

Dorney Parish News

July/August 2025



The Dorney Horticultural Society: 70th Annual Show
Saturday, 6th September 2025

For more information, please see details on Page 13



Renaissance
**BATHROOMS
& KITCHENS**



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

THE GREAT BARN | CIPPENHAM LANE | SL15AH
01753 693333

RENAISSANCEBATHROOMS.CO.UK | RENAISSANCEKITCHENS.CO.UK

SUPPLY ONLY OR FULL INSTALL SERVICE AVAILABLE

EDITORIAL

I love Dorney's Annual Show. I would like everybody reading this to enter an exhibit, encourage a friend or family member to enter or to come along on the afternoon of Saturday, September 6th to join the friendly throng viewing the entries and cheering the prize presentation. Better still, do all three.

I enjoy the afternoon because it is one of the rare chances to get lots of residents together of all different ages. I have liked seeing the entries accumulate in the morning because we see both whole families clutching their items at the desk and old friends we haven't seen for twelve months coming back with this year's photo or plant. In the four divisions plus the children's section there are over eighty classes, which means plenty to choose from, parsnips to paintings, pies to perennials (see the photos from the organising Horticultural Society in this issue). The Show, always popular, is really catching on...in 2024 entries were 35% up on the previous year.

Also catching on, it seems, is bus travel or more specifically, travel by the number 15 bus to Eton and Slough. In last month's issue we highlighted Carousel's plans, so it was only right to sample the trip. We found it a lovely way to make an early morning rendezvous in Eton, and were reassured that the bus, which always looks empty around here, was full of passengers by the time we alighted. It seems only right to make the timetable more prominent in this issue.

In this issue we delve into the complex field of social media. We make a sort of recommendation (spoiler alert: take a look at *Dorney Community*), but I'm wary. We did see a great role for *Nextdoor* in communities like ours. Does anyone still find it useful? We'd love to hear. I did see one description of it now, a site 'filled with conspiracy theories, echo chamber threads and petty grievances.' Oh well, so much for my predictions...

At the Annual Parish Meeting we said that a prime role of this magazine was to keep residents informed. That is not straightforward for a monthly, but at times there certainly is a vacuum to fill. Also, events crowd in at a dizzy pace. The spectacular collapse of the Lake End bridge comes just as we go to press. The deadline for the clearance of the Orchard Herbs site (July 11th) looms ever nearer, and I recommend the detailed article in this issue on the public safety and compliance issues that will confront the county and parish councils – and all of us. Equally complex are the issues that will face those considering the merits of the two major planning applications over Boveney Court Farm and Court Farm. Again, I recommend the update published here. Every weekend horse riders flock to our parish, not least the many youngsters, and we publish insights into a disturbing event with implications for the future safety of horses and riders.

As I said events crowd in – we still await the outcome of the deliberations of the government's New Towns Taskforce scheduled for the end of the summer – and everybody needs a break. Traditionally we publish no August issue. Dorney Parish News will return with the September issue in two months. We wish all readers a peaceful, calm and safe summer.

Services in the Local Churches



St James the Less, Dorney

St. John the Baptist, Eton Wick

St. John the Evangelist, Eton

Vicar: Vacant

Churchwardens: Stephen Baker & Mark Procter

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

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

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

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

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

Pastor: Olusegun Omotayo 07712 126334 www.rccgchurchatslough.com

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Burnham

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

ANNOUNCEMENT



We are delighted to announce that Revd Andreas Sistig has agreed to become the next Team Rector for the new Benefice of Eton, Eton Wick, Boveney, Dorney and Datchet.

He has been Vicar at St Anne's Bagshot since 2014, but his journey has taken him from rural and inner-city ministry in Germany, via rural and impoverished communities in South Africa, to a Curacy and as Associate Vicar in the Hampshire commuter town of Fleet and includes experience in hospital and prison chaplaincies.

His wife, Jenny, is Lead Chaplain in the Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust which covers Wexham Park Hospital.

His Licensing Service will be conducted by the Bishop of Buckingham in the autumn. Please pray for Andreas, Jenny and their two daughters as they prepare to come among us.

Church Services in July and August 2025

Wednesday 2nd July

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 6th July

9.30 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00 am Any Age Family Service

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 13th July

9.30am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 16th July

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 20th July

9.30am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Tuesday 22nd July

4.00pm Patronal Festival Service

St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

Sunday 27th July

9.30am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Morning Worship

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 3rd August

9.30 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00 am Any Age Family Service

St John the Baptist Eton Wick

Wednesday 6th August

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 10th August

9.30am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 17th August

9.30am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Morning Worship

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 20th August

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 24th August

9.30am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Morning Worship

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 31st August

9.30am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

St. Mary Magdalene

Apostle to the Apostles



There will be a special service

4pm on Monday 22nd July

At the riverside church of
St. Mary Magdalene, Boveney

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

CATWALK

Boudoir



CAPTURE



EXHIBITED

SWAGGER

Shymansky
Portrait Photography



British Institute of
Professional Photography

Parish Council Takes Action on Orchard Herbs Site Safety Concerns



With just a few days remaining until the 11 July 2025 enforcement deadline for clearing the former Orchard Herbs site, Dorney Parish Council, in June, wrote urgently to Buckinghamshire Council requesting immediate action to address serious public safety risks.

Background

The enforcement notice, upheld on appeal in October 2024, requires the complete removal of all industrial equipment, materials, hardstanding, and roadways from the site by 11 July. However, the Parish Council has identified two critical concerns that require the Council's immediate attention.

Key Concerns Raised

Risk of Non-Compliance: Given the substantial scale of clearance required - including removal of aggregates, concrete materials, scaffolding, machinery, hardstanding, roadways, and all associated debris - the Parish Council questions whether full compliance can be achieved within the remaining timeframe.

Public Safety Risk: The primary concern is the possible potential for traveller occupation of the site, similar to recent incidents in Cheshire where a field was transformed into a hardstanding park for caravans and mobile homes within 72 hours. This presents serious public safety risks given the documented contamination at the Orchard Herbs site.

Environmental Contamination Issues

A 2020 environmental study, done for the proposed hotel, identified serious contamination risks, which have probably got worse over the past five years, including:

- Multiple hydrocarbon spills from vehicle storage
- Oil and chemical containers stored without proper containment
- Potential asbestos from dismantled vehicles
- Poor drainage causing contamination to migrate toward the adjacent watercourse

The study concluded there was "MODERATE" risk to commercial users and "HIGH" risk to controlled waters, recommending that "an intrusive investigation is required to assess potential risks and identify remediation measures."

Crucially, the enforcement notice requires only removal of equipment and materials - not restoration of the land to a safe agricultural state.

Parish Council's Requests

The Parish Council has requested Buckinghamshire Council to implement the following:

1. **Immediate Compliance Monitoring:** Daily site inspections from 1 July onwards with immediate enforcement action if compliance is not achieved by 11 July.
2. **Prevention of Unauthorised Occupation:** Confirmation of the Council's legal powers to prevent occupation of the contaminated site, including immediate eviction procedures and emergency powers activation.
3. **Public Health Protection:** Site security measures, warning signage about contamination hazards, and coordination with Environmental Health to assess immediate risks.
4. **Environmental Assessment Update:** Updated contamination assessment since 2020 and clarification of remediation standards required for future use.

Looking Forward

The Parish Council has requested an urgent meeting with Planning Enforcement, Environmental Health, Legal Services, and Emergency Planning teams to establish clear protocols before the 11 July deadline.

The Council has been asked to confirm what actions it will take to protect public safety while ensuring enforcement compliance is achieved by the statutory deadline.

The Dorney Reach defibrillator – don't forget the keycode!



The Community Access Defibrillator is installed on the side of the Village Hall near the Playground Tuck Shop.

Should you need to use it, the defibrillator will lead you through the necessary steps.

The defibrillator case is locked. The keycode is **C123X**.

The information has been added to the Local Issues page on the Parish Council website so that it is always available.

Dorney Parish News will continue to provide Keycode details.

The Defibrillator in the old phone box on Village Road does not require a Keycode.

DORNEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - ANNUAL GARDEN VISIT

On Wednesday 21st May Dorney Horticultural Society visited Deepwood Stud, in Maidenhead, for our annual garden visit.

We were met by the owner, Cristabel, who explained that when they purchased the property there were no gardens at all - it was a blank canvas. She and her husband have transformed the property into a 25-acre stud farm for horses and have created 4 acres of formal gardens which are truly stunning.

Our members wandered around the woodland garden, followed by the rose garden with a fountain. Next was the walled herbaceous border that has a wall with a series of windows through which to admire the horses in the fields beyond. In the distance work was commencing on a new vineyard owned by Cristobel's neighbours, Laithwates.

Some of our members paused on the little Monet style bridge making an excellent photo opportunity while others took a well-earned rest in the circular pergola.

The borders were stacked with very healthy, happy plants enjoying the copious amounts of manure provided by the horses.

There were some truly wonderful pieces of neo-classical statues placed around the gardens. Some of our members had umbrellas which were fortunately not required but made useful props.

We finished off the afternoon with teas, coffee, and cake on the patio. All profits from the garden visits go to their chosen charity (Parkinson's Disease) so well done to Cristabel and her husband for their hard work and to Rolly, the Old English Sheepdog, who went round and said hello to all of the visitors.

The society endeavours to find something spectacular each year and Deepwood lived up to all expectations. What a wonderful afternoon we had.

Dorney Horticultural Society





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

Please ring for discounted rate.

Dorney Horticultural Society - Annual Show

This year's Annual Show will be held on Saturday 6th September 2025 in Dorney Village Hall.

It will be the 70th year of the show, which is pretty special, so please come along and support your village event.

Entry is free and there is a special children's section where all children who achieve a 1st prize award will receive a £2 token to spend in the Tuck Shop which will be open during the show.

The 2025 programme will be delivered to all households in the surrounding areas and will be uploaded on our website and Facebook page in the coming weeks:

<https://dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk/dorney-horticultural-society>

or email: dorneyhorticultural@gmail.com

"We look forward to seeing you there."



**DORNEY AND DISTRICT
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**



**The Seventieth
Annual Show**



**Saturday 6th September 2025
In
DORNEY VILLAGE HALL**

Everyone Welcome - Free Entry

Special Children's Section

Exhibits registration: 10:00am to 11:30am

Exhibitors excluded at 11:30am

Exhibition opens to all at 2:30pm

Prizes presented at 3:30pm

Show closes at 4.30pm

Flood Access Challenges May Force Planning Refusals in Dorney Parish

Emergency access constraints during flood events threaten viability of two proposed major residential developments

Two major residential development proposals in Dorney Parish face potential planning refusals due to fundamental flood access problems that appear to have no viable solutions. Recent flood risk assessments reveal how the parish's unique geography creates emergency access constraints that may prove insurmountable for both major developments.

Dorney's Island Geography Creates Development Constraints

Much of Dorney Parish effectively forms an island bounded by the Jubilee River to the north and the River Thames to the west and south. While this provides scenic rural character, it creates inherent challenges for development planning, particularly regarding emergency access during flood events.

The Jubilee River provides flood protection up to approximately 1-in-25 year events. Beyond this threshold, the parish's geography becomes a critical constraint, as access routes may cross areas that become dangerous during larger flood events.

Court Farm: "Last Mile" Access Problem

The proposed 11-dwelling Court Farm development reveals specific challenges that may doom the application. While Common Road itself may remain accessible during floods, the site access paths crossing common land would become hazardous.

The development's Flood Risk Assessment, prepared by Stantec UK Limited, admits that *"the two accesses south to Common Road are shown within the EA Product 4 data as crossing an area of flooding when the potential impact of climate change is taken into account."*

These access routes would present *"Hazard for Most"* conditions during 1% Annual Exceedance Probability flood events with climate change allowances. This creates a "last mile" problem - emergency services could reach Common Road but cannot safely access the 22-30 residents across dangerous flooded terrain.

The proposed pedestrian-only alternative access is fundamentally inadequate for emergency vehicles, medical equipment transport, and evacuation of vulnerable residents. No viable alternative emergency access routes appear to exist, making refusal on life-safety grounds increasingly likely.

Boveney Court Farm: EA Objection Signals Refusal

A separate 12-unit major development at Boveney Court Farm, with the same applicant and flood consultants, already faces formal Environment Agency objection *citing "Danger for Most"* conditions on the Boveney Road access route during flood events.

The applicant's recent technical responses appear unlikely to resolve the EA's fundamental safety concerns.

The Boveney application appears headed for refusal unless dramatically scaled back, with the EA objection likely to be maintained.

Pattern of Insurmountable Constraints

Both major developments face the same core problem: there appear to be no viable alternative access routes that avoid flood hazards during reasonably foreseeable events. This suggests fundamental geographical constraints rather than technical issues that can be engineered away.

Creating alternative access infrastructure would likely require:

- Extensive land acquisition beyond applicants' control
- Major engineering works potentially costing more than the developments' value
- Complex consents from multiple authorities
- Risk of creating new environmental impacts elsewhere

These solutions appear economically and practically unfeasible for residential developments of this scale.

Planning Policy and Likely Outcomes

Both applications must meet the National Planning Policy Framework requirement that developments be *"safe for their lifetime."* The emergence of fundamental emergency access constraints during flood events appears to make this impossible to achieve.

Current technical evidence suggests both applications face refusal on flood safety grounds, establishing important precedents that may effectively limit future major residential development in similar flood-constrained locations.

The cases also highlight inadequate pre-application flood risk screening, with fundamental safety issues only emerging during detailed technical assessment phases, wasting developers' and communities' time and resources.

Climate Change Reality Check

These access challenges reflect broader climate change adaptation challenges facing rural communities. As flood events become more frequent and severe, areas previously considered developable may become unsuitable for new major residential communities, whereas lower-risk single dwelling developments may be acceptable,

The possible refusal of both applications may signal that Dorney Parish has reached practical major development (>10 dwellings) capacity given current flood constraints and climate change projections.

Future Implications

The possible refusals will establish important precedents limiting major development in flood-prone rural settings. For Dorney specifically, this may redirect future development pressure to less flood-constrained areas in the area with better emergency access arrangements.

These cases represent a "new normal" where climate change projections effectively constrain development in ways not previously anticipated by the planning system.

The parish's experience demonstrates how local geography, climate change projections, and emergency planning requirements intersect to create development constraints that may surprise applicants expecting traditional planning approaches to apply.

Conclusion

Both applications remain under consideration by Buckinghamshire Council, but technical evidence increasingly points toward refusal on fundamental flood safety grounds.

The cases highlight how flood risk assessment is evolving from a technical exercise into a potential development constraint that may prove decisive in determining where new communities can safely be established in the climate change era.

Dorney Parish Council have written to Bucks Council Planning on this issue.

Bill Dax

The Historic Burnham Abbey Wall: A Living Piece of Medieval History

An article about the remarkable cob boundary wall on our doorstep



Many readers will have driven past the weathered wall running alongside Huntercombe Lane South in Burnham, perhaps never realising they're looking at one of Buckinghamshire's most remarkable surviving medieval structures – the Grade II listed cob boundary wall of Burnham Abbey.

A Medieval Foundation

This extraordinary wall's story begins in 1266, when Burnham Abbey was founded by the brother of King Henry III as a community for Augustinian Canonesses. The boundary wall was originally part of the medieval abbey's defensive perimeter, built on the outer rim of an ancient moat that may predate the Abbey itself, possibly belonging to an earlier Manor House.

The Art of Cob Construction

What makes this wall truly special is its construction from "cob" – a traditional technique using clay, straw, and local materials. It represents a rare example of witchert, Buckinghamshire's distinctive high-quality form of cob. The term "witchert" derives from "white earth," referring to the pale, lime-rich subsoil characteristic of our region.

Unlike West Country cob, witchert was so stable that walls could be built remarkably thin – sometimes just 200mm thick. The original builders would have mixed clay with straw (possibly trodden by oxen), building in sections called "lifts" or "raises," allowing each to dry before adding the next.

Originally capped with thatch and finished with limewash, it would have had a distinctive white appearance. T.W.E. Roche described it in 1966 as "a picturesque arrangement unusual in this part of England though common in the West Country."

Centuries of Change

The wall has witnessed dramatic changes over nearly 800 years. When Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries in 1539, the Abbess and Nuns were dispersed. The Abbey became a private residence, then a farm, before the Society of the Precious Blood acquired it in 1916, beginning a tradition of careful stewardship that continued until the last ten Sisters vacated in 2024.

A Wall That Tells Stories

Rather than remaining purely medieval, the wall has become a living document where each generation left its mark. Local architect Michael Bailey noted in 1993 that the original cob material matched exactly the "gritty brickearth with chalk particles" found elsewhere on the Abbey site.

Over time, repairs used chalk blocks, bricks, cement blocks, and various mortars, creating an archaeological record of building techniques. In the 1950s, clay siphons were installed for damp-proofing. Sister Jane Mary SPB recorded a complete restoration in 1968, noting that "cob work constantly needs repair from weather and vandalism."

The original thatch was replaced with clay tiles on timber frames, many original timbers still remaining beneath newer additions.



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
to arrange an initial conversation
or call 07785 566468**



The Engagement Ring

www.theengagementring.co.uk

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

Present Challenges

Today, the 85-metre wall faces significant challenges. Rising ground levels, increased traffic, and incompatible modern materials have taken their toll. Water damage is the primary threat – cement renders and poor drainage trap moisture, weakening the cob core. Vehicle splashes and the heavier tile roof add further stress.

Recent structural assessments reveal sections at serious risk of failure, particularly the curved section facing Huntercombe Farmhouse, where experts warn of potential collapse.



Conservation for the Future

Urgent conservation efforts now underway respect the wall's complex history rather than attempting to return it to an "original" state. Specialists are documenting each layer, understanding that the wall's evolution over time is part of its significance.

Repairs follow traditional techniques using compatible materials like lime mortars and earthen renders that allow the structure to "breathe." New cob is being mixed using medieval methods – straw carefully cut and mixed by foot in small batches.

A Living Heritage

What makes this wall remarkable is not just its age, but its continuity. For nearly 800 years, it has marked the same boundary and sheltered the same patch of Buckinghamshire earth. It has survived the Reformation, Civil War, two World Wars, and the transformation of rural Taplow.

The wall also supports its own ecosystem, providing roosting opportunities for bats and nesting sites for birds, while the grounds it protects support hedgehogs, various bird species, and fox dens in the adjacent moat area.

A Window into Our Past

As conservation work progresses, each carefully opened section reveals new insights into medieval building techniques and the lives of the religious communities that maintained it. The wall serves as a tangible link to when Burnham Abbey was a centre of learning and spirituality, and when building with earth was cutting-edge technology.

For Dorney Parish residents and neighbours, this remarkable structure offers a daily reminder that we live in a landscape shaped by centuries of human endeavour. Next time you pass the wall on Huntercombe Lane South, appreciate that you're looking at one of our county's most authentic medieval survivors – a structure that connects us directly to the medieval world and continues to tell its story, one carefully conserved section at a time.

In the next edition of Dorney Parish News, we will cover the planned renovation work that will restore the wall to (very nearly) its former glory.

Full details of the restoration plans can be found on the Bucks Council Planning website – Reference **PL/25/1449/HB**

Bill Dax, Dorney History (www.dorney-history-group.org.uk)

Create. Inspire. Together.



DORNEY LAKE

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 . 01753 370370 . www.dorneylake.co.uk

Ashford Lane Bridge: From Closure to Collapse



The Ashford Lane Footbridge collapsed into the Jubilee River during the night of 26 June 2025. Fortunately, with the bridge closed since December 2023, no injuries occurred. However, this collapse represents a serious failure of infrastructure management that our community deserves better from.

A Timeline of Neglect

The warning signs were crystal clear. In July 2024, Buckinghamshire Council's own engineering assessment revealed catastrophic structural failure in the southern span, rating the bridge's condition as "Very Poor" with a critical score of zero. The Bridge Condition Index had plummeted from 91.65 in 2021 to just 79.77, with complete failure of main deck timbers.

AtkinsRéalis engineers specifically warned that the bridge would remain closed "for at least 12 months until funding is secured" and emphasised that current

closure measures were "insufficient to restrict access." Despite this, adequate security was never implemented, and the inevitable happened.

Expert Recommendations Ignored

The engineering report presented seven options, strongly recommending a weathering steel replacement offering a 120-year design life. This would have cost more initially but provided exceptional long-term value with minimal maintenance requirements. Instead, Bucks Council delayed, and we've lost our bridge entirely.

Summer Safety Concerns

With school holidays beginning, we urgently remind all residents that the collapse site presents extreme dangers. Submerged debris, sharp metal fragments, and unstable remaining structure make the area hazardous for swimmers and children who historically used the bridge for jumping. Parents must keep children away from the entire area.

Parish Council Action

The Parish Council have formally requested that Buckinghamshire Council provide immediate safety measures, complete debris removal, and commit to the recommended 120-year replacement option. Our community deserves infrastructure built to last, not the failed 25-year lifespan we've just witnessed.

Alternative Access

Residents should use Lake End Road Bridge, approximately 250 meters away, which provides safe pedestrian crossing.

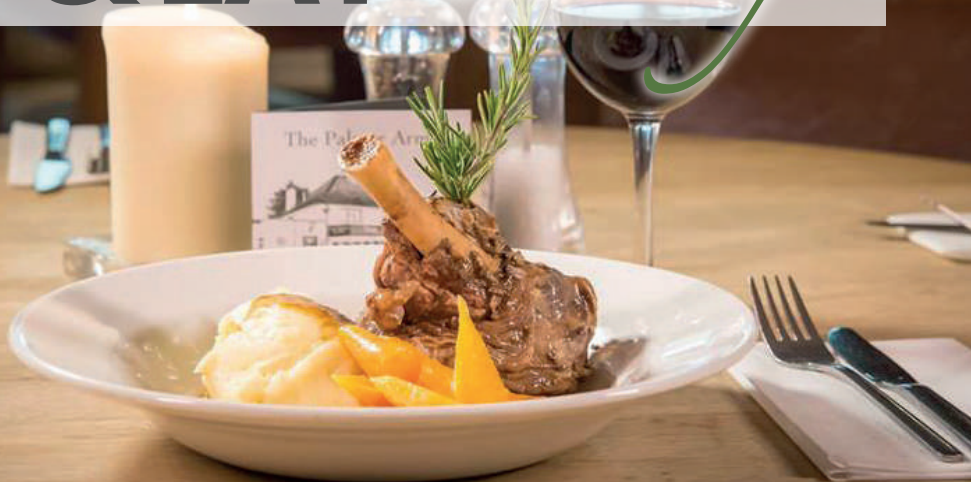
Moving Forward

This collapse was entirely preventable with proper maintenance and timely action. The Parish Council will continue fighting for accountability and ensuring any replacement meets proper engineering standards. Our residents deserve better than this infrastructure failure.

For updates and safety information, visit the Dorney Parish Council website or contact the Clerk.

Bill Dax

MEET, DRINK & EAT *Dorney*



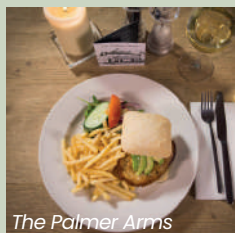
THE PALMER ARMS

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
01628 666612



The Pineapple
Lake End Rd, Dorney, Windsor SL4 6QS
www.thepineappledorney.co.uk
01628 662353

SAFETY NOTICE: Manor Farm Bridleway Gates Pose Risk to Horse Riders

Dorney Parish Council is taking urgent action to address serious safety concerns regarding gates on the Manor Farm roadway bridleway that have already resulted in accidents and injuries to horse riders.

The Problem

Two Environment Agency-owned gates on the official bridleway have been identified as dangerous and non-compliant with safety standards. These gates, located at What3words positions `///less.apply.claps` and `///design.wage.assets`, are too narrow for safe horse passage and feature exposed latches that pose significant hazards.



The first gate measures just 1.49m wide, while the second is only 1.41m wide. Both fall well short of the required 1.525m minimum width specified in British Standard BS5709:2018 for bridleway gates. The dangerous exposed latches have caused riders and horses to catch stirrups, leading to accidents and near-dismountings.

Recent Incidents

A serious accident has recently occurred at the first gate location, and multiple riders have since reported injuries or near-misses caused by catching stirrups or clothing on the exposed gate fixtures.

Council Action

Dorney Parish Council has written to both the Environment Agency CEO Philip Duffy and Buckinghamshire Councillor Thomas Broom (Cabinet Member for Public Highways) demanding immediate

action. The Council is requesting that both gates be replaced with properly designed bridle gates that meet British Standard specifications.

The replacement gates must provide the required 1.525m clear width, include extended handles operable from horseback, feature two-way opening mechanisms, and eliminate the dangerous exposed latches that have caused the accidents.

We have requested completion of this work within 90 days and are pursuing the matter through both the gate owner (Environment Agency) and the highway authority (Buckinghamshire Council) to ensure swift resolution.

Safety Warning for Riders

Until these gates are replaced, all horse riders should exercise extreme caution when using the Manor Farm bridleway. The gates at both locations present ongoing hazards, and riders should:

- Approach gates slowly and carefully
- Be aware of exposed latches that can catch stirrups and clothing
- Consider dismounting if concerned about clearance
- Report any incidents to the Parish Council immediately

The Council is committed to ensuring the safety of all bridleway users and will continue to pursue this matter until appropriate safety measures are implemented. We will update residents on progress through future newsletters.

For more information, contact the Parish Clerk at
Clerk@dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk.

PLAYGROUND END OF TERM BBQ

Weds 16
July
3:15-5:15

ALL FUNDS TO
DORNEY
PLAYGROUND

BBQ,
Drinks, ice
cream

DONATIONS



£3 FOR FACE
PAINTING

A Guide to your MP and Councillors

Dorney's MP

Our MP is the Conservative member for the Beaconsfield Constituency.

Joy Morrissey MP

joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk

House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA 0207 219 6453

Disraeli House, 12 Aylesbury End, Beaconsfield, HP9 1LW 01494 977 505

County and Parish Council

The county and parish council elections on May 1st changed our various councillors.

Bucks Council

We reported in our June issue that the new leader of Bucks Council would form a minority administration. Here is Bucks' new Conservative cabinet –

- Cllr Steven Broadbent - Leader
- Cllr Peter Strachan - Planning and Regeneration (Deputy Leader)
- Cllr Thomas Broom - Transport (Deputy Leader)
- Cllr Adekunle Osibogun - Education and Children's Services
- Cllr Steve Bowles - Communities
- Cllr Isobel Darby - Health and Wellbeing
- Cllr Peter Brazier - Culture and Leisure
- Cllr Carl Jackson - Environment, Climate Change and Waste
- Cllr Mark Winn - Accessible Housing and Regulatory Services
- Cllr Robert Carington – Resources

Dorney is in the Burnham ward which returns three county councillors to sit on Bucks Council. On May 1st three councillors were elected –

- Kirsten Ashman (Conservative) Kirsten.Ashman@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- Paul Kelly (Conservative) Paul.Kelly@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- Cole Caesar (Reform UK) Cole.Caesar@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Dorney Parish Council

In May only five people, all existing councillors, stood for election, so with a total of seven councillors permitted, there was no need for an election. There are two vacancies which the PC would like to fill. Dorney PC is non-political.

- Jill Dax (Chair)
- Martyn Wescot-Wreford (Vice Chair)
- Anna Palmer
- Steven Baker
- Robert Stopford

Contact with our Parish Council should be made via the Clerk to the Council –
Ruth Senior Clerk@dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Peter Bowman



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

Does Dorney Need a Village Facebook Page?



Should the Dorney community have access to dedicated Facebook pages and thus follow the example of our larger neighbours Burnham and Eton Wick? As we have been upfront that part of this magazine's ambition is to counter the rumours and falsehoods prominent on occasion on Burnham sites, this might seem a contrary question.

But, you might say, if the fifteen and a half thousand followers of the local online behemoth, the ten-year-old *Burnham*

Village are served up around 50 posts a day and over 1200 in a month, all those messages can't be inappropriate, and a prodigious amount of communication must be going on. You would be right. My view was forged in the recent heat of 'Taplow New Town' rumours and a local election campaign, and, anyway, dear reader you may be offended by different things to me or offended by none.

The arguments against such pages are strong, especially in a 'mature' community like Dorney. We may be especially uncomfortable about personal information and pictures entering the public domain and many of us will be far too aware of Meta's (Facebook's parent) reputation for dubious data handling practices. As much as we want communication, we equally don't want division, and I wonder whether we have the skills or inclination to administer the proper oversight to prevent this.

But the platform and the audience are ready made – with 47 million Facebook users in the average month, many of us must be familiar with it, while sharing success, pictures, news and support must cost effectively build the community. Big events like the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Show could have proper promotion and urgent information (and I'm just hearing of the collapse of the Lake End Bridge) could be distributed.

What's on offer? The model seems to be one giant site and an 'official' version. Alongside *Burnham Village* is the *Burnham and Taplow Community Page* serving villagers on the Bucks/Berks border – 7000 of them, in fact. Membership questions are posed at sign up, they have a 'three strikes and you're out' policy and allow advertising only on two days a week. There is also the *Burnham Village Residents Page*. Six thousand people follow *Eton Wick Village* which offers 'all aspects of village life' and then there is the *Eton Wick Village Association* site. All these appear well administered with strict content and advertising policies. Special interest groups excel. *Dorney Playground and Tuck Shop* post as regularly and enthusiastically as you'd expect. As many as 350 follow the detailed updates from *Eton Wick Waterways* group, while perhaps the greatest revelation is the flourishing *Church Community of Eton, Eton Wick and Dorney* bringing, ever since Covid, regular live acts of worship to over 400 residents. Both the Village Hall and the Horticultural Society are making progress. Here's the nearest to a recommendation – have a look at *Dorney Past and Present* and *Dorney Community*. Maybe our best course is to sign up to the latter. The clue is in the name. It's full of promise. Rather than start from scratch on the big stuff, let's build on what we have.

Peter Bowman



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

07710 968642 - studiosschool@hotmail.com



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 or call us on 01628 620871 to arrange a visit.



DORNEY SCHOOL

RESPECT * COLLABORATE * GROW

News from Dorney School

We welcome visits to our wonderful gem of a school tucked between the River Thames and Dorney Reach. Do take a look at some of the things the children get up to.

Brakes Walk Around the Local Area



All children had a great time walking around the Dorney area enjoying the fresh air and interesting local landmarks. The aim is to encourage more children to enjoy walking and choose active ways of travelling. This is also part of the 'Ditch the Car' campaign.

Reception/Year 1 Assembly



The hall was packed with parents and pupils who were entertained by our youngest pupils performing poetry and rhymes, showing us their Makaton signing skills and a super recorder recital by our Year 1 children. The children were sensational and confident speaking up at this assembly.

Year 6 Residential Trip to Woodrow House

The children thoroughly enjoyed their 3 days/2 nights stay at this annual trip. They experienced some wonderful adventures, activities, a campfire and even a disco. Although they came back exhausted, many happy memories would have been made.



Mrs S Lee
Headteacher

EDUCATION, EDUCATION

For a small village, Dorney was and still is quite well endowed with places of learning.

In the early 1800s, education of the young was by no means universal. Working class children whose parents chose to send them to school might attend a dame school, where a few children would receive a basic schooling, often in a private house. Two organisations then began to establish schools where larger numbers of children could be taught, with the aim of making education available more widely. National Schools, affiliated to the Church of England, were opened in many places and in 1823, two children from Dorney attended a National School in Windsor.

The first school in Dorney was set up by the Palmer family in the late 1820s. This was a private initiative, for the benefit of the tenants' children. Lessons were given in a classroom in Dorney Cottage on the estate and there was room for 45 pupils. During the 1850s, the schoolmistress was Susannah Hazell, the wife of a gardener at Dorney Court. As well as receiving an education, the children were provided with clothing.



Offspring of the middle or upper classes were generally privately educated, at home or as boarders. It was quite common for a vicar to take in and teach a small group of boys, as did the vicar of Dorney from 1856 to 1867. He advertised that he prepared pupils to become officers in the army or navy. In 1861 he had four teenaged pupils, three of whom had been born overseas. At least one eventually retired as a Lieut Col in the Royal Artillery. In May 1862, five of his eight pupils found themselves before the magistrates in Burnham accused of repeated trespass and damage to property in Dorney over several years. The final straw had been when they threw stones at Dorney Court servants after the latter complained to the police about damage to fences. Difficulty in identifying the culprits meant that just two of the boys were fined. I have found reference to a boys' boarding school on Dorney Common in 1810 and there may well have been other small private schools in Dorney at various times.

For a brief period, the need for adult education was addressed. By 1860, most towns and villages made some provision for their adult population. Burnham opened its library and reading room in the High Street in 1855, replaced by larger premises in Church Street in 1876 and eventually by a Workmen's Institute in 1903. As well as books which could be borrowed and newspapers which could be read on site, there was a programme of evening lectures on diverse general knowledge subjects. Bagatelle, an early version of bar billiards, was a popular pastime, and the reading room even put out a cricket team. A workmen's reading room in Dorney finally opened in early 1886. It occupied a room next to the post office and the cost of fitting it up was met by local residents and through fundraising events. Newspapers and games were provided, and it was hoped to add a small library of books. There is little information about how much the reading room was used, by the predominantly agricultural workforce of Dorney. The only record I could find of their activity was a report of a return bagatelle match between Dorney and Burnham in 1888, at Dorney, which the visitors won. It looks as though interest gradually fizzled out as I could trace no reference after January 1893.

Meanwhile, the education of children had become subject to a national system. Dorney was expected to set up a School Board and to provide capacity for the number of children

living locally, taught by a qualified teacher. The old schoolroom was replaced by a new school built in Dorney village, on the edge of the common, with an integral schoolhouse for the teacher. It opened in late summer 1876, with 75 children from Dorney, Boveney and Lake End. Under the first headmistress, the school got very good exam results, but she resigned after two years and her replacement was an abject failure. Dorney School Board was singled out in a national report in 1881 as “the extreme of laxity” for its poor performance in ensuring that children attended school; “of 83 children whose names were on the books, three only were qualified for examination by attendance”. One week in 1880 only a quarter of the pupils on the register were in school. Fortunately, after 18 months, the headship changed again, and after this low point the school ran on a fairly even keel in spite of frequent changes of headteacher.



In 1903, further changes in the organisation of schools resulted in Dorney school becoming the responsibility of Bucks County Council. Two notable headmistresses were Miss Jane Trotter who was there from 1892 and Miss Eleanor Bennett who presided over the school from 1919 to 1952.

An inspection report in 1931 commented favourably: “In this somewhat detached rural school the present Head Mistress has worked for 12 years, and her keenness and energy have not abated. She takes much interest in the welfare of her children and has not lost touch with modern educational ideas. The children are quite alert and responsive; in general, this small school has a vigorous life of its own”.

During the 1920s, the number of pupils at the school was increased by up to 40 children from the children's home which operated in the village from about 1923 to 1928. Further upheaval arrived in 1939, when evacuation brought 68 more children to Dorney from London at the outbreak of war. These children were accompanied by some of their teachers. The school absorbed this influx and adapted its routine, initially operating a system of

teaching half the children in the morning and half in the afternoon. Later on in the war, the village hall was used as an extra schoolroom and full-time schooling restarted.

In 1958 Dorney school moved to the site in Dorney Reach which it still occupies. Today our “local school with a big heart” continues to prepare children for life just as the first school did 200 years before. And the vicarage has again become a place of learning, as Eton Dorney Independent Therapeutic School, a specialist school also seeking to help children fulfil their potential.

You can read much more about the history of schooling in Dorney on the Dorney History Group website. There you can find the Village School History written by former headmaster Len Eastgate, a great selection of old photos and Miss Bennett's recollections.

Virginia Silvester

JOY MORRISSEY MP

Standing up for the Beaconsfield Constituency



With summer now upon us, I hope everyone in Dorney has been enjoying the glorious weather we've had in recent weeks. It's been a busy and productive month in Parliament, where I've continued to raise the issues that matter most to residents across the village and the wider constituency.

It was great to see Marlow Regatta mark its 25th anniversary at Dorney Lake this year. From all reports, it was a fantastic day made even better by the warm weather. A big thank you to everyone involved in organising such a successful event.

One of the most significant issues debated in Parliament recently has been the Assisted Dying Bill, which passed in June. I voted against the Bill, as I continue to have serious concerns about the potential unintended consequences for vulnerable individuals.

As I've said before, I believe our focus should be on improving access to high-quality palliative care, ensuring that everyone approaching the end of life receives the support and dignity they deserve. I sincerely hope the House of Lords will amend the Bill to place stronger protections for the vulnerable at its core.

Preserving the unique character of our towns and villages remains one of my top priorities. That's why I was proud to support an amendment to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, which would have given our villages, like Dorney, the same protections afforded to towns. While Labour unfortunately voted the amendment down, I remain committed to safeguarding what makes our area so special and will continue to campaign for the protection of our green spaces.

Another issue that has deeply affected many in Dorney has been the Government's position on the Winter Fuel Payment. After sustained pressure and months of campaigning, Labour has now reversed its plan to scrap this crucial support. Their proposal would have left pensioners struggling to stay warm during the coldest months. I've been proud to stand up for our local pensioners in Parliament, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs protected. No one should ever be forced to choose between heating and eating.

As this will be my last article for a little while, I want to take the opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful summer. Whether you're enjoying the beautiful Dorney countryside or relaxing in one of our fantastic local pubs, I hope the season brings you rest, joy, and time well spent with loved ones. As ever, I remain here to support you - so if you have any concerns or need assistance, please don't hesitate to get in touch at joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk.

Joy Morrissey MP

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/

crocus
at
DORNEY COURT

Making beautiful possible

FOR BUCKS SAKE ON DORNEY COMMON

"Stop littering! For Bucks sake!" Bucks County Council

As we become more aware of the litter issues in our neighbourhood, we cringe at the constant appearance of plastic canine turd bags loitering along our pathways and hanging on branches. Finally, Bucks County Council have put up a large sign on the Maidenhead to Taplow main road, with this very direct comment. I had a good chuckle when driving past, since we all know my intellect does sit around that base level.

As the forthcoming weather forecast looked promising, my boyfriend Bob decided that he would like to spend his birthday on a long weekend in Dartmouth. Using Air BnB, but booking only 5 days before departure, we found a tiny house on the hillside above the town. The road, Crowthers Hill, looked rather steep; in fact we later found out it was the steepest! Driving vertically upwards we found the cute 2 up 2 down and perched precariously nearly at the top. As we unloaded, my heart suffered tachycardia as I had visions of the car slipping downwards with gathering momentum.



Fortunately, that did not happen, and very soon we settled in, pyjamas in place, to wander out and down to find some supper in town. The food was delicious, as was the wine, but the climb meant talking was out of the question, as we huffed and puffed back up.

We took in several attractions that weekend, including the Round Robin. This comprised of a boat trip of 90 minutes up the Dart River to the lovely laid-back town Totnes, followed by an open top bus to kiss-me-quick (but don't stay long) Paignton, then a 110-ton 1951 black steam train called Braveheart (chuffer delight) to Kingswear, with a final ferry back across the river to Dartmouth.



The steam train was one of the main reasons for our visit, and here I learnt that in the 60's most were taken out of service and left to rot in a Welsh scrapyard. How terribly tragic. Enjoying the reminiscence of yesterday year, Bob remembers them in use, and I loved the scent of the coal burning and the hoot of the whistle as we chugged along. Inside the carriages, the velour was padded and familiar, with the vanished wood detail evocative of journeys to school in similar, but pulled by electricity by then, for me.

A walk the next day took us along the lofty heights of the town, charming and beautiful, with views of the estuary and beyond, then along the river to Dartmouth Castle. Here we learnt about the massive iron chain that was fixed from this castle, across the estuary to Kingswear Castle, which was raised each night

to prevent invasions from foreign ships. It was a great short break, we ate like kings each night, then walked off the superfluous food-baby by the long climb to our bed.

I received a call from an old friend Simon Kelly from the Maidenhead Drama Guild. who had some good news to impart. As we all thought the Guild was closing doors completely this year, after 18 months of inactivity, it was a surprise to hear that Nordon Farm had asked MDG to put on a proper lavish Panto. Simon was calling in the old troops, or should I say 'work horses' to create an experienced production team to give it our best shot.

The main issue being that much of our costume and properties had long gone, sold off, dumped or in poor repair. A few surviving storage boxes revealed some key items, and our Goliath rostra extension was intact, so brought over to my outbuilding for safe keeping, along with the eleventy-eight boxes of theatricals. Rummaging through, it was however, evident there was not enough good quality items to furnish the set of Robin Hood and his Merry Men, let alone the eleventy-eight arrows that I must carve from a large stack of bamboo canes. Fight the good fight!

"To stay ahead, you must have your next idea waiting in the wings" Abraham Lincoln

I was assigned to the usual creatives of set design and properties, along with Stage Management for the run. Simon took on Director and quickly assembled the rest of the team who keenly flooded back. He wanted to make a statement for this Robin Hood Panto, so a list of potential requirements arrived, which included a large spider that would be lowered on a fly. Matt Biss from The Farm (actors nickname for Norden Farm), asked by email how large it would be, to which Simon said, 'no more than 3 feet'. I also replied simultaneously, saying 8 feet... then received a private text from our Director which simply said '8 feet? Bloody brilliant!' Of course, now committed I must now make it so!

Fortunately, the Lane Players who occupy Bourne End Community Centre theatrical side, have allowed us to rummage through their costume and properties stash of goodies. This has reduced the expense of lavish costumes, but sadly there was not much in the way of set or hand props. Boyfriend Bob has been busy with his jigsaw, making wonderful objects from my rough drawings! It's a wonder how well they are coming up with careful paint effects.

As June meanders on, the heat of the day parches the hungry mouths of the flowers that languish in my garden. To avoid wilt, I rise early each day to give a gentle spread of cool spray to all, then sit in a spot with a cuppa and enjoy the Dorney air. I can see how beautiful an oasis this lovely Common is, tranquil, where it feels time has stood still. This, however, is soon marred by the onslaught of 'rush-hour,' which sadly lasts much longer nowadays!

I am hoping my Sungold tomato plants produce perfectly formed fruit, as it would be fun to enter some in our DDHS annual show on Saturday 6th September. Note, I am reminding everyone with green or brown fingers to nurture their garden entries and come along. There are many different categories to fill, and it spans all types of skills from garden, baking, jam making, creating, to painting, and many others that you will see on our schedule which will be distributed in July.

Don't forget to include all youngsters in your family, as there is a chance of winning the famous carved Dorney Mouse, awarded to the Judge's favourite young person's entry.

Doors open at 10am for registration and placement of entries, so we look forward to seeing you. *"Life moves very fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."* Ferris Bueller's Day Off

Slough's London Dreams: What They Could Mean for Dorney

While Slough Borough Council actively considers joining Greater London as part of the government's English Devolution strategy, neighbouring Dorney Parish watches with keen interest. Though no formal decision has been made, the prospect of Slough becoming London's 34th borough could have significant implications for this historic Buckinghamshire village—including the remarkable possibility that London could literally front onto Dorney Common.

A Slice of History Already Present

Dorney already has an unusual relationship with Slough Borough, dating back to the 1920s when compulsory purchase orders acquired Manor Farm land for sewage works. This historical quirk left 11 houses along the northern edge of Dorney Common actually within Slough Borough boundaries, creating a distinctive administrative anomaly that residents have lived with for nearly a century.

Should Slough successfully merge with the London Borough of Hillingdon or become a separate London borough, these 11 properties would suddenly find themselves in London.

The Current Landscape

Slough's potential transformation represents one of several options under consideration by Slough Borough, including mergers with West London boroughs or broader Berkshire consolidation. The council is evaluating these possibilities as part of the first wave of devolution changes targeted for 2030, though any actual transfer would require extensive public consultation and government approval.

Dorney's Perspective

For Dorney, which has spent decades carefully protecting its rural character through conservation measures and planning issues, Slough's potential London status presents both opportunities and concerns. The parish has long benefited from the "Eton/Dorney Green Belt" strategy established in the 1920s—partly due to Slough acquiring its foothold on the Common.

Economic and Transport Benefits: Should Slough join London, improved transport integration and increased political influence could benefit the broader region.

Development Pressure Concerns: However, Dorney's community—95% of whom want to protect green spaces from development according to recent surveys—may worry about increased development pressure. London borough status for neighbouring Slough could intensify land values and development interest throughout the Thames Valley corridor.

Historical Irony

The potential for London to front onto Dorney Common represents a fascinating historical irony. A parish that has fought to preserve its rural DNA for centuries could find itself neighboured by London properties—a testament to how administrative boundaries can shift while the essential character of places endures.

Looking Forward

While Slough's London ambitions remain in the discussion phase, Dorney's residents and Parish Council will likely monitor developments closely. The village's established conservation areas, developing neighbourhood plan, and strong community voice provide robust frameworks for managing any spillover effects from regional reorganisation.

Whatever Slough decides, Dorney's commitment to preserving its rural sanctuary remains unwavering—even if London comes calling at the garden gate.

Bill Dax

Dorney Village Hall

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

Online on www.dorneyvillagehall.co.uk

Bus Timetables: Number 15 Bus

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

Saturday

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	0838	0948	1048	1148	1248	1348	1448	1548	1658	1808
Eton Wick, The Walk	0841	0951	1051	1151	1251	1351	1451	1551	1701	1811
Eton, Brocas Street	0847	0957	1057	1157	1257	1357	1457	1557	1707	1817
Chalvey, Windsor Road McDonalds	0852	1002	1102	1202	1302	1402	1502	1602	1712	1822
Slough, Wellington Street	0857	1007	1107	1207	1307	1407	1507	1607	1717	1827

No service on Sunday or Public Holidays

Operated by Carousel Buses 01494 450151

www.carouselbuses.co.uk

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		

Saturday

Slough, Wellington Street	0800	0910	1010	1110	1210	1310	1410	1510	1620	1730
Chalvey, Windsor Road McDonalds	0805	0915	1015	1115	1215	1315	1415	1515	1625	1735
Eton, Brocas Street	0810	0920	1020	1120	1220	1320	1420	1520	1630	1740
Eton Wick, The Walk	0816	0926	1026	1126	1226	1326	1426	1526	1636	1746
Eton Wick, Colenorton Crescent	0819	0929	1029	1129	1229	1329	1429	1529	1639	1749
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

Operated by Carousel Buses 01494 450151

www.carouselbuses.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

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 16 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

Dorney Parish News

Published monthly (except January and August)

Editors:

Peter Bowman, peter.bowman@talktalk.net Mobile: 07889 912714

Bill Dax, 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
07889 912714

Emergency Contact Details		
Dorney Reach (Village Hall) Defibrillator Code		C123X
Trumper's Field (Dorney Village Hall) Security Gates in Meadow Way		07955 672150
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	www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk	
Reporting Fly-tipping	www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk	
Reporting Footpath Problems	www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk	
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



THE TRADITIONAL RESTORATION COMPANY LTD

The Coach House, Dorney Court

01628 660708

www.TraditionalRestoration.co.uk

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