

Dorney in 1969: A Year Marked by Community Engagement and Progress

The *Dorney Parish News* issues from January to December 1969 offer a glimpse into the life of a bustling village with residents actively involved in a wide array of community activities and organisations. This year is particularly notable for the ongoing efforts to fund and construct a new village hall, signifying the community's commitment to fostering a vibrant social life and providing a central hub for various groups.

The New Village Hall Project: A Community Endeavor

- The construction of a new village hall is a major focus in Dorney throughout 1969. The *Parish News* regularly provides updates on the fundraising progress, outlining the total collected, sources of income (including football draw tickets, donations, and sales), and the remaining funds needed.
- The fundraising campaign involves various initiatives, such as jumble sales, sponsored events, and raffles. Notably, a Children's Sale in May proves to be a "standing success," raising a significant sum for the project.
- The *Parish News* emphasises the community's collaborative spirit, acknowledging the efforts of numerous volunteers, committee members, and residents who contribute to the project's success.

A Flourishing Social Scene

- Beyond the village hall project, Dorney's social life is vibrant and diverse:
 - **The Dorney Women's Institute (DWI)** holds regular meetings featuring speakers on topics ranging from the World Congress of the Associated Country Women of the World to Chinese food and nut cultivation.
 - **The Dorney Women's Social Club (DWSC)** organises a variety of events, including a fashion show, an "Any Questions" evening, and trips to places like Woburn Abbey and the Canary Islands.
 - **The Dorney Horticultural Society (DHS)** hosts its annual show, attracting numerous entries and showcasing the residents' passion for gardening.
- The *Parish News* underscores the importance of these organisations in fostering social connections, promoting learning, and providing entertainment within the community.

Engaging with Local Issues

- The *Parish News* serves as a platform for discussing local issues and concerns:
 - **Education:** The Parish Council discusses the future of Dorney County Primary School, advocating for its continued operation as a combined school for children aged 5-12.
 - **Road Safety:** The placement of cattle warning signs along Common Road and the introduction of new road markings at the A4/Marsh Lane junction highlight the community's concern with traffic safety.
 - **Local Government Reorganisation:** The proposed changes to local government boundaries, and the possibility of Dorney being incorporated into Berkshire, generate anxiety. The *Parish News* reflects the Parish Council's efforts to advocate for Dorney's interests and its desire to remain within Buckinghamshire.

The Church's Central Role

- **The Parish Church of St. James** remains a cornerstone of Dorney life:

- The *Parish News* meticulously lists upcoming church services, special events (like the Mothering Sunday service and Confirmation service), and calls for financial contributions.
- The annual Parochial Church Meeting provides a forum for parishioners to discuss church matters and elect representatives.

The *Dorney Parish News*: A Vital Community Resource

- The *Parish News* emerges as a vital tool for communication, information sharing, and community building:
 - It keeps residents informed about upcoming events, Parish Council activities, and key local issues.
 - It encourages active participation in community life, from supporting fundraising efforts to attending social gatherings.
 - The inclusion of letters to the editor and reports on community meetings fosters open dialogue and reflects a diversity of opinions within Dorney.

Dorney in 1969: A year marked by significant progress towards the new village hall, a flourishing social scene, and active engagement with local issues. The *Dorney Parish News* plays a crucial role in reflecting and shaping the community spirit, keeping residents informed, and fostering a sense of belonging within this dynamic village.