

## A Vibrant Community: Dorney Parish in 1980

The *Dorney Parish News* from 1980 paints a vibrant picture of a close-knit community actively engaged in religious life, social events, and local governance. The year is marked by fundraising efforts for the church roof, a lively social scene driven by various organisations, and the Parish Council's dedicated efforts to address resident concerns.

### St. James Church: A Centre of Faith and Community

- **Services and Rosters:** The *Parish News* diligently lists the schedule of services at St. James Church, including Holy Communion, Parish Communion, and Evensong. Detailed duty rosters for each service, meticulously outlining who is responsible for cleaning, coffee, serving, reading, and other tasks, highlight the shared responsibility and commitment of parishioners.
- **Fundraising for the Church Roof:** A significant theme throughout the year is the need to raise funds for essential repairs to the church roof. The community rallies around this cause, organising events such as an auction, a Valentine's Disco, and a party at The Chantry, all with the aim of preserving their beloved church.
- **Remembering Colonel Palmer:** The passing of Lt. Col. Palmer, a prominent figure in the village, is marked by a published transcript of the Vicar's address at his funeral. The Vicar reflects on Colonel Palmer's legacy of integrity, community commitment, and unwavering faith, emphasising the impact he had on Dorney.

### Thriving Social Scene: A Tapestry of Organisations and Events

- **Dorney Women's Institute (DWI):** The DWI is a dynamic force in Dorney's social life, holding monthly meetings featuring speakers, demonstrations, and discussions on topics ranging from English silver to South African holidays. Their activities also include fundraising efforts and participation in county and national events.
- **Dorney Women's Social Club:** This lively group organises various events, including a Christmas Supper Dance, trips to the BBC studios, and coffee evenings. Their activities showcase a desire for social connection and engagement with the wider world.
- **Dorney & District Horticultural Society (DDHS):** The DDHS fosters a love of gardening within the community. They hold a Spring Gardens Competition, an Annual Flower, Vegetable & Produce Show, a Harvest Festival Supper, and various other events throughout the year.
- **Dorney Guides and Cub Scouts:** These youth organisations provide opportunities for young people to learn, grow, and serve their community. The Guides hold a coffee evening to raise funds for an international home for kidney patients, participate in a Thinking Day celebration, and are recognised for earning their Fire-fighters Badge. The Cub Scouts enjoy a trip to Wembley Stadium and the RAF Museum at Hendon.
- **Other Social Events:** The village comes alive with a variety of events, including a Valentine's Disco, an Easter Picnic Dance organised by the Village Hall Management Committee, a "Vicarage Happening", and a Summer Fete organised by the Dorney School PTA.

### Dorney Parish Council: Addressing Local Concerns

- **Parish Council Meetings:** The Parish Council diligently addresses various matters crucial to the village's well-being. Meeting minutes published in the *Parish News* detail discussions on topics such as gravel extraction, parish precepts, the Seddings

Charity, the Eton/Dorney Project, and the need to enter the Best Kept Village Competition.

- **Transparency and Accountability:** The Parish Council demonstrates a commitment to transparency by publishing detailed accounts of expenditures and income in the *Parish News*.
- **Community Concerns:** The *Parish News* provides a platform for residents to voice concerns and engage in dialogue with the Parish Council. Issues raised include the overuse and potential misuse of public skips, the careless application of sewage sludge on Dorney Common, the need for traffic calming measures, and parking problems caused by large lorries.

### **Dorney in 1980: A Year in Review**

The *Dorney Parish News* from 1980 reveals a vibrant community with a strong sense of identity. The residents of Dorney actively participate in religious life, support local organisations, and engage in constructive dialogue with their Parish Council. The year is characterised by a spirit of collaboration, a commitment to preserving their heritage, and a dedication to addressing challenges and improving their quality of life.