

# Dorney Parish News

May 2025



Dorney Litter: We are not so fortunate!

*(30 large bags of litter were collected on 23 March 2025)*



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**EDITORIAL**

If you want to really feel good about living in our parish, here's what I recommend: sit in the middle of Dorney Playground, on an Easter Saturday morning and watch three generations of your family enjoy themselves. Intent on the refurbished zipwire or an improvised cricket net on the MUGA (an ideal surface, by the way, for a grandad to reveal that all cricket and football skills have not disappeared) they may not have heard our praise for the committee's work or the lovely launch party early in April.

But for every simple local pleasure, an issue seems to loom that will occupy these pages for months and months ahead. In this case it is litter. The committee may appeal to 'Dorney Park' visitors to 'take it home' and provide additional rubbish bags, but still some users of the car park ruin our environment. Here's one shocking example from last month's organised litter pick – we found several beer cans dangerously embedded in the surface of the football pitch. The Chair of the Parish Council addresses this curse in this issue, but meanwhile two incidents of serious fly tipping are reported on Fix My Street just by Marsh Lane and Court Lane.

This column started on a positive note, but in general April has been a depressing month. We heard of an apparently outrageous statement by Bucks Council that starting from 18 March 2025, public comments on planning applications will no longer be published on Public Access. With many planning disputes inevitable ahead, councillors and residents can no longer judge the volume and depth of public support or opposition. More to come in future issues on this, as well more on the combined work of three local parish councils to optimise this neighbourhood's position with the government's New Town Taskforce. Some candidates in the current county council elections have sought to exploit public misinformation about 'Taplow New Town' and the rumours and nastiness revealed by some who comment on Taplow and Burnham Facebook groups has been disturbing. Faced by this our magazine really believes in a 'mission to inform'.

Dorney Common should be an oasis of peace and tranquillity at the heart of Dorney Parish, and it's sad to see this space featuring in negative news coverage. Our household still appreciates local newspapers dropping on our doormat and in successive weeks we have read about renewed police appeals for witnesses to assault and criminal damage by electric bike riders on the Common in March, while local farmer Michelle Bosher launched a widespread and heartfelt plea (featured on the BBC News website) to speeding drivers to spare those cows beloved by her and many readers of this magazine. Judged by her words in this issue, we have the support of our MP over a Common speed limit. Bucks Council are assessing the evidence.

If cows back on the Common is a sign that 'summer is a coming in' so alas is the closure of Dorney Lake to visitors which duly happened on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Martin Hardman this month raises serious issues over emergency services to Dorney, and we hear that not everybody approves of the shiny new number 15 bus service. We hear that 'our Olly' was triumphant in addressing Dorney Horticultural Society, while Bill Dax sets out a major upgrade of DPN's vast archive. Phew, what a month...

# 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](mailto:stjohnstjamesed@hotmail.co.uk)

For information about our churches, activities and church history please see our parishes' web site: [www.stjohnstjamesed.org.uk](http://www.stjohnstjamesed.org.uk)

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

**Pastor: Olusegun Omotayo 07712 126334** [www.rccgchurchatslough.com](http://www.rccgchurchatslough.com)

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**Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Burnham**

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

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### News from St. James the Less:

Firstly, I hope everyone had a good Easter and that you were able to spend quality time with family and friends.

Our Holy Week services, culminating in three services on Easter Sunday were well attended with 34 at Boveney at 05:30a.m., 34 at Dorney and 33 in Eton Wick. We are now processing through our Easter season through to Ascension Day on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May when we will be holding our traditional service at St. James.

We held a Wedding Preparation morning for the next 11 couples due to get married at St. James between now and August. The couples found this really informative and hopefully will help them as they enter marriage.

We are beginning the recruitment process for a new Priest in Charge to cover Datchet, Dorney, Eton with Eton Wick and Boveney. Let's hope it's a case of fourth time lucky!

Finally, wishing you a lovely May and hope to catch up with some of you over the coming weeks.

**Stephen J. Baker**



# Church Services in May 2025

## **Sunday 4th May**

9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St James the Less, Dorney
11.00 am	'Any Age' Family Service	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

## **Wednesday 7th May**

10.00 am	Holy Communion (said BCP)	St John the Evangelist, Eton
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## **Sunday 11th May**

9.30 am	Holy Communion	St James the Less, Dorney
11.00 am	Holy Communion	St John the Baptist Eton, Wick

## **Sunday 18th May (Pentecost)**

9.30am	Holy Communion	St James the Less, Dorney
11.00am	Holy Communion	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

## **Wednesday 21st May**

10.00 am	Holy Communion (said BCP)	St John the Evangelist, Eton
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## **Sunday 25th May**

9.30am	Morning Worship	St James the Less, Dorney
11.00 am	Morning Worship	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

## **Thursday 29th May (Ascension Day)**

9.30 am	Holy Communion	St James the Less, Dorney
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## Dorney Parish Council Election 2025 and Taplow New Town Update

In the April issue of Dorney Parish News, we set out how Dorney residents would be able to vote on May 1st for councillors to represent the Burnham ward on Bucks Council.

When this May issue reaches you, the results of a turbulent campaign should be known. Now, elections for parish councillors could take place alongside the county polls, but only if more than seven individuals applied to join our PC.

In early April an announcement was posted on the Dorney Parish Council website which must have replicated those on many a PC site throughout Bucks and beyond, and certainly in Taplow and Burnham.

The resulting 'Notice of an Uncontested Election' is reproduced below, identifying the five councillors who remain in office.

Dorney Parish News has always urged parishioners to come forward and fill any vacant spaces which arise. We have little doubt that those vacancies will be filled in the near future.

### **NOTICE OF UNCONTESTED ELECTION**

#### **Election of councillors to Dorney Parish Council on Thursday 1 May 2025**

I, being the Returning Officer at the above election, report that the persons whose names appear below were duly elected Parish Councillors.

<b>Name of Candidate</b>	<b>Home Address</b>	<b>Description (if any)</b>
BAKER Stephen James	Elm View, 1 Marsh Lane, Dorney, Windsor, SL4 6QR	
DAX Jill Lesley	Rose Cottage, Lake End Road, Dorney, SL4 6QS	
PALMER Anna Caroline	Dorney Court, Court Lane, Dorney, SL4 6QP	
STOPFORD Robert Edward James	Lake End House, Lake End Road, Dorney, Windsor, Berks, SL4 6QS	Independent
WESTCOTT-WREFORD Martyn Charles	(address in Buckinghamshire)	

The Clerk to the Council made a second key announcement in April, this time on local social media. 'In conjunction with Taplow and Burnham Parish Councils and the Hitcham and Taplow Society, we are preparing objections to the proposed New Town at Taplow to be submitted to the government New Towns Task Force.

We have assumed that there is popular support for objection but think we should formally ask you all if this is your wish that we do so. Please let me know if you do not support our intention or know of people that do want a New Town'.

We understand that response has been considerable. We'll do our best to update readers on developments.

**Peter Bowman**

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# **Tackling Litter in Dorney Parish: Challenges**

## **Record-Breaking Litter Pick Day Highlights Growing Problem**

The recent Dorney Parish Council Litter Pick Day on Sunday, March 23rd yielded an alarming result: 30 large bags of litter collected by volunteers from around our beautiful parish. This represents a significant increase from the previous event, which produced 23 bags, but we did have more volunteers this time. As we celebrate the community spirit of those who participated, these numbers highlight a growing problem that requires innovative solutions.

The dedication of our volunteers is commendable, but we shouldn't need to collect this much litter in the first place. We need sustainable solutions to prevent it from accumulating.

The biannual event, which will next be held in October, has become an important fixture in the parish calendar. However, it's clear that additional measures are needed between these community clean-ups to maintain our cherished local environment.

## **Identified Litter Hotspots**

Through feedback from volunteers and ongoing monitoring, several key litter hotspots have been identified across the parish:

### **Dorney Playground in Trumper's Field**

A popular family destination that suffers from insufficient bin capacity and infrequent collections by Buckinghamshire Council. Children's snack wrappers, drink containers, and picnic waste often overflow existing facilities, particularly during weekends and school holidays.

### **Old Lake End Road Parking Area**

Used by Orchard Herbs employees, this area has become a significant dumping ground. The upcoming enforcement notice (effective July 11, 2025) that will terminate all businesses at Orchard Herbs should help address this specific issue, but monitoring will be needed to ensure the area doesn't remain a problem spot.

### **Agricultural Workers' Areas**

Farm employees leaving litter in fields has been noted as a growing concern, particularly single-use food packaging and beverage containers.

### **Roadside Verges on Commuter Routes**

Litter thrown from vehicles blights our roadside verges, particularly on commuter routes. This is especially problematic on Dorney Common, where discarded items can pose a danger to grazing cattle.

### **Jubilee River and Thames Path**

These popular walking routes have limited waste bins (currently only at Ramblers Car Park in Boveney and the Lake End Road entrances to the Jubilee River), resulting in litter being left along these otherwise beautiful waterside paths.

Solutions to all these challenges are difficult. Nevertheless, Dorney Parish Council will continue to try and find them in order to alleviate the problem.

**Jill Dax**





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## Dorney Playground celebrating...



On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, Dorney Playground Management Group had a very successful and enjoyable celebratory party. So, this article will be all about thanks.

If you have been down to the playground recently,

you will have noticed a new fence around the playground area. The gates are yellow as it is a recommendation that the gates are a different colour to the fence so that the exits can be easily identified.



**So thanks to:**

**Buckinghamshire Community Board for a grant of £8000**

**Louis Baylis (Maidenhead Advertiser) for a grant of £1000**

**And to everyone who helped in the fund-raising activities including the tuck shop volunteers.**



You may also have noticed that the tennis court and MUGA surfaces have been cleaned and treated for moss. The difference is amazing, and we would really like to thank **Clearway Sport** for doing such a great job.

The ramp for the zip wire has also been resurfaced. The old surface had become worn and split in places, so a replacement was due.

And lastly, but not least, a rope had become detached on the walkway of the junior multiplay. In theory this was an easy job – take off the old rope and replace it with a new one (my words to my husband!). In reality, it was a difficult and time-consuming job, requiring specialised tools.

**My many thanks to Adam Seels who provided the expertise and tools to do the job and Mark Brand for assisting him.**

Don't worry, the committee are not resting, there are several things in discussion for further improvements to the playground, but these are for another issue of DPN.

All this has been achieved by a small group of volunteers, but it would be so much easier if we had more volunteers. If you can help in any way, even if it's only 30 minutes a week, please contact us.

**Help us maintain and improve the playground, tennis court and MUGA**

**Dorney Playground Management Group**

**07737053409**

**Playground4Dorney@gmail.com**

## A Long Wait and An Early Morning Dash

I offer this true story in the hope that it may be of use / help to those of us lucky enough to live in Dorney and Dorney Reach.

It was a warm night in May 2024. I awoke, at home in Dorney Reach Road, it was 3.15am and I couldn't get back to sleep. I felt odd, so went downstairs for a glass of water. I have no idea why but 15 minutes later a tv health advert came to mind.

- Chest pain .....tick
- Shortness of breath.....tick
- Sweating.....tick
- Left side pain .....tick
- Feeling anxious.....after the four ticks above...TICK.

It was clear to me I was having a heart attack. By this time, my wife had joined me, and an emergency ambulance was called. At this point the story takes an unexpected twist.

It took over 80 minutes for the ambulance to arrive; this is despite the dispatcher saying it was a quiet night. By the time it arrived I was in very severe pain. I was rapidly diagnosed as suffering a heart attack and treatment immediately started on my kitchen floor. The ambulance crew were amazing; on two occasions I heard the cliched line from Casualty "We are losing him". On both occasions they found me and brought me back. I owe them my life and will be forever grateful.

After a blues and twos dash to Wexham and emergency surgery I eventually found myself in a quiet ward with my wife. It had been quite a morning. Emotional, but still alive we started to discuss the day's events and remembered the ambulance crew apologising for being so late. They had told us that they had "sat nav" problems, they had been directed to Bray rather than Dorney and had then struggled to locate us. At the time we were just grateful they had arrived and thought nothing more of the comment.

Several months later however the comment was still in my mind. I suffered heart damage during the attack, possibly made worse by the extended wait for the ambulance. I decided to contact the ambulance service to ask what happened, why the ambulance was so late and most importantly how such an experience could be avoided in future.

I could only engage with the ambulance service by raising a formal complaint; something that I struggled with as they had saved my life and it felt wrong to be complaining. Eventually, I retold my story and entered the process. After several written responses which failed to answer my questions, I finally managed to have a conversation with a senior manager. After explaining that I was not looking to apportion blame but simply trying to ensure that my experience was avoided in the future I finally got the answers I was seeking. What I heard surprised me. There are lessons I feel for anyone who lives in the area.



During the emergency call requesting an ambulance my wife was asked if she agreed to the use of GPS tracking. Naturally she agreed. The ambulance was then dispatched and guided to us by a GPS navigation system which utilises the location of my wife's mobile. Due to the vagaries and inaccuracies in this technology the ambulance was directed from Wexham Park to Bray, a few hundred metres from our actual location in Dorney Reach, but obviously on the wrong side of the Thames. Eventually the crew did manage to find us and the rest you know.

Now I know why what should have been 20 minutes, took over an hour.

On the plus side I am here to tell the tale, I am making a very good recovery and thankfully I believe I am the only local resident to have such an extended wait. However, according to the senior manager at the ambulance service, similar events have occurred elsewhere along the Thames.

My driver in seeking to find out what happened to me was to learn the lessons of the experience and ensure that no one else should suffer in a similar way. The senior manager told me that the emergency call operator should always follow a standard protocol to ensure that all relevant location information is collected. They also offered me the following advice to help with this and were happy for it to be shared:

1. When requesting an emergency ambulance never simply give permission for GPS tracking alone. Always offer additional information.
2. If you live close to the river or know that GPS tracking is problematic at your location, tell the emergency call operator that the ambulance crew should not rely upon GPS tracking.
3. Always give a full postal address in addition to any other location information.
4. If possible, you should offer the three words from the "What3Words" app which are relevant to your location. (What3Words is a very accurate, +/- 3 m, geolocator app which is free to download and works globally on all mobile devices.

In conclusion I will be eternally grateful to the paramedics and the cardiology staff at Wexham Park who saved my life. Thankfully, my heart is recovering from the damage caused by the extended wait. Should I or anyone else in my home suffer a heart attack I now feel much more confident in giving the right information to the ambulance service and I now have What3Words loaded on my phone.



**Martin Hardman**  
**Dorney Reach**

## **Dorney Village Hall: A New Chapter Begins**



Dorney Parish Council is pleased to announce that as of April 1st, 2025, we have officially taken over as the sole trustee of the Dorney Village Hall (DVH) charity. This significant transition, which was first proposed in November 2023, marks a new chapter in the village hall's 95-year history.

### **Why the Change?**

The transfer to DPC was motivated by several important factors. Like many village hall charities across the country,

DVH has faced increasing difficulty in recruiting trustees willing and able to take on governance responsibilities. The existing trustees recognised that to protect the long-term future of this vital community asset, a sustainable governance model was essential.

Dorney Parish Council brings numerous strengths to this role, including strong roots in the local community, transparent operations, and high standards of public conduct. The Council's eligibility to access funding through the Public Works Loan Board also provides additional financial security for future capital improvements, as and when required.

### **Investment in Our Community**

The transfer safeguards a significant community investment. Over the past 53 years, Dorney residents have contributed approximately £200,000 (in 2025 equivalent value) to this important facility. The hall remains in strong financial health, with healthy reserves and a track record of generating annual surpluses.

### **What Changes Will You Notice?**

Day-to-day management of the hall will continue under the capable hands of Ruth Senior, the Village Hall Manager, who is also the Parish Clerk. The Executive Committee will maintain operational oversight, with the Chair of the Parish Council also now serving as Chair of the DVH Charity.

For users of the hall, the transition should be seamless. The hall remains available for private bookings, community events, and continues to serve local organisations like the Dorney Badminton Club and Dorney Horticultural Society.

We're pleased to announce plans to redecorate the walls and refurbish certain areas of the Village Hall in the coming months. These improvements will ensure the facility remains an attractive venue for both community and private events.

### **Looking to the Future**

This new governance arrangement ensures that Dorney Village Hall will continue to serve the community for generations to come. The Parish Council is committed to maintaining this valuable amenity as a vibrant hub for local activities and celebrations.



**DORNEY**  
PARISH COUNCIL

# Annual Parish Meeting

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The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity to ask questions that are important to you as a resident of Dorney.

**Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**7.30 pm**

**Dorney Lake Boathouse**

Everyone welcome. Come and join us for the Annual Meeting in The Lake View Room, have a chat with your local community groups and councillors.

Lift available. Refreshments will be served.

Agenda on [www.dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk)



Importantly, this transfer represents a key step towards resolving the numerous leases, licenses, and agreements that have developed regarding Trumper's Field over many years. The Council intends to work towards simplifying these arrangements for the benefit of the entire community.

We are also planning to work more closely with the Playground Management Group, as many bookings at the Village Hall make use of the now newly-fenced playground. This collaboration will enhance the overall experience for families and event organisers who utilise both facilities.

The transition follows over a year of careful planning, including consultations with charity law specialists and the Charity Commission. We extend our thanks to the outgoing trustees for their dedicated service.

For booking information or queries about the village hall, please continue to contact Ruth Senior, the Village Hall Manager at [bookings.dorneyvh@gmail.com](mailto:bookings.dorneyvh@gmail.com).

## **Dorney Parish Council**

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### **THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF DORNEY IS TO BE HELD ON 20TH MAY 2025, 7.30PM @ THE BOATHOUSE, DORNEY LAKE.**

To all Dorney Parish Residents, Community Groups and Businesses, Councillors and County Councillors.

#### **AGENDA**

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Approval of 2024 APM Minutes
- 3 Report from the Parish Council: Report from the Chairman of the Council Report on Council Finance
- 4 Community Updates
- 5 Report from County Council
- 6 Questions from the floor on Parish/County issues – please email questions in advance where possible to [clerk@dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk)
- 7 Any other business

*Please note – this is not a Parish Council meeting but is chaired by the Parish Council Chairman in accordance with legal requirements. Councillors attend this meeting as members of the public. The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity to ask questions that are important to you as a resident of Dorney.*



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## VICTORY IN EUROPE

On 8 May 2025, this country will mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE – Victory in Europe – Day. There will in fact be 4 days of national celebrations, starting on 5 May, Bank Holiday Monday. In London, these include events around the Cenotaph in Whitehall and a flypast of current and historic military aircraft. The WI has produced a recipe for an official orange and ginger cake to be enjoyed at street parties. In local communities, we are encouraged to raise a special VE Day flag at 9am on 8 May while town criers proclaim the commemoration. The close of the day will see cathedral and church bells rung across the country at 6.30pm and beacons lit nationwide at 9.30pm.

So, what exactly is being commemorated? On 8 May 1945, Britain officially celebrated the end of the Second World War in Europe, following the declaration of ceasefire on 7 May. After nearly six long years of war, the relief must have been enormous. No longer was there the risk of being attacked by bombs, alerted by the sound of air raid sirens precipitating a rush to shelters. At last, the hated blackout curtains could be taken down, lights be visible in windows and used again on bicycles and cars. The effects of the war continued for many years, not least food rationing which was maintained until the early 1950s, bread actually being rationed for the first time in July 1946. Neither did Victory in Europe mean that servicemen and women could immediately return home and the war in Asia against Japan was still going on, not finishing until 15 August 1945.



Nevertheless, jubilant celebrations took place on VE Day 1945. Many people flocked to central London where an estimated 100,000 gathered outside Buckingham Palace. They cheered sightings of the prime minister Winston Churchill and repeated balcony appearances by King George VI and his family throughout the afternoon and evening. The impromptu party continued in the streets with singing and dancing into the night. Throughout the country, thanksgiving services and parades, street parties and dances offered the chance to celebrate the end of the war. In Dorney, the celebrations included a concert and dance in the village hall and an outing to Whipsnade Zoo for the children. Physical signs of the conflict remained for some time in Dorney. Surface air raid shelters at various points in the village were not removed until 1946 and traces of the army camp on the common – subsequently used as temporary housing – were still visible in 1958.

In 1995, Britain celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. In London, the Royal family was involved in three days of thanksgiving and celebrations, culminating with a concert by Dame Vera Lynn outside Buckingham Palace, before beacons were lit all round the country. A variety of events took place in towns and villages, but nothing was organised in Dorney. The then editor of DPN wrote in June 1995, *“When I saw other local villages celebrating the victory and remembering the sacrifices that achieved it, I felt ashamed that it appeared to be a non-event in Dorney.”* This echoed the view expressed by a Dorney resident in a letter to the same issue.



The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary fell during the first year of the Covid pandemic. With everyone instructed to stay at home and observe social distancing, a programme of planned events for May 2020 had to be cancelled. Queen Elizabeth II broadcast a message at the same time on 8 May that her father had done 75 years earlier. She recalled the joyous celebrations of 1945, remembered those who had died in the conflict and expressed a confident hope for continuing peace and free nations. And she reflected the strange circumstances the country was then living through: *"Today it may seem hard that we cannot mark this special anniversary as we would wish. Instead we remember from our homes and our doorsteps. But our streets are not empty; they are filled with the love and the care that we have for each other. And when I look at our country today, and see what we are willing to do to protect and support one another, I say with pride that we are still a nation those*



*brave soldiers, sailors and airmen would recognise and admire."* Instead of communal events, families marked the occasion together at home. From a tea party in my neighbour's front garden wafted the strains of Vera Lynn singing, *We'll meet again....*, words that carried an added poignancy when so many were separated.

Now, five years later, the country is preparing for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are reaching a point when there are fewer people alive who remember VE Day 1945 or even remember the stories told by parents or grandparents. And, at the time of writing, there is still a war taking place in Europe and many European countries are actively

planning to increase their defensive capabilities. All the more reason, perhaps, to remind ourselves of the value of the hard-fought peace we have enjoyed for the past 80 years. With this in mind, our neighbours in Burnham have planned a full day of events for 8 May, from a two-minute silence at their war memorial at 11am, through an afternoon tea dance, to lighting the beacon at night. Dorney School will mark the day with some special activities and Year 6 pupils will be learning more about WW2 and its impact during the term. Dorney church is hoping to hold a special service of commemoration.

So, let's all make the most of this occasion; let's put up the bunting, wind up the gramophone to release Vera Lynn's voice again, bake that orange and ginger cake and give thanks that here in Dorney, at least, we still know peace.

**Virginia Silvester**



## **Dorney's recent history unlocked: Parish News Archive goes digital**

After months of quite painstaking work, the complete Dorney Parish News archive since 1961 is now available in fully searchable digital format on the Dorney History website. This monumental project has preserved over 700 editions spanning from September 1961 to the present day – creating an unparalleled resource for exploring our village's rich history. Special acknowledgment goes to Charles Cody, who served as editor of DPN for an impressive 50 years from 1978 to 2018, for curating these archives before passing them to the Dorney History Group in 2019.

The process involved scanning over 20,000 printed pages from physical copies of DPN published between 1961 and 2018, when the publication transitioned to digital production. These scanned pages were then automatically reassembled into complete issues and organised into annual collections for easy access.

What makes this archive truly revolutionary is its searchability. The entire collection has been converted to both readable/searchable PDF and plain text formats, enabling users to instantly locate information that previously would have required hours or days of manual searching. Whether you're researching family history, tracking local developments, or simply curious about Dorney's past, this searchable archive transforms how we can interact with our community's history.

The archive reveals fascinating insights into Dorney's evolution – from contemporaneous accounts of major infrastructure projects like the M4 motorway, Jubilee River, and Dorney Lake, to the activities of community groups, Parish Council proceedings, planning issues, and social history captured through announcements and celebrations.

Additionally, annual summaries have been created for each year, providing concise overviews of the major events and issues that shaped our community. These summaries offer an excellent starting point for research or a quick historical reference.

The text format is particularly valuable for use with AI platforms like ChatGPT and Google Notebook, which can analyse the entire archive to identify patterns, generate timelines, or extract specific information on request, such as individuals. This technology transforms decades of local history into an interactive resource that can answer specific questions about Dorney's past.

This archive stands as a testament to our community's commitment to preserving its heritage while embracing new technologies to make that history more accessible than ever before.

Until now, these valuable archives were stored in boxes and virtually inaccessible unless people knew exactly which edition they wanted to read. They are now available online through the Dorney History website at [www.dorney-history-group.org.uk](http://www.dorney-history-group.org.uk) on the Dorney Parish News Archives tab.

For additional guidance on using the archive effectively, please contact me at [bill@daxfamily.com](mailto:bill@daxfamily.com).

**Bill Dax**

**Dorney History**

[www.dorney-history-group.org.uk](http://www.dorney-history-group.org.uk)





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## Therapy, Coaching and Hypnotherapy

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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**or call 07785 566468**



**The Engagement Ring**

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[www.lifecoach-directory.org.uk/lifecoaches/karen-kimberley](http://www.lifecoach-directory.org.uk/lifecoaches/karen-kimberley)

# **DORNEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - ANNUAL GARDEN VISIT**

**DEEPWOOD STUD - MAIDENHEAD - WEDNESDAY MAY 21st - 2-30 PM**

This year Dorney Horticultural Society has arranged a private garden tour to Deepwood Stud, Stubbings, Maidenhead. Following the garden tour we have an introduction to some of the horses, including four recently born foals to be admired. This is followed by tea/coffee and cake. The price of the tour is £12 per person, which includes the refreshments, and all profits go to Parkinsons UK.

## **Deepwood Stud Farm**

There are 4 acres of formal and informal gardens within a 25-acre stud farm. A formal rose garden with fountain, a walled herbaceous border with windows through which to admire the views and horses, two rock gardens, and a hot plant terrace. There is a small lake with Monet style bridge and pergola and several neo-classical follies and statues and a planted woodland area with a winding path.



We will meet at the property at 2.15 pm. Payment is made direct to the owner on the day. Places need to be pre-booked and you can book your place by email to the membership secretary 'Kristina' at **ddhs@btinternet.com** or by contacting any committee member.

The address is: Deepwood Stud, Stubbings, Henley Road, Maidenhead, SL6 6QW

We look forward to seeing you on the 21st.



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# DORNEY SCHOOL

**RESPECT \* COLLABORATE \* GROW**

## **News from Dorney School**

### **Girls' Football Event at Burnham Grammar School**

We have been amazed at the interest from girls across the school to participate in football. We now have an established girl, and boys, football team. We may just have the next generation of football players at our school.



### **Headwear- Year 6 (Design and Technology)**

Year 6 recently created a piece of headwear that represented their individual personalities. They carefully chose appropriate materials and designed their pieces in their books before spending two lessons bringing their ideas to life. Each creation is unique, and the students proudly showcased their designs during our Easter assembly.



### **Year 4 Class Assembly**

The pupils showcased their learning and achievements brilliantly to the whole school and parents during their class assembly. They sang a song to remind us to stay motivated, recalled their multiplication tables through songs, showed us how the Roman army used tactics in battles (including Roman shields) and also showed us how electric circuits work.



Our school received a visit from representatives of **The Etonian Lodge of St John and The Windsor Castle Lodge** who have made generous donations to the school of £600 each. These generous donations will go towards learning resources at school. They were given a tour of the school by two of our school ambassadors and were very happy to see that the contributions made by the members of their Lodges were being put to such excellent use.

Why not visit our amazing school set in beautiful grounds? Visit our website <https://www.dorneyschool.co.uk/> or get in touch [office@dorneyschool.co.uk](mailto:office@dorneyschool.co.uk)

**Mrs S Lee. Headteacher**





# DORNEY SCHOOL

Harcourt Close, Dorney Reach, Maidenhead SL6 0DY

*Ofsted graded  
'Good' for EYFS,  
Personal  
Development,  
Behaviour &  
Attitudes*

*Warm,  
Inclusive,  
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community that  
places your  
child first*

Your local school with a 'big heart' and a warm welcome.



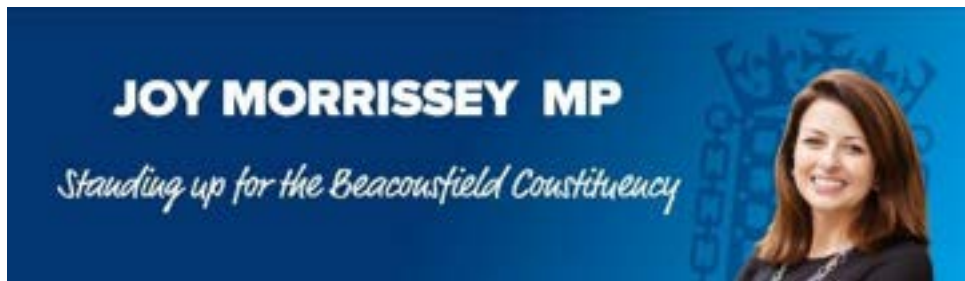
## Open Days for 2025-2026

17.09.2025 Wednesday at 10am-11am    09.10.2025 Thursday at 1.30pm-2.30pm

11.11.2025 Tuesday at 10am-11am    26.11.2025 Wednesday at 1.30pm-2.30pm

Visit our website at [www.dorneyschool.co.uk](http://www.dorneyschool.co.uk) or call us on 01628 620871 to arrange a visit.





I hope you all had a truly wonderful Easter, enjoying time with family, friends, and the beautiful spring sunshine. It was a pleasure to be out and about across the constituency during the Easter period - I always feel incredibly fortunate to represent such a vibrant and caring community.

I was particularly pleased to see that the campaign to reduce the speed limit on Dorney Common has recently gained traction and even made its way onto the BBC News website. This recognition is a significant step in making sure Buckinghamshire Council hears the very real concerns of local residents.

I understand that Dorney Parish Council is now awaiting the results from the speed monitoring tubes placed on the Common. These results will hopefully strengthen the case to introduce lower speed limits—not just for the safety of residents, but also to protect the local wildlife and preserve the tranquillity of this cherished space.

Protecting what makes our community special has been front and centre in my work in Parliament recently. I've been speaking up for our beautiful Green Belt areas across Beaconsfield, Marlow, and especially the South Bucks villages like Dorney. This is particularly urgent in light of Labour's proposed Planning and Infrastructure Bill, which could severely undermine local voices in development decisions. I believe firmly that planning decisions must be made with communities, not imposed on them. Your voice matters, and I will continue to make sure it's heard loud and clear.

A key concern in this fight is the proposal for a large development at the Marlow Film Studio site. Let me be absolutely clear: this area is far more than a bureaucratic label of 'grey belt.' Over Easter, I took a walk through the proposed site and saw first-hand the rich natural ecosystem that flourishes there. This is not just land on a map—it's a living landscape, full of wildlife and beauty. I've always stood up for our Green Belt, and I will continue to oppose inappropriate developments like this one.

Another important focus over the past few weeks has been hospice funding. Earlier this year, I met with the CEO of Thames Hospice, and I promised to be a champion for the compassionate, vital care they provide to families across our area. I recently held an Adjournment Debate in Parliament to press the Government on the urgent need to support our hospices. While Labour continues to push ahead with harmful increases to National Insurance, I'm fighting to ensure our local hospices get the support they need and deserve.

Thank you as always for reading this month's update. If there's anything I can support you with, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

I'm here to represent you and to stand up for what matters most to our community.

**Joy Morrissey MP**



## **Burnham Day Centre – its ‘value cannot be overstated’.**



Bucks Council has proposed the closure of Burnham Day Centre as part of a cost saving initiative within its Adult Social Care services. This a matter of policy, budgets and, with the council elections looming, political controversy.

But based on what has been said to us, and comments we have read, it is the human cost to families around here already under pressure that surely is the overwhelming issue.

Mercifully, this writer has no experience of these challenges either as a day-to-day experience or as a policy matter, but the arguments of those fearful of and protesting against the closure, and the latter group has included many local councillors and our local MP Joy Morrissey, seem very straightforward and logical.

In fairness to Bucks Council, they did run a public consultation between October last year and last February under the title of ‘Better Lives in Our Communities’ and have been considering over 600 responses. Bucks aims to reduce its adult social care budget by £14.4 million. It points out a supposed shift to ‘community-based care’, which seems to mean care by private providers ‘in the place they live’ i.e. at home. Our county council runs 7 day centres. Its ‘preferred option’ is to close 4 of them, including Burnham Day Centre, leaving open the centres some way away from Dorney at Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Chesham.

Those who rely on the day centres’ services say that they are vital for coping with the complex needs of users because they have understanding based on working over long periods with each individual and that Bucks’ claim that these centres are underused is misleading and ignores untapped demand. It seems that a demonstration outside the Burnham centre at the end of March enjoyed ‘huge support’ and protesters, which included our MP, pointed out that Burnham was ‘one of the better centres’ with large activity rooms and adapted corridors.

Bucks Council is at pains to say that all these opinions will receive close consideration and that the final decision to be taken by the Council’s cabinet has been delayed until the end of the summer. The consultation is closed by now, but any resident who feels strongly either way about this closure can surely still have an input via their elected representative, be they councillors or MP.

Ms Morrissey told DPN ‘I know how deeply the potential closure of Burnham Day Centre is affecting families in Dorney and across our constituency. These centres provide essential respite for families and vital care for individuals with disabilities across the county. Their value cannot be overstated...it has been an absolute privilege to work alongside local parents...’ The last word should therefore go to Lesley Honey-Green, who lives in Dorney Reach with her daughter Jeni. Lesley recently told us, very movingly, of Jeni’s multiple complex learning disabilities and her need for 24/7 care. Lesley reminded us that she had written in DPN a few years back in praise of Bucks care and funding and had said that ‘a sense of belonging is of the essence of her well-being’. This would be lost, as Jeni becomes housebound, will spend many more hours in her chair (remember those large rooms at Burnham), and her mum will lose most of any current well deserved temporary respite.

**Peter Bowman**

## Summary of Recent and Current Major Planning Issues in Dorney Parish

Planning Issue	Status	Date
<b>Completed</b>		
<i>Orchard Herbs: Enforcement Appeal</i>	<i>Dismissed</i>	<i>11 October 2024</i>
<i>Boveney Court Farm buildings: Planning Application</i>	<i>Refused</i>	<i>27 July 2023</i>
<i>Boveney Court Farm buildings: Planning Appeal</i>	<i>Dismissed</i>	<i>30 August 2024</i>
<i>Boveney Court Stables: 3rd Planning Application</i>	<i>Refused</i>	<i>22 November 2024</i>
<i>Ronita 59 Harcourt Road Dorney Reach Part two storey / part single storey side extension</i>	<i>Refused</i>	<i>24 December 2024</i>
<b>In Progress</b>		
Orchard Herbs: Enforcement Due Date (Clear Site)	Determined	11 July 2025
Land Adjacent To 8 and 10 Harcourt Close Dorney Reach. Change of plans from three 3 bedroom houses to three 4 bedroom plus study houses (Social Housing)	Registered	2nd Jan 2025
2 Meadow Way Dorney Reach Double storey side extension and front gable roof extension	Registered	18 March 2025
2 Meadow Way Dorney Reach extension	Prior Approval refused	14 April 2025
Land Between 18 and 20 Dorney Reach Road 3x Custom build dwellings	Registered	15 April 2025
Boveney Court Farm buildings: Planning Application 2	In Progress	Planning Committee
Court Farm: Planning Application	In Progress	Planning Committee

Following a series of rejected planning applications and dismissed appeals across Dorney Parish over the past two years, four significant planning matters remain in progress as of April 2025.

### Current Active Major Planning Issues

#### Orchard Herbs Enforcement

After multiple planning refusals and a dismissed appeal for a hotel development at the Orchard Herbs site, enforcement action was initiated in November 2023. The enforcement appeal was subsequently dismissed in October 2024. The site owners now have a determined due date of July 11, 2025, to completely clear the site in compliance with the enforcement action.

#### Boveney Court Farm Buildings

Despite having their initial planning application refused in July 2023 and a subsequent appeal dismissed in August 2024, the owners of Boveney Court Farm buildings, Eton College, have submitted a second planning application the same as the first. This application is currently being processed and will be determined by the Planning Committee later this year or next year.

#### Court Farm

A planning application for Court Farm is also currently in progress and will be decided by the Planning Committee later this year or next year.





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## **Land Between 18 and 20 Dorney Reach Road: Three Custom build dwellings**

A recent planning application has been submitted for these three houses. The details can be found on the Bucks Council Planning Website Ref. PL/25/0863/FA



*Perspective from the River Thames*

### **Planning Inconsistencies in Dorney Reach**

There appear to be inconsistent approaches to planning decisions in Dorney Reach.

The issue came to light when comparing two recent planning documents - a pre-application advice letter from Bucks Council for land between 18-20 Dorney Reach Road and a refusal notice for a property on Harcourt Road. Despite both properties being in close proximity, the planning assessments describe our area's character in contradictory ways.

The Harcourt Road refusal describes Dorney Reach as having a consistent character with conventional designs and predominantly hipped roofs, refusing an application for not conforming to this character. Meanwhile, the Dorney Reach Road pre-application advice from Bucks Council suggests there is "no one set design approach" and supports contemporary designs with modern features.

Adding to the confusion, the current application for three new homes between 18-20 Dorney Reach Road shows flat/green roofs, despite the Bucks Council pre-application advice describing the "approved" design as having "gable roofs."

Bucks Council need to clarify these inconsistencies, explain how character assessments should be applied in our area, and confirm the actual design details for the pending application.

Residents preparing planning applications are advised to seek clarity on design requirements given these conflicting assessments.

Latest details on planning applications may be found in the Dorney Parish Council Meeting Minutes on their website – [www.dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Bill Dax**





# The Studios School of Performing Arts

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## Local Girls Raise Spirits and Funds for Charity



**Emilia, Abbey and Erin**

Three remarkable young local girls—Abbey Ward (11), Erin Reynolds (10), and Emilia Brooking (10) - have shown that age is no barrier to making a big difference. With bright smiles and boundless enthusiasm, the trio recently raised an impressive amount for Comic Relief, supporting people in need across the UK and the globe.

All pupils at Dorney School - Abbey, Erin, and Emilia poured their energy into

every detail. The girls spent hours baking hundreds of delicious, sweet treats - cupcakes, cookies and brownies. They then loaded their produce into a beautifully decorated trolley and went to sell door to door in Dorney and the surrounding areas.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the cause - either through purchasing, donations or words of encouragement. Their efforts paid off, raising a total of £494 for Comic Relief!

These young fundraisers have proven that when people come together, even the smallest hands can make a huge impact.

**Well done, Abbey, Erin, and Emilia!**






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# Collection calendar

Year	Month	Food waste	Garden waste	General waste	Mixed recycling	Paper and cardboard	Textiles/Batteries/Electricals
2025	Mar	14, 21, 28	21	14, 28	21	21	21
	Apr	4, 11, 19, 26	4, 19	11, 26	4, 19	4, 19	4, 19
	May	2, 10, 16, 23, 31	2, 16, 31	10, 23	2, 16, 31	2, 16, 31	2, 16, 31
	Jun	6, 13, 20, 27	13, 27	6, 20	13, 27	13, 27	13, 27
	Jul	4, 11, 18, 25	11, 25	4, 18	11, 25	11, 25	11, 25
	Aug	1, 8, 15, 22, 30	8, 22	1, 15, 30	8, 22	8, 22	8, 22
	Sep	5, 12, 19, 26	5, 19	12, 26	5, 19	5, 19	5, 19

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# Dorney Parish News

Published monthly (except January and August)

## **Editors:**

Peter Bowman, [peter.bowman@talktalk.net](mailto:peter.bowman@talktalk.net) Mobile: 07889 912714

Bill Dax, [bill@daxfamily.com](mailto:bill@daxfamily.com) Mobile: 07802 365448 (Production)

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## **Distributors:**

Mr Cobb, Mrs Leishman, Mrs McCabe,  
Mr Penfold, Mrs Stockwood, Mr Temple  
Miss Snook, Mrs Tuddenham, Mrs Wood-Dow

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**The Editors are not responsible for the opinions of correspondents expressed in letters or articles published in this magazine.**

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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
Full Page	190	130	£100	£13
Half Page	90	130	£55	£8
Third of a page (Horizontal)	60	130	£50	£7
Quarter Page (Horizontal)	45	130	£45	£6

**Contact:** Peter Bowman, Editor  
[peter.bowman@talktalk.net](mailto:peter.bowman@talktalk.net)  
07889 912714

Emergency Contact Details		
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Thames Valley Police	Non-urgent calls	101
National Health Service	For urgent medical problems. Need advice	111
Crimestoppers	Anonymously report information	0800 555 111
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