

Dorney Parish News

April 2026



In an idyllic Oxfordshire hamlet, the fish in the river keep dying. Why? David Thewlis and Jason Watkins lead this shocking real-life drama of victims, whistleblowers and England's water companies.

Is Roundmoor Ditch polluted by the Slough
Sewage Treatment Works between
Lake End Common and Dorney Common?
Under investigation. See Page 20.



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If we were a tabloid newspaper, we would have run a headline like 'You Couldn't Make It Up!' Keep reading this issue for the details of how the two other players in the drama that has been Orchard Herbs, Bucks Council and the site owner, have concocted an almost comic twist at the potential expense of the third – us and specifically Dorney Parish Council.

There is more in this sensational issue. If Thames Water has a theme song it must be 'There's no Business like Dirty Business'. If you shuddered when watching the recent Channel 4 drama on that 'dirty business', ready yourself for revelations about the cocktail of untreated sewage and rainwater that is discharged from Slough Sewage Treatment Works into the humble Roundmoor Ditch. In these pages our nature correspondent 'Olly' Oliver gets angry with the water companies and Bill Dax gets analytical.

I've always maintained that this parish is a unified entity. But even I am wavering. I realised that I could not visualise whole stretches of the Roundmoor. It might be but a quarter of a mile from my front door, but I didn't know Lake End had a 'Common' until these issues came up. Boveney is a long walk and many centuries away from say, Trumpers Field and the Playground. That's why that which binds us together is so precious. Arguably, the most potent of these is held in your hand right now. Hopefully Dorney Parish News will survive into the future. Subscribers feel the same, I think, and the reason for my confidence is the quite overwhelming response to our request in the last couple of issues for the payment of 2026 subscriptions. If you have any doubt over your subscription status, let me know. Better still, if you have any doubt, just pay for 2026. What can you lose?

Some events have similar effects. I hope, and believe, that this year's Annual Show in the newly refurbished Village Hall, will be a blockbuster. Mark the date now – Saturday September 5th. Next in line of course is Dorney's Annual Parish Meeting. Another date for you – Thursday May 19th. Of course you should come...over-development in Dorney? Under-development in Dorney? Potholes, of course. The slough of despond which is the Sewage Treatment Works. That car still unmoved outside your door. The number 15 bus which never comes these days, or maybe just doesn't stop.

Breaking News... While writing these words a flier drops through the letterbox. It's from Bucks Highways! Pothole misery ended? Marsh Lane will be closed between 07:00 and 19:00 from the Bath Road to the M4 bridge, April 7th to April 10th for 'plane and patch carriageway resurfacing'. Barely including Dorney Parish, but could it solve the worse problem of all, the Jubilee River bridge?

The restrictions on resident access do sound draconian, so we wish our band of loyal readers in that part of Marsh Lane well. On a nationwide basis, Bucks Highways are near the top of the table, so we can judge them in action. Maybe they'll be smart roads to match the smart new Village Hall with its newly opened Play School, which we proudly feature this month.

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

The Question of Hope: What Easter Means for Our Future

"*Quid est veritas?*" — *What is truth?* That was Pontius Pilate's question to Jesus at his trial. But he might equally have asked: *Quid est spes?* — *What is hope?*

We answer that instinctively every day — "I hope the weather improves," or "I hope you feel better." But is hope merely a wish? A passive emotion that leaves us waiting for luck or fate to change our circumstances.

Humanity has wrestled with this for millennia. In the Greek myth of Pandora's Box, when every evil escaped into the world, only one thing remained inside: hope. Yet the ancient Greeks were wary — they often saw hope as a "deceptive expectation," tempting people into passivity. As Edmund Burke put it, evil triumphs when good people do nothing.

Modern psychology defines hope as goal setting and problem-solving. But if hope depends entirely on our own abilities, what happens when we face illness, loss or suffering beyond our control? History shows people sustaining hope in the darkest places — hospital wards, prison cells, concentration camps. Hope must be something deeper.

For Christians, it is. St Paul named hope as one of the three great virtues — alongside faith and love. Christian hope rests not in circumstances or personal strength, but in the promises of God that run through all of Scripture: the covenant with Noah, the promise to Abraham, the liberation of the Israelites, and ultimately the promise of Easter itself — that through Christ's resurrection, death does not have the final word.

The theologian Jürgen Moltmann argued that the resurrection was not simply a past event — it changed the meaning of history. Because of Easter, Christians can echo St Paul: "Death, where is your sting? Grave, where is your victory?" (1 Corinthians 15:55). Resurrection hope cannot remain passive. It calls us to stand alongside those who suffer,

seek justice, and build community. Christian hope does not wait for a better world. It works toward one.

Pope Francis described hope as "the door that opens onto the future" — like a small flame, seemingly fragile, yet powerful enough to dispel darkness. "When there is an 'us,'" he said, "there begins a revolution."

At Easter, Christians celebrate precisely that revolution — God's love overcoming despair and bringing new life where none seemed possible. Hope is not naïve optimism. It is the quiet conviction that the future belongs not to darkness, but to the risen Christ — and that each of us is invited into that unfolding story of renewal.

Happy Easter!

Andreas.

Team Rector

Church Services in April 2026

Thursday 2nd April (Maundy Thursday)

7.00 pm	Foot Washing and Tenebrae Service	St James the Less, Dorney
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Friday 3rd April (Good Friday)

11.00 am	Good Friday Service	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick
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Sunday 5th April Easter Sunday

6.00 am	Sunrise Service	St Mary Magdalene, Boveney
9.30am	Easter Day Service	St James the Less, Dorney
11.00am	Easter Day Service	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 8th April

10.00 am	Holy Communion (said BCP)	St John the Evangelist, Eton
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Sunday 12th April

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

Sunday 19th April

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

Wednesday 22nd April

10.00 am	Holy Communion (said BCP)	St John the Evangelist, Eton
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Sunday 26th April

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

Wild Dorney

"I can't stand the rain against my window"

Caught in a downpour one night as she left for a concert with her song writing partner, Ann Peebles snapped: "I can't stand the rain." They immediately forgot about the concert and sat down and wrote and recorded the song that night. Apparently, it was one of John Lennon's favourite songs (he claimed it was "the best song ever") and it was produced by Willie Mitchell in Memphis who also worked on much of the Reverend Al Green's best work (including "Let's Stay Together" and "Take Me to the River" which was later memorably covered by Talking Heads). I heard "I Can't Stand the Rain" again last weekend on 6 music when they played a wonderful BBC session version of it from 1974. The seemingly endless rain we have endured in February had suddenly given way to a beautiful spring day and I was able to get outside, transplant some foxgloves from the raspberry and asparagus beds into more wild areas and cut the grass for the first time this year.



Little owl checking out its box



Dead male pine marten found in Marlow hedge



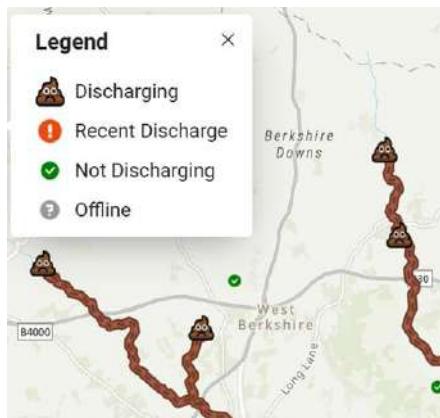
Our Editor's bat!

I was quite surprised to be alerted to a Facebook post on the Wild Marlow group with evidence of a dead male Pine Marten (most of the experts on the group seemed pretty convinced it was a pine marten and not a polecat or ferret). There is no previous evidence of Pine Martens surviving in Buckinghamshire since they became functionally extinct in England around 1900 having lost a lot of their woodland habitat and been persecuted by Victorian gamekeepers and hunted for their fur. Their main UK strongholds today are in Scotland and the New Forest although there have been successful reintroductions in Wales, Kielder, and other locations. Perhaps this one had just been released individually and is not evidence of a local population, but it would be beneficial to see pine martens back in the Bucks landscape. Red squirrels especially can benefit from pine martens as the non-native grey squirrels are not adapted to be wary of pine martens and are (somewhat incredibly given how quickly they zoom up trees) not always fast enough to escape predation from the omnivorous pine martens.

I was delighted when my Merlin app detected a Marsh Tit in the rewilding field for the first time. Marsh Tits are red-listed in terms of conservation status having

declined by over 80% since the 1960's. I've enjoyed the blackthorn blossom in the field this year which really is quite spectacular and Marsh Tits favour mature deciduous woodland habitat with some understorey in which to forage which the blackthorn will provide. Theo's camera caught a Little Owl checking out the box from last year, but we are increasingly nervous as no sign of nesting activity yet. In bat news, my bats haven't returned to their usual bat box and soffit roosts yet this spring, but I was intrigued when Peter Bowman sent me the photo of a soprano pipistrelle emerging from his roof. I am now wondering if some of my summer roosting bats hibernate in Peter's roof over winter!

It was highly disconcerting recently watching "Dirty Business" (streaming on Channel 4) which exposes the failures and cover ups of the privatised water industry and the complicit Environment Agency (or "Envandlement" Agency as Virginia Silvester once memorably described them to me.) Margaret Thatcher seemed to have a good handle on the future consequences of climate change (She was a scientist after all; read her prescient 1989 UN speech here: <https://www.margaretthatcher.org/document/107817>) but she completely failed to anticipate the disastrous consequences of privatising the water industry. England is the only nation on earth to have a completely privatised water industry and over £145 billion has been extracted from it since 1989 in dividends, debt, and other financial engineering, whilst hopelessly underinvesting in infrastructure and monitoring.



You can see for yourself the continuing issues with raw sewage outflow on www.sewagemap.co.uk (see graphic to left). Both my sons occasionally kayak in the Thames at Hurley and Boulton's Lock, and both have occasionally been ill the day after these activities. I will not issue any spoilers for "Dirty Business" here but as a parent I am really not sure I want my children to continue to be exposed to a river that in some conditions is still treated as an open sewer.

Lastly, I am thoroughly enjoying this year's Six Nations rugby although Scotland's performance against Italy in the opening match did not go as hoped when we took the family to Rome for the weekend. Before the match we walked around a rather damp Villa Borghese where I immediately recognised the boisterous calls of the Rose-ringed Parakeets which we are so familiar with in Dorney, although Merlin also picked up the presence of Monk Parakeets which I'd never heard before.

Andrew Oliver

Orchard Herbs: A New Chapter – Proposed Gypsy & Traveller Site

Recent editions of *Dorney Parish News* have reported encouraging progress at the former Orchard Herbs site. As noted in February, Buckinghamshire Council's Compliance Team has worked constructively with the landowner, resulting in the steady removal of heavy vehicles, reduced site activity, and the introduction of a defined timetable for clearance. After many years of frustration, visible progress on enforcement has been welcome.

However, a new development has now emerged.

The Orchard Herbs site has appeared on Buckinghamshire Council's Local Plan interactive map as a potential Gypsy & Traveller (G&T) allocation (reference OPUS 6562) for 10 permanent pitches. This came as a surprise to Dorney Parish Council, particularly given the site's long enforcement history and its sensitive environmental location.

It is important to be clear about what this means.

At this stage, the site has not been formally allocated. The Council is currently undertaking a site suitability review ahead of publication of the draft Local Plan (Regulation 19 stage), expected later this year. This is an evidence-gathering phase. Sites shown on the interactive map are described as "potentially suitable" and are subject to further technical assessment.

Dorney Parish Council recognises that Buckinghamshire must identify sufficient sites to meet Gypsy & Traveller accommodation needs. The Parish Council's response is therefore not about opposing provision in principle. Rather, it concerns whether this particular site is appropriate and deliverable.

Several material planning issues arise.

First, the site lies predominantly within Flood Zone 3, and the access route from Lake End Road also runs within Flood Zone 3 alongside Roundmoor Ditch, a main river. Permanent Gypsy & Traveller pitches are classified nationally as "Highly Vulnerable" development. Such development is subject to strict flood policy tests, including the Sequential Test, Exception Test, and demonstration of safe access during flood events.

Secondly, recent Planning Inspector appeal decisions confirmed that the lawful use of the site is agricultural and that it lies within the Metropolitan Green Belt. The previous industrial use was unauthorised and subject to enforcement. The Parish Council has therefore asked Buckinghamshire Council to clarify the evidential basis for identifying the site as "Brownfield".

Thirdly, the 2020 Phase 1 GeoEnvironmental Report identified potential hydrocarbon contamination, the presence of a Secondary A aquifer beneath the site, proximity to a watercourse, and a "high risk to controlled waters." That report recommended a Phase 2 intrusive investigation. It is not clear that such investigation has yet taken place. Local residents have also reported historic excavation and burial activity on the site over many years, raising further questions about subsurface conditions.

Taken together — floodplain location, aquifer sensitivity, contamination risk, Green Belt status, and enforcement history — the site is environmentally constrained and technically complex.

In response, Dorney Parish Council has:

- Submitted a formal response via Buckinghamshire Council's current site suitability survey;
- Written to the Planning Policy Team requesting publication of further technical evidence, including flood modelling, Sequential and Exception Test assessments, confirmation of Flood Zone 3b status, and intrusive contamination investigation;
- Prepared a technical note outlining the planning and environmental considerations;
- Confirmed that, should the site be included in the draft Local Plan at Regulation 19 stage, a formal representation will be submitted for independent examination.

The Council's Compliance Team and Planning Policy Team are separate functions within Buckinghamshire Council. The constructive progress achieved in enforcement does not predetermine Local Plan decisions.

While this may sound concerning, it is important to understand where we are in the process and what happens next.

What Happens Next?

Current Stage – Site Suitability Review (to mid-March 2026)

Buckinghamshire Council is gathering evidence on sites shown as “potentially suitable.” Dorney Parish Council has submitted its technical response raising flood, Green Belt, contamination and groundwater concerns.

Draft Local Plan (Regulation 19) – Expected Summer 2026

The Council is expected to publish the draft Local Plan later this year. If Orchard Herbs remains included at that stage, DPC will submit a formal objection based on planning “soundness” — whether the allocation is justified, deliverable and consistent with national policy.

Independent Examination – Late 2026 / 2027

If included in the draft Plan, the site would be examined by an independent Planning Inspector. Only sites that meet national policy tests and are supported by robust technical evidence can ultimately be adopted.

No Immediate Development

Importantly, the appearance of the site on the map does not grant planning permission. It is part of a plan-making process and remains subject to assessment, challenge and potential removal.

Bill Dax

'Been meaning to ask...what's going on with...?

Dropping off this magazine to households all over our parish, lots of debates are started. Maybe it's time for us to come up with some answers....

When will Dorney Lake close to visitors for the summer and will Dorney residents ever gain year-round access? The Lake has confirmed that the last day of 'seasonal grounds visiting' was to be March 27th. Parking congestion around Court Lane during the recent Junior Sculling Head event revived in this writer the 30-year belief that the Lake's neighbours deserved some consideration. Alas, the then bursar ruled out any access pass system at last year's Annual Parish Meeting, and to add to the stand-off, Dorney Lake has ceased its advertising with DPN. Eton College did agree to a package of planning conditions and obligations after the 1993 public inquiry, but the promised access was 'permissive' – as the Lake is private property, they may be obliged to 'facilitate public enjoyment' but they can decide when and how it happens.

Is Eton Wick suffering from its own Orchard Herbs site at Crown Farm? Might they have the same owner? Drive out along the Eton Wick Road and the similarities are uncanny. 'Wilful destruction' of natural habitats, planning refusal because of high flood risk and green belt status, multiple enforcement notices (from RBWM), appeals against these notices, and angry and vigilant residents (e.g. Eton Wick Village Association). Strangely, both sites saw major fires in 2025. The most obvious similarity is the unauthorised import of vehicles – lorries, caravans with hard standing and containers. Myself and many others believed the same hand must be behind these tactics. Are we correct? The ownership of 'Eton Wick Great Common' or the 'Lammas Grounds' (it is generally thought that Lammas grazing rights would no longer apply, but it's a further complication) has been complex. Once Crown Land, it was owned by Eton College and more recently by the Tarrant family. In 2025 it was bought at auction by one Fred Sines. Although the planning histories of Orchard Herbs' Christopher Ball and Mr Sines are equally 'colourful', there is no documented business connection between them. Specifically, we have no evidence that vehicles have been moved from the Dorney site to Mr Sines' domain.

Will there be a Taplow Station car park on the former Roots Garden Centre site? Dorney residents who use the Elizabeth Line are concerned about the limited parking likely to be available at Taplow, but despite what appears to be intense current activity, there seems no immediate likelihood of the former garden centre site becoming that longed for 300 bay car park. In 2023 planning permission was given for Class B8 use – 'Open Storage', typically yard use, plant storage, small ancillary buildings. The site was marketed to potential tenants on behalf of freehold owners who remain shadowy with glossy online brochures a year or two back, but now a gradual upgrading process appears under way.

Of course, Eton may change its approach, Messrs Sines and Ball might cosy up and a station car park might be suddenly announced. We'd be happy to be proved wrong!

Peter Bowman

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.



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DORNEY SCHOOL



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News from Dorney School

Pupils had an amazing time on World Book Day! It is not about costumes although we know most children (and some adults) love dressing up. It is about the joy and celebration of books and reading.



Year 6 took part in an interactive workshop, 'Easter Cracked' where they learnt about the Easter story.



Years 2 and 3 made sandwiches as part of our Design and Technology learning. We learnt important skills of food hygiene and preparation and had a lovely picnic to enjoy the sandwiches we made. The only ingredient missing were rays of sunshine!

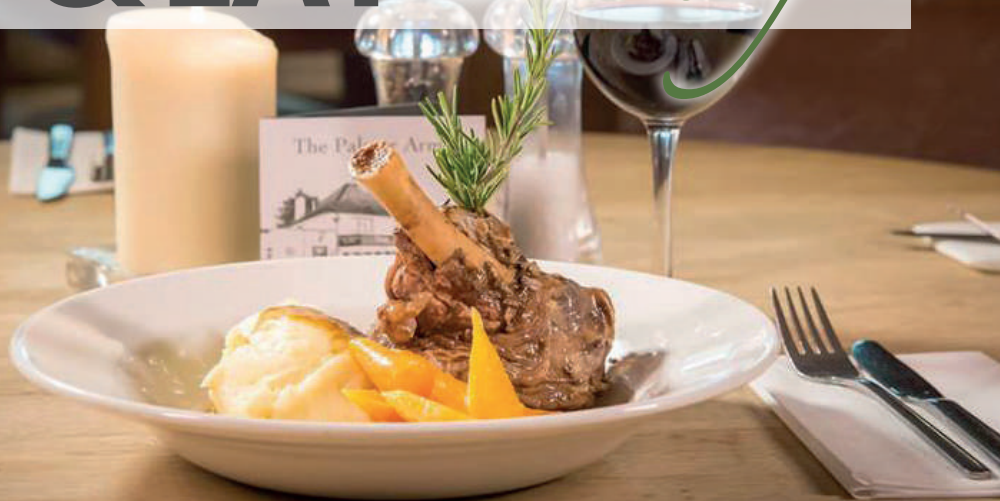


Pupils attended a World War II workshop at Eton College. The children worked collaboratively to build a protective den using sandbags, learned how fires at home would have been put out during the war and even discovered where real bombs were found at Eton College itself. It was a fantastic hands-on experience that really brought their learning to life! We are now enjoying the delights of springtime at school. Come and visit us to see the school and its nature gardens in action!

Mrs S Lee, Headteacher



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A Wonderful New Beginning for St Nicolas Playgroup, Dorney.



Exciting news for families in Dorney and the surrounding area - St Nicolas Playgroup is delighted to announce that the new setting at Dorney Village Hall is now open.

Offering Ofsted registered, term-time childcare for little ones aged 9 months to 2 years, St Nicolas Playgroup provides a warm, nurturing environment where babies and toddlers can begin their early learning journey with confidence. With a strong focus on care, development and play-based learning, the setting is designed to support each child's curiosity, creativity and growing independence.

Parents can feel reassured knowing their children are cared for by experienced, dedicated professionals in a safe and stimulating space tailored specifically for their needs.

Places are expected to fill quickly, so early enquiries are encouraged.

For more information or to register your interest, please contact the Playgroup Manager at **manager@stnicolasplaygroup.co.uk** - 07354840513

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Dorney Parish Council Precept for 2026/27



Council Tax bills for 2026/27 have now been issued, showing increases across all authorities.

For Dorney residents these are:

- Buckinghamshire Council: 5.0%
- Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner: 5.3%
- Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority: 5.9%
- Dorney Parish Council: 4.6%

The Parish Council element is therefore the lowest percentage increase among the four authorities.

At its January meeting, Dorney Parish Council agreed to increase the total parish precept by 7%.

However, the increase experienced by residents is lower because the precept is divided across the parish tax base (the number of Band D equivalent properties), which is recalculated each year by Buckinghamshire Council.

For 2026/27, Dorney's tax base has increased from approximately 371.7 to 380.2 Band D equivalent properties. In practical terms, this means the precept is now spread across about 8.5 additional Band D equivalent homes, reducing the impact on individual households.

This increase in the tax base can arise from a number of factors, including:

- A small number of new homes being completed
- Previously empty properties becoming occupied
- Annexes or separate dwellings being assessed for Council Tax
- Re-banding or other adjustments by the Valuation Office Agency

As a result, while the Parish Council increased its overall precept by 7%, and received that amount, the amount paid by individual households has risen by around 4.6%.

For a Band D property, the parish element will increase from £76.26 to £79.76 per year, an increase of £3.50 annually. Equivalent to around 29 pence per month.

The Parish Council continues to review expenditure carefully while maintaining essential services and community assets. The increase in the tax base has helped offset part of the cost pressures, ensuring that the parish precept remains a relatively small part of the overall Council Tax bill while continuing to support local facilities and services.

Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford

Letter from John Halsey to Glenn de Sousa, Commercial Director, Oxford Bus Company

Dear Glenn,

As a local resident, I was interested to read in Dorney Parish News (March 2026) your letter to Joy Morrissey, MP, saying that Oxford Bus Group would consider an additional bus stop on the Carousel No. 15 route along Lake End Road, Dorney, and that you are picking this idea up with Cllr Caesar and officers from Buckinghamshire Council.

I am sure that many Dorney residents and visitors would agree that this would enable a very useful enhancement to the service you provide. Currently, the bus passes in front of our noses, but the nearest bus stop is half a mile away at the Palmer Arms, Dorney. A new bus stop on Lake End Road near The Pineapple pub would make it much easier for Lake End residents (living on Ashford Lane and Lake End Road) to access Taplow Station on the Elizabeth Line, by way of Sainsbury's and the Bishop Centre shops, and would link with other buses along the A4.

Taplow Station is 40 minutes' walk from Lake End, and car parks at the station are sometimes full, so access to the station is not trouble free at present, and a more convenient bus service would make a real difference.

In the other direction, No. 15 links us to Eton, the footbridge to Windsor, and Slough, so the potential new bus stop would be useful in both directions. The bus stop would also help the Pineapple and improve recreational access to the Jubilee River walkways and wetland habitat.

I very much hope that the Oxford Bus Group will find a way to make this happen. If more letters would help the case, let me know, and I can mobilise our local WhatsApp group and get another article in Dorney Parish News!

Yours sincerely,

John Halsey

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Spring is certainly upon us, with warmer weather and longer days finally here. As your local Member of Parliament, I have continued working hard for residents in Dorney and across Beaconsfield, Marlow and the South Bucks villages, standing up for our community and the issues that matter most to local people.

In the constituency, the biggest issue over the past month has been the Local Plan. Our Green Belt matters enormously across Dorney and the wider constituency. It is not just special - it is vital. I have been clear that it must be protected, no ifs, no buts. With the Local Plan engagement process now closed, I have written to the Leader of Buckinghamshire Council to reiterate my strong support for protecting our Green Belt from overdevelopment. Residents care deeply about the countryside and green spaces around our villages, and I will continue to stand with residents to defend them.

It was also wonderful to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Taplow & Hitcham Women's Institute in March. Established in 1926 at the request of Lady Nancy Astor, it is a very special WI with a proud history. It was a truly magnificent day, and a real privilege to join members to celebrate such an important milestone and to recognise the contribution the WI has made to our community over the past century.

This month I was also pleased to speak in Parliament to celebrate International Women's Day. We are fortunate to have so many inspiring women across Beaconsfield, Marlow and the South Bucks villages who make a difference every single day - in our schools, charities, local businesses and community groups. They are the backbone of our communities.

I have also been working with Conservative colleagues to raise concerns with the Competition and Markets Authority about price gouging in the heating oil market, which is a major issue for rural households. At the same time, there are ongoing policy proposals that would make heating more expensive for rural residents. I will continue to fight for fair energy prices and for policies that recognise the realities of living in rural communities.

In Parliament, I recently spoke as Shadow Minister in a Westminster Hall debate on VAT on independent schools. This issue is having a real impact on families, particularly those with children with SEND, and it is something many local parents have contacted me about. I will continue to champion parents and pupils and ensure their voices are heard.

Locally, I was pleased to see the letter published in the previous issue of Dorney Parish News from Glenn De Sousa, Head of Commercial at Oxford Bus Group, which owns Carousel Buses. Access to reliable public transport is incredibly important, especially for elderly and vulnerable residents, and I will continue to follow this issue closely to ensure residents have the transport links they need.

This is just a snapshot of some of the work I have been doing over the past month. If you need any support, as always, please do contact me at joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk, I will be very happy to help.

Joy Morrissey MP



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Slough Sewage Works: Storm Overflows and the Roundmoor Ditch

Why the issue highlighted in the Channel 4 “Dirty Business” documentary matters locally

Many residents may recently have watched the Channel 4 documentary “**Dirty Business**”, which examined the growing national concern about sewage discharges from sewer overflows into rivers and streams.

While the programme focused on well-known rivers such as the Windrush and the Thames, the issue is not confined to major waterways. A similar process is already occurring much closer to home — in the Roundmoor Ditch system, which flows through Lake End Common, Dorney Common and onwards to the Thames. And Thames Water and the Environment Agency are the main players here, as well.

Recent publicly available data confirms that the storm overflow associated with Slough Sewage Treatment Works (STW) discharged into Roundmoor Ditch 70 times during 2024, for a total duration of 1,220 hours. [Latest published data]

That equates to:

- **More than 51 days of continuous discharge**
- **Around 14% of the entire year**
- **On average, a raw sewage spill roughly once every six days**

When Thames Water records that a “storm overflow spilled”, it means that untreated (or minimally screened) sewage mixed with rainwater has been released into the receiving watercourse.

This occurs because most UK sewer systems (including Slough) are combined systems, carrying both wastewater from homes and rainwater from roads and roofs. During heavy rainfall the system can exceed its capacity, and storm overflows act as safety valves to prevent sewage backing up into homes and streets.

Although these discharges are permitted by the Environment Agency during exceptional rainfall, their frequency across the UK has become a major environmental and public-health concern.

Why this matters in Dorney

Roundmoor Ditch is a very small and flat watercourse that receives the discharge from Slough Sewage Works before flowing through Dorney Common and back-washing onto Lake End Common.

Studies carried out for local organisations show that in dry weather more than 90% of the water in Roundmoor Ditch originates from the sewage treatment works discharge, rather than from natural stream flow.

This means that any overflow discharges — even if diluted by rainwater — ultimately enter the ditch system that runs through Dorney Common and back to Lake End Common.

Because the ditch has very little natural gradient, water moves slowly and can remain on the two Commons for extended periods. When levels rise, standing water can persist for weeks or even months.

The flooding behaviour observed on both Commons is strongly influenced by the hydraulic constraints of the ditch and culvert system, which means that water levels can back up upstream when flows are high.

A worrying trend

The number of sewage overflow events in 2024 appears significantly higher than in the previous two years. While Thames Water attributes this partly to “exceptional weather” during the monitoring period [not proven], the figures nevertheless highlight how frequently the system is currently operating beyond its normal capacity.

At the same time, Thames Water has announced plans to upgrade Slough STW in order to treat more wastewater from the rapidly expanding Slough catchment.

The proposed upgrade will increase the permitted treatment capacity from 1,150 litres per second to approximately 1,416 litres per second, a rise of around 23%.

While the improvements are expected to increase treatment quality, the upgrade also means larger volumes of treated water will continue to be discharged into the Roundmoor system along with the untreated sewage “storm water”.

What this could mean locally

For residents, farmers and walkers who use the Commons, the key issues are:

- prolonged standing water on grazing land
- potential contamination from sewage-derived water
- increased flooding risk upstream of the Roundmoor culvert
- ecological impacts on the ditch system

These concerns have been examined in detail in the Dorney Parish Council technical report on Roundmoor Ditch flooding, which concludes that the existing ditch system is not well suited to carrying the current — let alone increased — volumes of water from the treatment works.

Possible long-term solutions

One potential solution identified in the report would be to divert the majority of the Slough STW outfall directly into the Jubilee River, rather than through the Roundmoor Ditch.

Because the Jubilee River is a large, engineered flood channel, it is capable of carrying these flows without the same flooding effects.

Under such a scheme, a smaller controlled flow could still pass through the Roundmoor system to maintain ecological conditions and provide water for livestock and fish.

Continuing work

Dorney Parish Council and local groups are continuing to gather data and engage with the Environment Agency and Thames Water to better understand the system and possible mitigation measures.

The issue highlighted nationally in the Dirty Business documentary therefore has a direct local relevance.

For Dorney residents, the challenge is not simply sewage pollution in rivers — it is the interaction between wastewater infrastructure and a small rural ditch system that was never intended to carry such large and continuous flows.

Further updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

Bill Dax

FRACTIOUS ON DORNEY COMMON

'There never was a good war, or a bad peace' Benjamin Franklin 1783

Flashes of sun appeared fleetingly through March, but the general consensus on the windswept Common was pull on your pullovers, and pull over to avoid the potholes! Our local roads were not the only thing going to pot - my dirt drive to the cottage developed increasingly cavernous potholes, so access was only safely achieved with one side of my wheels on the verge. The persistent wet weather made matters worse, compounding the situation, as deliveries thumped their way down, not realising how very deep the holes had become!

Fortunately, Eton Wick houses a rich mix of talented artisans, which I regularly tap into. Literally within seconds, replies flood in with help or suggestions. This time I was looking for a temporary fix to my pitted drive, (which was repaired by Team EW within a week) until my boyfriend Bob was fit enough to provide a long-term solution, but at this point he was unable to offer assistance.

Poor Bob had been allocated two ski assignments for the Ski Club, chauffeuring holiday makers across the Alps, in search of fresh snow and crazy antics down black slopes. Sadly, having avoided any injuries for 45 years on skis, he fractured his neck of femur (top of his leg) slipping on a step into a café. He was whisked to the Austrian Zam Hospital, famous for its very proficient orthopaedic surgeons, to have his femur pinned, before being escorted home. He returned back on crutches, this season's skiing having vapourised after only one day on the slopes.



Whilst away, I had planned to undertake some work for the Maidenhead Musical Comedy Society (MMCS) having been asked by the Chair, Lynn Dean, to make three intricate stage props. They were for the production 'Sweet Charity' opening at the Kenton, Henley, in late April.

However, Bob was back, and reliant on me for his everyday needs, non-weight bearing, grumpy and fractious that his fracture caused him to be confined! However, before much time had passed, he managed to help with my prop making assignment, turning out some beautiful carpentry for me to paint. He then

went on to making and fitting extensive shelving to the kiln room, agilely hopping and hobbling with ease, then sat down and threw two pots on the wheel. You can't keep an active man down, and productive activity brings smiles to both parties!

Just as the making for that production concludes, I receive a call from another Director asking for help with the set design of the next Panto at Norden Farm, Cinderella. I did this one ten years ago for the Desborough Theatre in Maidenhead. In fact it is the same script, but a big production with significant amount of glitz (hard work). However, it was discussed that they would be using back projection which would significantly lighten the load, particularly mine. But, just as the call was ending, she popped in, *'However, I really would like a couple of backdrops'*

My pottery hobby now expanding, the courses at Windsor College were great fun, but their kiln was nearly always out of order, and there was often a dearth of clay. The class potteries were sometimes fired at the local fire station (they happen to have one), Stroud College in Egham or at the tutor's own home kiln. This resulted in a long backlog, so more than a few were brought back to my cottage to be fired.

However, sadly as Windsor became oversubscribed for the next term, two gained a place and two missed out, within our friendship group. The two missing out, myself and Cheryl, decided to try out the Bucks Council offering in Iver, to see what's going on there, watch this space, new adventures in the making.

'Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful' Albert Schweitzer

Too true! Hobbies are a salve to the soul, taking troubled thoughts to faraway places, allowing creativity to flourish and results in similar wavelength friendships. As my continuing learn curve continued, my thirst for learning all things mud-like diversified, so I enrolled on a week's summer residential course 'Six methods of Sculpture' course at West Dean College. This included evening seminars on all things relating to art, which can mean I can wallow to my heart's delight.

Joy of joys! It is nearly time for our cows to return at the end of March, signalling the start of true Spring and the gradual lighter evenings. How I long to shed the eleventy-eight layers of smart wool and thick socks. To celebrate Spring, we have in our village the DDHS Spring Supper, by now probably come and gone, but no doubt enjoyed by those who could make it. Don't forget we have the rest of the year with a selection of interesting visits, speakers and social suppers. Your support is greatly appreciated.



Aggression and anger dominate our world, so I am reminded of an old Buddhist story about a boat, and this time what happened on the boat should not be kept on the boat, but shared. An angry monk wanted some peace and solitude, so he took his boat out onto a large lake to get away from people that he felt contributed to making him feel such anger. Whilst meditating peacefully on the water, there was suddenly a big thud to the side of his boat. Looking angrily up, for someone to blame and shout at, he saw it was nothing more than an untethered empty boat drifting to a chance collision. In that moment, he realised the anger was already inside him, and not the fault of a person but a situation, recognising that many 'collisions' in life are accidental, not intentional.

Finally, I would like to dedicate my final paragraph to Jim. Several months ago, our dear postman Jim, took absence from his job delivering my letters, where he always arrived with a cheerful smile. It was some weeks later that I realised he was still not about, to then hear that he was quite ill and not returning. Well over twenty years of seeing his friendly face made me feel quite sad, as he was a regular sight in our village, immensely popular and well respected.

Kristina Perkins

One Year at Uni

Some of you may not want to hear, but next month I am finishing my first year of university and will be back in the village for 5 months. As I go into the last month of my first year, I look back and reminisce on the changes that have happened to both me and the village. Despite only being at university for 8 months, some of which I was recovering from an injury I realise how quick it has gone and how sad I am that the first year is nearly completed.

I started Oxford Brookes in September after having the best time travelling and getting some work experience in as well! Before starting I was nervous and apprehensive but excited, nonetheless. I had no idea how much I would adore being there. The work is a lot, but rewarding, and the people I have met are fab (the order I put those two aspects of uni are crucial in my parents' eyes!)

Since being at Brookes, some parts of the village have changed; the bus has become more regular with added stops making it much more accessible and helpful for commuters or social lives. The piece of land next to the bridge out of Dorney is nearly cleared which is very exciting for all residents. But something that will never change is the safety and the community of the village which will always be something I cherish.

Aspects of myself have stayed the same but it is safe to say I have grown so much as a person and believe that I am a more outgoing person, ready for any challenges that may come my way. Although self-motivation may still need improving, as my 9am lecture attendance will prove, I know I will get there some day, everything takes time... and at the moment sleep is crucial (some things never change)

I am excited to be back for summer, well Spring as well considering I finish next month! There's something about the daffodils coming out and the gardens in Dorney during this time which brings such a shine to the village. As well as utilising the gorgeous pub gardens at both the Palmer Arms and The Pineapple, they are there for a reason after all!

I am going to miss my first year at uni immensely, being around people continuously, I can say one thing is for sure - my social battery has been tested and has come out very strong, It will be weird not being with people all the time, but like I have said many times before, Dorney is such a great location to get into London or Reading. My brother is starting to learn how to drive as well so this is ideal as he can pay me back for all the lifts I have given him, it's a win for me!

Speaking of my brother, he has sent out a few gardening advertisements for people in the village, and is open for some more projects, so if you are planning on having garden parties or just want to look at a well-kept garden in the sun be sure to get in contact and he can help your garden look great for the spring and summer time!

Laila Marples

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



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Good Deeds in a Bad World

I'm an addict!

There's an admission so early in the year, but sadly it's true.

I've been addicted to news all my adult life but have at last found a cure. Lately we've been bombarded by a tsunami of doom, gloom and disaster as I stare through frightened fingers at rocketing fuel prices. Will I have to stop using my Mercedes Benz pose mobile?

No more news for me!

So my dear reader, here's a couple of things that reassure all is well; familiar comforters like a nice cuppa, 'The Archers', the bells ringing at Dorney Church.... or sorry, perhaps not for much longer! As new ringers start to learn around twelve and being young, they do this quickly, but adolescence provides more interesting diversions; hence, we ringers are always in short supply, nowhere more so than Dorney where a small dedicated band tour local churches on Sundays, wedding days and practice nights to keep the bells ringing, but soon, the major tower in Cookham is to change service times, upsetting the fine arrangements that now exist.

"Oh no!" I hear you shout. "What can I do about it?"

Well, you certainly can do something about it by simply turning up at Dorney Church at 7.30pm on Monday or Hitcham Church at 7.00pm on Wednesday and the lovely Janet, Roger, David or perhaps even I will teach you and open new horizons of friendship and traditions unchanged for 400 years! If a Tudor ringer walked into Dorney Church now, the only difference they would notice would be the electric light! Everything else, all the names of bits of bells and frames, all the tunes, called 'methods,' are exactly the same, and I still don't understand most of them! Do come along and keep the tradition, and the bells alive. If you can climb the steps up the tower, you'll be fit enough.

Talking of new ringers, largely due to the warm friendly nature of the Hitcham and Dorney bell bosses, called 'Tower Captains,' we have had a few new ringers, one of whom Erin, a dynamo of endless energy and good humour, mentioned that she works at the Thames Valley Adventure Playground (TVAP) on the Maidenhead/Dorney boundary. TVAP supports and provides brief respite for Special Needs children, adults, and their carers or parents and they are constantly looking for volunteers with various skills as it exists solely through donations. I am aware that five local respite centres have closed for various reasons in the last few years, so much so that some special needs adults find respite over an hour-long cup of tea in Tesco's before they 'wander home alone,' as mentioned in previous DPNs. Why didn't I have a look around with a view to volunteering myself?

I arrived at the appointed hour to meet Gary, another slightly older dynamo and the boss, who kept five balls in the air constantly over a walkie talkie radio as he showed me round the huge site alongside a sparkling lake in warm sunshine. As he walked quickly and I puffed to keep up, he showed me the various activities inside and out specifically for his charges. These included large and small pedal cars, a basketball net, swings and roundabouts. It all impressed me, but what won the day was an aerial ramp and pathway

up to around seven feet high, but wheelchair accessible. How many children in wheelchairs get to look down on the world!

There were drums to beat, huge sandpits, a music room, a quiet room and hosts of other wonders. TVAP 'T' shirted staff bustled as Erin, not the captain but clearly on the helm, directed, advised, encouraged, welcomed and waved goodbye to everyone and nearly all by name.

I was sold and have become one of the maintenance team lead by Alan and Colin who make me most welcome and forever patient as the new boy gets to know where everything is. For us maintenance men, security is paramount. No tools are left unattended or doors unlocked as I work on various repair jobs including the refurbishment of a wooden spaceship! The children are always inquisitive and could swallow a dropped screw, so I am always scrupulously careful!

One day I was working in the main building helping Sylvia and Janine when a small choir started singing. It was not the LSO Chorus or anything of the sort, but in its own way, it was wonderful, and I said so to a passing 'T' shirted lady.

"Do you sing?" she asked in some excitement.

"Well er yes, I suppose so."

"Oh, do come and join us! Oh, please do! We want people who can sing."

Her enthusiasm was infectious and so the following week I growled chestily in the back row under the direction of Beckie and Lucy as we learned songs my Mum used to sing to me, while Lucy's Mum Bev accompanied us on a piano.

Everyone involved is simply wonderful, basking in the joy of doing something so important brilliantly. The lovely Mrs Quincey turns up to help every week as well. Her arrival is more celebrated than mine!

Society is judged by how it cares for those less fortunate. Far removed from the trials and tribulations of the saga of scrap lorries, the Straits of Hormuz or the price of fuel it is indeed a little place of sanity.

More information about TVAP can be found at tvap.co.uk.

Simple!

Speaking of places of sanity, I was passing Lake End Road where it meets Court Lane in the Dagenham Dustbin, wincing at the radio with all the catastrophe mentioned in the first two paragraphs when I gasped at the 'Host of Golden Daffodils' (sorry Wordsworth) in glorious sunshine and stopped, got out of the car and breathed it all in.

As Nigel Kennedy the brilliant fiddle player said on a slightly highbrow programme on Radio 4, "The best time (of your life) is right now."

Stay safe.

Mike Quincey

Powell Taekwondo Hits Its Stride: A Smashing Success in the Community



It isn't just about the kicks and punches at **Powell Taekwondo**—it's about the energy. Since opening its doors, the club has seen classes fill up, quickly becoming a local hub for fitness, discipline, and competitive spirit. From the sharp uniforms to the focused silence of a pattern, this dojang is officially the place to be.

A Powerful Start

The response from the community has been nothing short of "brilliant." What started as a vision for a high-standard martial arts school has rapidly evolved into a packed schedule of thriving classes.

Diversity on the Mats

One of the most impressive features of Powell Taekwondo is the **diverse demographic** of its membership. Walking into a session, you'll find:

- **Mighty Masters (Ages 4 - 7):** Energetic youngsters building their first foundations of balance and coordination.
- **8yrs, Teens & Adults:** Channelling focus and building confidence during their most formative years. Proving that it's never too late to start a fitness journey or master a new art form.

This "good mix" of age groups has created a unique family-oriented environment where seniors mentor juniors, and everyone learns the value of mutual respect.

The Big Milestone: March Grading

The excitement is currently reaching a fever pitch as the club prepares for its **first official grading at the end of March**. For many students, this represents their first opportunity to trade their white belts for their next rank.

Powell Taekwondo is looking toward a bright future in Dorney, with additional classes opening in the future. If the current trajectory is any indication, the school is well on its way to becoming a cornerstone of local martial arts excellence.



Maria Holloway



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Draft Action Plan 2025/2026

Updated: 17 March 2026

	<u>Action</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	In Progress
			Completed
Heritage	Review formal proposals for new Conservation Areas	Establish Dorney Common and Lake End Conservation Areas	NP Working Group 2026/27
	Orchard Herbs Site	Monitor compliance with enforcement action	Robert Stopford
Environment	Complete roadside verges management review	Implement biodiversity-friendly approach to verge management	Jill Dax
	Complete planting improvements	Finish landscaping at Dents Corner, Marsh Lane/Harcourt Road areas	Jill Dax
	Trumper's Field	Consider protection strategy: Local Green Space (LGS) Designation, Community Right to Bid (CRB) Listing, Community Asset Transfer (CAT)	NP Working Group
	Memorial Garden	Implement recommendations from tree survey	Jill Dax
	Trail bikes prevention measures	Continue to monitor	Jill Dax/Robert Stopford
	Annual Footpath Audit	Ensure all footpaths are usable and maintained according to standards	Cath Knight, Chiltern Society
	Investigate Official Bridleway	Jubilee River: Marsh Lane to Lake End Rd	Parish Clerk
	Volunteer litter-pickers support	Provide equipment if available	Jill Dax
	Dorney Lake resident access	Continue dialogue for summer weekday access for residents	Jill Dax
Community	Dorney Village Hall	Management	Anna Palmer/Parish Clerk
Planning and Architecture			
	Resume Neighbourhood Plan	Support Neighbourhood Plan Working Group when Bucks Council issues Local Plan	NP Working Group 2027?
Infrastructure	Speed limit reduction proposals	Continue formal proposals to Bucks Council for three priority roads. Obtain MVAS data	Parish Clerk
	Ensure EA replace Manor Farm bridleway gates	Following incident in 2025	Parish Clerk
	Road condition surveys	Conduct regular surveys and maintain prioritised repair list	Parish Clerk
	Ashford Lane footbridge	Continue pressure on Bucks Council for repair/replacement	Jill Dax
	Dangerous Parking at Pineapple	Install mirror for junction of Ashford Lane and Lake End Road	Jill Dax
	Conduct Street Furniture/Signage Review	Annual review to reduce unnecessary signage clutter	Stephen Baker
	Flooding management (Lake End Common and Dorney Common with EWWG)	Consider reports	Martin Hardman
Resources	Parish Councillor vacancy	Continue advertising	Parish Clerk
	Parish Plan 2026/27	Consider	All



DORNEY

PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 17th MARCH 2026 @ DORNEY VILLAGE HALL

Present

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair) Cllr. Anna Palmer Cllr. Martin Hardman
Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford Cllr. Robert Stopford Cllr. Stephen Baker
1 member of the public

Public Forum

Peter Bowman had been in contact with Dorney Lake to find out their closure date for public access for the summer, which is 27th March. Also, the abandoned car issue is being followed up by MP Joy Morrissey as well as directly by Buckinghamshire Council.

PC/15/26 Apologies for absence

Clerk - Ruth Senior

PC/16/26 Declaration of interest on any items of business on this Agenda

There were none declared.

PC/17/26 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2026

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

PC/18/26 To receive the Clerk report

The Clerk circulated the report prior to the meeting:

Public Forum The abandoned Mercedes on Oak Stubbs Lane was removed after contacting Bucks, Joy Morrissey, the police and Bucks are now in touch regarding the ongoing problem.

PC/07/26 Finance Kuldip Kainth has confirmed he will conduct this year's audit and has supplied a list of what is needed which Ruth and Martyn will work on.

PC/83/25 Assertion 10 The new emails are now up and running, thank you to everyone for their patience and work.

PC/19/26 Planning

Update from Cllr. Stopford.

New Planning applications:

PL/26/00842/FA Rookwood 1 Old Marsh Lane Dorney Reach Buckinghamshire SL6 ODZ Part-single/part-two storey rear extension and loft conversion incorporating rear dormer. **No comment to be made**

PL/26/01116/SA Ronita 59 Harcourt Road Dorney Reach Buckinghamshire SL6 ODT Certificate of lawfulness for the proposed demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a single-storey rear extension. **No comment to be made.**

PL/25/2901/FA Melrose 10 Dorney Reach Road Dorney Buckinghamshire SL6 ODX Single-storey outhouse (retrospective) - Appeal launched. **No comment to be made.**

PL/26/00430/FA Eton Dorney Independent Therapeutic School Lake End Road Dorney Buckinghamshire SL4 6QS Installation of a portacabin classroom building. The proposed planning application is for an additional temporary Portakabin Limited Portakabin building to provide extra classrooms.

This for the expansion of the school. The question is are we concerned about additional traffic at the school. We would require some further information on the planned usage before making any comments.

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. This has now gone to the Planning Inspectorate on appeal based on grounds of non-determination.

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

EA made comments on 10th March that part of the site is now within Flood Zone 3. I would recommend that we write to Bucks Council asking them to confirm that in light of this, that the Council ask the EA to reassess the application and ask the applicant to submit revised flood risk assessment

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. On 2nd March the EA again wrote say they still object to the planning application

PC/20/26 Finance

20.1 To agree/ratify expenditure and income to date – this was circulated prior to the meeting, **it was agreed** and signed by the Finance Chairman.

20.2 To agree the budget for 2026/27 – the final budget was circulated prior to the meeting and **agreed**. **It was agreed** that Cllr. Westcott-Wreford will provide an article for Dorney Parish News to summarize the budget and precept.

20.3 To consider items for CIL spend – Local Plan – to consider at that point in the meeting.

PC/21/26 To update and consider actions for Orchard Herbs

Orchard Herbs - There has been slow progress in clearing the site. Bucks' enforcement had another meeting week commencing 9th Feb. Apparently Bucks are now considering an 8-week deadline for clearing of the site (by 10th April). No update as of today

PC/22/26 To update and consider options on the Roundmoor Ditch system flooding

Cllr. Hardman reported that the camera has now been installed rear garden of Ashford Lane property. We will liaise with EWWG when latest info released by Slough Treatment Works.

PC/23/26 To consider the response to the Bucks Local Plan

Buckinghamshire Council are in the progress of producing a local plan. They submitted an initial draft of sites recommended for development under the new plan. The review of the final draft of the plan (Reg 19) is planned to start in Mid-July 2026. The main issue we have is that the owner of Orchard Herbs has put forward part of his site for the location of 10 travellers' pitches. We have already submitted an initial response. If in the final draft of the local plan, we need to put together a professional response and would like to employ the services of ONH <https://www.oneillhomer.co.uk/> to help us. They have been employed by both Burnham and Taplow to carry out similar work. The cost would be £2,550+VAT **agreed**.

PC/24/26 To update on speeding issues in Dorney and Dorney Common

It was agreed that the Clerk will chase a response from the January email.

PC/25/26 To receive an update on the planned re-surfacing works

It has been confirmed that road repairs and re-surfacing will take place on Marsh Lane, Lake End road and Court Lane however no dates have been scheduled in yet.

PC/26/26 To consider options for reducing the cost of streetlighting electricity

It was confirmed that our LED streetlights are currently the lowest wattage, it was agreed that we will contact SSE for lowest possible supply rate before looking into further options, as any changes are likely to incur costs.

PC/27/26 To update on Dorney playground and consider the letter regarding transfer

Due to the lack of interest in new Trustees taking over the Dorney Playground Charity, they have written to Dorney Village Hall and Dorney Parish Council asking if the Playground can be transferred to them. **It was agreed** a transfer to DVH is the most sensible solution following all the correct procedures. We will ask for a handover of completed inspections and documentation etc and ascertain if any Trustees wish to continue. **It was agreed** to obtain costs for weekly maintenance by a contractor for the next meeting. The future of the tuck shop was questioned and will be put forward.

PC/28/26 To update on Dorney Village Hall

The new playgroup St Nicolas Playgroup, Dorney opened it's doors on 2nd March following a completed sign off from OFSTED and is now fully operational.

There was a window broken at the front of the hall in early March which is being replaced and a report of youths on the roof of the building which was swiftly dealt with and police attended.

PC/29/26 To consider any complaints/comments received from residents

There was a report of a trunk from a felled tree on Court Lane however this is not blocking the road.

PC/30/26 Items to consider for discussion at the next meeting Annual Parish Council 19th May, 7pm @ Dorney Lake followed by the Dorney Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm

An invitation list for speakers at the Annual Parish Meeting was discussed, including:

An EA representative
Local Plan Team from Bucks
William Emmet
Playgroup
Cole Caesar
Horticultural Society

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



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

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

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

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

Dorney Parish News will continue to provide Keycode details.

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

Dorney 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
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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, 26	5, 19	12, 29	12, 29	12, 29
2026	Jan	5, 10, 16, 23, 30	13, 20	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

Published monthly (except January and August)

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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

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