

## Key Events and Issues in Dorney Parish During 1987

The *Dorney Parish News* for 1987 reveals a year filled with community events, ongoing projects, and the emergence of significant concerns that would shape the village's future.

### Community Life and Activities

- **Dorney & District Horticultural Society (DDHS):** The DDHS remained a vibrant organisation, hosting a variety of events throughout the year, including a winter dance, a steak pie supper, a cheese and wine evening, garden competitions, a bring and buy sale, a barbecue, an open evening, a summer show, a harvest supper, a cheese and wine evening, and an A.G.M..
- **Dorney Women's Institute (DWI):** The DWI held monthly meetings featuring speakers, demonstrations, and social gatherings. The *Parish News* provides insights into their activities, including a talk on the art of spinning and a group meeting where members discussed various resolutions.
- **Dorney Players:** The Dorney Players continued to enrich the village's cultural scene, presenting a comedy called "Clerical Errors" in February. They also began rehearsals for another comedy, "The Happiest Days of Your Life," planned for February 1988.
- **Church Events:** St. James Church hosted various events, including Lent Charity Lunches, a Flower Festival, and the annual "Village Happening".
- **Fundraising Efforts:** The community came together for several fundraising initiatives, including a Coffee Morning in aid of the Royal National Institute for the Blind, a jumble sale, and collections for various charities.

### Key Projects and Developments

- **Dorney Parish-Eton College Project:** The Project continued its work, hosting groups of young people from various backgrounds, including deprived children from Oxford and a group from Northern Ireland. The Project also faced challenges in attracting mid-week school groups, highlighting the need for greater outreach and promotion.
- **Maidenhead Flood Relief Scheme:** The Thames Water Authority (TWA) continued to develop plans for the flood relief scheme, with various options under consideration. The Parish Council engaged in discussions with the TWA, seeking to ensure that the scheme addressed local concerns and minimised any negative impacts on the village.

### Controversies and Emerging Issues

- **Eton College's Proposed Rowing Course:** Initial concerns surfaced about Eton College's proposal to create a rowing course near Dorney. The project, which would involve extensive gravel extraction, raised questions about the potential impact on the environment and the character of the village. However, details about the project remained limited at this stage.
- **Dog Fouling on Trumpers Field:** The issue of dog fouling on Trumpers Field, a valuable recreational space for the village, was a source of frustration for residents. The lack of responsible dog ownership prompted calls for greater awareness and enforcement of regulations.
- **Mud on Roads:** Mud on roads caused by farming activities continued to be a problem, raising concerns about road safety and the need for farmers to take greater care to prevent mud from being deposited on the roads.

- **Parking Issues:** Parking problems, particularly in residential areas, became a growing concern, prompting the Parish Council to explore potential solutions.
- **Gas Supply:** The lack of a mains gas supply to Dorney remained a topic of discussion, with the Parish Council seeking ways to address the issue and bring this essential utility to the village.

### **Local Governance and Community Engagement**

- **Parish Council Activities:** The *Parish News* provided regular updates on Parish Council meetings, keeping residents informed about local issues and decisions. The Council actively engaged with various authorities, including the County Council, District Council, and the TWA, to advocate for the village's interests and address local concerns.
- **Annual Parish Meeting:** The Annual Parish Meeting provided a platform for residents to raise concerns, ask questions, and participate in discussions about important matters affecting the village.
- **Village Hall Management Committee:** The Village Hall Management Committee played a vital role in maintaining and improving the Village Hall, which served as the central hub for community activities.

### **A Year of Community Spirit and Growing Awareness**

1987 was a year filled with community spirit, with residents actively participating in numerous social events, fundraising efforts, and church activities. The year also witnessed the emergence of concerns about future development projects, particularly Eton College's proposed rowing course and the TWA's flood relief scheme. These issues would continue to dominate local discussions and shape the village's trajectory in the years to come. The *Dorney Parish News* from 1987 offers valuable insights into the life of the village during this period of transition and growing awareness.