

Key Events and Issues in Dorney Parish During 1993

The *Dorney Parish News* provides a fascinating window into the events and issues that shaped Dorney Parish in 1993. The year was dominated by the looming threat of the Eton College Rowing Trench project, a proposal that sparked fierce opposition and ignited a spirited community campaign to protect their village.

Eton College Rowing Trench: A Battle for Dorney's Future

Eton College's proposal to construct a rowing trench near Dorney, involving extensive gravel extraction and the construction of ancillary buildings, became the defining issue of 1993.

- **Public Inquiry:** The year began with the Parish Council and local pressure group DROPET (Dorney Residents Opposed to the Eton Trench) preparing for the Public Inquiry scheduled for May. The Inquiry, which lasted for five weeks, saw impassioned arguments presented by both sides, with Dorney residents expressing deep concern about the potential impact on their village.
- **Community Mobilisation:** The community rallied in opposition to the rowing trench. DROPET played a pivotal role in coordinating the campaign, raising funds, organising transport to the Inquiry, and urging residents to attend the opening day and "Dorney Day" to demonstrate their opposition.
- **Eton College's Position:** Eton College presented its case at the Inquiry, highlighting the benefits of the project for the College's rowing program and attempting to downplay the potential negative impacts on Dorney. However, their arguments were met with scepticism and criticism from residents who felt that the College was prioritising its own interests over the well-being of the community.
- **Waiting for the Decision:** As the year drew to a close, the community awaited the Inspector's decision, knowing that the outcome would have profound implications for the future of Dorney.

Beyond the Rowing Trench: Other Concerns in Dorney

While the Eton College rowing trench consumed much of the community's attention, other issues also emerged in the *Dorney Parish News*:

- **Traffic and Road Safety:** Concerns about traffic speed and road safety were recurrent themes. The Parish Council grappled with the issue of speeding vehicles along Harcourt Road and sought solutions to improve safety at the entrance to the Village Hall road.
- **Environmental Protection:** The community demonstrated a strong commitment to safeguarding the local environment. This was evident in the efforts to address pollution at Roundmoor Ditch, the Parish Council's initiatives to promote tree planting and discourage littering, and the anxieties expressed about potential air traffic noise from the proposed relocation of a CAA radio beacon.
- **Local Government Review:** The ongoing review of local government structures generated uncertainty about the future of South Bucks District Council and the potential implications for the delivery of services in Dorney.

Community Life in Dorney: A Vibrant Tapestry

The *Dorney Parish News* paints a vivid picture of a community actively engaged in various aspects of village life:

- **Village Organisations:** Numerous organisations, including the Dorney & District Horticultural Society, the Dorney Women's Institute, the Dorney Baby Sitting Club, and various church groups, contributed to the richness of community life.
- **Social Events:** A variety of social events, from jumble sales and auctions to whist drives and cheese and wine evenings, provided opportunities for residents to connect and socialise.
- **Religious Life:** The *Dorney Parish News* highlighted the active religious life of the parish, with regular updates on church services, events, and initiatives, including a special "Mission Weekend" during Lent.

Capturing the Voices of Dorney

The *Dorney Parish News* served as a platform for residents to express their opinions, share their experiences, and contribute to the ongoing dialogue about the future of their village. Letters to the editor debated topics ranging from the cost of the magazine subscription to the merits of compulsory lawn judging in the Horticultural Society competition. The magazine's pages echoed with the voices of Dorney's residents, creating a fascinating and invaluable record of village life in 1993.