

## Dorney in 1973: A Vibrant Village Embracing Community and Tradition

The *Dorney Parish News* from 1973 paints a vivid picture of a close-knit community deeply rooted in tradition while embracing progress and change. The publication serves as a testament to the active engagement of residents in shaping the social and civic life of Dorney.

### Highlights of Community Life

- **A Calendar Filled with Events:** The *Parish News* brims with announcements for a diverse range of events, reflecting the vibrant social life in Dorney.
  - Fetes, dances, jumble sales, horticultural shows, and concerts fill the calendar, providing ample opportunities for residents to connect and enjoy shared experiences.
- **Active Organisations Fostering Community Spirit:** A network of active organisations contributes significantly to the social fabric of Dorney.
  - The Dorney Women's Institute (DWI) holds monthly meetings featuring speakers on a wide array of topics, from personal development to local history. They also organise social gatherings, such as coffee mornings, and contribute to community initiatives like the Guide Dogs for the Blind.
  - The Dorney & District Horticultural Society (DDHS) encourages a passion for gardening through competitions, trips to renowned gardens like Wisley, and their annual shows. They also host social events, including a Steak Pudding Supper.
  - The Dorney Women's Social Club (DWSC) provides a platform for women to connect, learn new skills, and engage in social activities.
  - The Dorney Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) actively supports the local school, organising fundraising events like jumble sales and dances.
  - The Dorney Cub Scouts, dedicated to fostering youth development, organise community events like shoe-shining services and engage in charitable endeavours, such as supporting a blind scout in Italy.

### Key Concerns and Initiatives

- **Local Government Reorganisation:** The *Parish News* reflects the community's concern about the proposed local government reorganisation, particularly the potential for Dorney to be absorbed into Berkshire. Residents voice their desire to remain within Buckinghamshire.
- **Water Extraction Proposal:** A proposal to extract water from the Dorney gravels raises concerns among residents, with fears about the potential impact on local water resources and the environment. The Parish Council actively engages in the public inquiry to represent the community's opposition to the proposal.
- **Main Drainage Project:** The implementation of main drainage in Dorney marks a significant infrastructure improvement. The Parish Council monitors the project's progress and addresses concerns about smells emanating from sewer covers.
- **Road Safety:** Road safety emerges as a priority, with the Parish Council addressing concerns about speed limits, road markings, and the safety of the Marsh Lane-A4 road junction.

- **Best Kept Village Competition:** Dorney participates in the Best Kept Village Competition, reflecting a community-wide commitment to maintaining the village's appearance. Residents are encouraged to contribute to keeping Dorney tidy.

### **The *Dorney Parish News* as a Vital Community Resource**

The *Dorney Parish News* serves as a vital platform for communication and community engagement in Dorney.

- **Keeping Residents Informed:** The publication provides residents with up-to-date information about upcoming events, Parish Council meetings, and local initiatives.
- **Facilitating Dialogue:** The *Parish News* provides a space for residents to voice their opinions, share their experiences, and engage in discussions about local matters.
- **Promoting Community Involvement:** The *Parish News* encourages residents to participate in community events, support local organisations, and contribute to the social fabric of the village.

### **A Year of Transition and Change**

- **A New Vicar Arrives:** Dorney welcomes Rev. Roger Royle as the new Vicar, bringing a fresh perspective and a strong emphasis on community engagement. He encourages residents to participate in church activities and advocates for social responsibility.
- **The Eton/Dorney Project:** The Eton/Dorney Project, initiated in 1973, continues to foster social integration and understanding by bringing together Eton College students and individuals from diverse backgrounds.

The *Dorney Parish News* from 1973 offers a captivating glimpse into a village brimming with life, tradition, and a strong sense of community. The publication highlights the active role residents play in shaping Dorney's social and civic landscape, navigating a period of transition, and embracing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.