

Dorney in 1978: A Year of Community Spirit and Change

The *Dorney Parish News* from 1978 reveals a year characterised by active community involvement, fundraising efforts, and a vibrant social scene.

Fundraising for St. James Church Roof

A central theme throughout the year is the pressing need to raise funds for repairs to the church roof. The community comes together to support this cause through various events:

- **Flower Festival and Vicarage Happening:** A two-day event in July, featuring a display of flower arrangements in the church and a "happening" at the Vicarage, successfully raises funds for the roof repair.
- **Eton/Dorney Project Barbecue:** A barbecue hosted by the Eton/Dorney Project at the Vicarage in July contributes to both the Children's Holiday Fund and the Church Roof Fund. A raffle for two watches is held during the event.
- **Road Safety Committee Appeal:** The Road Safety Committee, acknowledging the community's focus on the church roof, appeals to residents to consider road safety concerns alongside the fundraising efforts.
- **Other Fundraising Initiatives:** The Dorney Women's Institute holds a summer sherry party to raise funds for the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (ASBAH). The Parish Council explores the possibility of fundraising through a Road Warden scheme, though concerns are raised about potential administrative burdens.

Community Life in Dorney

- **Dorney Women's Institute (DWI):** The DWI continues to be a cornerstone of village life, hosting monthly meetings with guest speakers on topics ranging from rock gardening to Japanese culture. They organise outings to places like the Tate Gallery and Guildford, and actively participate in county and national WI events.
- **Dorney Women's Social Club:** The DWSC offers a variety of social gatherings, including talks on fashion and history, a visit to the BBC studios, and their annual Christmas Supper Dance.
- **Dorney & District Horticultural Society (DDHS):** The DDHS keeps the village blooming with its Spring Gardens Competition, culminating in an award for the best garden. They also hold their annual Flower, Vegetable & Produce Show, a Harvest Festival Supper, and other events.
- **Dorney Guides and Cub Scouts:** The youth groups are active, with the Guides hosting elderly residents for tea and participating in a county funboree. The Cubs hold an Open Evening, participate in a quiz competition, and enjoy outings.
- **Eton College - Dorney Parish Project:** The Project thrives, hosting weekend retreats for young people and bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds for shared experiences.
- **Other Events:** The Village Hall Management Committee organises dances, including a Valentine's Dance and a Spring Dance. The Dorney School PTA hosts a Summer Fete.

Parish Council Matters

- **Gravel Extraction:** Concerns arise over potential plans for gravel extraction, with the Parish Council seeking more information and clarification on the extent of proposed diggings.

- **Financial Transparency:** The Parish Council publishes detailed financial statements, demonstrating accountability to residents.
- **Addressing Local Issues:** The Parish Council tackles various issues, including:
 - Dog fouling, urging dog owners to be responsible.
 - Traffic safety, requesting the placement of a "slow" sign on Lake End Road.
 - Parking problems caused by large lorries near the school.
 - The need to maintain verges and footpaths.

Voices from the Community

The *Parish News* provides a platform for residents to share their thoughts:

- **Boveney Chapel:** Lt. Col. Palmer expresses concern over the state of Boveney Chapel, advocating for its preservation and urging a mindful approach to the village's heritage.
- **Dorney Common:** A resident expresses frustration over the careless application of sewage sludge on Dorney Common, highlighting potential health risks.

Overall, the *Dorney Parish News* from 1978 presents a picture of a community that is actively engaged in supporting its church, participating in social events, and addressing local concerns through the Parish Council. The year is marked by a strong sense of collective responsibility and a shared desire to maintain the unique character of Dorney.