

Dorney in 1971: A Year of Transition and Community Endeavor

The *Dorney Parish News* from 1971 reveals a community navigating a period of transition, marked by a change in parish leadership and the ongoing development of the new village hall. Despite these shifts, the spirit of community remains strong, with numerous organisations and events fostering social connections and addressing local concerns.

A New Era for the Parish Church

- **Interregnum and the Arrival of a New Vicar:** 1971 begins with the parish in an interregnum, a period without a vicar. Church services continue, led by visiting clergy and chaplains from Eton College. The *Parish News* diligently provides details of the services and the sidesmen's roster, ensuring continuity and informing parishioners. By mid-year, the parish welcomes Rev. E. Templeman Sherlock as the new Vicar. However, towards the end of the year, the *Parish News* announces the departure of Rev. Sherlock and the implementation of a new arrangement where the parish will share a vicar with Eton College.
- **Financial Support for the Church:** The *Parish News* emphasises the importance of financial contributions to sustain the church, particularly during this time of transition. Appeals are made to parishioners and local associations to provide financial support.

Community Life and Social Engagement

- **The New Village Hall:** The new village hall becomes a central hub for community activities. The *Parish News* highlights upcoming events, including dances, meetings, and plays hosted in the hall. There is a sense of pride in the completion of this new facility and its potential to enrich village life.
- **Active Women's Organisations:** The Dorney Women's Institute (DWI) and the Dorney Women's Social Club play prominent roles in the social life of Dorney. The *Parish News* reports on their meetings, featuring speakers on a range of topics, and their social gatherings.
- **Community-Wide Events:** The calendar is filled with community events, including the annual Dorney Common Meeting, the Best Kept Village Competition, and the P.T.A. Summer Fete. These events bring residents together and foster a shared sense of belonging.

Addressing Local Concerns

- **Local Government Reorganisation:** The proposed reorganisation of local government raises concerns about Dorney's future, particularly the possibility of being absorbed into Berkshire. The *Parish News* reflects these anxieties and the Parish Council's efforts to advocate for remaining within Buckinghamshire.
- **Road Safety:** Road safety emerges as a recurring concern, especially in light of traffic accidents involving cattle on Dorney Common. The *Parish News* reports on the Parish Council's efforts to address speeding and implement safety measures.

The *Dorney Parish News*: A Window into Village Life

The *Dorney Parish News* serves as a vital communication tool, keeping residents informed about local events, Parish Council activities, and broader issues impacting the community. The publication provides a platform for discussion and debate, reflecting the diverse perspectives and concerns of Dorney residents.