

Dorney in 1974: A Year of Transition and Community Engagement

The *Dorney Parish News* from 1974 offers a captivating glimpse into village life, characterised by a strong sense of community, an active Parish Council addressing local concerns, and a year marked by significant changes and events.

Key Developments Shaping Dorney in 1974

- **Local Government Reorganisation:** The impending reorganisation of local government boundaries emerges as a major theme in 1974, generating much discussion and concern within the Parish.
 - Dorney residents express a strong desire to remain within Buckinghamshire, fearing a loss of identity and representation if absorbed into Berkshire.
 - The Parish Council actively engages in efforts to ensure Dorney's continued inclusion in Buckinghamshire, mobilising residents to voice their opinions and advocating for their interests.
 - The uncertainty surrounding the boundary changes underscores the importance of community cohesion and a shared sense of belonging.
- **New Vicar Arrives:** The Parish welcomes Rev. Roger Royle as the new Vicar, bringing a fresh perspective and energy to the church community.
 - Rev. Royle emphasises the importance of community engagement, encouraging participation in church activities and advocating for social responsibility.
 - His departure later in the year marks another transition for the Parish, as they prepare to welcome a new Vicar, Rev. John Methuen.
- **Eton/Dorney Project Flourishes:** The Eton/Dorney Project, initiated in 1973, continues to thrive, bringing together Eton College students and individuals from diverse backgrounds.
 - The project's success highlights the community's commitment to social integration and fostering understanding across social divides.
 - Rev. Royle plays a key role in supporting the project, underscoring its importance in promoting community cohesion and inclusivity.

Community Life in Dorney: Active Engagement and Shared Experiences

The *Dorney Parish News* reveals a vibrant community life, sustained by the active involvement of various organisations and the shared enthusiasm of residents.

- **Dorney Women's Institute (DWI):**
 - The DWI holds monthly meetings featuring talks on diverse subjects, from historical perspectives on Dorney to contemporary issues like fuel conservation.
 - They actively contribute to community events, organising refreshments for the Vicarage Garden Party and participating in the Dorney Carnival.
 - The DWI exemplifies the strong role women play in shaping the social fabric of Dorney.
- **Dorney & District Horticultural Society (DDHS):**
 - The DDHS fosters a love of gardening, hosting competitions, organising trips to notable gardens, and holding their annual show.
 - Their activities encourage community participation and a shared appreciation for the natural world.

- They also contribute to the social life of the village, organising events like the Steak Pudding & Beer Supper and the Wine/Cheese/Lecture on Exhibiting in Shows.
- **Dorney Women's Social Club (DWSC):**
 - The DWSC provides a space for women to connect and learn, organising theatre trips and hosting talks on topics like "Memories of Old Dorney".
- **Dorney Carnival:**
 - The second Dorney Carnival, held in August, brings the community together for a weekend of entertainment, games, and shared experiences.
 - The Carnival's success underscores the residents' enthusiasm for community events and their willingness to collaborate to create memorable occasions.

The Parish Council at Work: Addressing Local Concerns and Advocating for Dorney's Interests

The Parish Council plays a vital role in representing the interests of Dorney residents, addressing a wide range of local concerns, and ensuring the effective functioning of essential services.

- **Key Issues Addressed by the Parish Council:**
 - **Water Extraction from Dorney Gravels:** Concerns are raised about a proposed water extraction development, with the Parish Council actively participating in the Public Inquiry to voice their opposition. The Parish Council's efforts ultimately result in a favourable outcome, demonstrating their effectiveness in advocating for the community's interests.
 - **Main Drainage:** The arrival of main drainage in Dorney marks a significant infrastructure improvement. The Parish Council actively monitors the project and addresses concerns about smells emanating from sewer covers.
 - **Bus Service:** The Parish Council advocates for improvements to the bus service, working to ensure that residents have access to reliable public transportation. Changes to the bus timetable are communicated through the *Parish News*.
 - **Road Safety:** The Parish Council prioritises road safety, addressing concerns about speed limits, the need for clearer road markings, and the safety of the Marsh Lane-A4 road junction. The formation of a Road Safety Committee highlights the community's commitment to addressing this important issue.
 - **Seddings Charity:** The Parish Council manages the Seddings Charity, a local charitable fund, demonstrating their commitment to the well-being of the community.
 - **Best Kept Village Competition:** The Parish Council actively participates in the Best Kept Village Competition, encouraging residents to contribute to maintaining the village's appearance and fostering community pride.
 - **Bulk Refuse Containers:** The Parish Council ensures the efficient disposal of refuse, organising the placement of bulk refuse containers in convenient locations throughout the village.

The Dorney Parish News: A Vital Link in the Community

The *Dorney Parish News* serves as a crucial platform for communication, information sharing, and community engagement in Dorney.

- **Key Roles of the *Parish News*:**

- **Disseminating Information:** The *Parish News* keeps residents informed about upcoming events, Parish Council meetings, and other important announcements.
- **Facilitating Dialogue:** The *Parish News* provides a space for residents to voice their concerns, share their experiences, and engage in discussions about local issues.
- **Promoting Community Involvement:** The *Parish News* encourages residents to participate in community activities, support local organisations, and contribute to the social fabric of the village.
- **Celebrating Community Achievements:** The *Parish News* highlights the successes of local organisations, individuals, and the Parish Council, fostering a sense of pride and shared accomplishment.

The *Dorney Parish News* stands as a testament to the strong community spirit and active engagement of Dorney residents in 1974. The publication captures the essence of a village navigating a period of transition, facing challenges, and celebrating its unique identity.