

Dorney Parish News

December 2025/January 2026



Happy Christmas and New Year
From Dorney Parish News

(with thanks to Paul Humpleman for the seasonal photograph of St James the Less, Dorney)



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

Last December we nominated '*The Inspector*' as the Dorney Person of the Year. This year the award should go to '*The Veteran*'. There is no doubt that Dorney is home to a band of active very long-term residents. Sometimes they tell us they have stories to tell, and we will attempt to tell them in future. This award is prompted by this column's personal pleasure in recently celebrating the 95th birthday of John Barker and, to prove my point, in February John vastly entertained Dorney Horticultural Society with his thoughts on 'Farming Today' in a double act at Crocus with William Emmett.

Was there a 'hero' of the year? Well, there was one entity that everybody rushed to defend like some tattered and beleaguered standard in a battle, and that was the *Green Belt*. The housing minister has described 'this policy designed in the middle of the last century' as needing to be 'updated to work today'. Communities like Dorney are learning how to navigate between an admirable objective of building a maximum number of houses and wholesale and scary changes to the National Planning Policy Framework. The most triumphant defence of the Green Belt was the apparent 'defeat' of the 'Taplow New Town' proposals which emerged from nowhere early in the year. Building 20,000 new homes in Taplow was not one of the twelve recommendations of the Government's New Towns Taskforce in the autumn, and there is no evidence of any serious consideration given to this area. The triumph lies in the comprehensive objection jointly mounted by Dorney, Taplow and Burnham Parish Councils. As Bill Dax wrote in October this 'confirms that well researched local opposition, grounded in planning policy and technical constraints, can successfully influence national decision making'. Amen to that, but as we go to press, we wonder whether a 'new town' will be built in stages as a consultation begins over a proposed one thousand homes west of Lent Rise Road.

If there was a virtue required of Dorney residents in 2025 it was *patience*. As autumn arrived, we noted that the July deadline for clearance of the Orchard Herbs site was well passed and a 'familiar delaying pattern from the last two decades' was obvious. As recently as our latest issue (November) we revealed that drone photography indicated 'zero meaningful progress' on site clearance. But at year end there are grounds for optimism. In this very issue we set out how persistent pressure from Dorney Parish Council has prompted meaningful action by Bucks Council as the latter's policy of conciliation has resulted in half the trucks being now removed. Talking of 'patience', the latest Eton College application over Boveney Court Farm went before Bucks Planning Committee in September resulting in maybe a score draw for the village as any decision was deferred as further information was required. The response majors on future flooding risks as it does over the ongoing Eton application over Court Farm. Meanwhile Dorney's long awaited Neighbourhood Plan is in limbo awaiting Bucks Council's own Local Plan, likely in 2027, to which our NP must conform. Bucks' own consultation on its LP came and went rapidly in October.

That patience is running out over the Ashford Lane bridge. The southern span of the wooden constructed bridge collapsed in June, the bridge having been closed for safety reasons since late 2023. Confirmation is currently sought of Bucks Council's undertaking to reconstruct in their next financial year. Our view was that the 'community deserves infrastructure built to last, not the failed 25-year lifespan we've just witnessed'.

Picking up on unfinished business from 2024's review....Alas, cows have continued to perish, and Michelle Boshier took to media like BBC News to beg drivers to restrain from speeding, but still there is no agreement with Bucks over a 40mph limit on Dorney Common. The May Annual Parish Meeting was a lovely occasion at Dorney Lake, but year-round entry for

residents was specifically ruled out by the Bursar (and DPN wishes Janet Walker a happy retirement). Court Lane and Marsh Lane still await re-surfacing; it's always in the next financial year. Dorney does now have a vicar as Andreas Sistig arrived in October as 'Priest in charge Eton with Eton Wick, Boveney and Dorney and Associate Minister Datchet'. Andrew 'Olly' Oliver our Rewilding (and owls) expert is in discussion with Thames Water as they seek to improve their Borehole Field and this year Dorney Reach's telephone box library remained undisturbed. Sadly, we paid tribute to Jean Tyler, historian and photographer (and much else besides) who passed away in January. 'We will not see her like again' we wrote.

This year the Parish Council became sole trustees of the Village Hall and to quote Ruth Senior, the splendid Hall Manager, a 'fantastic transformation' has flowed from a 'full programme of upgrades'. A new playschool opens there in January, the Hall is once again the meeting place of the Parish Council, who have just filled one of their two vacancies, in the Hall in September Dorney Horticultural Society organised a wonderful Annual Show with adult entries up 20% and children's up 30%, and once again Corinne Carlisle's Studios School put on a superb summer show, *Mama Mia*, on the Hall stage. Incidentally, the new Hall deserves a village production, and this column would place a bet on seeing a Dorney village pantomime a year from now.

Carousel's new number 15 bus route opened up a much-enjoyed alternative route to Eton and beyond from April. Ettie Brand drove on the Playground Committee and their smart new fence was marked (of course) by a party while the MUGA, tennis court and even the playground itself were refurbished, and we noted the fact that on one early summer day Maria Holloway's tuck shop sold a record number of ice creams. Litter plagued the Playground until the bin provision was sorted, but this remains a major parish challenge and even our May cover featured 30 bags of rubbish in a Land Rover after the community litter pick. Litter complaints feature on the Fix My Street website where recently we've been warned about a bizarre new trend, abandoned vehicles. As we write, there are three in Dorney Reach – more on this annoying and possibly criminal trend in 2026. Talking of the bizarre, we even carried a story on a kite being flown by Slough Council that they could seek to be the 33rd London borough, bringing the boundaries of the capital to the edge of our parish and pearly kings parading on Dorney Common.

Talking of politics...the May council elections saw Dorney in a new ward, Burnham, with a changed social composition from the former Cliveden. Our three Conservative councillors became two Conservatives and one Reform UK. Bucks slipped from Conservative to No Overall Control, but a minority Conservative cabinet doesn't seem to have led to chaos or paralysis but hopes that a new balance would save the Burnham Daycare Centre from closure were soon dashed.

Faster broadband for Dorney has returned as a popular demand and calls for all who wish to move up to FTTP ('full fibre to the premises') to register with potential suppliers appeared in our pages. Masterminded by Bill Dax, the complete DPN archive of over 700 editions from 1961 onwards is now available in fully searchable format on the Dorney History website. Thinking of things educational, we salute our local Dorney School. After two challenging OFSTED's last June the school was judged 'Good' in all five categories. Let 2026 be the year of the 'Volunteer' – come on, Dorney as we write we know DHS, Playground for Dorney, the Parish Council and, yes, this magazine, all need volunteers to help.

We thank our writers, advertisers and distributors, and of course, you the readers for all the support given in 2025. May you all enjoy the best of Christmas holidays, however you celebrate them. See you again not in January, but in February. Thank you.

£5 off

Christmas Tree
when showing
this magazine

Christmas at CROCUS — at — DORNEY COURT

Christmas has arrived at our Garden Centre! Our fresh Christmas trees are now in, the shop is brimming with sparkling decorations, and Santa is back with his magical Grotto, Santa Paws and festive Breakfast with Santa events. Plus, our café is serving a delicious new menu come and enjoy the full Christmas experience with us!

SCAN QR CODE TO
BOOK YOUR NEXT
CHRISTMAS EVENT!



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,

What is your favourite thing about Advent? Perhaps it's the lights in your home, the tree, the Christmas music, or simply the joy of knowing Christmas is near? For me, ever since I can remember, it has been the smell and taste of my mum's Christmas biscuits and, since coming to the English-speaking world, the beauty of our English Advent and Christmas carols.

But I wonder what comes to your mind. What do you love about this season?

I ask these questions not for sentimental reasons, but because this time of year, beginning with Advent, is an invitation. It invites us to step away, even briefly, from the business, noise, planning, and the pressure to be constantly cheerful. Advent encourages us to pause each day and become conscious of what this season is truly about: readying our hearts to receive anew God's love, shown in the fragile, innocent form of a baby.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with joy or celebration—I believe Jesus himself loved a good party! But he also knew the value of stepping back, seeking stillness, and listening for God's whisper. That, I think, is Advent's invitation to us.

Small, intentional daily pauses can shape how we move through our day, especially in such a demanding season. This is echoed throughout the Christmas story. Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the wise men all listened for God's call and stepped out of their comfort zones to follow it. Well, all except Herod, who did the opposite and tried to manipulate events for his own purposes.

Reflecting on these characters makes me wonder how God may be calling us during this season to listen and discern his voice and then, strengthened by that encounter, to bravely step out and show God's unconditional love to someone else.

In doing so, we become part of the ongoing story God is writing—almost a sequel to the original nativity.

As St John writes in his prologue: "The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth." When we follow God's call, we help bring that grace, truth and dare I say hope into the world.

I want to leave you with a few words about hope by the late Pope Francis which for me very much describe that concept of discerning God's call and then faithfully stepping out in trust and courage to be force of good in the world.

"Feeling hopeful does not mean to be optimistically naïve and ignore the tragedy humanity is facing. Hope is the virtue of a heart that doesn't lock itself into darkness, that doesn't dwell on the past, does not simply get by in the present, but is able to see a tomorrow.

Hope is the door that opens onto the future.

Hope is a humble, hidden seed of life that, with time, will develop into a large tree.

It is like some invisible yeast that allows the whole dough to grow, that brings flavour to all aspects of life.

And it can do so much, because a tiny flicker of light that feeds on hope is enough to shatter the shield of darkness.

A single individual is enough for hope to exist, and that individual can be you.

And then there will be another "you,"

and another "you," and it turns into an "us."

And so, does hope begin when we have an "us?"

No.

Hope began with one "you."

When there is an "us," there begins a revolution."

And for this revolution of hope and love and light is what we prepare ourselves in the season of Advent.

Yours in Christ,

Andreas.

Team Rector

Church Services in December 2025 and January 2026

Wednesday 3rd December

10.00 am Morning Worship

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 7th December

9.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00 am Any Age Service

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

3.00 pm Advent Carol Service

St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

Sunday 14th December

9.30 am Holy Communion (with Carols)

St James the Less, Dorney

11.00 am Holy Communion & Carols

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 17th December

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 21st December

11.00 am Holy Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

6.30 pm Carols by Candlelight

St James the Less, Dorney

Tuesday 24th December: Christmas Eve

3.00 pm Christingle Service
4.30 pm Christingle Service
11.30 pm Midnight Communion

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

Wednesday 25th December: Christmas Day

10.15 am Christmas Family Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 28th December

9.30 am Morning Worship
11.00 am Morning Worship

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

Sunday 4th January

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

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

Wednesday 7th January

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 11th January

9.30am Holy Communion
11.00am Holy Communion

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

Sunday 18th January

9.30 am Holy Communion
11.00 am Holy Communion

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

Wednesday 21st January

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 25th January

9.30am Morning Worship
11.00am Holy Communion

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



St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

Advent carol Service by Candlelight 1500hrs Sunday 7th December 2025

This beautiful church on the Thames is open daily.

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



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)

New shoots at the Thames Water field in Dorney Reach

Many of you may well have been taken a bit by surprise when some rather large agricultural looking machines rolled into the Thames Water field a couple of weeks ago. After plans were announced in 2022 to manage the field for nature-based outcomes nothing much has happened post the tree planning which almost all failed after the hot summer of 2022.

I think most residents of Harcourt Road received a flyer from Thames Water announcing that some “grass cutting” would be taking place but that didn’t really seem to cover the extent of the activities that then seemed to be taking place but thankfully some more detail was revealed via our local MP, talking to the contractors in the field and from Thames Water themselves.

What seems clear is that Thames Water (TW) do have a plan to encourage biodiversity in the field. All funding for this was cut until 2025 but now funding for biodiversity has been released to cover management/habitat creation on their most ecologically sensitive sites; they have nearly 6000 sites across 18 counties. A TW contractor has carried out grassland management as per the Ecosulis management plan drawn up in 2021.



It is recognised by TW that there are opportunities to improve this site further, along with others in their catchment, and have had to go through a tender process in order to award biodiversity enhancement work to a principal contractor.

You can see from the map on the left that approx. half of the field in yellow will be left as scrub / regen trees and the rest in purple will be hay meadow. The purple symbols represent areas of brash / dead hedge (i.e. piles of the scrub they have cut down).

Once procured, the principal contractor for the biodiversity work will liaise with the local community and stakeholders to discuss what biodiversity enhancements are right for the site. This will feed into a detailed design and programme of how they will deliver nature recovery in order to achieve TW biodiversity performance commitment targets.

Nothing additional, aside from the grassland management, has been decided for the site at the moment and will be decided once they have a Principal Contractor on board. After which stakeholder engagement will be undertaken.

The contractor also mentioned they have had to clear a lot of fly tipping and I spoke to the team that were putting a new gate on to the field entrance off Dorney Reach Road to prevent the same.

The Thames Water property team also confirmed the following over email:

- We have had a trained ecologist on site performing an ecological clerk of works during all of this work and a method statement in place for reptiles. We've done the work before the weather has dropped to hibernation conditions, and everything done under a watching brief.
- I can confirm that all works have been carried out in accordance with the site-specific Reasonable Avoidance Method Statement which details an approach to ensure all works avoid harm to wildlife (including reptiles), in accordance with wildlife legislation and best practice guidelines. All areas of suitable habitat were hand searched by an ecologist to ensure no reptiles were present before commencing works. Works will be finished for the season by Wednesday.
- The issue with the tree guards and resulting litter is known by the site team. They advised that they sought to remove as many tree guards as possible prior to works, but many were very brittle making it impossible to remove where entangled in tall vegetation. It was determined it would be easier to remove them once the vegetation was shorter, and a full litter pick will be carried out once grassland cutting is complete. Thames Water policy is to use environmentally friendly, biodegradable tree guards. As such all tree guards installed at Dorney are not made of plastic and any missed pieces on completion will eventually naturally degrade into the soil.

Hopefully, Thames Water and/or their Principal Contractor will provide further information ongoing. In any nature based or rewilding project involving the local community is usually seen as a positive (and essential) element of success.

Olly Oliver

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

DORNEY SCHOOL



RESPECT * COLLABORATE * GROW
Headteacher: Mrs Lee

Just before we broke up for the October half-term, children and staff joined in for a very colourful Diwali celebration with craft activities, dance workshops and a fantastic bake sale. Nearly £200 was raised at the event. This amount will be used to purchase classroom resources that will enhance learning in a national landscape of reduced school funding.



Remembrance Assembly

Every year, our Year 6 pupils organise a poignant assembly where parents and the whole school are reminded of the sacrifices made for our freedom, and we reflect on the ongoing conflicts and victims of war. This year, the children talked about recognising the contributions and sacrifices from people and soldiers across the former British Empire and around the world; many pupils talking about the contributions of their own family. Did you know that over nine million non-English soldiers served in WW1 and over five million from across the Commonwealth served in WW2? There is so much more to unite than divide us, and we must hold firm that we all have equal rights and equivalent responsibilities in our society.





POWELL TAEKWONDO CLASSES

DORNEY VILLAGE HALL

MONDAYS

MINI MASTERS

ages 3 - 7 at 1630 - 1715

JUNIORS/FAMILY

1730 - 1830 (Ages 8 +)



**2 FREE TRIAL
CLASSES!**

- **JOINING FEE £40**
includes uniform and
first months classes
- **£35 a month**

**Experienced Instructors
who have represented England
in various competitions**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU ON THE MAT!**

**Email: dorney@powelltkd.co.uk
Mobile 07725494871**



Dorney Village Hall – A Fresh New Chapter!

Over the past 3 years, it has been my pleasure to manage Dorney Village Hall during an exciting period of renewal and transition, including the move to Dorney Parish Council becoming the sole trustee earlier this year.

As part of this process, we carried out a thorough survey of the hall to ensure our much loved community space meets all current standards and the results have led to a fantastic transformation!

A full programme of upgrades has now been completed:

- Electrical improvements throughout the building
- A deep clean from top to bottom
- Repairs and replacements to worn flooring and kitchen areas
- Bright, energy-efficient LED lighting
- A fresh coat of paint in both the Hall and Annexe



Regular users have already shared wonderful feedback about the hall's "new look," which now includes a smart Dorney Village Hall sign above the entrance and the introduction of Wi-Fi! We are also eagerly awaiting the reinstatement of the main Village Hall sign at the driveway entrance, which Bucks Council have confirmed is on the way following the motorway works.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to welcome a new Playgroup, starting term-time childcare from January 2026. Their grant from Bucks has enabled the installation of secure fencing around the outdoor grassed area and a new secure doorway, ensuring both safety and sustainability. This not only strengthens the hall's long-term financial position but also brings renewed life and purpose to this valued community facility.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support, we look forward to an exciting future at Dorney Village Hall.

Ruth Senior

Dorney Village Hall Manager

Village Hall Executive and Management Committee:

Jill Dax, Anna Palmer, Ettie Brand and Martyn Westcott-Wreford

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



Behind the Scenes at Your Parish Council

As we approach the end of 2025, it's the perfect moment to share a little of what's been happening behind the scenes in our parish.

While it can sometimes seem that “nothing's happening,” rest assured — your Parish Council is very much on the case! The wheels of local government can turn slowly, but we are constantly working to move things forward.

Good communication with residents remains essential. Your reports help us flag issues quickly, and our regular follow-ups with the relevant departments in Bucks ensure we always have the latest information to hand. Here's a snapshot of the progress and projects currently underway:

A Warm Welcome to Our New Councillor

We were delighted to welcome **Cllr. Martin Hardman** to his first full Parish Council meeting in November. Martin brings great enthusiasm and a strong interest in local issues.

Orchard Herbs

We're keeping up monthly contact with enforcement officers and providing photographic evidence to maintain pressure for site clearance. We are awaiting a report from the Enforcement Officer's November meeting with the owner on site and will report accordingly. We hope that decisions will then be made as to how Bucks progress with ensuring the site is cleared.

Roads & Signage

Our regular meetings with the Bucks Local Area Technician are paying off!

✅ “Welcome to Dorney” sign at the Eton Wick end of Common Road has been replaced.

 A new wildlife sign on Marsh Lane beyond Dorney Lake now alerts drivers to beware of frequent deer visitors.

➡ Dorney Village Hall directional sign is with the contractor and will be reinstalled soon (it was removed during smart motorway works).

🚧 The failed road surface outside Orchard Herbs is now officially on the planned works list — agreed and awaiting scheduling.

💡 Replacement bollard covers on Lake End Road and Village Road have been confirmed by the lighting teams, with replacements planned before Christmas 🎄.

 Continued pressure on the Roads Department for speed reduction on Common Road and improved cattle signage for April–October.

Ashford Lane Bridge

By the time you read this, the collapsed section of Ashford Bridge will have been removed. We'll continue pressing Bucks for clear details and timelines for its replacement.

Highway Safety Update

A safety mirror, previously agreed upon, is now awaiting installation opposite Ashford Lane. This measure aims to improve visibility for residents exiting on to Lake End Road, particularly when inconsiderate parking at the Pineapple obstructs the view.

Wildflower Project

Wildflower seeds were sown in the spring, though the exceptionally dry and hot summer raised concerns about their success. Thanks to the warm autumn and the recent rainfall, patches of wildflowers are now emerging. We remain hopeful that next spring and summer will bring a full display across the areas where the seeds were sown along Court Lane and Marsh Lane.

We're Listening

None of this happens in isolation. Your feedback and reports make a real difference — so please keep them coming! Together, we're making sure that even the less visible work gets done, step by step.

Your Parish Council — working for you, every day, often behind the scenes.



**Jesus brings love into Our lives, so we invite You
to join us to celebrate this Christmas...**

Sunday 7th December

Candlelit Advent Carols 3.00 pm St Mary's Boveney

Sunday 14th December

Holy Communion & Carols 9.30 am St James' Dorney

Holy Communion & Carols 11.00 am St John's Eton Wick

Sunday 21st December

Morning Worship 11.00 am St John's Eton Wick

Nine Lessons & Carols 6.30 pm St James' Dorney

Wednesday 24th December

Christingle 3.00 pm St James' Dorney

Christingle 4.30 pm St John's Eton Wick

Midnight Mass 11.30 pm St James' Dorney

Thursday 25th December

Christmas Family
Communion 10.15 am St John's Eton Wick

BRASS MONKEYS ON DORNEY COMMON

The first ten days of November have been the warmest on record. These records stretch as far back as the 30's with the start of that month averaging around 10 degrees. A sudden plummet had our teeth chattering and reaching for our woollies, as the UK was hit by a swathe of iciness caused by a North Atlantic Oscillation. This phenomenon is, apparently, a large-scale atmospheric pressure pattern over the North Atlantic, that fluctuates between a positive and negative phase.

What's that? Investigating on ChatGPT, (new best friend), I am reliably informed, that it is the pressure difference between the subtropic Azores High and the subpolar Icelandic Low. Tweaking the thermostat up a couple of notches is the best defence. Thinking about the ongoing rises in utility heating costs and the old adage *'there is no such thing as bad weather, only the wrong clothes'* I inched it back down the moment normal service resumed.

The term *'brass monkey'* is a widely used phrase, which dates back to the days when war ships had brass racks, called monkeys, for holding cannon balls. The legend that filtered down the generations says, that in freezing temperatures, the brass would contract so much that the cannon balls would fall off, making it cold enough to *'freeze the balls off a brass monkey.'*

Old legends and truth are sometimes veiled by passing time, but there is one interesting but true detail from Victorian times that made me realise that it was not my height (I am very tall) why some old door handles were placed so low. Many are wrist height due to fashion, as they did not have to raise an arm to open the door, and as a consequence could maintain a trim posture and stopped the ruffling of a cuff which required adjustment each time. Also at this time it was fashionable to have glass panes in internal doors. The lower placement of the handle meant one could have a much longer length of double pane in the door, which was important in an era of natural light, where gas and candles were the primary source of illumination.

Meantime, involved in the MDG / Norden Farm *Robin Hood* Pantomime, the pace quickens as we head towards opening night. The Director, Simon Kelly, sits at the helm and steers the way, whilst the cast do their best to eliminate human error. On my side, it is without doubt, (within the realms of am-dram), the most complex and intricate set design, but fortuitously, my boyfriend Bob has exceptional carpentry skills, so our set and hand properties have 'turned out nice again' as George would say.

Three of the builds requiring structure, were a giant two-foot golden marrow, a very large turkey leg and a 5-foot spider. Via YouTube, I learnt the fundamentals of papier mache. What a wonderful art form! I had to use the kitchen granite surface for this, as the newspaper and glue stuck to everything. After many sticky efforts, I had the hang of it and also how to pad out the forma to create depth and shape. Drying time was required at the end of each session, so I spread out to the dining room where I had set up a raised area (bin and book) in front of a radiator. Good ole YouTube!

'Practice makes perfect. Only perfect practice makes perfect' Vince Lombardi

We had an offer of help backstage, so I met the applicant at the next rehearsal. Ashutosh (Ash) arrived with a broad beam, a very nice chap, but when I asked him what experience he had in theatre, he replied 'much backstage work but only in India.' Smiling inwardly, we sat down and I quickly explained that English Pantomime is probably only found in England, and involves switches of gender and inuendo gags. I had nothing to worry about, 10 minutes in and Ash was gawfing with laughter! Join the team!

Our rehearsal space was now located in a junior school in Maidenhead, as fortunately Rob the Head was part of our Drama Guild and kindly offered us the space FOC. As an experienced '*pantomimer*,' Rob took on the role of Friar Tuck, not in exchange, but because he was adept at comedy with much past experience. We are made up of all sorts of walks of life, each as interesting as the next, the camaraderie is special, which makes the team tight on the run.

This *Robin Hood* production opens on Tuesday 16th December at Norden Farm's main stage, The Courtyard, for seven shows, and promises to be exceedingly entertaining. You will see the appearance of our giant golden marrow (John Akerman eat your heart out), real bows and arrows (rubber tipped) and the giant black hairy spider that descends from above, look behind you! The music is superb this year, and the set, well, that's okay too!

We had a fabulous turnout for the horticultural society event last month, the Autumn Supper food was truly amazing (due to Chrys Fisher), and the speaker, Rob Reeder, very amusing, an old friend of the society, from Farnham Nurseries. He showed off eleveny-eight of his best autumn plants with seasonal care information, and our members were lucky enough to buy some at a very keen price afterwards.

I enrolled at Windsor College this autumn, Intermediate Pottery, along with several other fellow potters in our neighbouring village of Eton Wick, Zoe, Sarah and Jonathan. We had great fun on this first term, although sadly the college lacked facilities. Dave the Tutor was a fine fellow, very knowledgeable, so made up for it. We all liked it so much we signed up for another term. Jon renamed our group to the Potters and Pubbers, so you can see what happened after class, and as a consequence our Eton Wick quartet grew by another three or four (Dave the tutor included) who all had similar aspirations of relaxation.

As this year closes, the DDHS has a horticultural finale before the end of the year on the 5th of December, and this is our Grand Christmas Supper. It is not officially called 'grand' but since it upgrades each year to further starry heights, it is definitely not one to miss. By the time you read the Parish Mag, it has probably been and gone, but no doubt left wonderful memories for our villagers. Please support this society if you can, it is very valuable to our community.

I wish everyone a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas!

Kristina Perkins

A broken bridge over untroubled waters



The temporary traffic lights in Lake End Road have been packed away for the last time. The heavy machinery has been trundled away. The site is ship-shape and trespasser-proof.

What remains are the sad remnants of a truncated structure. The road to nowhere. A broken bridge over untroubled waters.

A memorial to...well, what? To put it mildly, how about short-sightedness?

Ewan Larcombe of the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee told Dorney Parish Council in July of his concern over the wooden construction of the Jubilee River bridges. Apart from Ashford Lane, the (Bucks) Berry Hill footbridge has been partially repaired at a cost of half a million pounds and Datchet's Black Potts bridge has been closed since last summer. According to Ewan it appears that the initial cost savings of timber construction bridges are offset by shortened operational life and high replacement costs, making them poor long-term value compared to those made of more durable materials.

With respect to Cllr Larcombe, the one who will 'ease our mind and take our part' over the troubled Bridge should be Cllr Thomas Broom, the Bucks Cabinet Member for Transport. At a cabinet meeting soon after the bridge was partially submerged on June 26th Thomas embraced Ewan's gloomy diagnosis. Talking about five bridges over the Jubilee River, and especially the two built by the Environment Agency but handed over to Bucks Council, he said 'obviously there have been issues with the design and construction of all five, all are failing before their predicted life span'.

Dorney Parish Council have now achieved their first aim of the complete removal of bridge debris from the river, but the objective of '120-year weathering steel replacement as recommended by experts' is more problematic. Can Bucks now provide 'a proper project timeline with committed funding'?

Well, at the July meeting of the whole Bucks Council Cllr Broom said that funds had been set aside for design work on the Ashford Lane bridge in 2025 and that reconstruction was planned for the next financial year.

But Dorney residents who might have hoped to hear of future progress with that 'project timeline' at subsequent Council meetings in September and November will have been disappointed.

Peter Bowman

* Drama classes are proven to improve self confidence , self esteem and ease anxieties *



Enrolling now for January Our popular
Performing Arts School !!
New Year, New Skills, New Friends, New
Adventures !!

"SATURDAY SUPERSTARS"

...come along and try all our classes for FREE !!

Fun, friendly, local classes for all abilities, covering all aspects of the
Performing Arts ~Drama~Dance~Singing
Come along for 1,2 or 3 hoursthe choice is yours !

- ~ Confidence building
- ~ Improve social skills
- ~ Make friends & have fun
- ~ Friendly, supportive and safe environment
- ~ 2 shows a year ... Perform in our Summer 2026 show -
"High School Musical"
- ~Taught by industry professionals with over 25 years of teaching
experience

Classes held at Dorney Village Hall
09:30 - 12:30

Limited spaces available – message now to find out more or to
book your FREE TRIAL !! Payment plans available

www.studiosschool.com

Est.2013

office@studiosschool.com - 07710 968642

Why?

This month's article is all about 'why'? Why do we have these Christmas traditions?

Christmas lights are a large part of Christmas. When I was younger, I loved driving around and looking at everyone's Christmas decorations and lights outside people's houses. Now thinking about it, I wasn't educated on why everyone decorates houses and uses sometimes an excessive number of lights!

Most people know that lights ultimately symbolise hope and joy of Jesus being the 'light of the world', and they also bring a sense of togetherness. But after some research there is more of a history behind the lights for Christmas.

The first lights introduced into the holiday world were in 1882 by Edward Johnson. But despite that he didn't introduce them in the way to celebrate. Lights were made popular by the President at the time, Grover Cleveland, who decorated the White House in 1895. As well as this, Johnson put up a Christmas tree in the window of his shop which drew crowds, and following this each year he added more!

Before lights came around candles were used to decorate the tree but that slowly became a fire hazard, which is unsurprising! As well as a majority of people who couldn't afford lights, so they used candles to celebrate the Christmas season.

Another tradition that I have never questioned is, why do we only eat mince pies at Christmas time? Following this train of thought I started to do some research in which I discovered that they were made out of 13 ingredients symbolising Jesus and his twelve disciples. When the mince pies were first a savoury snack that was in the shape of a rectangle, post Reformation is when the mince pie developed into the round shape. As well as this it wasn't until the late Victorian period and early 19th century when the savoury mince was dropped, and the fruit filling was adopted. The Victorian era also associated mince pies with luxury and indulgence.

Another interesting fact is that in England, it is believed that eating mince pies on each of the twelve days of Christmas brings good luck, so for all the mince pie lovers this gives you more of a reason to enjoy lots and lots of mince pies during the Christmas season (now you have an excuse!)

Sticking on the theme of food, because who doesn't like Christmas food! Why do we have turkeys for Christmas dinner? King Henry the VIII of England was believed to be the first monarch to indulge in a turkey for Christmas dinner, as it represented status and wealth. But not all the credit can go to the Royals, Charles Dickens gave a boost of popularity in the story of the 'Christmas Carol', in which Scrooge sends a large turkey to the Cratchit family to feast on at their Christmas dinner. As well as this there is a practical side of having a turkey for supper; they are in fact the largest bird that can feed many people which also made it economically suitable. I'll leave you with a fun fact about turkeys, 10 million turkeys are eaten on Christmas day across the UK, and this is 75% of the number of turkeys that are sold throughout the year.

Christmas is full of traditions and being around the people you love. It is interesting finding out the reason for these traditions, and I hope you all found out something interesting in this article. Enjoy the Christmas season in whichever way you celebrate!

Laila Marples



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

Orchard Herbs – Real Progress at Last



Drone photo from early November – how we count the trucks and containers

The minutes of the Dorney Parish Council meeting on 18 November noted that drone footage showed **no change in vehicle numbers between July and November**, though some tidying had begun. Bucks Council's Enforcement Team reported they were in regular contact with the site owner and were "progressing clearance plans", including proposals to ship the lorries abroad. Compliance, rather than immediate legal action, was stated as their preferred approach.

Since that meeting, we are pleased to report that real movement has finally begun.

Around **25 of the approximately 49 trucks and part-trucks have now been removed**—believed to be heading to Zimbabwe. Importantly, it seems that the newly emerging vehicle-dump/airport-parking site between Eton Wick and Eton has not been used as a substitute location, at least for now.

We also understand that **a number of the shipping containers on the site are being sold**, although it is not yet clear whether this includes all of them or only a selection.

There is no doubt that the **persistent pressure applied by Dorney Parish Council**—after more than two decades of frustration—has played a vital role in prompting Bucks Council to take meaningful action. Clearance of accumulated waste is now well underway, though substantial work remains. The large pile of truck tyres, previously hidden behind one of the now-removed vehicles, will also require attention.

Following this, the removal of the **Carbo shed, fencing, and the mobile home** will need to be addressed.

The Parish Council is right to insist on **timelines and firm deadlines** for the remaining work. After so many years, the village deserves to see this long-blighted gateway to our parish finally restored.

Bill Dax

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



Mr. Fox and Me!



I am a secret poser. Yes, I know it's nothing to shout about but there it is. My guilty secret is a beautiful dark green Mercedes 280 SL which for you non anoraks, is a large soft top sports car that wafts its stately proud progress through the admiring throng.

The lovely Mrs Quincey looks fabulous in her, all suntanned with the hood down in glorious weather; I rather less so, but it is an unashamed indulgence, even when getting in and out which is far less sexy than it used to be!

She, Mrs. Merc that is, was badly in need of a new hood, and two thousand pounds later, she posed in her new green splendour in the driveway of Quincey Towers.

I woke up with all the excitement of a child next day for our first proper outing and found to my dismay large muddy cat paw prints all over her, especially her new hood, and I washed her carefully, but the newness had gone. My efforts to scare the cat away were catastrophic as the prints and washes became a daily occurrence. I dragged out an inadequate car cover I bought for her years ago, tucked her up at night only to find in the morning more muddy prints and a little present of a half-eaten burger from our American friends.

That night I slept badly, dreaming of the early demise of this errant puss which was interrupted by the urgent need at two in the morning which afflicts gentlemen of a certain vintage, and arising from the pit (I will spare you the details) I peeped through the curtains of the bedroom which overlooks Mrs Merc and there sat Mr. Fox, brazenly staring me down from the new aforementioned roof, even posing for a photo!

I overcame the urge to run out and chase him off as my state of non-attire may have attracted the attention of Thames Valley's finest with a night in Maidenhead nick ("I was chasing a fox, officer! Really!")

"Of course you were Sir. Now just run along quietly with the nice man in the white coat."

"How do we repel a fox?" I asked Mrs.Q next morning. I thought about hiring some self-important bloke in a red coat on a horse blowing down a bugle with a



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.

few mounted hangers-on and some hounds, but they would have ripped the driveway to pieces. Mrs Google suggested I cover the drive in chilli powder, vinegar, garlic and orange skins.

Next night he left evidence on our back step that too much Macdonald's did not agree with him with more regurgitated fast food around Mrs Merc.

"Do you sell fox repellent?" I asked a multistore DIY call centre in Outer Mongolia.

"Yes, came the distant reply, "our Slough branch has some."

Off we went to find that they were "Out of stock Mate. Try Nail Ons"

No, they were out too. Clearly Mr Fox had a large patch. Further journeys around Slough, thankfully out of the rush hours when we could use the bus lanes ("why don't people read the signs?") I thought as I cruised past those less informed only with the same repellent-less result.

Finally, I found a murderously expensive large plastic bottle of the magic fluid in a garden centre in Maidenhead and after a long afternoon arrived home. Maybe those who shop at the 'A' word may have a point.

That evening, dressed Covid-like in rubber gloves, mask and safety glasses, I put the pump onto the can and pointed the nozzle at the back step on the site of the upset stomach. I pumped and pumped, checked and pumped some more. Nothing at all. I removed the pump, liberally splashed myself with repellent, and tried the pump in water but it was faulty.

"Oh dear," I muttered (or something like that) and rummaged through the recycling bin to retrieve an empty spray can with a pump attached that had to work to empty it, and late that night I wandered around Quincey Tower's grounds with the inadequate tiny pump.

It worked, but only till the next shower of rain when the whole sorry saga had to be repeated.

He still visits occasionally. He even bought us a little red ball, sadly too big to choke him and Mrs Q and I could live on re-heated fast food if we had to.

About a week later, I received a lovely letter from Slough Borough with a pretty picture of my pose-mobile bypassing the idiots obeying the bus lane as I wafted down their nearside, with an invitation to assist in their financial woes by parting with a considerable sum to put in their coffers or an even larger sum if I didn't do it soon! I had misread the sign.

I paid. Mr Fox had had the last laugh.

A very Happy Christmas to my reader and stay safe.

Mike Quincey



It has been a busy month both here in the constituency and in Westminster, and I wanted to take the opportunity to update Dorney residents on some of the key issues and events.

November marked both Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. I was honoured to spend Remembrance Sunday in the constituency, where I laid a wreath at one of our local war memorials. In Westminster, I also planted a cross in Parliament's Constituency Garden of Remembrance on behalf of our South Bucks villages. It was a moment to pay tribute to all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. We will remember them.

Over recent weeks, many residents, including several from Dorney, have contacted me about the use of fireworks. I fully understand the impact fireworks can have on people, pets, and livestock, and it is an issue I care deeply about. I recently reviewed the materials from the Fireworks Impact Coalition's event in Parliament, and I want to thank everyone who took the time to write to me. I am pleased that the Government is reviewing how fireworks are used and the effects they have on our communities, and I will continue to monitor this closely.

I also know that a number of local residents remain concerned about the situation at Orchard Herbs, particularly the pace at which the site is being cleared. I am keeping a close eye on this matter and hope to see more progress in the weeks ahead.

In Westminster, I attended a productive meeting with the Minister to discuss the future of the Colne Valley Regional Park. Protecting this cherished landscape remains a priority for me. With the Colne situated not too far from Dorney, any further damage to the Regional Park risks setting a dangerous precedent for building on green spaces elsewhere in the constituency. I remain committed to fighting for the safeguards our natural environment needs.

I could not conclude this update without addressing the Government's Budget. The Chancellor's plans represent a serious breach of trust, abandoning last year's promise not to raise taxes and instead placing an additional £26 billion in costs onto households while freezing tax thresholds until 2031. At the same time, Labour's decision to remove the two-child cap will significantly increase welfare spending, and changes to National Insurance salary sacrifice will penalise pension savers. In short, Dorney residents are being asked to pay more for a Government that breaks its promises and spends recklessly.

Thank you, as always, for taking the time to read this update. If you or your family need any support or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at

joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk.

Joy Morrissey MP



DORNEY

PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2025 @ DORNEY VILLAGE HALL

Present

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair) Cllr. Anna Palmer Cllr. Martin Hardman
Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford Cllr. Stephen Baker
County Cllr. Cole Caesar
Clerk Ruth Senior and 1 member of the public

The Chair started the meeting by welcoming Cllr. Martin Hardman to his first full Dorney Parish Council meeting.

Public Forum

Peter Bowman raised a concern about an ongoing problem in Dorney Reach which also appears to be a Nationwide issue, of abandoned/dumped vehicles. The main affected roads seem to be Meadow Way, Harcourt Road & Close and Oak Stubbs Lane. There have been reports that these vehicles have stayed for up to 3 months at a time and some have been dropped by pickup trucks.

Over 5000 abandoned vehicles have been reported to Bucks Council in the last year through Fix My Street and Bucks have removed 22 so far, unable to remove cars that have tax & MOT.

Residents are worried about increased criminality.

It was agreed the Clerk will contact our PCSO for advice and we ask that residents take details of the vehicles or photos for evidence if it is safe to do so. County Cllr. Caesar will also contact Bucks regarding any long term abandoned vehicles on Fix My Street.

C/75/25 Apologies for absence

Cllr. Robert Stopford

PC/76/25 Declaration of interest on any items of business on this Agenda

There were none declared.

PC/77/25 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16th September 2025

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

PC/78/25 To receive the Clerk report

There was no Clerk Report this month as all items are being covered on the agenda.

PC/79/25 To update on the co-option of a new Councillor

There have been no applications for the position.

PC/80/25 Items of business carried forward

Orchard Herbs

Drone footage has shown that no vehicles have been removed from site between July to November however the site is being tidied and Enforcement are in regular contact with the owner and progressing with the clearance plans. The latest update from the Enforcement Team today is that there are plans to ship the lorries abroad, timelines have been requested for this. Working towards Compliance rather than further legal action is the preferred option for the moment but is being regularly monitored.

PC/81/25 Planning

The majority of planning applications are for extensions, whether they be for single, or double storey in Dorney Reach. The policy of the Parish Council has always been that unless there is a significant impact or other objections to consider, we decline to comment, but if this trend continues the cumulative effect on Dorney Reach could be significant, car parking & loss of garden space for example.

Following recent changes to the Bucks Planning Portal, where public comments can no longer be seen, the Parish Council request that any resident who objects to a planning application on the portal please forward a copy to the Parish Clerk for a discussion to take place and the Council also potentially objecting.

County Cllr. Caesar who is also on the Bucks Planning Committee made the point that unless there is evidence of a significant impact on the area, the application will more than likely be approved as are 90% of application, therefore any objections must take this into account.

New Planning applications

PL/25/4257/PNE Rookwood 1 Old Marsh Lane Dorney Reach Buckinghamshire SL6 0DZ

The erection of a single storey rear extension, which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by 8m for which the maximum height would be 2.60m and for which the height of the eaves would be maximum 2.40m

Suggest no comment

PL/25/3833/SA 52 Meadow Way Dorney Reach Buckinghamshire SL6 0DS

Certificate of Lawfulness for Proposed conversion of roof space to habitable use to include a rear dormer with Juliette balcony, 3 front rooflights and conversion of roof from hip to gable end with gable end window

Suggest no comment, although interesting if the additional room would impact the parking requirements for the site.

PL/25/3728/FA 5 Marsh Lane Dorney Reach Buckinghamshire SL6 0DN | Proposed two storey rear extension

Suggest no comment

PL/25/2992/FA Ronita 59 Harcourt Road Dorney Reach Buckinghamshire SL6 0DT Proposed Single and part double-storey side extension with double-storey rear extension to the existing dwelling.

Suggest no comment. As an aside this is the third or fourth application for this site all rejected by Bucks
PL/25/2901/FA Melrose 10 Dorney Reach Road Dorney Buckinghamshire SL6 0DX Single-storey outhouse (retrospective)

Suggest no comment

PL/25/2792/SA Rookwood 1 Old Marsh Lane Dorney Reach Buckinghamshire SL6 0DZ Certificate of lawfulness application for loft conversion to habitable space. Works include rear dormer and internal alterations

Suggest no comment

PL/25/2987/HB Shepherds Close Village Road Dorney Buckinghamshire SL4 6QW Repairs to existing listed building, including to timber frame, masonry, windows, roofs, rainwater goods and drainage.

We have already made a comment whilst not objecting to the work being carried out but to ensure any repairs retain the character of the building

On going applications

Boveney Court Farm PL/25/0354/FA | Demolition of open sided barn, conversion, alteration and change of use of existing buildings to Use Class C3 (residential) to provide 7 residential units and construction of 5 new residential units.

As you may be aware it went before the planning committee in September, and decision deferred as the councillors asked for further information as follows

1. the applicant to carry out an updated viability assessment and to allow for potential discussions to take place between officers and the applicant in relation to reconsidering the level of affordable housing provision to see if it can be brought closer to or meet the requirement in the Golden Rules;
2. clarification to be provided to enable the committee to view what the actual on-site measures will be for the protection of bats prior to the committee making a decision on the application.

Following on from the meeting we have submitted further requests that the Council seek clarification from the emergency services regarding potential loss of life due to flooding restricting access to the site and await feedback.

PL/24/0586/FA Court Farm Common Road Dorney Buckinghamshire SL4 6QA

On going. We have submitted further objections due to the risk of flooding may prevent access to the site in an emergency and access to the site being by single track road.

PL/25/0863/FA Erection of 3 custom build dwellings, associated works and landscaping, and provision of new vehicular accesses Land Between 18 and 20 Dorney Reach Road Dorney Buckinghamshire SL6 0DX

On going. We have raised further objections based on the impact on River Thames setting Policy L4.

PC/82/25 Finance

The cashbooks were circulated prior to the meeting and approved.

The Parish Council had an unexpected payment of £4200 from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) from Harcourt Close. **It was agreed** that CIL spend guidance will be added to the Finance Regulations.

PC/83/25 To discuss Assertion 10

The main impact on the Parish Council with this introduction concerns GDPR and specifically emails. **It was agreed** that Dorney Parish Councillors will have new .gov.uk email addresses for Council use only. The Clerk will instruct Haymill Computers.

PC/84/25 To update on the Ashford Lane bridge collapse

Despite having asked to be kept informed of action on by Bucks on the bridge, we are currently unaware of plans for removal or replacement. **It was agreed** that the Clerk will ask for the long term plan.

County Cllr. Ceasar confirmed that at the last full bucks Council meeting, Thomas Broom confirmed the bridge would be fully removed and replaced, he agreed to ask for clarification of the plans.

PC/85/25 To discuss the Thames Water field

As the Thames Water field is solely owned by Thames Water, it is entirely their decision on any actions or works undertaken there. Thames Water have previously insisted that there will be no development on the land.

The Parish Council have been informed that there will be an article in the next Dorney Parish News from a resident with the latest information.

PC/86/25 To update on Dorney Playground

There has been little happening since the last Council meeting. The Halloween Party in October and raised £567.00, which was great. Ettie Brand is standing down from the committee in February at the AGM, so the committee are trying to recruit a new Secretary, but this is not proving easy.

The tuckshop is still successful and looking for more volunteers, the Village Hall have replaced the rotten flooring for the tuckshop and continue to provide the space free of charge for them to run.

PC/87/25 To update on speeding issues in Dorney and Dorney Common

The Parish Council have requested an update from Bucks Council and we hope to be able to report back soon. Cllr. Dax is also raising this as an issue at the SBALC meeting this week.

PC/88/25 To update on Dorney Village Hall

As part of the process of Dorney Parish Council becoming the Sole Trustee of the Village Hall earlier this year, we carried out a thorough survey of the hall to ensure our much loved community space meets all current standards and the results have led to a fantastic transformation and an exciting year of plans ahead:

A full programme of upgrades has now been completed, including; electrics, kitchen worktops, LED lighting, signage, WIFI and painting.

We are also eagerly awaiting the reinstatement of the main Village Hall sign at the driveway entrance, which Bucks Council have confirmed is on the way following the motorway works.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to welcome a new Playgroup, starting term-time childcare from January 2026. Their grant from Bucks has enabled the installation of secure fencing around the outdoor grassed area and a new secure doorway, ensuring both safety and sustainability. This not only strengthens the hall's long-term financial position but also brings renewed life and purpose to this valued community facility.

As the playgroup only operate weekdays during term-time, there will be no impact to potential hall hirers.

It was agreed that the new playgroup can put up advertising banners.

PC/89/25 To consider any complaints/comments received from residents

Complaints have been received by Meadow Way residents regarding anti-social behavior in the Village Hall car park when the gate has not been locked overnight. Residents must contact both the police and Buckinghamshire Council as the owner of the land to report any incidents.

Concern has been expressed over mud on the road on Marsh Lane caused by the farm machinery leaving the fields. The farmer was contacted and he will ensure that the roads are cleaned at the earliest opportunity after the work has ended.

PC/90/25 Items to consider for discussion at the next meeting on 13th January @ Dorney Village Hall

Parish Council Action Plan for 26/27.

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 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 - Dorney Parish

Year	Month	Food waste	Garden waste	General waste	Mixed recycling	Paper and cardboard	Textiles/Batteries/Electricals
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, 19	5, 19	12, 29	12, 29	12, 29
2026	Jan	5, 10, 16, 23, 30		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

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	0845 9200 800
Sewage Problems	Thames Water	0845 9200 800
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

Free Advice & Estimates. No job too small.
All work Guaranteed & Insured.



**ELECTRICAL
SERVICES**
(BURNHAM)

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

07801 832792 (Quicker Reply)
01628 603063 (Leave a Message)
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