

Dorney in 1976: A Year of Community Endeavours and Village Life

The *Dorney Parish News* from 1976 offers a glimpse into a bustling village community engaged in a wide array of activities, from fundraising efforts to social gatherings and the ongoing work of the Parish Council.

Key Themes in Dorney During 1976

- **Fundraising:** The sources reveal a strong emphasis on fundraising for various causes throughout the year. The Dorney Women's Institute (DWI) actively raises funds through events like Bring & Buy coffee evenings and jumble sales. The Dorney & District Horticultural Society (DDHS) seeks to boost its funds through a Steak & Kidney Supper. The Dorney Conservative Association hosts a March Hare Dance with a steel band to support their funds.
- **Community Spirit:** The sources demonstrate a vibrant community spirit, with numerous organisations contributing to the social fabric of Dorney.
 - The DWI hosts monthly meetings with guest speakers on diverse topics.
 - The Dorney Women's Social Club (DWSC) provides a platform for socialising and learning through fashion shows, talks on freezer economics, and "Any Questions" panel discussions.
 - The DDHS fosters a love of gardening through competitions, social events, and their annual show.
 - The active involvement of the Guides and Brownies contributes to the energy and dynamism of the village.
- **Engagement with Local Issues:** The Parish Council plays a significant role in addressing local concerns.
 - The Parish Council discusses issues such as speed restrictions, road safety, the Seddings Charity, the Best Kept Village Competition, the bus service, the children's playground, water extraction from Dorney Gravels, and tree planting.
 - The *Parish News* also serves as a platform for residents to voice concerns, as seen in discussions regarding the preservation of Boveney Chapel and the need to maintain verges.

Notable Events and Developments in 1976

- **Help the Aged Appeal:** The Vicar highlights the importance of supporting the annual Help the Aged Appeal, encouraging residents to donate old clothes and other items.
- **Confirmation Service:** The February issue details plans for the upcoming Confirmation service, a significant event in the life of the church, and encourages parishioners to participate.
- **Best Kept Village Competition:** Dorney participates in the Best Kept Village Competition, with the Parish Council and residents working together to enhance the village's appearance and demonstrate community pride.
- **Parish Council Election:** The April issue informs residents about the upcoming Parish Council election, providing information about the nomination process and encouraging eligible individuals to stand for election.
- **Eton/Dorney Project:** The sources highlight the important role of the Eton/Dorney Project, which aims to bridge social divides by bringing together students from Eton

College and individuals from diverse backgrounds. The project hosts various events, including weekend retreats and conferences for young people.

The *Dorney Parish News* as a Reflection of Village Life

The *Dorney Parish News* serves as a valuable record of Dorney's social life and community spirit. Through detailed accounts of events, announcements of upcoming activities, and discussions of local issues, the *Parish News* captures the essence of this vibrant village. The publication fosters a sense of belonging and shared purpose among residents, highlighting their commitment to supporting their church, engaging in social activities, and working together to address local concerns.