

Dorney Parish News

March 2024



Jill Dax, Chair of Dorney Parish Council, showing
Joy Morrissey M.P. the “Orchard Herbs” Site

See Joy Morrissey’s comments on Page 29



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EDITORIAL

The owner of the Orchard Herbs site is appealing to the Planning Inspectorate. Sorry to be frivolous, but this headline reminds me of the riposte made by David Frost in reference to the case of a notorious 1960s insurance swindler and the headline 'Emil Savundra appeals to the House of Lords'...'well, I'm glad he appeals to somebody.'

It's the new fashion for Spring – appealing. They're all at it. We hear that Eton College will be appealing against the decision by Bucks Council to refuse planning permission for 12 new houses at Boveney Court Farm.

Needless to say, this magazine covers all the details. See elsewhere in this issue. We would rather devote our pages to spring flowers and photos of ducklings, but it seems that threats to our neighbourhood will take up far too much of everybody's attention. Incidentally, if any of our readers disagree with our designation of these as 'threats', please let us know or air your views in these pages.

We unashamedly make a big deal out of the visit to Dorney of Joy Morrissey MP. It's not so much that we expect our MP to work miracles so much as it's good that a key political player expressed a readiness to see the site and, indeed, the 'sights' of Dorney. I'm sure we would welcome Martin Tett, the Leader of Bucks Council, for instance. He could cheer us with news of the £110 million now committed to road improvement and repairs in the county over the next four years and the 30 repair teams out working on those potholes or chill us with news of a 5% rise in council tax, however much one sympathises with the financial restraints on local government. These items were taken from a Bucks Council update which dropped into my inbox today. Cllr Dev Dhillon, chair of the Beeches Community Board, might like an update. Our former district councillor told us that Dorney would always be in his heart.

Michael Gove, the Secretary of State for Communities, could see the site and at the same time view the absurdity of Mr Ball's other local undertaking, that 416-bedroom hotel, hard by the M4.

In reality, one wonders whether these visitors, or our readers, would take this column seriously anymore. To illustrate the supposed decline of community activities, we highlighted last month the demise of model railway clubs and exhibitions. A day later we heard from Slough and Windsor Railway Society of their plans to recreate our own Taplow Station in its 1940s heyday. Further to that, we've discovered that there are flourishing societies in Maidenhead and Marlow, and all three had exhibitions in 2023. Still, it does appear that readers are willing to keep subscribing. We thank the many subscribers who have paid their subscriptions (no increase on last year) directly online or via our very diligent distributors, who are really pulling out all the circulation stops. We called for new volunteer distributors and acknowledge that several kind residents offered to help. We'll be back to you just as soon as the Editor can work out new rosters.

Keep safe. Avoid the potholes. Watch out for mud and debris on Lake End Road near *that* site. Have a good Easter break. We've printed the Dorney refuse collection days over the holiday, by popular demand.

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

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

Stephen Baker writes:

During our Lent course this year we have been looking at Jesus' response, as detailed in three of the four Gospels (not John), to the religious leaders when challenged over which was the most important of the commandments.

Jesus answers with (paraphrased from the three Gospels):

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength. The second is that you shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two laws hang all the laws and the Prophets."

This response was different to the commandments as handed to Moses at Mt. Sinai, a refresh, or even refocus of those as laid out in the Old Testament of the Bible. These accounts were not the first time that we learned about these, as a similar text can be found in Deuteronomy, laying the way for Christ's new covenant with his people.

The original commandments focused on God, the fact that he was a single God (there had been worship of many idols in those days), that God was a jealous God and the punishment for failing to adhere to that first set of commandments would pass punishment down for many generations.

Jesus, with the words from Deuteronomy, simplified this and brought the focus of the second most important commandment to a more loving focus, to love the whole of humankind as yourself, looking at unity rather than the previous division of Jew and Gentile (not Jewish). As we look around the country and world today, this core messaging is as important. We see divisions within societies, between countries and even within family units.

With Easter fast approaching we have a selection of Easter Services across the Benefice. There are more details at the end of this article, but I would like to focus your attention on to two which are usually well attended, the first being the walk of hope which will be taking place on Good Friday 29th March commencing at Eton St. John the Evangelist starting at 09:30 where we meet upstairs in the church and after a short service carry a large wooden cross to Eton Wick, St. John the Baptist, where another short service takes place at 10:30 and then we carry the cross over to Dorney, St. James the Less. We normally get up to about 20 walkers and are often joined by the RCCG Praise Embassy from Eton Wick.

The second service I would focus your attention on is the Sunrise Service that is taking place at Boveney, St. Mary Magdalene's at 05:45 on Sunday 31st March. This is a beautiful service where

we light the first Easter Candle across the Benefice. I hope to see you at one or more of the services across the Benefice and wish you all a good Easter.

Stephen J. Baker

Church Services in March 2024

Sunday 3rd March

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 March

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 10th March (Mothering Sunday)

9.30 am Holy Communion

11.00 am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Sunday 17th March

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Morning Worship (children welcome)

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 20th March

10.00 am Holy Communion (said BCP)

St John the Evangelist, Eton

Sunday 24th March (Palm Sunday)

9.30am Morning Worship

11.00am Holy Communion

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Wednesday 27th March

6.30 pm Passover Communion

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

Thursday 28th March (Maundy Thursday)

7.00 pm Foot Washing and Tenebrae Service

St James the Less, Dorney

Friday 29th March (Good Friday)

Walk of Hope:

9.30 am Beginning of Walk

10.30 am Middle of Walk: Good Friday Service

12.30 pm End of Walk

St John the Evangelist, Eton

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

St James the Less, Dorney

Sunday 31st March (Easter Day)

5.45 am Sunrise Service

9.30am Holy Communion

11.00am Easter Family Communion

St Mary Magdalene, Boveney

St James the Less, Dorney

St John the Baptist, Eton Wick

DORNEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



2024 Programme of Events

Tuesday February 27th 3 - 5 pm

(The Cafe at Crocus)

Honey Bees by Niels Abildgaard

Refreshments will be served

Friday April 26th - 7.30 pm

Cheese and Biscuits

Herbs, propagation, care, including medicinal uses by Belinda Allen

Tuesday, June 4th - 1 pm

Stonor Park - Henley on Thames

House & Garden Tour followed by Tea and Cake

Tuesday June 25th - 10.30 am

Oxford Botanical Garden

Coach trip and Guided Tour

Saturday August 31st

Annual Show - entry free

(See separate programme)

Friday October 11th - 7.30 pm

Autumn Supper Evening

Autumn Colour by Antony Powell

Friday December 6th - 7.30 pm

Christmas Supper Evening with Festive Entertainment

*All meetings held in the Village Hall Dorney Reach
off Oak Stubbs Lane, SL6 0DW (Unless otherwise stated)*

Please contact us for more details if you'd like to join us or become a member.

Website: <https://dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk/dorney-horticultural...>

Email: ddhs@btinternet.com

Update from the Dorney Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Firstly, apologies for the lack of communication since September of last year. We can assure you that the Dorney Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has been working hard on your behalf.

Towards the end of last year, we submitted our draft plan to the Bucks Council team that deals with Neighbourhood plans. We then had a useful meeting with them at the end of November which required some considerable changes to the original submission.

We have, at last, completed those changes and, following approval by Dorney Parish Council in March, will submit them to Bucks Council. They will review the documents over a six-week period and let us know of any further changes that may be required.

Once we have made any required alterations, we will then have a special Parish Council meeting for the Councillors to consider and approve the plan.

At this point the plan will be publicised to you, the residents, and anyone who works or runs a business within the Parish. This consultation will last for a further six weeks and will allow for feedback to be made and, where appropriate, applied to the plan.

The plan will then be resubmitted to Bucks Council and a review will be undertaken by an independent assessor. Depending on the outcome of this review further steps will be decided.

Well, nobody thought this would be a speedy exercise and it is meeting expectations.

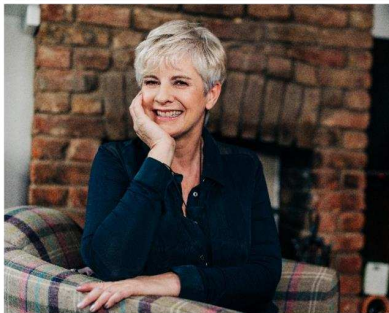
We will update you at regular intervals, but if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us on dorneyneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com

Dorney Neighbourhood Plan Working Group



The Engagement Ring

Karen Kimberley (BA, DCH, DHP, NLP, GQHP, MAC, ITOL) is a Taplow-based therapist and coach specialising in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP), Counselling & Hypnotherapy to help with:



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- Communication, business or relationship problems

Contact Karen: kk@karenkimberley.co.uk to arrange an initial conversation

or call 07785 566468

www.theengagementring.co.uk

www.lifecoach-directory.org.uk/lifecoaches/karen-kimberley

An M4 Eco Update

A year or so on from us all saying 'Good Riddance' to National Highways and their futile despoliation of Dorney in the cause of the benighted SMART M4, the area around the Marsh Lane Bridge looks as desolate as ever. It appears to be an ecological and aesthetic disaster. One assumes that our friends the badgers have not been happy.



Any relief would be welcome. But that relief is apparently on its way. DPN has heard good news from James Palmer.

Eagle eyed residents may have noticed that a corridor of Christmas trees has sprung up at the far end of the field that James farms abutting the M4 alongside Marsh Lane.

James told us that 'although small, we hope these trees will flourish and, in time, serve as both a natural screen to the eyesore of the motorway and, more importantly, act as a green sponge absorbing sound and pollution from the passing traffic'.

He continued 'we are grateful to Eton College for allowing us, as their tenant,

to plant the trees, and to Maydencroft for lending the muscle.' As he described all this to DPN it was rather poetical as these are cast-off trees that had served their time over Christmas in people's homes across the Southeast and London, and now they are getting a 'new lease of life and a permanent home'.

Now that is a development project in the Parish that we can all applaud.

Peter Bowman

Time is passing by, leaving its marks on our lives in the form of minutes, days, and years. As time goes by, our children grow up and transform, and we also change as we watch them.



So, why not cherish those precious moments now?
You can capture them and create beautiful wall art for your
home and soul that will freeze those fleeting moments in
time.

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Maidenhead, Buckinghamshire SL6 0DW

T. 07878162452

E. richard@shymansky.co.uk

 ShymanskyPortraitPhotographer

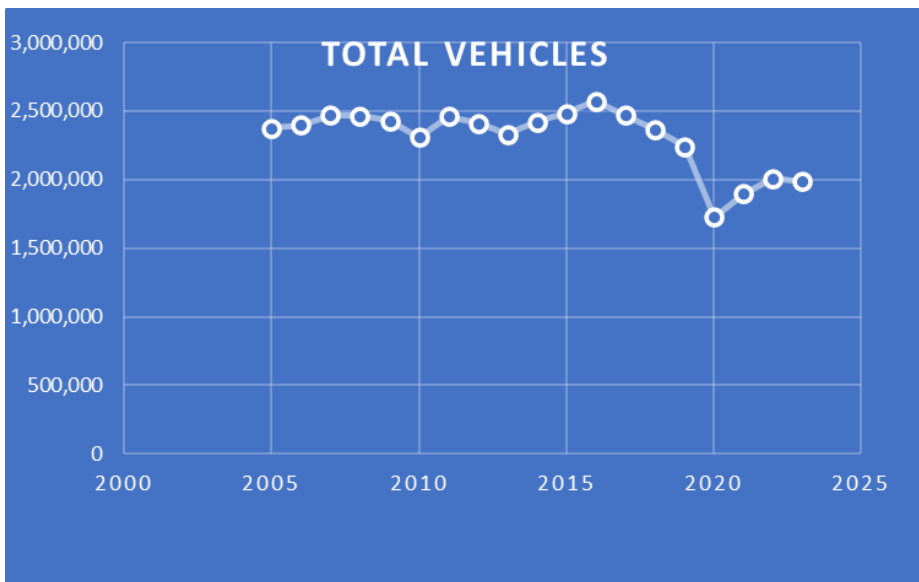
          

Shymansky
Portrait Photographer



British Institute of
Professional Photography

2023 Vehicles and Speed Data from Bucks Council's Vehicle Monitor on B3026 in Dorney



The Bucks Council's Vehicle Monitor on B3026 in Dorney is in the Memorial Garden on Village Road, near the cattle grid. It is one of many such monitors placed at the boundary between Councils in order to measure the flow of vehicles into and out of the County. Since 2022, in addition to counting vehicles, it has also detected and reported on their average speeds at the monitor. I have been collecting this data since 2005. It is available by hour and by day for both directions – a huge amount of useful data.

It is interesting to note the reduction in the total number of vehicles since 2019 which is due to the pandemic, working from home and, possibly, the additional capacity of the M4. A reduction of 20% in the number of vehicles over the past five years is significant – even though many residents still believe that there are too many!

The 2023 average speed data shows that the mean average speed of vehicles entering the 30mph zone at the junction of Common Road and Village Road is 28mph, with 9% of vehicles exceeding the 30mph speed limit at that point – which is encouraging and supports the installation of the MVA flashing sign at that point.

However, whilst the mean average speed of vehicles leaving Village Road to enter Dorney Common is only slightly higher at 29mph, there are 21% who are accelerating out of the 30mph zone at a higher speed – a few above 45mph at that point. This supports the view expressed by Dorney Parish Council to Bucks Council that the speed limit over Dorney Common should be reduced from 60mph to 40mph.

Bill Dax



Join us for the Dorney Parish Litter Picking Morning Sunday, 17th March 2024 at 1000hrs for an hour.

Bucks Council has generously provided some grabbers and large rubbish sacks, which are available on a first-come, first-served basis at the Meeting Points.

Please select your preferred area and advise Jill Dax by emailing jill@daxfamily.com. If you would like to borrow a grabber please advise Jill in your email, and whether you will be joining the bacon buttie brigade at The Hermitage at 1100-1200hrs.

- Dorney Village – meet at Memorial Garden, Village Road.
- Dorney Common – meet at Memorial Garden, Village Road (need to collect all litter before the Common opens for cattle).
- Dorney Reach – meet at Village Hall Car Park.
- Lake End – meet at Pineapple Pub Car Park.

Hi viz tabards will also be available.

At 1100hrs, the hungry pickers are then invited for tea/coffee, bacon or sausage rolls, and biscuits courtesy of Jill Palmer at The Hermitage, Court Lane.

Dorney Nature Notes

“Invaders must die” stated the mighty Prodigy on their thunderous 2009 track of the same name. And this is exactly how my neighbour Theo understandably felt as a pesky grey squirrel tried to set up home once again in our Little Owl box.



However, after evicting the errant beast, and with some very impressive metal work, he has hopefully provided a sufficiently robust upgrade to prevent squirrel re-entry and we can keep our fingers crossed the Little Owl sets up home.

If the Little Owl does choose the box as its nesting site, between 3 and 5 eggs are normally laid towards the end of April, with incubation lasting about a month. Young fledge at 5-6 weeks of age but are dependent on the adults for a further 2-4 weeks thereafter. Excitingly, they tend to return to the same nesting site year after year but let's see if we get one year first. We will of course share any pics of cute owlets in the DPN!

The last weekend in January saw some beautiful dry, settled weather and I decided to get out into the garden to do some well needed maintenance. In shock news, the Olly juniors volunteered to help me, I think mainly as the task at hand was to climb trees and use sharp saws to prune the apple trees. Their mother's anxiety increased exponentially as thumbs were bloodied and thin branches whipped them, but thankfully no limbs were lost.

I have been learning about hedge laying on the rewilding course I am on, which provides a livestock proof barrier, and a fantastic dense habitat for wildlife. There are various techniques and styles, where the hedges are cut or “pleached” and bent over and tied with stakes, named after the region they are after (from Midland to Dorset). I think we can safely call my effort on that day “Olly's special style”. It has succeeded (for now...) in its main purpose though of preventing my dog Ella from jumping over here into my neighbour Adam's garden.



“South of England style” hedge



“Olly's special style” hedge

It was the weekend of the RSPB annual birdwatch, so I left my Merlin app running on my phone for a couple of hours as we went about our garden tasks. This was the reassuringly extensive list of bird species that Merlin picked up:

Robin, Blue Tit, Bullfinch, Jackdaw, Green ringed Parakeet, Magpie, Great Tit, Goldfinch, Wood Pigeon, Chaffinch, Redwing, Siskin, Song Thrush, Blackbird, White Wagtail, Wren, Skylark, Long tailed tit, Crow, Dunnock / Hedge Sparrow, Greenfinch, Blackcap, Coal Tit, Nuthatch, Grey Wagtail, Green Woodpecker, Starling, House Sparrow, Chiffchaff, Rook, Raven, Goldcrest, Red Kite.

Several of these birds (Bullfinch, Redwing, Siskin, Skylark, Nuthatch, Goldcrest, the wagtails) I have never actually seen in the garden, and even on the day I saw less than five of the bird species listed. As my garden backs on to the rewilding field, I can only think it is helping to support this myriad of birds. On walks round the Jubilee this month, the app also heard a Cetti's warbler (which is very hard to spot apparently) and a kingfisher. The power of Merlin!

In stark contrast I couldn't quite believe the Windsor Farm Shop sells Snipe (for £3 a pop). Seriously, who eats snipe? "Ooh, darling, shall we have roast snipe with all the trimmings tonight?" There is barely any eating on the poor things.



Dead snipe



Live Snipe

Snipe are (for an unfathomable reason) still on the quarry list (along with the red-listed Woodcock and Golden Plover) but they are also listed as Amber on the Birds of Conservation Concern list, principally because their breeding population has crashed by 62% between 1980 – 2002):

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/birds/wading-birds/snipe>

I contacted the Farm Shop to understand why they felt the need to shoot and sell Snipe given this perilous status, and to be fair, their butcher made the effort to reply to me. They "only" sell about 10 snipe a year he claimed, and it was mainly partridge and pheasant in the game section. The difference is (and estimates vary) we release ~50 million partridge and pheasant into the UK landscape every year.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10344-021-01508-z>

However, there are only 67,000 pairs of breeding wild snipe left in the UK, but they can be shot between August and January, and they are being shot on the Crown Estate. If like me you feel this is wrong, do let the Windsor Farm Shop know, but in my view the quarry list needs to be revised permanently to stop this from happening anywhere in the UK.

In other disheartening news, there has been no response from Thames Water regarding the offer to explore an opportunity for a local community organisation to take over management of the rewilding field, Jill Dax has tried contacting them again at a higher level in the organisation. We continue to wait for any engagement...

And finally, in non-Dorney related news, I attended a meeting in Harrow where Derek Gow (pre-eminent UK rewilder I have mentioned before) was giving a talk on the history of beavers in the UK and the benefits they can bring to the landscape. In Harrow, they have massive problems with flooding of the Wealdstone Brook which flows through Woodcock Park, primarily caused (according to the locals) from untreated sewage overflow regularly allowed by Thames Water. Of 44 invertebrates that should be present in Wealdstone Brook, only 4 were found in the last survey. Although beavers wouldn't be the answer to all the problems here, there is genuine local interest in whether a reintroduction could help slow water flow and improve water quality. I'm interested to see if they manage to get the project off the ground and continue to wonder if there is a suitable area of land in South Bucks that could be given over to a beaver pen.

Andrew (Oly) Oliver

A Presumption Against Development?

Planning officers must take account of national guidelines, but most village communities tend to prefer continuity. 85% of respondents in last year's parish survey favoured only 'construction and building materials in keeping with the area'. In these pages, Virginia Silvester has described how the dwellings forming the western end of Harcourt Road in Dorney Reach have just celebrated their centenary. Mainly occupied in 1923, there must be fears over how these homes might be extended, or even replaced, potentially with much larger dwellings, as housing needs and fashions radically change.

A recent planning application proposed to demolish an existing two-story house at 59, Harcourt Road, near the junction of Harcourt Road and Dorney Reach Road, and replace it with a new 6-bedroom dwelling. Permission has been refused and the Bucks Council case officer's report is of interest and might reassure many residents.

Firstly, the Green Belt, within which there is a 'presumption against development', is defended. This would be an 'inappropriate development which by definition is harmful to the Green Belt'. No 'special circumstances' were found to exist. Secondly, there is the question of design. 'Harcourt Road' the recommendation says 'is comprised of predominantly medium sized detached dwellings benefitting from simple roof forms and Arts and Craft influenced designs'. The proposed dwelling is 'much larger than the local vernacular' and 'would poorly integrate with the street' and harm the area's character. Thirdly, and the report uses the example of loss of 'roosting opportunities for bat species', there is no compensation for biodiversity loss.

In prioritising the Green Belt, design 'in keeping with the area', and wildlife, is the Case Officer in tune with local sentiments? He very probably is.

Peter Bowman

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IDIOMS ON DORNEY COMMON

Confucius say 'Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall'.



It seems as if rain falls nearly every day on the Common, big fat drops that dampen the best of ardour, restricting me to indoor pursuits. We often refer to this unfortunate English weather as '*raining cats and dogs*'. What does that mean? Apparently, this phrase may come from the Greek expression 'cata doxa' which translates as 'contrary to experience or belief' which migrates to raining unusually and exceptionally hard. However, '*cats and dogs*' may be a perversion of the old now obsolete English word 'catadupe', which means cataract or waterfall. In Latin, 'catadupa' referred to the cataracts of the old Nile River.

We use many idioms in our everyday language, not realising where they originate from, these common phrases perfectly illustrating a meaning. Some are obvious, and others not so clear. Conservative PM Robert (Bob) Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury, appointed his nephew Arthur Balfour as Chief Secretary of Ireland in 1887, an act of nepotism causing surprise and unpopularity. Whatever other qualifications Balfour might have had, '*Bob's your uncle*' was seen as a conclusive one, insinuating his privileged rise in career and status. This phrase perpetuated as it became the title of a jolly song 'Bob's yer uncle' in 1923 (there may be earlier efforts) and then as a cover for many others.

Meantime, at Dells Cottage, we *tackled the task* of eleventy-eight home improvement quests, my boyfriend Bob carrying his professional toolbox, and me in the shadow *rolling up my sleeves* to participate. However, as we all know, completing one task is offset by noticing another, to create an *around the clock* fountain of 'just need to do' jobs... *keeping our noses to the grindstone*. *One step at a time* was a good mantra, and in the process, Master Craftsman Bob showed me a few nifty restoration techniques *to keep up my sleeve*, to put to good use on other rainy days. *Bob's your uncle* I was almost past the apprenticeship stage!

'*You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step*'.
Martin Luther King

Like anything, it is logic that makes sense and not always science. Very much like the story of the psychology professor who raised a glass of water to his students who thought, here comes the customary question, '*is the glass half empty or half full*'. Instead, smiling, he said '*how heavy is this glass of water I am holding?*'. Students shouted out answers ranging from eight ounces to a couple of pounds!

He replied *'from my perspective the absolute weight of the glass doesn't matter, it depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute or two it is fairly light, if I hold it for an hour or two it might make my arm a bit tired. However, if I hold it for a whole day my arm may experience some cramp and numbness which could cause me to drop the glass to the floor. In each case the weight of the glass does not change, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it feels to me'*.

So, the moral of this tale is that the stresses and worries of life are very much like the glass of water, think about them for a while and nothing happens. Think about them for a bit longer and your head begins to ache a little, think about them all day long and your mind feels fogged and numb, incapable of doing anything else until you drop those thoughts.

Another indoor pursuit was a ruthless tidy up of my art studio (old bedroom my son vacated some time ago), where a skyscraper high pile of materials and 'works in progress', sat gathering dust. I took that first step on the staircase, and by lunchtime the wade through had been enthused, not just by clearing areas, but the discovery of long-lost items of interest! Three days later, Ebay listing bulging, and boxed items stored away (shunted to the loft), the room became a scene of harmony and concord, inspiring me to finally *grasp the nettle* to start finishing those abandoned projects. Hurrah!

Sadly, the Maidenhead Drama Guild has all but folded, a solitary panto each December marks the end of a wonderful era, causing me to have *time on my hands*. There are other groups still active, so all is not lost, and some simply lovely productions by some local musical groups putting colourful shows on at the Kenton Theatre in Henley. Well worth a night out!

On the other hand, our Horticultural Society here in Dorney, is going from strength to strength, with a full year of activities, *bursting at the seams* with a selection of diverse events. Our next event will have just passed, a talk about Honey Bees by Niels Abildgaard at the Crocus Garden Centre, which promises to be extremely interesting and *en pointe*.

Our next event is back at the Village Hall, where we will devour an offer of some splendid cheese and then listen to Belinda Allen speak about the propagation and care of herbs, and how they are used in our medicinal care, so we can keep ourselves as *fit as a fiddle*. Save the date, it is Friday 26th April with a 7:30pm kick off. I enjoy all our DDHS events, it is a good place to meet your neighbours who are by now mostly friends, chat about the meaning of life, and give your life a meaning. *Life is a journey, not a destination...* the path of our lives is much more important than the final conclusion, which is usually perpetual silence.

'Life is no brief candle to me. It is a splendid torch, which I've got held up for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations'.

George Bernard Shaw

Kristina Perkins

Ted Longden (12th June 1929 – 10th January 2024)



'He and Shirley adored their time in Dorney...' Ted Longden's two sons Jonathan and Christopher together paid moving, and funny, tributes to their beloved Dad at a celebration of his life on February 15th and with these words provided a fitting start point for any Dorney tribute to Ted, a genial presence in our village for over four decades.

Ted and Shirley, the girl he met in 1959 and married in 1960 and who, as he said, 'made my life', moved to Dorney in 1973, after a previous nine years in Slough. They lived in Pond House in Dorney Village until, sadly, Shirley passed away in 2016 and Ted moved to Canterbury to be closer to members of his family in 2017.

Why was Dorney life so pleasing to Ted? Well, to quote Jonathan, it was 'because of everyone around them, the people they met, the friends they made, the dinner parties...an unforgiving and riotous social calendar'. There were many in that congregation who had shared in the couple's sociability and his family graciously thanked us for that.

But, of course, many villagers will recall other aspects of Ted. He had played bridge all his adult life, and he took it up even more passionately in retirement. Christopher recalled how one year Ted and Shirley had been the highest scoring pair at Burnham Bridge Club. It was no surprise that almost on his arrival at Freeman House, Canterbury, overlooking the beautiful ground of Kent County Cricket Club, Ted made a presentation about setting up a bridge club.

Ted gave generously of his expertise to this village. Having been raised in Chesterfield, living above his father's grocery shop, Ted was a grammar school boy who won a university scholarship to study economics at Leicester University and became an accountant and later a company financial director. We've heard of a number of examples of his financial acumen benefiting Dorney. A decade or so ago, the Friends of St James raised an enormous amount to restore our parish church's Tudor brick tower to its former glory, with Ted as an expert Secretary. In similar fashion back in the 1990's, the village wide pressure group DROPET, formed in the face of plans to build the Rowing Lake, turned to Ted to control the purse strings.

Jonathan said, 'the kindness my dad had shone through'. His specific example referred to Ted's concern for fellow soldiers when promoted to sergeant during his two years national service from 1950 – yes, Ted's 'fantastic innings' stretched back that far – but many will recall Ted's concern over the health and well being of his friends and neighbours. But also Ted had a certain style. I'm certain I'd heard the story before, quite possibly from Shirley, but we're told that this 'sensible financial man' acted like the 'single bloke in his late 20s who had always been short of cash' he was at the time, when left £1200 by his Auntie Clara. 'He went straight down the car showroom and there was a gleaming bright red Sunbeam Rapier with highly polished chrome bumpers...a convertible' priced at £1100. When they met a couple of years later, Shirley was impressed.

Over the years, Ted's friends were likewise impressed. Dorney will recall our time with Ted, and Shirley, with affection and respect.

Peter Bowman



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Would social media help a small village?



Social media are a computer-based technology that facilitates the sharing of ideas, thoughts, and information through virtual networks and communities. The largest social media platforms worldwide are Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, Instagram, and TikTok. Now some would argue that a website isn't a form of social media, but I would argue it is, it's a computer-based technology and it shares information to various people and in the case of the Dorney Parish News website it reaches out to the community.

So, as I was writing this article, I googled 'Dorney'. You are offered links such as the Wikipedia page, Dorney Court, the Parish Council & History Group and the Pineapple and Palmer Arms pub sites. Looking at the Dorney Parish Council website I wondered if the website could be the community's social media platform to help engage more and use and share content from the different generations that live here. Another interesting thing I came across was the various Instagram accounts that Dorney had e.g. Dorney Lake and Dorney Court but not a Dorney Parish one. This could be an idea.

Social media have grown massively in the past 10 years and more than 4.7 billion people use it and because of this growth each generation uses different platforms. This makes it hard to communicate through the generational barriers through a single platform unless you are face-to-face. For example, my brother and I use TikTok along with generations below us as well, but where I use Instagram as well, my brother isn't at all into it. So, even less than a 2-year age gap changes what platform we use! My mum uses Instagram and Facebook but not as much as my grandma who uses Facebook more than Instagram. Whereas my dad only and rarely uses Instagram. My Mum, Dad and Grandma all use WhatsApp and my brother and I usually use iMessages so much so that we forced our parents to make the family group chat on iMessages rather than WhatsApp. This displays the confusion of social media and the various platforms and technologies that the older people in the world must try and keep up with.

I think as a younger person in this village that social media can actually help to bring the community together, using the Dorney Parish Council website as a start. This could allow the younger generations to drive social content. This could create a tight net community and join various generations together.

Regarding social media and online aspects, we as a community are lucky enough to still have our local news come delivered to our home by the fabulous volunteers (and speak to Peter if you would like to join this team). Lots of villages have resorted to having online articles. The fact that Dorney has kept the magazine on paper media I personally think is fab. We don't realise how much – maybe the younger generations in particular – use social media and having a paper copy of the magazine is almost refreshing. Is there a way we could have both? Some content exclusively in the magazine but other content added to the Parish Council website? Should we have our own Instagram account for people to tag on their accounts? If any of you readers have ideas, let the Parish Clerk know (Clerk@dorneyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Laila Marples

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‘Not If’ but ‘When’

My reader, Bless you, will hopefully read the first few lines this month and ask, “Where’s the old fool going with this? What’s it to do with Dorney?” Read on and all will be revealed.

It was a scene from Hell.

Whoever had been in the small white van stood little chance, embedded as it was in the front of 28 tons of loaded eight-wheel tipper. The van had been cut open by the Fire Service to free the only occupant, a young twenties slim white male, who was being loaded into an ambulance en route to the patiently waiting Air Ambulance.

“Christ Mike, you think you’ve seen it all, and then” my colleague Bob looked close to tears, “you have this,” he sighed, waving a uniformed arm over the area of road thick with sticky wet mud.

“You OK?” I enquired gently.

“Work to do,” he swallowed hard. He was the accident investigator.

A short drive following the muddy trail revealed a building site from which large tippers hauled wet soil away until stopped by the disaster nearby. We noted there were no arrangements for wheel washing, and the mud from the tyres laid down an ever-lengthening strip of mud and oil along the quiet country road. The surface was ‘poor for braking and steering’ in the police jargon at the time, ‘bloody lethal’ to everyone else.

Bob was the expert in such matters, an old ‘Rat’, as in ‘Black Rats’, a derogative unflattering nickname for traffic police officers; occasionally deserved, but not today. I had twelve years in ‘The Job’, mostly chasing wife beaters, thieves, bullies, violent drunks and the like and had done more than my share of metaphorically and occasionally literally holding the hand of the frightened and, sometimes, the dying. It was time for a change, and this was it. Frying pans and fires, and in my first few weeks in The Rats.

The road was closed to everyone as Bob carefully reconstructed the accident, a surprisingly scientific skill I learned later, but never to Bob’s standard, when suddenly a well-worn Vauxhall appeared carrying four tearful adults.

“I’m sorry Sir, but the road is closed at the moment. Can you”

“That’s our son’s van,” the male driver said quietly as two females wailed in the rear seats.

“Mum, her sister and her husband. We just heard and only live nearby. Is he OK?”

“He’s in good hands,” I dodged the question. “He’s in an Ambulance on his way to hospital.” The wailing increased. “Don’t go near the vehicles please. Hang on here and I’ll find out what’s happening.”

I called our control and asked for an update on the casualty, letting them know the family were on scene and frantically worried.

“Mike, it’s not good I’m afraid. Can you get the family to the hospital on the hurry up now?”

“Of course.”

I told Dave, my posted partner. The specialist hospital was a good fifteen miles away and included some of the M25. We spoke to the driver away from the others and explained as gently as we could that their presence with their son was required urgently. We could take two, but not four.

“That’s going to be tricky,” he said. “Dorris is his aunt and has as much to do with Derek as we do. He is my son. I need to be with him.”

“Follow us and try to keep up as safely as you can, and we’ll take you there,” I said hastily, ignoring the raised eyebrow from Dave.

“OK,” said Dad. “Can we go now please?”

Within a mile it was clear that it was beyond him. We stopped.

“Sir, please go to the police car and I will drive yours, if that’s ok with you.”

He leapt from the car, glad I thought, of the responsibility and the need to visit their son.

The old Vauxhall struggled, but Dave set a good pace, blue lights flashing, siren wailing, as I hung on grimly dodging other drivers who believed I was tailgating the police!

Conversation was difficult as the two ladies constantly sought reassurance I was unable to give that all would be well, and before too long we arrived to be met by smiling over happy nurses who led us to the relatives’ room.

We said our goodbyes to the family, tearful hugs all round, and prepared to leave when a senior nurse pulled me back.

“How have you got on with the family?” she asked.

“In all these circumstances, OK, but they’re petrified,” I replied.

“Could you please stay with them. The young man is in a bad way. I’ll give you all a cup of tea!” She half smiled.

The tea arrived in porcelain cups and saucers. I knew we were in for trouble when the proper cups and saucers came out. We chatted uneasily about Derek, his fiancée and the ardent hope of his parents for grandchildren. Conversation was easing and taught straining nerves slackened to stretched when suddenly the door burst open and all conversation stopped as the man in blood splattered scrubs stated,

“There is no easy way to tell you this. He has died.”

Even with expecting the outcome, I was shocked, and as the surgeon walked away, I whispered to my nursing friend,

“Is that what passes for empathy round here?”

“He’s a bit like that I’m afraid,” was all she could offer as the family howled in the agony of losing a loved son so cruelly and suddenly.

We stayed a few minutes and left, leaving them in their private Hell.

And all for the want of a wheel wash.

I was driving the Dagenham Dustbin away from Dorney to the fleshpots of Burnham and as I passed the Pineapple into the slight right hand bend over the M4 bridge in the dark and light rain, I saw the long strips of mud on my side of the road disappearing over the brow to the deceptive unannounced falling left hand bend on the downside.

Imagine if you will an enthusiastically driven hot hatch new to the area belting up that road suddenly finding the surface “poor for braking and steering,” losing adhesion and control on the falling left hand bend into the path of someone you love.

And all for the want of a wheel wash.

Stay safe.

Mike Quincey

“Orchard Herbs Site”, Lake End Road, Dorney SL4 6QS: Appeal Status



2018



2024

As anticipated last month, the owners of the Site have lodged an appeal against the Enforcement Notice issued by Bucks Council that requires the commercial and industrial activities to stop and the associated plant and equipment to be removed from the Site. Their Grounds for Appeal may be downloaded from the Dorney Parish Council website (under Local Projects), together with the timeline of this issue over many years.

There will be a public inquiry later this year to determine the appeal.

With regard to the appeal, we are aware that a number of residents have made their views known to the Planning Inspectorate and Dorney Parish Council has submitted a full response (on their website) to the Planning Inspectorate requesting that the appeal is dismissed, and the requirements of the enforcement notice upheld. The appeal reference is APP/N0410/C/23/3336002.

As can be seen elsewhere in this edition, Joy Morrissey, our M.P., visited Dorney on 19th February to see the problem for herself, guided by Councillors Jill Dax and Robert Stopford. She also wrote to the Planning Inspectorate. There is no doubt that all these communications assist the cause.

As there will be another appeal regarding the planning permission refusal for Boveney Court Farm buildings – and, possibly, for the upcoming Court Farm development – we felt it would be useful to provide some detail on the appeal process from a very useful book called “How to object to a planning application or planning appeal” by Christian Leigh, Chartered Town Planner. DPN thanks Christian Leigh and the publishers Peculiarity Press for their agreement for DPN to reprint these extracts.

Who determines a planning appeal (Page 65)

The actual appeal is determined by the appointed planning Inspector. It is that one person who makes the new decision.

The process is technically a tribunal and the inspector’s decision making process is quasi-judicial in character.

Therefore, at appeal one is looking to make one’s case to and persuade just one person.

Essentially all appeals are determined in the same way. The appointed Inspector looks at the case afresh. They consider all the evidence presented at the time of the planning application and the evidence presented with the appeal itself. The process is truly independent and impartial. The Inspector will have no ties to the Local Planning Authority (they do not work for the LPA nor even live in the area).

Inspectors are very experienced and may come from a range of backgrounds. The appeal system is highly regarded amongst professionals for its independence.

The inspector, having reviewed the case, will make the new decision on the refused application. They may agree with the case put by any party in the appeal and so grant planning permission or refuse planning permission.

They can refuse permission on different grounds to those put forward by the LPA.

Each inspector exercises their impartial judgement in coming to their decision. Their actions and decisions are though governed by the relevant act of parliament, statutory instruments and case law.

The new decision is binding on all parties whatever the decision is. It can only be challenged in the courts on points of law not just because one party disagrees with Inspector’s judgement.”

Let us hope that we are on the final (but lengthy) stretch of this horrific issue.

Bill Dax

TAPLOW STATION REVISITED

Astute readers of this magazine may recall that I wrote about the history of Taplow station some years ago. Last month you may have read about the project to create a model railway layout of the station. Inspired by this, I have been reflecting on the varied uses of the station during its life, overlapping phases in its history. I make no apology for returning to this subject given the importance of the station to Dorney residents past, present and future. There can be few households in Dorney that have not used the train service there, often regularly, and it's fair to say that the development of Dorney Reach owes its very existence to the rail link with London.

Commuting to work from Taplow has long been a key feature in the life of the station, from the years when the bowler hatted brigade boarded a slip coach to await pick-up by a passing train to today when the trains are part of London Transport's network. But I want to look at some other aspects of station life.

Arriving at Taplow was another stream of passengers, visitors using it to access the River Thames while avoiding the toll payable to use Maidenhead Bridge. It was said in 1885 that some 2,000 tourists a day disembarked at Taplow heading for the river at summer



weekends, especially on Sundays. In 1897 Skindles Hotel advertised excursions for parties of twelve or more – 1st class return on the train from Paddington to Taplow, carriage from the station to Skindles, a river trip to Henley and lunch, all for a guinea. Boating and fishing in lovely scenery were the attractions and there were several other hotels on the riverbank, such as the Thames Hotel and the Riviera. A guidebook of 1890 described the area as *“one of the most...fashionable resorts on the Thames. On a fine Sunday in the season the crush of boats waiting to pass either up or down, and the crowd of onlookers, are sights worth seeing.”*

Providing a constant background activity to the comings and goings of passengers was the goods yard and sidings east of Station

Road, the yard to the south and cattle dock to the north. Although the yard itself handled relatively low volumes, it was busy with a steady flow of goods arriving and departing. The sidings at Taplow were used to assemble daily goods trains serving the line from Maidenhead to High Wycombe, of which only the branch to Bourne End now remains. The station also provided an essential link to local businesses. A siding on the north side of the railway led to a coalyard, accessed from Lent Rise Road and now marked by Coalman's Way. This coalyard was the main source of fuel for local houses. Next to the coalyard was a

depot for Geest bananas, imported from the West Indies and then brought from the docks by train in specially designed vans, up to 20 vans at a time. There were sidings too for William Wood's horticultural business.

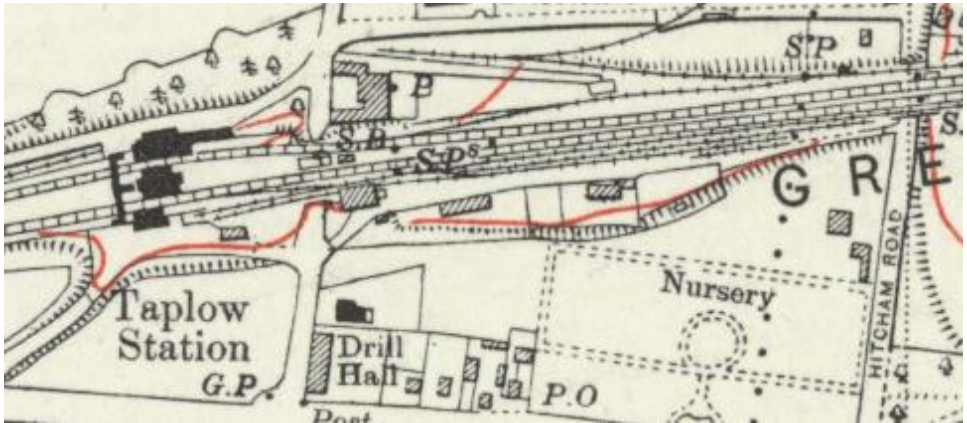
At the far end of the goods yard was the station master's house, shown on a map from 1872 with an ornamental garden, and cottages for other railway workers. This meant there were families living on the station premises. In 1901, stationmaster John Grigg was living in the station house with his wife and seven children. Two of his sons were already working as railway clerks. Three families occupied the other cottages. Frederick Malyon was a labourer on the railway and lived with his wife and two young children. Andrew Evans worked as a gate minder and he and his wife had nine children, the eldest two boys employed at Taplow Paper Mill and the youngest only a baby. Platelayer William Johnson, his wife and two children were in the third cottage. By 1911 the cottages in the yard had been vacated and the accommodation replaced by four purpose-built railway cottages in Approach Road, two of which now housed Frederick Malyon and William Johnson who had moved from the yard.

The two world wars saw different forms of activity at Taplow station. Starting in March 1915, a fleet of motorised ambulances met special ambulance trains carrying convoys of wounded Canadian servicemen from Southampton or Dover. The aim was to transport them as quickly as possible to the Canadian Red Cross Hospital which had been built in the grounds of Cliveden. In the first months of operation, the arrivals came from the battlefields in France and Belgium, and then from Gallipoli. In total, the hospital treated 24,000 wounded servicemen during the 1914-18 conflict. They had suffered horrendous injuries, losing limbs or eyes, or lung damage caused by gas attacks. It must have brought the reality of the war home to those who worked at or used Taplow station, which was also the main access point for those who worked at or were visiting the hospital.



The railways were highly important for transporting servicemen and supplies during the war, and key parts of the infrastructure were guarded by armed sentries. A company of Territorial soldiers led by a captain was responsible for guarding the railway bridges at Taplow to protect them against sabotage. They were required to challenge anyone suspicious and shoot if necessary. In September 1914, a sentry guarding the bridge over the Bath Road challenged a man approaching, and when he failed three times to respond the sentry shot him and he died a few days later. It transpired that the 55-year old victim was deaf and had a wooden leg, and was simply returning home, but the inquest found his death was justifiable homicide. This was by no means an isolated incident; indeed, two

weeks earlier a guard at Haymill bridge had shot dead someone who did not answer his challenge, who turned out to be a lance-corporal in his own regiment.



Rather than wounded soldiers, it was Canadian military tanks that Taplow became known for offloading during the Second World War. To take their heavy weight, a concrete and steel reinforced road was laid, and evidence of this can still be seen in the car park south of the station. The tanks were taken to a Canadian camp at Haymill on the outskirts of Slough trading estate where they were maintained or repaired. During this war, railways were vulnerable to attack by bombs and were protected by strategically placed anti-aircraft batteries. There was one of these in a field just east of Huntercombe Lane. The station did suffer slight bomb damage in January 1941.

The early 1950s saw a different cast of characters coming to the station, as it featured as a location in several thriller films with titles such as “Tiger by the Tail” and “Highly Dangerous”. Glamourous actresses and handsome actors swept up the road in dashing motor cars while steam trains thundered through in the background. One film included an atmospheric sequence shot in the goods yard, the villain leaping from a window in the stationmaster’s house and making his way among the lines of wagons in the sidings. Anyone looking for a dose of black and white nostalgia can watch “Highly Dangerous” on YouTube for free.

Now, in the present day, the station of those times is being recreated by the team of modellers in Slough. Good progress has been made – the initial track layout is in place and it’s hoped to have trains running for a model railway exhibition in Burnham Park Hall at the end of October. The project also aims to engage with the local community and explore the history of the station and its connections with the neighbourhood. It’s not too late for anyone to get involved and any photos or memories of the station would be very welcome.

Virginia Silvester



Over this last month, I have had many fantastic visits across the constituency – including a brilliant day in Dorney. In Parliament, I continue championing the issues that matter most to you and your families.

The Roads Minister, Guy Opperman, and I had another productive meeting about the roads in our local area. I had previously met with Guy in late 2023 to raise the issue over the poor quality of our roads, and I reiterated in our latest meeting the urgency and the importance of repairing them in an efficient but sustainable way. I know the road conditions in Dorney have been troubling the residents – I had a good conversation with your Parish Councillors, Jill Dax and Robert Stopford, about this matter.

During the February recess, I visited several GP surgeries and met with the various teams. As your MP, I have always prioritised ensuring access to good health care for local residents. I had a great meeting with Dr Simon Daily and his team at Burnham Health Centre to hear about the difficulties they have been coping with. I was happy to hear of recent improvements in practices that will help all residents who want to access their local health care. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any issues with your GP surgery.



Robert Stopford, Jill Dax and Joy Morrissey M.P.

Protecting our Green Belt has consistently been an issue that residents have cared deeply about, and it is an issue that I am proud to champion. When I visited Dorney, I knew the most pressing issue for residents would be the ever-growing Orchard Herbs issue. I visited the site with Cllr Dax and Cllr Stopford during my visit. The site, which is within Green Belt land, needs to be cleared as soon as possible.

During my visit, I was struck by the continued growth of the site and the size of the vehicles entering the site on such a regular basis. With this in mind, I have written to the Planning Inspectorate asking them to support the Enforcement Notice that was put into force by Buckinghamshire Council. As I have said

before, I have been working closely with the local and Parish Councillors to ensure that this site is restored to its lawful use and that the Green Belt is protected from further harm. I will continue to make representations until this site is cleared.

It was wonderful to be in Dorney again over the recess period. A huge thank you to Jill and Robert for meeting with me to discuss the issues that matter most to residents in Dorney. If you require further assistance or have any inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me at joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk or 01494 977 505.

Joy Morrissey MP

Eton College are appealing the Refusal decision regarding Planning Reference PL/22/3562/FA for the 12 new houses at Boveney Court Farm buildings, Boveney Road, Dorney



According to The Planning Inspectorate, this appeal has been validated and they are currently waiting for a Case Officer to be allocated to the case. Unfortunately, they do not have an indication as to when a Case Officer may become available.

Once the appeal is started it will then appear on the Appeals Casework Portal (searchable with the last 7 characters of the Appeal Reference Number – not known at present), where a representation can be made. All representations made during the application stage will be made available to the appointed Inspector.

The Appeals Casework Portal website is <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

We understand that it can take 3 months or more to appoint a Case Officer.

The Inspector will take account of:

- the material submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA)
- all the appeal documents
- any relevant legislation and policies including changes to legislation, any new Government policy or guidance and any new or emerging development plan policies since the LPA's decision was issued
- any other relevant matters
- and should the site visit be undertaken by their representative, their recommendations.

The role of interested people (includes those who made comments)

People who are interested in the outcome of an appeal but are not one of the appeal parties play an important role in appeals. Their views in support of, or opposition to, a proposed scheme are taken into account by the Inspector.

Interested people are also sometimes called 'third parties', 'interested parties' or 'interested persons'.

Interested people are notified by the LPA that the appeal is taking place. In most appeals, interested people can make 'representations' (comments) during the appeal.

DPN will advise when a Case Officer is appointed.

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News from Dorney School



I love our school in Springtime! As the spring breeze greets our school, I can't help but feel my heart swell with joy. This warm and welcoming place nestled amongst Burnham, Taplow and Dorney is truly a second home for our children. Their faces light up each day as they eagerly arrive, ready to immerse themselves in learning and opportunity. Laughter echoes in the hallways as they work together on exciting projects, their brilliant minds sparking with creativity. Our little scholars have blossomed here, reaching for their highest potential with support and care from their teachers. This community has become a family and I feel blessed to be a part of it. Our school is a ray of sunshine in Springtime and all year round!

Each week, we have the marvellous Christine Thomas teaching us Makaton, which is a unique language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate. It supports the development of essential communication skills such as attention and listening, comprehension, memory, recall and organisation of language and expression.



This term, our school has partnered with several sports organisations to bring a wealth of new and exciting opportunities to our students. Through these partnerships, our children will be able to discover and develop passions for sports. We're thrilled for our students to step outside their comfort zones and experience the joy and benefits of staying active and trying something new. With enthusiastic participation from our children, and the expertise of our partners, this promises to be an energetic term filled with personal growth, teamwork and fun on the field!

The classrooms are bursting with the school values on display! Pupils continue to spread kindness, respect and responsibility across our school like the first rays of spring sunshine. Keep up the outstanding work – you are helping our school community flourish.

Together, we can make a positive impact! When schools and families work as a team, students thrive. We offer many ways for parents to get involved, with an open-door policy, updates and invitations to school events. By being an active participant and voicing encouragement, parents let their child know that school matters. The little things – like asking about homework, volunteering, make a big difference. When families partner up, students are set up for success!

Why not come and visit us to see for yourself. Contact us at office@dorneyschool.co.uk

Warmest wishes,
Mrs Sharifah Firza Jelany-Lee, Headteacher



Burnham Abbey Wall, Huntercombe Lane South, Burnham, Buckinghamshire

DPN has learned that Bucks Planning have been advised of the terrible state of the Burnham Abbey wall – which is a listed building – along Huntercombe Lane South.



04 April 2003 © Mr Martin Bond.



February 2024

Listed Building legislation requires either the owner to repair it or, if that is unsuccessful, then Bucks Council has to repair it and seek payment from the owner.

Whilst the three nuns of the Order of the Precious Blood have left Burnham Abbey to join a group in Gerrards Cross, the Abbey is still owned by them, and it is their responsibility to repair all of the wall.

The latest Accounts (31 December 2022) for Burnham Abbey confirm their Net Assets were around £7,500,000, so there shouldn't be any difficulty in funding these required repairs.

Let's hope they get them done before the wall falls down!

Bill Dax

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.

Fixing A Hole?



We've got a pothole. It's all our very own because it affects only ourselves attempting to reverse out of the drive, being in the gutter. There was a recent TV series about a group of Los Angelinos who fell through a large hole and found themselves in the California of ten thousand years ago. This may well happen to us before the next issue of this magazine.

It appeared before Christmas and has got deeper. One day, I looked out the window and remarked 'we've got to do something about that hole...' As if by magic, a truck emblazoned with the logo of 'Balfour Beatty Living Places' pulled up outside. My heart sank because in these parts BB reminds us only of the Smart M4 nightmare. But I had heard, not least from the Clerk of the Parish Council, that the company had been doing an excellent job since they had been awarded the eight-year contract to maintain the roadways and other infrastructure for Bucks Council. They expertly repaired next door's pothole, presumably saw ours, but drove off. I realised that you had to be on their roster. We had to draw attention to our pothole.

Many ways have been reported of how others have achieved this. One driver, fed up with a long-lasting hole outside his children's school, set up a second birthday party for the pothole, placed in it a cake and a candle and invited local news media. The hole was dealt with within 48 hours. But no birthday was imminent for our pothole, so I resorted to the usual policy of 'going online'.

I remembered that in these very pages, it had been recommended to report such issues on the website FixMyStreet. FMS is a national site, but the Clerk recommended going to the Bucks Council version of it. Initial impressions were hopeful. I posted under the headline 'Pothole on access...becoming difficult to enter or exit.' An email confirmed whether it was me really wishing to report, followed by another telling me my pothole had been logged and even had a reference number. Things were looking up, even more so when a day later I was emailed to say my pothole

had been 'inspected' and added to the 'package of works'. Slight doubts then crept in as the matter would be addressed *when we are next in the area*.

Two months have passed. The Balfour Beatty boys have not parked outside. The hole deepens. The report is described as 'closed' which is disappointing, but probably means that decisions have been taken what to do, but not when to do it. So, we're in limbo over whether the site is the necessary panacea, but what is FixMyStreet all about and what sort of impact is it having in the locality covered by this magazine?

What is so appealing about using this site is that issues can be reported directly to Bucks Council by 'simply locating them on a map'. FixMyStreet Bucks is primarily for reporting things which are 'broken or damaged or dumped, and need fixing, or clearing'. You can be a registered user, but the site is free to use. FMS nationally and for Bucks was developed by mySociety, which is an organisation devoted to 'active citizenry'. Other services include TheyWorkForYou, which allows the citizen to follow how MPs vote and what they say, and WhatDoTheyKnow, which encourages information requests to public bodies.

All part of the fun are daily reports of all the issues raised in your area – invaluable to Dorney Parish News, and, of course, I now have the FMS app proudly nestling on my phone. I can be a busy body without delay at any time.

Future historians will see the multitude of reports appearing daily as evidence of two trends in 21st century Britain, the decay and dereliction of the infrastructure and the end of the British mindset 'mustn't complain'.

It seems that a large majority of reports both nationally and locally concern, yes, potholes, followed by fly tipping. It seems to me that we have a few local specialities here. Localised flooding, probably caused by the failings of Thames Water, overhanging roadside foliage and, especially in Dorney Reach (I didn't realise) abandoned vehicles.

I thought I was in the vanguard reporting via the site, but no, there are issues pinpointed all over the parish. Not only are there many Dorney reports, but they also seem to be getting more frequent. Last week anger became apparent over the debris in Lake End Road opposite the Orchard Herbs site. 'The road is littered with scree, mud and debris from the site' was one headline to a report of a near miss between a car driver and a 'large lump of brick' falling from a lorry leaving the site. 'Enough's enough' said one reporter last week, who urged Bucks Council to stop 'passing the buck'.

Last week's heavy rain saw the alarming site of stretches of Harcourt Road under water. This will be taken up with Thames Water thanks to the alacrity of a couple of my neighbours on FixMyStreet. It's also getting mighty wet under foot down by Lake End House and the barn conversions off Lake End Road, where the residents have also been concerned by a black pick-up truck with smashed windows.

Take a walk down to Old Marsh Lane and you will see three incidents of fly tipping, that is if you can walk past the M4 bridge due to the pedestrian pavements totally blocked by foliage in Marsh Lane itself. Walk in the other direction and you will come across builders' waste left around the Thames Water field.

Let's finish where we started. There are potholes opposite the Pineapple. The crevice on the left-hand side as you approach Dorney Reach along Marsh Lane made its debut today. There are still reported potholes even in Village Road.

My pothole is not very significant. But we may well report on future progress as the weeks go by. Unless we disappear into it, or the flood waters get us first.

Peter Bowman

Recycling and Waste Calendar

My collection day is **FRIDAY**

November 2023

Fri 3	Fri 10	Fri 17	Fri 24
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December 2023

Fri 1	Fri 8	Fri 15	Fri 22
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January 2024

Tue 2	Mon 8	Sat 13	Fri 19	Fri 26
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February 2024

Fri 2	Fri 9	Fri 16	Fri 23
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March 2024

Fri 1	Fri 8	Fri 15	Fri 22	Sat 30
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April 2024

Sat 6	Fri 12	Fri 19	Fri 26
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Friday - Week 2



Recycling week

mixed recycling,
paper and cardboard,
food, garden,
batteries, small
electricals, textiles



General waste week

general waste
and food

-  Bank holiday week collection
-  Garden waste collection suspended

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Dorney Parish News

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Editors:

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

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

Distributors:

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

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

Rate Card:

Advertising Rates	Height mm	Width mm	10 issues	1 issue
Full Page	190	130	£100	£13
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Third of a page (Horizontal)	60	130	£50	£7
Quarter Page (Horizontal)	45	130	£45	£6

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

Emergency Contact Details

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