

## Dorney in 1970: A Year of Community Building and Anticipation

The *Dorney Parish News* issues from January to May 1970 reveal a community eagerly anticipating the completion of their **new village hall**, actively engaged in fundraising efforts, and navigating local issues like drainage and common land management. The spirit of community shines through, with residents participating in numerous church and social activities.

### The New Village Hall: A Central Focus

- The construction of the new village hall is a major event in Dorney, with updates regularly featured in the *Parish News*.
- Excitement builds as the project progresses, from the initial groundbreaking to the confirmation of funding from the Department of Education and Science.
- The *Parish News* meticulously tracks the financial situation, outlining the projected costs, funds received, and the remaining balance to be raised through appeals and the sale of the old village hall site.
- An open meeting is scheduled for March to discuss the hall's future policy, finances, and the election of a new management committee, signalling the community's active involvement in shaping this vital community resource.
- Numerous fundraising initiatives are organised, including a "never before tried in Dorney" event in March.
- The Sponsored Walk in May, featuring refreshments, souvenirs, and a grand raffle, highlights the community's dedication to collaboratively achieving their fundraising goal.

### Community Life Beyond the Village Hall

- **Active Organisations:** Dorney boasts a vibrant network of organisations enriching the social fabric of the village:
  - The **Dorney Women's Institute** (DWI) holds monthly meetings, hosts speakers, and actively participates in community initiatives and fundraising.
  - The **Dorney & District Horticultural Society** (DDHS) fosters a passion for gardening through competitions, expert talks, and social events.
  - The **Dorney Women's Social Club** (DWSC) provides a space for women to connect, learn new skills, and enjoy social gatherings.
  - The **Dorney Parent-Teacher Association** (PTA) supports the school, organising events like jumble sales, swimming courses, and educational trips.
  - The **Dorney Football Club** (DFC) celebrates its success and expresses gratitude for community support.
- **Religious Life:** The **Parish Church of St. James** plays a central role in the community:
  - The *Parish News* diligently publishes details of services, holy week observances, special events, and calls for financial support.
  - The Christian Stewardship Campaign emphasises the importance of financial contributions to maintain the church and support community initiatives.

### Navigating Local Issues

- **Dorney Common:** The management of Dorney Common, particularly the use of Cinagro fertiliser, sparks debate. The *Parish News* serves as a platform for discussion,

with letters from residents expressing concerns about the impact on the environment and aesthetics.

- **Main Drainage:** The implementation of main drainage is a significant development in Dorney. The Parish Council monitors the project's progress and addresses concerns about potential disruptions.
- **Local Government Reform:** The proposed local government reorganisation, particularly the potential absorption of Dorney into Berkshire, raises anxieties among residents. The Parish Council actively engages in discussions and advocates for remaining within Buckinghamshire.
- **Education:** The Parish Council engages with the local education committee regarding the future of Dorney County Primary School.

### **The *Dorney Parish News*: A Platform for Community Dialogue**

The *Parish News* serves as a vital communication tool:

- **Informing Residents:** It provides essential information about local events, church services, Parish Council activities, and key issues impacting the community.
- **Facilitating Discussion:** Letters to the editors and reports on community meetings demonstrate its role as a platform for residents to voice their opinions, share experiences, and engage in debates on matters affecting Dorney.

### **Looking Ahead**

The year 1970 marks a period of anticipation and community building in Dorney. The upcoming completion of the new village hall symbolises the community's commitment to creating a space for shared experiences and fostering a vibrant social life. As Dorney navigates local issues and the uncertainty of local government reform, the *Parish News* emerges as a crucial platform for communication, enabling residents to stay informed, voice their concerns, and collectively shape the future of their village.