

Dorney Parish News

June 2026



Court Farm, Dorney Common –
Planning Permission Refused.

No major development, no harm to the Green Belt,
no additional vehicles, no flood risk. Exactly what
the community asked for in the July 2023 Survey.

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EDITORIAL

With instability and destruction 'just a shot away' (for more on this theme see Andrew Oliver's article this month), we really should consider those particularly important things making life worth living. Like football.

It's very good news that *The Pineapple* is giving us the chance to watch England's games in this month's World Cup in the company of others. A date for your diaries is the first of these on June 17th. They tell us that anybody booking a slot will be guaranteed a clear view of a screen. An element of nostalgia for this column...as a media researcher by trade we published a survey of pub viewing during the 1998 finals, and headlines were gained in the nationals because we found groups of women turning up to watch matches in bars *without any blokes in tow*. Ladies liking football was newsworthy thirty years ago!

But the monthly round of local issues intrudes. The planning application to develop Court Farm adjacent to Dorney Common has been refused. Bill Dax sets out how and why this welcome decision has been taken. Anyone attending the Annual Parish Meeting (to which we devote much space in this issue) will have heard discussion of the Bucks Local Plan. Cllr Robert Stopford sets out why this is so crucial to our futures and why July 2026 is a key stage in the genesis of the Plan.

It is sad that many years after discussion started about decent broadband availability in all parts of the parish (maybe a peak was reached around the time of the 2012 Olympics in Dorney) we still have to report a lack of progress – the latest update from Open Reach is not encouraging.

We love to celebrate local achievement, and we report one such, in education. The Eton Dorney Independent Therapeutic School – the school that is based in the Old Vicarage – has just been awarded a strong OFSTED score. Our schools have always played a major role in our community which has been reflected in these pages over the years. Dorney School, who also have been on a successful OFSTED journey, provide their usual monthly update. We hope all pupils at local schools are enjoying their half terms.

Andreas Sistig once again provides an appropriate homily. I'm sure those who met Andreas at the APM will agree with us that the new vicar will no doubt be a cheerful and inspirational figure in this community. There is also an important statement in this issue which you should read, and it's about we the Editors and the future of *Dorney Parish News*.

So, to Olly's article. Following up our report on rising home insurance premiums, Olly is also very concerned about flooding. There's been a lot of rain, and there will be a lot more. Also in the mix is wider climate change and the extinction of species. But there is good news for beavers...and if it is good news for beavers, it's good news for we humans.

Enjoy the start of your summers!

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 Omotayo 07712 126334 www.rccgchurchatslough.com

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Burnham

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

Dear friends

The Feast of Pentecost which we celebrated on 24 May this year is often described as the birthday of the Church, but at its heart it is also a story about letting go, growing, and discovering new strength through the presence of God's Spirit.

Many parents know the mixture of pride and anxiety that comes when children leave home for the first time. There is excitement but also fear of the unknown. The disciples may well have felt something similar when Jesus told them he would soon leave them. His words must have sounded unsettling: "Where I am going, you cannot come." Yet alongside that difficult news came a promise — that God would send the Holy Spirit to guide, strengthen and remain with them always.

Moments of challenge and uncertainty often shape us deeply. Looking back on difficult experiences though, many of us can also often recognise how they helped us grow in wisdom, resilience and compassion. The disciples too had to step out from the security of having Jesus physically beside them. Without that change, they may never have discovered their own gifts and calling.

One image I particularly like in this context is that of the sun and the moon. At sunset, it can seem as though the whole world disappears with the fading light. Yet as the sun withdraws, the moon slowly becomes brighter, illuminating the night sky in its own beautiful way. The moon, of course, has no light of its own — it simply reflects the light of the sun.

The disciples were rather like the moon. They were imperfect people: Peter impulsive and unreliable at times, Thomas full of doubt, and James and John ambitious and self-seeking. Yet through the gift of the Holy Spirit, they became people who reflected Christ's light into the world.

That is how Pentecost reminds Christians that God works through people like you and me - ordinary, flawed human beings. So, the message of Pentecost remains deeply relevant today. In a world often marked by division, fear and hostility, we are called to reflect that Holy Spirit — and become people shaped by hope, compassion and reconciliation.

The theologian Flor McCarthy reminds us that:

‘At Pentecost the apostles spoke a new language: the language of peace rather than war, forgiveness rather than vengeance, hope rather than despair, friendship rather than hostility, unity rather than division, and love rather than hate. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, people of many languages became one in faith, to the glory of God.’

That is the true miracle of Pentecost — and it is a miracle that still happens today.

Take care,

Andreas.

Team Rector

Church Services in June 2026

Sunday 7th June

9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	St James the Less, Dorney
11.00 am	‘Any Age’ service	St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 10th June

10.00 am	Holy Communion (said BCP)	St John the Evangelist, Eton
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Sunday 14th June

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

Sunday 21st June

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

Wednesday 24th June

10.00 am	Holy Communion (said BCP)	St John the Evangelist, Eton
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Sunday 28th June

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

— We'd like to invite you to our —

PATRONAL FESTIVAL SERVICE

—
at
St Mary Magdalene church,
Boveney —

WEDNESDAY
22 JULY
—
7PM



• ALL ARE WELCOME •



Jubilee River
CHURCHES

DATCHET • ETON • ETON WICK • BOVENY • DORNEY

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Dorney Parish News : A Statement from the Editors

Bill Dax and I have both decided to step down from our editorial roles on *DPN* at the end of 2026.

We've been proud of *DPN* in 2025-26. People have told us that there have been several standout editions and we raised a number of issues for residents, while letting decision makers who affect us understand the mood of Dorney. There's been Orchard Herbs of course, but also bus routes and waterways.

Despite our relatively small population and sadly contracting community life, it's been possible to fill 10 issues a year. That has been a task worth attempting and *DPN* is worth preserving.

Maybe our parish magazine will prosper under a new team who care for our magazine as much as we do. But this is an opportunity to consider just what form *DPN* should take from 2027 going forward.

We know that we have always had the support and loyalty of subscribers, but we don't really know what readers like, or don't like, about *DPN* as it is now, and we don't know what readers think about what *DPN* is for and what it might become. Apart from adopting colour a few years back, *DPN* is still what's it's always been, a printed journal with paid subscribers. This has been the case at a time when, in the wider world, the way people read and access information has changed.

DPN has more choices available now. The magazine could continue as it is as a printed monthly edition, or we could move to a less frequent printed version—perhaps every two months or quarterly. Alternatively, a more online-focused format could be developed.

Bill and I are fully committed to *DPN* for the rest of 2026. We know what our next steps should be. We'll be consulting with contributors, distributors, advertisers and residents, including, perhaps most importantly, a reader survey in the July edition, accessible via a simple QR code.

Any consultation is also an opportunity. Anyone who might be interested in getting involved in the future of *DPN* should take part, whether they fancy being an editor, helping with production, contributing content, or being part of a small team to take it forward. I think any future version of *DPN* would benefit by being the result of teamwork, rather than being a one- or two-man band. We'll be exploring how the editorial role could be shared or made more manageable.

The aim is simple: to ensure that Dorney Parish News continues to thrive as a valued community media vehicle, with new energy and ideas, in a form that works for Dorney going forward.

We'll bring the outcome of the consultation back later in the year before any final decisions are taken.

Peter Bowman

The Annual Parish Meeting – what we learned



This issue includes the ‘official’ record of May 19th’s Annual Parish Meeting in the form of The Minutes, which include reports of the contributions of various speakers. We are very appreciative of the Clerk to the Council’s efforts to prepare all this material in time for publication. But what might a resident sitting in the audience (and indeed enjoying a beer courtesy of the Parish Council) have picked up from the discussion?

There is good news about potholes...up to a point The Chair of the Council welcomed the considerable extent of recent repairs – patching rather than full surfacing she regretted – to Lake End, Village, Common and Boveney Roads. This magazine should record the tremendous uncertainty and disruption in May due to a singular reluctance of Bucks Council to inform residents of their plans. Quite something to see The Pineapple appealing online to Bucks as to whether they could be open to customers next day. Meanwhile the complaints are growing on Fix My Street about potholes damaging wheels in Marsh Lane running into Court Lane. Meanwhile Joy Morrissey MP is proposing ‘a fairer funding formula for rural areas’ to allow greater investment in roads.

World Events Play Out in Dorney (1) Energy Costs Councils have electricity bills just like householders. There have been arguments over the years over the number and power of streetlamps here, with some calling for rural murk. Now the cost of running these is having an inflationary effect on parish council finances.

World Events Play Out in Dorney (2) Climate Change Local farmer William Emmett of West Town Farm recalled 1976 when describing the effects of warmer, wetter winters and hot summers on growing choices, all of which use more fertiliser, which itself has increased in price by 70% due to foreign wars.

Communities Like Dorney Rely on Volunteers, and Where Are They? Now only one vacancy exists on Dorney Parish Council. It would be nice to fill it. We would say interesting times ahead are guaranteed for the lucky volunteer. More urgently, an editorial team needs to be put together for this very magazine as the joint editors announced their stepping down at the end of this year.

Eton College emerged unscathed for once Maybe it was because the new bursar, Ed Hayter, has yet to be introduced to residents. Maybe it was because the newish Commercial Director, Alistair Otto made us very welcome. This column was won over immediately by the biscuits offered to all by Alistair. Many regattas were booked this summer, and indeed the National Schools Regatta, ongoing as we write, has led to crowded Dorney roads, but apparently no parking problems. No mention was made of controversial planning applications on Dorney Common (congratulations to the Parish Council for a successful outcome here, see elsewhere in this issue). As for the other issue of summer access for locals, let’s just say that we felt about as wistful as the deer peering at us through the trees looked, as we enjoyed the drive to the Boat House on a lovely summer evening.

Everybody Seems to be Awaiting the Bucks Local Plan Scheduled for July this mysterious entity was mentioned by several speakers, so we're glad we've anticipated this by publishing a description elsewhere in this issue. Although the news on the Orchard Herbs site is generally positive as the Parish Council's close contact with the Bucks Enforcement Officer should see us through to complete clearance, the county Local Plan might shed more light on the site owner's clever ploy of putting his (hopefully soon to be) deserted site forward as a possible travellers' site. Our MP promised to stand up for our Green Belt through the Local Plan process, and this was echoed by Cllr Cole Caesar, one of our three county councillors, who urged residents to sign a petition to be found on the Bucks website calling on the county to protect its Green Belt and farmland.

Some things take forever, and some may never happen Dorney and Eton Wick are pressing hard for a reduced speed limit across Dorney Common to protect the vulnerable (and much-loved) cows, and Bucks has agreed to a further 'speed assessment'. The cost of rebuilding the Ashford Lane bridge over the Jubilee River has been put at over £1 million, so the sorry relic remains. There has been no contact from Thames Water about rewilding the borehole field in Dorney Reach. Huntercombe Lane South is set to remain closed to all traffic until September as the delicate and expert renovation of the Burnham Abbey Wall painstakingly continues. In answer to a question from the floor, Bucks seems to show no interest in the Thames Valley Strategic Authority. Indeed, our county has requested to be excluded from an initiative supported by 13 regional bodies across Berkshire and Oxon including Slough and RBWM aiming at unlocking devolved powers and extra funding from the government. There is no concrete news about extending the Dorney Conservation Area. Finally, that old stalwart of APM meetings, traffic surrounding the Taplow Car Boot Sale on Sundays, made an unwelcome return.

But there was other good news The ebullient Rev Andreas Sistig told us that many weddings are booked at St James the Less, reversing previous pessimistic reports. The increase in the precept charged on parish residents is around half what it was last year. The new playgroup has got off to a good start in a nearly completely refurbished Village Hall.

We're quite pleased that issues raised in these pages because our readers spoke to us are making some progress. The apparently abandoned vehicles littering Dorney Reach have mainly been removed – this at a time when an epidemic of such incidents is bothering neighbouring parishes. Dorney Reach may have lost its cherished number 15 route, but encouraged by residents, our MPs and county councillors, at least Carousel are backing a new bus stop in Lake End.

Some residents are losing patience over the patchy arrival of full fibre broadband in this parish Open Reach's latest statement is considered elsewhere, but active campaigner John Wraight wanted to know if others are lumbered with speeds of around 10 mbps. It does seem that the answer to Dorney being left behind in moves to full fibre will come from the rallying of support among groups of residents.

But that may be the answer to many of our issues. To that end we recommend a big increase in attendance to future APMs! **Peter Bowman**

Cllr. Robert Stopford's Update for the Annual Parish Meeting

What Is a Local Plan

A local plan is a document prepared by a local planning authority that sets out the strategic vision and policies for land use and development in a specific area over a 15–20-year period. They are at the heart of the planning system and are the main consideration in deciding planning applications.

Key elements:

- Housing targets — Where and how many new homes will be built
- Employment land — Areas designated for business, retail, and industry
- Infrastructure — Transport, schools, healthcare, and utilities
- Environment — Green spaces, conservation areas, and climate policies
- Design standards — Requirements for building quality and character

Why Does It Matter

The local plan is the primary basis for deciding planning applications.

- If a Planning application site is part of the local plan, then it is unlikely to be refused permission.
- Once a local plan is adopted Developers cannot use the lack of enough housing sites to meet demand as a reason to give permission for development.

Key stages of a Local Plan include:

1. Evidence Gathering & Scoping (Pre-30-month phase): Councils gather data on housing, employment, transport, and environmental issues. This includes a "call for sites" to identify potential development land.
2. Consultation & Early Engagement (Regulation 18): Initial consultation where the public, developers, and stakeholders can suggest options, discuss key issues, and shape the draft plan's vision.
3. Draft Plan Preparation & Refinement: Based on evidence and feedback, a preferred strategy is finalized, policies are written, and the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) is conducted.
4. Pre-Submission Publication (Regulation 19): The final draft of the plan is published for a minimum of 6 weeks, allowing formal representations (comments/objections) to be made. **July.**
5. Submission & Examination (Regulation 22): The plan is submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination by a Planning Inspector to ensure the plan is sound (positively prepared, justified, effective, and consistent with national policy). **December.**

Impact on us.

Currently we are waiting for the final draft of the plan (regulation 19) due Mid July 2026. At the draft plan stage, the following sites were put forward

- Boveney Court Farm buildings
- Court Farm Common Road
- Land South of M4 Junction 7, north of the Roundmoor Ditch
- Gaskins Meadow, opposite Pineapple Pub
- Land West of Marsh Lane, but east of Oak Stubbs Lane (Horses' Field)
- Tirra Lirra, 18-20 Dorney Reach Road

None of these sites were deemed suitable to be included in the Local Plan. Please note this doesn't mean they cannot be developed, it just means the standard planning application has to be applied

Orchard Herbs Farm site was put forward as a site for Gypsies and Travellers and at the draft stage it was deemed to be suitable to be included. This may change when we see the final draft. .

What are we doing

We have already submitted a response to the Consultation phase and have engaged the services of a planning consultancy Firm called ONH to help us in submitting a response to final draft of the plan. As part of the arrangement with ONH they plan to hold an open session where people can come along and listen to them. Details will be made available as soon as we have them.

Cllr. Robert Stopford

Dorney Parish Council: Budget 2026/27

DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS	2025/26 Budget	2026/27 Budget
PAYMENTS		
Administration & Salaries	£ 16,770	£ 18,225
Environment	£ 8,240	£ 8,500
Streetlighting	£ 2,500	£ 4,250
Members & Clerk's Expenses	£ 150	£ 250
Capital Expenditure	£ 4,292	£ 4,292
Total Payments	£ 31,952	£ 35,517
RECEIPTS		
Rates Precept	£ 28,350	£ 30,335
Devolved Highways Subsidy	£ 2,403	£ 2,291
Community Infrastructure Levy	£ -	£ -
Village Hall maintenance	£ 250	£ 250
Total Receipts	£ 31,003	£ 32,876
Surplus/(-Deficit)	-£ 949	-£ 2,641

Dorney Parish Council's budget for 2026/27 was approved at the March 2026 meeting. The following is a summary of the Council's financial position.

Total expenditure rises from £31,952 to £35,517 — an increase of £3,565 (11%). The main drivers are:

Administration & Salaries increase from £16,770 to £18,225, reflecting the statutory pension obligations for the Parish Clerk and general cost pressures.

Environment (Grass Cutting/Grounds Maintenance) rises modestly from £8,240 to £8,500.

Street Lighting increases from £2,500 to £4,250 — a rise of 70%. This is entirely due to a tariff increase from the supplier. The LED conversion of all streetlamps was completed in 2025 and delivers ongoing energy savings, but these have been outweighed by the rise in unit costs. There are no additional lamps.

Members & Clerk's Expenses rise from £150 to £250.

Capital Expenditure remains unchanged at £4,292. This represents the annual repayment instalment on the Public Works Loan Board loan taken out in 2013 to fund the refurbishment of the Village Hall. The loan runs for 20 years and will be fully repaid in 2033.

Total income is budgeted at £32,876, comprising the rates precept (up 4.6% per household to £30,335), the Devolved Highways Subsidy (£2,291), and a Village Hall maintenance contribution (£250). The budget makes no provision for Community Infrastructure Levy income: CIL is a payment made by developers to Buckinghamshire Council, of which the Parish receives a 15% share (rising to 25% should Dorney adopt a Neighbourhood Plan). Receipts are unpredictable and arrive, if at all, in May and October — so prudent budgeting treats them as zero.

On the budgeted figures, the Council shows a deficit of £2,641 for 2026/27, against £949 in 2025/26. Both shortfalls are met from reserves. In practice, any CIL received during the year will reduce or eliminate the deficit — as happened in 2025/26, when a CIL receipt of £4,245 more than covered the budgeted shortfall. Cash held at year end stands at £45,814.

Cllr Martyn Wexford-Wreford

“The floods is threat’ning, My very life today”

I recently re-read Victor Brockis’s *Keith Richards: The Biography* on a flight to Chicago for work. I’d forgotten that the Human Riff was born during the second World War and that his house in Dartford was almost destroyed by a Doodlebug (the V-1 flying bomb nicknamed after its buzzing sound). Neighbours next door and opposite died, and when Keith’s mum Doris returned to the house (Keith and her had been evacuated to Nottinghamshire) they found a giant brick had gone right through his cot. It’s the kind of sliding doors moment that was a good reminder of how quickly things can change, often for the worse. The apocalyptic *Gimme Shelter* is often cited as one of the Stones’ finest songs, which (somewhat unbelievably) was never released as a single. The opening song from *Let it Bleed* (the cover of which featured a cake baked by a young, then unknown, Delia Smith) it also boasts possibly the best female rock vocal of all time from Merry Clayton who brings a magical power to Mick’s dark, foreboding lyrics. For those interested you can listen to her spine-tingling isolated voice (and watch Jagger’s hilariously impressed face) here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChONufP0FEs>

Flooding has not really been on my mind this spring as we’ve not had a lot of rain in Dorney. Apparently, on average in Southern England rainfall was down 23% in April according to the Met Office. Nevertheless, I read with interest the ever-informative Bill Dax on the flood insurance situation in the last issue of DPN. (Note to Ed: I’m quite proud I have managed to go from Keith Richards via Delia Smith to Bill Dax in under 200 words.) I love living in Dorney Reach, but the single thing that would make me leave is the flood risk. When we first moved to Harcourt Road, I couldn’t even find an insurer who was prepared to offer us flood cover. Obviously, you can’t move your house off the floodplain, and with climate change there is literally no way of knowing how much worse the flood risk could get, except that it’s very likely to get worse, or at the very least, more unpredictable.

Climate change will likely lead to heavier and more frequent rainfall (flash flooding), wetter winters (where soil stays saturated and there is nowhere for additional rainfall to go), rising sea levels, more intense storms and changes in river flow patterns with higher river flows in winter and lower flows in summer (but more risk of flash flooding). That’s the bad news.

However, as I’ve mentioned in this article before, the reintroduction of beavers to the Thames valley could play a large part in alleviating this risk. Aside from their ecosystem engineering benefits to wildlife (of which there are many) beavers can help mitigate flooding by building dams to slow water flows and creating natural water storage in wetlands. These store excess water like a natural sponge and release it slowly, reducing peak river discharge and minimising the severity of downstream flooding. Given time, I suspect the expanding beaver population will eventually reach the Thames (there are growing wild populations in Kent, Somerset, and the Cotswolds) and hopefully the Jubilee River through natural expansion. It looks like perfect beaver habitat to me. It is now possible to apply for a licence from Natural England to release beavers into the wild in England which could fast track this process (although I have heard it is very bureaucratic). I wonder if the residents and landowners around Dorney would be supportive of such a release?

I recently discovered (via my younger brother, annoyingly) that not all Warblers have “warbler” in their name, so I’ve been delighted to discover that my springtime Merlin surveys show that Dorney has almost two-thirds of the UK’s warbler species present: Garden Warbler, Willow Warbler, Cetti’s Warbler and Sedge Warbler but also Greater Whitethroat, Eurasian Blackcap, Firecrest, Goldcrest and Chiffchaff. The Chiffchaff seems to be a constant presence singing volubly from dawn to dusk perched high up on the power cables that run along the border of the back of Harcourt Road and the Thames Water rewilding field.

Although Theo got some brief video footage of the Little Owls in the box, sadly they seemed to quickly move onto another abode – maybe next year! Meanwhile have really enjoyed much Merlin evidence of visiting Redstarts although to date have failed to actually see one.



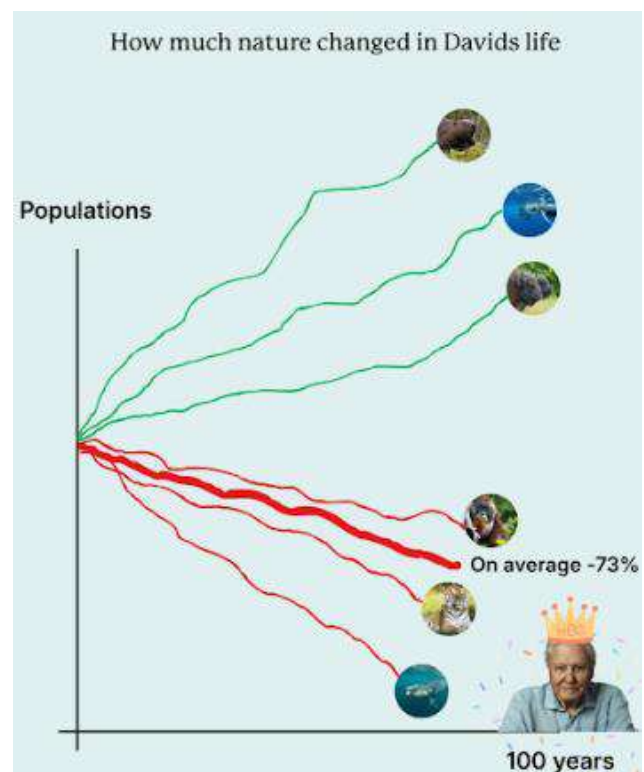
Temporary little owl visit



Common Redstart

Finally, it was heart-warming to see the celebrations for David Attenborough as he reached a century of life on the planet. He has spent his life and career sharing his love for nature and his unique broadcasting voice and programmes that brought the most amazing wildlife on Earth into our homes. But I also couldn’t help feeling a sadness that he has also lived through (just as we have) a dramatic decline in nature in that time. On average wildlife populations decreased by 73% with tigers down from 100,000 in 1900 to just 5,574 today, North Atlantic right whales down to 372 survivors and Sumatran orangutans down over 80%.

Yet, humpback whales have recovered from near extinction to 135,000, European bison up from 54 to over 7,000 free roaming across Europe and Eurasian beavers up from 1,200 survivors to 1.5 million across Europe today (hopefully in Dorney next!) It demonstrates nature recovery is possible, and we can find ways to co-exist with species we once almost exterminated.



Andrew Oliver

DORNEY SCHOOL

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



RESPECT * COLLABORATE * GROW
Headteacher: Mrs Lee

News from Dorney School

We have Reception school spaces for September 2026. Do get in touch to visit the school in action! Email office@dorneyschool.co.uk or ring us on 01628620871

Dorney School is always pleased to welcome and work with local organisations for the benefit of our pupils. Volunteers from Abbvie Pharmaceuticals certainly enjoyed their day with us and were extremely positive about our school and pupils! They organised a Healthy Eating workshop and tidied up our nature areas ready for some summer gardening.



Our school is thrilled to offer Forest School for every pupil. This was made possible through a grant from the Burnham Health Promotion Trust. One of the highlights of each week is when children explore and enjoy the outdoors using the skills they learn to complete specific projects.



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.

The Studio
9 Oak Stubbs Lane, Dorney Reach
Maidenhead, Buckinghamshire SL6 0DW

T. 07878162452

E. richard@shymansky.co.uk

 **ShymanskyPortraitPhotographer**

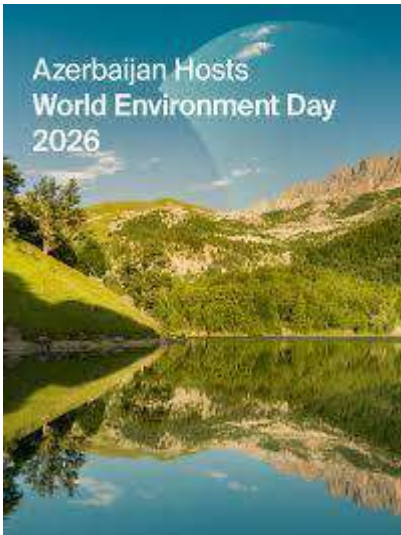


Shymansky
 PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHER



British Institute of
 Professional Photography

World Environment Day – 5th June



As the weather is starting to be too hot for English people, it does come with many joys! Barbeques, enjoying family and friends and most of all getting your sunbathing on. Maybe more importantly though (for some anyway) is World Environment Day. You may not know about this, but you still may be very keen on helping and being interested in the environment. World Environment Day falls on the 5th of June this year and focuses on the clear and urgent signals our planet is sending us. I will attach the link at the bottom of this article for you electronic readers but for paper readers, a simple google search will tell you all the information you may want to know. In the meantime, here are some things you could do to help.

Dorney cottages have some gorgeous gardens - how about you make them even better, planting wildflowers are a great attribute to the environment. They restore biodiversity, provide vital food and support soil and water health (therefore benefiting your already lovely garden). There is nothing wrong with a day in the garden in the sun.

If I remember correctly Dorney used to have a litter picking day. This could be a fun idea for next month which also brings the community together to enjoy the upcoming weather. If this intrigues you and we get enough locals to commit, it would be a great way to help and spread awareness to world environment day! This helps wildlife from immediate physical harm as well as preventing pollution at its source.

Another fun idea, which my brother and I used to love doing, was growing our own vegetables and selling them (as well as eating them of course). This is also a highly beneficial way of recognising our environment; it is also a fun idea for kids or grandkids.

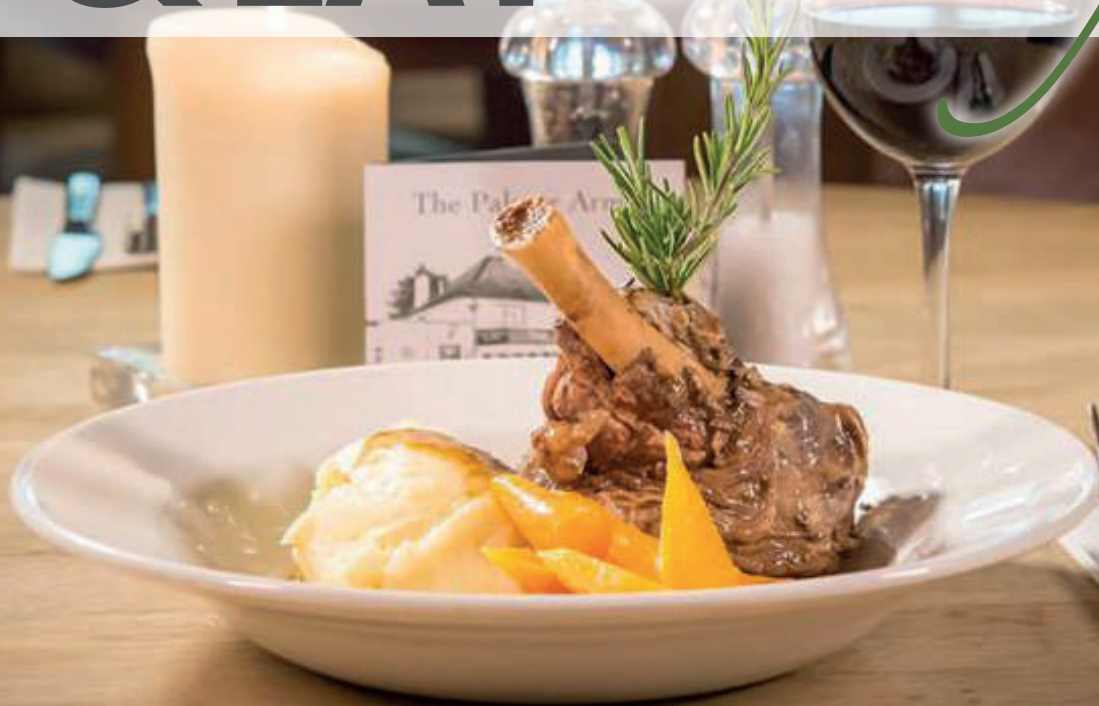
I do thoroughly recommend either researching or taking some of these pointers to help your planet. Every little commitment and change can make a difference. There isn't much awareness about this day to my knowledge, so even spreading the word could make a difference. The sun is coming out, summer is nearly upon us, this is a prime time to be outside and appreciating what is around you. It is also a great way to bring communities together, whether that be your neighbour or a friend in a nearby village, invite them over and do something that will make a difference, and then indulge in a BBQ!

I hope this article reaches the right audience and has urged you to do something! I know it's slightly different to some of my previous reads, but there is nothing wrong with a little bit of education every now and then, especially as I am done with university till late September and the school holidays are fastly approaching.

www.worldenvironmentday.global

Laila Marples

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

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Crocus At Dorney Court - Growing Together As A Community

Spring has swiftly transitioned into summer, leaving us with the intense heat and dryness of contemporary British summers. Nevertheless, I am confident that we are all delighted to be witnessing a greater vibrancy of colour in our gardens, courtesy of the emergence of summer flowering perennials, the eventual appearance of Alliums, and Sweet Peas coming out in full swing.



June typically marks the conclusion of the Peony season. They serve as an ideal transitional plant, providing colour in gardens after the



Tulips have faded and prior to the full bloom of the Roses. At the time of writing this, the Peonies in the Walled Garden are starting to flourish showing some amazing colours that have provided us with some incredible cut flowers to fill our vases. June brings the crucial task of staking and supporting peony plants to prevent their substantial, water filled blossoms from drooping and resting on the soil following rainfall. We stock a large range of plant supports here at Crocus At Dorney Court and throughout the month of June, we will be offering 10% off of any plant support products providing you bring your copy of the magazine in.

A few months back I wrote about protecting our Dahlias when we harvested them from the ground. I am pleased to say that since then we have repotted them and they are thriving! Our gardener Ellie has been carefully tending to them in our greenhouse making sure that they are growing well and getting them ready to be planted. During periods of intense summer heat, it is essential to ensure daily ventilation of your greenhouse. This practice is crucial for mitigating the risk of fungal



diseases on your plants, thereby minimising potential problems. Furthermore, provide shading during extremely hot days to protect plants from scorching, and maintain consistent watering, which may need to be done daily if temperatures become very high.



Our plant nursery and shop are consistently stocked with a wide selection of items for you to browse, whether you are preparing plants in your greenhouse or maintaining existing greenery there. The recent improvement in the weather should serve as an excellent incentive to venture into your garden, injecting it with

colour and vibrancy through the addition of plants, containers, hanging baskets, or even outdoor furniture for your enjoyment throughout the summer season!

Please check our social media pages for more updates [**@crocusatdorneycourt**](#).

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

crocus

— at —
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Court Farm Planning Application Refused

Buckinghamshire Council has refused planning permission for the proposed development of 11 dwellings at Court Farm, Common Road, Dorney. The decision was issued on 20 May 2026 following a detailed assessment by the Council's planning officers.

The application, submitted by Eton College in March 2024, proposed the demolition of four barns and construction of nine new residential properties alongside conversion of two existing buildings. The site lies within the Metropolitan Green Belt adjacent to the Dorney Conservation Area.

Reasons for Refusal

The Case Officer's 22-page report identified five key grounds for refusal:

Green Belt harm: The development was found to constitute inappropriate development that would harm the openness of the Green Belt. The proposal failed to meet the "Golden Rules" requiring 50% affordable housing provision for Green Belt developments.

Highway safety and sustainability: The site was deemed unsuitable for pedestrians, with access requiring use of unlit national speed limit roads without footpaths. Officers concluded residents would be wholly reliant on private vehicles with no viable public transport alternatives.

Flood risk: Whilst the flood defences were considered adequate, the development failed the Exception Test as it would not provide wider sustainability benefits to outweigh the flood risk. The site access lies partially within Flood Zone 3.

Burnham Beeches protection: No planning obligation was secured to mitigate recreational impacts on the Burnham Beeches Special Area of Conservation.

Affordable housing: No legal agreement was in place to secure the affordable housing contribution.

Parish Council's Role

Dorney Parish Council submitted detailed objections focusing on flood safety, emergency access, and highway concerns. The Parish Council's December 2025 objection, supported by Environment Agency data obtained under Environmental Information Regulations, highlighted that the Jubilee River flood defence system now operates at a reduced 1-in-25 year protection standard rather than the designed 1-in-65 year standard.

The Council also raised concerns about the Previously Developed Land designation for parts of the site, particularly the land between Court Farm Cottages and Dell's Cottage, which Officers accepted as valid.

Next Steps

The applicant has six months to appeal the decision to the Planning Inspectorate. However, given the Case Officer's comprehensive report identifying multiple substantial grounds for refusal across Green Belt policy, flood risk, sustainability, and statutory consultation requirements, any appeal would face significant challenges.

Dorney Parish Council will monitor the situation and respond appropriately to any appeal proceedings.

Bill Dax



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Broadband and Fibre Update for Dorney and Dorney Reach

Following representations by residents John Wraight (Dorney Village) and Lyndsey Oliver (Dorney Reach), the Parish Clerk wrote to Openreach seeking an authoritative statement on full-fibre broadband prospects for the parish. We are grateful to Ethan Evans of Openreach's Executive Complaints and Escalations team for a detailed and candid reply.

Dorney Village and Lake End

The news is disappointing. Openreach has confirmed that Dorney Village was included in its national Full Fibre build programme — but has now been removed following formal reassessment. The area no longer meets Openreach's "commercial viability thresholds": in a semi-rural parish with relatively few properties, the anticipated take-up does not justify the capital cost of laying fibre to individual premises.

Fibre cabling does exist along Village Road and Lake End Road, served by a cabinet on Lake End Road near Orchard Herbs (Burnham Exchange). However, this is FTTC — Fibre to the Cabinet — with the final connection to homes made over copper wire. Speeds vary with distance from the cabinet: properties nearby may achieve 40–80 Mbps; those further away will see considerably less.

Dorney Common and Boveney

Residents here are better placed. Cabinet #46 on Dorney Common already provides full FTTP — Fibre to the Premises — to a number of properties in that area.

The 2012 legacy — a myth dispelled

Some residents have believed that fibre installed for the Olympic rowing events would eventually benefit the community. Openreach confirms that this infrastructure comprises private point-to-point Ethernet circuits, funded by the end user for commercial purposes. It forms no part of the public broadband network and cannot be repurposed for residential use.

Dorney Reach

Dorney Reach is served from the Maidenhead exchange via a cabinet on Marsh Lane. The FTTC distance problem is starkly illustrated on Harcourt Road, where a property near the cabinet achieves 47 Mbps while one 800 metres further along may manage a fraction of that. This is an inherent limitation of the technology, not a fault.

What residents can do

Openreach has not closed the door entirely, and government-funded schemes such as Project Gigabit exist to reach areas unviable for commercial investment. In the meantime:

- **All residents** can register interest with Gigaclear (www.gigaclear.com), a rural fibre specialist whose investment decisions are driven by demonstrated community demand. Registration is free.
- **All residents** experiencing poor speeds should ask their provider for a line check and ensure their equipment is properly optimised.

The Parish Council will continue to press this issue and monitor opportunities under future government procurement rounds.

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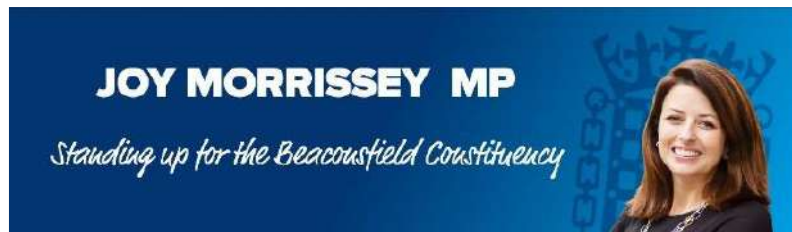
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It is a pleasure to once again write for the *Dorney Parish News*. I would first like to reflect on some of the matters discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend, as I was in Parliament leading a debate on HS2, but I was grateful to receive updates on the discussions that took place.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Peter Bowman and Bill Dax, who will be stepping down as editors at the end of the year. Local publications such as the *Dorney Parish News* are an invaluable part of community life, helping to keep residents informed and connected. Peter and Bill have dedicated an enormous amount of time and effort to producing this magazine month after month, and I know the whole community will join me in thanking them for their hard work and commitment. It has always been a pleasure to contribute to the magazine.

Another important issue raised at the meeting was Orchard Herbs. I am pleased that significant progress has been made in clearing the site, despite work slowing in recent months. I know many residents remain concerned about its inclusion in the emerging local plan. When the next draft of the local plan is published in July, I would be very happy to work alongside the Parish Council to help raise and address any concerns residents may have.

I am also aware that the Parish Council continues to work with Buckinghamshire Council to find a solution to the speeding issues on Common Road. I know this has been a longstanding concern for many residents, and I very much hope that positive progress can be made in the near future.

In Parliament, I have continued my campaign against the damage HS2 continues to cause communities across our constituency. I was pleased to secure a parliamentary debate on the project. I have opposed HS2 since I was first elected in 2019, and over the years I have seen first-hand the disruption and frustration it has caused local residents. For too many people, HS2 has meant years of uncertainty and upheaval, with very little benefit for our area in return.

More positively, it was welcome news that the Government has backed down from its proposed fuel duty increase. Earlier this year, I urged ministers to scrap the planned rise, and I am pleased they have now done so. This U-turn will provide some much-needed relief for drivers facing rising living costs, particularly in communities such as Dorney where many residents rely on their cars for everyday journeys, appointments, and shopping.

Finally, I would like to thank all our local parish councillors for their continued hard work in helping to keep Dorney such a beautiful and vibrant community.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update, and as always, if there is anything I can do to support you, please do not hesitate to contact me at

joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk.

Joy Morrissey MP

Summer Time at The Palmer Arms

Once again, Chrys Fisher and his team at The Palmer Arms, are hosting the Windsor Foodshare summer BBQ, this July. Chrys provides a bespoke BBQ menu at a reasonable price and very pleasant surroundings for the annual get together, where volunteers can take some time out to enjoy a great meal and catchup.

Operating from our historic base at Dedworth Green Baptist Church and since February 2024 at Alma Beacon, Windsor Foodshare continues to support individuals and families in Windsor and surrounding areas on a referral basis who are suffering food poverty, food insecurity and are at risk of going hungry. The weekly food parcels include a wide range of non-perishable items, fresh fruits and vegetables, bread, eggs, (supplied by Challens Chick Farm, Taplow). Occasionally, toiletries and pet food are also distributed.

A team of around 30 dedicated local volunteers from Windsor and surrounding areas, (including 2 Dorney residents), and The Lions Club of Windsor provide the man-power to deliver this service across the community on a weekly basis.

We look forward to the event, thanks Chrys!

Joan Wraight

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A Quiet Gem in Our Village: Eton Dorney Independent Therapeutic School Receives Glowing Ofsted Report



Tucked away in the Old Vicarage near Dents Corner on Lake End Road, Eton Dorney Independent Therapeutic School may not be widely known to local residents, but Ofsted has recently confirmed what those within its walls already know - it is doing extraordinary work for some of society's most vulnerable young people.

Following an inspection on 10 March 2026, Ofsted awarded the school a "Strong Standard" rating across every single area assessed - the second highest grade available.

Every independent school standard was met without exception, and safeguarding standards were fully satisfied. For a school working with children who have often experienced profound adversity, this is a remarkable achievement.

What Does the School Do?

The school, operated by Calcot Services for Children (Education) Ltd and led by Headteacher Tom Boardman, is registered for up to 50 pupils and currently serves 42 young people aged roughly 7 to 16. Every pupil has an Education, Health and Care plan, and all have social, emotional and mental health needs. Many have missed extended periods of schooling before arriving and have struggled to engage in mainstream settings. In short, this school takes on children who may have been let down elsewhere and gives them a genuine second chance.

A Family Business with Deep Local Roots

Calcot Services for Children was founded in 1989 by the Singh family, whose ethos has always been to *"give children and young people in care stability, beautiful homes, support and time to heal."* Over 35 years, what began as a small residential care provider in Berkshire has grown into a substantial group of children's homes, therapeutic schools and outreach services across the region. The Singh family form the school's proprietor body and sit on the education committee that oversees its governance. This is not a distant corporate parent: it is a family that has been working with some of the most vulnerable children in the region for more than three decades.

A School Transformed

It is worth acknowledging that this has not always been the picture. Ofsted inspections between 2019 and 2024 repeatedly found that the school did not meet all the independent school standards - findings that coincided with wider media attention on Calcot's operations in 2022, though Eton Dorney school itself was not the subject of those reports. The school has undergone significant change since then. New leadership took up their posts in September 2023, and the turnaround reflected in this latest report is a testament to the hard work of everyone involved: staff, pupils, families, the leadership team, and the proprietors who invested in making it happen. *"This school has given them a second chance and helped them to believe in themselves."* - Pupils, to Ofsted inspectors, March 2026

What Did Ofsted Find?

The report makes for genuinely uplifting reading. Inspectors described the school as "a deeply caring and aspirational" place where "values of nurturing, self-belief, kindness and compassion underpin high expectations and warm relationships." Pupils are achieving very

well, with leaders broadening the curriculum over recent years to include GCSEs, BTEC National Diplomas and Arts Awards. Attendance - always a significant challenge for pupils with these kinds of needs - has improved markedly, behaviour is very positive and improving, and teaching was praised as highly ambitious and expertly tailored to individual need.

What makes the school particularly distinctive is its therapeutic approach. Art therapy, play therapy, psychotherapy, speech and language therapy and occupational therapy are all available. Inspectors specifically highlighted art therapy as "proving particularly effective to help pupils who have experienced trauma in the past."



Headteacher Tom Boardman said: *"We are absolutely thrilled that Eton Dorney Independent Therapeutic School has received such a strong Ofsted report, a wonderful recognition of the passion, dedication and expertise of our entire school community.*

This achievement is a testament to the exceptional commitment of our staff, who work tirelessly to provide a safe, nurturing and inspiring environment where every young person can flourish. It reflects our belief that, with the right support, care and ambition, every pupil can rediscover confidence, build positive relationships and achieve success in ways that are meaningful to them.

We are immensely proud of our pupils, whose courage, resilience and determination shine through every day and are central to this success. Their journeys and achievements are what make our school so special.

We are also deeply grateful for the ongoing support of families, professionals and our wider community, whose encouragement and partnership play a vital role in all that we do.

This recognition is not just a moment of pride, but a springboard for the future as we continue to grow, innovate and provide the very best opportunities for the young people we serve.

An important part of our vision is to actively engage with and contribute to our local community. We are keen to build strong, meaningful connections that create opportunities for our pupils to broaden their horizons and develop the skills they need for life beyond our school gates. If there are opportunities for Eton Dorney to work alongside local groups, organisations or initiatives, we would warmly welcome those conversations. We firmly believe that these partnerships can be incredibly powerful in enriching our pupils' experiences and strengthening the community as a whole."

A School to Be Proud Of

Residents may recall that the Old Vicarage, as the Eton Dorney Project, started in 1972 to provide holidays for underprivileged children, run by Dorney Parish, Eton College and The Diocese of Oxford, with some wonderful Wardens. Sadly, the Centre closed in 2016. It is a happy continuity that the building still serves vulnerable young people today - and that it now does so with such distinction.

That is something the whole village can take pride in having on its doorstep.

For more information about Eton Dorney Independent Therapeutic School, visit www.etondorneytherapeuticschool.co.uk or call 01628 667475.

Bill Dax

Those Were the Days

The lovely Mrs Quincey and I returned to Quincey Towers a while ago on a freezing winter evening and discovered to our horror that some unspeakable moron, or perhaps more, had smashed our glass French window, ransacked every room, and left via the front door.

I was reminded of our experience while reading the excellent article by Virginia Silvester in last month's DPN where she related her disappointment in the inability to speak to a real live police officer.

Nobody is more pro police than me, having spent a large chunk of my adult life making life uncomfortable for criminals while trying to preserve the peace for everyone else, and so I dialled 999 with a certain expectation of a blue uniform or two's reassuring presence.

I paraphrase.

"Police emergency."

"Hi, I've just come home and found I have been burgled."

"When was this?"

"Well, we've been out for about 4 hours, but it might just have happened. They've smashed the French window, they will have glass fragments in their hair and clothing."

"Sounds like an urgent call."

"What's that mean please?"

"One down from blue lights and sirens. Don't touch anything. We'll be with you as soon as we can."

It was 6.30pm and we waited in our freezing violated home for the prompt police arrival, with perhaps a helicopter, a few more units, and a dog to sniff them out; most of which would have been the probable response in my day. I could bore you with tales of captures like it, and to be fair, failures too; but at least we had a go, and more importantly, the criminals knew we would.

We waited, and then we waited some more.

In response to my enquiry at 8.45pm, I was told, "We haven't assigned any officer yet," followed at 9.00pm, "Don't touch anything, we're on our way!"

We waited cold and hungry till 11.00pm, blocked up the window and went to bed. In the morning I found a missive from TVP timed around 3.00am in our letter box.

Two plain clothes officers attended next day, and everything was carefully photographed and covered in silvery powder looking for prints, but the moment had long gone.

In my old patch in the Met, sadly I suspect the result would now be the same. My old nick, just like Burnham Police Station, is now a housing estate. Had Burnham been there, some crusty old thief taker would have had an idea; but that was then.

About seven days later an official looking letter from TVP, delivered by hand no less, warned me to be aware that a recent burglary had occurred in my area. The letter stated that this could be upsetting (my words) and it was signed by a police Inspector from Amersham! Doh! Sherlock. I'd worked that out all on my own.

I have always thought that such dismal performance was caused by appalling senior leadership in that if a minister of state said to a very senior officer, "Nobody attends police stations anymore. Close most of them and flog off the land. The great unwashed can go online" instead of putting up a ferocious defence of police stations housing local officers, they caved in, with perhaps an eye on their next rank? Local police knew the villains, but more importantly, the villains knew the officers as people, not just uniforms.

To seek reassurance as much as anything else I recently attended a public meeting with the TVP's PCC, or Police and Crime Commissioner to you. His role was to use his local knowledge to advise the Chief Constable, who can be hired or fired by him as well.

The attendance was indifferent, although tea and coffee were available. Once the preamble was over, a lady described the running fight of forty plus in the High Street that occurs regularly around a pub in the late evening. Where were the police? By the time they arrived, the suspects had gone.

Apparently, officers had to travel long distances to cover these 'shouts', but of course they had other commitments too.

I asked why we didn't put a police office in one of the empty shops with a Sergeant and a couple of PCs patrolling?

Apparently the PCC prefers to spend money on people, not buildings. Moving on...

In answer to another question police did their best to stop pedestrians being severely injured by recklessly ridden electric bikes because, although the police had bicycles, they could not catch them and if (and I think I heard this correctly) they chased them in cars, the officers might land up in trouble.

Nothing could be done about flags tied to every other lamp post as it was "not an offence."

Er, yes, it is. Highways Act 1980 and Public Order Act 1986 Sec 5 1(b) if within the sight of a person likely to be caused harassment alarm or distress.

I found it rather sad that, as I read Virginia's article I ached for the clarity of the Salt-Hill Society's purpose in 1783 to protect persons and property from felons and thieves. Oh, were it that simple.

"What's this all got to do with Dorney?" I hear you ask. We all suffer from the same lack of officers, the same interminable 'online' nonsense and call centres; a poor trade indeed for the reassuring sight of a patrolling PC, even on a bike or in a car.

Here's a thought! How about building a police station on the site in Lake End Road recently vacated by our lorry breaker friends.

I now have an OBE! (Over bl***y eighty). Still above ground and breathing! Could be a lot worse.

Thanks again to Virginia.

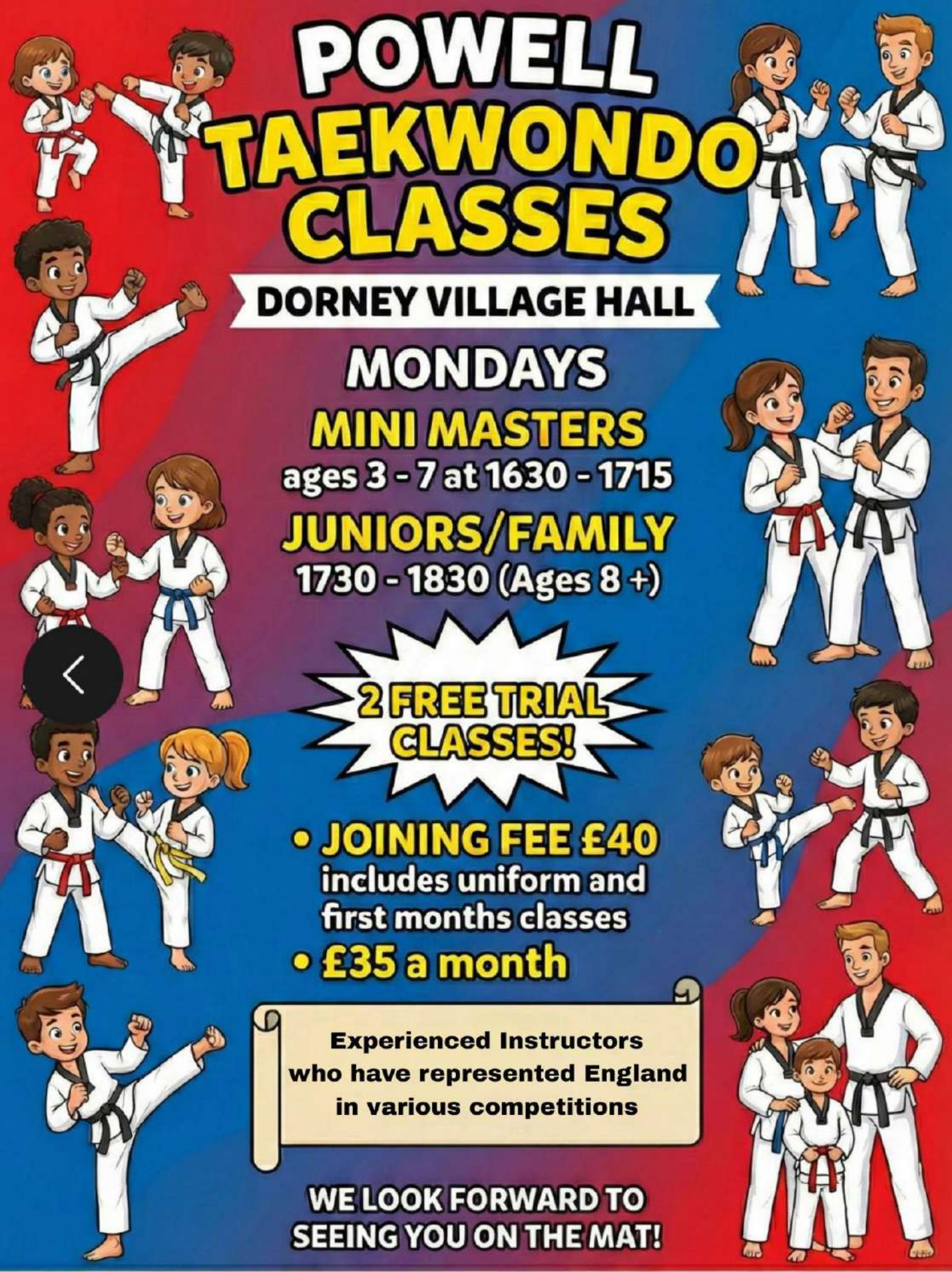
Stay Safe.

Mike Quincey

Draft Action Plan 2026/2027

Updated: 19 May 2026

				In Progress
				Completed
<u>Action</u>		<u>Purpose</u>		
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	
	Thames Water Field	Establish future plans	Jill Dax	
	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	
	Ashford Lane footbridge	Continue pressure on Bucks Council for repair/replacement	Jill Dax	
	Dangerous Parking at Pineapple	Monitor and Review	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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PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday 19th May 2026 at The Boathouse, Dorney Lake

Present

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair), Ms Ruth Senior (Parish Clerk), and 38 members of the public (including 4 Councillors and 1 County Councillor)

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr. Robert Stopford, County Cllr. Kirsten Ashman, Jill Palmer, Ed Hayter and James Palmer.

2 Approval of 2025 APM Minutes

Approved with no changes.

3 Report from Parish Council

Cllr. Jill Dax – Chairman

Good evening and welcome to this year's Annual Parish Meeting. Thank you for attending. It is encouraging to see so many familiar faces, and I extend a warm welcome to those joining us for the first time.

This meeting forms an important part of the parish's governance, providing an opportunity not only to review the past year, but also to hear your views and consider priorities for the year ahead.

May I begin by thanking you all for your continued support and engagement with the work of the Parish Council. I would also like to place on record our thanks to Alistair Otto for once again making this excellent venue available to us for our Annual Parish Meeting.

I am grateful to my fellow councillors who have committed to serving for a further term: Anna Palmer, Martin Westford-Wreford, Robert Stopford, Stephen Baker, and Martin Hardman. And to Ruth Senior, our patient clerk who keeps us on the right pathways....Their contribution to the parish is both valued and essential. We do still have the capacity to co-opt one additional councillor, and I would encourage anyone who is interested in contributing to the work of the Council to consider putting themselves forward.

As we reflect on the past year, it is clear that, while there have been challenges, there have also been meaningful achievements. The continued strength of this parish lies in its willingness to work collaboratively and constructively for the benefit of the whole community. That remains our guiding principle.

This evening, we will review the key activities and decisions of the past year, consider the Council's financial position, and provide an opportunity for questions and comments from those present. Your input is an important part of this process, and I encourage you to take part in the discussion.

I would ask that we conduct the meeting in a spirit of respect and constructive discussion, so that everybody has the opportunity to be heard. If there are any questions we cannot answer immediately, we will review them after the meeting and respond by email (please ensure that you leave your details with Ruth). Likewise, if you have any further questions, please email Ruth - her details can be found on the DPC website.

Before inviting speakers to provide their updates, I would like to briefly highlight a number of significant matters over the past year, some of which remain ongoing.

Firstly, the pothole works along Lake End, Village, Common and Boveney roads have now been completed. Whilst the repairs were patching works rather than full resurfacing, they never the less represent a welcome improvement to the condition of these roads.

Following several follow ups by DPC the two damaged and blackened island bollards along Lake End Road have now been replaced and the guiding light at the entry point into Dorney from the M4 bridge has been repaired and is once again operational.

Regarding the Orchard Herbs site - residents will have noticed a significant reduction in the number of vehicles over the recent months and our most recent report from the Enforcement Officer is that a lot of clearance has taken place on the land behind the buildings. However, the site remains short of the full clearance required by the Planning Inspector. We continue to receive regular updates and assurances, through regular meetings with the Enforcement Officer, that progress is ongoing and that full clearance remains the objective. The parish council remains in regular contact and continues to press for completion of the work.

Speeding on the Common remains a major concern. Correspondence with Bucks Council continues and is available on the DPC website. Bucks has now agreed to undertake another speed assessment, the findings of which will be

reviewed carefully. We continue to press strongly for a reduction to a to 40mph speed limit on Common Road and Boveney Road.

Litter Picking continues throughout the year and we remain extremely grateful to the volunteers who help to keep the areas covered as litter free as possible.

On fibre broadband, thanks go John Wraight for actively engaging with Openreach to obtain a timeline for installation. Following a recent update from Openreach, stating that the project has been 'delayed due to unknown circumstances', DPC wrote to Openreach seeking clarification on the reasons for the delay and urging them to progress the installation as soon as possible. Whilst their timely response was welcome the outcome is disappointing and following a detailed reassessment Openreach have been required to make the decision to remove Dorney Village from their current commercial Full Fibre build programme. As suggested in their response, DPC will follow up in a year's time to review this situation. Their full response is on our website.

In addition, we continue to monitor grass and hedge cutting across the parish and have good news that after much chasing Bucks have confirmed that the urgent tree works which are required along Court Lane and a survey of all remaining trees, will be carried out in the coming few weeks.

And just by way of recent information, I am afraid we have been advised by the Steward of Burnham Abbey it is envisaged that Huntercombe Lane South will be closed until September. We will be contacting Bucks Council for clarification and an update on this.

Thank you again for your attendance this evening.

Ruth Senior – Clerk

Dorney Village Hall continues to be busy, hired most evenings and weekends for regular events and parties etc. The new playgroup started officially at the hall on March 1st, running weekdays during term time. Their numbers are steadily growing. The refurbishment is almost complete with the stage being decorated in the summer holidays.

Martyn Westcott-Wreford – Finance

Here is a brief summary of the Dorney Parish Council position for 2025/26

As with all areas in the UK, and parts further, 2025 has been a difficult year.

Following the finance years 21/22, 22/23 and 23/24, with diligent managing of the Parish Council funds we were able to continue these years without increasing the annual precept.

In 2024/25 due to some rising costs, we increased the precept by 8%. This increase allowed us to manage the cost effectively.

For 2025/26 however, costs continued to rise, particularly for energy. Our energy costs are mainly electricity to power the streetlamps. We have now completed transition for all of our streetlamp bulbs to led, which are much more efficient. We have investigated the possibility of installing timers to reduce the energy consumption in the early hours. This is possible, but the cost of installing them outweigh the savings.

Costs for 2025/26 continued to increase in all areas generally, especially energy, and the legal supplement of Pension Costs for the Clerk.

Our projected income for 2025/26 was £32,845; whilst our projected costs are £33,727. A community Infrastructure Income of £4,245 assisted with the income, but we are reporting a small shortfall of £822.

With this in mind, and the forecast unlikely to change very quickly with world events as they currently are; we have increased the precept for 2026/27 by an average per household of 4.6%

The reserves in the bank are there to allow us to fund one-off expenses such as falling branches and damaged road signs, for example.

The major annual costs for the Parish Council remain as before. These are, salary and pension for the Clerk, energy costs, and the costs for maintaining the village's green areas.

We continue to be cautious with the Parish Council funds to ensure they are spent wisely and are available assisting with projects and circumstances that may arise. Cash in the bank, for the end of the financial year is £45,814.

4 Community Updates

PCSO Angela O'Connell

The top reported crimes (and number reported) across the area during March 2026 were: Violence & sexual abuse 39, Criminal Damage 16, Theft 15 and public order offences 11.

Over the last 12 months, the main issues have been related to anti-social behaviour and drug offences.

Stop and search activity since January has played a prominent part in finding and stopping criminal activity for drug offences, stolen good and weapons.

TVP also facilitated getting tenants off site from Cliveden Stud in January and are actively involved in the on-going court cases for the stolen car activities.

Alistair Otto – Dorney Lake Manager and Eton College Commercial Director

Alistair joined Eton College 18 months ago and is working closely with the new Bursar Ed Hayter who joined last September.

The Lake has already begun the busy summer of regattas and has many of events booked.

Rev. Andreas Sistig – Vicar for Dorney, Boveney, Eton Wick, Eton and Datchet.

Reported that it has been a joy to start in this position this year and he has been enjoying meeting all the local residents and groups. Many weddings are booked over the summer. A recent joint choral evensong at Dorney was very successful and this will be repeated.

MP Joy Morrissey report given by Will Barnes

Good evening everyone and thank you very much for inviting me to provide an update to the Parish. Although I am sorry not to be with you in person this evening due to parliamentary commitments, I wanted to ensure I could still update residents on some of the issues I have been working on locally and nationally on behalf of Dorney and the wider community.

This evening I am in parliament where I have secured an adjournment debate on HS2 and the impact it has had on communities across the constituency.

One issue I know continues to concern many residents is local transport. Following concerns raised about changes to Carousel bus services, I have continued engaging with residents and monitoring the company's response closely. My understanding is that the company is now working with Bucks Council to explore whether an additional stop can be introduced in Dorney.

Reliable public transport is incredibly important for rural communities like ours, particularly for residents travelling to work, school and medical appointments and especially for elderly and vulnerable residents. I will continue working to ensure the village has the transport links it deserves.

The condition of our roads also remains a major issue across Dorney and Bucks more broadly. Potholes continue to cause frustration for residents and I have raised directly in Parliament the need for a fairer funding formula for rural areas like ours, which too often receive less support than urban authorities. I will continue pressing for greater investment so our roads can be properly maintained.

I am also aware that residents have raised concerns about a number of abandoned vehicles across the parish. Since first being made aware of the issue, I have raised it with the relevant authorities and my understanding is that the vehicles reported have now been removed. However, if there are any remaining cases, or if further incidents arise, please do not hesitate to contact me directly and I would be very happy to take the matter up again on residents' behalf.

More broadly, I have continued standing up for our Green Belt throughout the Local Plan process. I have written to Bucks Council reiterating my strong support for protecting our green spaces from overdevelopment and opposing proposals that would place additional strain on local infrastructure and fundamentally alter the nature of our villages. I know how strongly residents feel about this issue.

I look forward to seeing the next stage of the plan when it is released later this year in July. I will continue standing with the community to defend our countryside.

In Parliament, I have also been raising concerns affecting rural communities more widely, including the rising cost of heating oil and energy for households in villages like Dorney. I have continued working with colleagues to challenge unfair pricing and push for policies that better reflect the realities faced by rural residents.

As always, whether as a Parish Council or as an individual, please know that I am always here if you need support or assistance.

William Emmett – West Town Farm

William farms many areas locally and with climate change has been facing many problems. Summers of 1975 & 1976 were very dry years and this year is very similar. The increase in warmer wet winters and dry hot summers is causing many challenges of what you can grow, how and when. As a direct result, it is necessary to use more insecticides.

Currently on West Town Farm, herbs, potatoes for Walkers crisps and wheat for bread making are being grown. There has also been the problem of price increases following the recent Middle East conflict, 70% increases in energy and fertilizer.

Also, there are still issues with motorbikes on the farm land, entering from the Slough end and ruining crops plus the Huntercombe Lane South closure and Ashford Lane bridge collapse have created their own access challenges.

Peter Bowman – Dorney Parish News

Dorney parish News is still thriving and had 10 pack issues throughout the last year. This shows it is definitely worth preserving in some format as Peter Bowman and Bill Dax have now announced their retirement from DPN at the end of the year. They are really hoping a new team will step forward to take over in the current or new format.

There will be a survey in the July edition which can be accessed via a QR code to establish reader views on format, what they want to see etc.

If anyone is interested in taking on DPN, please get in touch as the aim is for DPN to survive.

5 Report from County Council

County Cllr. Cole Caesar

Congratulations on the development and transfer of Dorney Village Hall, this is a credit to Dorney Parish Council and the Clerk.

After meeting with Sister Victoria at Burnham Abbey the importance of preserving the whole site is more apparent after its sale. The wall is currently being assessed for its build dates, it is possibly from Tudor times and must be protected which is why the restoration and closure of Huntercombe Lane South is taking so long. Options like one way traffic are being considered.

Sadly, the Carousel bus route changed suddenly in January when the route was extended to go straight up Lake End Road and on to Maidenhead, better transport links are essential so this is currently being reviewed.

Great to see the road works are almost complete, sadly not the whole re-surfacing hoped for but a much-needed improvement.

Congratulations to the recent fundraising effort of £2600 to fund collars for the cows on Dorney Common. The speed limit change is still being supported by Dorney Parish Council and Eton Wick Council.

The Ashford Lane bridge replacement is on hold due to funds as the replacement is expected to exceed £1million.

Cllr. Caesar has launched a petition to defend and protect farmland and Green Belt land.

Thanks were given to Dorney Parish Councillors and the Clerk and in particular to the hard work of the volunteer Councillors that often goes unrecognised.

6 Questions from the floor on Parish/County issues

- Have we heard anything on Thames Water Field behind Harcourt Road as the last works there were in Autumn and residents were told they would return in Spring? The parish Council have not had any communication but will contact them.
- Is the possibility of a conservation area for the whole village being considered, not just for a few houses on Village Road? This will be considered as part of the Neighbourhood Plan development.
- Dorney seems to be the only area not included in the Thames Valley Strategic Authority, what is the reason? County Cllr. Cole Caesar will raise this with Bucks Council.
- Is there an update on the classification on agricultural land? The Clerk confirmed that this will be a part of the National Planning Policy Framework which is due to be completed and released this summer.
- Speeding on Dorney Common, will the limit be reduced and when will the potholes be filled? The latest updates on the speed reduction can be found on the Dorney Parish Council website. We also believe that the road repairs have been completed.
- What is happening with the car boot traffic? Following the Taplow annual meeting where this was discussed, the Clerk confirmed that the organisers were aware of the problem and explained that there were new people employed to direct traffic and once they had settled in, the problem has eased greatly. There is still an issue for a short time around 10am when most people arrive.
- Is anyone else having problems with slow broadband and buffering around Village Road and Marsh Lane? Please report to Openreach if speeds drop below 10MBPS.
- Orchard Herbs update? There has been very slow progress in clearing the site however we are grateful to the Enforcement Officer who meets on site every month to ensure the clearing is still happening. While this is the case, they will continue to work with the site owner. If this site is put forward as suggested as a gypsy/traveller site, the Council will object.

7 Any other business

The Parish Council thanked everyone for their updates and attendance.



DORNEY

PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 19TH MAY, 6.30pm AT DORNEY LAKE

Present

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair) Cllr. Anna Palmer Cllr. Martin Hardman Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford Cllr. Stephen Baker
Clerk Ruth Senior

Public Forum

None

PC/31/26 To elect a Chairman and Declaration of Office of Chairman

Cllr. Westcott-Wreford proposed, Cllr. Baker seconded, Jill Dax as Chairman, who accepted the role. **AGREED** – all in favour. Declaration of office completed.

PC/32/26 Apologies for absence

Cllr. Robert Stopford and County Cllr. Kirsten Ashman

PC/33/26 To elect a Vice Chairman

Cllr. Dax proposed, Cllr. Baker seconded, Martyn Westcott-Wreford as Vice Chairman, who accepted the role. **AGREED** – all in favour.

PC/34/26 Declaration of office signed by each elected Councillor

Following the elections last year and the most recent co-option, the declarations are all up to date.

PC/35/26 To elect a Finance Chairman

Cllr. Hardman proposed, Cllr. Baker seconded, Martyn Westcott-Wreford as Finance Chairman, who accepted the role. **AGREED** – all in favour.

PC/36/26 Declaration of interest on any items of business on this Agenda

There were none declared.

PC/37/26 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2026

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

PC/38/26 To consider advertising to co-opt a Councillor into the vacant position

Advertising of the vacant role will continue. **It was agreed** that if an area is missing particular expertise, prospective Councillors could be approached.

PC/39/26 To review constitutional documents, asset register and risk assessment

The Clerk confirmed the new standard IT Policy. No other changes.

PC/40/26 To receive the Clerk report

There was no Clerk report as all items are being discussed on the agenda.

PC/41/26 Planning

New Planning applications

PL/26/02075/FA 5 Marsh Lane Dorney Reach Buckinghamshire SL6 0DN

Proposed first floor rear extension **No comment to be made**

PL/26/03396/SAPL/26/01116/SA Ronita 59 Harcourt Road Dorney Reach Buckinghamshire SL6 0DT

This is the same as PL/26/01116/SA which was refused. They have resubmitted for Certificate of lawfulness for the proposed demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a single-storey rear extension **No comment to be made**

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 - **Still with the Planning Inspectorate**

PL/24/0586/FA Court Farm Common Road Dorney Buckinghamshire SL4 6QA - On going no change from last time

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 no change from last time.

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 - On going no change from last time.

PC/42/26 Finance

42.1 The cashbook was circulated prior to the meeting and approved.

42.2 The year end accounts and AGAR have been completed by the Clerk and Internal Auditor and were approved for submission to the External Auditor.

PC/43/26 To update and consider actions for Orchard Herbs

There has been very slow progress in clearing the site however we are grateful to the Enforcement Officer who meets on site every month to ensure the clearing is still happening. While this is the case, they will continue to work with the site owner.

PC/44/26 To discuss and consider actions on the Roundmoor Ditch flooding

Update from Cllr. Hardman

Recently received an interim updated report from Thames Water/Slough Treatment Works (STW) on the discharges last year. Still awaiting a response from Thames Water following a request for information and an examination of the impact of landfill activities on the Orchard Herb site.

Currently cannot firmly conclude a definitive cause of the flooding at Lake End and Dorney Common. However, the evidence is growing that there is a very strong link with STW activity.

A report should be finalised by end May.

The camera is now up and running which is monitoring the water levels. Once we have the 2026 pumping data from STW next year, we will have a large body of hard data from which to draw irrefutable conclusions.

The plan going forward is to review the finalised report and develop a draft plan for wider engagement. These will be presented at the July PC Meeting at which agreement to adopt/enact both will be sought.

PC/45/26 To consider the annual insurance renewal

The Clerk confirmed a small rise in the insurance premium from Clear Councils. **It was agreed** this is acceptable.

PC/46/26 To consider the Bucks Local Plan actions and ratify the use of ONH Consultants

It was agreed to use ONH to help with the response to the draft local plan at a cost of £2550 +VAT.

PC/47/26 To consider an increase in Clerk annual leave entitlement

It was agreed that the Clerk's annual leave entitlement should be increased for one day per year of service pro-rata. This is confirmed in the up to date contract.

PC/48/26 To update on speeding issues in Dorney and Dorney Common

Following a response from Buckinghamshire Council in April which said further investigations will take place, **it was agreed** that we will ask for the results of these investigations before replying formally.

PC/49/26 To update on Dorney Village Hall

The Clerk confirmed that the new playgroup is up and running and steadily increasing its intake. The stage area in the hall is the last area for re-decoration, this will take place in the summer holidays.

Still looking for new groups to fill the available slots for regular hirers, Cllr. Hardman mentioned The Heart Rehab Organisation, Bucks and will speak with them.

PC/50/26 To consider any complaints/comments received from residents

Jubilee Litter – Litter is a major problem, the Clerk has contacted the Environment Agency and they have confirmed they will explore options for helping this. **It was agreed** this will be pursued.

Car Boot Traffic – Following the Taplow annual meeting where this was discussed, the Clerk confirmed that the organisers were aware of the problem and explained that there were new people employed to direct traffic and once they had settled in, the problem has eased greatly. There is still an issue for a short time around 10am when most people arrive.

Car Crash on Lake End Rd – Cllr. Palmer confirmed that following a police chase, a female driver crashed into the fencing opposite the Therapeutic School on Lake End Road. This has been repaired.

DVH Car Park – Local residents have made complaints regarding antisocial behaviour and drug paraphernalia in the village hall car park, they have been advised that any incidents must be reported to the police and Bucks Council.

Corner of Court Lane and Marsh Lane – Following a near miss accident, **it was agreed** we will investigate who is responsible for getting trees/hedges cut back to make this bend as visible as possible.

PC/51/26 Items to consider for discussion at the next meeting on 14th July 2026 @ Dorney Village Hall

Leaflet drop on Parish Council info

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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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Editors:

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

Bill Dax, bill@daxfamily.com Mobile: 07802 365448 (Production)

Distributors:

Mr Cobb, Mrs Leishman, Mrs McCabe,
Mr Penfold, Mrs Stockwood, Mr Temple
Miss Snook, Mrs Tuddenham, Mrs Wood-Dow

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

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

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