

Dorney Parish News

July/August 2023



The Dorney Horticultural Society Annual Show
2nd September 2023

For more information, please see details on Page 15



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EDITORIAL

First of all, this column wants to join in the farewell tributes to La. The Reverend La Stacey, Vicar of Eton with Eton Wick and Boveney and Dorney for a few months under a decade, is retiring. This magazine thanks La for her monthly homilies and a stream of posters and pictures. We have admired her encouragement of services in the long unused St Mary Magdalene's and have benefited by the wisdom of countless phone conversations. We will miss her.

Linked to this sad event maybe, the last month here has had a biblical quality. This column last month forecast the *good times* that were just around the corner. In June we saw glimpses of the *end times* as foretold in the Book of Revelation. There were floods. Summer months in recent years have seen the formation of the vast 'Dorney Lake' on the north side of the Common. I swear I saw flamingos there the other day. Now we hear of flooding around Lake End Common. There are several theories as to the causes. These should get an airing at the July Parish Council meeting and in the September issue of this magazine.

There has been fire. Just when the Orchard Herbs saga couldn't get any murkier, it seems that one day smoke billowed out from the site across neighbouring properties and even the M4. Councillors and residents are keen to find out who was burning what and why. Perhaps the worst pestilence we can imagine is the complete loss of broadband, particularly when a good proportion of Dorney Reach are so deprived. We watched out our window as a team from Bucks County (sorry, Mr Tett if that's wrong) set about dropping the kerb for a newly rebuilt house... 'there are cables under there...' Sure enough, half an hour later the router was flashing orange. A DIY blitz spirit set in. Contact was made with the right engineer, the developer was contacted via an estate agent, the 'pestilence' was barely for 24 hours, and Open Reach and the developer emerged with credit. The team from the council? Well, the jury is out.

OK, there has been no famine. Indeed, peckishness can be avoided next month by using this copy you are reading to take advantage of the splendid money-off offer from *The Pineapple* set out later in this issue. Furthermore, a veritable feast could be prepared from all those vegetables, fruit, jams and cakes to be on display in the Village Hall as entries in the Annual Show on Saturday September 2nd. You shouldn't miss it.

There is another date that all residents should not miss. In this issue we do our best to set out just why Dorney's planned Neighbourhood Plan is of vital importance to all our futures and that progress is being made by the NP team. There will be a full presentation of the initial findings of the questionnaire and the future of the Neighbourhood Plan on July 18th at 6.30pm at Dorney School. All, of course, will be welcome.

'Dorney Parish News' will be back in the first week of September, as traditionally there is no August issue. Enjoy the Playground Party, enjoy the Dorney School fair...everybody, enjoy your summer.

Be safe. Best Wishes.

Services in the Local Churches



St James the Less, Dorney

St. John the Baptist, Eton Wick
St. John the Evangelist, Eton

**Vicar: Revd. La Stacey, The Vicarage,
69a Eton Wick Road, Eton Wick, Windsor,
SL4 6NE**

Tel: 01753 852268 email: revlastacey@gmail.com

For information about our churches, activities and church history please see our parishes' web site:

www.stjohnstjamesed.org.uk

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

Pastor: Olusegun Omotayo 07712 126334 www.rccgchurchatslough.com

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Burnham

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

Rev La Stacey writes: Time to go - part 2.

I am about to embark on lots of shredding here. I've been sorting through paperwork related to church and making sure that I'm leaving behind only the up-to-date papers and those that have to be kept for certain lengths of time. It is rather an emotional task as it brings to mind ceremonies and events, moments and lives that have been precious.

That is one of the things about moving house, isn't it? If we got someone else in to sort through our paperwork and stuff for us, they could do it in no time. But when the stuff belongs to you, all of it has a memory attached to it, it is a much longer job and pulls on the heartstrings.

It is all part of the process though. Sorting through papers is a way of noticing what is of lasting value and letting go of the rest. It is an exercise in gratitude.

As we go, I want to thank you for being part of our lives and part of our story for the best part of a decade and for letting us be part of yours. There's a weird little parable that Jesus tells about letting the wheat and the weeds grow up together in the field – don't fuss too much about making the garden pristine all the time - because if you start pulling things up while it's all growing, you might pull up good stuff by mistake. When the time comes and you sort everything through, you will be able to tell what is of lasting value and what needs to go in the shredder.

It's a handy principle about living together in community, I'm thinking. If we get all judgemental about people before we've really got to know them, if we start criticising, thinking that we can set them to rights, we'll miss the goodness that is in each other. Growing together, we learn to value each other for our different attributes and then when the time comes to leave, what is valuable shows up really clearly and we know it is going to be a wrench to part!

My prayer is for God's blessing to remain with you. Keep on being kind to one another and supporting each other. Thank you for your welcome. I will carry a part of you into my next adventure.

Grace, mercy and peace be with you.

La

Church Services in July and August 2022

Sunday 3rd July

9.30 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

11.00 am Any Age Family Service

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 7th July

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 10th July

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 17th July

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 21st July

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Saturday 22nd July

4.00pm Patronal Festival Service

St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

Sunday 24th July

9.30am Morning Prayer

11.00am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 31st July

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 3rd August

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 7th August

9.30 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

11.00 am Any Age Family Service

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist Eton Wick

Sunday 14th August

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 17th August

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 21st August

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Morning Worship

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 28th August

9.30am Morning Prayer

11.00am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

**Are you free on
Wednesday 19th July between 15.00 and 17.30**

**and would like to help Dorney Playground
Management Committee raise funds to maintain
the Playground?**

Dorney Playground is maintained by an independent charity. On Wednesday 19th July we are holding a summer party to raise funds to help maintain the playground. The summer party is open to all 4 – 11 year olds. Tickets will be available to buy soon, in advance, from the tuck shop situated in Dorney Village Hall. The tuck shop is open most school days from 3.15 to about 4.00.

We are hoping to run a number of exciting activities and need volunteers to help run the event. We need volunteers to help with:

Monitoring three inflatables:

 All the fun of the fair assault course

 Party time play zone

 Party time fun run

Wet fun area

Shoot the basketball

Zap the Rat

Croquet

Pineapple shy

Lucky dip

Football penalties

Barbecue – cooking and taking orders

Sweet, ice cream and drinks stalls

Selling tickets on the day (hopefully most people will buy in advance)

So, if you are free and would like to help, please call Ettie on

07831 479346 / Jackie on 07814 021816 or email

ettiebrand@gmail.com

**We also would like to do face painting.
If there is anyone who could do face painting for part or all of
the afternoon, please let us know**



Tickets now on sale

SAVE THE DATE
19TH JULY
2023

END OF TERM SUMMER PARTY

19TH JULY, 2023

3:15PM - 5:30PM

DORNEY PLAYGROUND

Tickets are now available to purchase from the playground tuck shop. The tickets are £10.00 each and include a free 'long-range' water gun (as long as stocks last). Pre-schoolers (when accompanying paying brothers or sisters) come free of charge.

Ticket price includes **unlimited access** to:

All the Fun of the Fair Assault Course, Party Playzone, Party Time Fun Run, Wet water fun area, Shoot the basketball, Zap the Rat and other garden games and challenges (with prizes).

BBQ, ice creams, drinks and sweets will be available to purchase on the day.



100% OF ALL PROFIT RAISED AT
THIS EVENT WILL BE RE-INVESTED
IN DORNEY PLAYGROUND

A summer afternoon at Dorney Lake

On June 7th a minibus full of Dorney residents was treated to a tour of the 'The Meadows of Dorney Lake' organised by Dorney Parish Council and Dorney Lake Management. Thanks are particularly due to Philip Highy, who as well as being Managing Director of the Lake was an excellent driver and Lee Marshall, Eton's Grounds Manager, who was an excellent guide.

Eton College have been developing a landscape strategy that encourages biodiversity, and a less heavily managed environment or as Lee puts it 'until you see the boathouse, you will see meadow'.

For a wider description of this policy, please see an article in our March issue this year. May I share a few vivid impressions of this happy June afternoon?

We stopped to consider some of the hundred or so varieties of Japanese Cherry Trees donated by Dr Takatsuki, the College's Summer Schools representative in Tokyo. These ranged from south island varieties that flower very early to those from the north of Japan which flower much later giving the Lake an extended season of spring blossoming. Just a little further into the site, Lee outlined the efforts being made to preserve a stately, mature ash tree, a survivor from pre-lake times, standing proud among the thousands of new trees planted in recent years. The nearby verges (see photo) were alive with wildflowers newly coming into bloom really well.



A memorable sight was Lee on his knees triumphantly pointing out specimens of the distinctive bee orchid, soon to be joined by one or two photographers in the party. The flower looks like a female bee, leading male bees to sweep in to pollinate it. The orchid favours rarely trodden roadside verges, so the Lake's verges are not cut until the orchids have seeded.

The tour concluded with a drive through the 100-acre Nature Conservation Area between the Lake and the Thames, normally inaccessible to the public and which offers 'secluded shelter, feeding and breeding grounds for wildlife'. Actually, the real conclusion was tea taken in the finishing post building. The biscuits were certainly memorable. There will be, I'm sure, further tours in the future. Watch out for announcements in this magazine.

Let me capture the full character of your
faithful and loyal companion



Don't put off getting your Paw-trait session and call me
today!

My session fee is £75 but I will waive it for the first 5
bookings

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

T. 07878162452

E. richard@shymansky.co.uk

 ShymanskyPortraitPhotographer



British Institute of
Professional Photography



DORNEY
PARISH COUNCIL

Neighbourhood Plan Update

The first stage of the consultation with residents using the questionnaire has now been completed and the committee is delighted with the number of questionnaires that have been completed.

We set ourselves a challenging target of 100 replies, which would represent over 25% of the households, and we achieved 113 responses. This shows how passionate Dorney people are about the area they live in and how they wish to ensure that many of the qualities they love about Dorney are preserved.

So what's next?

Although the questionnaires are the backbone of the plan, we also wish to hear residents' thoughts directly and would like to explain how we are intending to move forward.

So, there are to be two meetings, one on the 20th of June, which at the time of publication will have taken place, and another on the 18th of July, where we would like as many of you to attend as possible. They will be held at Dorney School, Harcourt Close, at 18.30 for an hour. Any feedback from these meetings will be considered for incorporation into the plan, together with the opinions expressed via the questionnaire.

Once we have finished capturing all the feedback from you, we will start to produce the actual Neighbourhood Plan. Hopefully, we will be able to feedback our progress on this next stage of the process to you in September.

Thank you once again for your commitment to the plan.



The Dorney Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Developing a shared vision for our neighbourhood.

A neighbourhood plan is a key part of the Government's localism agenda for Parish Councils to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood. Its aims are to give communities greater power to shape development by taking a more active role in the formation of planning policies at a local level - to choose where they may want new homes, what they should look like and the type of housing to meet their community's current and emerging needs.

It gives local people a chance to create a planning document that guides and shapes all types of development in their local area. It is written by the local community, the people who know and love their area, not the remote Buckinghamshire Council.

An adopted plan is a formal statutory document that is additional to, and not a replacement for, the emerging Buckinghamshire Local Plan 2040.

What can it influence?

- The planning of new homes to meet local needs.
- A powerful tool to ensure the community gets the right types of development in the right places.
- Style and materials used in planning applications.
- Traffic management measures.
- Identify where impacts can be minimised.
- Safe walking routes.
- Continued protection of Green Belt.

What do we want to achieve?

- Protect sensitive landscapes and avoid harm to biodiversity.
- Protect characteristics that set us aside from neighbouring urban areas.
- Ensure that current listed and heritage buildings and areas are protected and not harmed by new developments.
- Identify buildings of designated interest so they are protected from demolition and development.
- Identify and minimise impact to our lanes and residential roads from through traffic.
- Preserve and enhance community facilities.

What could happen if we don't?

We are vulnerable to developers using national planning policies to force development onto our community so that they can maximise their profits.

Without a Buckinghamshire Local Plan in place the only way we can have an impact on planning applications is by having an adopted Neighbourhood Plan.

How is the plan is being developed?

A team consisting of Parish Councillors and volunteers has been developing the foundation of the plan, looking at policies and how to formalise them into a working document.

The team who have contributed so far

- William Voaden, Parish Councillor
- Jill Dax, Parish Councillor
- Robert Stopford, Parish Councillor
- Mark Brand, resident
- Bill Dax, Dorney History Group and resident

CHAIRMAKING IN DORNEY

For many years, chairmaking was one of the skilled trades carried on in Dorney. The chairmakers were all connected to each other.

The story starts with John Webb, born in Dorney in 1702. When he married in 1731, in Old Windsor, to Elizabeth Hunt, they were both said to be living in the parish of Burnham. At that time, Lake End was part of Burnham, not Dorney, so they may have been living there. Their nine children were all baptised in Dorney – four boys, two of whom died young, and five girls, of whom one died as a baby.

As far as we know, John always worked as a chairmaker. He would have served an apprenticeship somewhere, but we have no record of that. We know that he must have been successful in business. He owned at least three houses, one in Lake End, and two in Dorney which together with outbuildings and a close of meadow land formed the property on the common now known as Dell's Cottage. This property ownership qualified him to be one of only five people in Dorney entitled to vote in 1784. He served as churchwarden of Dorney in 1750 and he kept a cow.



Both of John's surviving sons also became chairmakers. The younger son, Thomas, remained and worked in Dorney, where he married Mary, daughter of Richard Sedding, a substantial local farmer. Sadly, Thomas died in 1775 aged only 31, leaving his widow with three small children. Mary's brother, another Richard Sedding who farmed in Dorney, left bequests to her and the children when he died in 1805.

What kind of chairs did John and Thomas make? We don't know for certain, but they probably made Windsor chairs. This is the name given to a chair constructed from a solid wooden seat, into which the legs and the uprights of the back are inserted in prepared holes. Made in the Chilterns and Thames Valley, they were transported to London along the river from Windsor which became the centre for the trade between the producers and the London dealers. It is believed that is how Windsor chairs got their name.

This type of chair came in a variety of forms – with or without arms, high or low backed, plain or highly elaborate. The seat was generally shaped or saddled to make it more comfortable. Windsor chairs remain a popular style today. I have three in the kitchen – an old one and two made for us – all produced in High Wycombe, which became and continues a centre for wooden furniture manufacture.



John Webb's other son, Henry, moved to London and around the mid-1750s he settled in Hammersmith. The chairmaking business he established there subsequently passed to Henry's sons and a daughter. They supplied to the aristocracy a variety of what were known as forest chairs – ornamental rustic garden furniture constructed on the same principles as Windsor chairs and thought possibly to have been made originally of wood from Windsor Forest. It's possible that John Webb also made this kind of furniture in Dorney. Another Dorney chairmaker, John Prior, married in Burnham in 1760; he could well have been apprenticed to John Webb, and the Rebecca Webb who was witness at his wedding was probably John Webb's daughter. John Prior also left Dorney and set up on the outskirts of Uxbridge as a high-quality Windsor chair maker and turner. Like Henry Webb, John Prior's children continued as makers of Windsor

chairs and garden furniture.

John Webb's eldest daughter Sarah married John Dell in Dorney in 1757. Their children were all baptised at Burnham, but they may have been living in John Webb's house in Lake End, which is where they were in 1793. Their son Jeremiah Dell, born in 1760, became a Windsor chairmaker and worked in Dorney all his life. He served as churchwarden for 50 years. When his grandfather John Webb died, Jeremiah inherited all his tools and the two cottages and meadow on the common. Jeremiah lived in one of these cottages until he died in 1859. His son John carried on the chairmaking tradition into the fourth generation of the Webb/Dell family. He lived next door to Jeremiah and his wife was one of the Dorney laundresses, no doubt taking in washing for Eton College. Like his father and great-grandfather, John served as a parish official in Dorney, and was one of two constables there in 1850. John Dell was still making chairs in 1861 but he was the last chairmaker in the village. I wonder how many houses in Dorney were furnished with locally made chairs and whether any of the chairs still exist.

For anyone interested in learning more about the craft of making chairs and its history, High Wycombe has two museums focussed on chairmaking with examples of Windsor chairs and displays of the tools and techniques used to make them. You can also see live demonstrations of chairmaking at the Chilterns Open Air Museum. The website of the Regional Furniture Society has useful information and I am indebted to Julian Parker for his blog <https://lincolnshirechairs2019.blogspot.com/> and for a copy of his yet to be published paper about the Webb, Dell and related families.

Virginia Silvester

Highgrove June 2023

25 members of Dorney Horticultural Society enjoyed an outstanding trip to Highgrove on 2nd June 2023 accompanied by a bright mostly sunny day. Highgrove Gardens are part of the private residence of King Charles and Queen Camilla.

The coach departed Taplow in the morning and took an interesting cross country route to Tetbury. There we were given an extensive guided tour of the gardens by an expert guide for one and a half hours which seemed to fly by. The gardens are constantly changing and great emphasis is placed on sustainable principles instilled over the last 38 years.

The King has an expert eye and is very hands on in the gardens with particular regard to conservation and the natural order of things. A tour of the organic gardens offers a wealth of knowledge, beautiful scents and harmonious sounds. The enormous wild flower meadows are absolutely stunning.

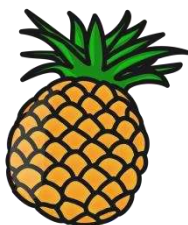
We finished off with cream teas or cheese scones and a final group photo.



DORNEY AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



The Sixty-eighth ANNUAL SHOW



Saturday 2nd September 2023

In

DORNEY VILLAGE HALL

Everyone Welcome

Special Children's Section

Exhibits registration: 10:00am to 11:30am

Exhibitors excluded at 11:30am

Exhibition opens to all at 2:00pm

Prizes presented at 2:30pm

Dorney Horticultural Society visit to Lords Wood, Marlow

Dorney Horticultural Society was privileged to arrange a fantastic private visit to Lords Wood in Marlow on 13th June. Lords Wood is a magnificent grade II Victorian house within 35 acres nestled in the Chiltern Hills near Marlow Common.

The current owner Millie Messum greeted us at the gate and gave us a brief history of their tenure at Lords Wood from 1974. The house when they purchased it was rather run down following the reclusive and increasingly eccentric previous owner in her last years.

David and Millie set about restoring the house and gardens to their original glory and they can only be described today as stunning. The estate covers 35 acres and around the house are various lakes, yew hedges, herbaceous borders; box hedging surrounds a parterre, there are working greenhouses and a large pergola walkway around the formal gardens. Throughout the gardens you will find works by several renowned British sculptors exclusive to Messum's.



We had planned to take a group photo in front of a giant pink dogwood tree which had managed to withstand the recent heavy rains, however within minutes of arriving our group had dispersed to the four corners of the huge garden, so the tree is pictured in peace in its full glory.

The owner also opened up the studio run by her husband David a fine art dealer which added another

wonderful dimension to the day. We finished off with tea and home-made cake on the lawn. Millie Messum works tirelessly for local charities with all profits going via the National Garden Scheme to the UK's best loved nursing and health and gardening charities.

Ron Alsworth

Local Dorney resident Ollie Hodge and his friend Dan Underwood take on the Grand Canyon Trek in memory of Dan's father Jon who was cared for by Thames Hospice last year



Doctor Ollie

Thames hospice **GRAND CANYON TREK**



Ollie is a Palliative Doctor at Thames Hospice and sees first-hand the difference the charity makes to support patients and families facing a life-limiting illness.

Ollie and Dan are deeply passionate about the work of the Hospice and will be taking on the charity's Grand Canyon Challenge in September this year to raise much needed funds.

Please donate whatever you can to support Thames Hospice and help Dan and Ollie reach their fundraising target by scanning the QR code below.



www.justgiving.com/fundraising/olliehodge



News from Dorney School

I am always delighted to share a few thoughts with you about our wonderful school. However, sometimes words cannot convey the warm, wonderful, and inclusive culture that exists at Dorney School. I invite you to come and visit our school, in action. You do not need to be a prospective parent to visit. Our school welcomes visits by members of the local community who may be curious about our little gem of a school. Do email office@dorneyschool.co.uk and we will arrange a visit.

In early June, we commissioned a beautiful wall mural that truly represents the ethos and values of Dorney School. Lily Clay, a Bristol based artist spent the week with our children painting the mural you see below.



It was important to us that the children felt represented and could see themselves in this display. The rainbow which is a symbol of hope, and inclusion creates a continuous path for our children to follow and the ubiquitous pineapple, which is seen not only around Dorney not only about biodiversity. They pollinating insects to be you spot the different varieties of





at our school, but also Village. The children are passionate diversity in community, but also in chose British wildflowers and represented in the mural too. Can fauna and flora?

It would be fantastic to work with our local gardening enthusiasts or the local garden centres in developing further our campaign of biodiversity; preserving nature for all to enjoy and for the local insect population to thrive. If you are interested, do let us know.

We currently have limited places in the Reception (EYFS) class for September and a few places across other year groups. We are the local school that cares for its pupils, staff, and community. If any parents are seeking primary places, please get in touch with us. We are here to help.

I wish all readers a lovely Summer. May the sun continue to shine on you and your family.

Warmest wishes,
Mrs Sharifah Firza Jelany-Lee
Headteacher



DORNEY SCHOOL

SUMMER



£1 ENTRY

FAYRE

SATURDAY 8TH JULY

BBQ

BAR

12-3

**BOUNCY
CASTLE**

**PENALTY
SHOOTOUT**

**COLOUR
RUN**

**FACE
PAINTING**

**BOTTLE
TOMBOLA**

**GAMES &
MORE**

ENTERTAINMENT THROUGHOUT THE DAY!

DORNEY SCHOOL



Warm, inclusive, nurturing community that places the child first

- Published results above local and national schools
- EYFS (Reception class), Behaviour and Attitude , and Personal development graded GOOD by Ofsted
- First class curriculum taught by a highly professional and committed team
 - Beautiful grounds, excellent facilities
- Large, ample parking space for parents and visitors during drop off and pick up



Come and see us in action! Book a visit by emailing
office@dorneyschool.co.uk or
telephone 01628 620871



Water Safety Events

Buckinghamshire Council's Community Safety Team, Thames Valley Police and Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service are holding partnership Water Safety Events to engage with the local community on how to keep themselves and others safe around water.

Come along to see the Fire Service display rescue and survival skills and talk to the teams for safety information and advice!

Wednesday 21st June | River Road, Taplow | 2pm - 5pm

Thursday 17th August | Jubilee, Lake End Road side | 2pm - 5pm

Thursday 24th August | Jubilee, Mill Lane side | 2pm - 5pm



SAFER
Buckinghamshire
Partnership

Nature Notes

In last month's issue, I mentioned that some bats had returned this year. I counted around 16 in late April, but I held off confirming an exact number last month, as I felt the total bat count would be much more impressive as the season progressed. Unfortunately, as it turned out, it's amazing how wrong someone can be (which will surprise my wife, who regularly claims that I think I'm always right). I didn't get much time to monitor the population through May as I was away with work and on holiday in Bonnie Scotland for a cycling trip with friends. So, as I considered the follow up article, I felt it was essential to gather some fresh #batstats to try and impress the Parish News readership with.

I spent the first night sitting outside with number two son who had kindly offered to help with the Great Bat Count at around 9:30pm. After thirty minutes of zero bat action, he wandered off, bored. To be fair, I was amazed he lasted that long. Typically, playing Pokemon Fusion or Roblox online with his friends trumps any of my fascinating suggestions for parental "quality time". His keen father stayed out for another half hour, determined to count what was obviously a bunch of (very) reticent bats. By the time total darkness fully descended, I had to face the terrible reality: there appeared to be NO bats in residence. To misquote Sean Connery: "Shurely shome mishtake?" What on earth had happened? The bats must be having a well-deserved rest I reassured myself. Probably the weather conditions. Random behaviour is to be expected from what are, after all, wild animals. I would try again tomorrow, when I would likely lose count of the plethora of bats making up for lost time to feast on the plentiful insects in the air.

On the second evening I sat out pensive and alone, intently surveying both last year's bat roost in the eaves and the bat boxes on the adjacent wall. I worried that if I wasn't attentive enough, I might miss the bats. My neck started to ache from my constantly elevated gaze. It was a beautiful, balmy evening, perfect bat counting conditions (surely). The dogs came and went, curious about my activities and snapping at the occasional dozy bee droning through the air. A couple of stag beetles (one male and one female) floated over the roof of the house and zig zagged hazily through the late evening light. I diligently recorded them on my phone (<https://ptes.org/campaigns/stag-beetles-2/>). The stag beetles disappeared over the horizon, as did the fading patches of orange and yellow in the darkening sky. Where. Were. The Bats??

Finally, just as I was about to give up all hope, one (ONE!) solitary bat zoomed out from under the bat boxes and flitted towards the hedges, traversing giddily from side to side over the top of the greenery in the gloom. I imagined he was a lonely boy bat, who was as confused as I was as to why all the female bats had not returned. One was better than none, but I couldn't help but feel a tad rejected (as I'm sure he did). It seemed obvious that last year's large maternity roost was not to be repeated. A large gin and tonic seemed to help soften the blow of this relatively devastating news, so I felt compelled to have another.



With minimal bat action to report (and with a slight desperation mounting for compelling content) I messaged Helen the Bat Lady to share the dispiriting news of the absent bats. She confirmed my treacherous bats had probably found another roost and shared a picture (which I include here) of the first (tiny) rescue pup she had received this year. It was only 3 days old, eyes still closed, weighing 1.25g. She'd had to hand the pup over to Tiggywinkles as she couldn't manage the required feed schedule of every two hours (as well as being a bat rescue volunteer she has a full-time job). Poor Helen felt quite helpless as

sadly, when they are that small, they are very unlikely to make it without their mum.

Thankfully, as always in Dorney, there has been plenty of non-bat related wildlife to observe. When I removed the cover on our pool heater a couple of weeks ago, as well as approximately 367 slugs and snails (which I donated to my grateful chickens), I discovered a small family of slow worms nestled on the paving slabs. They quickly slithered off, but I had a few minutes to admire their gleaming coppery skin before they disappeared into the wildflowers. Red kites regularly soar above, and the cheeky wee robin comes to find me, hopping around on the patio, when I haven't put out the anticipated mealworms at the expected time. The wet May has resulted in abundant wildflower growth in my garden. An entire veggie bed has been taken over by teasel and foxglove seedlings (which I need to try and find the time to transplant), and oxeye daisy, knapweed, birds foot trefoil, pink and white campion, vipers' bugloss, yellow rattle, and lovely purple blue cranesbill are all straining for sunlight in the meadows.

On my cycling trip around the Ardnamurchan peninsula of Scotland and the Isle of Mull, there were fantastic displays of yellow primroses and bright bluebells still to be seen, a few weeks after ours had receded. We were assured by a tweed clad, binocular equipped gent by the roadside that the distant bird we were looking at (that I would happily have accepted was a large crow) was, in fact, a golden eagle. Later, a bit further on, a larger gathering of similar binocular toting spotters was entranced by a group of sea otters playing in the nearshore. It was uplifting to see them rolling through the lapping waves and ducking under the shiny brown kelp. A beer garden on Iona turned out to be the perfect vantage point to observe gannets diving into the Sound.

Nevertheless, being on the West coast of Scotland, the dreaded midge was a constant menace, and we quickly learned not to stop on our bikes in wooded, damp, sheltered areas as dark clouds of the tiny wee insects would almost immediately descend. Nobody wants midges trapped in their tight Lycra cycling gear. Terrifyingly, I read a recent article predicting a "mega second hatching" of midges due to "favourable" weather conditions. Clegs (horseflies) have also been noticeably virulent up North this year (and we've also had a few bites ourselves down here on dog walks by the Thames). Some wildlife is harder to celebrate!

Andrew Oliver

ARRIVING AT NARNIA ON DORNEY COMMON

'There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind' C S Lewis

Summer arrived overnight to bake brown our lawns and stifle our sleep during the night, following a long wet Spring which drowned peony heads and mulched rose heads. The garden now begged for water in the parch of the midday sun.

The Dorney Horticultural Society had planned a visit to a very special garden, Lord's Wood on Marlow Common, which promised to be something extra special. It was described by Frances Partridge (the last surviving member of the Bloomsbury Group) as 'an outpost of Old Bloomsbury in the Marlow Woods' in 1958. The Bloomsbury set was a group of associated English writers, intellectuals, philosophers and artists in the first half of the 20th century, including Virginia Woolf, John Maynard Keynes, E M Forster and Lytton Strachey.

The house was built by Granville Streatfield in 1899 in a fashionable Lutyen style, (after Edwin Lutyen an English architect) in the Arts & Craft style, influenced also by Tudor architecture and the vernacular styles of south-east England. Having met and worked with garden designer and horticulturist Gertrude Jekyll, this professional partnership defined the look of many country houses. This dynamic combination recreated the quintessential English garden, and we can see this reflected at Lord's Wood, where the current owners, David and Millie Messum, have spent much devotion restoring their garden after it fell from glory, to mirror just this.

As our group spread out in all directions to disappear down pathways, it was easy to lose oneself in the cool shade and wander alongside the evocative scents of flora, to admire the genius of the planting plans. Blissfully blousy, it certainly was a creative wonder, carefully thought out and a joy to soothe one's heart. Amongst the foliage were bronze statues and fascinations to distract the eye, and places to sit and contemplate the meaning of life or empty one's head of unwanted stress.

In the centre of the garden sits the Studio, an imposing building containing carefully selected imposing but endearing art, that captures the eye. Mostly with a heavy price tag, sadly beyond budget for most, but so very enjoyable to study close at hand. Finally, the tour nearly complete, we sat savouring the moment with a very British cuppa tea and slice of cake. How good is life to have your cake and eat it!



Soon after the day out with my DHS friends, my boyfriend Bob and I headed off to a very different adventure, an Italian road trip. As with all good intentions, 'pack small and carry light', this failed to happen, so with bulky bags weighing eleveny-eight kilos (my one actually), we lugged ourselves around Tuscany and Umbria with the sun on our backs and fronts. Having planned to stay in various ancient and remote accommodations with beautiful views, this worked out very well, except, none were accessible directly by car, only by the four mule feet belonging to Bob and me.

Our first destination was Scarlino in Tuscany, our hot tempers soon evaporating as we settled into a hidden hillside retreat. Everywhere (and onwards throughout the journey) we smelt the heady intoxication of Star Jasmine, such a strong scent that it permeated every crevice, one of the most evocative memories of our trip. Maybe we just coincided with the best month of the pale creamy exotic flowers in full bloom. The highlight of this visit was a wonderful terrace restaurant with perfect views.

Leaving Tuscany and onwards to Umbria, we arrived in Narni, another ancient town perched incredibly high, only just about accessible by road, but mainly by funicular or elevator. The town centre was riddled with tiny convoluted narrow lanes that revealed mediaeval architecture, and many small bars with tempting aromas, selections of delicious gelato and beverages. Interestingly, not a known tourist spot, this turned out to be the most fascinating place.

Having not realised that Narni held another little-known fact, I discovered on reading more, the English author, C S Lewis, stayed here in the 50's and was so enchanted with this mystical mountaintop gem, that it inspired him to write *The Chronicles of Narnia*, which as we all know remains as relevant to children's literature today as it ever was. Incidentally, this town named after the river Nar that snakes below, was originally called Narnia by the Romans, but later changed to Narni.

Another fascinating sight was an underground mediaeval chapel, with adjoining areas that held dark secrets. In 1979, six young Italian men discovered a door to a chamber beneath St Dominic's convent, the entrance hidden by densely overgrown foliage and collapsed brick. An elderly local man who had used the land outside as a vegetable plot for many years, told these young men that there were underground chambers, long disused and hidden by rubble.

The six young men finally found the entrance, but the old fellow had used so much water over the years to grow his produce, much wet had seeped underground to spoil beautiful art that adorned the walls. When finally, all was revealed, it was clear that this place of worship, a small chapel, was a preserved gem that dated back to the Inquisition. For many years it was home to a religious factor, then due to the war had been commissioned for other uses. The murals had much damage, but over time have been mostly restored, and are now known as the Narni Sotterranea.

However, there were other areas adjoining this little underground chapel, and in particular one that held a sinister history. Walking down a narrow underground corridor we entered a small room with high ceilings; it was a dark torture chamber used by the Inquisition, and although the items of torture were now replicas, the malevolent past was clear to imagine. Without windows, there was one very low door, those that know me can picture me bent double to gain entry to a very small cell, whose walls were covered with prolific graffiti. Cramped and dark, the symbols, pictures and writings were made by a man who was incarcerated for a small insignificant crime, and his work were a claim of innocence. Carved into the walls with a sharp object or painted in red brick dust mixed with urea (from his urine), the scratched scars and red stain left permanent documentation.

On our very last night, we had been out at the local bar, sampling wine and eating local delicacies with gay abandon, until we staggered the 100 yards back to our apartment... no keys. Bob who was in charge of the bunch, had sadly not put them in his pocket. 11pm, slightly the worse for wear, our kind neighbours, an Italian couple, took us in and helped contact the owner. During this fraught time, the ice broke when the lady of the house told me that her sister lived in Maidenhead! A shrinking world indeed, and what lovely people to open their arms to us.

We travelled onwards and it became increasingly obvious that I was not up to driving alongside the fast erratic Latino drivers. Bob took over to be the main man, using his accomplished road skills to good resource. Poor devil, on top of this, at each new destination, he had to heave my overweight case up eleventy-eight uneven steps to some remote stopover, usually in a 30 degree plus heat. For he's a jolly good fellow!

From Narni we traversed the next region of Italy, Le Marche (pronounced Mark-hey) that lies on the neck of the stocking halfway up from the foot. Driving to the coast to stay in a most bizarre house/B&B owned by a well-preserved delightful couple with the joie de vie loose hang of the 60's. We drove in and Geo (husband of Gil) came to my side of the car. Winding down the window, I smiled at him and said "hello, I am English" to be greeted with an instant response of "hello I am Italian" and an even bigger cheeky smile! Both had a huge sense of humour and warm hospitality in a wonderful home, crammed with memorabilia from every decade. Their colonial house was surrounded by a garden of Eden floral triumph of many acres of garden, masses of trailing bougainvillea and a cool David Hockney style swimming pool.

Despite his age, Geo carried my weighty case up the drive and steep steps without a murmur, (apart from one loud grunt at the last step) whilst Bob and I (we did try to wrestle the case off him) cringed in guilt. Note to self: do not fill the case because the space is there.

Our final stop was a three nighter, and supposedly a large busy hotel / wedding venue. Arriving early to a very large castellated building, bodies dropping with the midday heat, we couldn't hear a pin drop. We gained entry round the back, admired the pool and garden which sat in total silence, then wandered inside to view the spacious vacant ground floor space in bewilderment. Not a soul in sight.



Has it closed? Somebody must be here. That old film, The Shining, imaged through my mind, when just at that moment out of nowhere emerged a young fellow called Brando, to show us to our 'apartment.' This was a one-bedroom affair on the first floor, with a huge bathroom, and kitchen diner, that looked as new as the day it was installed, and complete with its own large double wooden door access to the gardens and pool.

We were the only people staying there (apart from Brando) so had the run of the place for three days, but, there was an eerie feel as we wandered about, avoiding the ground floor which was shuttered, dark and void of furniture. So there ends the Italian road trip, plenty of adventures, heaps of delicious food, buckets of wine, tubs of Italian gelato and lashings of Aperol spritz. What's not to like.

'You are never too old to set another goal, or dream another dream' C S Lewis

Kristina Perkins

National Garden Scheme: Visit Eton College Gardens Tuesday, 4th July 2023

Originally established to raise funds for district nurses, since 1927 the National Garden Scheme (NGS) has donated over £67 million to nursing and health charities through organising the opening of private gardens, both large and small, to the public.

In 2022 just over £3 million was donated, with the principal beneficiaries being the Queen's Nursing Institute (which founded the NGS), Macmillan Cancer support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Carers Trust and Parkinson's UK. There was also funding for projects which promote gardens as therapy, give grants for community gardening, support the training of gardeners and offer respite to horticultural workers who have fallen on difficult times. 82p of every £1 paid by the visiting public was donated. Those who open their gardens do not receive payment of any kind.

During 2023 3,500 gardens will be open across England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands. Some of the gardens have opened for decades, none more distinguished than Sandringham, her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II having given lifelong support to the NGS. Our



gardens at Eton College have been open for over 60 years and we are delighted to be participating again this year on Tuesday **4th July from 12.00 to 4.30**. You will be able to see the gardens of the Provost, Vice Provost and Head Master, bounded at the back by medieval and Tudor buildings of the School and at the front by Fellow's Eyot and the Thames. From there you can walk over to Luxmoore's garden which is situated on a small island in the Thames. Luxmoore was at Eton in the 1850's and later became a Classics Master and House Master here. He turned the island from a waste site, underwater whenever there was a flood, to a beautiful and serene garden it is today

The fascinating Eton College Natural History Museum will be open together with the adjacent Banks garden, featuring a variety of plants that were among the 1,300 new species of plant collected by the renowned Etonian botanist Joseph Banks who travelled with Captain Cook on HMS Endeavour as official scientist on his voyage to South America, New Zealand and Australia from 1768 to 1771.

As well as seeing the gardens, you will also be able to enjoy tea and delicious home-made cakes (which I can vouch for personally!) provided and served by supporters of Thames Hospice. All the money which they take will go to Thames Hospice.

The charge for entry is £6, children are free. A cup of tea and large slice of cake will set you back £5. Please bring credit card (preferred for entry) and cash (preferred for tea and cake). There will be plenty of signs directing you to the free parking.

We do hope that you will be able to come along and support this very worthwhile and, of course, enjoyable event and do tell your friends about it.



Janet Walker
Bursar
Eton College



It has been another bustling month in Parliament and near the constituency. My aim has been to ensure that the voices of the constituents have been heard.

The Greenbelt has continued to be at the heart of my priorities, with a focus on keeping our green spaces vibrant and safe for the future in Dorney and around the constituency. June, home to World Environment Day, allowed the constituency and Dorney to highlight the importance of keeping our green spaces clean and protected for the future generations. Last month, I sought to secure movement on this through writing to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up regarding Orchard Herbs. As your Member of Parliament, I will continue to stand up and champion our green spaces, as it is a vital part of our community.

Around the constituency I have also focused on the next generation of our community, serving a number of visits to local schools. I visited Dropmore Infant School where I met many of the staff and attended a speed watch which gave me an insight into the danger that high-speed vehicles can pose around young peoples' schools. I have raised this with the Buckinghamshire Council, and I will continue to ensure the safety of our young people is prioritised.

Last Monday, Parliament voted on the Privileges Committee report and recommendations into Boris Johnson. This report, with all its flaws, risks a chilling impact on the rights of Parliamentarians, and I felt I needed to make a stand against that. It sets precedents that will last long and reach deep. This was why I voted against the recommendations. I know that not all in Dorney and around the constituency will agree with the stance I have taken, but as I respect their positions, I hope they will respect mine. When I vote in Parliament, it is important to me that my constituents know I do so determined to be a local champion for Dorney and the whole of the Beaconsfield constituency. My goal as Dorney's Member of Parliament is to ensure that I look out for your best interests. I will continue to work steadfastly and diligently, to provide these services to my constituents. If you wish to read my full statement regarding this issue, it is available on my website.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update on my continued work as your representative and Member of Parliament. As I stated earlier, I will remain dedicated and look forward to continuing to serve Dorney, the whole constituency, its green spaces and our upcoming generation. Should you require any further assistance or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk or 01494 977 505.

Together, let us make a difference and create a stronger future for Dorney and the whole of the Beaconsfield Constituency.

Joy Morrissey MP

Joy Morrissey MP

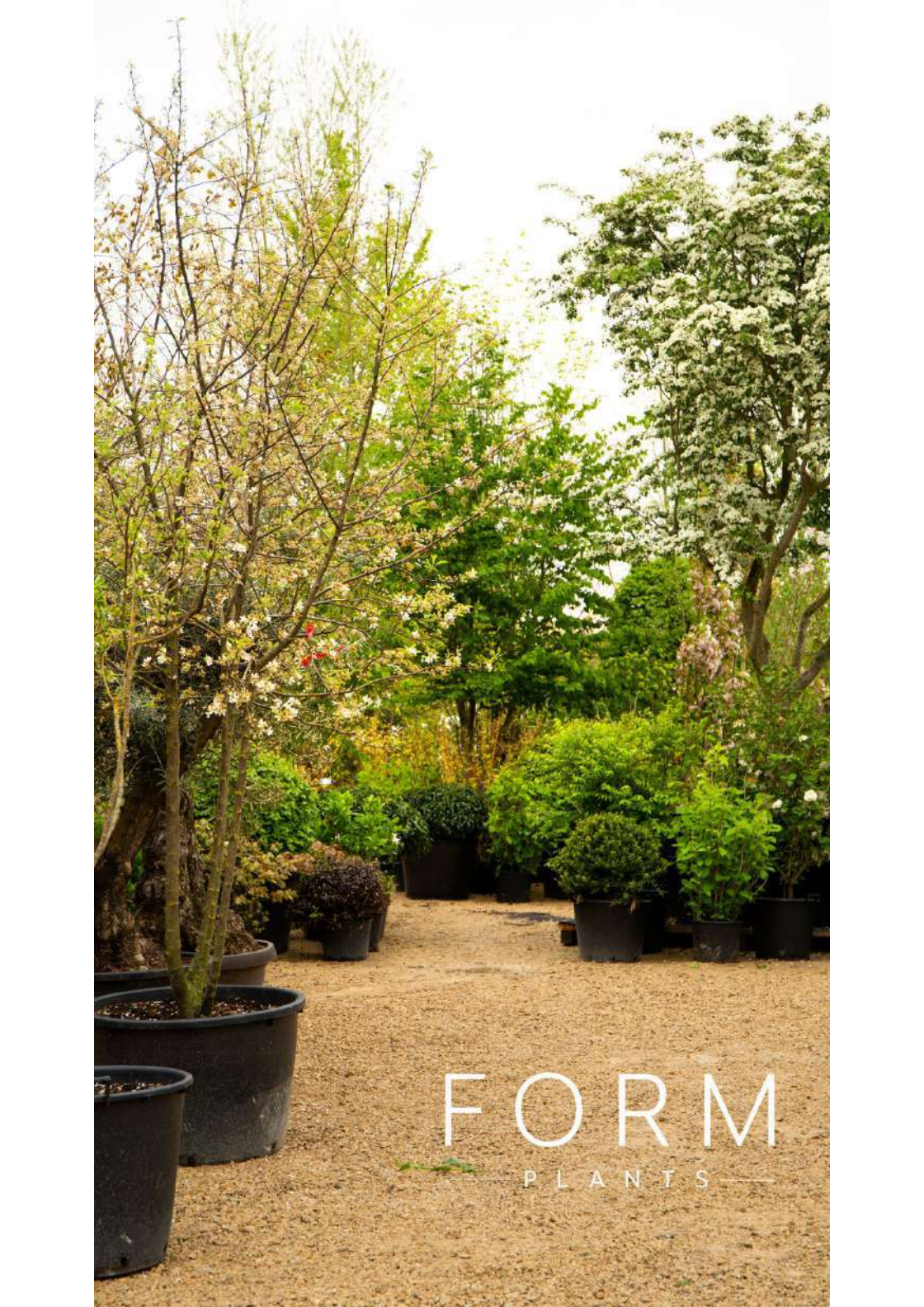
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FORM
PLANTS —

Revolving Doors

"Growing old is a pain!"

My elderly lady patient, beautifully spoken and handsomely dressed muttered as she painfully negotiated her front doorstep.

"The alternative's a lot worse!" I grinned as we made slow progress to the ambulance. Fearing smugness, I added, "but it comes to us all," and for the last few weeks, I recalled this conversation as I have been shedding the toys of my younger life and losing a valued friend as they change theirs.

So, the doors gently close.

The first was my boat, or rather half a boat, which I co-bought with an eighty something years ago when we were both younger.

She (the boat – not the tough old male friend) was beautiful, albeit almost as old as us. *Kerensa*, thirty-two feet long, spacious, forgiving in bad weather stole our hearts as she lay abandoned and unloved in the yacht brokers, and soon she was ours.

A friend said, "The only time you really enjoy a boat is the day you buy it and the day you sell it."

Similar warnings came from an elderly fragrant Magistrate friend who was aghast at my purchase with, "Oh Michael! Really! I am surprised. If it flies or floats, hire it!"

We had some great adventures in *Kerensa* and spent too much money on her (a boat is a hole in the water you throw money into), and I spent many hours on my back scraping her hull and painfully slopping anti foul paint on her; or dragging out the 1950's engine and gearbox, replacing it with a beautiful unused lifeboat engine.

We loaded her with supplies of baked beans and Fray Bentos pies for long adventures, but rarely sailed more than 12 hours, and after agonisingly putting off the inevitable, my old mate and I finally found her difficult to board, and she was gone, along with the rusting pies and lethal baked beans into a skip.

The only new vehicle I ever bought was a gorgeous red Honda 1000cc motor bike back in 2007, and I earned a great living riding her to police stations all over the south of England as a legal eagle representing those unfortunate enough to come across the works end of my former colleagues.

She was beautiful, smooth, utterly reliable and I loved her, but as the years passed, and I joined the Ambulance Service, she spent too much of her time in the shed, and on the rare occasions we went out together, she kept whispering "You're not taking me out enough Mike. You're out of practice and losing your skill level. You're going to hurt us both."

I knew better of course and didn't listen, often frightening myself, and her I suspect, until one morning, she refused to start.

"Enough is enough!" she scolded, and she was gone in the blink of an ad on the internet, being hugged by a lovely lady up north who has invited Cheryl and I to visit her and the Honda.

Cheryl and I live the high life, and when we want to splash out, it has to be the Palmer Arms or Frankie and Bennies in the Bishops Centre, and so it was that, as predicted in a previous DPN, Franky and Bennies shut for good. We went for a final meal which was, as usual,

superb, and the staff, most of whom were professional friends, were similarly brilliant. We promised to come back on their last day, a Saturday.

"What time will you shut on Saturday?" we asked.

"We'll stay open until we run out of food," sighed our moist eyed waitress as she cleared our table for our last time.

I looked around. Everything was normal, polished, busy and very American. It had success written all over it, and yet, within a month, all this would be torn out, lots of it headed for landfill. It seemed impossible.

"We'll call in then!" we assured her, trying to brighten the mood, but on the Saturday, it seemed many others had the same idea and while still open, they had indeed run out.

"I'll have a coffee," I said brightly.

"Have to be black, we're out of milk," grinned our waiter at the door.

We shook hands with those nearby and wished them luck, then walked away. I wish the remarkable staff well.

Very occasionally, I meet someone who I think is extraordinary, and so it was, just before I moved locally, I met such a person who was wise, charming and comforting through a tough period I was battling through at the time. Cheryl and I shared many adventures with them and their family until they too, hit a tough patch and found succour elsewhere, and all too soon, we were history. Clearly it appeared that a future more exciting and vibrant awaited them, and they were gone.

Phone an old friend who may be wondering how you are!

Back to Revolving Doors then.

By the time you read my next offering (with the editor's blessing), I shall be married to the fabulous Cheryl who, in an extraordinary moment, has agreed to spend the rest of our lives together, and, should you be passing St. James the Less on 5th August you may see a small throng including a pretty girl in a lovely dress.

To say I am honoured doesn't come close.

Several doors close, and another delightful one opens; or revolves if you like.

Lastly, I met your lovely Rev La Stacey and as she welcomed us into St. James the Less, making our visits enjoyable, she later announced her well-deserved retirement.

All will be well with the Curate Carol stepping in, I understand on a temporary basis, so that's all good.

Stay Safe.

Mike Quincey

The Urgent Meeting: a Short Story

'It is an absolute disgrace.'

Mrs Ratner had not even sat down when she blurted out her blustered and fury ridden greeting.

'Hear hear, a disgrace,' the ever-agreeable Mr Bunting replied.

'Right, everyone, calm, down,' Mrs Williamson tried to call the meeting to order.

This was not the third Tuesday of the month, and therefore it was abnormal for the Parish Council to be meeting. Furthermore, it was July, and in July the hard-working Parish Council took a well-earned break from their important duties. But such was the shock which echoed furiously around the village because of the County Council letter which had arrived in the clerk's inbox, that the chair had decided to call an urgent meeting.

The poor clerk, herself an eighty-three-year-old resident called Doris, had been vigorously emailing anyone and everyone in an attempt to find a space to hold the important gathering. Finally, the Vicar, taking pity on the esteemed elected officials, allowed the group to meet at the church hall. The attendees had to step over vast piles of glitter which were being prepared for the summer school which was due to begin the following day.

Neither God, nor the glitter, could dampen the anger which now viciously hung in the air. For once, the Parish Council were unanimous in their position. There were no dissenting views, as there usually were at these sorts of things.

Mrs Ratner managed to stay quiet for a full fifteen seconds before talking again.

'We will get lawyers involved, we will take this all the way to the supreme court, no parliament, no we will take it to the King, the King I say. How dare they?'

'Mrs Ratner, please, we have an agenda, we have to follow the agenda,' Mrs Williamson brought the room back to order.

'I propose we begin with a summary of what the County Council has said in their letter, yes?' she looked around and carefully counted the nodding heads, there would be no need for a vote on this decision.

'Right, at precisely ten fifteen this morning, we received a letter from the Council noting that they would not be re-surfacing Handbury Road due to budget cuts. They gave no reason for their decision; indeed, they did not even ask our opinion. They have noted they would look to complete the resurfacing next financial year if there is room in the budget, have you got all that Doris?'

Mrs Williamson looked at Doris who, presumably through excitement, had fallen asleep. On hearing her name, she woke, nodded a few times, and shut her eyes again.

'Now Mr Bunting, I believe you have the count, could you update us on where we stand?'

Mr Bunting stood, produced a leather-bound attaché case, placed one hand behind his back, and coughed a few times.

'As of thirteen hundred hours this afternoon, there are no fewer than seven, I repeat, seven potholes on Handbury Road. Taken together they amount to one-point-three square meters of serious danger to our residents.' Mr Bunting bowed slightly, before retaking his seat.

'Now, we will go around the room and ask for opinions, please do keep it short.' Mrs Williamson did not have time to anoint the first speaker, Mrs Ratner took to the floor.

'The King,' she screamed. 'We must immediately take it to the king.'

'Or independence, why don't we simply declare independence?' Mr Downer, who had remained silent until this point made his position known.

'Can we do that?' Mrs Ratner, clearly upset she had been upstaged, asked. 'Doris, can we do that?'

Doris remained asleep.

'We must immediately close the road; the risk is too great. I propose we begin by creating a guard rota and patrol the road immediately.' Everyone ignored Mr Bunting.

'Now there's an idea, lets create a militia and seize the County Hall, how many guns do we have between us?' Mr Downer added.

'Fantastic idea let's vote. I would like to put myself forward as the supreme commander.' Mrs Ratner added.

'We are not going to declare independence, write to the king, or seize the County Hall. I propose we write to the County and ask them to reconsider.'

'Pfft.'

'I like the idea of independence.'

'What's wrong with the King?'

Mrs Williamson ignored the general sentiment and concluded, without a vote, that speaking to the council would be the first step.

'What about rumours, we don't want people thinking we aren't doing anything.' Mrs Ratner came back in.

'Win the information space, win the war! Adverts, lets take out adverts. Start with the BBC.' Mr Downer had truly found his voice, this was primarily due to the not insignificant amount of beer he had drunk over lunch due to the stress of the whole thing.

The Parish Council agreed to put a message both in the village news, and on the notice board. An action not undertaken since the Second World War.

In the end, the council agreed to resurface the road, it was costing so much money responding to all the angry and somewhat vicious emails, that they reversed their decision. There was a great party on the night of the resurfacing, roughly 70% of the village's 130 residents attended. Mr Downer attempted to sign them all up to the newly formed, and highly illegal 'Village Militia.'

A property developer, driving through the village a few months after the resurfacing noticed the beautiful road which now ran to one side of the settlement. A few years later, and after no fewer than three declarations of war, and seven of independence, 73 new homes were built. Mrs Williamson, Mr Downer, Mrs Ratner and Mr Bunting all moved to a village a few miles down the road and were quickly elected to that Parish Council. Doris moved to Spain.

Rory Shotts



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Three later summer flowering perennials.

By the end of June, foliage is strong, leaves are lush and old trusty favourites take their space in the border. It's comforting....but gardeners strive for something new, a little different, a detail, an interest....

The only constant is change in a garden.

Achilleas, or yarrows, are traditional border perennials. They have long been valued for their feathery foliage and the beautiful, flat-topped flowers that bloom right through the summer months, giving a contrast in form.

The ideal site for *Achillea* is free-draining soil in full sun to partial shade. However they will tolerate quite a wide range of soil types, as long as they don't suffer from water-logging. Achilleas are quite straightforward in their requirements. Cut back old foliage in spring and deadhead flowers through the summer to encourage more blooms. Leave a few flowerheads if you want to collect seed.

The classic *Achillea millefolium* 'Cerise queen' is always popular but a newer dwarf cultivar like *A.* 'New Vintage Violet' is more compact variety with stunning magenta flowers. Deer & rabbit resistant interestingly – if that's a requirement.

Echinacea , or Coneflowers, need a position in full sun in soil that drains easily, tolerating dry soil. Easy to grow, these bold, tough perennials are increasingly popular in gardens.

Flowering in late summer, they combine well with other late perennials and grasses.

A magnet for butterflies and pollinators, perfect for wildlife gardens. It's perfect for growing in drifts towards the middle or back of a cottage-style or herbaceous border, or among grasses and rudbeckias in a prairie-style planting scheme. It's resistant to adverse weather and doesn't need staking. The flowers are long-lived, are excellent for cutting and are extremely attractive to pollinators. There are many cultivars of *Echinacea* *purpurea* available, ranging in height, flower colour and size of cone.

Echinacea purpurea 'Green Twister'...is pure *E. purpurea* , not a hybrid, so comes with none of the difficulty in overwintering seen in so many modern hybrids. Lime green and pink - is simply stunning.



Another late summer flower is Rudbeckia. The classic is *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *sullivantii* 'Goldsturm'. Large, golden-yellow, daisy-like flowers up to 12cm (5in) across with cone-shaped, blackish-brown centres from August to October. This award-winning black-eyed Susan looks great planted in bold drifts with other late summer-flowering perennials and ornamental grasses. Coping well in a sunny spot, it's ideal for the middle of a border that doesn't dry out over summer.

Linda Wadley, Horticulture Manager, Crocus at Dorney Court



Crocus Summer Market

30th July 10-4pm



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local market set our beautiful Walled Garden.

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DORNEY

PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 20th JUNE, 7.30pm AT DORNEY SCHOOL

Present

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair)
Cllr. Robert Stopford

Cllr. Anna Palmer
Cllr. Stephen Baker

Cllr. Euan MacLennan
Cllr. William Voaden

Clerk Ruth Senior and 1 member of the public

Public Forum

We would love to see more Dorney residents and members of the public attending the Parish Council meetings. Anyone is welcome to attend and the meeting dates are published on the website.

The first 15 minutes of every meeting are open to the public to bring things to our attention or comment on existing issues.

The Parish Council were informed of a problem where the BT cabling has been cut on Harcourt Road due to the building works, this has been reported to Planning at Bucks to determine responsibility.

PC/67/23 Apologies for absence

Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford

PC/68/23 Declaration of interest on any items of business on this Agenda

Due to personal connections, Cllr. Stopford declared an interest in item 10 on the agenda (Parish Boundaries) and Cllr. Palmer on item 6.1 (Planning) and will refrain from voting on these items.

PC/69/23 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2023

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

PC/70/23 To receive the Clerk report

The Clerk presented the report which was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

PC/71/23 Items of business carried forward

71.1 The Orchard Herbs Site

It was agreed that it is critical that the Parish Council continue to push for the closure of the site.

Cllr. Stopford reported that he has made contact with Stephanie Penney – Bucks Enforcement however no response has been received as yet.

It was agreed that the Council will submit an official response to Darran Eggleton's email of May 23rd including up to date site photos, information on the fires on site and the new concrete mix business – we will request support from Taplow and Burnham Parish Council's.

There was a hotel planning appeal site visit today, we will await the report from the inspector. MP Joy Morrissey has written to the Secretary of State, Michael Gove and Minister of State, Rachel Maclean raising her objections to the planning application and appeal.

The Certificate of Lawfulness is still being processed, there is no update.

Cllr. Dax is speaking with the Fire Service to get their official report on the latest fires that they attended, this will continue to be pursued. These have been flagged to the Environmental Health Department of the Council.

71.2 The Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council received 113 responses to the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire which is very good news.

The results are now being analysed and Mark Brand has presented an outline report of the findings which will be used to produce the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan hopefully by September.

It was agreed that the timeline chart from Mark Brand will be put on the website with the disclaimer that dates are guides only and are subject to change.

There will be a full presentation of the initial findings of the questionnaire and future of the Neighbourhood Plan on 18th July, 6.30pm at Dorney School, all welcome.

PC/72/23 Planning

72.1 There has only been one planning application of note this month at Squirrel Corner PL/23/1614/FA. Two objections have been made so far, **it was agreed** that the Parish Council will support these objections due to the size of the development and the new windows overlooking neighbours. Cllr. Dax also questioned the ownership of the Black Locust tree next to the property which Cllr. Palmer will investigate.

72.2 The 3 Ward Councillors have 'called in' the applications to Boveney Court Farm, which will now go to the planning committee. **It was agreed** that Cllr. Stopford will attend the meeting and make our 3 minute objections subject to availability, Cllr. Dax will attend otherwise.

PC/73/23 Finance

73.1 The cashbook was circulated prior to the meeting, some minor amendments were made to a previous cashbook, these will all be approved at the next meeting.

73.2 Cllr. MacLennan has completed the AGAR ready for the Internal Auditor. This will be submitted to PKF Littlejohn by July 31st and open for public review from 3rd July to 11th August.

PC/74/23 To discuss meeting dates for 2023 and 2024

In line with other local Parish Councils, it was proposed by Cllr. Stopford and **unanimously agreed** to move the Parish Council meetings to every other month. Jan, March, May, July, Sept, Nov.

Should there be an emergency/new situation where a decision must be made urgently, we will seek a majority agreement over email and ratify at the next meeting, however, wherever possible decisions will only be made at meetings and Extraordinary Meetings can be called where needed.

It was agreed that when an email is sent from the Clerk to ask for opinions/agreement, ALL Councillors must respond by the date requested in the subject matter.

PC/75/23 To consider Dorney Parish Council joining the Local Government Pension Scheme through Bucks

As the Clerk qualifies for joining the scheme, **this was agreed**. More information will be brought to the next meeting with figures and timescales.

PC/76/23 To discuss the Community Governance Review on Parish Boundaries

Cllr. Stopford will be submitting a request for review as a resident to push the boundary from Roundmoor Ditch to the M4. **It was agreed** that should Buckinghamshire agree to the review, Dorney Parish Council will support.

PC/77/23 To consider replacing the entry to Dorney signs that have eroded and been destroyed by the cattle

It was agreed that we will revisit this next month with more information. The Clerk will establish ownership of the signs, Cllr. Dax will explore costs and Cllr. Westcott-Wreford to provide photos.

PC/78/23 To discuss speed controls on Lake End Road, Common Road and Marsh Lane

It was agreed that there needs to be a review on speed limits across the parish, this was also apparent from the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire results.
The Clerk will look at the processes for review.

PC/79/23 To confirm extra days for RJC Landscapes

There are no areas currently that the Parish is responsible for that are causing a problem. **It was agreed** to wait until the end of summer and review.
It was agreed that Cllr. Palmer will investigate hedge trimming near the Dorney Lake entrance.

PC/80/23 To consider any complaints/comments received from residents

None

PC/81/23 Items to consider for discussion at the next meeting on 18th July 2023

Lake End Common and Dorney Common floods.

Posts outside Pineapple and Ashford Lane.

Annual Plan for the Parish Council.

Pension scheme.

Dorney Village sign at Eton Wick end of Dorney Common, which has rotted and possibly been knocked down by the cows.

Speeding review update.

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



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

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

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

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

Dorney Parish News will continue to provide Keycode details.

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

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Dorney Parish News

Published monthly (except January and August)

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RATE OF SUBSCRIPTION: £7 per annum for 10 issues

Bank Transfer Details: Sort Code 60 04 53, Account Number 13611690

**The Editors are not responsible for the opinions of correspondents
expressed in letters or articles published in this magazine.**

Advertising in Dorney Parish News

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

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

Rate Card:

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Quarter Page (Horizontal)	45	130	£45	£6

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