

# Dorney Parish News

September 2023



Picture of Boveney Court Farm buildings taken from Bucks Council's Planning Department's Appraisal for the Boveney Conservation Area in July 1996

**Proposed 12 new houses on  
Boveney Court Farm buildings site:  
Planning Permission Refused!**

See Page 12 for details



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**EDITORIAL**

*'Dorney is a little haven of green surrounded by urban development from all sides. It should be protected as such for everyone to enjoy'.* So commented a Dorney resident in the recent Neighbourhood Plan survey. If we see this ambition as now part of the DNA of this village, then events since our last issue have been very encouraging.

Firstly, the Planning Committee of Bucks Council voted to reject the application by Eton College to build 12 houses on the Boveney Court Farm site (see page 12). Secondly, there had been signs of momentum this summer in Dorney's efforts to ensure that the owner of the Orchard Herbs site complies with Bucks Council's planning enforcement notices, but, as we go to press, these seem less promising (see page 18). Thirdly, after a well-attended public meeting and the publication of the survey results, the Neighbourhood Plan team will be encouraged as they proceed to completion of a draft plan (see page 8).

Preserving the unique character of a beloved, historic hamlet, removing or at least ameliorating an eyesore that for long has been a scourge on our village, and building a long-term defence to better protect our 'little haven of green' are all straightforward concepts. But the background to these issues and the route to solutions are complex and cloudy. So, can we recommend three documents, each of which can be found online, which cut through to the essence of these issues?

In 1996 South Bucks District Council prepared an appraisal document (see this month's front cover) which designated Boveney as a conservation area. Copies of this were held in Dorney, but Bucks Council had mislaid theirs and Eton had forgotten they had one. The appraisal played a pivotal role in Dorney's case to the Planning Committee. In May, an acerbic email on Orchard Herbs winged its way to Bucks Council from our Parish Clerk. It spoke the language of us residents (Dorney is located 'on the forgotten edges of the council's administrative area' and has 'no confidence the Council will follow up with further action'). Answers did appear to be forthcoming.

If you wonder why this magazine is giving such support to the Neighbourhood Plan, one answer is buried deep in the report prepared on the Boveney application by the Case Officer, who was inclined to approve the application. It implied that without a completed plan there were no *'local planning policies that specifically prevent ...additional housing within Dorney'*. Please come to the next open meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Talking of following online, it's worth taking a look at the webcast of that planning committee meeting. Local councillors making the case for Dorney conservation and those on the committee sympathetically debating our future for an hour or so rather bolsters your faith in the relevance of local government.

The recent survey revealed a degree of sadness at our lack of year-round access to Dorney Lake. Well, it's been confirmed that the site will be open to visitors from 'early September'. If you have a local resident complimentary car parking pass, be sure to renew it. Many will see the re-opening as some consolation as summer draws to a close.

# Services in the Local Churches



## **St James the Less, Dorney**

St. John the Baptist, Eton Wick

St. John the Evangelist, Eton

Part-time Assistant Curate: Rev. Carole Gooding  
(07786) 290162

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](mailto:stjohnstjamesed@hotmail.co.uk)

For information about our churches, activities and church history please see our parishes' web site: [www.stjohnstjamesed.org.uk](http://www.stjohnstjamesed.org.uk)

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

**Pastor: Olusegun Omotayo 07712 126334** [www.rccgchurchatslough.com](http://www.rccgchurchatslough.com)

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**Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Burnham**

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

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**Stephen Baker writes:** We bade farewell to the Rev. La Stacey at the end of July after she and husband David had spent the last 9 years supporting the parish of Dorney. They will be greatly missed, and we wish them well as they embark on their retirement to France.

This puts St. James the Less (and the churches in Eton and Eton Wick) into a period of planned vacancy between assigned clergy, usually lasting around a year. Unlike previous vacancy periods, we will be able to maintain our current frequency and types of services due to the support we will be receiving from the Rev. Carole Gooding, our part time Assistant Curate and some additional support from the local area. Our service times can be found at the end of this article.

September is the time in the annual church calendar dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of Life and the theme for this year is "Let Justice and Peace Flow". It is the time of the year when we can especially focus on our relationship with God as Creator, with the Earth, with other creatures and with those around us.

We are fortunate to live in such a beautiful landscape, with the river, lake, and beautiful fields, with an abundance of nature on our doorstep and friendly people to share it with. This unfortunately is in stark contrast to other people, in the UK, or further afield who do not have what we may take for granted, who are suffering day to day, or have recently lost their livelihood through natural disasters.

If you get the opportunity, have a think about all the things you have, not what may be missing.

**Best regards,  
Stephen Baker  
Church Warden**

## Church Services in September 2023

### **Sunday 3rd September**

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

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

### **Wednesday 6th September**

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

### **Sunday 10th September**

9.30am Holy Communion  
11.00am Holy Communion

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

### **Sunday 17th September**

9.30am Holy Communion  
11.00am Morning Worship

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

### **Wednesday 20th September**

10.00am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

### **Sunday 24th September**

9.30am Harvest Worship  
11.00am Holy Communion for Harvest

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



St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

**This beautiful church on the Thames is open daily.**

[www.st-mary-magdalene-boveney.org.uk](http://www.st-mary-magdalene-boveney.org.uk)



## Bon Voyage, La and David



When Rev La Stacey attended her last Open Book session at Dorney School, she was presented with a very fitting leaving gift - a lovely pineapple plant. We are told that each of the school's classes presented wonderful handmade cards to her.

At her last service in St James the Less, a photograph was taken of La and husband David. After her very last service in the benefice on July 30<sup>th</sup> there was what La called a 'leaving do' in Eton Wick School.

Dorney Parish News wishes La and David *bon voyage*.

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# Dorney Neighbourhood Plan

**Next meeting on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> of October, 6pm at Dorney Village Hall.**

You may already be familiar with the Dorney Neighbourhood Plan through previous editions of the Dorney Parish News. However, if this has somehow passed you by there is a wealth of information available on the Dorney Parish website under Planning/Neighbourhood plan. Alternatively, you can put the link below in your browser and it will take you straight there.

<https://dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk/parish-plan/neighbourhood-plan/>

Progress has continued at a pace since our last update in the Dorney Parish News. We've successfully conducted two productive residents' meetings, where some excellent suggestions and feedback have been incorporated into the planning process. The Background and Procedures as well as the Visions and Objectives documents are nearing completion thanks to your input.

We are now pleased to invite you to the upcoming Dorney Neighbourhood Plan Meeting. This meeting marks a key moment in shaping the future of our community and is your final chance to make a difference.

Join us on Sunday, October 8th, 2023, at 6pm, at the Dorney Village Hall where we will present our plan, seek final feedback and look for your acceptance in order to submit it to Bucks Council.

Your presence is vital as we complete the crucial next steps in completing the Neighbourhood Plan, a document that will be presented to Bucks Council for approval.

The key areas covered will be housing development, roads/traffic, environment, and welfare, so it is really important that we gain your commitment.

Although our original plan was to hold this meeting in September, unforeseen commitments compelled us to reschedule it to October 8th. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

With your continued support, we will move forward to the finalisation of the draft document that will be presented to Bucks Council.

**Please be a part of this important project and attend the meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, 6pm at Dorney Village Hall.**

**Your input really does matter.**

If you have any queries or wish to be kept up to date by email, please send your request to

[dorneyneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com](mailto:dorneyneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com)

**Dorney Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Working Group**



## **'Thank you for letting us have a say' – Dorney's 2023 Survey**

A survey of Dorney residents' opinions was recently undertaken as part of the Neighbourhood Plan preparation. Following an open meeting at Dorney School in July, the results were uploaded to the Parish Council website. Dorney Parish News thought we should summarise the findings, but we do recommend you have a look on the website for yourselves. A Neighbourhood Plan should demonstrate how a community has been consulted, and questionnaires like this are a tried and tested form of such consultation.

The survey was available through May into mid-June. The vast majority of responses were online. We can't be exactly certain how representative of the whole community these respondents were, but the 101 completed questionnaires met the team's objectives, and we can be pretty confident that with such a sample the general pattern of Dorney thinking has been captured. Some readers might remember rather wider parish appraisal surveys in 1990 and 2000, but this exercise was very much focused on the concerns of the NP – housing development, roads and traffic and Dorney's environment. It's worth catching up with the residents' comments that the questionnaire invited – they are almost more enlightening (and entertaining) than the numbers.

We are rather suspicious of 'development' with two thirds of respondents answering 'no' to the question of accommodating further development, and to take just one example, a thumping 95% agreeing that green spaces and the Greenbelt needed protection, with a restriction to brownfield sites strongly supported. Perhaps reflecting our parish's demographics, 78% favoured any development being of 'family houses'. There seems to be much lower support for 'flats/maisonettes' (are we put off by the example of Maidenhead?) and 'starter homes' and 'social housing' (likewise the vast estates threatening communities like Bourne End).

If we all tend to love our environment, then we're unlikely to be in a hurry to see change. 85% of us would favour only *'construction and building materials in keeping with the area'* included in any further development. Endemic Dorney infrastructure issues still cut through, with two thirds and a half of respondents respectively citing 'fibre internet' and 'high water pressure' as important add-ons for any development.

57% favoured a general reduction in speed limits, and there was a very positive response - with three quarters in favour - to limiting speed across Dorney Common. North of 90% of us think the volume of traffic has increased in recent years, that 'high tonnage HGVs should be restricted from Dorney, and that *'all road approaches into the Parish should reflect the character of Dorney'*.

Similar proportions use the Children's Playground as use the Village Hall (51% and 55%) and three quarters of us 'make use of Dorney Lake'. The comments indicate deep regret that residents' entry to the Lake is now restricted. *'A pass system should be devised to allow residential access all year round'* was a typical comment.

This review must be brief – please, everybody, visit the PC website. Despite regrets over the Lake and the M4 despoliation, we are not too gloomy. Small majorities of those answering point to improvements in biodiversity and deny feeling less safe than in previous times. A substantial minority, mercifully, think our environment has actually improved.

**Peter Bowman**

## What's happening at Dorney Playground?

Well, the simple answer is LOTS.



We had a very successful **summer party** on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Over one hundred children attended and we raised £1200 for playground funds. Remember that Dorney Playground is maintained and improved by a group of volunteers who receive no money from either Dorney Parish Council or Buckinghamshire County Council. All money comes from fund raising or grants.

So, the next event in the calendar is the **Halloween Party on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October.**

The party runs from 17.00 – 19.30 at Dorney Village Hall, with the entertainment being

provided by NON-STOP KIDS ENTERTAINMENT who provide a magician show and high energy party games with prizes. Obviously, the theme of the party is Halloween and the Village Hall will be decorated accordingly. It is open to all 4–11-year-olds.

The only slight problem with the party is that two of the committee members are out of the country on this date, so we are actively seeking volunteers to join us to help sell food and drinks to the children and their parents. It would be a real shame if we don't have enough people to run the event.

### CAN YOU HELP?

Please contact me if you can spare 2.5 hours on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

### TIMBER SNAKE SWING

If you've been down to the playground you will probably have seen the metal structure called the I-play. This hasn't worked properly for some time, so we are fundraising to replace the I-play with a TIMBER SNAKE SWING.

The quotation from PlayDale is **£15,241.81**

The Dorney Playground Management committee are working very hard applying to various organisations to try and raise this amount.



Obviously, we'll keep you up to date with how we are progressing, but if you know anyone or any company (local or not) who might be willing to donate some money to boost the fund raising, please let us know.

**Dorney Playground Management Committee**

**07737 053409**

Email: [Playground4Dorney@gmail.com](mailto:Playground4Dorney@gmail.com)

Charity number: 1131683



# DORNEY

PARISH COUNCIL



**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN MEETING....** Sunday 8th October 6pm in the Village Hall. This meeting is your chance to view Dorney Parish Council's proposals and contribute your feedback. This will allow us to prepare the draft document to be presented to Bucks Council. Your contribution at this stage of the preparations will shape a Dorney Parish that thrives and where every voice contributes to our shared vision for the future.

Following 'call in' of proposed residential development at Boveney Court Farm we can confirm that this application was refused by the Planning Committee.

The Parish Council would like to thank the litter pickers for their hard work across the Parish.

**Review of Parish Maintenance during the autumn.**

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**  
**19TH SEPTEMBER**  
**7.30 at Dorney School**

**CATTLE GRID**  
**Latest information: work will commence on 11th September. Check the DPC website for updates**

**Speed Limits:**  
Bucks Council advises that changing any speed limit costs approx. £10,000. Options being considered.

**Dorney Parish Council meetings will now be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every other month:**  
**January, March, May, July, September, November.**

## **Eton College's Planning Application for 12 new houses in Boveney is refused.**

In November 2022 Eton College submitted a planning application for a development of 12 new houses at the site of Boveney Court Farm buildings (previously used as the depot for Dorney Lake maintenance and before that Landmark Tree Surgery, owned by Mark Knight).

There were a number of objections submitted by residents, Dorney Parish Council and Dorney History Group. The final recommendation of Bucks Council's Planning Department was that this application for a significant development, swamping Boveney, should be approved, with few changes from Eton College's original plan, and be delegated to themselves, with them, the Planning Department deciding under delegated powers.

Dorney Parish Council were very unhappy with both the recommendation and the proposal that the Planning Department would mark their own homework on such a substantial and important development.

Consequently they persuaded our three Ward Councillors – George Sandy, Paul Kelly and Kirsten Ashman - to "call it in" to the Planning Committee, made up of elected councillors, who would then be the decision makers on whether to accept or refuse the application.

On behalf of the Dorney History Group (DHG), I had been trying to establish why the 1996 Boveney Conservation Area Appraisal document (which DHG had a copy of) had not been included in the extensive list of Policy Considerations and Evaluation in the planning department's 54 page recommendation to the Committee. A Freedom of Information request to Bucks Council in June for correspondence relating to this document resulted in a response stating that Bucks had no paperwork on this as it was a 27 year old document! This raised a red flag as the Appraisal document was not listed on the Bucks website – but the Conservation Area Map was. A Map cannot exist without an Appraisal document.

An article in the July 1996 edition of DPN written by the then Chair of Dorney Parish Council, Ken Richmond states *"The latest talking point is that, despite strong opposition from Eton College, much of Boveney has been designated a Conservation Area. The College claimed that, as the hamlet was already designated an "Area of Attractive Landscape" and in the "Green Belt" it was sufficiently protected from development."* This raised another red flag. If Eton College opposed it, they must have a copy of it. Why didn't they provide a copy to their planning Agents?

So, this legal document – the Boveney Conservation Area Appraisal – which is a required "material consideration" in planning matters, meaning that the planners had to include it and provide reasons why they may not be following its guidelines, had been totally ignored. One of the most important guidelines in the document is *"The Council would therefore not want to see further development or any intensity in the use of the settlement by visitors."* A copy is available on the Dorney Parish Council website and the Dorney History Group website.

On 25 July 2023, the South Area Planning Committee of Bucks Council met to determine the answer.

Jill Dax, Chair of Dorney Parish Council, and I, on behalf of Dorney History, made 3 minute speeches at the meeting and there followed a discussion amongst the Councillors and Planning Officers on a number of subjects – access down Boveney Road, density of the site, car parking spaces, Green Belt, the Appraisal, loss of employment, sight lines and affordable houses. Two hours later the Committee voted 6-1 to reject the planning application.

In many cases, planning committees do follow the recommendations made by the planning department. The planning department's recommendations are typically based on extensive assessments of the application, taking into account local planning policies, public consultations, and relevant regulations.

However, there are instances where the planning committee may not accept the recommendation and make a decision that differs from what was suggested. This can happen for various reasons, such as:

1. Strong public opposition: If a planning application generates significant public interest or opposition, the committee may decide to go against the recommendation to reflect the community's concerns.
2. Legal considerations: The planning committee might have legal reasons for rejecting the recommendation, such as potential conflicts with national planning policies or environmental regulations.
3. New information: Occasionally, new evidence or information may come to light during the committee meeting, leading to a different decision from the initial recommendation.

In this case all three of these reasons came into play. Residents had had their say at a presentation at Dorney Lake and in their objections, Dorney Parish Council prepared a 10 page document, together with a copy of the Appraisal, which stated very clearly what the planning officers had not legally considered. This was emailed to all the Committee Members during the weekend before the meeting so they were fully appraised of the full details before the meeting. Some drove down to Boveney that weekend to ensure they understood the content of the document and the Appraisal. The Appraisal was the “new information”.

Those of us attending from Dorney felt that the Planning Committee was very well chaired, asked penetrating questions, understood the rural environment and were concerned at some of the specialist Officer's opinions provided to them. It was encouraging to see the level of detail that they went into.

On the other hand, the same could not be said of the two Planning Officers present.

So, it is possible (but not definite) that Eton College will appeal the decision. If they do, within 12 weeks, we will all have to do battle again. Alternatively, Eton College could decide to put in a new application for a lesser number of houses, perhaps four, using the existing buildings – but it won't be easy for an architect to create four saleable houses, given the lack of potential garden space for two of them.

In the meantime, the weeds will continue to grow on the site, and it will continue to look quite sad.



On the front cover of our May issue, we published a table setting out the possible impact of housing developments in Dorney Parish drawn from Eton College's publicly stated plans. We estimated a future increase of 120 houses, or 40%. Following representations from Eton, we have revised this estimated increase to 93 houses:

<b>Impact of possible housing developments in Dorney Parish (revised JUN23)</b>					
		Houses	Possible new	Houses	%age
	<u>Possible Developments</u>	Current	Houses	Future	increase
Dorney Village (inc. north of Cress Brook)	Court Farm	100	11	111	11%
Dorney Reach	Oak Stubbs Lane	171	30	201	17%
Lake End	Gaskins Meadow	19	39	58	205%
Boveney (south of Cress Brook)	Boveney Stables and Boveney Court Farm buildings	10	13	23	130%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>300</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>31%</b>

*The Boveney application, which is still subject to appeal, is for 12 houses, but there is a separate approved application to convert a barn into a house at Boveney Court Stables, hence our number of 13.*

*Eton College have advised DPN that the new homes under consideration at Court Farm number 11, rather than 20.*

*Eton College have put Boveney Court up for sale. The two separate smaller buildings within the curtilage – The Lodge and The Bungalow – are now vacant and included in the sale, so the current housing reduces from 12 to 10.*

The total number of new houses is now 93, a 31% increase. This has to be considered against the latest government forecast of the population of South Bucks decreasing between 2020 and 2030:

Area	2020	2025	2030	Change
England	56,678,470	58,060,235	59,181,798	4.40%
South East	9,235,982	9,440,908	9,596,381	3.90%
Buckinghamshire	545,925	557,874	564,319	3.40%
Aylesbury Vale	205,426	217,764	226,334	10.20%
Chiltern	96,274	96,985	96,703	0.40%
<b>South Bucks</b>	<b>70,083</b>	<b>70,212</b>	<b>70,007</b>	<b>-0.10%</b>
Wycombe	174,143	172,914	171,275	-1.60%

*Source: Office of National Statistics 2018*

We now have to both await the appeal decision and see whether Bucks Council's review of submitted sites suitable to build houses on for the Local Plan 2040 removes the Oak Stubbs Lane Field and Gaskins Meadow from the list, as they did in the defunct 2016-2036 Local Plan, given that both are green field sites in the Green Belt. No deadline set for that, yet. In the meantime we must all work to protect our (still) beautiful parish.

**Bill Dax**  
**Dorney History Group**

# ***Dorney Horticultural Society Harvest Supper Evening***

**Friday 6th October 7-30pm  
Dorney Village Hall**

**The evening will start with a buffet supper  
followed by our guest speaker  
Charlotte Popescu  
with a fascinating talk about wild food**

**All Welcome**

**Bring your own drink and glasses**

**Tickets £10/head members - £12/head non-members**

**Book now email: [ddhs@btinternet.com](mailto:ddhs@btinternet.com)  
All Enquiries to Peter Bowman: 07889 912714**



Please feed our swans! Wendy from Swan Support ([www.swansupport.org.uk](http://www.swansupport.org.uk)) has been spreading the word that it's OK to feed bread to our swans.... and lots of other food too.

Our swan numbers are down as sadly some have flown elsewhere and permanently moved, searching for food.

**Swans, ducks and geese need a variety of foods to keep them fit and healthy.**



- Bread
- Wheat
- Leafy Greens
- Dried Grass
- Grains and Cereals
- Swan food or pellets

## **Swan Feeding Tips**

- Feed small amounts at a time, making sure all food has been eaten before giving more.
- Always feed on water.
- Never feed them anything that has gone mouldy.
- Please remember to feed responsibly and follow any guidelines in your area

## WHAT WE HAVE LOST

As Dorney works to develop a new Neighbourhood Plan, attention is rightly focussed on the pleasant environment in which we live. The expansive common, still traditionally grazed; the many old houses in the village; the ancient manor house and church; the fields of arable crops; all are greatly valued by Dorney's current residents. How lucky we are to enjoy such a lovely place which retains so much of its history!

That set me thinking what a visitor from an earlier time might miss about today's village.

Arriving across the common from Eton Wick, our visitor might first notice the absence of a gate across the road. Dorney Gate came complete with a look-out box housing a gatekeeper ready to open the gate when traffic arrived. In 1885 the gatekeeper was an old man of 86 wearing the smock frock which had been the traditional garb of a farm labourer in earlier times, happy to engage in conversation with passers-by. This was probably Thomas Tugwood, who died in 1887, the position as gatekeeper being inherited by another Tugwood. Probably Thomas' son George, he was still on duty at Dorney Gate when schoolmistress Miss Bennett arrived in 1919:



*Mr. Tugwood, the keeper of the Common gate, was one of the old school, who dressed in the Sunday clothes worn fifty or sixty years before: a black cut-away coat, much washed, tightfitting corduroy breeches, cloth gaiters, with red handkerchief and billycock hat.*

*Every day he stood at the Common gate, which he opened and shut for the traffic. He got a small wage augmented by tips. If a pedestrian went through with only a polite 'thank-you', the old man replied, "I've had a pocketful of them today." He had a tiny hut for wet days. He continued his job until he could no longer walk up to the gate, even with two sticks.*

Both Thomas and George Tugwood worked on farms before taking on the role of gatekeeper in later life.



Once through the gate, our visitor would recognise much that was familiar in the buildings lining Village Road, even though cottages that were once multiple occupancy are now restored single dwellings. It might however be puzzling to see no shops or post office. Since at least the mid-1830s, the people of Dorney had been able to buy fresh bread from the village bakery. There are residents who still remember the daily (and nightly) activity of

preparing those loaves, the appetising smells they generated and even the delicious taste of the iced plaits made by the last baker. In 1851 Dorney gained its own post office, run by the baker who also sold groceries. The post office provided local people with not only

convenience in posting letters and parcels but also a telegraph office for immediate communication and a banking facility. Later a second bakery and grocer's shop opened. Both shops and post office ceased trading in the 1970s.

Gone, too, are the ponds that used to provide water for passing livestock on the south side of the road, although the ditch linking them is still there. In their place, the visitor would now see houses, trees and gardens. One of the modern houses is called Pond House, recalling the former use of the site. Old Pond House, of 17<sup>th</sup> century origins, still stands to one side of the former village pond.

The Palmer Arms would be a familiar sight for our traveller, but the village stocks which used to stand in front are long gone. Dorney had no gaol house but the stocks could be used by the village constable to hold securely some vagrant or miscreant. The person held sat on a bench and placed their legs in the holes, the upper bar keeping them in that position until released by the constable's key. A story recounted in 1849 told how a group of young artists fooling around managed to trap one of their number in the stocks, freed by the village blacksmith only after an hour and a half during which he was tormented by jeering local lads.

Arriving at Climo's Corner (though not then known by that name), our visitor might glance to the left and wonder what had happened to Barge Path. Formerly a straight lane running down to the river, for the use of barge horses towing vessels on the Thames and subject to the payment of a fee, the path now meanders its way to the riverbank, while the route straight on leads into Dorney Lake. But our visitor might not have been allowed access to the path in earlier times. In 1859, Henry Palmer issued a notice stating that there was no right-of-way for people to get to Monkey Island across his land, either along Barge Path or from the Thames Bank. Trespassers would be prosecuted. It was only in more recent times that both became public rights-of-way and we could then enjoy the leafy walk down Barge Path.

Continuing up Marsh Lane, the traveller's vista to the left would be significantly changed. In years gone by, much of the road was unfenced and an open field of arable crops stretched away west to the river and north towards the boundary with Amerden. This was known as Oak Stubbs field, one of the four big fields of Dorney. Beside the road part way along was a gravel pit, one of three in this field. Little by little, this field has been transformed. First came the development of Dorney Reach from the early 1900s; then came the Climos' dairy farm and two enclosed fields alongside Barge Path. In the mid-1980s arable farming in the field ceased when it was leased to Thames Water and divided up as we know it today, used for grazing horses, water extraction and rewilding. On Google Maps satellite view, the oval shape of the former gravel pit can still be made out.

Would our time traveller have felt regret at the absence of much-loved features? Or would they have simply recognised that places and landscapes inevitably change over time? I wonder.

**Virginia Silvester**

## **Orchard Herbs Site; Dorney Parish Council attempts to restore to green field being thwarted by Bucks Council's incompetence.**

On 11 May 2023 Dorney Parish Council, supported by Burnham and Taplow Parish Councils, wrote an excoriating letter to the Chief Executive of Bucks Council.

The full letter can be read on the Dorney Parish Council's website under Local Projects/Orchard Herbs site (Burnham).

The key points include the following:

### **“Extant enforcement notices**

6. We understand from appeal documentation issued by the Council in connection with the ongoing appeal relating to the Certificate of Lawfulness, that there are currently only two enforcement notices that remain in force at the Site.

7. The first is dated 6 June 2007 and was issued in respect of storage bays (07/20923/ENBREN). The second is a notice that was issued on 30 May 2008 in respect of the importation, deposit and processing of waste at the Site (SB/ENF/06/18).

8. We would be grateful if the Council could confirm the position. If there are any other enforcement notices that remain in force at the Site, we would be grateful to know and to be provided with a copy of all extant enforcement notices.

### **A site neglected from effective enforcement**

9. The main purpose of this letter is to express our frustration and ongoing concerns as Parish Councils and on behalf of the residents that we represent. The owners of the Site are notorious for their persistent and continually changing breaches of planning control. In our view, Buckinghamshire Council has not been able to monitor and effectively deal with the various breaches of planning control. The Site has for far too long been neglected; we consider that part of the reason is that because it is located on the forgotten edges of the Council's administrative area. A sentiment echoed by the residents we are in contact with.

10. Firstly, we have no confidence that all the current breaches of planning control are the subject of an enforcement notice. The danger is that in failing to monitor the Site effectively, the Council is running the risk of further applications for Certificates of Lawfulness in due course.

11. Secondly, even where enforcement notices are served and take effect, that should not be the end of the matter. We have no confidence that the Council will follow up with further action where the Site owner fails to comply with planning enforcement notices. We discuss this in more detail below.

### **Legal powers available to the Council that have not been utilised**

12. We note that the Council has the option of pursuing a criminal prosecution pursuant to section 179 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (the “1990 Act”) or alternatively section 171G where a Temporary Stop Notice has been contravened. However, the penalties for failing to comply with an enforcement notice, is the payment of a fine which fails to remedy the breach of planning control.

13. We have lost confidence in the Council which has failed to utilise the full range of statutory provisions available to them under the said 1990 Act. We are aware that the Council can secure an injunction pursuant to section 187B where it is considered necessary or expedient for any actual or apprehended breach of planning control, whether or not the Council has exercised or is proposing to exercise any other enforcement powers pursuant to this part of the 1990 Act.



14. The Council also has, in respect of enforcement notices that have already been served and not complied with, powers under section 178 to enter the land and take the steps required by the enforcement notice and subsequently recover expenses incurred from the owner of the land.
15. The Council also has separate powers under section 215 of the 1990 Act to serve a notice on the landowner requiring the condition of the land to be remedied where it appears to the Council that the amenity is adversely affected by the condition of the Site. Section 219 provides the Council with the powers to enter the land and take the steps required by a section 215 notice that has either not been appealed or survived an appeal.
16. It is clear therefore that planning legislation provides Buckinghamshire Council with all the necessary powers to investigate, pursue and remedy breaches of planning control, as far as we are aware the Council has never considered use of direct action powers. The Site has and continues to be an eyesore. If the Council has considered use of powers under sections 178, 187B and 215 but decided not to use them, we would like to understand your reasons.
17. Having considered the Council's Planning Enforcement and Monitoring Plan we are not persuaded that the breaches of planning control at the Site are sufficiently minor to justify no direct remedial action. The Council's service of a temporary stop notice indicates (in line with paragraph 7.17 of the Planning Enforcement and Monitoring Plan) that the airport car parking and vehicle storage "...is so serious that it warrants immediate cessation." If that is the case, what approach is to be taken in respect of any remaining breaches?

### **Meeting with the Council**

21. While we appreciate the Council must be seen to be proportionate in their enforcement response, in the matter of the Orchard Herbs Site, the owner operates on a strategy of delaying voluntary remediation, appealing applications and enforcement notices to delay any notice taking effect and operating in the full knowledge that the Council is unlikely to follow up with a prosecution and/or injunctions or the Council carrying out the remedial works themselves.
22. The owner's strategy has worked to his advantage for at least 30 years and we require a meeting with the relevant officers at the Council (including key decision makers) to discuss this. [and the following matters:-
- Which enforcement notices remain extant and of those notices which have been complied with in full and which have not.
  - An understanding of the Council's appraisal of the current status of the Site, in particular are there any breaches of planning control that are not subject of an enforcement notice and if so, is the Council still within the relevant time limit to serve enforcement notice(s) to remedy those breaches.
  - In respect of those breaches of planning control where the Council is confident that there can be no allegation that the breach is now immune from planning enforcement action, or it remains the subject of an extant enforcement notice, what steps the Council will take to ensure that (i) the remedial work is carried out without delay or (ii) an enforcement notice will be served to prevent immunity from planning control.
  - Understanding the Council's strategic approach in monitoring the Site at consistent intervals, taking into account the matters mentioned above.]
23. We do not consider that it is necessary to await the outcome of the appeal in respect of the Certificate of Lawfulness before the meeting can take place. We have seen the Council's letter of 10 March 2023 to the appellant's agent inviting him to withdraw the appeal. It is clear from this correspondence that the appeal is highly likely to be dismissed as it has no prospect of success.

24. We request that the meeting take place within the parish of Dorney, a suitable venue will be provided once the date, time and attendees have been confirmed. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Sent by Ruth Senior, Clerk to Dorney Parish Council, On behalf of Jill Dax – Dorney Parish Council Chair. ”**

Also, on the website, the responses of Bucks Council to this letter can be read.

They can be summarised as follows:

- **23 May 2023:** I can advise you that the current situation is that we are still considering the expediency of further formal action. This decision is yet to be finalised. It should be borne in mind that prosecutions and injunctions do not immediately lead to the breaches being resolved but I can assure you that all these avenues are being fully explored in order to seek a final remedy.
- **28 June 2023:** Further to our previous correspondence I write to advise that we have now received legal advice in relation to this matter. We will now be acting upon that advice and taking action accordingly. I hope you are able to understand that for operational reasons, I can't go into any detail about what that action is, but I can provide assurance that we have a direct of travel and we are pursuing it. We will be able to tell you more once we have clarified a few other points and once the relevant action has been instigated.
- **26 July 2023:** I have caught up with the team and can advise that we have received legal advice which has provided an initial view of the matter and an indication as to the next steps forward. We are currently reviewing our position and gathering further evidence in order to be able to progress the relevant actions. At this stage, I am unable to go into more detail about that action nor am I able to disclose the legal advice but I do anticipate being able to provide more details in 3 weeks as this will allow us the necessary time to move forward and provide a suitably positive response.

In the opinion of Dorney Parish News, the responses are inadequate and demonstrate 30 years of incompetence by Bucks Council. Relying on two enforcement notices over 15 years old, failing to issue any injunctions and patting oneself on the back for a Temporary Stop Notice that did stop the illegal airport parking but failed to address the illegal lorry scrap yard and the illegal concrete mixing business is hardly demonstrating competent local government.

We understand that, after many years of requesting a meeting with senior officials in Bucks Council on this matter and no one in the Council being willing to travel the extraordinary distance to Dorney from Amersham or Aylesbury, Bucks Council may have finally agreed to a meeting with Dorney Parish Council, Burnham Parish Council and Taplow Parish Council – in Dorney to discuss their lack of plans to resolve this totally unacceptable situation. Let's hope that is the case!

Regrettably, in order to get a final resolution to this 30 year old issue, Dorney Parish Council (and the other two Parish Councils) may have to resort to initiating a formal complaint or, possibly, a judicial review against Bucks Council.

What a mess Bucks Council has got us all into on this one. And they have no plan!

**Peter Bowman and Bill Dax**



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## **News from Dorney School**

Let me introduce myself to new readers and other members of the community at the start of a new school year. I was born in sunny Singapore and spent my formative years there right up to earning my degree from the National University of Singapore. Singapore is an island nation surrounded by other South East Asian nations and you can easily commute from one end of the island to the other in under an hour. Known for its highly developed economy, Singapore boasts excellent public services including education. Across the border (a mile across the Singapore channel) lies Malaysia. Both Malaysia and Singapore used to be part of the same entity better known as Malaya. The Eastern culture places much value on education and learning facilities are renowned across the world.

I completed my Master's degree at the University of Manchester and spent many happy years up North, starting a family (I have four grown up children), relocating South due to work commitments, and then completing a teaching degree at the University of Reading. I was awarded a Fellowship by the Chartered College of Teaching and work with many grassroots and education organisations. My heart lies in education,

Currently I lead a wonderful local village school that places children at the centre of everything we do. Dorney School has around two hundred pupils and is located in an area of outstanding local beauty, surrounded by nature, a park, and is close to the Rivers Thames and Jubilee. It is a gem of a school which never fails to surprise visitors as it is tucked behind some houses and next to a beautiful little park. Our school boasts large, adequate parking facilities for visitors and beautiful, extensive grounds. Staff are highly experienced, committed and above all, happy to help, and teach our children. Our aim is to develop happy children who enjoy learning, discovering and playing; and achieve well.

Dorney School, along with all schools, have faced multiple challenges in recent years, the more recent ones being Covid 19, lockdowns and the rising costs of living. Through all these challenges, our values and aims never wavered and this year, we celebrate excellent SATs results yet again, maintaining our high standards of attainment.

I am so proud of our amazing school and community. Parents work hand in hand with the school to ensure that every child receives the best support, teaching and provision, regardless of needs. We are led by our values of inclusion, equality and fairness and we teach, and equip our children with these values. We have an amazing PTA (Parents and Teachers Association) that organises community events and raise additional funds for the school. We also work closely with local organisations and businesses, ensuring that the school is always a part of the local community.

I urge you to visit our school and see for yourself the wonderful things we do. You may wish to join our increasing number of local volunteers and participate in some of our community projects or come for one of our multiple open events. Do contact the school on 01628620871 or email [office@dorneyschool.co.uk](mailto:office@dorneyschool.co.uk) I hope to welcome you soon.

**My very best wishes,  
Sharifah Firza Jelany-Lee  
Headteacher**



# DORNEY SCHOOL



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*20<sup>th</sup> September 10am - 11am*

*12<sup>th</sup> October 1.30pm - 2.30pm*

*7<sup>th</sup> November 10am - 11am*

*30<sup>th</sup> November 1.30pm - 2.30pm*

- 5 mins drive from the local Sainsbury's (Taplow)
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**01628620871**

[office@dorneyschool.co.uk](mailto:office@dorneyschool.co.uk)





## **BREAKING: (with apologies to the formidable Phil Lynott)**

### **♪ The bats are back in town, the bats are back in town ♪**

I'm sure regular readers will be relieved and excited to learn that my #batstats are now on an upward trajectory and firmly back in positive territory. The first signs were apparent by the sudden increase in the amount of bat droppings under the bat boxes. I was delighted; my wife instructed me (quite firmly) to immediately jet wash them off the patio. Opposites attract, as they say.

Some new dusk bat surveys were therefore in order, although given the weather patterns this summer it was tricky to find a pleasant evening to sit out and gaze at the bat boxes serenely for 40 minutes without a brolly. Nevertheless, a lovely evening did present itself and I took up residence in my favourite bat spotting chair at around 9pm. I had my binoculars at the ready but found that however long I held them up to see the bat boxes in close range, inevitably a bat launched itself out of the bottom of the box just as I dropped the binos into my lap. And launch themselves they did! One ... two ... three ... four . FIVE bats. This was infinitely better than one I thought smugly to myself. I wondered if the single boy bat had invited his mates round for pizza and beer, or if he was now involved in some kind of mixed gender polyamorous type set up. I decided it would probably be healthier if I stopped spending so much time speculating on bat community arrangements.

Unfortunately, I haven't been able to definitively identify the species of bat in the boxes. I kind of presume they are common pipistrelle, and I did have a bat echolocation device but it has been "borrowed" by my northern family and lost in the mists of time. I did find the bat listening device useful, but I have to admit that I am a late adopter of technology. I remember being at Uni in the early nineties and noticing quite a few people in the computer room in the campus. "What are they doing?" I asked a friend. "Oh, they're on these new internet chat rooms" he said. "Why would you want to chat on the internet when you can go to the pub?", I remember thinking. We decamped to the pub (no prizes for guessing I'm afraid). I also remember having a Blackberry phone at work (maybe around 2006?) and was really quite disappointed when I was "upgraded" to one of these newfangled "iPhones". I really liked the BlackBerry keyboard with proper buttons for each letter and thought that this ridiculous touchscreen that Apple had introduced would never catch on. Since then Apple have sold well over one billion iPhones (and the Blackberry share price has since crashed from a peak of \$140 to, er, \$5). I will not be publishing investment advice in the Dorney Parish News anytime soon.

Anyway, I digress. As a now very adopted iPhone user, I was recently introduced to the Merlin birdsong app. What a revelation! I'm not bad at identifying birds by sight but am fairly useless with birdsong. So, if you're the same as me, the Merlin app could be a godsend. It identifies the birds I can generally see in our garden (blue tits,



great tits, long tailed tits, starling, robin, blackbird, jay, magpie, goldfinch, red kite etc.). And of course, the naturalised ring-necked parakeets (which I do actually have a soft spot for). But also, the ones that I rarely ever see (coal tit, dunnock, wren, great spotted woodpecker, chiff chaff, blackcap, kingfisher, treecreeper, goldcrest). I've maybe seen a blackcap twice in our garden in 15 years of living in Dorney Reach but using Merlin I can identify blackcap birdsong virtually guaranteed anytime I walk down the Thames towpath past the black metal sign that marks the left turn to Dorney Lake. Interestingly, Merlin identifies my chickens as "Egyptian geese" so it's not perfect. On one of our dog walks down the towpath, I didn't need

the Merlin app to identify this poor song thrush fledgling that looked a bit bewildered by the side of the path (although Merlin did pick up its mum cheeping frantically in the trees above). Luckily, the dogs ignored it and I hope it survived.

I recently enjoyed a weekend in Devon at a place called Embercombe (<https://embercombe.org/>). They are "rewilding" which I see in the press has ruffled the feathers of gardening luminaries Alan Titchmarsh and Monty Don. I struggle to see why the concept of rewilding gets up the nose of certain people. I don't think anyone is suggesting we just let nature take over. For me "rewilding" a garden still means its structured and maintained by humans, you're just doing it primarily for the benefit of wildlife. So I choose native flowers, log piles, bee nesting sites, ponds and never use pesticides or inorganic fertilisers, but I still mow the lawn (although its less now I have more meadow), I still clip the hedges, I still (try) and grow some veg (which always seems to be harder work than you think). "Human curated gardens for the benefit of wildlife" is not very catchy but perhaps less threatening than "rewilding". No one is suggesting reintroducing wolves in South Bucks, although our friends in Spain, Portugal, Italy, Austria, Germany and France seem to be able to co-exist with their wolf populations which have gradually been able to re-establish across the continent. Having been up in the Cairngorms this summer where they are hoping to re-introduce the beautiful lynx, maybe one day there could be room for a few wolves as well. Certainly, with record numbers of deer in the UK there is plenty of food for them.

**Andrew Oliver**

## Neighbourhood Priorities

### Priority – Speeding

During May our Roads Policing officers have spent 100 hours conducting speed enforcement at various locations: out of ten site visits they identified 756 offences across South Buckinghamshire LPA. Our fixed cameras have identified 405 offenders.

Neighbourhood Officers have been out conducting speed checks at the following locations.

Location	Number of Vehicles passed Check Site	Number of vehicles over speed limit	Highest Speed Recorded
Marsh Lane, Taplow	21	1	35 MPH
Lake End Road, Dorney	135	1	47MPH

### Priority – Burglary

Your Neighbourhood team ensure that victims of burglaries are visited, that neighbours are aware that a burglary has taken place in the area, and both are given crime prevention advice. We have worked with our local Neighbourhood Watch teams to put in place free crime reduction surveys, by trained Crime Reduction Advisors from the local Neighbourhood Watch, who offer a good independent assessment of aspects where you can improve your home security, without any “pressure selling”.

### Trail Bikes

We are getting reports around with regards to off-road bikes being ridden around various locations such as the Jubilee, Taplow, Blackpond Lane, Farnham Common and Burnham Park, Burnham. We are doing extensive patrols in the area and are working with the local parish councils to try to find alternative solutions such as gating to prevent access and ensure public safety.

### Waterways

Now the warmer weather is here we are seeing an increase in local residents attending our beautiful waterways. The NH team are working closely with Bucks Community Safety team and Bucks and Berkshire Fire and Rescue to promote awareness around water safety and cold water shock. We have been carrying out talks in schools prior to the school holidays and having worked together with partner agencies we have a new video to raise awareness around these issues. Please use the link to view this <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdcxThIHUmc&t=1s>. The environment agency have also made the following comment about the Jubilee Flood Relief Channel:

“Although the Jubilee flood relief channel resembles a natural river on the surface, its channel is designed to convey water as effectively as possible. It is trapezoidal in shape, up to 5 metres deep in places, and has steep sides. It also has weirs along it which can produce very strong currents and the volume and flow of water can change rapidly. For these reasons, we consider that the Jubilee is not safe for swimming, and this has been our publicly stated position since it was created.

Previously we have allowed one organised annual swim event to take place, subject to conditions including the provision of safety measures. We have however now reviewed our position in the context of our work with numerous water safety groups and their campaigns to inform communities of the risks posed by swimming in rivers, lakes, and other waterbodies. We now feel that an organised swimming event in the Jubilee undermines the efforts of these local water safety groups by giving the impression that the Jubilee is safe to swim in at any time, when it is not.

Consequently, we will no longer consent to this, or any other organised swimming events on the Jubilee.”

### Offenders Brought to Justice

A male has received a community resolution for drug offences in Dorney  
A male was issued a community resolution for drug offences in Dorney

### Contact Us:

Call 101 (Non-Emergency Contact Number)

Call 999 in an emergency only

Thames Valley Police Webform: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/report-a-crime>



As your Member of Parliament, I have been busy in the constituency over the last month, listening to residents, supporting local businesses and holding regular surgery meetings on the issues that matter most to you.

One of my key principles as your representative is that our Greenbelt and green spaces must be preserved. I know this is an issue that residents across Dorney are particularly passionate about.

I was glad to meet with residents in Holtspur to discuss a planning application to build 120 homes on our Greenbelt. I have several concerns about the proposal, such as air and noise pollution, water supply, and of course, damage to our green spaces. I also share concern over the current local services in Beaconsfield being able to cope with the increased demand this proposal will bring. Since I was elected, I have always defended our Greenbelt and green spaces and as your Member of Parliament I will always continue to do so.

Another issue I have made sure to champion as your Member of Parliament has been tackling anti-social behaviour on our streets across the constituency. It was great to be in Iver, where I spoke with residents about the impact of anti-social behaviour on their community. Speaking with residents, it was clear that we all wanted to work together to create a safer neighbourhood for the future, which I will continue to champion. It was fantastic to visit many local businesses in the area, including Costcutter in Richings Park, the new Pharmacy on Iver High Street and Paul Antony Hair Salon.

It was a pleasure to be in Beaconsfield, where I learnt about the ins and outs of how the Royal Mail delivery office functions. I was absolutely delighted to join our fantastic local posties, delivering letters and parcels to constituents. I was also pleased to spend some time with PCSO Vijay Desai, who joined me on a town walkabout. PCSO Desai has dedicated so much to the community, and I highly commend him for that.

Although it is recess, the Government is still working hard to deliver for the whole nation. I was pleased to welcome the Government's plan to invest an extra £250 million into the NHS in an effort to boost capacity and tackle waiting lists. The additional nine hundred hospital beds funded through this investment will help bring down waiting lists across the country. Bringing down waiting lists has been one of the Government's main priorities, so I am happy to see action is being taken.

Thank you for reading this update. Although Parliamentary recess is still upon us, I have continued to work hard on championing the issues you care most about. If you require further assistance or have any inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me at [joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk) or 01494 977 505.

Together, we can bring a better and brighter future to the Beaconsfield Constituency and to Dorney.

## Joy Morrissey MP

Member of Parliament for Beaconsfield

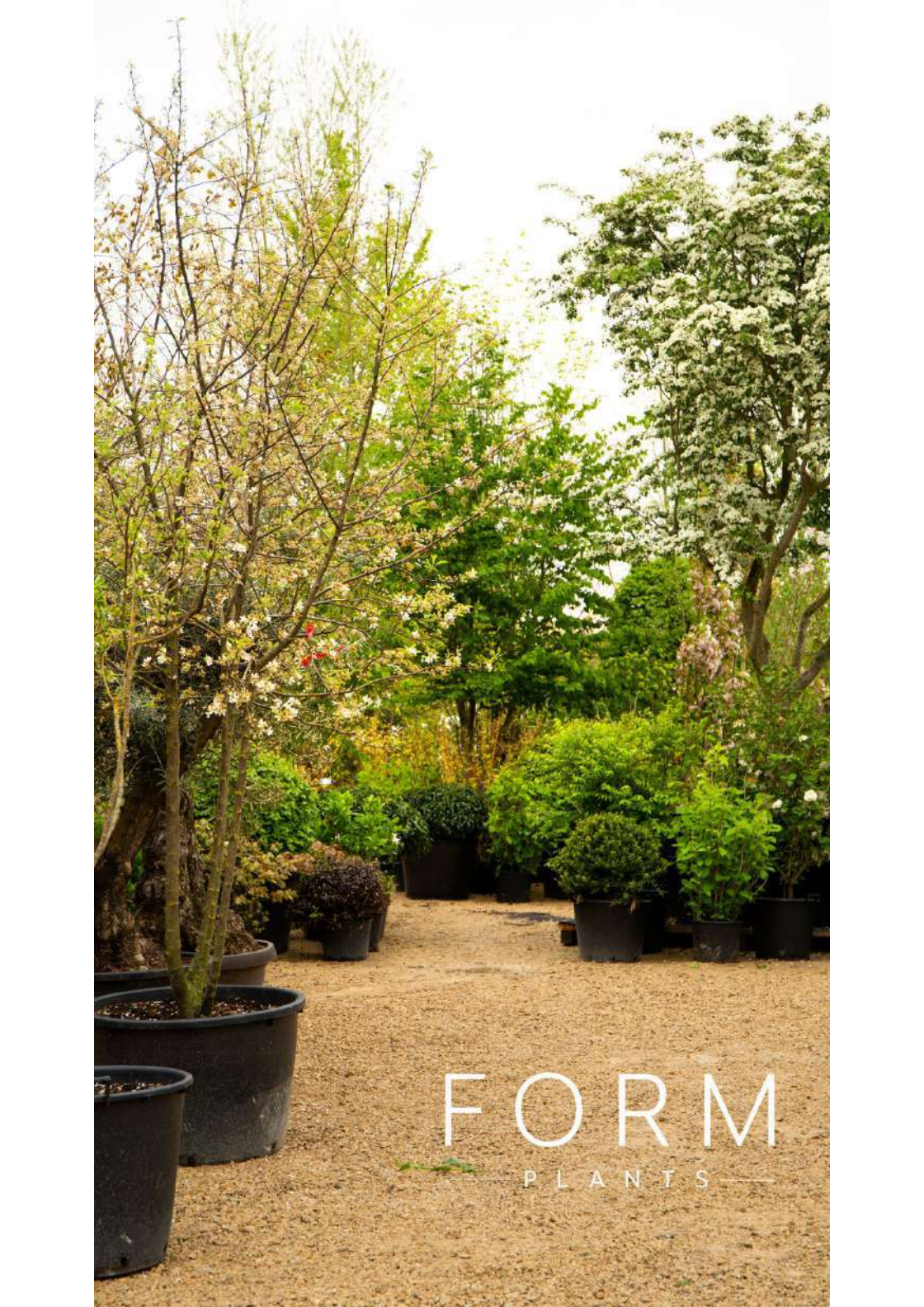
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FORM  
PLANTS —

## Never Too Late

Nothing to do?

Bit listless? It's all running too smoothly. You should be pleased with this quiet utopia, but to be honest, a tiny part of you is missing that gut wrenching 'Oh my Lord!' that is part of life's ups and downs?

Well, I have the cure!!!!

Get married in later life is the answer to that; an expensive one I grant you, and of course, if you are in marital or co-habiting harmony, a quite irrelevant one, but for me sadly that had fallen apart and I had found a lovely lady who appeared reckless enough to 'take a chance on me,' to coin a phrase.

The amazing, delightful and magical acceptance of my proposal was (and still is) a source of complete wonderment, and I anticipated that slightly smug contentment that ensues after such an announcement, where friends and colleagues slap you on the back while your fiancée modestly displays the huge rock set in gold designed to ward off all other hopefuls of her hand in marriage.

A sad little gathering around an official from the local council was never really my cuppa, and most certainly not Cheryl's either.

Watch out Your Majesty. Our celebration will match yours or even better it. The back slapping, congratulations and 'Oohing and Ahring' of the engagement ring were very much in evidence, enjoyable too, and the date was set for August 5<sup>th</sup> 2023 at St. James the Less in lovely Dorney, a date not to be overlooked by yours truly in future years.

"Where are you going to have the venue?" a friend at work asked.

"Oh, it's months away."

"Well actually not Dear," she said. "Just four months or sixteen weeks!"

There was much peering into parish magazines, this one included, and searches of what my niece calls 'the webulator' followed by complicated conversations about occasional licences, discos and the like; it was all a bit depressing.

"This looks good!" said Cheryl and sure enough, attached to glowing notes about the place was a picture of rolling grass, trees and water in dappled sunlight.

"Come on!" I replied positively gabbing the keys of the Dagenham Dustbin and off we sped to the great adventure that was to be our Wedding Breakfast venue. Mabel the sat nav directed us into a gravel track alongside the sizable stream we had seen in the picture and our anticipation rose until we found the gravel pit with a few dead lorries, and further down piles of rubbish and more dead vehicles.

"I don't want to get married here," muttered Cheryl, and in spite of my positive, "Oh let's at least find it and have a look," response, I had to agree; conformation that she was right came at the sight of the cleverly photographed nineteen sixties nylon and concrete pile.

My colleague at work commiserated, guiltily feeling perhaps that she had panicked me into unwise areas.

"Have a look at Wexham Golf Centre," she suggested a couple of weeks later. There and then I jumped into my car and frightened a few on my arrival less than a mile away still wearing my green suit looking like a waif and stray from Holby City.

Coffee in hand, I was introduced to the ever patient (no pun intended!) Jane, for whom it appeared nothing was too much trouble and a few minutes later all concerns about

occasional licences, room layout, decorations, menus and the hundred and one other necessities were solved. There was even a disco (ask your dad) included.

"I'm retiring," said the Rev, "but don't worry, my curate will marry you. She's very nice," and so she was, as nearly all Church people are.

"I'm marrying you," said an e mail weeks later from a person new to both Cheryl and me, "but (I paraphrase) please be prompt on your visit for the wedding planning as I have etc etc..."

"What's going on?" I asked the Rev. "I thought your curate was going to marry us."

"She's on leave then but Albert steps in to help us out."

Albert's officiation appealed to neither of us and I consulted my bell ringing chums over our dilemma. The font of all knowledge and charismatic 'Nice Guy' suggested a whirlwind blonde dynamo in a dog collar (my description, not Mr Charisma's), The Rev Janet Minkinen from Burnham.

Brevity is laudable in this profession. Suffice to say that within two weeks we had met, planned, and a suggested order of service had arrived unannounced on my webulator. All we had to choose was the music and readings. There were even suggestions there, one of which we used on the great day.

Wedding lists are an embarrassment both for the giver and receiver. The implied invitation seems to be, "On a rare day off, drive halfway across the country, sit on an uncomfortable wooden bench for fifty minutes while a friend or distant relative you had forgotten about stands in front in a hired suit and mumbles. Sing a few unfamiliar songs, guiltily reacquaint yourself with God and I'll give you a nice meal in return... oh, and don't forget the expensive present! Here! I've made a list of what I want!"

Our house is tiny and full of sentimental nonsense. There's no room for more. Awful, isn't it? But it's part of the tradition.

I have a captain of industry, my niece. She's a born organiser, clever on the webulator and makes things happen, besides being a mother of three and looking out for an ageing uncle.

"Can I help in any way?" asked Sally, the industrial whirlwind.

Within a day or two she had organised an 'on line' wedding list and had arranged to be here on the day to make Cheryl even more beautiful, followed closely by her sister Helen making the cake and their Mum and my mentor Debbie dashing around, whilst constantly reassuring yours truly that all would be well on the day.

I had to be away from my bride the night before the wedding according to tradition. I had booked a Premier Inn room for one in that most romantic locations for a pre wedding night, the Slough Trading Estate. I miserably packed a bag for one, plus my penguin suit and Debbie drove us to the hotel where we three sat silently in the room.

Cheryl left on a brief errand.

"You look miserable!" said Debbie.

"I don't want to be alone. We've not had a night apart for four years."

"I think it's a bloody silly idea."

"Oh, and I thought it was yours."

"It was mine," sighed Cheryl as she returned to the room. "I don't like it either!"

"Let's go home then."

And we did. Another £100 blown.

Told you it was expensive, but never boring.

Part 2 another time, editor permitting. Stay safe.

**Mike Quincey**

## What is it Like Living in a Small Village as a Teenager?

A 16-year-old girl living in Dorney, that's me. I have lived in Dorney my whole life and I frankly never wanted to live anywhere else, so much so that I told my parents If they ever want to leave, they will lose their daughter, because I refuse to leave.

Everything about Dorney is superb. The location, the community, the pubs, the café at the garden centre and more.

Firstly, the location...

- A 6-minute drive to Taplow train station which stops on the Elizabeth line, perfect for a teenager wanting to go here, there, and everywhere.
- A 5-minute drive to a Sainsburys with a Starbucks, unfortunately an easy way to drain pocket money.
- A 10-minute drive to Eton which is a quick walk to Windsor; this again is an ideal location for teenagers like me and my brother Seb. But less about the locations around Dorney, more about Dorney itself, and of course, the Jubilee River and Dorney Lake are right round the corner.

The Palmer Arms located on one side of Dorney - this is a popular pub and a very handy landmark to direct my Deliveroo orders, '*I am opposite the Palmer Arms pub*' I say down the phone. Then on the other side being The Pineapple, famous in our family for their mouth-watering garlic bread, a good reward after the 5-minute dog walk I do every couple of months, something my parents aren't the happiest about and the main reason why a second dog isn't an option now. Saying that Dorney is an ideal location for dog walks or runs, which is something I did do for about a week at one time and that got progressively less to none now, but I will start again, hopefully!!

Dorney is a beautiful little village that has a strong community. For example, I think that everyone knows everyone. The generations aren't that close to mine, meaning there could be possible varied interests across the residents in Dorney and what they want for the future of the village. The different societies Dorney has to offer in my opinion seem like they are aimed at the older generation, for example, the Horticultural Society. But saying that, everyone is still friendly, meaning there's always an opportunity for a quick conversation walking down to either The Pineapple, The Palmer Arms, or Crocus, and one thing is for sure, the pubs will bring everyone together.

Another community event that as a family we haven't attended in quite a few years is the Christmas Eve service held in St. James the Less Church near Dorney Court. You brought your orange and stuck those little jelly dots on with cocktail sticks and see people from the village and sing Christmas carols. Along with this I was christened in that very church, not that I can recall the event, but I'm told it was a great fun with all our friends and family attending.

Something I haven't mentioned yet, the famous Dorney Lake, the lake that held the 2012 Olympics for rowing and where I was told when I was much younger that I was going to be a very good rower. When my mum told me that, I took it up and went down to the Lake and joined the club and in fact I thought I was pretty good but unfortunately the thought of capsizing on the water slightly put me off, so I parked that talent at the lake. Since then, I have only gone there for the few runs and walks I have been on that I mentioned earlier. It is a shame that it is closed so often.

My parents have lived in the village since 2003, everyone knows everyone's names, or at least recognises each other and that creates a safe environment which is perfect for a young teenager like me. Generally speaking, I love living in Dorney as a teenager and I think there are so many positives and I really enjoy living in such a tight knit community.

If I could be the Mayor of Dorney for one day I would host a big village get together to bring the community just that bit closer, encouraging people to talk to people they don't normally see or talk to when walking around the village.

I'd also get better 5G ;)



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# DORNEY

## PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE DORNEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JULY, 7.30pm AT DORNEY SCHOOL

#### **Present**

Cllr. Jill Dax (Chair)  
Cllr. William Voaden

Cllr. Euan MacLennan

Cllr. Martyn Westcott-Wreford

Clerk Ruth Senior and 5 members of the public

#### **Public Forum**

The Clerk confirmed that the dead tree on Harcourt Road should be reported on Fix My Street.

#### **PC/82/23 Apologies for absence**

Cllr. Anna Palmer, Cllr. Robert Stopford, Cllr. Stephen Baker

#### **PC/83/23 Declaration of interest on any items of business on this Agenda**

There were none

#### **PC/84/23 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

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

#### **PC/85/23 To receive the Clerk report**

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

#### **PC/86/23 Items of business carried forward**

##### **86.1 The Orchard Herbs Site**

Darran Eggleton responded to our email for an update on the site on 28<sup>th</sup> June:

*Further to our previous correspondence I write to advise that we have now received legal advice in relation to this matter. We will now be acting upon that advice and taking action accordingly. I hope you are able to understand that for operational reasons, I can't go into any detail about what that action is, but I can provide assurance that we have a direct of travel and we are pursuing it. We will be able to tell you more once we have clarified a few other points and once the relevant action has been instigated.*

*In the meantime thank you for the images below and I write to advise that we are pulling together response to the question you raise below. Our priority at the moment is acting on the legal advice but we will pick up the answer to your questions with you in the coming weeks.*

Kind regards,

**Darran Eggleton**

Head of Planning Policy and Compliance

**It was agreed** that the Clerk will chase for the latest update.

Cllr. Dax confirmed that a response was received from the Chief Fire Officer regarding the fires on site however this was not very useful as the specifics were not recorded however this has been forwarded to Bucks to log.

##### **86.2 The Neighbourhood Plan**

Thank you to everyone who attended the presentation prior to this meeting.

The analysis of the questionnaire continues.

Cllr. Voaden has received some detailed parish maps from Bucks which will help with the next steps.

There will now be some further analysis into the pros and cons for possible development sites within the parish.

**There will be a presentation of the next steps of the Neighbourhood Plan on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 6-8pm at Dorney Village Hall, all welcome.**

### **PC/87/23 Planning**

The applications on the Boveney Court Farm site have been called in and are going to the Planning Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> July. Cllr. Dax confirmed she will attend and speak on behalf of Dorney PC.

### **PC/88/23 To discuss the flooding problems on Lake End Common and Dorney Common**

Cllr. Devon Davies (Eton and Castle Council) spoke about the flooding problems which are suspected to be coming from the Slough Treatment Works;

Some work has been undertaken to remove weeds by the Eton Wick Waterways Group to increase flow.

The Environment Agency are keen to fence off areas to stop the cattle from entering the water as they are breaking the banks and the silt in the water reduces flow.

Thames Water have agreed they could contribute towards improving the situation.

**It was agreed** that the Environment Agency should be chased to improve flow and clear blockages.

### **PC/89/23 To update on the possibility of installing posts outside the Pineapple pub**

It has been confirmed that unfortunately Bucks do not have the funds available to install posts to stop parking on the pavements and recommended that the Parish Council and residents seek funding from elsewhere.

**It was agreed** that we will speak with County Councillors and the Community Board regarding the situation as this is becoming very dangerous particularly for the Ashford Lane residents exiting the lane.

### **PC/90/23 To consider an Annual Plan for Dorney Parish Council**

Cllr. Dax has drafted an Annual Plan as we are now in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the new Parish Council. We would like to have a proactive approach to current and future matters within the Council and hope this will help towards that.

Draft:

Current Matters

- Progress Neighbourhood Plan 'journey
- Continue to pursue Bucks (work with Burnham PC) for injunction and revert to permitted usage
- Memorial Garden tree survey
- Work with Slough, EA, police to prevent trail bike incursion on Jubilee River/local fields & footpaths
- Meetings with Dorney Lake to gain summer access for residents
- Support parish boundary change - Lake End
- Pressure on Bucks to repair potholes
- Pursue previously agreed resurfacing of certain roads
- Resolve dangerous parking at junction of Ashford Lane/Lake End Road
- Make good Village Road cattle grid
- Pursue reduced speed limits Lake End Road (60 down to 40mph)/Common Road (60 down to 40mph) Boveney Road (60 down to 30mph) Marsh Lane -from entry to Dorney and Court Lane from 40mph down to 30mph
- Replace sign on entry to Dorney from Eton Wick and also on Lake End road entry to Dorney
- White entry gates Marsh Lane & Lake End road entry points

Matters to discuss and consider 2023/24

- Review of Boveney conservation area and possible expansion
- Review of Dorney conservation area and possible expansion
- Review management of roadside verges - how to manage less manicured look



- Planting at Dents Corner, Marsh Lane/Harcourt Road
- Ditto for Memorial Garden
- Establish ownership of Trumpers Field, Dorney Reach
- Review usage
- Footpath Audit - ensure useable
- Encourage volunteer litter pickers
- Consider re-entering Best Kept Village (2025) - involve Horticultural society
- Annual street furniture and signage review
- Investigate flooding on Lake End Common (Ashford Lane)

**It was agreed** to discuss this further in the September meeting.

The Parish Council would like to thank the litter pickers for their hard work across the Parish.

#### **PC/91/23 To update on the Local Government pension scheme**

**It was unanimously agreed** that the Dorney Parish Clerk will be enrolled into the scheme.

Dorney Parish Council resolved to contact the LGPS to begin the process.

#### **PC/92/23 To update on the broken Dorney Village sign**

It has been confirmed by the Local Area Technician that the sign can be replaced. It was agreed that we will go ahead with this and the replacement/installation of the same signs at all entrances to the parish.

#### **PC/93/23 To update on the review on speeding throughout Dorney parish**

The Clerk circulated information on Bucks speeding reviews prior to the meeting and confirmed that it will be the responsibility of the Parish Council to fund any reviews or changes following changes made in 2013.

Current guidelines suggest that approximate costs would be:

£550 for speed survey on each road/site

£1100 for a speed limit assessment per site

In excess of £10,000 to change road speed

**It was agreed** that we should contact the farmer at Boveney to confirm the number of cow deaths in recent years.

#### **PC/94/23 Finance**

The cashbook was circulated prior to the meeting and approved.

**It was agreed** that the Clerk will confirm the SSE streetlighting price increase, how many lights are still to be changed to LED and report the light not working on Harcourt Road.

#### **PC/95/23 To review the constitutional documents and policies**

There are no amendments this year.

#### **PC/96/23 To consider any complaints/comments received from residents**

None

#### **PC/97/23 Items to consider for discussion at the next meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Lake End Common and Dorney Common floods.

Annual Plan for the Parish Council.

Dorney Village entry signs.

**Meeting ended at 8.30 pm**



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# Dorney Parish News

Published monthly (except January and August)

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

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## **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.

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