gets better and better! We had many more members of the public attending this event. The event raised just under £3000, and this money will go towards a new sound system for the school. All tickets were sold out and many people had to be turned away at the gate. There were just under 500 people who attended. I know that the PTA are already planning a bigger event for next year! We hope to see you there!





### Remembrance Day Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024

It was a poignant assembly as year 6 pupils recounted stories from their family history during the Great War. The pupils helped us to understand the impact of such wars on nations, citizens, individual and families. Through this assembly we understood how our diverse histories are intertwined. There were recounts of courageous acts, harrowing details and how war and migration changes our landscape. It is so important that we carry this legacy as stories from the past get quieter over the years unless we remember, retell, and ultimately learn from them. "Lest We Forget. Never Again."

Rami and Aaryan remind us through a verse of this poem, In Flanders Field by John McRae

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.



Wishing our Dorney community a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Mrs S Lee, Headteacher



## Not Forgetting

Last month we all remembered those who gave up everything, even their very existence, so that we could live the very satisfactory lives that most of us have enjoyed.

This year we rang at St James the Less for the fallen in both Great and subsequent wars as a small congregation stood, heads bowed, around a war grave in the churchyard; our debt is everlasting. This year, as in every Remembrance Day, we rang half muffled which produces a clear note on one side of the bells and a hauntingly soft caress on the other. I had the honour of ringing the tenor, the largest bell with the lowest note in slow sad changes to a final 'staggered stand' where the lightest bell with the highest note stands first, followed by the second, third, fourth and fifth until the tenor is left wretchedly alone, like a sole survivor crying over lost friends. It's always heart rending. We all stood quietly at the end, each lost in our own thoughts. It gets us every time.

I have often felt that the ceremony at the Cenotaph, moving as it is, amounts in part to an opportunity for a procession of the 'great and the good' to parade their respects in the public gaze, often wearing fancy outfits paid for by you and me, where perhaps, the story of a random youngster caught up in the horror may be more appropriate, and, while I contemplated this very scribbling, I chanced to meet a remarkable man, the only living relative of another hero Private Richard Houston. He related this story to me, and he graciously permitted me to pass it on to you.

Richard ('Rigger') Houston was eighteen and in deep trouble in Dunkirk, having been chased literally into the sea. The horrors the youth must have seen there defy imagination, but he got away while others, like an old acquaintance of mine Ashley did not, holding the Germans back to aid Richard's and other's escape and suffering the Great March to Poland as a POW, getting frost bite, and still being treated at Wexham Hospital for it in 2016.

Having escaped Dunkirk, young but wiser Richard landed, with perfect timing, in ill-fated Singapore, itself on borrowed time after the fall of Malaya and lived first-hand the largest surrender in British history. Having sailed lethal waters halfway around the world, his task on arrival was to destroy everything so that it would not fall into the hands of the Japanese as the enemy drew ever closer. It must have been quite terrifying, eighteen years old, barely old enough to shave, running out of food along with starving locals while destroying their means of defence. Inevitably, Richard was hit by a grenade and badly wounded in his thigh.

Much had been broadcast that the enemy were Barbarians, incompetent and no match for the superior defenders both in numbers and quality, and that they regarded it a matter of honour not to surrender nor become prisoner. They would be treated with complete disdain and contempt, and history shows how right this appalling prediction was. I recall watching in horror 'Bridge over the River Kwai' and before that actual newsreel of the cruelty meted out to Richard and his mates.

Not so Richard!

He was taken to hospital, patched up and nursed back to a reasonable health by his enemy and was forced to load ships with other POW's, living a meagre existence. Surprisingly, he found his guards very like him, away from home, somewhat frightened as to what the future held for them. They showed him crumpled photographs of home, Mum and Dad and small babies, and occasionally shared a little of their ration, as both captors and captured were permanently hungry. My new friend related the story passed onto him by Rigger where a civilian lady dropped an apple by the gang as she passed by at great risk to herself, and the gang divided it equally between them. Although they risked being shot, presumably for fraternising with the enemy, some civilians took pity on these wretched men and kept them alive with similar offerings.

My informant did not know how Rigger got home, but clearly he did. Only to discover that he had been listed as missing presumed killed in action, and his young wife had married again. He held no hatred for the Japanese, recalling that they had restored him to a form of health and that the squaddies guarding him missed home just as much as he did.

I understand that he died young; hardly surprising after what he suffered. I would have loved to have met him, but like my father, and perhaps yours too, he did not want to speak about the war or his part in it, but things I have learned about what Pa did and what he saw increased my love and respect for him and his modesty.

There must have been thousands of Riggers and Gordon Quincey's whose heroism and stoicism modestly fought to get our freedom back and of course, those youngsters trapped in sinking ships, burning planes and tanks and others suffering a horrifying imminent death. I don't want to think what their last thought must have been.

Thank you all, oh thank you, for the wonderful life you gave us at the cost of your own.

We will never forget, and I shan't, particularly when I am ringing the mournful tenor bell on its own, lost in admiration for those remarkable people.

Let me wish my reader and anyone else who picks up DPN a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year, and for lucky me, it promises to be a cracker. What is certain is that internationally, it certainly won't be dull.

Stay safe.

**Mike Quincey**

## **Planning Update - December 2024**

### **Boveney Court Stables: Second Time Unlucky**

The latest planning application for Boveney Court Stables has been refused, marking the second unsuccessful attempt. The first application was allowed to lapse. The planning authority determined that the development would adversely impact the character of the Boveney Conservation Area and the setting of several listed buildings, including Pond Cottage and Boveney Court. Despite arguments that the development could be temporary, planners concluded that even a time-limited impact on these heritage assets would be unacceptable. The good news is that it appears that Pauline Cadey will be able to continue caring for her retired ponies at the current stables.

### **Orchard Herbs: The Final Chapter?**

The long-running Orchard Herbs saga appears to be reaching its conclusion. Following the dismissal of the hotel appeal in April 2024, the enforcement appeal was also dismissed in October 2024. The site must now be cleared by July 11th, 2025, marking what could be the final chapter in this protracted planning dispute.

### **Court Farm: Awaiting Decision**

The significant Court Farm development proposal remains under consideration. Following its "call-in" by Dorney Parish Council, supported by our three Bucks Councillors, the application will be decided by the Bucks South Area Planning Committee in a public session. While the statutory consultation period has ended, the planning process continues, and comments raising material planning considerations may still be considered until a final decision is reached.

### **Magnolia Cottage: A Different Approach**

An interesting contrast to Court Farm has emerged with the Magnolia Cottage application in Slough Borough. The proposal to replace the existing property and its distinctive Dutch Barn with five three-bedroom houses demonstrates a notably different approach to development. The application promises significant reductions in building footprint (37%), volume (30%), and hardstanding (29%), while increasing green space by 16%. This stands in stark contrast to the Court Farm proposal, which would see a 94% increase in footprint and 120% increase in volume.

### **Dorney Lake Maintenance Building: Questions of Abandonment**

Dorney Parish Council has taken action regarding the abandoned maintenance building at Boveney Court. Following Eton College's decision to relocate their grounds maintenance to Pockocks Lane, the partially completed structure has remained untouched for years. The Council has written to Bucks Council requesting a modification of the planning consent under Section 97 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, which could require a new planning application before any further development occurs.

### **The Broader Picture**

The parish continues to face significant planning pressures, with decisions on several major applications pending. The Boveney Court Farm buildings appeal was dismissed in August 2024, adding another layer to the complex planning landscape in our area. These ongoing cases highlight the importance of community



engagement in the planning process, with each application potentially affecting the character of our parish.

As we look ahead to 2025, these various planning decisions will play a crucial role in shaping Dorney's future. While some cases appear to be reaching their conclusion, others are just beginning their journey through the planning system. Residents are encouraged to continue engaging with the planning process, as community input remains vital in influencing these important decisions.

The contrast between different development approaches – as illustrated by the Magnolia Cottage and Court Farm applications – raises interesting questions about what constitutes appropriate development within our parish. As these various planning sagas continue to unfold, they will undoubtedly contribute to the ongoing discussion about preserving Dorney's character while accommodating necessary change.

**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:



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

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

**or call 07785 566468**



**The Engagement Ring**

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



# DORNEY

## PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 7.30pm AT DORNEY SCHOOL

#### **Present**

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair)

Cllr. Anna Palmer

Cllr. Euan MacLennan

Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford

Cllr. Stephen Baker

Clerk Ruth Senior and 1 member of the public

#### **Public Forum**

The area where Harcourt Road meets Oak Stubbs Lane is looking messy – the Chair confirmed this is on the grounds work schedule to be tidied and planted with wildflowers in the spring.

#### **PC/72/24 Apologies for absence**

Cllr. Robert Stopford

#### **PC/73/24 Declaration of interest on any items of business on this Agenda**

There were none declared.

#### **PC/74/24 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

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

#### **PC/75/24 To receive the Clerk report**

The Clerk report was produced and circulated to the Council prior to the meeting.

The main points of note were that Bucks Council have closed the Ashford Lane bridge by legal order and the structure is being assessed.

There has still been no response to the emails sent to Steve Broadbent regarding speeding across Dorney Common. MP Joy Morrissey has been informed as have SBALC.

The new Council noticeboard will be installed at the Palmer Arms shortly.

#### **PC/76/24 Items of business carried forward**

##### **76.1 The Orchard Herbs Site**

Report from Cllr. Stopford:

The deadline for Mr Balls to appeal against the process of the report is 25<sup>th</sup> November.

##### **76.2 The Neighbourhood Plan**

The next draft has been submitted to Bucks council for comment.

The decision to agree that Burnham Parish Council should proceed with their Neighbourhood Plan and neither council will object to the other's plan on the basis of the changed boundaries was ratified.

#### **PC/77/24 Planning**

PL/24/0586/FA - Court Farm Common Road Dorney Buckinghamshire SL4 6QA - Still ongoing.

PL/24/2395/FA The erection of 9 mobile stable boxes with a tack room and hay store - Boveney Court Stables Boveney Road - Ongoing.

PL/24/1929/FA Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a new dwelling - Ronita 59 Harcourt Road – Permission refused 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

PL/24/3290/FA Part two storey and part one storey side extension – Ronita 59 Harcourt Road – No comments to be made.



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Lavender Cottage, Village Road

PL/24/2645/HB Listed building consent for installation of new flue opening for boiler.

PL/24/3090/HB Removal of internal stud walls.

PL/24/2645/HB Installation of flue opening.

No comments to be made.

PL/24/3272/FA – Front, side and rear extensions – 5 Marsh Lane, Dorney Reach – No comments to be made.

### **PC/78/24 Finance**

78.1 The paperwork for the new bank account was signed and it was agreed that £30k should be transferred into it when open.

78.2 The cashbook was circulated prior to the meeting and approved.

The budget and precept request for next year is now being planned for circulation before the January finance meeting.

### **PC/79/24 To update on and consider the transfer of Dorney Village Hall (DVH) to Dorney Parish Council (DPC)**

Dorney Village Hall are still waiting for the Charity Commission to respond.

Cllr. MacLennan confirmed he will no longer do the finance work for the Village Hall when the transfer take place. **It was agreed** this will be taken on by Ruth Senior subject to an hours and salary review.

### **PC/80/24 To consider action on Eton College abandoned buildings**

Cllr. Dax circulated a draft letter to Councillors prior to this meeting regarding the abandoned buildings to Bucks Council, **it was agreed** this should be sent.

### **PC/81/24 To update on the wildflower planting and grounds work**

The wildflower planting will begin in spring. The extra charge quote of £80 per month from RJC Landscapes to cover the extra land up to the M4 bridge **was agreed**.

### **PC/82/24 To receive an update from the Local Area Technician**

The artwork for the welcome to Dorney sign on Dorney Common has been requested for the replacement of the sign. Cllr. Dax has tracked down the original artwork and will forward this to the LAT. **It was agreed** that the wording regarding the Olympic village will not feature on the new sign.

### **PC/83/24 To update on the missing dog waste bin in Trumpers Field**

The dog waste bin at the top of the field has gone missing and has been reported to Bucks Council. It has been confirmed that this will be replaced asap.

### **PC/84/24 To receive an update on Dorney Playground**

Dorney Playground are fundraising for fencing to surround the playground at a cost of £16100. They have so far raised an incredible amount, only £4500 left to go and have parties and events planned. The Chair thanked the Trustees for their continued hard work.

### **PC/85/24 To consider any complaints/comments received from residents**

There were none received

### **PC/86/24 Items to consider for discussion at the next meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

Old Lake End Road signage

Parking at the Dorney Therapeutic School

Precept and budget

**Meeting ended at 8.15 pm**



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# Dorney Village Hall

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



## **Floor completely sanded and repolished in December 2023!**

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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.**

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## **Advertising in Dorney Parish News**

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

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

### **Rate Card:**

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

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

Emergency Contact Details		
<b>Dorney Reach (Village Hall) Defibrillator Code</b>		<b>C123X</b>
<b>Trumper's Field (Dorney Village Hall) Security Gates in Meadow Way</b>		<b>07955 672150</b>
Fire, Police & Ambulance	Emergency Calls: Incidents in Action	999
Thames Valley Police	Non-urgent calls	101
National Health Service	For urgent medical problems. Need advice	111
Crimestoppers	Anonymously report information	0800 555 111
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Sewage Problems	Thames Water	0845 9200 800
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