

Dorney Parish News

November 2025



Harvest Festival at St. James the Less: 28 September 2025



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EDITORIAL

OK, so I know these are 'first world' problems, and, yes, we're always clamouring for repairs, especially if it concerns potholes in Marsh Lane just over the parish boundary. But there is a lot of minor disruption as we write, with more to come. There are traffic controls on Lake End Road caused by the need to access the broken-backed bridge on the Jubilee River and we all now realise just how important a traffic artery Huntercombe Lane South has become now it is closed off. We've been quoted roughly three weeks from now for the Lake End Road bridge closure, but alas we have just heard that the repairs to the Burnham Abbey wall will extend the closure of Huntercombe Lane South until February 28th 2026.

Now we hear that the Marsh Lane M4 bridge will be closed overnight (8pm to 5am) for five nights from November 3rd. Bridge joints need replacing – the ghost of Brunel, the creator of the nearby 'Sounding Arch' must be weeping over his descendants' issues with bridges.

Autumn is this column's favourite season, and it seems particularly intense this year. As usual 'Olly' Oliver gives us in this issue a naturalist's explanation and indeed in forty years we can't recall the ashes, oaks and maples in Harcourt Road looking so vibrant. I'm a devotee of newspapers' colour supplements (ask your parents what they were) and they are fuller than ever of warm Autumn fashion and cozy recipes. It must be a reaction to hard and worrying times.

Our November issue is caught between seasons and milestones. Our cover looks back to Harvest Festivals and yet our cherished 'local' pub can reveal its festive menu. On that theme, we are happy to commend the offer our friends at Crocus at Dorney Court tell us will run again. When the time comes presenting a copy of this magazine will bring a £5 discount on your Christmas Tree.

Before that we have the more solemn issue of 'Remembrance.' This column was very moved by the refreshing take on 'remembrance' in the second of the Revd. Andrews' articles. The inimitable Virginia Silvester is painstaking and, yes, also moving in her description of a time of great anxiety and danger in our national story. We remember in this issue the names of our fallen in two World Wars in our normal, simple way.

Turning to lighter matters (literally) the Dorney School Firework Evening announced in this issue rather proves that there are dedicated souls in the community who can put on a great traditional celebration just as well as 'in the old days.' Parents and grandparents will know that before Christmas there is the newest national festival, Halloween.

The fully engaged citizen's opinion is constantly being requested by councils. But who has the time for that engagement these days? Well, we intend to update our readers. There are, or have been, recent consultations on the Bucks Local Plan, which is seminal to the parish's future and, strictly speaking outside our area but important to many of us, radical plans presented by Bucks Council over parking at Taplow Station.

We wish all readers well as they navigate this issue and the busy month of November!

Services in the Local Churches



St James the Less, Dorney

St. John the Baptist, Eton Wick

St. John the Evangelist, Eton

Team Rector: Revd Andreas Sistig

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

Dear friends

"War must be, while we defend our lives against a destroyer who would devour all; but I do not love the bright sword for its sharpness, nor the arrow for its swiftness, nor the warrior for his glory. I love only that which they defend." — J.R.R. Tolkien

Tolkien's words express the humility and humanity of one who lived through two world wars.

Known to us through *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, Tolkien was also a devout Christian whose reflections on war were shaped by faith and personal suffering.

When I first read this quote, it spoke to me deeply. As many of you know, I am German—though with a South African accent—and, like many of my compatriots, I carry a quiet guilt for the pain my nation brought upon millions during the first half of the last century. Born long after the war, I have often wondered why that guilt feels so personal. Perhaps it is what led me toward a life of service, or rather, a calling from God to do His work wherever I am placed.

Today, as we remember those who gave their lives defending human rights and freedoms, I am reminded that these values are not upheld only on the battlefield but also in our daily words and actions—in our families, workplaces, and communities.

Eighty years after the end of the war, we live in a Europe that is peaceful, cooperative, and relatively prosperous. That peace is a gift from those who sacrificed their own future so that we might have one. Their courage demands not only our gratitude but also our commitment to preserve what they defended.

Yet we cannot simply look back. New and unsettling forms of warfare—drones and cyberattacks pose fresh moral challenges. These methods, remote and impersonal, risk eroding the very values they claim to protect. Returning to Tolkien's insight, we must remember not to admire these tools for their power or precision, but to use them only with integrity and restraint, in defence of what is just.

A political analyst recently said, "There can never be friendship between countries—only interests." Perhaps I am naïve to disagree. But as a Christian, I believe that honesty, fairness, and

integrity must guide us in public and private life alike. Jesus himself condemned hypocrisy and double standards, insisting that our “yes” be yes and our “no” be no.

These values—truth, integrity, compassion—are what our service men and women have defended with their lives. To honour them, we too must resist dishonesty, discrimination, and injustice, no matter how small.

And so, even though our world remains filled with conflict and uncertainty, we must not despair because the people we remember today did not despair. Like them, we are called to fight the good fight—by speaking truth, standing for conscience, and holding leaders accountable. In our personal lives, we are called to act with courage and integrity in the face of what is wrong, no matter how ordinary, unseen or even pointless it may seem.

Perhaps a little story will illustrate that point: A small boy walks on a beach after a storm, rescuing the starfish on shore by throwing them into the ocean. When a man approaches the boy and tells him that there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish he cannot possibly save, the boy listens politely, throws another starfish back into the surf and smiling, says, “But I made a difference to that one and that one - and that one.”

I hope you will all have a good November.

Revd Andreas

Team Rector

Church Services in November 2025

Sunday 2nd November

9.30 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00 am All Age Service

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 5th November

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist Eton

Sunday 9th November (Remembrance)

9.15am Holy Communion with Remembrance

St James the Less, Dorney

10.55am Remembrance Service

St John the Evangelist, Eton

3.00pm Remembrance Service with scouts

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 16th November

9.30am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 19th November

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist Eton

Sunday 23rd November

9.30am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Morning Worship

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 30th November

9.30am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

St James the Less: Harvest Festival 2025



"Autumn is the year's last, loveliest smile."
William Cullen Bryant (1794 – 1878)

The Dorney Fallen in World War I and World War II

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

For the Fallen by Laurence Binyon

World War I (1914 – 1918)

James (“Jack”) Henry Moriarty

Percy Charles Poolman

Albert Poolman

Bertie Belcher

Robert James Eustace

Lieutenant Courtenay Traice Lindsay

Frank Reginald Church

(St Mary Magdalene, Boveney)

World War II (1939 – 1945)

2nd Lieutenant Richard Vernon Cholmondeley

Colonel Andrew D. Clinch

Lance Corporal Percy Thomas Robert Evins

Sergeant Peter Arthur Ingram

Wing Commander Reginald Frederick Stuart Leslie

Lieutenant John Pendennis Dunning McCartney

Private William George Poole

Gunner Benjamin Rolfe

Lance Corporal Edwin Alan Sprackling

Sergeant Harold Stevens

Harold Tudor Thomas

Captain Alan Douglas Comyn

But I miss you most of all, my darling When autumn leaves start to fall

Autumn. Everyone loves Autumn, right? Drifting mist on the Thames, russet-coloured leaves crunching under your feet on Harcourt Road, tendrils of woodsmoke on the gentle breeze. A bubbling pot of venison stew on the stove, a generous helping of apple and bramble crumble with homemade custard, perhaps a large glass of vin rouge by a roaring fire. Yes, everyone loves the Autumn.

According to Forestry England, the autumn tree display is expected to be even more vibrant this year. Very warm and sunny weather over the summer has resulted in trees producing more sugar in their leaves than normal which will transform them into even brighter colours. I've noticed locally that even in early September the horse chestnut leaves on the towpath had turned from lime green to terracotta and many had fallen to the ground.

There are not many songs celebrating Autumn, but one that immediately sprung to mind was "Autumn Leaves – Irresistible Force Mix" by Coldcut. It appeared on the Café del Mar compilation series which is always a good shout if you are looking for a surefire chilled out soundtrack on a summer's day. I've only been to Ibiza once and it was with the family so 48 hours non-stop clubbing on the terrace at Space was definitely not on the cards. An additional restriction was being in my mid-forties. And not being very cool. Or prepared to pay 15 euros for a bottle of water. Nevertheless, being ensconced inside a nightclub would probably have been safer for me as there is a permanent risk of my Celtic skin rapidly going from pale blue to lobster red in sub 15 minutes in the Mediterranean sun while distracted on the beach helping the kids build a dam.

Back on several towpath dog walks in the safer UV haven of the Parish of Dorney I've heard what I think is a juvenile buzzard calling and at least twice I've seen it, once roosting in a tree within 5 metres which was close enough to look it in the eye before it flew majestically off. I think it's from a nest on the Bray side, but I can't be sure. On the same dog walks I've also twice seen the unmistakable turquoise flash of a kingfisher zooming across the murky Thames water. I'm not sure what it is about kingfisher sightings, but they always fill me with a very instant feeling of happiness. It reassures me that the Thames must be healthy enough to support a decent population of whatever small fish it is they feed on.

Lastly, I also recently had a weekend in Devon at the rewilding project at Embercombe where I encountered several species I'd never seen before:



Adult dormouse



Cyathus olla (field bird's nest fungi)



Noctule bat

Andrew Oliver

NEW MENU COMING AT CROCUS AT DORNEY MONDAY THE 27TH OF OCTOBER



We will be changing it up with a brand new menu with touches of Mediterranean flavours. The new and exciting menu is your next favourite comfort food. With Roast dinner on Sundays.

crocus
— at —
DORNEY COURT

Dorney Horticultural Society - 2025 to date

By the time you read this we will be three quarters of the way through our 2025 programme of events, and what a year it has been so far!

We started off in March with an informal talk on 'Farming Today' in the cosy environment of the annexe at Crocus at Dorney Court. Thirty plus members squeezed into the room to listen to a fascinating talk on farming over the decades delivered by two local experts, Willam Emmett and John Barker. Their experiences, both nostalgic and amusing, covered seven decades of memories. It was a memorable afternoon which we hope to re-visit next year.

Then, in April, we held a supper evening starting off with a splendid cottage pie supper supplied by Chrys Fisher of the Palmer Arms. This was followed by a fascinating insight into the wildlife around Dorney presented by our local wildlife stalwart, Andrew (Olly) Oliver. Olly is a fount of knowledge on our local wildlife and habitat. We talked about bats, newts, frogs, beavers, a whole variety of local birds and much more.

In May it was Deepwood Stud Gardens in Maidenhead for a memorable afternoon visit. Our members wandered around the woodland garden, followed by the rose garden with a fountain and over the Monet style bridge. 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. Finishing off with tea and cake on the patio, what a wonderful afternoon, with profits going to Parkinson's UK.

September marked our 70th Annual Show with again a record turn-out, especially in the children's section, which is extremely gratifying for the organisers. It is truly amazing the breadth of talent and expertise displayed by this small local community. Well done to everyone!

There is still more to come this year, and don't forget to book your tickets for the Annual Christmas Supper evening which is always very popular.

Let's hope with your continued support the Horticultural Society will thrive for another 70 years at least.

If you wish to know more about joining the society, please email Kristina at ddhs.members@gmail.com.

DHS Committee



Dorney Horticultural Society

Annual Christmas Supper

Friday 5th December 2025

At Dorney Village Hall

7.30 to 10.00 pm

£20 members - £25 non-members

A welcome glass of bubbly on entry for all

Traditional Full Roast Turkey Supper with all the trimmings

Followed by Christmas Pudding

Multiple fun mini-quizzes with spectacular prizes

Crackers, Bunting, Decorations Galore and much, much more

Come and join us for a great party evening

Don't forget to bring your own drinks and glasses

Booking is essential



For further information contact

ddhs.members@gmail.com

Could you help Dorney Playground?



Once again, Dorney Playground's Halloween Party was a big success and enjoyed by all. We sold 92 tickets, so with parents and younger siblings, Dorney Village Hall was full of fun. Overall, we raised £567.00 which will go to help maintain and improve Dorney Playground.

As you may already know, Dorney Playground Management Group is a charity which maintains and

improves the playground, tennis court and Multi Use Games Area next to Dorney Village Hall. It is run by volunteers and does not receive any money from local government to maintain and improve the equipment. We raise money by fund raising events, like the Halloween party, running a tuck shop after school and applying for grants and donations.

But there may be something **YOU** can do! Do you work for a company that has a charity fund? Kirsty, one of the mums from Dorney School, applied to her work charity fund and received a grant of £1,000 for the playground. Could **YOU** do the same? We can supply you with any information you may need.



Lastly, Ettie, our secretary, is leaving the committee at the next AGM in February and we are looking for a replacement. The job entails liaising with Dorney Parish Council and Dorney Village Hall, writing articles for DPN and any administration needed in the running of the playground. It takes about 2 hours a week but some times are quiet and other times busier. If you think this is a role you could do, please contact us. Our next project is to try and raise enough money to replace the safety mats in the playground.

Dorney Playground Management Group
Playground4Dorney@gmail.com
07737053409



The Palmer Arms Festive Menu 2025

£32.45 ~ 3 Courses / £28.45 ~ 2 Courses
Complimentary Crackers

STARTERS

PARSNIP SOUP, TRUFFLE OIL, CRUSTY BREAD (VG) (GFA)

ROASTED PUMPKIN AND PEA RISOTTO *WITH SAGE FRITTERS* (VGA)

CHICKEN LIVER & PORT PARFAIT WITH A FIG AND APPLE ONION CHUTNEY, TOASTED BRIOCHE

SMOKED DUCK, ORANGE, SPRING ONION SALAD, CHILLI PLUM JAM

PRAWN COCKTAIL SERVED *WITH BROWN BREAD AND BUTTER*

MAINS

TURKEY BREAST WITH PIGS IN BLANKETS, ROAST POTATOES, SEASONAL VEGETABLES, SAGE ONION STUFFING (GF)

BRAISED BEEF WITH CREAMED MASH POTATO, CARAMALISED BABY ONIONS AND RED WINE GRAVY

PORK BELLY WITH CRACKLING, APPLE CIDER SAUCE, ROAST POTATOES, CABBAGE & BACON

ROASTED SALMON WITH CRUSHED NEW POTATOES, WILTED SPINACH, CRAYFISH, CREAM AND LEMON SAUCE (GF)

LENTIL AND CHICKPEA MOUSSAKA WITH SEASONAL VEGETABLES (VG) (GF)

DESSERTS

CHRISTMAS PUDDING *WITH BRANDY CUSTARD* (GFA) (VGA)

CHOCOLATE FONDANT *WITH MINT CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM*

SELECTION OF BRITISH CHEESES *WITH CELERY, GRAPES AND CRACKERS* (+£3.00 SUPPLEMENT)

APPLE & RHUBARB CRUMBLE *WITH CUSTARD* (GFA)

SPECULOOS CHEESECAKE *WITH VANILLA ICECREAM* (VG)

Harcourt Close, Dorney Reach
Maidenhead, SL6 0DY
Tel: 01628 620871
E-mail: office@dorneschool.co.uk
Website: www.dorneschool.co.uk

DORNEY SCHOOL



RESPECT * COLLABORATE * GROW
Headteacher: Mrs Lee

Harvest celebration



It was wonderful having Nigel from Maidenhead Foodbank back at Dorney School again. On behalf of the families the Foodbank helps, Nigel thanked the school community for sharing the Harvest bounty. Nigel explained to the children how the food will help support many families facing hardship and how some of the craft packs we donated will go towards making a child smile. The foodbank has set up a small children's area for children to enjoy some craft activities and Nigel explained that for many children, even drawing a picture is a novelty as they have no writing materials at home. I think his message was one that was hard for me personally to digest; that amongst our local community, there are families facing such severe hardship. Nigel advised everyone to donate a tin of food a week to the collection points at local supermarkets. He says that this one act makes a huge difference!



Black History Month is well underway. It was lovely seeing the different hairstyles the children had on World Afro Day as we discussed many forms of discrimination, including afro hair discrimination. It is even more important now that we teach our children the language of love, acceptance, equality and peace as we navigate very troubling times. The horrific incident near a synagogue in Manchester and the increase in racism, Islamophobia, and antisemitism must be challenged at every level, and part of this work must happen in school. The strength of our school community lies in its values of Equality and Empathy. We carry on the theme of 'No Outsiders' because everyone belongs. I know you support us in this crucial work in helping our children understand the importance of acceptance and critical thinking. There is a lot of misinformation and disinformation for us to sift through, let alone our children.

Do come and join us for our popular **Fireworks Night event on the 11th of November** which is open to the public. Do secure your tickets by following the link on the poster. I hope to see you there at the 'Little Village School with a Big Heart!'

Mrs S Lee, Headteacher



DORNEY SCHOOL FIREWORKS

A large, vibrant illustration of fireworks exploding in a dark night sky. The fireworks are depicted in shades of pink, purple, yellow, and blue, with long, trailing sparks. The background is black with small white dots representing stars or distant fireworks.

**SATURDAY 15
NOVEMBER 2025
5PM-7PM**

**MUSIC
HOT FOOD
DRINKS
TREATS
GLOW TOYS
RAFFLE**

Early bird offer until 24 October 2025

- Family saver ticket £25
- Adult £8
- Children (4+) £6
- Under 4s Free
- Book early for best price

To purchase your tickets, please visit
[HTTPS://BUYTICKETS.AT/DORNEYPTA/1871156](https://buytickets.at/dorneypta/1871156)



DORNEY SCHOOL

Harcourt Close, Dorney Reach, Maidenhead SL6 0DY

**Ofsted
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'Good'
2025**

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

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



You are welcome to attend our open events 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.



WE'RE GROWING ST NICHOLAS PLAYGROUP!

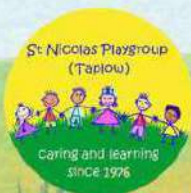
Coming to Dorney Village Hall

JANUARY 2026

- ✓ 8AM - 4PM
- ✓ Specially designed for little ones aged 9 months to 2 years
- ✓ We are also hiring - do you know someone kind, caring and passionate about early years?

Please get in touch to find out more:

manager@stnicolasplaygroup.co.uk



AUTUMN 1915

In the autumn of 1915, Britain had been at war for over a year. As the harvest was completed and leaves began to fall from the trees, what was on the mind of people living in Dorney 90 years ago?

Anyone picking up a copy of the Windsor and Eton Express in October 1915 would find plenty of reminders of the conflict. Conscription was not introduced until January 1916; in the meantime, young men were urged to volunteer. The Army recruiting officer for Bucks proudly announced that recruitment in the county was ahead of neighbouring counties in the "Great European War Stakes" and exhorted local people to maintain this lead. The paper published lists of those serving as well as those killed, wounded, taken prisoner or reported missing. On 9 October it was noted that Private Moses Hill from Dorney had been wounded in action and admitted to hospital in France. Moses had been a farm waggoner before the conflict, like his father and brothers, and he had enlisted as soon as war broke out, aged 24. This was the third time he had been hospitalised and in January 1916 he was discharged from the army as unfit for war service. Sometimes the paper reproduced a letter sent from a soldier on the front line, as for example one from the son of the Keeper of Burnham Beeches to his father, describing how he was wounded in France and avoided being taken prisoner by Germans. These real-life accounts of personal experience in the trenches could be counterbalanced with an illustrated lecture, in Windsor, by a war correspondent for the Illustrated London News.

There were plenty of reminders of what those at home could do to support the troops. Strong waterproof brown paper was advertised as suitable for sending parcels to those serving abroad. These parcels were an essential means of keeping soldiers supplied with necessities like toiletries, handkerchiefs, socks and tobacco as well little luxuries like homemade cake. Lifebuoy soap was promoted in an advert as helping to combat disease. The Primrose League in Slough appealed for help to make 600 helmets urgently needed for the front; these were probably knitted balaclavas, for which the Red Cross provided approved patterns. Fundraising efforts abounded, from a "patriotic bazaar" to Red Cross collection days when those *"living in safety and comfort"* were asked to *"repay....a small fraction of our debt"*.



The impact of the war on everyday life seems to have been relatively small. In August, there had been a national registration of all civilians aged between 15 and 65, to determine how many people were available for military service or other essential work. Individuals were issued with a registration certificate and the newspaper reminded its readers that any subsequent permanent change of address should be notified to the authorities. Zeppelin air raids had taken place over London in September and October, and it was questioned whether this might lead to restrictions on showing lights, but for now cyclists were still being fined for failing to have lights on at night. A free course of four lectures on wartime gardening was offered in Slough and ladies were "specially invited" to attend. Doubts were raised over whether the usual fireworks celebrations for 5 November would be able to go ahead. The cinema in Windsor offered a range of entertainment, including a Western, two Charlie Chaplin films and pictures of Lord Kitchener's visit to the French Army.

The local authority covering Dorney at the time was Eton Rural District Council. Among the subjects under discussion were an alleged nuisance from Slough Council's sewage farm in

Dorney and whether patching roads was a satisfactory method of long-term repair. The county council, meanwhile, was grappling with the new requirement to set up a county agricultural committee, which would work with the farming community to maximise food production.

Without doubt one of the main topics of conversation in Dorney would have been a burglary which took place in Lake End on 30 October. Living there in the house called Pond Leys was Countess Mollie Russell. She was an interesting character who in the summer had been divorced for the third time, this time from Frank, 2nd Earl Russell and elder brother of Bertrand Russell. Mollie wrote books and short stories and was politically active, campaigning for votes and equality for women. On 29 October, she had left her house in Lake End to spend a weekend in Brighton. A 15-year-old local girl, Evelyn Prater, worked as a maid in the house and her father Albert Prater worked in the garden. The next day they discovered the house had been broken into by forcing open a ground floor window and the rooms inside had been ransacked. The countess was summoned home by telegram and identified the items which had been taken – jewellery and wristwatches, and a cheque book, worth in total £33 (about £2,000 today). Fortunately for the peace of mind of Dorney residents, it did not take long for the Burnham police to make an arrest, the suspect being a man who had previously sold the countess a load of peat.

Dorney was also mourning the death of the vicar's only son. From a military family, James Henry Moriarty, known as Jack, had joined the Royal Artillery before the war, becoming a Second Lieutenant in December 1912. When war broke out, he was serving in the 2nd



Battery Siege Brigade. Siege batteries fired heavy guns from behind the front line with the aim of destroying the enemy's artillery and supply routes, though they had not previously been used in trench warfare. At short notice Jack left for France with his unit in September 1914 in response to Sir John French's urgent request for heavy guns. The battery was immediately in action at the first Battle of Aisne and then at

the Battle of La Bassée in October/November 1914. Jack was mentioned in despatches, but he was also wounded. He returned to recover with his parents in Dorney, where his father had recently been appointed rector. Once he was again fully fit and now promoted to Lieutenant, he was assigned to another siege battery and went back to France on 27 September 1915. Barely 2 weeks later, he was killed in an accident while performing a dangerous duty. He was 22 years old.

Jack's major wrote these words about him: *"From a military point of view his energy, common sense, resource and thorough knowledge of his work marked him as a most promising officer, and his death is a loss not merely to the battery but to the whole regiment and to the Service in general"*. The loss felt by his parents and sisters must have been acute. Jack left a permanent mark in Dorney, in the form of a stained-glass window he designed for St James' church while he was convalescing at the vicarage. After his death, his design was executed and remains as his memorial.



Virginia Silvester

Free Parking Around Taplow Station Will Soon Disappear



Buckinghamshire Highways have been consulting on their proposals to deal with congestion in the roads immediately surrounding Taplow station. This consultation ended on October 17th.

By next summer Dorney residents who have been used to parking freely on these roads, be they occasional Elizabeth Line users or regular commuters, may well face a less welcome scenario of double yellow lines, time limits and pay-by-phone parking.

Bucks, very much driven by Taplow Parish Council, have reacted to what the latter identifies as a 'crisis' by seeking to manage and control demand for parking. Surely someone should be thinking of how to expand its supply.

Over four decades this writer commuted daily to London and for some of that time the only option was catching a train at Taplow and parking, for free, locally. This meant hoping to be up there before about a quarter to seven to get one of the hallowed (and rather safer) slots immediately outside the station. Not unpleasant in the summer maybe, but I recall with a shudder the lonely dark trudge along a seemingly endless line of vehicles strung along Station Road. But a residual sympathy remains for the hard-pressed commuter who pays a fortune for their journey and hopes for at least a free parking slot.

But that for me finished in the noughties. Times have changed. The Office for Rail and Road publish data on the total usage of stations. With 460,000 entries and exits in 2023-24, Taplow showed an increase of 53% on 2022-23 and 43% on the pre-Covid year of 2019-20. This upsurge far surpasses any numbers from neighbouring stations. For instance, Slough and Maidenhead rather languish below pre-Covid levels. One bulletin published for rail professionals in the capital remarked that this increase in passengers was 'hard to explain.... the station is not the obvious one to use if not from the immediate area.' Oh yes it is, if the aim of many of those new passengers is to take advantage of both the Elizabeth Line plus all that free parking on surrounding semi-rural roads.

I think we all know what happened next. Elizabeth Line services started from Taplow in May 2022. Two years later Taplow Parish Council was describing parking around the station as having reached "crisis point" due to the Elizabeth Line. Most of us have probably experienced this crisis, with Approach Road (immediately outside the station) at the core of complaints with an effectively one-way system in place since two cars can't pass without one reversing or pulling over. A notorious incident saw one resident describe how in icy conditions she had to reverse a long way because of a blocked road. She said she was "left shaking."

Here is another case of a parish council taking the initiative over Bucks Council, mirroring Dorney's experience with Orchard Herbs and speeding on Dorney Common. Taplow PC surveyed opinion, held two public meetings and developed a business case submitted to Bucks. The council have been funding temporary parking restrictions on Approach Road which have been well received. They have applied for an 'invest to save' initiative whereby paid for parking bays will ensure that 'commuters to the railway station will fund the parking project.'

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

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The proposals as set out on the Bucks Council website seem pretty draconian. Approach Road will see a mixture of pay by phone bays and double yellow lines indicating no parking at any time. There will be a few 'waiting limited to 10 minutes' bays near the station entrance with no stopping outside the station and pick up limited to 2 minutes. Almost all the current parking areas along Station Road will be pay by phone bays, with the rest double yellow lines. Boundary Road leading up to Taplow Village sees a mixture of double yellow lines and resident parking bays. There will be some bays with waiting limited to 2 hours on Boundary Road leading towards Burnham.

Wait for it.... On-street pay by phone charges are proposed at £5.50 per weekday and suggested residents' parking permits on Boundary Road start at £66 per annum for one car. This all may be controversial, certainly among commuters, but less so I'm sure will be the proposal to eliminate the current parking at the top of Marsh Lane running down to the first houses by means of those now familiar double yellow lines.

There is not yet any definitive idea of any concerted opposition, but there is evidence (e.g. from social media) of fears over additional costs to the hard pressed commuter, over the complications of pay by phone parking when trains have to be caught, worries that free parking will shift to roadsides further away, and worries about the subsequent longer dark walks, particularly for women commuters.

But it seems Taplow and Bucks councils' current strategy is to manage and control parking and not to examine alternatives such as approve a brand-new large carpark. Almost a decade ago, the Hitcham and Taplow Society pointed to this need and claimed that less parking provision was planned for Taplow compared to other Elizabeth Line stations. Both Maidenhead and Burnham have had considerable parking upgrades and Iver has a 310-space car park planned. In all fairness, the car parks offering 101 places at Taplow have recently been handsomely upgraded.

If National Rail and Transport for London are unable to fund large scale development off-site, is it fanciful to suggest that Bucks Council might one day grasp this nettle? This is a subject Dorney Parish News intends to explore further and monitor in the future. The Roots Garden Centre site south of the station is currently being marketed and considered in local plan allocations for employment or office use. The land to the west, at one time some sort of driver training centre was one of the brown field sites nominated by Bucks Council for residential development. We are intrigued by the wasteland, opposite the station building entrance, between Approach Road and Taplow village – once a playing field? This seems to be just undeveloped green belt land on which there appear to have been no recent planning applications.

This speculation is prompted by fears that Bucks Council's current parking recommendations, while undoubtedly popular with the majority of local residents, and in the case of Marsh Lane very welcome to Dorney residents, is unrelentingly harsh on those who seek free parking as a means of getting to work, not to mention those householders hit by novel resident parking charges.

Peter Bowman



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Orchard Herbs - Compliance Officer's November Assessment Will Be Critical

Three months after the enforcement deadline, the Parish Council has reported both encouraging engagement from Buckinghamshire Council and continuing frustration at the lack of actual progress on site.

The Evidence: Zero Meaningful Progress



DPC commissioned drone photography to provide objective evidence of site clearance. The results are stark:

14 July 2025 (3 days after deadline): 40+ trucks, 18 containers, mobile home, structures

14 October 2025 (3 months after deadline): 38 trucks, 19 containers, mobile home, structures

While some minor hardstanding has been removed and debris moved around, the fundamental breach remains unchanged. After twelve months to comply (including the Inspector's three-month extension), virtually nothing has been cleared.

Compliance Officer's Position

Billy Johal, Buckinghamshire Council's Senior Compliance and Enforcement Officer, has maintained professional engagement throughout. Following his September site visit, Billy Johal allowed additional time for compliance based on the landowner's continued assurances of progress.

Billy Johal has confirmed he will conduct another site visit in November. His assessment at that point will determine next steps: if significant clearance has occurred, more time may be justified; if not, legal proceedings will commence.

The Established Pattern

Long-term residents will recognise a familiar cycle from the past 20 years: promises of compliance, cosmetic changes to simulate progress, fundamental breach continuing unchanged, enforcement pressure gradually easing.

The Planning Inspector's October 2024 decision described this as representing "*a longer and more flagrant period of intentional unauthorised development*" than he had "*rarely encountered*," noting "*total and flagrant disregard for planning control over a number of decades*."

November - A Critical Juncture

Billy Johal's November assessment represents a critical moment. The landowner has had:

- 9 months to the original deadline (11 July)
- 3 additional months since the deadline passed
- Clear warnings that legal action would follow without progress

If no significant clearance has occurred by November, the evidence will be irrefutable that voluntary compliance has failed comprehensively - again.

Legal Options Available

Should voluntary compliance fail, the Council can pursue:

Criminal Prosecution: Can impose substantial fines but cannot compel site clearance. Recent cases show £10,000-£20,000 fines, with unlimited fines possible in Crown Court. **However, conviction doesn't guarantee the breach will be remedied.**

Direct Action: Council physically clears the site and recovers all costs from the landowner. **This offers certainty of outcome regardless of voluntary cooperation.** All costs are legally recoverable through charges on the property, making this zero net cost to taxpayers.

Community Expectations

After 20 years of enforcement failures, residents deserve decisive action backed by clear timelines and accountability. The community has shown extraordinary patience, but that patience requires reciprocal respect through measurable progress or alternative enforcement measures.

The November assessment will reveal whether this latest period of negotiation has been genuine progress toward compliance or simply another chapter in two decades of delay.

Bill Dax

A bridge too far gone

A large team moved in from October 20th to set about the task of removing the collapsed Ashford Lane footbridge. A day or two later, we paid them a visit. Early in the morning, the site was eerily empty, although it was clear that the guys had spent the first few days building a considerable base for their operations. Then I heard shouts and rumbling. A mighty juggernaut, presumably lifting equipment, was slowly edging around the corner in the footpath. I walked towards the imposing sight yet



wondered why the guys were waving and what were they shouting. Then I realised they were warning me against impending collision with the machine and I was holding up their progress.

A few moments later they were surprisingly friendly. The real work starts next week. The bridge will be lifted and removed on Wednesday – alas, that's October 29th, after this issue goes to press. 'If you come to see that, whatever you do keep out of the way!' the boss said.

The bridge declared 'unsafe' and shut at the end of 2023 finally collapsed on June 26th this year. An engineer's assessment in July 2024 recommended full replacement with weathering steel and a long design life (120 years), rather than short-term repairs, and Dorney Parish Council is calling for this. The Environment Agency handed over responsibility for the bridge to Bucks Council, and we wait to hear about replacement from them. A footbridge is required on that spot to preserve existing footpaths.

Peter Bowman



Volunteer Needed – Assist Dorney Parish Council with Flood Mapping

Dorney Parish Council is seeking a volunteer with experience in **GIS mapping, planning, or flood risk analysis** to assist us in understanding recent changes to the Environment Agency's Flood Zones.

The Council is particularly concerned about flood risk across the parish and proposed developments such as **Court Farm** and **Boveney Court Farm**, together with flood risk changes along **Dorney Reach Road**. We need to compare the updated flood maps (March 2025) with the previous versions. This will contribute towards the Bucks Local Plan and the Dorney Neighbourhood Plan.

We also need to fully understand the full facts regarding the flooding defence provided by the Jubilee River – designed for a 1 in 65 year event – but now 1 in 25 years, due to initial design faults.

If you have the technical skills and a little time to spare, your help could make a real difference to our community's ability to respond to these and future planning challenges.

Please contact the Parish Clerk, **Ruth Senior**, at clerk@dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk if you can help.

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Dorney Parish Council Responds to the Draft Buckinghamshire Local Plan

Dorney Parish Council (DPC) has submitted a detailed 42-page response to Buckinghamshire Council's consultation on its Draft Local Plan 2026–2045, which will guide how and where development takes place across the county over the next 20 years.

While DPC recognises the need for new homes across Buckinghamshire, the Council's message is clear: **Dorney is fundamentally unsuitable for large-scale housing or employment development.**

Why Dorney is Different

The response draws on the 2023 Dorney Residents' Survey, recent planning appeal decisions, the Environment Agency's March 2025 flood-risk maps, and work on the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. All of this evidence points in the same direction: Dorney lies within the Thames floodplain, almost entirely inside the Metropolitan Green Belt, with limited road capacity and very little public transport. The village's historic character, heritage buildings and open landscape are what make it special – and what make it an **inappropriate location for major development.**

Flood Risk and Infrastructure

The updated Environment Agency flood maps show that virtually all of Dorney's brownfield sites are now classified as high flood risk (Zones 2 or 3b). DPC's submission argues that development must strictly follow the sequential, risk-based approach set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – meaning safer, urban sites must always come first.

The Council also highlights long-standing local issues: narrow rural lanes such as Lake End Road, Marsh Lane and Court Lane are already at capacity, emergency access is restricted, and the A4 corridor is increasingly congested. The area has only one small primary school and no GP surgery. Water, drainage and sewerage infrastructure are already under pressure, and surface-water flooding is a recurring concern.

Green Belt Protection

Protecting the Green Belt remains a central theme of DPC's response. The parish performs every one of the Green Belt's key purposes – **checking urban sprawl, preventing coalescence** between Slough, Burnham, Taplow and Maidenhead, and **safeguarding the open floodplain countryside.**

Recent planning appeals at Orchard Herbs and Boveney Court Farm, both dismissed by inspectors in 2024, confirm that development here would cause unacceptable harm to the Green Belt and landscape character.

“Call for Sites” Submissions

DPC has raised strong objections to a number of local sites promoted through Buckinghamshire Council's Call for Sites process, including those owned by Eton College and the Society of Merchant Venturers (SMV).

The fields south of M4 Junction 7, now within Dorney Parish following the March 2025 boundary change, are owned by the Society of Merchant Venturers (SMV), a long-established Bristol charitable trust.

The SMV traces its origins to a medieval guild of merchants and received its royal charter in 1552. Over subsequent centuries, its members became influential in Bristol's civic and commercial life. Historical research has shown that a number of its members, including **Edward Colston**, were directly involved in or benefited from the **trans-**



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Atlantic slave trade. These associations have been widely discussed in recent years, including during the 2020 debates surrounding Colston's statue in Bristol.

Today, the SMV describes itself as a modern charitable organisation focusing on education, elder care, and community initiatives in Bristol. It also continues to manage extensive land holdings, one of which is now within Dorney Parish.

These fields were submitted by the SMV for potential housing even though they lie entirely in the Green Belt and largely within Flood Zone 3.

Bucks Council's own earlier assessment (for the now-defunct Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan) described this land as:

"Green Belt site, not previously developed. In use for agriculture. Part of the site is within Flood Risk Zone 3b."

DPC has reaffirmed that position and formally objected to its inclusion in the new Local Plan.

Gypsy and Traveller Sites

While supporting the need for suitable accommodation across Buckinghamshire, DPC makes clear that **no sites in Dorney** meet the necessary safety or sustainability criteria. The **Orchard Herbs site**, in particular, remains contaminated and subject to enforcement action, and all other potential plots are in flood-risk zones or lack safe access.

Heritage, Landscape and the Environment

The response emphasises Dorney's exceptional heritage – two Conservation Areas, more than forty listed buildings, including the Grade I listed Dorney Court, St James the Less Church and St Mary Magdalene, Boveney.

Policies on **biodiversity, green infrastructure, trees, lighting and landscape character** are all strongly supported, with added calls for greater protection of Dorney Common, Lake End Common, Trumper's Field, and the parish's network of public footpaths, including the Thames Path and Jubilee River routes.

DPC also supports policies to achieve local biodiversity net gain, manage water quality, and protect dark skies from light pollution.

Neighbourhood and Community Priorities

The Council urges Bucks to strengthen policies that protect **community facilities** such as Dorney School, the Village Hall, the Palmer Arms and the Pineapple pubs, and to recognise the health and wellbeing benefits of **open green space**.

It also calls for better enforcement of planning conditions, recognition of cumulative development impacts, and policies to prevent loss of local amenity through inappropriate changes of use.

Next Steps

Buckinghamshire Council will now review all consultation responses and publish a revised draft Local Plan for further consultation in 2027. Dorney Parish Council will continue to engage at every stage to ensure local evidence is reflected in the final plan.

Residents who wish to read the full submission can download it from the Planning section of the Dorney Parish Council website:

www.dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk

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JOY MORRISSEY MP

Standing up for the Beaconsfield Constituency



It is an absolute pleasure to write once again for *Dorney Parish News*. It has been a busy month across the constituency, standing up for the issues that matter most to residents here in Dorney, as well as those in Beaconsfield, Marlow, and our South Bucks villages.

Locally, I've continued to hold my regular surgeries, listening to residents about how I can best support them, from housing concerns and education, to helping our fantastic local businesses thrive.

Over recent months, I have been campaigning hard on the issue of smartphones in schools. This month, I met with Nova Eden to hear about the growing impact that smartphones are having on children and young people across the country. It's clear that we must do more to protect our children from online harms and help them focus on learning and wellbeing. I will be bringing these concerns to Parliament, standing alongside local parents and young people who want to see change.

One of my favourite parts of this job is visiting our wonderful local schools. I really enjoyed speaking with pupils at The Beaconsfield School and visiting the brilliant Carrington Infant School in Flackwell Heath. Each school teaches children at a very different stage of their education, but both shared the same warm and inspiring spirit. Thank you to everyone who welcomed me, it was a real pleasure to spend time with you.

I have also heard from hundreds of residents, including many here in Dorney, about the Government's proposed Digital ID plans. I share your concerns. Digital ID is not the right move, it won't stop illegal immigration, but it will threaten our civil liberties. It risks paving the way for mass surveillance and greater state control. The British public deserves effective policies to secure our borders and uphold the law, not another measure that undermines our freedoms.

In previous columns, I have written about the Burnham Day Centre. I want to reassure you that I am still working closely with parents, carers, and local stakeholders on this issue. The proposed decision to close down these centres is the wrong one, and I will continue to fight for their future.

Finally, it was wonderful to meet in Parliament with the dedicated teams who keep our hospices running across the country. Earlier this year, I led a debate calling on the Government to properly support our hospices and to reverse its decision to impose a damaging National Insurance increase on them. Hospices are lifelines for families facing their toughest moments - they deserve support, not added costs.

As always, if you need any help or support, please don't hesitate to contact me at joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk. I will continue to champion the issues that matter most to you.

Wishing everyone in Dorney a wonderful month ahead.

Joy Morrissey MP

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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

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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
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2025	Oct	3, 10, 17, 24, 31	3, 17, 31	10, 24	3, 17, 31	3, 17, 31	3, 17, 31
	Nov	7, 14, 21, 28	14, 28	7, 21	14, 28	14, 28	14, 28
	Dec	5, 12, 19, 29	12, 26	5, 19	12, 29	12, 29	12, 29
2026	Jan	5, 10, 16, 23, 30	9, 23	5, 16, 30	10, 23	10, 23	10, 23
	Feb	6, 13, 20, 27	6, 20	13, 27	6, 20	6, 20	6, 20
	Mar	6, 13, 20, 27	6, 20	13, 27	6, 20	6, 20	6, 20

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Dorney Parish News

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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.

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BHS & ABRS Approved Riding School and Pony Club Centre



**Elm Farm, Boveney Road, Dorney Common
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