

Dorney Parish News

May 2026



Annual Parish Meeting

Dorney Lake Boathouse

7.30 pm on Tuesday 19 May 2026



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EDITORIAL

'Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May...' It seems right to quote from Shakespeare's celebrated Sonnet 18, as we write these words on his 462nd birthday. As we enter the merry month of May Dorney residents will be relishing the sunshine we have had yet fearing the occasional near Arctic temperatures that threaten our budding gardens.

In these pages Mo Voaden rejoices in the coming of spring, and at the same time encourages other very welcome Dorney voices to join in. This enthusiasm sparks thoughts on other fixtures of a Dorney springtime.

May traditionally is the month of the Annual Parish Meeting. Dorney Parish News wholeheartedly urges all readers (and everybody else) to attend on May 19th. Full details are elsewhere in this issue. This column has knocked around this parish for four decades or so and attended most of these meetings. It's not just nostalgia to recall a packed Village Hall reflecting on the latest threat, from the construction of Dorney Lake to the 2012 Olympics and the plans of LOCOG (remember them?) while revelling in achievements, be it a new playground, a much-loved school or local Olympic torch bearers. We hope recent issues of this very magazine have highlighted key local issues for discussion....

Another local spring fixture, and long may it continue, is the Dorney Horticultural Society Spring Supper. New committee members were needed, and volunteers have come forward. This column can assure Ron Alsworth and the DHS committee that it was a very enjoyable evening, one of those occasions when you just wish there were more opportunities for Dorney to come together in good cheer.

That thought makes this column think of pubs and springtime pub gardens. I should just point out here that the excellent cottage pie at that Spring Supper was served up by Chrys Fisher of The Palmer Arms. Chrys is a wonderfully supportive resident of our community, and friends and family forever tell us how lucky we are to have not just 'the Palmer's' but also The Pineapple in our parish. The Palmer's contribution to springtime fixtures, which this column very much regrets missing, was the marking of St George's Day by a visit by Morris dancers hailing from Hurst and Datchet. Photos please for our next issue!

Other providers of food, drink and recreation exist locally! We very much welcome another column from Drew MacGregor, Dorney Reacher and manager of horticulture and retail at Crocus at Dorney Court. We're also proud to carry details in this issue of the early summer opening of Dorney Court, plus an offer to readers of this magazine.

When these words have been read, move along to those of Dorney's vicar Andreas Sistig. Easter celebrations, of course, are a springtime fixture, as is the Easter Sunday dawn service at St Mary Magdalene, Boveney. We would especially bring to your attention the fine photos and Andreas' commentary of that beautiful event on a springtime Dorney morning.

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.jubileeriverchurches.org.uk

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

Pastor: Olusegun Omatayo 07712 126334 www.rccgchurchatslough.com

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Burnham

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

Coming Close to the wounds of others

There is something quietly unsettling at the heart of the post-Easter Gospel story of Thomas saying: 'Unless I see... unless I touch... I will not believe' (John 20:25). It sounds like doubt (hence his unfortunate nickname), but perhaps it is something deeper—a longing for a faith that is real, personal, and encountered, not simply inherited.

When Jesus appears a week later, he offers Thomas exactly what he asked for: "Put your finger here... reach out your hand." Yet the Gospel never tells us that Thomas actually touches him. There is no description of contact—only Thomas's immediate response: "My Lord and my God."

It seems the invitation itself is enough.

To touch a wound is not a simple act. We instinctively approach wounds with care. We hesitate, aware of vulnerability and the possibility of causing pain. The same is true of the unseen wounds people carry—grief, loss, shame, trauma. These are not things to be handled lightly or hurried past.

Perhaps Thomas pauses not because he doubts, but because he recognises what is being asked of him. To come close to woundedness requires courage, tenderness, and a willingness to be changed.

That same challenge faces us. What holds us back from drawing near to the pain of others? Often it is fear—of saying the wrong thing, of being overwhelmed, or of uncovering something within ourselves. Sometimes it is discomfort. We prefer life to be tidy and resolved, yet wounds are rarely either. And sometimes, if we are honest, we simply avoid what is difficult.

Yet at the centre of our faith stands the risen Christ, still bearing wounds. They are not erased or hidden, but visible and offered. Even in resurrection, they remain—gathered into the light.

The Easter candle, marked with the cross and the five wounds, reminds us of this truth. The marks of suffering are not removed; they are held within the brightness of new life.

So, what might it mean for us to “touch the wounds” today? It may not mean fixing things or having answers. More often, it means drawing near—listening without rushing, allowing pain to be real, and resisting the urge to turn away.

It also calls for humility. Not every wound is ours to enter, and not every moment asks us to act. Sometimes simply being present is enough.

Like Thomas, we may find that the invitation itself changes us. In coming close, we begin to see more clearly—and, perhaps, to recognise Christ in one another.

Yours in Christ, Andreas.

Team Rector

Church Services in May 2026

Sunday 3rd May

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

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

Sunday 10th May

9.30 am Holy Communion
11.00 am Holy Communion

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

Wednesday 13th May

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Thursday 14th May (Ascension Day)

9.30 am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

Sunday 17th May

9.30am Morning Worship
11.00am Morning Worship

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

Sunday 25th May (Pentecost)

9.30am Holy Communion
11.00 am Holy Communion

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

Wednesday 27th May

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 31st May (Trinity Sunday)

9.30am Morning Worship
11.00am Holy Communion

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

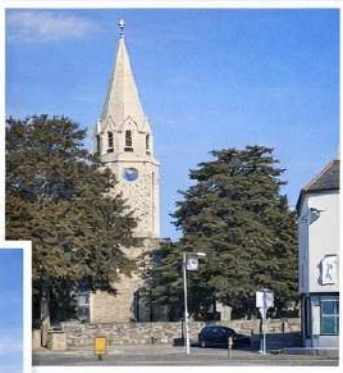
Easter at St Mary Magdalene, Boveney



At 6am on Easter Sunday, a congregation gathered at St Mary Magdalene, Boveney, to celebrate the Easter Sunrise service. People of all ages, including many young people, came together by the riverside to welcome the light of the risen Christ. As dawn broke, the service moved into the ancient church, where firelight glowed warmly through the doorway, symbolising hope overcoming darkness. In a world facing many challenges, this special occasion offered a powerful sense of peace, community, and renewal, reminding all present of the enduring message of love, light, and new life at the heart of Easter.

Andreas Sistig

Benefice Walk & Joint Choral Evensong



On Sunday 3 May, we will be walking across the Benefice.

Meet at 3.00 pm at St Mary's, Datchet

Walk to St John the Evangelist, Eton

Continue to St John the Baptist, Eton Wick (for coffee & tea)

Proceed to St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

*Choral Evensong at St James the Less, Dorney
6.30pm with St Mary's Choir*

Refreshments will be available after the service,
sponsored by the **Choral Evensong Trust**

DORNEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - ANNUAL GARDEN VISIT

BEECH HOUSE - JORDANS - TUESDAY MAY 12TH - 2PM

Address: Beech House, Long Wood Drive, Jordans, Nr Beaconsfield HP9 2SS.



Dear members, this year the Horticultural Society has arranged a private garden tour to Beech House in Jordans, located in the beautiful Chiltern Hills. Beech House is a member of the National Garden Scheme which raises money for UK charities. This is a self drive outing, however lifts can be arranged if required. We meet at the property for a 2pm start. There is parking at the garden.

The afternoon will start off with a talk about the evolution of the garden from the owner, followed by a garden tour. Members are then free to explore on their own.

Following the garden tour the owner has invited us to use his patio for an afternoon picnic. On this occasion members would need to bring their own drinks and cups or glasses. The society will provide plenty of cake to accompany your drinks. The garden outings are always popular - see how other people deal with the everyday challenges of coping with a large garden, and you get to tramp over someone else's lawn, so please book your place early.



The price for this outing is £8 per person which includes the cake.



Beech House is a 2 acre garden created over the last 38 years, with a wide range of flowering and foliage plants in a variety of habitats for all year interest. Many different bulbs, perennials, shrubs, roses, and grasses, together with trees planted for their flowers, foliage, ornamental bark, and autumn colour give a continual display. Two meadows with a long flowering season are a popular feature.

**Numbers for this trip are limited, please reserve your place with Kristina at:
ddhs.members@gmail.com**



Tour Dorney Court in June



Widely regarded as one of England's finest Tudor Manor Houses, Dorney Court welcomes visitors from near and far to join a guided tour this June 2026.

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

Opening Times

In June 2026 Dorney Court is open every day

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

Tours take approximately 1 hour

Admission Prices

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

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

www.dorneycourt.co.uk

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

News from Dorney School

At Dorney School, we work in partnership with local and national organisations with the aim that our curriculum is relevant and our offer to our pupils is comprehensive and holistic. Below are some networks we have built over the years.

Our local friendly Police Community Support Officer Angela O'Connell



Angela delivers regular workshops to the children and is always available for support and advice. You may see her out and about in our local area talking to local residents or keeping her eyes on the community around Dorney.

Working with local secondary schools

As part of the Beeches Learning and Development Trust, we work closely with our 'sister' school, Burnham Grammar. We share resources and expertise in ensuring our pupils receive the best education. We also work closely with sixth formers from Eton College and are grateful that we are able to use their resources and facilities where possible. Years 5 and 6 have been invited to attend multiple events at Burnham Grammar, Eton College and Cox Green school including History workshops, Science days, Maths days, Art workshops and musical plays.

British Science Week



We also work closely with the University of Hertfordshire who awarded us the Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM). This highly recognised accreditation validates the commitment our curriculum, staff and pupils have to deepen our scientific knowledge. We were involved in the annual British Science Week, and this year the theme was "Curiosity: What's your question?" Across school children came up with interesting questions and displayed great scientific thinking. Throughout the week each class took part in a poster competition which was based around a positive childhood and what that childhood may look like in the future.

Why not join us in our exciting school?

Are you passionate about making a real difference in your local community? Dorney School is seeking dedicated and enthusiastic individuals to join our governing board. As a school governor, you'll play a vital role in shaping the future of our pupils—supporting school leadership, helping set strategic direction, and ensuring every child receives the best possible education. No prior experience is needed—just a commitment to learning, teamwork, and improving outcomes for children. This is a rewarding voluntary role that offers the chance to develop new skills, gain valuable experience, and contribute meaningfully to a thriving school community. Do email office@dorneyschool.co.uk or telephone 01628 620871.

Mrs S Lee, Headteacher



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.

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E. richard@shymansky.co.uk

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PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHER



British Institute of
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DORNEY
PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity to ask questions that are important to you as a resident of Dorney.

Tuesday, 19th May 2026

7.30 pm

Dorney Lake Boathouse

Everyone welcome. Come and join us for the Annual Meeting in The Lake View Room, have a chat with your local community groups and councillors.

Lift available. Refreshments will be served.

Agenda on www.dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk



MEET, DRINK & EAT *Dorney*



THE PALMER ARMS

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



THE PINEAPPLE

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



The Palmer Arms



The Palmer Arms



The Pineapple



The Pineapple

The Palmer Arms

Village Rd, Dorney, Windsor SL4 6QW

www.thepalmerarms.com

01628 666612



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Lake End Rd, Dorney, Windsor SL4 6QS

www.thepineappledorney.co.uk

01628 662353

Spring Joy in Dorney

One bright spring afternoon, peppered with sudden hailstones, I set off to ask residents what they love most about spring in Dorney.

Although the clocks had only just gone forward, activities were already in full swing. A trail of horse riders skirted the edge of the Common, a few parents in tow, and young black calves, newly arrived, cocked an eye as I passed. In the distance, someone was taking photos of his car in front of a white picket fence.

A light breeze carried the scent of fresh grass and damp earth - the unmistakable smell that tells you winter has finally loosened its grip.

These days it is unusual for strangers to call at your door; stranger still to ask for your views. So, with some trepidation and a short script in mind, I rang my first doorbell. Behind me, in the middle of the front garden, a tree burst with pink blossom. A blackbird sang from the roof. For a moment, I wondered whether people would be too busy, too cautious, or simply uninterested, but before I could reconsider and retrace my steps, the door opened.

'Good afternoon. I'm not selling, and I'm not representing a religion,' I began.

The man's face creased in a warm smile. I took a breath and explained my mission: on this beautiful day, what did he think about spring in Dorney?

He introduced himself as John Knight.

'I love everything about it,' he said. 'The smiles on people's faces, the peace. The sounds are special too - church bells ringing and birds singing.'

We both glanced up at the blackbird, and I told him how much I liked his pink blossom tree. Ornamental cherry, we decided.

'Could I... would you mind...?' I began, gesturing towards it.

'A photo,' he said, laughing.



Obligingly, John stood beside the blossom and beamed.

'Come back in the summer,' he said. 'Once we've had a chance to do the garden. It's a work in progress, but spring gives you the inspiration to get started again.'

I nodded, though it was hard to imagine anything nicer than a spring garden in full bloom.

Emboldened, I continued through the village and knocked at one of the Tudor houses. Once again, I was met with warmth and enthusiasm.

'Spring?' the owner said. 'It's bursting out all around us.'

She was right. Her courtyard garden shimmered in the sunshine. Flowers peeped from beneath bushes and branches, brightening even the darkest corners. An early red admiral fluttered past, and from somewhere nearby, the hum of a lawnmower provided a gentle soundtrack.

'Visitors often knock and ask to take photos of themselves in front of the house,' she said. 'Isn't that lovely?'

I agreed. Her home and garden make the perfect backdrop for a memento of a day out.

'Come back in the autumn and see the colour of the leaves,' she said.

I smiled, though for me, it's hard to beat that first flush of green as leaves unfurl in spring.

My second John of the afternoon, John Cole, lives close to the Common. After my now well-rehearsed introduction, he considered the question carefully.

'You can look at it several ways,' he said. 'There are the obvious things: the colours, the warmth, the blossom, the way they lift your spirits after winter. Then there are the views across the Common and the riverbank, and the pleasure of walking here at this time of year. We love to encourage birds in the garden and can't wait for the cows to return.' He smiled.



'You notice people lingering a little longer,' he added. 'No one is in quite such a hurry to get back indoors. And then there's the community. If you think back to Covid, Dorney had a real sense of togetherness. People went outside and spoke to each other, even at a distance. Friendships forged in those difficult days have lasted. Now, spring brings everyone out again, chatting, gardening, looking after one another.'

He gestured towards his lawn. 'Needs a bit of work,' he said. 'Come back when it's mowed.'

I noticed a couple of dandelions, bright yellow against the green, and wasn't entirely convinced it needed improving. In fact, those small, imperfect details felt very much part of spring's charm.

I carried on, wandering through the village, peering over fences and through iron gates, taking in all the signs of the season, before heading for my third John of the afternoon, John Barker.

On the way, I passed cyclists making the most of our resurfaced road, a dog walker trying to restrain an over-enthusiastic spaniel, and the distant laughter of children playing outside.

John Barker's garden was a riot of colour, cleverly designed with plants at different heights to create depth and movement.

'What could be nicer,' he said, 'than the slow arrival of spring after months of winter?'

It is hard to argue. After weeks of rain, wind and cold weather, the changes feel almost magical. Snowdrops shoulder their way through frozen ground, yellow crocuses scatter like sunbeams, soon to be joined by vivid blues. Blossom appears on cherry and apple trees, forsythia glows golden, camellias blush pink, and quince burns a vibrant red.

'And what I really love,' John added, 'on cold still-frosty, mornings, is the early light on the golf course and stopping in the village on the way home to chat to people. Their smiles!'

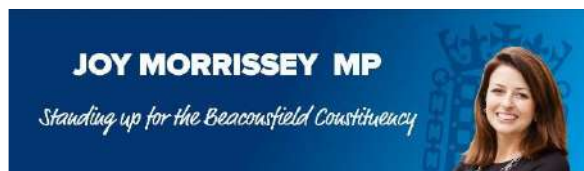
And me? I look forward to the daffodils along Village Road nodding to everyone who passes – the bus driver, the motorist, the cyclist, the horse rider, walkers and their dogs, and the men who empty our bins, come rain or shine.

Dorney in spring, you can't beat it and you can't meet friendlier folk.

And if you do happen to knock on a door here, you may well come away with a smile, a story and perhaps an invitation to return when the garden is in full bloom.

Mo Voaden

movoaden@yahoo.com



As spring settles in and brighter days return, it's been great to see Dorney enjoying some much-needed sunshine. It's also been a particularly busy period both in Parliament and across the constituency, so I wanted to share a brief update on some of the work I've been focused on recently.

One concern I know resonates strongly with many residents is the state of our roads. Potholes remain a persistent frustration across Dorney and the wider constituency. Too often, Buckinghamshire seems to receive a smaller share of funding compared to London, and that disparity simply isn't fair. I've raised this directly in Parliament, calling for a more balanced approach so our roads can be properly maintained. If there are particular problem areas you'd like me to highlight, please do get in touch.

I also welcome the Government's recent shift towards supporting a ban on mobile phones in schools. This is a practical step that should help teachers maintain focus in the classroom, reduce disruption, and ultimately improve outcomes for pupils. I'll be meeting with local headteachers soon to discuss how these changes can be implemented effectively and in a way that works for our schools.

Looking ahead, I know the Dorney Parish Council will be holding its annual meeting in May. Although I'm unable to attend this year due to parliamentary commitments, I want to take this opportunity to thank all parish councillors for their continued dedication. Their work plays a vital role in preserving what makes Dorney such a special place to live and visit.

Finally, many of you have been in touch about the rising cost of living, particularly the impact of fuel prices linked to ongoing tensions in the Middle East. I've raised these concerns in Parliament and urged the Government not to increase fuel duty later this year. For communities like ours, where many people rely on their cars, higher fuel costs would place an additional strain on household budgets.

This is just a snapshot of what I've been working on over the past few weeks. As always, if there's anything I can assist you with, please don't hesitate to get in touch at joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk.

Joy Morrissey MP

WELCOME

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CHILDCARE AGED 9 MONTHS TO 2 YEARS

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TEL: 07538 491936**



Crocus At Dorney Court - Growing Together as a Community

Spring is well and truly upon us now. As we move into the warmer days more colour is starting to show everywhere! Our famous Wisteria arch is nearly in full bloom and looking as stunning as ever. After the hard prune that it went through during the Winter it is lovely to see it coming back again. It really is a spectacle to behold so if you get the chance come and take a look. The Walled Garden is starting to establish itself as well now with all the different features coming through beautifully. The Peonies are all in bud now and by the time of reading this they will most likely be flowering, which will be another great sight for a spring that is bound to be full of colour. This is all before the magnificent Dahlias start to show life in our cut flower patch.



Spring is the perfect season to refresh your pots and planters with new



planting plans or implementing new pots and containers into your garden plans. They are the perfect way to brighten up smaller areas in your garden and add immediate colour into spaces. Nearly all types of plants can be grown in containers, whether it's something as simple as a trimmed topiary like "**Taxus Baccata**", more commonly known as Yew, or whether it's a feature of different plants shown in the photo on the left. This example is one that we have planted ourselves here at Crocus at Dorney Court. It includes three essential elements for planting: a focal point to draw the eye, something to fill out the space, and a trailing feature to spill over the container. Our centerpiece is a prime example of something that can be used in so many different spaces. It is called "**Erica Polar Express**" and it can grow up to 2.5 metres tall and would be perfect in so many planting scenarios whether it is in a container or a bed. A lot of the plants we used came from our 9cm range grown in our own nursery locally to Dorney. They are the perfect plants to fill your containers with colour!

A garden isn't just something to admire as it grows and evolves in shape and colour, it's also a space to be lived in and enjoyed as an extension of your home. Really utilising your garden as a living space is the perfect way to enjoy it all year round. Whether you are using it as a space to host friends and family or as a tranquil space for you to relax after a long day of hard work in your garden, it is the perfect place for you to escape to. We hold tables and chairs in our Walled Garden for people to enjoy our space as much as we do. We have made this even easier for you to achieve at home now with our new weatherproof furniture sets. We have dressed one of these up on the right to show exactly how you can have these looking in your own garden. It was safe to say after we took the photos, we spent some time unwinding in the sun enjoying this warm spring, with some lovely food and drinks all made within our café. The plants here at Dorney are always changing to suit seasons and the weather, so make sure to come and visit as you might be able to find the perfect plants for your garden to make it an even nicer area to be in!



Please check our social media pages for more updates. [@crocusatdorneycourt](https://www.instagram.com/crocusatdorneycourt).

Drew MacGregor, Horticulture & Retail Manager, Crocus At Dorney Court

TVAP QUIZ 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Hosted by Uncle Stephen

TO BOOK YOUR TABLE PLEASE EMAIL LUCIE@TVAP.CO.UK
OR CALL ERIN ON 01628 628599

Saturday 6 June 2026

Doors open at 7pm, quiz starts at 7.30pm

TEAMS OF UP TO 6 PEOPLE, £10 PER PERSON



- Bring your own food and drink
- Prizes, including best themed table
- Fancy dress encouraged, but not essential
- Raffle, heads/tails game.
- At the Thames Valley Adventure Playground,
Bath Road, Taplow, SL6 0EF

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1201368

LOCAL POLICING

Recently I felt frustrated at the inability to speak to or even contact our local police team. Although the team is based nearby, in Taplow, there's no front desk where you can go to raise an issue. We are encouraged to phone a remote number or report online. I did this and received a prompt and courteous reply but still felt the need to communicate with someone familiar with our local area. So, I attended an open session at Burnham Library and poured out my woes to a lovely volunteer who was the sole representative of our constabulary as the expected officer was absent, no doubt dealing with something more important than local residents' concerns.

It hasn't always been like this. Readers of this column will recall that, from medieval times, each parish chose one or more constables from among its inhabitants to serve for a year or so, on a part-time basis. The parish constable was expected to maintain law and order in the village and in Dorney was responsible for the stocks in front of the Palmer Arms where offenders could be held for a few hours.

During the eighteenth century, relying on parish constables became less effective in bringing criminals – who were not necessarily local – to justice. In many places, wealthier inhabitants with property to protect clubbed together to form private prosecution societies. In 1783 the Salthill Society was formed and included Dorney in its coverage; William Trumper, the largest farmer in Dorney, was a member in 1815. The society did not provide a police force, but funds raised from subscriptions were used to find criminals and bring them to court and to provide some compensation for losses through theft. Methods employed involved offering rewards for recovery of property or information, and on occasion a Bow Street Runner was hired to apprehend a culprit. In 1818, it cost the society over £110 to pay for a Bow Street officer to pursue a thief to Sussex, where he was caught and prosecuted.

SALT-HILL SOCIETY, *(INSTITUTED 1783)* **FOR THE PROTECTION OF** **Persons and Property from Felons & Thieves,** *Within the Hundreds of BURNHAM and STOKE,* **In the County of Buckingham.**

Some individuals made private arrangements to protect their property. In 1840, it was reported that a police constable named Grass had been employed to watch the property of J Palmer of Dorney. This constable chased and caught a man stealing timber, securing him in the Burnham lock-up before his trial and sentencing.

The Bow Street Runners were the first paid professional police force, formed in 1749 and based in London, and operated until 1839 when it was replaced by the Metropolitan Police. From 1840, areas like Dorney were encouraged to be part of a rural constabulary. Newspaper reports begin to mention local police constables including chief constables in Eton and in Iver. These two cooperated in 1842 to find (hidden in Slough) three fitches of bacon stolen from William Trumper and then to apprehend the thieves, one of whom was sentenced to be transported for life. John Larkin, the chief constable in Iver, became the superintendent of police for the Hundreds of Stoke and Burnham. He was described as “a *most active and eager member of the police*” in 1847 when he investigated the theft from Dorney vicar George Bull of valuable gold and silver items and identified the culprit as the vicar's groom.

But these promising first steps were not enough to meet a growing fear of crime. In October 1850, the Windsor and Eton Express ran a long article reflecting this concern. They quoted from the Times: *"On the borders of Berkshire, Middlesex, Hampshire and Surrey, within half an hour's ride of Scotland Yard....bands of daring robbers have established themselves, in utter contempt of law and police."* A violent burglary at Frimley which resulted in shooting dead the clergyman householder had inspired panic, but there were plenty of less dramatic local examples including masked men gathering on Dorney Common and breaking into local farmhouses to rob them. The paper concluded that the absence of an organised police force allowed gangs to operate freely, over a wide area. The Frimley gang specialised in armed housebreaking and undertook burglaries on an almost nightly basis across Surrey, Sussex and Kent. *"In Windsor and Eton, we have a sufficiently numerous and tolerably efficient police. At Slough...and other places, one paid or, to speak more correctly, half-paid policeman is expected to preserve peace, and repress crime, over a widely extended district....The remainder of the force is made up of parish constables, men who...mean well...but cannot possibly perform the duties of policemen and attend to their own business at the same time....Things cannot remain as they are. The coming winter must find the inhabitants of farm-houses and small villages better protected."*

By 1854 there was a police station in Burnham where the magistrates court was also held. However, crime continued to be an issue. In one week in January 1854, there was a spate of burglaries in Farnham Royal as well as in Cippenham and Dorney. The local paper again expressed frustration: *"That all these robberies should have occurred within so short a space of time without the thieves being detected is a satisfactory proof of the insufficiency of our police arrangements for rural districts."*

The Buckinghamshire County Constabulary was finally established in 1857, providing full-time professional policing in all areas. In the 1861 census, we find five police officers based locally. There were a sergeant and a constable in Burnham, a constable in Taplow, another sergeant in Eton and a constable in Eton Wick. In 1921, there were still five policemen within easy reach of Dorney, including one based at the County Police Cottage in Hitcham. To the best of my knowledge, there has never been a police station in Dorney itself. However, a former resident told me that her house in the village was once used to portray a police house in a film, probably in the 1970s.

The parish constables still continued to function. In August 1861, a farm worker returning home from work in Dorney found his house had been broken into and things turned upside down. He had seen a woman carrying a bundle a short distance away and was suspicious. He contacted the parish constable, Henry Bunce, who caught the woman. The bundle contained items stolen from the house including 3 sheets, a pillow and 2 coats. Henry – who was also a farm worker – took the woman to the lock up in Burnham and passed the case over to the police sergeant there.

The role of parish constables was gradually taken over by the police force. But in 1995 the Government set up a new parish constable scheme. Under this, special constables could be appointed to work solely in their own village and patrol there on foot. This scheme did not last long and I do not recall any impact on Dorney. With the closure of police stations offering face to face contact, the issue of local policing remains a hot topic.

As a postscript to my starting point, a few weeks ago a lovely local policeman called Chris turned up to arrange and then oversee the removal of the abandoned van outside our house. How satisfying it was to be able to talk to a real live police officer!

Draft Action Plan 2026/2027

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



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What's going on with....?

Potholes – An amber performance or more frustration?

In early April, a welcome and unexpected (at least to this resident) team of three operatives and two vehicles set about repairing Harcourt Road's worsening potholes. At roughly the same time there were several days of daytime closures of Marsh Lane just across the parish boundary in Taplow for extensive 'plane and patch' repairs. In early May similar closures are expected in Lake End, Village and Common Roads. In spite of all this beneficial (?) activity, as our MP points out in this issue, potholes cause local residents 'persistent frustration.'

Understandably, everybody thinks their own local authority must be among the worst, yet Bucks performance is 'average.' We are 'amber' rated and not one of the sixteen green rated or thirteen red rated authorities. Bucks is actually 'green' for expenditure on roads, hence perhaps the increased activity and also for 'best practice in highway maintenance. Our amber score derives from the little matter of poor overall condition of our roads.

If residents are prepared to accept government data, and it's a big 'if,' then maybe that frustration is not really caused by the actual repair (of 60,000 potholes in three years) but the underlying state of Bucks heavily used highways. This viewpoint is worth considering but let's take the Taplow example of 'plane and patch', which is a suitably middle of the road option, cheaper and speedier than full resurfacing, but does this policy not just lead to what has been characterised as a cycle of 'fix – fail – fix again'?

Burnham Short Breaks Centre – it can't be saved, can it?

On the face of it, no. As of last week, Bucks Council had not rescinded their plans to close the much loved and valued (not least by some Dorney residents) centre in June, and were still being accused by campaigners, including politicians of all parties, of not engaging with them. A judicial review of Bucks' decision has not been granted. But there is a chink of light, and that chink is one that should bring hope to all of us. Firstly, the campaign is led by tireless local residents, the leading light being the indefatigable Hazel Howe, campaigning on behalf of her son Thomas. Secondly, the model proposed by the campaign by which locals replace Bucks as the centre's owners has been seen as the template for the supply of community services currently provided by cash-strapped local authorities.

Campaigners say they want to preserve the existing care, staff relationships, and familiarity that users rely on. Hopefully, the Council will stand by an earlier pledge to delay marketing the building to allow community groups time to prepare bids.

With the campaign's usual flair last week saw Hazel featured in an ITV London news report presenting a professional looking business plan document to local councillors and business leaders. We don't know the viability of this plan or those behind it or Bucks final attitude to a community transfer, but this writer wishes the campaigners all the possible luck going.

Peter Bowman

Glenn De Sousa of Carousel replies to Dorney Parish News

Hello Peter,

Thank you for your email, which our customer service team has passed across to me.

Apologies that John [Halsey] has not received a reply - I don't think I have seen that email come through to me.

We remain supportive of a stop in this area, but Buckinghamshire Council are responsible for these activities, and therefore they will need to make that decision if budgets allow, and also if the location is deemed to be appropriate and safe by their standards. I have made the relevant officers aware of our recommendation for this.

If there is anything else that we can do to try and raise awareness of service 15, please let me know. Would it be useful for example if our timetable leaflets were able to be stocked anywhere in the Parish?

Many thanks,

Glenn De Sousa

Commercial Director

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Possible changes to home insurance premiums – flood risk and other factors



Some residents in Dorney have recently reported noticeable increases in home insurance premiums, in some cases significantly higher than the previous year. While insurance pricing depends on a range of factors, updated assessments of flood risk may be contributing to these changes.

In 2025 the Environment Agency updated national flood risk information using improved modelling techniques, more detailed terrain data and revised climate change assumptions. Insurers make extensive use of these datasets when assessing risk at individual properties. As models

become more sophisticated, estimated flood probabilities can change even where there has been no recent flooding locally.

Dorney lies within the Thames floodplain and benefits from the Jubilee River flood relief scheme, which helps reduce the risk of flooding from the River Thames. However, recent technical assessments suggest that the effective level of protection provided by the Jubilee River may now be lower than originally assumed. Earlier modelling often referred to a standard of protection of around a 1 in 65 year flood event, whereas more recent analysis suggests the effective protection may be closer to a 1 in 25 year level when current river flow data and climate change projections are taken into account.

A reduction in the statistical level of protection does not mean flooding is likely in any given year, but it can increase the probability of flooding being modelled over the lifetime of a property. Insurers typically consider long-term risk when pricing policies, and even relatively small changes in estimated flood probability can influence premiums.

It is important to note that insurers do not rely solely on postcode averages. Many use highly detailed property-level data, including elevation, distance from watercourses, surface water flood modelling and historic claims experience. As a result, premiums can vary between neighbouring properties, and some parts of Dorney fall within Flood Zone 1 (the lowest probability of river flooding).

Flood risk is only one of several influences on insurance costs. Rebuilding costs have increased in recent years due to higher construction and labour costs, and insurers also consider national trends in weather-related claims.

Residents concerned about premiums may wish to obtain more than one quotation, ensure insurers are using correct property information and consult the Environment Agency's online flood risk service. Some properties may also be eligible for the Government-backed Flood Re scheme, which helps maintain the availability of insurance in higher-risk areas.

Dorney Parish Council continues to monitor flood risk evidence as part of its engagement with the Buckinghamshire Local Plan process, where up-to-date understanding of flood risk remains an important consideration for future planning decisions.

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Collection calendar - Bucks Council

The look up does not display changes due to bank holidays. Visit our waste pages for Bank Holiday collection information.

Year	Month	Food waste	Garden waste	General waste	Mixed recycling	Paper and cardboard	Textiles/Batteries/Electricals
2026	Apr	24		24			
	May	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	1, 15, 29	8, 22	1, 15, 29	1, 15, 29	1, 15, 29
	Jun	5, 12, 19, 26	12, 26	5, 19	12, 26	12, 26	12, 26
	Jul	3, 10, 17, 24, 31	10, 24	3, 17, 31	10, 24	10, 24	10, 24
	Aug	7, 14, 21, 28	7, 21	14, 28	7, 21	7, 21	7, 21

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Dorney Parish News

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Dorney Parish News is an A5 newsletter that is circulated monthly (except January and August) to residents and businesses in Dorney Village, Dorney Reach, Boveney and Lake End.

Our current print run is 250. Estimated readership is around 400 people. There are approximately 300 residential properties in Dorney Parish.

Rate Card:

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Quarter Page (Horizontal)	45	130	£45	£6

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07889 912714

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