

Dorney Parish News

February 2025



Frosty Day in Dorney Reach

(with thanks to Richard Shymansky for the photograph)



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EDITORIAL

Happy New Year to all our readers. A bit late maybe. Given the nature of sad and disturbing current events swirling around us, *happy* may not be the prevalent mood. With that uncertain backdrop, one begins to consider what role a modest local publication like ours might have. This first issue of the year does offer an indication or two.

'Olly' Oliver is the latest in a distinguished roll call of nature columnists in DPN, and it seems that not only can nature intrigue and raise the spirits, but our national love of nature stories can compete for news coverage with whichever personality one finds distasteful. Alongside nature, Mike Quincey would advocate paying more attention to your nearest and dearest, and even paying less attention to that very news coverage. Certainly, DPN would like to focus, where possible, on that which is both local and that which is positive and generous.

Perhaps to raise our hopes we should listen to the younger members of our community. I'm proud to carry, via our regular report from Dorney School, the words of Isabelle – like her, perhaps a local magazine should judge people and their actions 'by their kindness.'

But we must report on the real world as it poses challenges to Dorney and its inhabitants. We enter 2025 with a ringing background noise around going for growth and 'a presumption in favour of building'. But even the dry world of planning applications, appeals and inquiries can give rise to a degree of joy. Has there ever been a sentence in the minutes we publish of meetings of Dorney Parish Council more welcome than these words concerning the notorious Orchard Herbs site? Bucks Council had 'confirmed to Cllr. Stopford that no appeal was received from Mr Balls and *the deadline for the site to be cleared is July 2025*'.

We are told that Martin Luther King Day inspired Isabelle's words. As far as the lorries and everything else are concerned, can we now proclaim, in the words of the great man, that this village is 'free at last...we are free at last...'?

Then it happened. Out of a clear blue sky, as they say. At least, it was to this column. Just four days before these words were written, we saw a national press report. A plausible think tank recommendation has emerged that neighbouring Taplow could be the viable site of a New Town with 20,000 new homes being built, almost literally in our backyards.

Bill Dax has prepared, very rapidly, a balanced assessment of this threat, or indeed does the proposal offer a wealth of opportunities? Please read Bill's article for all the details known at present. But returning to the question posed earlier about this magazine's purpose, this sudden episode does indicate the advantage of publishing ten issues a year. Many magazines coming out of Bucks villages are quality quarterlies. Our objective at present is to be more than a newsletter, yet to be able to update our readers more or less rapidly in a constantly changing local environment.

If you agree, please renew your annual subscription for 2025! We hope you enjoy the next ten issues.

Dorney Parish News

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- What's happening in Boveney, Dorney Common & Village, Dorney Reach and Lake End.
- Protecting the DNA of Dorney Parish
- Planning Updates
- Dorney Parish Council Meeting Minutes, Updates & Action Plan
- Church News and Services
- News from Dorney School
- Local Advertisers
- Articles by local correspondents
- Information from Local Societies
- Dorney History and other History Groups
- Emergency Numbers

And more!

Time is passing by, leaving its marks on our lives in the form of minutes, days, and years. As time goes by, our children grow up and transform, and we also change as we watch them.




So, why not cherish those precious moments now? You can capture them and create beautiful wall art for your home and soul that will freeze those fleeting moments in time.

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Services in the Local Churches



St James the Less, Dorney

St. John the Baptist, Eton Wick

St. John the Evangelist, Eton

Vicar: Vacant

Churchwardens: Stephen Baker & Mark Procter

Correspondence Address: St. James the Less, C/O

St. John the Baptist, Eton Wick Road, Eton Wick,
Windsor, SL4 6JA

Email: Helen O'Neill stjohnstjamesed@hotmail.co.uk

For information about our churches, activities and church history please see our parishes' web site: www.stjohnstjamesed.org.uk

RCCG Praise Embassy, Haywards Mead, Eton Wick, Windsor, SL4 6JN

Pastor: Olusegun Omotayo 07712 126334 www.rccgchurchatslough.com

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Burnham

Parish Priest: Fr. Joseph Udoh, M.S.P. 01628 605764

News from St. James the Less:

Dear All,

Firstly, I hope that you all had a great Christmas and that your 2025 has started well. Our Christmas period across our four churches was a success, with the main highlights being the Advent Service at Boveney Church which attracted around eighty worshippers and the two Christingle Services at Dorney and Eton Wick, which between the two, welcomed over 200 worshippers, with approximately half of them children.

We have started advertising for the Role of Priest in charge again, with the advert having gone 'live' on the 20th January and a closing date of the 19th February, with an aim to interview the short-listed candidates in early March. I am more upbeat around this round of the recruitment process, with two Reverends already having expressed an interest in applying.

We have kicked off our work with the three primary schools in our Benefice, having delivered two 'Open the Book' assemblies in each of the schools allowing over 40 students to join us and acting different bible studies focusing on Moses.

We have already begun planning for Lent and Easter, locking in the services for each of the Churches and arranging appropriate cover and hope that you will be able to join us in one of the churches over that period, if not before.

God bless,

Stephen Baker
Church Warden.

Church Services in February 2025

Sunday 2nd February

9.30 am Holy Communion (said BCP)
11.00 am Any Age Family Service

St James the Less, Dorney
St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 5th February

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 9th February

9.30 am Holy Communion
11.00 am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney
St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 16th February

9.30 am Holy Communion
11.00 am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney
St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 19th February

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 23rd February

9.30 am Morning Worship
11.00 am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney
St John the Baptist, Eton Wick



St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

This beautiful church on the Thames is open daily.

Possible Service Dates 2025

Easter Day Sunrise Service 0545hrs, Sunday 20th April 2025

St Mary Magdalene Patronal Service 1600hrs, Tuesday 22nd July 2025

Christmas Advent Service by Candlelight 1500hrs, Sunday 7th December 2025

www.st-mary-magdalene-boveney.org.uk

Dorney Horticultural Society

Dear Members and Friends of the Horticultural Society,

By the time you read this we should be enjoying longer days and venturing into the garden to start the big tidy up.

Your committee have been busy planning the 2025 programme and we will start the year off with a return visit to Crocus.

This will be for an informal talk by local farmer William Emmett on 'Farming around Dorney'. It will be held in the cafe annexe at Crocus with tea and cakes on the afternoon of Thursday, March 6th at 4.30 pm. Further stimulating events will follow!

2024 was a very successful year for our society with membership numbers increased and a record number of entries in the Annual Show, particularly the children's section. We filled the year with a number of well supported events culminating in a very successful Christmas party, again with record attendance.



John Wraight's Fun Quiz at the Christmas party

Your continued support will enable the society to flourish going forward in a very changing environment, and we hope to include some more interesting and varied events for 2025.

Your new membership cards will be available soon and we look forward to your renewed support in 2025. Membership is still £10 per household and payment details can be found on our website.

Finally, we could do with some extra help on the committee, many hands make light work etc, so if you have a little spare time to get involved with your Society, please speak to any committee member or email the secretary on ddhs@btinternet.com

Best Wishes, DHS Committee



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“It’s the eye of the tiger, it’s the angel delight”

I know, I know, it’s not “the angel delight” it’s “the thrill of the fight” but that’s what my dad used to sing in the car in the early eighties. These days I would probably inset an eye roll emoji at this point or perhaps the monkey covering its face with its hands emoji to signify the childhood embarrassment. He used to also sing “rocks, sand” instead of “Roxanne” by the Police. You can’t choose your parents. And whatever happened to Angel Delight? A quick internet search reveals it’s still available to buy in five flavours from several popular supermarkets. I do recall a penchant for the butterscotch one, even if it tasted slightly metallic to me. Apparently, it was voted Britain’s “favourite childhood dessert” in 2015. Personally, I would probably have voted for Viennetta, or now that I think about it, perhaps the sublime crème de cassis blackcurrant crepe I had on a teenage camping holiday in Brittany (yes, I can occasionally be rather sophisticated).

Anyway, I digress. Survivor’s monstrous hit “Eye of the Tiger” was of course the theme song taken from the Sylvester Stallone starring *Rocky III* and it hit number one on both sides of the Atlantic putting them into the illustrious company of other eighties musical heavyweights like Madonna, Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Whitney Houston and, er, Men at Work. You will now be singing “*I come from the land down under*” in a mock Aussie accent for the rest of the day. You’re welcome.



The reason I was singing “Eye of the Tiger” this week was due to the nationwide headline news from the Scottish Highlands that four lynxes had been released into the wild in the Cairngorms national park near Kingussie. Sadly, there are no famous American soft rock songs about lynx, so I had to riff on the big cat theme.

You can see what I did there. As I think I have written in these pages before, I am all in favour of the reintroduction of the Eurasian lynx which are one of several apex predators that are no longer present in the UK. The BBC rather passively stated in one of their articles that they “died out” over 1,000 years ago in the UK. The slightly less palatable truth is a combination of determined hunting and persecution by humans and habitat destruction led to their extirpation.

There are no records of lynx having ever attacked a human in other European countries where they are still present. They are a shy and elusive creature. There can be issues with sheep, but sheep are extremely good at killing themselves and in Norway there is a compensation scheme for sheep farmers, where the number of sheep deaths claimed far outweighs the number of sheep that the four hundred or so mature lynx could possibly have taken. As a quick reminder, there are approx. 32

MILLION sheep in the UK. I think we can afford to lose one or two to lynx. If I were a sheep farmer in the UK, I might be tempted to encourage lynx reintroduction as a nice little earner via compensation (or a 'side hustle' as I believe it is referred to these days).

Unfortunately, the signs are that the four lynxes were dumped by someone who had them illegally and no longer wanted to look after them anymore. They appeared to be relatively tame, and sadly one almost immediately died after they were all humanely captured. Whatever their source, this is not the way to manage the reintroduction of an apex predator into the UK. If we had a land bridge to Europe they would be here already, and they would be very useful in bringing down roe deer numbers which are out of control, and there are significant efforts underway to bring them in legally at some stage, crucially with the support of local communities and farmers. If nothing else, at least this incident has brought the conversation about their reintroduction into national awareness. They even managed to keep those attention magnets Trump and Musk off the front pages for a while which is quite something.

Which is useful, as at this time of year there is not much other wildlife news to talk about around Dorney! Bird sightings are sometimes easier in the winter and my neighbour Theo saw a Smew up by the Jubilee, which was a new one for me, and out of my office window during the week I saw a green woodpecker on the lawn and a greater spotted one on the birch tree simultaneously which was a nice distraction from the interminably boring spreadsheet I was grappling with at the time. I heard the tawny owl just before Christmas and saw an owl in the early hours on a run to Heathrow to pick up family members for a festive gathering, but I didn't see it close enough to work out which one it was.

To try and see what other bird life was around in January, I left my trusty Merlin app running at the bottom of the garden for half an hour or so. The ubiquitous ring-necked parakeets were immediately on there, and I could see the red kites roosting in the tree above (although Merlin still never picks up their very distinctive call). I must confess I upgraded the kite treats to some tasty Gressingham duck livers over the festive period. There then followed a host of garden birds: the robin (which I see every day when I leave out dried mealworms for it), starlings, the full suite of blue, great, coal and long tailed tits, song thrush, magpie, jackdaw, chiffchaff, crow, dunno / hedge sparrow, goldfinch, blackbird, redwing, wren, house sparrow and rook (phew!). It also picked up kingfisher, lesser black backed gull and heron which I presume were flying over or nearby.

So, we may not have a lynx prowling secretively through the rewilded field, but the plethora of bird life was a nice start to 2025. Happy New Year!

Andrew Oliver

Pilgrimage to Woolwich



In Burnham we are blessed with the magnificent Elizabeth Line (formerly known as Crossrail). We take it frequently to central London and the train we take ends up in Abbey Wood, with the penultimate stop being Woolwich, where I spent three years at Woolwich Polytechnic from 1963. I kept thinking it would be so easy to get there and have a look around the old place, so today we did it!

Not long ago we took a river cruise from Berlin to the Baltic Coast and ended up in Hamburg for three days. Before we went, I googled "what to do in Hamburg" and the first thing that came up was "take a train to Bremen!"

So, I Googled "What to do in Woolwich" and the first thing that came up was take a bus to Greenwich! It took an hour from Burnham to the new Elizabeth station very close to Woolwich Arsenal station, where the trains from Charing Cross used to stop. But everything around Arsenal Station has changed, been demolished or is a new building site. When I first went there in 1963 the Polytechnic building on Wellington Street was a smart modern (brutalist?) marvel. I remember the state- of-the- art language labs where we learnt French and German to fluency, the attractive refectory where they served pigs hearts on Fridays, the smart offices and classrooms.

Today the building is virtually empty, a sad crumbling edifice with cracked windows and "Keep Out" signs. It was abandoned in 2001. The splendid town hall is still next door but everything over the road has been replaced by a glass fronted library. Behind it there is a massive Tesco Extra. Our favourite pub "The Fortune of War" was demolished in 1982. Where it stood is now a dilapidated square. We walked down Powis street, where all the shops used to be, looking for somewhere to have lunch. The shops are so down-market and the pedestrianisation has made it a haven for down and outs to hang around. We found nowhere to tempt us in to eat. Fortunately, we were by a bus stop near the ferry which read "Towards Greenwich".

So, we did what Google had suggested and found lunch near the Cutty Sark. Woolwich Polytechnic merged with Avery Hill college in nearby Eltham in 1970. There were less than ten females in Woolwich Poly but Avery Hill was predominantly female so there was much "interaction" between the two. After they merged, they became Thames University and then they merged with Greenwich and it is now Greenwich University housed in one of the two magnificent buildings fronting the Thames which used to be the Old Royal Naval College. How things have changed!

There is a DLR station at Cutty Sark which takes you to Canary Wharf in ten minutes. From there, after a wander around Canada Square and the skyscrapers, we boarded the Elizabeth line back to Burnham. Unfortunately, I cannot recommend visiting Woolwich, but at least I have ticked it off!

Nick Teale

Resident in Village Road 1982-2017

Valentine's Day
MENU
at The Palmer Arms

Starter

Mix Platter to Share

(panko breaded squid, garlic mushrooms, BBQ wings)

Chicken Liver & Port Parfait with a fig and apple onion chutney and toasted brioche (GF)

Prawn and Salmon Cocktail with buttered bread (GF)

Vegetable samosa's, mango chutney (Ve)

Main Course

Pan fried Seabass with crushed new potatoes, wilted spinach & garlic prawn butter (GF)

Chicken supreme with mash, cabbage, mushroom sauce and truffle oil (GF)

Sweet potato red onion marmalade and pumpkin seed tart with fries and salad (VE) (GF)

Roast Beef Fillet with dauphinoise potato, seasonal vegetables and jus (GF)

Dessert

Selection of British cheese with red onion chutney, crackers, celery, and grapes (GFA)

Somerset Brie, Applewood Smoked Cheddar, Shropshire Blue

Speculoos Cheesecake with vegan ice cream (VE)

Chocolate Fondant with mint chocolate ice cream

Sticky Toffee with vanilla ice cream (GFA)

Strawberry Cheesecake with strawberry coulis

*For any questions or allergy related enquiries please ask one of our servers!
GFA = Gluten Free Alternative VE = Vegan

2 courses: £30.95 3 courses: £35.95

Ashford Lane Footbridge Closure: Update



The Ashford Lane Footbridge across the Jubilee River remains closed due to significant structural failure. Recent inspections have revealed complete failure of the main deck timbers in the southern span, with critical safety concerns requiring immediate attention.

Key Points:

- Bridge was closed by emergency order on December 22, 2023
- Major structural issues identified, particularly in the southern span
- Current barriers are insufficient to prevent unauthorised access
- Temporary closure orders are in place until June 2025

Long-Term Solution: Following detailed assessment, Bucks Council engineers recommend full replacement with a weathering steel structure, offering:

- 120-year design life
- Minimal maintenance requirements
- Better cost-effectiveness over lifespan
- Improved durability while maintaining aesthetic appeal
- Expected construction time of 12-14 weeks
- Unlikely to be completed for at least 3 years.

Alternative Route: During closure, pedestrians should use Lake End Road Bridge (approximately 250 meters away), which provides footways on both sides.

Immediate Actions: Enhanced security measures are apparently being implemented to prevent unauthorised access while Bucks Council progresses with the permanent solution.

Residents observing any tampering with closure barriers should report this to the Parish Clerk immediately.

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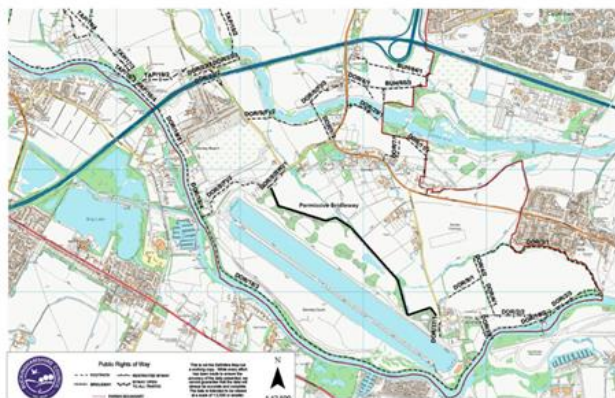
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Dorney Joins the Chiltern Society Area

Dorney is now part of the Chiltern Society, which works to conserve and promote the Chilterns. Their Rights of Way Group focuses on keeping paths open, improving access, and encouraging use of the network to enjoy the countryside.

Each parish has a volunteer path representative; for Dorney, it's Cath Knight. If you spot any issues on local footpaths, please inform Cath at 07887 643846.

With great walks on our doorstep, maintaining access ensures everyone can continue to enjoy them.

Learn more about the Chiltern Society at their website: chilternsociety.org.uk

Road bollards and central island cleaning to take place

Dorney sign to be moved in line with new Lake End boundary

DPC will meet with Eton Dorney School management regarding traffic issues entering the school, based on residents' concerns

NEXT DPC MEETING
Tuesday 18th
March 7.30pm
at Dorney School.

5% PARISH PRECEPT INCREASE RECOMMENDED TO BUCKS

BROADBAND SPEEDS ON VILLAGE ROAD BEING INVESTIGATED BY JOHN WRAIGHT



I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone in Dorney a happy and healthy 2025. January has already been a busy month, both locally in the constituency and in Parliament.

Locally, I've been keeping a close eye on the efforts to reduce the speed limit on Dorney Common. This is an important issue for many residents, including the dedicated Parish councillors who have been working tirelessly on this longstanding goal. I want to thank the Dorney Parish Council for keeping me informed on their progress and priorities. I will continue to monitor the situation closely and will work alongside the Council to ensure the voices of Dorney residents are heard loud and clear.

Many in Dorney will be aware of Burnham's campaign for a new secondary school – a campaign that has been ongoing for years. In January, I secured a debate in Parliament to highlight the need for better education provision in South Buckinghamshire.

During the debate, I made the compelling case for a new secondary school in Burnham directly to the Minister. I know many families in Burnham and the surrounding areas, including Dorney, are deeply concerned about the lack of local options for secondary education. That's why I have been working closely with local groups, parents, and the MP for Slough to push this issue forward. This is about ensuring that every child in our community has access to a high-quality education, close to home. I will not rest until we see progress on this front.

As promised during the last election, I have been working hard to secure stronger protections for our local waterways. This issue is particularly important for Dorney, given its proximity to the Slough Sewage Works and its reputation as a hub for aquatic sports.

I was pleased to table an amendment to the Water Bill that would make it a criminal offence to discharge sewage in areas used for rowing, sailing, and other water sports. This builds on my commitment to seek greater accountability from water companies. My amendment also proposes criminal sanctions of up to five years in prison for water company executives who fail to report sewage discharges.

Water companies have had long enough to get their act together. It's time for meaningful action to protect our environment and ensure the safety of our waterways. I hope the Labour Government will support my proposals and show that they, too, are serious about tackling this issue.

I want you to know that I will continue to stand up for the issues that matter most to you – whether that's in Dorney or in Westminster. Dorney is such a special part of our constituency, and I am proud to represent it.

As ever, if you have any concerns or would like to raise an issue with me, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

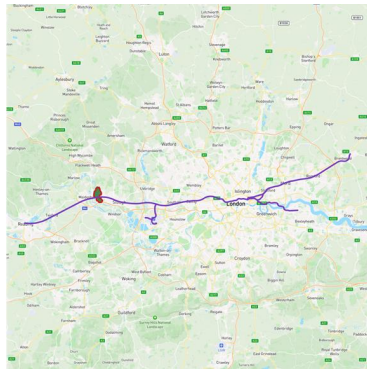
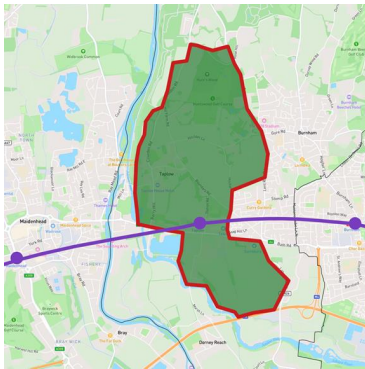
Joy Morrissey MP

New Town Proposal Could Transform Taplow Area

A significant new report from UK Day One, a policy think tank, has proposed Taplow as the location for a major new town development that could provide over 20,000 new homes.

The proposal's authors bring considerable credibility: Kane Emerson, Head of Housing Research at YIMBY Alliance and former aide to former Shadow Foreign Secretary Emily Thornberry MP, has extensive housing policy experience. His co-author, Pedro Serôdio, brings high-level civil service experience as the former Head of Analysis at the Office for Life Sciences.

The recommendations carry weight given Emerson's track record - he previously co-authored the widely publicised proposal for Tempsford New Town and collaborated with the Tony Blair Institute on "The Urgent Need to Build More Homes." The report's focus on economic growth and job creation makes it particularly appealing to Labour's current policy priorities.



Why Taplow?

The report identifies Taplow as an ideal location for sustainable growth, citing several key advantages. The area already benefits from excellent transport infrastructure, with four trains per hour to central London via the Elizabeth Line and a journey time of just 40 minutes, plus the M4. The local economy is robust, with neighbouring Slough hosting the highest concentration of company headquarters outside London, while Windsor and Maidenhead boast an 82% employment rate.

Currently, the area around Taplow station is significantly underutilised, with fewer than 4,000 residents within a kilometre radius - a stark contrast to similar Elizabeth Line stations like Abbey Wood, which serves 24,000 residents within the same distance. The proposed development area of 580 hectares could accommodate over 40,000 people while maintaining medium density housing with ample green space.

The site starts in the south at the M4, taking in farmland east of the Jubilee River and west of Lake End Road up to the A4. North of the A4, the western boundary follows the Jubilee River, then the Thames, and up Cliveden Road. The northern boundary lies just north of Huntswood Golf Course. The eastern boundary follows Taplow Common Road to Lent Rise Road, southwest to the A4 at the Bishop Centre, then south of Sainsbury's and down Lake End Road to the M4 bridge.

Economic Benefits and Phased Development

Agricultural land in the area, currently valued at around £10,000 per acre, could be worth up to £3 million per acre as development land. This value could be captured by the government through Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) at existing use value. The development could start with 200 hectares, potentially generating over £1.5 billion in land value appreciation for infrastructure funding. The full development could generate up to £5 billion for the government.

The proposed timeline could look something like this:

- Months 1-6: Parliamentary process for Hybrid Bill or Special Development Orders
- Months 7-24: CPO process
- Months 25-30: Detailed planning
- Month 31 onwards: Construction begins

The development might proceed in three phases over 15 years:

Phase 1 (Years 1-5):

- 200 hectares near the station
- 7,000 homes
- Primary infrastructure development
- First primary school and healthcare facility
- Initial retail and community facilities

Phase 2 (Years 6-10):

- Additional 200 hectares
- 7,000 more homes
- Secondary school
- Enhanced transport infrastructure
- Expanded community facilities

Phase 3 (Years 11-15):

- Final 180 hectares
- 6,000+ homes
- Additional educational and community facilities
- Completion of town centre and amenities

Infrastructure and Affordable Housing

The substantial land value capture would enable significant investment in infrastructure and affordable housing. New guidelines suggest that up to 40% of homes could be affordable housing, with a mix of social rent and shared ownership options. Infrastructure priorities would likely include:

- Station parking improvements and enhanced bus services
- New road connections and cycling infrastructure
- Multiple primary schools and a secondary school
- Healthcare facilities including GP surgeries
- Community centres and sports facilities
- Green spaces and parks
- Sustainable energy and water systems

Impact on Existing Communities

For current residents, the development could bring both opportunities and challenges. The increased population could support more local services and amenities, potentially including new healthcare facilities, improved shopping facilities, leisure opportunities, and public transport connections. However, the construction period would inevitably cause some disruption, though this could be managed through careful phasing and traffic management plans.

The report emphasises the importance of integrating the new development with existing communities. The proposed medium density approach would go some way to maintain the area's character while creating a more sustainable, walkable community. The development would be compact enough that residents could cycle from any point to Taplow station in 12 minutes or less.

However, Joy Morrissey, our MP, said she would “strongly oppose any proposal for a new town at Taplow” and criticised Labour’s plans for mass housebuilding on green belt land.

She said: “It is an absurd proposition and would be completely out of place. Taplow is a beautiful and historic village, it must not be bulldozed over by Labour.

Our green belt is precious in Taplow and elsewhere in South Bucks. I will always stand alongside the communities I serve to protect it.”

Viability Assessment

While economically compelling, the proposal faces significant hurdles under the 2024 National Planning Policy Framework, particularly regarding Green Belt protection and heritage conservation. Key concerns include the site's Green Belt status, impact on Taplow's historic character, infrastructure requirements, and local political opposition. But the government may decide to ignore some or all of these.

Supporting factors include excellent transport links, strong employment market, severe housing need in the South East, and potential infrastructure funding through land value capture.

For success, the project would need:

1. Robust exceptional circumstances case for Green Belt release
2. Comprehensive transport solution
3. Strong heritage impact mitigation strategy
4. Clear settlement separation to maintain local identity

The proposal remains at the policy recommendation stage. Local residents can engage with councillors and our MP, with the full report available on the UK Day One website.

The transformation of Taplow could set a new standard for sustainable urban development in South East England. Or not.

Bill Dax



The Studios School of Performing Arts

Classes 2024/2025

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The Teen Studio

5:45pm-7pm

Ages 13-18

The Adult Studio

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Saturdays-

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New Year Resolution

Disney it wasn't, but great fun and a warm friendly meal it most certainly was, much as yours was I suspect. I do hope so. Christmas is a hard time for some, especially the homeless, for whom it must be a living hell; a hell that Cheryl and I have sought to relieve for some on the streets of Windsor in past Christmases, (see previous winter DPNs), but not this year as we gladly accepted an invitation with great friends.

The festive spirit ran well past the great day as we spent a lovely evening in Windsor on Grandad (Papa to my very young grandchildren) duty when yours truly's stomach suggested noisily that it was time to leave, handily coinciding with their bedtime.

"We've nothing to cook," stated Mrs Quincey plaintively.

I'd always fancied trying that Chinese take away in Eton Wick. Mrs. Q asked Mrs Google for the number, and I dialled it.

"Jade Garden, can I help you?" asked a lovely sounding young Chinese lady over a dodgy line.

"I don't know much about Chinese food," I mumbled. It's an awful admission, and I must have been a pain to a harassed young lady with a queue in front of her listening to some tired old fellow not knowing what he wanted, admitting to a total absence of the subject.

"Why on Earth did you ring a Chinese take away...."

With commendable patience, she didn't say that, but rather, "What do you want?"

I threw in the towel. "Two sweet and sour chicken and rice please." I know how to treat a lady! I would collect them at eight twenty. Would they be ready by then? Yes, they would.

At eight nineteen the Dagenham Dustbin rolled up and I entered the shop. Sure enough, the young Chinese lady was busy on the phone and packing food into containers simultaneously, while smiling a greeting. Two large men were waiting, presumably for their order.

"Alright Mate?" one said to me with a grin.

"Yeah, I'm alright Mate; and you?" It's the way men start conversations in places like this, and in public toilets too, a skill perhaps not developed by ladies given the layout of the latter. In moments we were old mates, swapping yarns and wishing each other Happy New Year.

"Can I help?" interjected the lady on the other side of counter.

"I rang around eight o'clock with my order. It's Mike."

She looked perplexed, and consulted a computer, banging at the keys as if it had been a naughty boy.

"We have no order for Mike."

I sighed theatrically as one who has the moral high ground and huffed, "I ordered it around eight; two sweet and sour chicken!"

More ruffling of orders produced nothing.

"Let me see your phone please?" A close examination ensued. "Ha!" she exclaimed, "You phoned Jade Garden Edinburgh!"

My two new friends laughed smugly. I went outside to the ever-patient Mrs. Quincey waiting in the car to explain what had occurred. I'm sure they heard her explosive laughter in Slough.

"You want to order?" the lady asked with a broad grin.

"Two sweet and sour chicken please," I mumbled.

I dialled the first number. "Hallo, Jade Garden."

I explained that I would not make my 8.20 appointment as my sweet and sour maybe would be cold by the time I had driven the five hundred miles to collect it!

2025 began well for me with a cold; experience dictated it would descend to my chest with added drama. A quick blitz of antibiotic jollop would see it off.

I did the familiar pointless dance with my doctors' surgery and presented (why does one 'present' with an ailment?) at the brilliant urgent care centre in the fleshpots of Slough; leaving some hours later with a prescription for the jollop and an emphasised instruction to record three readings for three days for my doctor to investigate high blood pressure they had detected. Duly delivered, a doctor's phone call asked me to continue this for a few more days and expect another call thereafter when he came up with a plan and all would be well.

"Anything else?" he enquired kindly.

I told him guiltily about a dull pain in my chest on the left side.

"Get yourself to the A & E now."

"Do you mean like now, today?"

"Not blues and twos, but get it checked out now. We're all getting older Mr. Quincey, and I'd hate to lose you!"

As I drove to Wexham I morbidly indulged in self-pity, of all things wondering how Mrs. Quincey would get to work without me, until I recalled the tiny child with their Dad I recently took in my green outfit to a six week admission for a lifesaving operation, who hugged my legs tightly as I unloaded their luggage, bringing a tear of admiration for their bravery; and got on with it.

Much is currently debated over the shortcomings of the NHS but from the booking in by the smiling friendly clerk, through the taking of samples, interrogation by a heart performance computer and nurses about my life habits, weight, height and breathing mostly with an Ambulance friend on duty who instantly volunteered to help, right through to the glorious lady doctor with a flower decoration in her hair who informed me that all was well; the entire experience was wonderful; almost pleasant. Thank you all so much.

So the start of the year for me could have been better, and while contemplating my departure from the mortal coil, I resolved that what time I have left will not be spent worrying about World War Three, climate change, Donald Trump, policing and hosts of other disasters that keep me awake; all topped by my addiction for 24/7 news.

LBC, Radio 4, Panorama, File on Four, farewell to you all. From now on, Mrs Quincey, family, good friends and my patients are what concern me.

It's day 3. I must rush. The 6 o'clock News is..... Not on!

Stay safe.

Mike Quincey

Planning Update

Dorney Neighbourhood Plan Update

Following productive discussions with Buckinghamshire Council's Neighbourhood Planning Team, we're pleased to be able to share developments in our Plans for Dorney.

The Neighbourhood Plan timeline has been adjusted to align with important national and local changes. As is known, the government has reviewed housing targets, which will inform Buckinghamshire Council's Local Plan and, sooner and more importantly, we will know of any specific housing targets for South Bucks villages.

To ensure our Neighbourhood Plan (which is focussed on land development) fully reflects these changes and meets all legal requirements, we anticipate completion by late 2025, with final approval expected by end of 2026. Based on a recommendation from Bucks Council, we're considering seeking expert planning/legal consultancy support, potentially funded through available grants, to strengthen our policies and evidence base, resulting in a more robust Neighbourhood Plan.

However, there's some good news! Bucks Council have advised us that 22 of our 36 draft NP policies can be separated from the Neighbourhood Plan and fast-tracked through a separate plan, running alongside the Neighbourhood Plan. This means we can make faster progress on many community priorities identified in the 2023 Residents' Survey. This will be discussed by the Parish Council at our next meeting on 18 March.

We're committed to progressing both plans efficiently while ensuring they fully address our community's needs. We look forward to sharing more details and receiving your feedback during upcoming consultations.

Cllr. Robert Stopford

Court Farm: Major Development

No date yet set for Bucks Council South Area Planning Committee Meeting.

Magnolia Cottage Common Road Dorney Windsor Berks SL4 6PX **Slough Borough Council Planning Reference: P/04364/024**

Erection Of 5 Detached Houses Following Demolition Of Existing Dwelling And Workshop Buildings (including large green Dutch Barn)

The site is the last building north of Common Road before the Common boundary at Eton Wick. It is in Slough Borough, not Dorney Parish, as Manor Farm (including this site) was compulsory purchased by Slough Borough from the Dorney Court Estate in c.1910 for the Slough Sewage Works.

Bill Dax

Dorney Through Time: Preserving a Parish's Heritage

A Brief History of Dorney and the Need to Protect its DNA

Bill Dax



Dorney Court: A Living Monument to 500 Years of Local History

Dorney History
www.dorney-history-group.org.uk
2024

- This new 82-page book chronicles Dorney's evolution from Saxon times to present day.
- The comprehensive work covers the parish's agricultural roots, Thames connections, and influential families, while examining modern developments like the M4 motorway, Dorney Lake, and the Jubilee River.
- Drawing on decades of research and personal experience as a 50-year resident, the author explores both historical events and current conservation challenges facing the community.
- The book targets residents, history enthusiasts, and planning professionals with its 15 detailed chapters.
- As a "living document," it will be updated regularly to reflect future developments in Dorney's story.

Available at £5.00. Full details are on the Dorney History website (www.dorney-history-group.org.uk)

Review from a resident:

I really enjoyed reading your creation. Just a perfect style of writing for me - punchy, to the point and a journey through history.

Karen Kimberley

Karen Kimberley (BA, DCH, DHP, NLP, GQHP, MAC, ITOL) is a Taplow-based therapist and coach specialising in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP), Counselling & Hypnotherapy to help with:



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www.lifecoach-directory.org.uk/lifecoaches/karen-kimberley

News from Dorney School



Martin Luther King Day 17th January 2025

Martin Luther King was assassinated in 1968 five years after his famous speech "I have a dream..." A speech which reminded everyone of the fundamental human rights for all – "freedom, equality and justice". At Dorney School, we are proud to carry the torch for social justice and the rights for all children, regardless of their race, religion, gender or background.



Across school, pupils were inspired to write their own 'I have a dream speeches' which were read out to the whole school. This is Isabelle's (Year 5) outstanding contribution.

"I have a dream that being fierce does not mean being violent or cruel. One day we will realise what kind of world we have created, and for us to see that we have taken this beautiful world for granted.

I have a dream that people will not be judged by their skin, but by their kindness, and that racism will end.

I have a dream that one day I will be able to walk through the park without the fear of something happening to me or to others. We need to take a minute to think about what other people are going through as you will never know their hardships which is why it is always better to be nice.

I want to know that no one is being bullied emotionally, or physically, as both hurt just so much. I have a dream that people won't have to think about the saying, 'sticks and stones may break your bones but words will never hurt me' every time they've been emotionally damaged.

I have a dream that one day I will be able to look up at the sky and be able to say that there is no problem in the world and that our world has found its purpose.

I have a dream that everyone dreams the same dream and we stand together as the people of the world."

Do come and visit our school by ringing 01628 620871 and making an appointment.

With very best wishes, **Mrs Sharifah Lee, Headteacher**

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PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
TUESDAY 14th JANUARY, 7.30pm AT DORNEY SCHOOL**

Present

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair)
Cllr. Robert Stopford

Cllr. Euan MacLennan

Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford

Clerk Ruth Senior and 1 member of the public

Public Forum

No comments

PC/01/25 Apologies for absence

Cllr. Anna Palmer and Cllr. Stephen Baker

PC/02/25 Declaration of interest on any items of business on this Agenda

Cllr. MacLennan declared an interest in item 7 – transfer of Dorney Village Hall.

PC/03/25 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2024

These were **approved** with no amendments required and signed by the Chairman.

PC/04/25 To receive the Clerk report

There was no Clerk report this month as all items on Agenda for discussion.

PC/05/25 Items of business carried forward

05.1 The Orchard Herbs Site

Stephanie Penney confirmed to Cllr. Stopford that no appeal was received from Mr Balls and the deadline for the site to be cleared is July 2025.

05.2 The Neighbourhood Plan

This is progressing well. The draft was submitted to Bucks and Cllr. Stopford and Bill Dax are meeting on Weds 15th Jan with Buckinghamshire Council to discuss any required changes and the next steps. **It was agreed** that Cllr. Stopford will report back.

PC/06/25 Planning

There has been no date for the committee decision on Common Road application as yet.

PL/24/3651/VRC Harcourt Close variation to application PL/22/0388/FA – application to make changes to the original application for demolition of garages and erection of 3 dwellings, to include increased liveable space and less car parking spaces. **It was agreed** that the Parish Council will object to this variation on overdevelopment grounds.

PL/24/3873/FA 14 Dorney Reach Road – no comments to be made.

Dorney Village Hall

www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk



Floor completely sanded and repolished in December 2023!

Dorney Village Hall has a large main area with stage, a smaller annexed room, and kitchen. It has recently been redecorated throughout.

It is served by a large private car park and adjacent there is a tennis court, a multi activity games area (MUGA), playground and a playing field.

It is used by residents for a multitude of activities such as dancing classes, keep fit, yoga, badminton, horticultural and hired out for parties, dances and weddings.

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PC/07/25 To update on and consider the transfer of Dorney Village Hall (DVH) to Dorney Parish Council (DPC)

All paperwork has been submitted by DVH to the Charities Commission for approval. **It was agreed** that this will be followed up at the end of January.

PC/08/25 Finance

08.1 The cashbook was circulated prior to the meeting and approved.

08.2 Following the Finance meeting, the Finance Committee recommended requesting a precept of £28,350 (a 5% increase). The Council **resolved** to accept this recommendation and the Clerk will inform the Precepts Team at Buckinghamshire Council.

08.3 **It was agreed** that the Parish Council will open a new Unity Trust Bank account ahead of the transfer from DVH.

08.4 **It was agreed** that the Clerk will receive a 3.5% salary increase for 2025/26. **It was agreed** that the Clerk will prepare and circulate roles and responsibilities for the DVH Manager position following the transfer for discussion of new hours and salary.

PC/09/25 To receive an update on Dorney Playground

Dorney Playground fundraising for the new playground fencing is going very well. Sadly, the planned Christmas party was cancelled due to lack of ticket sales.

PC/10/25 To discuss traffic and parking problems around the Eton Dorney Therapeutic School

Cllr. Dax has been monitoring the reported problem of traffic backing up on Lake End Road at drop off and pick up time for the school. It is evident that the issue is growing worse and is potentially dangerous as cars overtake the queuing traffic directly towards oncoming traffic.

It was agreed that the Clerk will speak to the school in the first instance and ask for consideration to be made to alleviate the problem before taking it to the owners and Buckinghamshire Council.

PC/11/25 To discuss fibre broadband for Dorney

Fibre broadband is now available for most of Dorney, the main problem area seems to be Village Road and Court Lane. A local resident has volunteered to take this forward with Open Reach to resolve. The Parish Council agreed to support this.

PC/12/25 To consider options for road signage for Old Lake End Road

Cllr. Stopford has contacted Highways regarding new road signage following the boundary change, he will keep the Council informed. **It was agreed** the Clerk will contact the Local Area Technician regarding moving the existing welcome to Dorney sign.

PC/13/25 To consider any complaints/comments received from residents

There were none received

PC/14/25 Items to consider for discussion at the next meeting on 18th March 2025

Online meeting options

Review annual plan

Speeding on Dorney Common update

Dorney signage replacements

Clerk/Village Hall Manager hours and salary for DVH transfer



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2024	Oct	4, 11, 18, 25	4, 18	11, 25	4, 18	4, 18	4, 18
	Nov	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	1, 15, 29	8, 22	1, 15, 29	1, 15, 29	1, 15, 29
	Dec	6, 13, 20, 30		6, 20	13, 30	13, 30	13, 30
2025	Jan	6, 11, 17, 24, 31	24	6, 17, 31	11, 24	11, 24	11, 24
	Feb	7, 14, 21, 28	7, 21	14, 28	7, 21	7, 21	7, 21
	Mar	7, 14, 21, 28	7, 21	14, 28	7, 21	7, 21	7, 21

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Dorney Parish News

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Advertising in Dorney Parish News

Dorney Parish News is an A5 newsletter that is circulated monthly (except January and August) to residents and businesses in Dorney Village, Dorney Reach, Boveney and Lake End.

Our current print run is 250. Estimated readership is around 400 people. There are approximately 300 residential properties in Dorney Parish.

Rate Card:

Advertising Rates	Height mm	Width mm	10 issues	1 issue
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Quarter Page (Horizontal)	45	130	£45	£6

Contact: Peter Bowman, Editor
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