

# Dorney Parish News

May 2025

## **TAPLOW PARISH COUNCIL**



## **Hitcham and Taplow Society**

Taplow Village Centre, High Street, Taplow SL6 0EX

**Dorney Parish Council Joins Coalition Against  
Proposed Taplow New Town (Page 12)**



*Renaissance*  
BATHROOMS  
& KITCHENS



BATHROOM & KITCHEN SHOWROOM  
////////////////////////////////////  
DESIGN // SUPPLY // INSTALL

THE GREAT BARN | CIPPENHAM LANE | SL15AH  
01753 693333

[RENAISSANCEBATHROOMS.CO.UK](http://RENAISSANCEBATHROOMS.CO.UK) | [RENAISSANCEKITCHENS.CO.UK](http://RENAISSANCEKITCHENS.CO.UK)

SUPPLY ONLY OR FULL INSTALL SERVICE AVAILABLE

**EDITORIAL**

*'Only Connect'*. These enigmatic words were inserted by EM Forster at the start of one of my favourite novels *'Howards End'*. What exactly the great man meant has been hotly debated ever since. But they have always seemed to me to be the ideal credo for both individuals and communities.

I have been thinking about 'connection' in the light of several recent trends and events. It might be VE Day, or possibly the creation of the DPN archive on the Dorney History Group website along with the availability of wonderful photos from that resolute chronicler, the late Jean Tyler. It might be one of my favourite dates in the Dorney calendar, the Annual Parish Meeting, or growing unease at the 'disconnection' indicated by widespread public despair at the 'State of the Nation', as revealed most vividly by the toxic atmosphere, particularly online, surrounding the recent local elections.

Let me make it clear, I have always believed 'nostalgia isn't what it used to be'. I don't want to be transported back to the 1960s or 1980s, and it wasn't always better 'back in the day'. But take litter (someone needs to do so in Dorney)...the Parish Council is justifiably proud of the twice yearly 'parish tidy up', but as we filled a couple of sacks around a deserted Village Hall car park, memories strayed to the day at least 30 years ago when it seemed every family turned out to clear up led by our neighbour Ernie Wise and Dorney School. As the previous editor of this publication has pointed out to me, we then had the focus of entry in the Best Kept Village competition. Expect pictures and memories of that day to feature in an upcoming issue.

Conversations with readers living on the Common make me aware of deep concerns over the latest planning application from Eton College to develop the Boveney Court Farm site. I know that this application has been 'called in' and will be in the hands of the Bucks Council Planning Committee but I cannot help remembering the heady days of the DROPET campaign when fears of a decade long disruption during the building of Dorney Lake inspired open meetings in the Village Hall attended by literally hundreds.

These reflections on 'connections' are really intended as an introduction to reporting on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day, a historical subject covered in depth in last month's issue by Virginia Silvester. Let this column pay tribute to Chrys Fisher and his team, led by Steph, at the Palmer Arms. Many of us were muttering about the lack of any celebrations or remembrance in Dorney. Chrys stepped into the breach. He and Steph saved the day. It would be very easy to argue that 'new technology' has loosened connections and driven dissension. We could just as easily argue that those connections could be re-established by exploiting digital communications. Once the idea of a get together took hold, it was great fun to see the WhatsApp groups humming and even the DHS mailing list coming into play. So it was that a goodly number (reminiscent of the 2022 Jubilee celebrations) gathered in our local pub's garden on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Delicious snacks were laid on, but Chrys, sorry, one small complaint. What a brilliant thought to play suitable martial music through loudspeakers, but just how many times can you listen to the 'Dam Busters'? A little of the Squadronaires or Jack Payne would have been soothing and nostalgic!

Over a beer or two, connections were established by tales told of relatives who served and far too many who didn't return. My own father's wartime letters tell of earnest discussions about the aims of the war and the world after the war. We are lucky to be able to connect and discuss in a peaceful pub, or indeed two, in Dorney. Once again, thanks to Chrys and Steph.

# 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)

---

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

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

---

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

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

---

## Church Services in June 2025

### Sunday 1st June

9.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

11.00 am Any Age service

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

### Wednesday 4th June

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

### Sunday 8th June

9.30 am Holy Communion

11.00 am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

### Sunday 15th June

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

### Wednesday 18th June

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

### Sunday 22nd June

9.30am Morning Worship

11.00am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

### Sunday 29th June

9.30 am Morning Worship

11.00 am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick



## Our two beautiful Churches:



St James the Less, Dorney



St Mary

Magdalene, Boveney



## Sunset at the Lake for the Annual Parish Meeting

We have been fortunate, not only to have Dorney Lake as our venue for the past three APMs (thank you Eton College/Dorney Lake), but also a lovely sunset. Above is this year's. The full minutes of the APM are elsewhere in this edition of DPN, but the view contributed to its success.

DPC continues robust dialogue with Bucks to reduce the speed limit on Common Road to 40mph. Yet another cow fatality occurred in May. More effective signage is being considered in the interim in the hope that drivers take greater care.

Following information received from Thames Water, local monitoring is in place to assist control of discharge from Dorney Treatment Works to prevent excessive build up on Lake End Common and Upper Roundmoor ditch

Dorney Parish Council now Sole Trustee of Dorney Village Hall

**CLEARANCE OF VEHICLES, SCAFFOLDING & CONCRETE WORKS CONTINUES AT ORCHARD HERBS SITE**

**PARISH COUNCIL UNCONTESTED IN LOCAL ELECTIONS. OPPORTUNITY TO CO-OPT TWO MORE**

**NEXT DPC MEETING**  
Tuesday  
22nd July  
7.30pm at  
Dorney Village Hall



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.

**The Studio**  
9 Oak Stubbs Lane, Dorney Reach  
Maidenhead, Buckinghamshire SL6 0DW

T. 07878162452

E. richard@shymansky.co.uk

 ShymanskyPortraitPhotographer

*Shymansky*  
Portrait Photography



British Institute of  
Professional Photography

## A Momentous Local Election



The results of the Local Council and Mayoral elections on May 1<sup>st</sup> were momentous across the country. It's not surprising, therefore, that we in Dorney will be affected by significant change at a local and county level. There were two main headlines after the votes were counted in Aylesbury.

Firstly, Dorney is no longer represented by three Conservative councillors on the unitary Buckinghamshire Council, but now there are two Conservatives plus a new Reform UK councillor.

Secondly, the Conservatives have lost their large overall majority on the Bucks Council as many were stunned to hear late on the Friday after the election that Bucks had slipped into a position of 'No Overall Control'.

In our April issue we set out how from 2025 Dorney had moved to a new larger Burnham ward as the former Cliveden ward was abolished. Two of the existing Conservative councillors for Cliveden topped the Burnham poll as Paul Kelly gained 1289 votes and Kirsten Ashman 1120 votes, but third place went to Cole Caesar for Reform UK with 1078 votes. Mr Caesar is a Burnham resident who stood as an independent candidate in the 2024 Beaconsfield parliamentary election and recently joined Burnham Parish Council. Each of the four main parties fielded three candidates (surprisingly no Green Party candidate stood locally), so we can compare the share of total votes they achieved. The three Conservatives achieved 35%, Reform 31%, Liberal Democrats 20% and Labour 14%. While we can't single out those voting in Dorney Village Hall, it is sad that Burnham ward as a whole only recorded a low 28% voter turnout compared to 35% across Bucks.

At the county level, while the Conservatives have by a long way the largest number of councillors, they just failed to achieve an overall majority of councillors – the first time this has ever happened since Bucks had any sort of county council. Of the 97 seats on the newly reduced council, the Conservatives now have 48, the Liberal Democrats 27, Independents 11, Labour 4, Reform UK 3 and the Wycombe Independents 2. The Conservatives will take a very large crumb of comfort in Reform UK not making the sort of progress, at least in terms of seats, that they did elsewhere. Martin Tett, former Leader of the Council, said that 'Reform UK cannibalised our vote in seat after seat' but local political commentators tended to point to the nationwide surge in support for the Liberal Democrats.

Leaving aside the effects of instability on Dorney, the progress of Bucks Council, given these new dynamics will be fascinating to watch. Ahead of the Council's AGM on May 21<sup>st</sup>, there was talk of the Conservatives needing to fend off opposition alliances with coalitions of their own. But that AGM seemed very sedate with Martin Tett's successor as Conservative leader Steven Boadbent becoming Leader of the Council unopposed and announcing an entirely Conservative cabinet. As we go to press Cllr Broadbent said he would take a 'mandate from the electorate and lead a minority administration'.

**Peter Bowman.**





**ADMIRE CARE LTD**

PROVIDING QUALITY CARE, EVERY DAY

**CARING FOR YOU OR  
YOUR LOVED ONE,  
IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR  
OWN HOME**

**Tel: 01628 604555**

**Email: [office@caah.co.uk](mailto:office@caah.co.uk)**

**Please ring for discounted rate.**

***“I wanna grow tomatoes on the front steps, Sunflowers, bean sprouts, sweet corn and radishes”.***

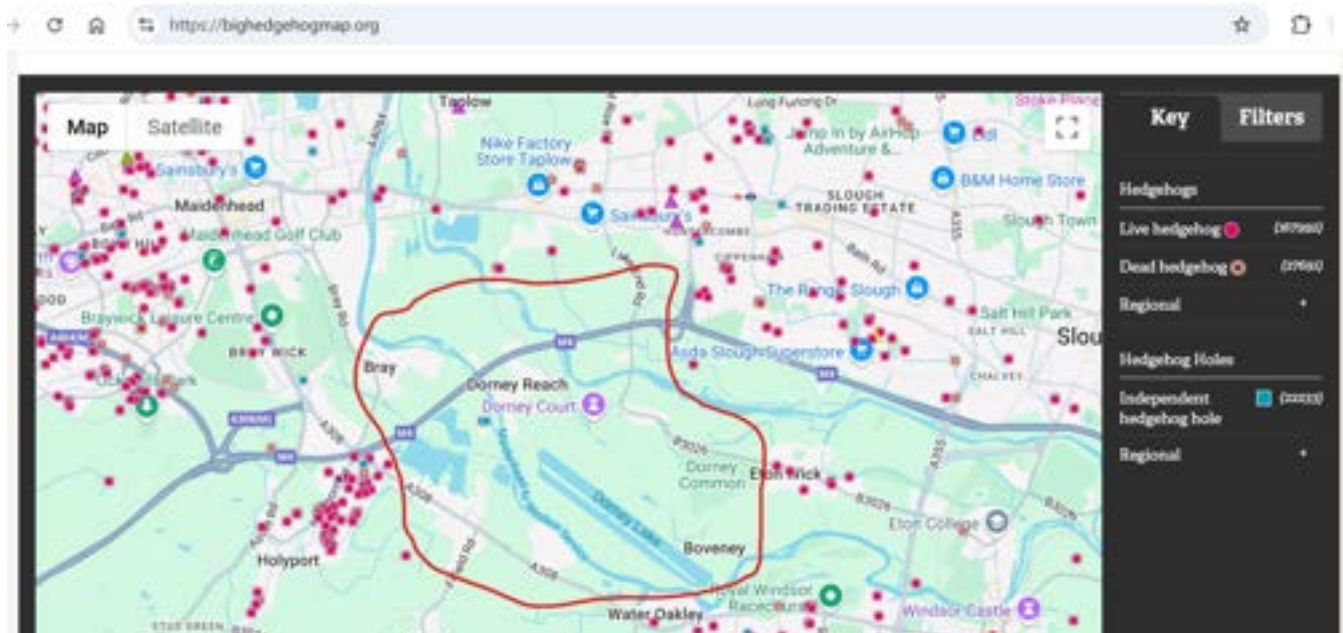
There are not many songs about gardening and / or horticulture, and less that are actually any good (you will perhaps be unsurprised to hear). In recent years I think the Aussie Courtney Barnett was able to pull it off with the cleverly titled *“Avant Gardener”*, although the song is more about the importance of breathing rather than gardening. Good advice that: keep breathing. You’re welcome.

I also love Eric Clapton’s *“Let It Grow”* from the superb, laid back *“461 Ocean Boulevard”* album. I think it’s more about love than gardening, but you get the gist. This was released in 1974 which, being the year of my birth, is obviously a very notable, distinguished year. It was also one of the cassette tapes my dad had in our VW campervan (along with Carole King’s utterly sublime (and also rather laid back) *“Tapestry”* and Queen’s completely irresistible (and definitively NOT laid back) *“Greatest Hits”* that accompanied us on many family holidays (and are therefore etched forever in my head).

I’m not counting the Beatle’s *“Octopus’s Garden”* because a) its underwater and b) I really don’t like it (I’m sure Macca and Ringo will be devastated to hear). I did notice that *“Octopus’s Garden”* has more Spotify streams (110 million) than the other two songs put together. There is just no accounting for taste.

The tenuous musical connection: I was very honoured to be asked to do a talk on biodiversity at the Dorney Horticultural Society. I am happy to evangelise about the importance of nature in our lives at any opportunity and this was a great opportunity. We are very lucky to live here surrounded by a mosaic of different habitats and we can all contribute to make it even better for nature. The success of my talk seemed to be measured against the number of participants who fell asleep, which in this instance appeared to be none. One nil to me.

I loved the enthusiasm of the audience who seemed particularly energised and concerned by the decline of hedgehogs in our parish. Indeed, if I look on <https://bighedgehogmap.org/> there are no sightings in Dorney parish at all (red line added by me):



I am very curious about this. When we moved to Harcourt Road in 2008 there was the rather traumatising sight of a desiccated hedgehog trapped in our garden fence, but I have never seen a live or dead one since. My neighbour Theo has video footage of hedgehogs in his garden from

2014 but nothing in the last decade. What has happened? Has the M4 “smart” motorway works finished them off?

If you have a hedgehog visiting your garden, or any sighting info at all please let me know on [olly74@gmail.com](mailto:olly74@gmail.com). Louise Whaley and I have vague plans to get together to work out how we can perhaps engage the local community to encourage (and save? Or reintroduce??) hedgehogs in Dorney. It was my birthday recently, so I asked for a couple of hedgehog tracking tunnels (that’s just how I roll these days). I fear I will mostly be picking up rat prints but have some hope that a hedgehog or two might make themselves visible. You will need to wait until my next article to find out. I hope you can all cope with the suspense.

It was fantastic to engage with the audience at the Horti Society event. I heard from Kristina Perkins that she regularly sees Barn Owls on Dorney Common, and her Merlin app has picked up Common Redstarts (neither of which were on my 50+ bird species list from my garden). Incredibly, the next week I picked up Redstarts in my garden for the first time and a Short-eared Owl which I hadn’t had evidence of for years. On a dog walk yesterday I picked up common reed warbler (which was new to me) and a kingfisher at a lovely spot about 30 mins south of us on the Thames towpath.



So, in Dorney we have Barn Owls, Tawny Owls, Short-eared Owls and of course our beloved Little Owls, which we are monitoring in their box on Marsh Lane. The parents have been busy again this year and we could see at least two eggs and last week at least two chicks. We were a bit freaked out when this cat appeared on the webcam, and on an accompanying video we could hear the alarm calls of the owls inside the box. I know many people are cat lovers, but they do have a significant impact on wildlife. Cats are estimated to kill approximately 27 million birds and up to 200 million animals in total (including mammals, reptiles, and amphibians) each year in the UK. You can help to mitigate this by fitting cats with collar bells or bright “BirdSafe” collars and keeping cats indoors during dawn and dusk, when wildlife is most active, also helps.



Little owl mum on nest



Curious cat causing alarm

**Andrew Oliver**



## Dorney Parish Council Joins Coalition Against Proposed Taplow New Town: Joint Letter to New Towns Task Force Highlights Critical Constraints



In early May, Dorney Parish Council joined neighbouring Taplow and Burnham Parish Councils, along with the Hitcham and Taplow Society, in submitting a comprehensive letter and supporting appendices to Sir Michael Lyons, Chairman of the government's New Towns Task Force.

The submission responds to a proposal by the think tank UKDAYONE for a "Taplow New Town" that would add over 20,000 homes to the area. Our coalition's evidence-based assessment demonstrates why Taplow fails to meet virtually all of the Task Force's own established principles for successful new towns.

### Why Focus the submission on Taplow?

As outlined in the Working Group's Terms of Reference, the focus on Taplow is strategic rather than simply opposing development elsewhere:

1. **Direct Relevance:** The proposal specifically identifies "Taplow New Town" and our communities would be directly affected.
2. **Stronger Planning Position:** Objections carry more weight when coming from the directly affected area.
3. **Evidence Concentration:** The most compelling constraints (railway/A4 division, flood risk, heritage assets) are located within Taplow.
4. **Avoiding NIMBYism:** By focusing on objective constraints rather than subjective preferences, our approach maintains credibility and avoids the perception of trying to push development elsewhere.
5. **Unified Voice:** Having all three parish councils as signatories presents a united front while maintaining clarity of purpose.

### Key Constraints Identified

Our joint submission identified seven critical constraints that render Taplow fundamentally unsuitable for New Town development:

**1. Physical Division:** The Great Western Railway and A4 create a physical and psychological division several hundred metres wide across the proposed development area. This directly contradicts the Task Force's principles of creating 'balanced communities' and 'well-connected' places. Evidence from similar divided communities like Slough and Didcot demonstrates how such barriers persistently separate communities despite expensive mitigation attempts.

**2. Flood Risk:** Approximately 15% of the proposed area south of the A4 is classified as Flood Risk Area 3 (highest risk) by the Environment Agency. Climate change projections indicate increasing flood frequency and intensity, creating both environmental and insurance challenges for future residents.

**3. Heritage Assets:** Taplow contains an exceptional concentration of heritage assets including Cliveden Estate (Grade I listed), Taplow Court (historical Olympic connection), Taeppa's Mound (nationally significant Anglo-Saxon burial site), and approximately 76 listed buildings. These would significantly constrain development patterns and infrastructure routing.

**4. Special Area of Conservation:** The entire development area falls within the Burnham Beeches Special Area of Conservation 5.6km buffer zone. This internationally protected site would require extensive mitigation measures costing upwards of £40 million.

**5. Community Opinion:** Taplow-wide consultations in April 2025 showed 100% opposition to the New Town proposal. Importantly, Taplow has already accommodated a 50% population increase over twenty years through sensitively designed growth.

**6. Green Belt Function:** The Taplow Green Belt serves a critical strategic function in preventing the coalescence of Maidenhead and Slough. Development would effectively create an unbroken urban area between these settlements.

**7. Infrastructure Viability:** The combined constraints would necessitate extraordinary engineering measures and infrastructure investments, significantly undermining economic viability and affordability.

### **Next Steps**

The New Towns Task Force is expected to make its final recommendations to government ministers this summer.

The joint letter was supported by detailed technical appendices covering Transport Infrastructure Impact, Flood Risk and Geological Assessment, and Heritage Assets and Environmental Constraints.

Our working group has maintained a professional, evidence-based approach throughout, focusing on objective planning constraints rather than subjective impacts. The comprehensive submission demonstrates that Taplow represents one of the least suitable locations for New Town development within the wider region.

The Parish Councils' and the Society's joint letter and appendices have been published on their respective websites in the interests of transparency. Residents wishing to view the full submission can find it on the Dorney Parish Council website under the Local Projects tab. The Working Group will continue to monitor developments for the Parish Councils and the Society and keep residents informed as the Task Force moves toward its final recommendations.

For residents interested in further information please contact Ruth Senior, Parish Clerk, Dorney Parish Council.

**Bill Dax (Working Group Member)**

### 3 months away from 'reality'



If you had asked me what I would be doing with my life after school, just before I sat my A-levels, I would have told you 'Hopefully at uni studying journalism, following in the classic footsteps of most people'. Things have turned out differently as I decided to take a year out before going to university. In order for me to go on several adventures I had to work to earn money to fund myself as well as some extra money from my grandmother from my 18th. I was faced with various troubles with finding jobs, but I was able to earn enough to go to Florence and South East Asia.

I spoke about my travels to Florence in my previous article. Since then I have spent nearly three months in South East Asia, living on a budget and navigating completely new cultures. I flew out to Cambodia on March 3rd and met up with two friends. Since then I have travelled throughout Thailand and at the time of writing this, in Bali. This trip has taught me a lot, but three aspects stood out to me, **resilience**, to **trust** what is meant to be will be and put everything into **perspective** for me.

Why has this trip taught me resilience? I have never been away from home for this long let alone been this far away. The easy option of calling a family member at any inconvenience was taken away as I was thousands of miles away from them, there was nothing they could do apart from give me some reassuring words. This took me a while to realise but when I was faced with inconveniences I wasn't as affected, I was able to think on my feet and be level headed and sort them out. I thought back to the difficulties in Florence and assured myself it would be okay. And it was!

To trust what is meant to be is meant to be (is it obvious I have been away from reality for 3 months...) with every slip up, every 'I want to go home' moment there was a reason for it to happen, there was a lesson learnt, there was a silver lining. This also took me a while to realise, but as I relaxed into the new lifestyle as a backpacker I realised things happen, lessons are learnt and it's all part of the experience. If it was all plain sailing I would come back home feeling the same and with some memories but no funny moments of how something didn't go to plan and in the moment we thought it would all go wrong but now we look back and realise that was meant to happen and it was quite funny!

Finally everything has been put into perspective for me. I have been fortunate to have been on some incredible experiences with family and friends. I knew this experience wasn't going to be as glam as other holidays. I first had to pack my backpack and be able to lift it, with items such as mosquito nets, sleeping bag liners and other items that aren't always in my holiday packing list! We stayed in hostels for the majority of our time travelling, which in the grand scheme of things aren't bad, you are able to meet new people and find out new things, the social aspect in a hostel was also really enjoyable. We were finding cheap places to eat (making sure the food reviews were good in our quest to not get food poisoning), our lifestyles changed and we all became much more grateful for our lives at home. The small things such as water - we had to buy water as you aren't allowed to drink from the tap.

It has truly been the best three months, both full of memories and full of lessons that will be kept for the rest of my life. I bring it back to what I said at the start that I never predicted this outcome for myself a year ago, someone that was very comfortable being at home and doing what the rest of my family did, even since my first article for the DPN and saying how much I loved being in this village, never in a million years did I think I would be writing an article about how I navigated three months of being away from Dorney, my family and my routine at home.

**Laila Marples**



Create. Inspire. Together.



# Your space... for inspirational away days

Big, or small; enjoy unforgettable corporate experiences within our 400 acres of spectacular grounds and World-Famous Rowing Course.

From activities to enhance your meeting or conference, to full-team Away Days and Charity Fundraisers; speak to our events team today to book for Summer 2025!

[info@dorneylake.co.uk](mailto:info@dorneylake.co.uk) . 01753 370370 . [www.dorneylake.co.uk](http://www.dorneylake.co.uk)

## **APM – what we learned.**

In recent years DPN has published a point of view on the Annual Parish Meeting to go alongside the 'official' minutes. We would recommend the reading of those minutes because the Clerk to the Council has prepared a particularly detailed record.

**Dorney's mood is calmer than we can ever recall.** Over the years, APM's have often revealed a parish besieged. In my first year the foes were LOCOG (remember them?) and car boot sales. Last year we wrote 'anger is growing over Eton College's development ambitions, sparking lively debate'. Not this year, at least not obviously. Maybe it's a lull before the storm. Success for Eton, any recommendation to action any 'Taplow New Town', or obvious pressure from government housing policy could cause that storm to break. For the moment, Dorney has its various defensive responses lodged with the right bodies.

**Maybe it's because of success.** Proclaim it loud and clear...the Orchard Herbs site must be cleared by this coming July 11<sup>th</sup>. The Parish Council believes it has secured the future of our well loved (I think) Village Hall, and hopes are high that a speed limit can be secured from Bucks Council to save the equally well-loved cows on the Common. Once again, Maria Holloway updated us on the remarkable progress of the Playground Group.

**But more information is needed.** The Editor of DPN believed that publication of explanatory articles as this magazine had tried to do on such as the New Town helped offset the kind of rumours circulating during the recent election campaign, especially on Burnham Facebook sites. Hence this month's article by Bill Dax. Arguably, issues like the New Town, Boveney Court Farm and the Neighbourhood Plan didn't get enough of an airing in this APM. They will in the mag along with any Dorney Conservation Area review

**There seems little chance of summer access to Dorney Lake.** Two old favourites did emerge from the audience...summer Lake access for residents and road surfaces, especially on Marsh Lane on the borders with Taplow. Janet Walker, the Bursar, couldn't see the situation changing, however successful free ticketing for resident parking had been in the winter months. Road re-surfacing is still scheduled for the 2025-26 year. It was good to see Janet, but her session was a little bizarre given that some had promised a 'showdown' last year, but in 2025 more was said about VAT on private school fees than the two major development sites. DPN wishes Ms Walker a happy retirement and also congratulates PCSO Angela O'Connell on 20 years' service in this locality. Her session seemed to indicate that Dorney still faced security hazards, but the villains now seem to be trail bike riders as much as burglars.

**The Conservative administration faces a bumpy ride** County councillor Paul Kelly gave an excellent description of the dilemmas the Tories face now their overall majority has been lost. You don't have to vote for that party to hope that instability is avoided, as over Orchard Herbs and planning issues the last administration seemed positive towards Dorney. We don't know what the attitude to planning issues will be shown by the new opposition coalitions that might emerge but voting together they might reverse the previous policy of day centre closures.

**Peter Bowman**



The background of the flyer is decorated with various musical symbols in black and yellow. These include a treble clef, a bass clef, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes, some of which are enclosed in yellow circles. There are also small yellow star-like symbols scattered throughout the design.

NEED A PIANO TUTOR?

# *Bright Musicians*

**Piano lessons from Beginner's to  
advanced level.**

- Play for fun and improvise.
- Read Music proficiently.
- Prepare for ABRSM and Trinity Guildhall Grades.
- Learn the Theory of Music.

Please call Jessica on: 07949740893



## Rapid7 'gives back' to the Playground



This year the Playground had 18 people from Rapid7 use the GiveBack day to help the Playground and to rub down the wood and treat it. Hopefully it will maintain the wooden play equipment. We were also very pleased to be able to have 6 new benches bought for us by Rapid7. These are perfect for children and parents and the charity simply couldn't have bought those.

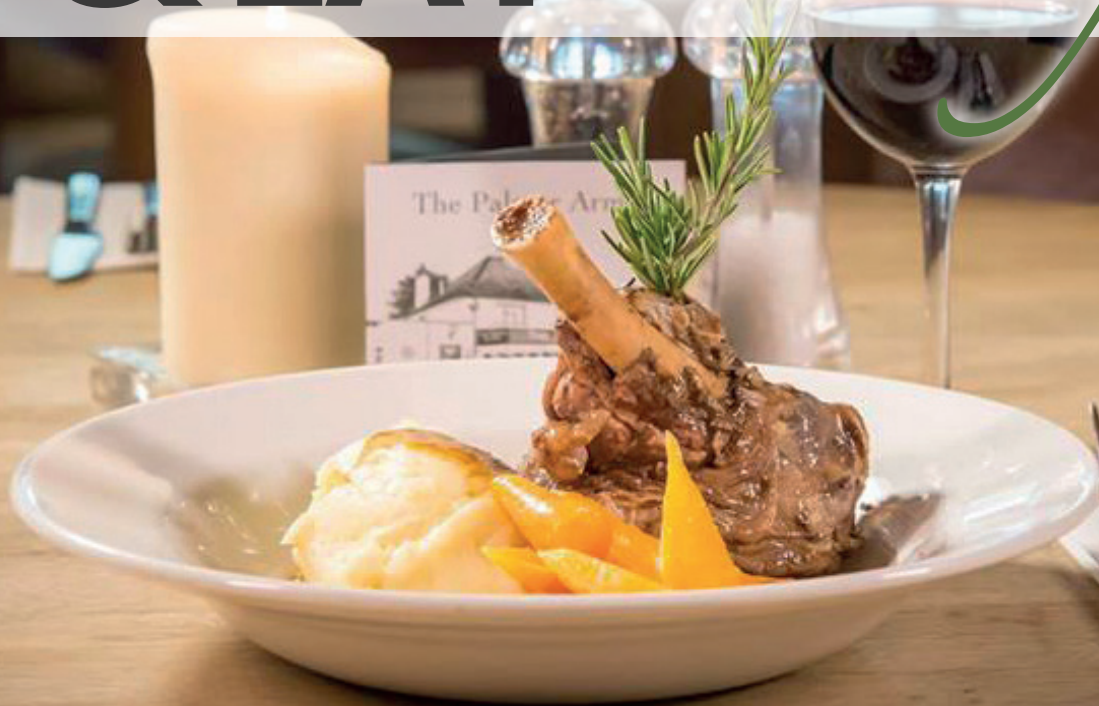


*At Rapid7 (we have offices globally but are based in Reading here in the UK), we are committed to giving back to the community and making an impact together. Even though the work we do at Rapid7 keeps us busy day-to-day, we made sure to take the time to give back to the communities that have provided so much for us through our own annual community engagement initiative referred to as #rapid7givesback month.*

*Through this initiative, our people not only dedicate time to serve their communities, but they form stronger relationships with one another and are truly able to impact together, one of the core values we live by at Rapid7.*

**Thanks to Maria Holloway for this information. Maria is herself one of the Rapid7 team.**

# MEET, DRINK & EAT *Dorney*



## THE PALMER ARMS

Classic British food using the freshest seasonal ingredients. From light lunches, more formal a la carte menu and delicious traditional Sunday roast dinners.



## THE PINEAPPLE

Famous for our extensive Pineapple Sandwich menu and a choice of freshly made stonebaked pizza. We also offer sandwiches and pizza takeaway, just give us a call with your order!



The Palmer Arms



The Palmer Arms



The Pineapple



The Pineapple

### The Palmer Arms

Village Rd, Dorney, Windsor SL4 6QW  
[www.thepalmerarms.com](http://www.thepalmerarms.com)  
01628 666612



### The Pineapple

Lake End Rd, Dorney, Windsor SL4 6QS  
[www.thepineappledorney.co.uk](http://www.thepineappledorney.co.uk)  
01628 662353



## Dorney Horticultural Society - Wildlife in Dorney



Olly (Andrew) Oliver was our guest speaker talking about Wildlife and Biodiversity around Dorney and what a treat it was.

We were given facts about biodiversity locally which were contrasted with other counties in England and compared to Wales and Scotland. Facts showed the declines and increases in the various animal, bird, amphibian and insects species. Olly talked about the importance of trees, ponds and meadows and the impact the lack of them has on nature.

Olly talked about the local bats (including the maternity unit he had experienced firsthand with the shock of finding a baby bat in the toilet), the birds (including nesting and their habitats), the deer (roaming around Harcourt Road on a Friday evening), the newts (and lack of frogs and frog spawn (when did you last see a pond full of frogs spawn?) and beavers (their importance and release) and showed us how many birds (over 30 different species) are present in and around Dorney, from the skylarks to owls to the beloved robin, from red kites to the tiny fire crests and wrens.

The audience were taken on a journey around Dorney and the UK and were thoroughly absorbed in the talk, which was peppered with humour and facts equally. Everyone was totally engrossed. The feedback given was superb. Huge thanks to Olly for his time and we look forward to future talks by him.

Thanks and appreciation also go to Chrys Fisher and Dean, of the Palmer Arms pub, who prepared and served the delicious hot food and who, very generously, donated a meal for two at the Palmer Arms, for the raffle. And also the generosity of one of our new members Cynthia who won that first prize and instantly donated it to Olly in appreciation.

Finally, don't forget our annual show is on Saturday September 6th this year. Also in October we are continuing the theme of nature and wildlife by holding a bird house building workshop.

**Louise Whaley**





**BRIGHT SCIENTISTS**  
Professional Science teacher for 8 Years  
KS2, KS3, GCSE Science (Triple and Combined) and A level Biology.  
Personalised lessons to meet individual needs, exam preparation and online  
and in person sessions available.  
If interested call Jessica on: 07949740893  
Email: jessica121tutoring@gmail.com

## 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:



- Lack of confidence and low self esteem
- Anxiety and depression
- Communication, business or relationship problems

**Contact Karen: [kk@karenkimberley.co.uk](mailto:kk@karenkimberley.co.uk)  
to arrange an initial conversation**

**or call 07785 566468**



**The Engagement Ring**

[www.theengagementring.co.uk](http://www.theengagementring.co.uk)

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

## Carousel Rides

This Spring a new local bus route has been very well received in Dorney. Several readers have urged me to hop on the Number 15 to Eton for a trial run. Morning coffee in Eton High Street is the new fashion. DPN has been urged to print a timetable for the route. We're happy to oblige.

Dorney has gained from the reshuffling of routes undertaken by the neighbouring Royal Borough and Slough councils, who themselves have benefitted from recent substantial funding from the Government's £670 million Bus Service Improvement Plan. Carousel Buses announced in March this year that from April they would take over the existing service 15, 'the Slough to Eton Wick route currently operated by Thames Valley Buses'. Carousel promised more regular peak time services and (ensuring the gratitude of travellers in this parish) they would provide 'new connections to Dorney Court, Bishop's Centre and Taplow Sainsbury's'.

If a Dorney Reach resident like myself goes along with recommendations to head out on the number 15, what route do I take? There is no stop sign now at the corner of Oak Stubbs Lane and the stop does not feature on the printed timetable, but Carousel have assured us that passengers can board and alight here, and in a spectacular example of customer service, your reporter and the route helpdesk both watched on our screens the splendid interactive map on the Carousel website and a real live bus did indeed stop there. All this is complicated by Red Eagle, contracted to Bucks Council, still running their Maidenhead to Slough via Dorney 63/68 service on Tuesdays and Fridays on the other side of Marsh Lane.

My journey to Eton proceeds in a Taplow direction up Marsh Lane. There are stops at the Bishop Centre and Sainsbury's before the bus continues along Lake End Road to the Palmer Arms (too long between stops claim some residents), and thence across the Common through Eton Wick and finally to Eton Brocas Street. The passenger has the option of travelling on via Chalvey to Slough. Between 0800 and 1800 buses run hourly, there is a Saturday service (same Dorney timetable as weekdays), but no buses on Sunday, the journey from Dorney Reach to Eton takes 26 minutes and costs £3.

Local authorities, transport operators and government policy may be 'to improve public transport infrastructure, ensuring better connectivity, reliability, and service coverage for residents and commuters' in these parts. I just fancy a new way of visiting Cote or Costa.

Dorney - Taplow - Eton Wick - Eton - Slough													15
Monday to Friday													From: 6 April 2025
Dorney, Dorney Court		0823	0933	1033	1133	1233	1333	1433	1533	1643	1753		
Dorney Reach, Old Marsh Lane		0824	0934	1034	1134	1234	1334	1434	1534	1644	1754		
Taplow, Bishops Centre		0827	0937	1037	1137	1237	1337	1437	1537	1647	1757		
Taplow, Sainsbury's	ARR	0828	0938	1038	1138	1238	1338	1438	1538	1648	1758		
Taplow, Sainsbury's	DEP	0830	0940	1040	1140	1240	1340	1440	1540	1650	1800		
Dorney, The Palmer Arms PH		0835	0945	1045	1145	1245	1345	1445	1545	1655	1805		
Eton Wick, Colenorton Crescent	0720	0838	0948	1048	1148	1248	1348	1448	1548	1658	1808	1853	
Eton Wick, The Walk	0723	0841	0951	1051	1151	1251	1351	1451	1551	1701	1811	1856	
Eton, Brocas Street	0729	0847	0957	1057	1157	1257	1357	1457	1557	1707	1817	1902	
Chalvey, Windsor Road McDonalds	0734	0852	1002	1102	1202	1302	1402	1502	1602	1712	1822	1907	
Slough, Wellington Street	0739	0857	1007	1107	1207	1307	1407	1507	1607	1717	1827	1912	
No service on Sunday or Public Holidays													
Slough – Eton – Eton Wick – Dorney – Taplow													15
Monday to Friday													From: 6 April 2025
Slough, Wellington Street	0655	0800	0910	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1510	1620	1730	1830	
Chalvey, Windsor Road McDonalds	0700	0805	0915	1015	1115	1215	1315	1415	1515	1625	1735	1835	
Eton, Brocas Street	0705	0810	0920	1020	1120	1220	1320	1420	1520	1630	1740	1840	
Eton Wick, The Walk	0711	0816	0926	1026	1126	1226	1326	1426	1526	1636	1746	1846	
Eton Wick, Colenorton Crescent	0714	0819	0929	1029	1129	1229	1329	1429	1529	1639	1749	1849	
Dorney, The Palmer Arms PH		0822	0932	1032	1132	1232	1332	1432	1532	1642	1752		
Dorney, Dorney Court		0823	0933	1033	1133	1233	1333	1433	1533	1643	1753		
Dorney Reach, Old Marsh Lane		0824	0934	1034	1134	1234	1334	1434	1534	1644	1754		
Taplow, Bishops Centre		0827	0937	1037	1137	1237	1337	1437	1537	1647	1757		
Taplow, Sainsbury's		0828	0938	1038	1138	1238	1338	1438	1538	1648	1758		
No service on Sunday or Public Holidays													

Peter Bowman



# Tour Dorney Court in June



Widely regarded as one of England's finest Tudor Manor Houses, Dorney Court welcomes visitors from near and far to join a guided tour this June 2025.

Concessions for visitors (and up to 3 friends) who bring a hard copy of Dorney Parish News.

## Opening Times

In June 2025 Dorney Court is open every day

Doors open in the afternoon at 1230 with last admissions at 1530.

Tours take approximately 1 hour

## Admission Prices

	ADULT	CHILD (10-16YRS OLD)	CONCESSION
House, Garden & Grounds	£13.00	£7.50	£11.00

There is no need to book tickets in advance as you can simply pick them up from the front of the House on the day

[www.dorneycourt.co.uk](http://www.dorneycourt.co.uk)



# DORNEY SCHOOL

**RESPECT \* COLLABORATE \* GROW**

## News from Dorney School



We learned about the hardships, the sacrifices and the jubilation on VE Day through a whole school assembly. The children all dressed in red, white and blue.

### Bling your Bike to School parade



We were delighted that so many children rode their colourful and decorated bikes and scooters to school. The Bling your Bike is part of a longer-term campaign to encourage active and healthier ways to travel to school. We had three worthy winners - Shiloh (Reception), Daisy (Year3) and Romilly (Year6)

### Choir

Dorney School choir performed to the whole school and sang a beautiful, inspirational song entitled 'Me'. Our aim is to perform at local events.



### Gurdwara Trip



Year 3 and 5 visited the local Gurdwara to learn all about the Sikh faith. We were so lucky to be able to learn about the 5K's, discuss how Sikhs are committed to their faith and understand the importance of *langar*. We even got to try some delicious food!

The school takes pride in ensuring a well-balanced curriculum alongside the various extracurricular opportunities for all our pupils. We welcome school visits so that we can showcase what we do. Do get in touch.

**Mrs S Lee. Headteacher**



# DORNEY SCHOOL

Harcourt Close, Dorney Reach, Maidenhead SL6 0DY

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

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

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



## Open Days for 2025-2026

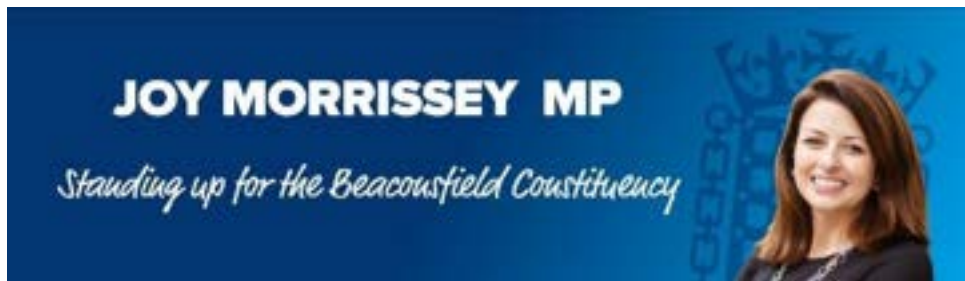
17.09.2025 Wednesday at 10am-11am    09.10.2025 Thursday at 1.30pm-2.30pm

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.







As your Member of Parliament, it is always a pleasure to connect with residents across the Beaconsfield constituency, and Dorney holds a special place within that community. Each month brings new developments, both locally and nationally, and I'm pleased to share with you an update on some of the key moments from May - a month marked by remembrance, gratitude, and ongoing advocacy for the values we all hold dear.

As we marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day, it was truly heartwarming to see how communities came together to honour this historic occasion. In Dorney and across South Bucks, residents paid tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. We must never forget the courage and resolve of those who served and those who gave their lives.

In Westminster, I have continued my work as Shadow Energy Minister, particularly in standing up against the Government's short-sighted plans to impose industrial-scale solar farms across our precious Green Belt. This approach threatens not only the character of our countryside but also our nation's food security. Local communities have been ignored and ideology prioritised over evidence.

Earlier this month, Parliament revisited the Assisted Dying Bill—a topic that weighs heavily on the conscience of many. This is a deeply personal and complex issue, and I recognise that it evokes a wide range of emotions and opinions. As your MP, my primary responsibility is to safeguard the most vulnerable in our society. I remain opposed to this Bill which I do not think is at all fit for purpose as legislation. I will continue to advocate for compassion, care, and robust protections for those who need them most. I welcome any local residents who would like to discuss this issue further to contact me directly.

I would like to finish this month's update with a heartfelt thank you to your dedicated Dorney Parish Council. I understand the Annual Parish Meeting took place at the end of May, and although I was unable to attend due to parliamentary duties, I was pleased to share a written update with attendees. Your Parish Councillors work tirelessly to champion your community, and I want to publicly thank them for their continued service.

As always, it is a privilege to represent you in Parliament. If you would like to raise any particular concerns, policy idea or a serious casework matter, please do get in touch at [joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk). I look forward to continuing my work on your behalf in the months ahead.

**Joy Morrissey MP**





rmvc.net

# Reading Male Voice Choir St Nicolas Church Taplow Saturday 28 June 7pm

Reading Male Voice Choir registered charity in England and Wales 294105

St Nicolas Church  
Taplow  
SL6 0ET

with  
Guest Artists **Downley Voices**

in aid of

# Thames hospice



£12

from: [rmvc.net](http://rmvc.net) or

[ticketsource.co.uk/readingmalevoicechoir](http://ticketsource.co.uk/readingmalevoicechoir)

## Uniforms

We wear what we are, or what we would like to be!

“What?” I can hear my dear reader gasp.

“What’s the old fool on about now?” In theory, its blindingly obvious as we start our public life in school uniform, itself stating where we are in life’s pecking order (just glance around the next village), or if you’re after the top of this particular tree, walk over the river into the next town!

My Willink Secondary Modern uniform announced to the world that I had failed life’s first hurdle. I even had the blazer to prove it.

As predicted, as soon as I could, I drove a tipper lorry around the South of England, Hadleys Aggregates emblazoned down each side of my wonderful green and yellow Bedford KM; that was my uniform, not a particularly grand one I agree. Big boys’ toys if you must, my career pinnacle were huge earthmoving scrapers building the motorways. No one liked us much though. Even I don’t like getting stuck behind a tipper.

This profession, and make no mistake, a profession it is, has a hierarchy, and I climbed the greasy pole (no pun intended), glancing enviously at very long distance artics (articulated trucks that bend in the middle) proudly displaying their GB plates and battle scars from Europe and beyond, and by good fortune, I was soon driving the London Symphony Orchestra and later the London Philharmonic Orchestra trucks across Europe and beyond in glorious shiny black instrument trucks, their names in gold lettering on the sides, well-travelled GB stickers as standard. They were my uniform then, and I revelled deliciously in their reflected glory, the ultimate pose!

Then came the Metropolitan Police; a proper uniform in those days with a belted well fitted tunic, helmet or cap with a proud badge attached. Better still was the Area Car, a powerful large saloon with uprated brakes, blue lights and siren and a heavenly six week driving course with an eye watering failure rate, to drive it properly. Told to go out and look for trouble in it was almost every boy’s, and the odd girl’s, dream. The reality was far better than the fantasy. Oh, what a uniform in the fullest sense! It was a mucky job, but the Lord chose me! Now retired, I still envy colleagues that followed me as they race by to rescue some poor soul.

Years later and well into retirement, came the lovely ambulance uniform that I have mentioned before. Everyone, but everyone should do a year in that outfit. You are everybody’s friend, all smiles, coffees are bought for you, and the sun shines a lot.

And now, I have the same uniform that many of you will, or have, worn. It is the culmination of early niggling signs ignored, through misdiagnosis right through to the howling agonies (well I am a bloke!) ending up with a lovely mid-day sleep acquiring a new hip, and with it...a new uniform...Crutches!



# The Studios School of Performing Arts

Classes 2024/2025

Thursdays-

The Teen Studio

5:45pm-7pm

Ages 13-18

The Adult Studio

7pm-8:30pm

Saturdays-

The Vocal Studio

9am-10am

The Studios SOPA

9:30 - 12:30

Ages 5 - 16 years .

(come for 1.2 or 3 hours the choice is yours!)

Dorney Village Hall , SL6 0DS

**Do you want.....**

- \* Improved Self confidence ?
- \* Improved social skills ?
- \* To make friends and have fun ?
- \* To learn in a friendly & supportive environment ?
- \* To be taught by working Industry Professionals ?
- \* Opportunities to audition for TV , Film & Theatre ?

Classes cover

- \*Acting
- \*Singing
- \*Dance
- \*Voice
- \*Devising
- \*Audition technique
- \*Sight reading
- \*Public speaking
- \*Lamda examination prep

We are thrilled to offer a FREE trial session so please

Call or email us today to book your place !

[www.studiosschool.com](http://www.studiosschool.com)

07710 968642 - [studiosschool@hotmail.com](mailto:studiosschool@hotmail.com)



What was a dull but necessary trip to Sainsbury's has now taken on all the excitement and anticipation of an expedition to the Wilds of Borneo, added to by the smug satisfaction I feel sipping my latte with the lovely Mrs.Q.

Other old boys and girls grin conspiratorially with me as we swing together on our aluminium mounts, respect given to those on well-worn steeds by we newbies on our shiny ones, and occasionally we discuss the pros and cons of our various ailments. Mothers pull their errant children to one side so that I may pass, smiling benignly, and if I drop anything, people rush to assist, as does the lovely barista who carries my coffee and fetches sugars and stirrers. Like my green outfit, it all restores my faith in humanity at a time, frankly, when restoration is welcome.

All this has come at a time when working is out of the question, happily coinciding with a fabulous spring, and regrettably I am forced into idleness sitting in the sun in our south facing garden while writing for you, sipping drinks while being spoiled by Mrs. Q, watching the antics of birds that eat us out of house and home through the bird feeder now even more popular after the demise of our cats. I built a few bird boxes a few years ago and mounted one on an old six-foot-long chrome plated curtain rail which was entirely cat proof, and just before my visit to the hip man, joy of all joys, two blue tits took up residence.

Mrs. Q, who incidentally has retired to look after me in my hour of need, and I watch fascinated like expectant grandparents as our scruffy pair dash in and out of the blue tit sized hole, their determined little beaks packed full of nesting material and lately, all manner of insects and baby food.

Is that the sound of tiny chirps I can hear with my NHS hearing aid turned up? Hopefully yes, and by the time you read this, we shall be the proud grandparents of four or five bouncing youngsters who will return in adulthood to the old homestead to repeat this miracle of life.

On 8<sup>th</sup> May, we ringers rang in all the churches we could to commemorate the defeat of perhaps the most evil regime in the history of mankind, and to mourn the loss of those who paid the price. My temporary incapacity meant that I was a danger in the ringing chamber and could only stand, watch and wait, lost in the memories of those incredible people I was privileged to know who had walked the walk, just as many others had eighty years ago.

Meanwhile, such is the clamour to write for this august journal, you have been every other month free of my ramblings to make way for other exciting new writers, but the bad news is that I shall be back for the September (how appropriate!) issue no doubt telling tales of shiny new hips and other expeditions a little further than Sainsbury's.

Stay safe!

**Mike Quincey**




# crocus


— at —  
DORNEY COURT



**Our address:** Court Ln, Dorney, Windsor SL4 6QP

**Opening hours:** 9am - 5pm 7 days a week  
Café open: 9am - 5pm (Kitchen closes at 4pm)

 Group Bookings

 Plant pot recycling

 Walled gardens to explore

Visit us at [crocus.co.uk/dorney-court/](https://crocus.co.uk/dorney-court/)

**crocus**  
— at —  
DORNEY COURT

Making beautiful possible





# DORNEY

## PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES of ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday 20th May 2025 at The Boathouse, Dorney Lake

#### **Present**

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair), Ms Ruth Senior (Parish Clerk), and 35 members of the public (including 3 Councillors and 2 County Councillors)

#### **1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies received from Cllr. Stephen Baker, Alistair Otto and James Palmer.

#### **2 Approval of 2024 APM Minutes**

Approved with no changes.

#### **3 Report from Parish Council**

##### **Cllr. Jill Dax – Chairman**

It is a pleasure to see so many familiar faces gathered here this evening, and I extend a particularly warm welcome to those joining us for the first time. Your presence is valued and brings new energy to our community. We look forward to your contributions as we continue to grow and strengthen our shared mission.

Tonight, we come together not only to reflect on the progress of the past year but also to engage in dialogue—listening, learning, and making decisions that will shape the future of our parish.

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you for attending, and for your ongoing support and commitment to our parish life. My thanks also go to Alistair Otto and Janet Walker for once again making this excellent facility available to us.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank my fellow Parish Councillors—Martin Westcott-Wreford, Robert Stopford, Anna Palmer and Stephen Baker who have generously agreed to serve another term and Ruth Senior, our Clerk, whose support is greatly appreciated. And not forgetting Euan MacLennan who, as Finance Chair, stood with Martin and myself in 2021 until this year's elections. Under our co-option rules, we currently have the capacity for two additional councillors and I would encourage anyone who is interested to consider joining us in serving and shaping this special corner of South Buckinghamshire.

As we gather this evening, we reflect upon a year that has brought both challenges and triumphs. Our strength has been grounded in a collective spirit—a shared commitment to working together in preserving and enhancing the character of our parish.

We will review some of the key developments and highlights of the past year and open the floor for questions, ideas, and reflections. Your voice is vital, and we deeply appreciate your active participation. Let us approach tonight's agenda with open minds and a shared dedication to transparency, respect, and constructive collaboration.

I would like to acknowledge some of our distinguished guests joining us this evening;

PCSO Angela O'Connell, Maria Holloway Chair of the Dorney Playground Committee, Will Barnes for attending and reading the report from MP Joy Morrissey, County Councillors Paul Kelly and Kirsten Ashman, local farmer William Emmett and Peter Bowman representing Dorney Parish News.

Before inviting them to provide their updates, I would like to briefly highlight a few significant matters:

Firstly, a notable success: Orchard Herbs. After extensive effort and detailed representation to Buckinghamshire Council, the planning case was presented to the Inspectorate and resolved in our favour. The site must be cleared by the 11th of July, 2025. Thanks are due to Bucks Council for engaging a capable King's Counsel and a strong witness team, who presented a clear and persuasive case. Many of you will have observed the substantial removal of vehicles, concrete works, and scaffolding businesses from the site— an important milestone for our community. We are keeping a close eye on the site clearance.

Dorney Parish Council has now become the sole trustee of the Village Hall. This decision follows a year of discussion



and action and, we believe, secures the future of the Hall—both financially and operationally. In planning matters, we continue to monitor developments at Boveney Court Farm and Court Farm. Both applications have been called in and await assessment by the full planning committee. Additionally, we are pressing forward with our efforts to establish a 40mph speed limit on Common Road, and we hope for a favourable decision from Bucks in due course. Tragically another cow was killed last week and we continue to pursue a robust dialogue with Bucks. We have the support of James Palmer and the Commoners, Eton Wick Town Council, Cllr Mark Wilson from RBWM and our MP Joy Morrissey. Most of the cows are owned by the Bosher family and they are continuing to fit hi viz collars on the stock on the Common. On a community note, another parish tidy-up is scheduled for October, following the success of the April event which resulted in the collection of 30 bags of litter. Our thanks go to all who took part and to those who continue to contribute their time and energy throughout the year. Lastly, I offer our congratulations to the Dorney Playground Group for their successful fundraising via the Community Board and grant applications. Their efforts led to the installation of fencing around the playground and the cleaning of both the tennis court and multi use games area. This significant undertaking has improved safety and usability for all. Council Finance – in our meeting earlier tonight, we appointed Martin Westcott-Wreford as the new Finance Chairman and the annual return for 24/25 is currently being prepared for submission to the Auditors.

#### **4 Community Updates**

##### **PCSO Angela O’Connell**

There have been 3 burglaries locally (in Taplow) from Jan-Mar, 4 males have been arrested and one is under investigation.

Please join the free message service at [thamesvalleyallert.co.uk](https://thamesvalleyallert.co.uk) for crime updates.

The road safety vans have been out across the parishes on speed watch and over 1000 tickets were issued from these and fixed cameras Jan-Mar, if you are interested in joining the Community Speedwatch programme please contact [lee.turnham@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lee.turnham@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

Shoplifting has been an issue at the retail park in Taplow and the police have been successful in obtaining a Behaviour Order against a prolific shoplifter. Other organised crime groups have been identified and are being investigated, this has so far resulted in 4 imprisonments.

E-scooters are now being seized immediately by the police and continue to be a problem.

With the warmer weather approaching, water safety is a major concern.

Trail bikes continue to cause problems across Dorney, Taplow and Burnham and will probably continue until K gates can be fitted to all entrances to the area to stop the bikes getting through.

There have been reports of a male in gardens on Meadow Way so please be vigilant.

Congratulations to Angela for 20 years of service this year as PCSO to Dorney, Taplow, Burnham and The Farnhams.

##### **William Emmett – West Town Farm**

The farm land is having a difficult time due to a lack of rain however the usual herb, potato and wheat crops are growing.

There are concerns over parts of the fields flooding due to blockages of the stream that runs underground from Burnham, under Huntercombe Lane and the M4 and into the farm fields. Buckinghamshire Council need to repair the underground banks and remove tree roots which block the flow.

The land overall is owned by Merchant Venturers, Bristol and the gravel under the land owned by CMEX.

##### **Maria Holloway – Dorney Playground**

The Playground successfully fundraised £17k for the new fencing around the playground to keep children safe and keep dogs and other animals out of the area. Also, the tennis courts and multi-use games area were cleaned and look much better. The next fundraising project is to re-line the tennis courts and there is a ‘go fund me’ page available, details in the courts. This Thursday, Rapid7 (a global online security business) are giving their time as a community ‘Give Back Day’ to re-treat all the wooden equipment.

The Tuck Shop is also still very popular, providing the main source of regular income.

##### **Peter Bowman – Dorney Parish News**

There have been no changes with DPN over the last year, still selling around 200 copies which covers 2/3 households. As always, DPN is looking for advertisers.

Thanks are given to all the young writers who have contributed to DPN recently, there have been some great

articles, please get in touch if you know a young writer wanting to be involved.

Bill Dax has published a book “Dorney Through Times” and also manages the Dorney History Group website, both are wonderful sources for history on Dorney and many years of DPN can be viewed now through the website.

The question ‘What do people want from DPN?’ was asked – To go out of their way to really answer every question and ensure that every social and ethnic group feels at home with DPN.

DPN’s main focuses going forward are; To give up to date, regular information – To keep people informed – To build the Dorney community.

### **Janet Walker – Bursar, Eton College**

Janet announced her retirement this summer.

Sir Nicholas Coleridge CBD DL was appointed at the new Provost of Eton College in September 2024, he is the 43<sup>rd</sup> Provost since Eton College was established.

The introduction of VAT on fees in January has been a very difficult time and the college has supported 100’s of families through this but fears that numbers may fall as a result.

There has been lots of building work, new sport facilities in Common Lane, roof repairs on some of the 78 listed buildings and planning applications awaiting committee in Boveney.

The question of Dorney residents being able to use Dorney Lake was raised however this is unlikely to change with no way of keeping to residents only and controlling dog walkers or cyclists entering the site however the information will be passed on to Janet’s successor for further consideration.

### **MP Joy Morrissey report given by Will Barnes**

First and foremost, please accept my apologies for not being with you this evening.

In my capacity as Shadow Deputy Chief Whip, I am currently fulfilling parliamentary duties in the House. This role requires my presence in and around the Chamber to help coordinate the Opposition’s involvement in debates and votes, and to ensure the smooth running of proceedings.

I would like to begin by thanking the Dorney Parish Council for the excellent work you continue to do. I truly appreciate being kept informed about local issues, including the important campaign to reduce the speed limit on Dorney Common. As I mentioned in my update last year, this has been a long-standing concern, and I’m pleased that road tests were conducted earlier this year. We now await further action from Buckinghamshire Council, and I will continue to monitor the situation closely.

It has also been a pleasure contributing my monthly updates to Dorney Parish News. A particular thank you to Peter Bowman and the entire DPN team for producing such a high-quality local publication. I was especially glad to see coverage of the proposed closure of our local day centres, including the one in Burnham. This issue hits close to home, as I recently read in the latest edition about a Dorney family who rely on this centre for vital support. I remain firmly committed to standing up for all residents who depend on these invaluable services.

Turning to Orchard Herbs, I was pleased to read that the site is now expected to be cleared and returned to its former use by 11<sup>th</sup> July. I’ll be keeping a close eye on this process, as I know your local Unitary and Parish Councillors will too. Thank you to everyone who has worked tirelessly to bring us to this point – I understand how frustrating this process has been and share your relief at this progress.

On a national level, I continue to advocate strongly for our hospices. Thames Hospice is a remarkable local institution, and I know many of you in Dorney will be familiar with their work. Earlier this year, I secured an Adjournment Debate to challenge the Minister on the Government’s decision to raise taxes on hospices – an approach that hospice leaders have warned will be deeply damaging. I will keep championing their cause in Parliament.

As I always say in monthly updates, please don’t hesitate to get in touch if there’s anything you’d like to raise – no matter how big or small. Will a member of my staff, is attending the meeting tonight and will be happy to take notes and pass information back to me

Thank you again for everything you do to keep Dorney so special. I hope you have a productive and enjoyable evening.

### **5 Report from County Council**

#### **County Cllr. Paul Kelly**

We are a couple of weeks or so on from vigorously contested local elections here in Buckinghamshire, where the outcomes were determined at election counts on 2 and 3 May.

97 councillors representing 49 towns and villages, known as wards, have been elected to Buckinghamshire Council – our unitary authority that serves the whole of Buckinghamshire and that is responsible for most local services such

as bin collections, transport, social care, education, leisure centres - and much more.

#### **Election outcome**

You will have seen on TV, or heard on the radio, that the election results have resulted in a lot of change in most of England. That is far less true in Buckinghamshire. The Conservatives in Buckinghamshire, with 48 seats, won by far the greatest number of councillors. All other parties, including Labour, the Liberal Democrats, Greens, and a wide variety of Independents have 46 seats and, in addition, the new Reform Party only won three seats here in Buckinghamshire despite their successes elsewhere. The Conservatives are only one short of an overall majority. It means Buckinghamshire Council is now in 'No Overall Control' as no one political party won the 49 seats needed for an overall majority. The new administration, including all decision-making committees, will be selected at the council's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday 21 May, including the new council Leader, who will announce their Cabinet. You will be able to see details of that meeting and watch it online via the council's website.

#### **Council leadership**

After 14 years as leader Martin Tett has stood down to spend more time with his family and its his former Deputy Leader, Steven Broadbent, who has been unanimously voted as the new Leader of Buckinghamshire Conservatives. Steven will be the Conservative candidate for council Leader. Martin will remain Leader of Buckinghamshire Council until the AGM on 21 May. Some highlights of Martin's time as leader include; leading the cross party fight against HS2, the success and the money saved in establishing the new Unitary Council, helping residents and businesses through the global Covid crisis, supporting residents during the cost of living crisis with our Helping Hand programme, welcoming the brave people from Ukraine to Buckinghamshire after Putin's unprovoked invasion and in recent years, managing the pressures of the relentlessly increasing needs for our social care services and the enormous demands on our budgets. With social care alone being 71% of the budget.

Looking ahead, the next four years will present us with many challenges. Our biggest concern is the enormous housing numbers being imposed on Buckinghamshire by this national Government. Finding land for some 95,000 new houses without completely losing the rural beauty of Buckinghamshire and merging towns and villages will be very difficult. On top of this we anticipate at least another 10,000 or even 20,000 extra houses being imposed by the Government's 'New Towns Commission'. The Government is similarly demanding land for large solar farms and data centres.

We also have the Government's reorganisation of local government across the country with the creation of a new 'Regional tier', run by a Mayor, with new powers to charge an additional Council Tax. The Mayor's powers and responsibilities will predominantly be removed from Buckinghamshire Council. Lastly, and of critical importance, is the threat to remove money from areas such as Buckinghamshire and direct it instead to towns and cities in the Midlands and the north. No one doubts that all of local government is under terrific financial strain but this ignores the requirements of our own local children and adults with additional or special needs or disabilities.

These are not easy times in local government but I have absolutely no doubt that whoever leads the new authority from 21 May, your local representatives are up to the challenge and as ever, the priority will be to continue to deliver the local front line services that Buckinghamshire residents need and deserve.

#### **6 Questions from the floor on Parish/County issues**

- Road resurfacing on Marsh Lane, Court Lane and other areas of the village – the Parish Council have previously reported that plans are in place for 25/26 however this will be checked.
- The question of if the Dorney Conservation Area will be reviewed was raised – Cllr. Stopford confirmed that changing heritage and conservation areas is a long process and there are no set timescales for review of the areas. If a review were to take place, the Parish council would have to contribute towards the cost however the Heritage Officers are currently fully booked until 2026.

#### **7 Any other business**

The Parish Council thanked everyone for their updates and attendance.

**Meeting ended at 8.50pm**





# DORNEY

## PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 7pm AT DORNEY LAKE

#### **Present**

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair)      Cllr. Anna Palmer      Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford      Cllr. Robert Stopford  
County Cllr. Kirsten Ashman  
Clerk Ruth Senior and 3 members of the public

#### **Public Forum**

None

#### **PC/29/25 To elect a Chairman and Declaration of Office of Chairman**

Cllr. Westcott-Wreford proposed, Cllr. Stopford seconded, Jill Dax as Chairman, who accepted the role. **AGREED** – all in favour. Declaration of office completed.

#### **PC/30/25 Apologies for absence**

Cllr. Stephen Baker

#### **PC/31/25 To elect a Vice Chairman**

Cllr. Dax proposed, Cllr. Stopford seconded, Martyn Westcott-Wreford as Vice Chairman, who accepted the role. **AGREED** – all in favour.

#### **PC/32/25 Declaration of office signed by each elected Councillor**

This was duly completed.

#### **PC/33/25 To elect a Finance Chairman**

Cllr. Dax proposed, Cllr. Stopford seconded, Martyn Westcott-Wreford as Finance Chairman, who accepted the role. **AGREED** – all in favour.

#### **PC/34/25 Declaration of interest on any items of business on this Agenda**

There were none declared.

#### **PC/35/25 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

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

#### **PC/36/25 To agree the meeting dates for 2026**

The Clerk circulated the proposed dates prior to the meeting, these were **agreed**.

#### **PC/37/25 To consider advertising to co-opt 2 Councillors into the vacant positions**

It was agreed that we will make contact with any prospective new Councillors for co-option at the July meeting.

#### **PC/38/25 To receive the Clerk report**

The Clerk circulated the report prior to the meeting and gave the latest updates on:

Playground fencing completion, DVH transfer completion and bank accounts opening, two Council vacancies to co-opt.

### **PC/39/25 Items of business carried forward**

#### **The Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr. Stopford has been liaising with Bucks, we now need to engage an external consultant to progress the plan to the next stage, applications for funding this can be made from July. The Planning and Infrastructure bill and also the Bucks Local Plan will have an effect on the Dorney Neighbourhood Plan, we will wait for these to come in and assess any changes needed.

### **PC/40/25 Planning**

1. New Applications
  1. L/25/0863/FA Erection of 3 custom build dwellings. Land Between 18 and 20 Dorney Reach Road Dorney Buckinghamshire SL6 0  
We have been requested by a neighbour to ask that the application be called in however the Parish Council has opted to submit objections and not call in.
  2. L/25/1418/PNE 4 South Field Close Dorney Buckinghamshire SL4 6QN  
General Permitted Development single storey extension – no comments
2. On going applications
  1. Boveney Court Farm PL/25/0354/FA | Demolition of open sided barn, conversion, alteration and change of use of existing buildings to Use Class C3 (residential) to provide 7 residential units and construction of 5 new residential units, new Applications.  
In progress. On 1st April the Environmental agency objected to this application.
  2. PL/24/3651/VRC Land Adjacent To 8 and 10 Harcourt Close Dorney Reach Buckinghamshire SL6 ODY  
increase in size of housing from 3 Bedroom to 4 plus a study  
Approved subject to conditions regarding privacy for neighbours
  3. PL/24/0586/FA Court Farm Common Road Dorney Buckinghamshire SL4 6QA  
On going. Bucks still disagree with Savill's submitted viability report and ecology has issued some new requirements
3. Others
  1. Orchard Herbs - It appears all the concrete operations and some of the scaffolding have been moved off site

### **PC/41/25 Finance**

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

41.2 The year end accounts are being agreed and prepared for submission to the auditors.

### **PC/42/25 To update on Dorney Playground**

After successful fundraising, the new fencing and bench are now in place and the tennis courts and multi-use games area have been cleaned.

We continue to campaign for more bins around the playground.

### **PC/43/25 To consider the annual insurance renewal**

After exploring options for insurance, it was agreed to stay with Clear Councils as the increase of approx. £100 is better value than anywhere else. The Clerk will ask for a long term reduction.

### **PC/44/25 To update on speeding issues in Dorney and Dorney Common**

We received a response from Christine Urry, Buckinghamshire Highways supporting a lowering of the speed limit over the common however it appears the previous information from us to Buckinghamshire has not been passed on as it was suggested the cost would be the responsibility of the Parish Council. We have now responded with all previous communication, outlining why this should be paid for by Buckinghamshire.

### **PC/45/25 To receive an update on Thames Water**

An Ashford Lane resident is now monitoring the discharge levels from the treatment plant as we have had it confirmed that the amount of discharges has increased heavily over the past two years.

There is no further update as yet on other areas.

# Dorney Village Hall

[www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk)



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.

Licensed to seat 100 people  
Children's tables and chairs available  
Beechwood suspended dance floor  
75 space free car park

**From £15 per hour (minimum of 3 hours) for Dorney Parish Residents**

Email: [bookings.dorneyvh@gmail.com](mailto:bookings.dorneyvh@gmail.com)

Online on [www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk)





- Carpentry
- Extensions
- Loft Conversions
- Roofing Specialist
- Bespoke Garden Rooms/Offices
- Renovations and Refurbishments

All aspects of building work undertaken – no job too big or too small

**07876 275129**

[varneyandson@gmail.com](mailto:varneyandson@gmail.com)

[www.varneyandson.co.uk](http://www.varneyandson.co.uk)

## ***G & J Decorating***

Local decorators with 20 years' experience.

All aspects of decorating undertaken to the highest standard.

Free estimates and references available.

**Gav 07795 081141**

## **Cleaning & Ironing by Flori** Your cleaning & ironing my mission!

Ironing: £2.50 per 1lb. Minimum 10lbs.  
Collection and delivery free.

Cleaning:

- 1 bedroom house is £40 (inc. 1 kitchen, 1 Bedroom, 1 Living Room and 1 bathroom. Any other rooms are £10 extra)
- 2 bedroom house is £50
- 3 bedroom house is £60
- 4 bedroom house is £70

**Please contact Flori on 07879626434**

**Florentinateisanu@yahoo.co.uk**

Or on Facebook: Ironing & Cleaning by Flori  
I have more than 15 years of experience



# 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

# TYRE FIT

**NEXEN  
DEALER**

## TAPLOW

*We fit tyres at a price that fits you*  
Need new tyres?

Plus:

**TYRES & EXHAUSTS. BATTERIES.  
STEERING. SUSPENSION. SERVICING.  
CATALYTIC CONVERTORS. MOTs. TRACKING.  
ALLOY WHEEL REFURBISHMENT.**

Old Station Yard,  
Station Road,  
Taplow, Bucks SL6 0NU

Tel: **01628 665778**  
Mobile: **07884 111500**  
[www.tyre-fit.co.uk](http://www.tyre-fit.co.uk)

# 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)

---

## **Distributors:**

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

**RATE OF SUBSCRIPTION:** £7 per annum for 10 issues

Bank Transfer Details: Sort Code 60 04 53, Account Number 13611690

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

---

## **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		
<b>Dorney Reach (Village Hall) Defibrillator Code</b>		<b>C123X</b>
<b>Trumper's Field (Dorney Village Hall) Security Gates in Meadow Way</b>		<b>07955 672150</b>
Fire, Police & Ambulance	Emergency Calls: Incidents in Action	999
Thames Valley Police	Non-urgent calls	101
National Health Service	For urgent medical problems. Need advice	111
Crimestoppers	Anonymously report information	0800 555 111
Water Leaks	Thames Water	0800 316 9800
Sewage Problems	Thames Water	0800 316 9800
Power Cuts	SSE Networks - Central Southern England	0800 072 7282
Gas Leaks	National Grid	0800 111 999
Reporting Pot Holes	<a href="http://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk">www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk</a>	
Reporting Fly-tipping	<a href="http://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk">www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk</a>	
Reporting Footpath Problems	<a href="http://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk">www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk</a>	
Swan Support	24/7 Local Swan Rescue/Rehabilitation	07968 868172

## Electrical Services (Burnham)

**Napit Part "P" Approved Installer**

- Additional Sockets - Lights
- New Fuse Boards - Updates
- Security - Attic Lighting
- Home - Landlords Certificates
- Portable Appliance Testing



Free advice and estimates  
All work guaranteed  
No job too small

**Contact Rob on**  
**07801 832792 or 01628 603063**  
**[electricalservicesburnham@gmail.com](mailto:electricalservicesburnham@gmail.com)**





## THE TRADITIONAL RESTORATION COMPANY LTD

The Coach House, Dorney Court

**01628 660708**

**[www.TraditionalRestoration.co.uk](http://www.TraditionalRestoration.co.uk)**  
**[enquiries@TraditionalRestoration.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@TraditionalRestoration.co.uk)**

*Restorers of Fine Antique Furniture*

# SUSAN HANDY DANCE

FROM BABIES TO ADULTS

**A COMPLETE DANCE TRAINING**

**FREE  
TRIAL  
CLASS**

**BABY BALLET 18 MONTH+  
PRIMARY BALLET  
PRIMARY MODERN  
PRIMARY TAP**

**ACROBATIC ARTS**

**BALLET**

**BODY CONDITIONING**

**CONTEMPORARY**

**CREATIVE DANCE**

**GCSE DANCE**

**MODERN JAZZ**

**TAP**

**ADULT BALLET STRETCH  
ADULT BALLET  
ADULT CONTEMPORARY  
ADULT BEGINNERS TAP  
ADULT INTERMEDIATE TAP**

**BOYS CLASSES**



ETON WINDSOR DATCHET OLD WINDSOR ETON WICK ICKENHAM  
WOKING RICHMOND

**WWW.SUSANHANDYDANCE.CO.UK**

OFFICE@SUSANHANDYDANCE.CO.UK / 07515 270432

# **BHS & ABRS Approved Riding School and Pony Club Centre**



**Elm Farm, Boveney Road, Dorney Common  
Nr Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 6QD**

**We are a family run Riding School based on  
Dorney Common established for over 45 years!**

- *Qualified Instructors*
- *Lessons available from 7 years upwards*
- *Pony Rides available for children as young as 4.*
- *We offer very popular Birthday parties*
- *Large Indoor and Outdoor schools*
- *Pony Club and Own a Pony activity days*
- *Open 6 days a week, Tuesday-Sunday*

*Gift Vouchers available through the website*

*For bookings and enquiries please call us on*

**01628 661275**

*[www.spanishbit.co.uk](http://www.spanishbit.co.uk)*