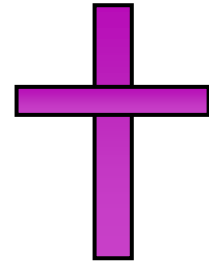
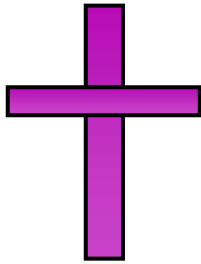


# DRAYTON CHRONICLE

*THE FLOWERS  
THAT BLOOM IN  
THE SPRING...*



**A HAPPY EASTER TO ALL OUR  
READERS**



*Photos courtesy of Jules Meredith*

## DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

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7.00pm on MONDAY 9th APRIL 2018

at the CAUDWELL DAY CENTRE

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# CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The next **Chronicle** will be the May issue:  
 Editor: **Derek Pooley, 11 Hall's Close (559454)**  
 Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 13 April 2018**  
 Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Mon., 16 April 2018**  
 Printed copies available: **Friday, 27 April 2018**

### Key dates for the subsequent Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
June	14 May 2018	25 May
July	18 June 2018	29 June
August	16 July 2018	27 July

Archive copies of the Chronicle are available on the Drayton website: [www.draytonvillage.co.uk](http://www.draytonvillage.co.uk). The current copy will be available on or near the same date that printed copies are distributed.

## NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

Contributions to and advertisements in the Chronicle are most welcome. Please be sure **always to include your name**, address and (in case clarification is necessary) telephone number. Without names we will usually not print an item at all.

**However, please also note** that the editor has to ensure that each Chronicle fits exactly into an even number of printed pages. The editor therefore reserves the right to place, edit, shorten or even reject contributions as required.

A contribution or advertising request can be sent to us in one of three ways:

1. The best is by **email** to [editor@draytonchronicle.net](mailto:editor@draytonchronicle.net). Your contributions should either be embedded in your email as **plain text** or attached as a **rich-text** or **Microsoft Word** document!

Requests for advertisements should be emailed not to the editor but to [advertising@draytonchronicle.net](mailto:advertising@draytonchronicle.net). Please note that advertisements eventually need to be in Word format, 9cms wide and, for a single block advert, about 4.5cms high

Please head your email and label any attachments with a name distinctive to you, not just 'Chronicle'. Also, make sure the editor or advertising manager acknowledges your email within 2 or 3 days.

2. If you cannot send your contribution by email, send us a **good quality paper version**, using fairly large, **simple** black typescript, without underlining on white paper, A4 or smaller.

3. Finally, we do accept **hand-written items**. However, in this case **please write the names of people and places in capital letters**. This does save a lot of mistakes.

Paper contributions should be either placed in the Chronicle letter box (outside Vickery's shop on Drayton Green) or posted to Vickery's at 5 The Green, Drayton, Abingdon, OX14 4JA.

After the deadlines listed at the top of this page, only urgent items will be considered for inclusion and then only if emailed or delivered directly to the **Editor's** house by the Wednesday following the deadlines.

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**Double-size** adverts are charged at **twice** the above rates.

**All advertising MUST be paid for up-front, either in cash or via a cheque made payable to 'The Drayton Chronicle' and placed in the box at or sent to Vickery's.**

Requests for advertisements should (preferably) be emailed to **Stephen Fearnley**, the Chronicle's Advertising Manager, at [advertising@draytonchronicle.net](mailto:advertising@draytonchronicle.net) or placed in the box at Vickery's. If you wish to discuss your requirements please phone Stephen on 01235 531347

# CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Carol Arnold, Hon Promoter

## RESULTS OF THE MARCH LOTTERY

Prize	Winner	Agent
£25	K Humphrey Brook Farm	Tussel Humphrey
£20	P Silver Abingdon Road	Jayne Henderson
£15	Mrs C Sawyers Fairway House	Tamsin Meredith
£10	Andy Cook Marcham Road	Sally Dixon
£10	J & S Hewitt Burwood House	Liz Branson
£10	Mrs Lester Whitehorns Way	Trudy Buckner
£10	Maillol Abingdon Road	Daniel Scharfe
£10	Mrs P Evans Abingdon Road	Julie Brown
£10	Margaret Jones High Street	Ali bone
£10	D & H Scaysbrook Steventon Road	Judy Henman

Winning tickets, from 2144 sold, were randomly drawn by a computer (similar to the Premium Bond Draw)

Deadline for Lottery packs: 12.30 on Saturday 14th April  
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## RECIPE FOR APRIL

Carol Arnold

### Corned Beef Quiche - Serves 4 to 6

#### Ingredients:

1 Large tin corned beef.  
225g / 8oz Very low fat cottage cheese.  
3 Eggs  
1 Onion (chopped)  
Seasoning to taste.  
Pinch of mixed herbs.

#### Method:

Pre-heat oven to 190°C, 375°F, Gas 6. Mix the Corned beef and onion together. Place in the base of a flan dish and press down well. Beat the eggs with the cottage cheese, season to taste and pour this mixture onto the beef base. Bake for 30 minutes until set and golden brown.

Serve hot with vegetables or cold with a salad.

Can be cooked in a microwave on full power for 10 minutes, and browned under a hot grill.



### ABINGDON AIR / COUNTRY SHOW – 6<sup>th</sup> MAY from 10:30am (Abingdon Airfield, Dalton Barracks)

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<b>Associate Priest</b>	Revd Meg Heywood	01235 537100
<b>Associate Priest</b>	Rev'd Rosie Bruce	07707 087131
<b>Pro-Warden</b>	Mrs Linda Johnson	01235 527521
<b>Pro-Warden</b>	Mrs Val Cross	01235 535183

## REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion on 2nd Sunday of month only
	9.45 am	Sung Eucharist (CW), except 3rd Sunday when a non-Eucharistic All Age Service is held.
Thurs	9.15 am	Holy Communion (CW) in Lady Chapel.

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Wednesday	10.00 am	Pebbles (Term Time only)	<i>Church Room</i>
Monday	7.45 pm	Bell Ringing Practice	<i>Bell Tower</i>
Friday	6.30 pm	Choir Practice (1st Friday)	<i>Church Room</i>

## CALENDAR FOR APRIL

Tue 3rd	2.30pm	First Tuesday Connection	<i>Church Room</i>
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## CHURCH REGISTER

### Funerals

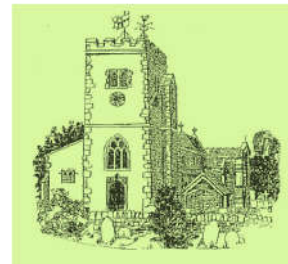
Wednesday 14th February	Valerie Whittingham
Thursday 22nd February	William Thomas Coombes

## YOU STAY - WE PRAY, APRIL

1st to 7th	Corneville Road; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close
8th to 14th	Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Road; Meads Close; Ripington Court; Stone Hill
15th to 28th	Steventon Road; Eastway; Eastway MHP
29th to 30th	Church Lane; Henleys Lane; Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane

## ST PETER'S LETTER

Easter day falls on 1st April this year! I wonder how many of us remember the famous item on the BBC one year, featuring how spaghetti was grown on trees in Italy? Or may be more recently some articles in newspapers saying that Asterix's village had been discovered in northern France, or that to relieve the congestion on the M25, all the lanes on both sides of the carriage way will be used to travel clockwise one day and anticlockwise the next. All these April fools invite us to believe in something that we won't normally believe.



In many ways the Easter story seems the perfect April Fool, early in the morning a previously crucified man has broken out of a well-guarded sealed tomb. He is seen walking and talking with his friends – he has time to cook a mean breakfast on the lakeside for them, a while later completely disappearing before their eyes into the skies, complete with angelic accompaniment!

You would have to be a fool to believe that ...or wouldn't you? Yet, at the heart of the Christian faith is this miracle: Jesus Christ rose from the dead. This is what Christians down the centuries claimed and died for. But why is it so important? God by raising Jesus from the dead has rewritten what we can expect from life – healing of bodies, healing of relationships, hope in hopeless situations, transformation of our bad times into something good we never expected. A promise of life in heaven where all pain and tears are wiped away by God himself.

Christianity is about faith in the Easter miracle and not morality. It is about our friendship with Jesus rather than our ability to be a good person. This may sound foolish or even too good to be true. But, if the offer of relationships restored and the hope of a better life appeals to you – then talk to Jesus about it and discover how much you matter to Him.

*From all at St Peter's, we hope that you have a good Easter, and discover something of the love of the risen Lord Jesus for you!*

*Meg Heywood (Associate Priest)*

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## BAPTIST CHURCH

Church Secretary: Mrs Jayne Henderson.....Tel. 522161

### CHANGE TO REGULAR SERVICES FOR EASTER



Good Friday, 10 am, Ecumenical Service followed by procession to St Peter's.  
Easter Sunday, 10.30, Easter Service.

### BAPTIST CAFÉ

Thursdays 11.00 to 13.00, rain or shine, in or out tea, coffee and cake

EVERYONE IS MOST WELCOME

## LOCAL METHODIST WORSHIP

High Street, Milton  
Sunday Service: 10.30 am

Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

### FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS Jean Hager

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company? Why not come along to our monthly tea and chat afternoons. The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm welcome. They are held on the first Tuesday of the month in St Peter's Church Room from 2.30 pm to 4:00 pm and you are invited to drop in during these times. Our next two dates will be 3rd April and 1st May.

If you need transport or further information please give me a call on 531558.

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# WESTMINSTER LETTER

## Ed Vaizey

South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse have announced a partnership to promote our area's scientific prowess. Part of the partnership includes bids for new infrastructure, which could see a new Science Bridge to help traffic around Didcot, a Didcot to Culham link road and improved cycle networks around the town. We should find out if the funds are allocated in the next few months. A pilot study on green spaces around Didcot as part of the "garden town" plans has also been started. The results of the study will define green buffer zones for the garden town development plans and help protect open spaces and pedestrian routes around the whole garden town area. More information, and an excellent video, can be found at [www.sciencevale.com](http://www.sciencevale.com).

This month I was pleased to host the Cycling Minister, Jesse Norman MP, in Milton Park to view new cycling infrastructure improvements, including the new Backhill Tunnel. The Government has committed £100,000 of funding to cycling safety projects, including reducing the cost of e-bike batteries through recycling used laptop batteries. I also visited JISC in Harwell, which provides broadband for all our universities and colleges, and saw the excellent new Renaissance Retirement Homes in Wantage.

The Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning group have opened a consultation of local health services (yet another one!). You can register to take part on the 'Get Involved' section of the NHS Oxfordshire website. Our local health services have been under serious pressure, particularly with the closure of Wantage Community Hospital. I encourage everyone to share their views.

In February I received 456 items of correspondence (emails and letters) from constituents. Subjects raised with me included the NHS, Brexit and free trade.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any pressing issues that you would like help with. You can contact me on any matter at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, [dicksonce@parliament.uk](mailto:dicksonce@parliament.uk) or 01235 768 888. Email is the quickest and most reliable way to get in touch, as I keep a very close eye on my emails and can reply very quickly. Details of my activities in Parliament can be read on my website, <https://www.vaizey.com>. I also send out occasional general interest emails about developments in the Wantage and Didcot Constituency. You can sign up here: <http://bit.ly/EdVaizeyMP>.

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## FLEXICARE COMMUNITY WALK

If the sound of a lovely walk on and around the Ridgeway followed by all the (free) cakes and sandwiches you can eat appeals to you then please read on!



**Flexicare** is a small local charity that supports families with severely disabled children in their own homes. It is now in its 33rd year. We are holding our annual fundraising walk on **Sunday 13th May** from Snells Hall in East Hendred. The walk starts between 9 and 10am with a choice of a 5 or 10 mile walk, or a 2-3 mile buggy/wheelchair route to choose from. If you would prefer to run any of the routes, please book in at 8am - if we know you are coming, we will have bacon butties ready for your return. You can register (free of charge) on [www.flexicare.org](http://www.flexicare.org), where you will find registration and sponsor forms and more information if required.

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# PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

## Richard Williams

Report of the Parish Council meeting held on Mon 5th  
March 2018

Three parishioners attended the meeting to protest at the recent decision by the PC to increase allotment fees. It was explained that the intention is not, as has been alleged, to discourage allotment holders, or to claim the land for other uses. Quite the opposite in fact. The Council has made efforts to obtain more land for allotments, bearing in mind the growth of the village and the anticipated increase in demand for plots. However, so far we have not found a landowner willing to sell.

What is apparent is that the current fees are so low that there is not necessarily much incentive to work the plot. Hence, one or two allotment holders have sometimes left their plot untended, in the full knowledge it will cost them only a few pounds a year regardless. Meanwhile there is a waiting list of people who would like a plot. It was argued that the increase is excessive, and while it certainly looks that way in percentage terms, the PC felt that the base figure was unrealistically low. The proposed increase would not take effect until 2019 in any case, but it was agreed to look again at the issue and to consult with plot holders before making a final decision later this year.

The Parish Council reviewed the draft report from the Conservation Adviser on Drayton's Conservation Area. The only description of this area available in the past was a couple of paragraphs drawn up about 20 years ago by the Vale's Conservation Officer. While other local authorities, e.g. Cherwell, have invested in quite detailed accounts of their own conservation areas, referencing their past history, listed buildings, other important local landmarks, and so on, the Vale have not seen this task as a priority. When the PC sought their assistance in drawing up proper documentation, the Vale refused to help. We therefore commissioned our own report from a qualified conservation expert. It was this report, now complete, which was under consideration.

The report falls into three parts. Part 1 is a full description of the current Conservation area. Part 2 is a 'local list' of buildings and other significant features in the village, thought to be worthy of preservation by a group of residents and councillors, who walked around the village, accompanied by the adviser. Part 3 suggests extending the conservation area in several places. This was the most controversial part of the report, as some residents living in roads which might become part of the area were concerned it might limit their freedom to make alterations to their property.

One parishioner stated that in his view, the Manor Farm housing development should be de-registered as a conservation area, as it is no longer of rural aspect, and its value as a background setting for existing listed buildings has been impaired. The Parish Council rejected this view, and our adviser commented that conservation area status would continue to give some leverage to the planning department in resisting inappropriate future development on the site – new extensions, added storeys, and the like.

A follow-up meeting with the residents of Walnut Meadow, scheduled to be held on 1st March, was postponed due to the bitterly cold weather, but hopefully will take place soon. Miller Homes have replied to the residents' letter but at best, the many outstanding problems on the site are likely to take several months to be resolved.

A reminder that there are still two vacancies for councillors on the PC. Anyone interested is invited to attend the Annual Parish Assembly (see below) to hear about what has been happening in the village over the past year.

To contact any members of the Parish Council, all enquiries should be directed to the Parish Clerk, David Perrow, in the first instance. David may be contacted via E-mail at draytonclerk@gmail.com or by telephone on 07909 176061, and

he will ensure that any messages are passed on. Any Drayton resident may also ask to be added to the Clerk's E-mailing list, so that they receive prior notice of meetings and any relevant documents.

In addition, all Parish Council minutes are now archived on the village website: <http://www.draytonvillage.co.uk/>. The website also carries back copies of the Drayton Chronicle, information on the latest activities of the Drayton 2020 Implementation Committee, and details of other events in the village.

The next Parish Council meeting will include the Annual Parish Assembly, which is an opportunity for the PC, and also local clubs, societies, community organisations etc. to report back on their activities over the previous year. The Assembly will take place on Monday 9th April (please note, a week later than usual, due to Easter), at 7.00 pm, in the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane. The normal Parish Council meeting will immediately follow at approx. 7.45pm. As ever, all are welcome to attend.

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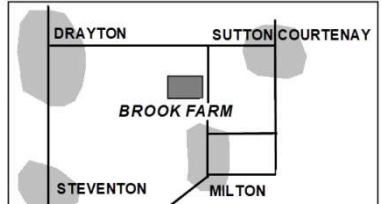
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# ALL AROUND

## GARD (Group Against Reservoir Development) Derek Stork

### Thames Water draft plan released for consultation – Reservoir still top priority 'in longer term'

Recently (12<sup>th</sup> February), Thames Water released their draft Water Resources Management Plan for 2019-2024 (dWRMP19). The public (and the regulator bodies such as the Environment Agency and OFWAT) now have about 12 weeks (until 29th April) to submit comments. Thames Water then have a further period to respond to all the comments, and release a revised draft for the Government to approve. We are likely to reach the revised draft stage in the Autumn.

We have only had a few days to look at this plan (the documents run to over 2000 pages!), but we can see already that:

- Pressure from consumers, regulators (OFWAT) and stakeholder organisations such as GARD has forced Thames Water to aim for more ambitious reduction of leakage and better water efficiency as their first measures, but they are still not aiming for the ambitious targets that, for instance Southern Water are already reaching;
- pressure from GARD, CPRE and local organisations has forced Thames Water to defer the proposal to build the mega-reservoir in our local fields until the 2035-2045 period;
- instead, as a first measure, Thames Water propose to set up an 'indirect re-use' water scheme, where treated London wastewater is diverted from its normal discharge into the Thames Estuary, and piped upstream to the Thames above Teddington Weir, from where it can be extracted to fill the London storage reservoirs. This scheme is proposed for the 2030 timeframe. It is interesting that this scheme, rubbished by Thames Water at the Public Inquiry in 2010, was first put forward by GARD's consultants in 2008, and is now Thames Water's 'go-to' scheme. Proof of GARD's influence in these matters.

### GARD's work during the consultation

*The next few months are extremely important for the opposition to Thames Water's reservoir plans, so we urge everyone to look and comment on these* (we will be giving information about how to do this). We are now sure that the reservoir occupies a key place in Thames Water's long-term plans. Even though it is now scheduled more than 15 years down the road, strong opposition at this stage is essential to get the idea ditched, or kicked so far down the road that it will essentially die as an option. We have succeeded so far, 'one more push' should do it.

GARD will:

- look through the proposals in detail, using our expert consultant's help;
- press for more action on Leakage and Water Efficiency (we already know from brief look at the plans that Thames Water's proposals on these will be completely inadequate);
- work with CPRE to expose the faulty logic in Thames Water's predictions of the water shortage in the South East (this depends heavily on dubious population growth predictions);
- brief local Parish Councils and the Vale of the White Horse DC on our findings, and press them to put in opposing criticism on the reservoir plans;
- keep everyone informed through our website ([www.abingdonreservoir.org](http://www.abingdonreservoir.org)) and Facebook pages, and lobby the local MPs;
- continue to lobby the Environment Agency and OFWAT about the fact that the reservoir will not be resilient against long droughts and is not environmentally the best solution;
- submit our final report to the consultation at the end of April.

## DRAYTON FOOTBALL CLUB Richard Seamark



Do you play football? Would you like to play football? Would you like to help others play football?

### Drayton Football Club needs you.

There are opportunities to start youth teams (boys and girls), walking football teams (for the older man or woman amongst us) and mens and ladies football teams.

### EVERYBODY WELCOME

For more information call Richard Seamark 07565 421 637

DRAYTON FOOTBALL CLUB Est 1904  
The Recreation Ground,  
Lockway,  
OX14 4LF

## BOWLS CLUB

### Roll up

We start these notes with congratulations to 'The Wasps' for retaining the afternoon triple league, they achieved this with a late run in, winning their last four games including taking all eight points away to their nearest rivals Stanford Blues. This is the ninth year running that 'The Wasps' have won this league. 'The Hammers' who had a great start to the season unfortunately had a very poor second half, and have been relegated to division two, both teams are now involved in the K O cup which will run until mid April.

Congratulations are in order to June and Bryn on winning the pairs on a recent bowls holiday at Warners, Hayling Island, and linking up with Janet, and Alan Robinson of Southampton to win the fours. With more than eighty bowlers in both competitions this was a very fine achievement.

The internal competitions are underway. 'The Rose Bowl' league will run through until the end of April, The 'Wally Weightman' competition in January was postponed until August because of illness to several players, 'The Henry Bunce' handicap pairs was played in February, and playing the final in December will be Carol Smith and Pat Mitchenson against Frank Turley and Ian Norris. The next competition will be 'The Attwood Cup' this is due to take place on the 18th March.

Date for the diary; on June 2nd, to celebrate 30 years since the club was formed, we will be arranging a visit to Sonning theatre, which will include a three course meal and a show. Transport will be laid on. Further details about the trip and cost will be announced later, there is a list on the notice board about the trip. Already there are something like thirty people interested, so get involved and join us for what looks like a great day out.



*June and Bryn Jones with their Warner's Pairs trophies*



## DRAYTON ART GROUP

Cicely Willis-Dixon

Drayton Art Group celebrated 25 years this year. We meet in the Caudwell Day Centre and because of the number of tables, we are limited to fifteen and over the years that number has been constant, sometimes with a waiting list. With our limited resources it is very difficult finding tutors but we all learn from each other in a very relaxed atmosphere. The picture featured was our first attempt in 2005 as a team effort. It is made up of fifteen squares 8"x 9", each of us painting a square which was then pasted on a board and framed. NOT A BAD EFFORT! We were proud of the finished article and it now hangs in the back of the church. Over the years we have done four others in a similar way, they all hang in the Day Centre. And now we are about to embark on our sixth. Hopefully it will be hanging in the Day Centre in time for our annual exhibition which will be held on Saturday 2nd June.



## HALL REPORT

Tony Holmes

Several charity events this month, Friday 13th sees a fundraiser for the All Saints Choir (SC), and on Sat 21st it's the FODSA Quiz night, funds for the school of course (see ad on page 10).

Also on Saturday 14th the Kingwood group (Autism) are having a charity quiz (see the local Facebook page for more info nearer the time).

Anybody with a 'Griffon Bruxellois' dog (or thinking of getting one) might like to check out their dog show, Sunday 8th, from about 10am. This is their Championship show, they have an 'Open' show here in October, speak to their Show Manager (01702 230072) if you want more info re precise classes & schedules.

Oh, and please note, the Mess Around party this month has moved to Sat 7th, (10.30am).

One more thing, I gather that our 'Rainbows' group (Thursday evenings, 5.30pm) could do with a few new recruits, as much of the previous intake has moved on up to Brownies, as they do. So, parents of girls aged 5 or 6 (I think!) please call Victoria Wright (07801 447720) for more details.

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## DRAYTON TWINNING

Stephen Fearnley

It is with some sadness that I have to tell you that it looks as if there will be no more group twinning visits between us and Lesparre. We have been invited to visit Lesparre this year but there are no longer enough members to justify doing so. There will continue to be informal interchanges between individuals who have formed friendships over the years.

For those of you who are new to the village, we have been twinned with Lesparre, a town in the Medoc (yes – where they produce very nice wine), since 2000. During that time we have alternated visits between the two venues on a regular basis until fairly recently. Over eighty individuals from Drayton and around have participated in these events with, on one occasion, about thirty of us travelling over to Lesparre. We have fond memories of taking our visitors around Abingdon, Oxford, Windsor, Bath, Stratford upon Avon and the Houses of Parliament among other destinations. In their turn our hosts have fed us very well, taken us on trips to Bordeaux, the fort at Blaye, various vineyards including Saint-Émilion, and the coastal defences at the mouth of the Girond. Our last visit included a pageant re-enacting the battle at Castillon-la-Bataille in 1453. This was the last battle of the 100 years' war when the French finally threw the English out of all of France apart from Calais. We think that they were exacting revenge on us for taking them to Millett's farm where they were commemorating the battle of Trafalgar!

The remaining members of the twinning group would be happy to put villagers in touch with people in Lesparre should anyone wish to visit on a family/exchange basis.

Anyone who would like to get in touch can call me on:  
(01235 531347) or Bob Matthews (01235 531204).



*Twinners enjoying a picnic in France*



*Twinners at Wittenham Clumps*



# MORE ALL AROUND

## DRAYTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB **John Gould**

The club wishes me to say a very big thank you to everyone who came along to our Annual Quiz Night. The event raised essential funds for the club and we are grateful to club members and villagers who supported it. Thanks to Jill Gimigliano for organising the raffle. Jill is no longer an active club member, but is good enough to help out each year and this is much appreciated by the members. I don't think the questions were too hard in the main! Congratulations to Roy Stocker and his team who were the winners although it is of course the taking part that is most important. Also thanks to Brenda Gould for operating the score board and to David Hudson & Kevin Davies for keeping everyone refreshed.

Our teams have recently been involved in the Handicap Shield matches. This involves eight 'mini leagues' with all of our seven teams playing. The B, D & E teams ended in the same group alongside Sandford A. The B & D teams won through to the last 16. In addition, our A & C teams have progressed to the same round which is now on a knock out basis. Matches will be played over the next few weeks so fingers crossed we will avoid each other and get to the quarter finals.

Our Bidmead Cup team trying to retain the trophy were away to Upton in the first round. Our team of Kevin & Matthew Davies together with Robert Mihalache proved too strong for the opponents and so they have started well in their quest.

## 1st DRAYTON BROWNIES **Annette Mitchell**

We would like to welcome Olivia and Cerys to our pack and hope they enjoy their time with us.



Carrying on with our Brownie Traditions Badge, we dressed up in costumes from around the world to celebrate Thinking Day, this is when Girlguiding think about girls from all around the world and light a candle for them.

How many parents remember doing cat's cradle in the playground? We taught the Brownies how to do cat's cradle and they managed to produce a tea cup and saucer followed by the Eiffel Tower!

We had a very crafty meeting, sticking coloured tissue paper on to jam jars and making tissue paper flowers for mother's day and button heart cards, we hope our Brownie mothers all enjoyed their present?

We had a very green meeting to celebrate St Patricks Day, we dressed up in green, played the hot potato game, tasted potato crisps, and made four leaf clovers!



Meeting are held at Drayton Village Hall, on Wednesdays during school term from 6pm – 7.30pm, meetings are open to all girls aged between 7 – 10 years old. You can register your interest on the girl guiding website [www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/)

or you can email us on [drayton1stbrownies@live.co.uk](mailto:drayton1stbrownies@live.co.uk)

Further details are available from:

Ruth Hudson (Brown Owl) on 01235 205111

Esther Deabill (Tawny Owl) on 01235 528502

Annette Mitchell (Barn Owl) on 01235 555216

## FRIENDS OF DRAYTON SCHOOL **Maria Grundy**

At the time of writing this (March 12th), the children at Drayton school are enjoying science week. We are delighted to have been able to fund special science workshops for each class and the resources for each pupil to plant their own sunflower seed, which they will nurture in the hope of growing the tallest sunflower. Thank you to everyone involved in organising the science week. The children are loving it!

Our bag2school.collection raised an amazing £116. Thanks to all who donated

Congratulations to Sarah Walters who won our Mother's Day hamper and to the 100+ club winners for February, winning £22.25 each: Val Chadwick with number 75 and Alisa Henderson with number 60.

Please come along and test your wits at the FODSA Quiz Night on Saturday 21st April. Tickets are £10 and include quiz entry, drink and cheeseboard. Tickets are available from Vickery's, Mace and the School Office. We look forward to seeing you there!

**QUIZ NIGHT**  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018  
Doors open at 7.30pm, quiz starts at 8pm  
£10 per person including quiz entry,  
a glass of wine and a delicious cheese board  
Up to 6 members per team  
Tickets from  
Mace, Vickery's or the School Office

## DRAYTON WIVES

## Rosemary Barlow

January seems a long time away now, so I will just give a brief summary of our meeting on Wednesday the 28th. Christine Wootton gave us a lively talk on the Abingdon to Radley railway which closed in 1963. Many of our members had happy memories of the line which was known locally as "The Bunk".

The Birthday Lunch which is always held in February was this year at Cosenors House in Abbey Close and was attended by thirty five of us. The venue was warm and welcoming on such a cold day and the staff provided us with excellent service. The food served tasted as delicious as it looked and was enjoyed by all.

March meeting on Wednesday 28th at 2.00pm in the Village Hall.

The speaker will be one of our favourites, Alan Copeland who will be talking about Eccentric London.

Visitors are always welcome to join us and will receive a warm welcome.



## W.I.

## Ann Webb

March is our annual meeting month so we decided a while ago to not have a speaker as the meeting is a decision making meeting and can therefore take time. So after the official business when the next year's officers and committee are elected, we moved on to the wonderful array of sweet treats layed out before us. I must say the sight of those puddings did help to concentrate the thoughts on the business. Gill Gay is still our President and has volunteered to stay in office until we reach our centenary, unless circumstances change. This was greatly appreciated, and a vote of thanks was given to her from us all. After the official part was over, we all did justice to the array of sweets.

Next month we meet at the usual time and venue, 2nd Thursday 7.30pm at the Caudwell Day Centre. The speaker not yet confirmed as our new programme is at the printers.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP (NAG5)**

#### **Scams phone calls purporting to be from the Telephone Preference Service (TPS)**

**The caller asks if the subscriber is still receiving unwanted calls. This is inevitably the case because the TPS is only able to reduce the frequency of such calls.** Sooner or later the caller will talk about payments, claiming it is in order to help to provide a more comprehensive service. Do not be drawn in by this and do not make any payments. The call is a ruse to obtain subscribers' bank details. If you have the caller's number you can report it to TPS, who do not charge for their services. Call TPS on 0345 070707 or e-mail [tps@dma.org.uk](mailto:tps@dma.org.uk)

#### **Scam phone calls purporting to be from BT**

Calls have been made to both landlines and mobile phones where the scammers have known the customer's personal details, and even provided reference numbers, claiming that this would reduce their BT bill. Please exercise extreme caution, as criminals are trying to trick customers into providing their bank details.

Fraudulent callers may:

- try to convince you that you owe money on your bill and threaten to disconnect the phone line immediately if you do not pay there and then over the phone. BT will never disconnect a phone line during a call.
- say your computer has a fault or a virus, and then try to scare you by suggesting that your computer will stop working if you do not take action. They might try to persuade or coerce you into installing software or ask you to perform commands on your computer with the intention of gaining remote access to it.

Such callers 'spoof' the number they are calling from. If you dial 1471 to obtain the caller's number you may get a fictitious number that masks the real destination. You may also be offered a number to call, to confirm the legitimacy of their call. A scammer will answer calls to this number, tricking you into thinking it is BT.

#### **Protect yourself**

- Be suspicious about unsolicited calls relating to a security or system problem, even if the caller claims to represent a respected company.
- If you want to make a call to check the legitimacy of the caller find the number yourself, either from your bill or from the BT website, and use a different phone from the one you took the call on.
- Ask questions about your account before continuing the call. If the caller cannot answer they are not legitimate.
- Never give any personal information, such as credit card or bank details to an unsolicited caller.
- Never type anything into the computer, install software, visit any websites or follow any other instructions unless you are confident that the call is genuine.
- Do not agree to sign up for anything and, under no circumstances, allow the caller to take over control of your

computer system. Doing so would allow access to your personal files to obtain information.

- If you use a public, or shared, computer always remember to sign out completely when you exit any account by clicking on 'Sign out', 'Log Off' or 'Log Out'.

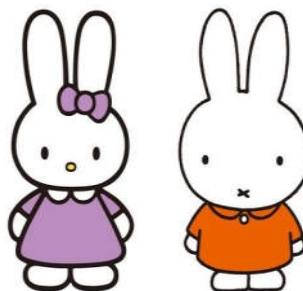
BT has said it is aware of these fraudulent activities, which are industry-wide problems that they are actively working on to tackle. They advise customers to check [www.bt.com/scams](http://www.bt.com/scams) for details of the latest developments. You can also check your account online to see if there are any problems by going to [www.bt.com/mybt](http://www.bt.com/mybt). If you don't have the internet check your bill for the number to call.

BT also says it constantly monitors the network to safeguard its customers. If it detects suspicious account activity, which makes them believe that an account may be compromised or at risk, they will act to secure the account immediately. They will prompt the customer to change their password when they next log in. BT never charges for support of this kind. They also have preventative measures available such as BT nuisance call blocker phones that block up to 100% nuisance calls plus advice on how they can help to deal with unwanted calls.

*To contact the police call either 101 (for non-emergencies) or 999 (for emergencies)*

*Contact NAG5 by calling 01235 848694 or e-mail [neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com](mailto:neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com)*

## MILLENNIUM GREEN



We are holding our Easter Egg hunt on Easter Monday morning, April 2nd from 10.30 until we've run out of eggs! Please come and support us and make a donation towards the running and upkeep of the Millennium Green, the more we raise the more often we will be able to hold such events. I will create an event on our FaceBook page - Drayton

Millennium Green, and it would be really useful if you could let us know via this if you are planning on coming, so we can make sure the Easter Bunny stocks up!

Now a plea! With such an event soon coming up and hopefully lots of happy children running around the Green, could all dog walkers please keep an extra eye on their dogs and pick up after them. I know most do and I also know how difficult it can be to keep an eye out especially if you are walking more than one dog. However the central part is not pleasant, and probably before the egg hunt the committee will be out there again clearing up - not nice. Also if you see someone has "missed" their dog in action, point it out and maybe offer a bag, as has appeared on the Families in Drayton FaceBook page - "there is no such thing as the poo fairy!"

Thanks to all the helpers that turned out for our first clear up morning of the year in February, the sun shone and an awful lot was achieved, especially around the pond area.

*Jane Mcwhirter  
Chair.millenniumgreen@gmail.com*

## VILLAGE LITTER PICK

Please join us for a village litter pick on **Saturday 21st April 2018** as part of the 'Great British Spring Clean'. Meet on the **Millennium Green at 10:00am**. Walking shoes or boots and bring gloves if possible.

David Perrow  
Clerk to Drayton (Abingdon) Parish Council  
Tel: 07909176061 (mobile)  
Email: [draytonclerk@gmail.com](mailto:draytonclerk@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.DraytonPC.org](http://www.DraytonPC.org)



# COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

## Richard Webber

### Potholes

“You can turn your back on a pothole. You cannot turn your back on a needy child.”

As we enter the end of a decade of austerity, Oxfordshire, along with many other Councils responsible for Highways, has taken some tough decisions to protect our children’s and adult social services from the worst of the cost cutting - at the expense of the Highways budget. We now spend less than half what we spent on our roads and Highways 10 years ago. Meanwhile social service costs and demand go up and up.

There is, of course, a limit to how long we can continue to do this. Roads do not deteriorate at a steady rate. After a few years of neglect, the rate of deterioration falls off a cliff. And the cost of bringing the roads back into an acceptable condition escalate dramatically. In other words, our present policy of “managed decline” is inevitably storing up more and more trouble for the future. We are, potentially, handing over a massive problem for our children.

I find this very uncomfortable. So what are the possible solutions?

First, if we can actually get the Growth Deal in place, the money it gives us to develop the major road network, will allow some of our present budget to be diverted to repairing the smaller A and B roads.

Secondly, whilst we demand that Government gives more money to the Health Service, more money to social services, more money to environmental protection and more money to Education, we need to persuade them that there is now a major problem in underfunding of road maintenance.

Thirdly, Councils – including Oxfordshire - need to be allowed and encouraged to borrow against their assets to spend money on roads. Every pound we spend keeping a road from falling off that cliff, is future pounds saved.

Without good roads, local economies cannot thrive. Building ever more houses without a safe, effective route to and from work will put people off coming to live here. It will also put off companies from setting up and staying here. Without good roads, our social services suffer as people find it harder to get to shops, to schools and to hospitals.

To bring our roads back to an acceptable condition will, it is estimated, cost more than £150 million – and that’s just Oxfordshire. We cannot wait for Elon Musk to fly us about in rockets or in supersonic underground tunnels and we would all prefer not to have to risk our tyres and our suspensions every time we take to the Highway.

Step one is for all of us right up to Central Government to recognize the scale of the problem. We can hide from it no longer.

*Richard Webber Cllr OCC  
SC and Marcham Division  
Richardwebber777@gmail.com  
01235 534001*



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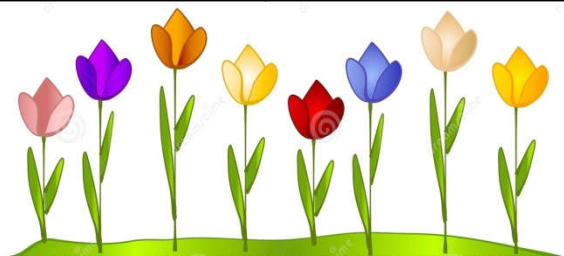
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## THE STONEHILL COMMUNITY GARDEN.

We opened in early 2016 and so are approaching our third growing season. The garden is a place for people of all ages and from all backgrounds to enjoy being out doors.

We have a vegetable plot where we grow organic produce using the permaculture ethos. We now have two poly tunnels which will increase the amount and variety of what we produce. We operate a pick your own scheme and plan to sell some produce to the Wheatsheaf and Red Lion pubs.

With Spring approaching we are composting our raised beds and preparing for when we plant out but some of our visitors prefer to sit and chat.

The garden will be expanding over the coming two years to include a meditation / sensory garden including a forest garden (where the plants are all edible), and a nature walk. We will also soon be starting a forest school and have regular courses (see web page and future Chronicles for details).

We already have a number of groups and individuals who visit but more would be welcome.

We are open Wednesdays between 10.00am and 4.00pm so please do drop by. We are on Stonehill Lane off Oday Hill and are sign posted from the B4017. You can find us on Facebook ( The Stonehill Community Garden) or visit our web site, [www.stonehillgardens.co.uk](http://www.stonehillgardens.co.uk) or for more details contact Project Co-Organiser Richard Seamark on 07565 421637



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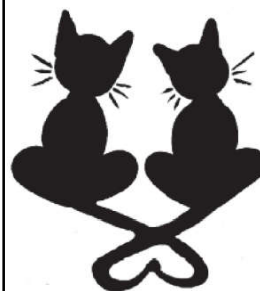
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## YOUR LETTERS

Dear Editor,

As I walked with my dog through Drayton, I saw three lots of dog poo on the paths, this is unacceptable. First lot was on the corner of Marcham Road and Whitehorns Way and then the other two were on Whitehorns Way

Andrew Cattell

*(Editor's note: This letter didn't make the last issue but sadly, the problem of dog poo is still with us, despite several letters on the subject published in the Chronicle over the years)*

Dear Editor,

I live in East Hanney in a house that my husband and I bought from Jane Christie Miller almost four years ago.

Jane moved to live with her niece in Drayton before passing away in April of last year. I have recently found a box of old miniature photos which evidently belonged to Jane and I would dearly like to pass them on to her niece but I don't have any contact details.

I would be grateful if anyone who knows contact details for Jane's niece could pass them on to me via the Chronicle editor. Details below.

*(Editor's note: name and address supplied with this letter. If anyone has information, please contact the editor at editor@draytonchronicle.net who will pass them on to the author).*

Dear Editor,

I am now feeling too scared to walk on the Millennium Green. Being allergic to dogs, especially their saliva, I have long accepted that 90% of the time I have to change my trousers and wash them after every walk on the Green because some dog has jumped up me. But yesterday I was BITTEN by a dog. The owner, a woman, could not get the dog under control and he lunged at me several more times before she grabbed him. The bite is minor, but I had to rush home, wash and apply antihistamine cream and take antihistamine to calm the allergic reaction. Today I have several puncture wounds, a bruise and a hard lump. The woman was very apologetic, but as I walked away I heard her ask the dog in a 'sweet' voice, 'now what was that all about?' I think he deserved stern words if not a slap.

I have since learned that this is not the first time this dog has bitten someone in a completely unprovoked attack. The owners have taken him for training after the first attack, but he can clearly not be trusted. What if his next victim is a child? He could reach the throat of a small child. I did not take immediate action because I needed to reflect and get over the terror of the attack. However, having posted about this on Families in Drayton on Facebook, many of the responses think it should be reported. I tried to contact the dog warden but they no longer exist and I was directed to Environmental Health at the Vale, who told me to ring 101. I now have an appointment with the police next week. The owners concerned discovered who I am and have emailed further apologies to my husband, which is appreciated. However this does not detract from the fact that they have an unreliable dog, that may bite at any time. If a child is hurt, I would feel terrible if I had not reported this.

On a more general level, I am concerned to discover on Facebook just how many families with small children avoid the Millennium Green because of incidents they have experienced with dogs. Even some dog owners who keep their dogs on the lead are intimidated by loose dogs pestering or attacking their dog. I know it's nice for dogs to run free, but I'm wondering whether the Millennium Green should require that dogs be kept on leads, so that ALL sections of the Drayton community feel safe to enjoy the Green.

Janet Manning

**M. S. Lally**

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# DRAYTON REMEMBERS World War 1 Dead

The Chronicle commemorates the men of Drayton who died in the 1st World War by publishing their names near the month of the 100th anniversary of their deaths.

*(Information supplied and researched by John Roberts)*

## HENRY ALSTON



Gunner  
Royal Field Artillery  
21st Bty. 2nd Brigade  
Service Number – 212892  
Killed in Action 29th April 1918  
Age 39  
Husband of G.A.R. Alston  
of Wayside Cottages, Drayton,  
Berks  
Remembered with Honour

PERTH CEMETRY (China Wall) 111-C-18



## SANTA CONTINUES HIS WORK Colin Arnold

As reported on page 10 of the January edition of the Chronicle, Santa had his "Beard Off" event on the 28th January. The event raised an incredible £347.00. Santa and his Elf have donated this to even more local organisations.

Having spoken to Santa and his Elf, they have told me that they are planning to hold some Children's Workshops in the build up to Christmas 2018, WATCH THIS SPACE for details.



Santa (Mark Symm) before and after his beard was removed

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## SCUBA DIVING

**SCUBA (Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus)**  
**A short article to tempt you to explore our undersea world...**

Your underwater adventure to see the other 70 percent of our planet... or as Jacques Cousteau once said "From birth, man carries the weight of gravity on his shoulders. He is bolted to earth. But man has only to sink beneath the surface of the sea and he is free."

Sharks get a lot of bad press, but really they are super cool predators; many of the 500 or so species such as The Great White, Tiger, Blue, Mako, Thresher and Hammerhead sharks are Apex predators and at the top of their food chain – which, fortunately very seldom involves divers. All divers love 'big stuff', but that's only part of the dive adventures waiting to be had; there are wrecks to explore, ecosystems to understand, places to go, boats to live on, night time dives, fish to see, people to meet and make friends with, turtles to watch and you may even find Nemo...

Only a fool would strap a tank of air on his or her back, don a mask and fins and leap off the back of a perfectly good boat into the ocean without any training; so, how does it all start? For many it starts on your summer holiday when the local hotel or resort has a dive centre and the 'Discover Scuba' poster is spotted, or the kids 'Bubblemaker' programme catches the eye. Discover Scuba Diving (DSD) is very controlled for safety and is really a (very) short diving course that makes you safe and knowledgeable enough to have an accompanied sea dive, rather like a tandem parachute jump. If you want to get started before your summer holiday then pretty well all the UK dive centres will offer certification courses and pukka dive holidays for those already certified. Google local dive centres and that's it!

If the bug gets you after DSD – and it probably will, the next step is to get an open water diver certification that involves either classroom or e-learning, some confined (swimming pool) instruction and dives, followed by open water (sea, reservoir or lake) certification dives. For some that's enough and it'll allow you to go diving when you're on holiday, possibly with a refresher dive if you haven't dived for a while. For many it's just the beginning of the ladder of certifications and adventures for this unique and exciting sport.

What about all the kit? You can always rent everything you need at a very reasonable cost at the local dive centre, but a mask, snorkel and fins are your basic gear and are very personal and not terribly expensive. So, what is 'everything'; well, that depends on factors such as water temperature, the type of diving (wreck, cave, night etc), but in addition to your basic gear mentioned above, you'll usually need a wet or a dry suit to keep you toasty warm, a tank of air, a regulator to allow you to breathe it, some weights and a buoyancy control jacket – it's a bit like an inflatable waistcoat – to help you maintain 'neutral buoyancy' and become weightless, a little like being an astronaut but under water, it's wonderful! It's a technical sport and there's a ton of stuff you can get, but not all at once.

So, if you want to give it a go, find your local dive centre (Oxford), pop in and enrol for their next Professional Association of Dive Instructors DSD or dive course

**Colin West**, certified recreational diver, Sutton Wick Lane.

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*Green Turtle*



*White tipped reef shark*



*Sea Horse juvenile - hiding*



*Nemo Clown Anemone fish*

*(Photos courtesy of Daisuke Uruchida, taken at Manza and the  
Kerama Islands Okinawa, Japan)*



## POLICE ALERTS

### From PCSO Sue Haynes

#### Shed breakins

There has been an increase of sheds being broken into around the Abingdon area. Garden tools have been taken. Please ensure that your sheds have a good strong lock and even an alarm could be fitted. Any valuable items should be taken out and put in a secure place.

#### Attempted theft from a vehicle

Between the hours 1.30am – 8.45am on 25th February in Whitehorns Way, Drayton, a transit van had its passenger's side door lock broken. No entry was gained. If you saw anything please call the police non-emergency number 101 and quote reference 43180059640.

#### SmartWater security marking

We are starting an initiative to make some of our areas 'SmartWater streets' or even 'SmartWater villages'. If we get an uptake of 80% of residents on a road that purchase SmartWater we can apply for signs to act as a deterrent. SmartWater is a brand of forensic marking fluid containing millions of microscopic particles that make up an individual property identification code. The liquid is invisible to the naked eye, but glows green under UV light. It can be painted onto valuable items (e.g. laptops, MP3 players, televisions, antiques) so that if the items are stolen and later seized by the police, the markings can be checked and items linked with their owners. SmartWater is a good deterrent and increases your chances of getting stolen items back. If you would like more details on how to become a SmartWater Street or Village please contact me using the details below.

#### Contact us

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non-emergency number 101 or if it is an emergency then dial 999. You can also contact us via email [AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk). Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters.

To view information on your neighbourhood team visit the Thames Valley Police website at: [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk). Receive free local crime alerts and crime prevention advice by registering at [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk) today. This allows anyone who signs up to choose what updates they receive and how they would like to receive it. The Thames Valley Police Twitter account is kept up to date with what we are up to; please follow us @TVPSouthandVale.

## PHANTOM DEBT FRAUD

### Message sent by Action Fraud

Action Fraud has recently experienced an increase in the number of calls to members of the public by fraudsters requesting payments for a "phantom" debt. The fraud involves being cold-called by someone purporting to be a debt collector, bailiff or other type of enforcement agent. The fraudster may claim to be working under instruction of a court, business or other body and suggest they are recovering funds for a non-existent debt.

The fraudsters are requesting payment, sometimes by bank transfer and if refused, they threaten to visit homes or workplaces in order to recover the supposed debt that is owed. In some cases, the victim is also threatened with arrest. From the reports Action Fraud has received, this type of fraud is presently occurring throughout the UK.

It is important to recognise that there are key differences between the various entities who seek to settle debts or outstanding fees in England and Wales. These differences range from the type of debt they will enforce to the legal powers they possess. To learn more, please take a look at some of the helpful information and links on the Step Change Debt Charity website;

<https://www.stepchange.org/debt-info/debt-collection/bailiffs-and-debt-collectors-differences.aspx>

## Protect Yourself

- Make vigorous checks if you ever get a cold call. Bailiffs for example, should always be able to provide you with a case number and warrant number, along with their name and the court they are calling from; make a note of all details provided to you.
- If you receive a visit from a bailiff, they must always identify themselves as a Court Bailiff at the earliest possible opportunity. Ask to see their identity card which they must carry to prove who they are, this card shows their photograph and identity number. They will also carry the physical warrant showing the debt and endorsed with a court seal.
- If you work for a business and receive a call or visit, be sure to speak with your manager or business owner first. Never pay the debts yourself on behalf of the business you work for; some fraudsters have suggested employees make payment suggesting they can then be reimbursed by their employer when in reality the debt is non-existent.
- Exercise caution believing someone is genuine because you've found something on the internet; fraudsters could easily create fake online profiles to make you believe them.
- Double check with the court, company or public body they claim to work for to confirm whether the call is legitimate; if you use a landline make sure you hear the dialling tone prior to dialling as the caller could still be on the line and you could potentially speak to the fraudster(s) to confirm the non-existent debt. Also be sure to independently search for a telephone number to call; never use a number provided by the caller without carrying out your own research.
- Do not feel rushed or intimidated to make a decision based on a phone call. Take five and listen to your instincts.
- If you know you have a debt, keep in regular contact with your creditor and be sure to establish the debt type at the earliest opportunity if you are not aware. This will help you to understand who might be in contact with you regarding any repayments or arrears.

You can report suspicious calls like these to Action Fraud by visiting [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040.



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## HEDGE HOGS

"The State of Britain's Hedgehogs 2018". is a report published jointly by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) and People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES). It is the only comprehensive review of the status of Britain's hedgehogs and it shows that hedgehogs in rural areas are in severe decline, with their numbers plummeting by half since the Millennium.

"There are many reasons hedgehogs are in trouble," explains Emily Wilson, Hedgehog Officer for Hedgehog Street, a public action campaign run by PTES and BHPS. "The intensification of agriculture through the loss of hedgerows and permanent grasslands, increased field sizes, and the use of pesticides which reduce the amount of prey available, are all associated with the plunge in numbers of hedgehogs in rural areas."

However, with approximately 70% of land in the UK managed by farmers, BHPS and PTES are planning to engage with the farming community to help protect this iconic creature.

"Farmers play a vital role in producing food, but they're also well placed to help protect, maintain and enhance our countryside," continues Wilson. "The Government recently reiterated plans to reform the EU Common Agricultural Policy to reward landowners for delivering environmental benefits. Many farmers already have a sustainable approach to agriculture, and we think there's a great opportunity to work more widely with them to stem the alarming decline of our country hedgehogs."

Whilst The State of Britain's Hedgehogs report highlights a worrying decline in our countryside, it shows a more positive outlook for hedgehogs in our towns and cities: although the species has declined by a third in urban areas since 2000, the rate of decline is slowing. Hedgehogs are not disappearing from urban green spaces as rapidly as they were fifteen years ago, and might even be returning. Where they are found, numbers too, appear to be growing in some places.

It is exciting to think that the combined efforts of thousands of volunteers who have joined Hedgehog Street and pledged to make their gardens more hedgehog-friendly, may be making a difference. PTES and BHPS launched Hedgehog Street in 2011 to inspire the British public to help hedgehogs and other wildlife that depend on their gardens and, so far, over 47,000 Hedgehog Champions have signed up to help.

Wilson concludes: "Urban and suburban areas are becoming increasingly important for hedgehogs, so we need more people in those locations to sign up as Hedgehog Champions. Hedgehogs are a generalist species, so the more people can do to help them in their own back garden, the more they will also benefit other wildlife."

How to help hedgehogs: Visit <http://www.hedgehogstreet.org> and become a Hedgehog Champion and find simple advice on making your garden and neighbourhood more hedgehog-friendly



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## VALE NEWS

### Meet Munching Molly and pals – the new food waste recycling trucks

Vale of White Horse District Council set a challenge to primary school children in both districts to come up with a list of new names for the new food waste trucks.



Residents then voted for their favourites. After nearly four weeks and thousands of votes, the most popular name in Vale of White Horse was Munching Molly. The name was put forward by two pupils at John Blandy Primary School in Southmoor. There are a total of twelve new food waste trucks, the new fleet was recently introduced by the councils' waste contractor Biffa. The children who put forward the top names have each won a swimming pass for our local leisure centres for their family, courtesy of GLL the councils' leisure centre contractor. Each child also scooped £150 book tokens for their school.

### New awards for voluntary and community groups

Voluntary and community groups across the district are being invited to tell everyone the difference they have made to their communities – and the best will win new awards thanks to Vale of White Horse district council.

The council is sponsoring an award for the first time this year - for the Best Group in the Vale of White Horse.

The awards are part of the prestigious annual Oxfordshire Charity and Volunteer Awards – co-ordinated by Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action. The winners will be announced in Oxford on 5 June 2018.

The challenge has been set down for voluntary or community groups, large or small, new or old to show how they have made a significant impact to their local communities.

Please visit the OCVA website for more information and how to nominate. Nominations close at midday on 10 April 2018

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## GOVERNMENT GREEN-LIGHTS FIRST USE OF AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES ON UK ROADS

- UK's first trial of autonomous vehicles on public roads will take place in Didcot
- Trial funded by Government's innovation agency, Innovate UK
- Project seeks to reduce car usage within a large business park by half

The first use of fully connected and autonomous vehicles (CAV) on public roads is set to take place in Oxfordshire, following the announcement of government funding into a trial project.

Innovate UK announced on 25th february the award of £2.5 million to trial self-driving vehicles in and around Milton Park, the large, high-tech business and science hub near Didcot. The vehicles will travel between private roads at Milton Park and the public roads that link the site with nearby transport services.

The 30-month MultiCAV project will be undertaken by a consortium of organisations with different sector backgrounds who are investing in the development of autonomous vehicles, and led by UK transport operator FirstGroup.

Despite being relatively close to Didcot Parkway station, most travel to and from Milton Park is currently made in private vehicles. With the site set to expand in the coming years, the MultiCAV consortium is building on the work already underway to provide the park with long-term, safe sustainable transport.

Commuters to the site will be able to connect with the self-driving pods from local transport services, while booking and paying for their trip in one easy process.

It is hoped that by the end of the trial up to 50% of private vehicle journeys within the business park will switch to using the shared, electric-powered pods.



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Not to be outdone by the colourful underwater photos on Page 16, here are some of our local wildlife from Tony Holmes and Linda Semmens



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*Starlings in conversation*

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# DRAYTON DIARY

## DIARY FOR APRIL

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

**NB** To book Drayton Hall call Tony Holmes on (01235) 531180  
or visit the website :- [www.draytonvh.co.uk](http://www.draytonvh.co.uk)

Sun	1	noon	Private Function (Child's party)
Sat	7	10.30am	Mess Around Party (franchise)
		2.00pm	Private Function (Child's party)
Sun	8	10.00am	Dog Show (Griffon Bruxellois)
Mon	9	7.00pm	Annual Parish Assembly followed by normal <b>Parish Council Meeting</b> Caudwell DC
Fri	13	7.00pm	All Saints (SC) Choir Charity Event
Sat	14	12.30pm	<b>Chronicle Lottery Deadline</b>
		noon	Private Function (Child's party)
		7.00pm	Charity Quiz (Kingswood)
Sun	15	9.00am	Bowls Club
Mon	16	5.00pm	<b>Chronicle Deadline</b> (see P2 – Ads 13th)
		7.30pm	PC Projects Board Meeting (Small hall)
Fri	20	7.00pm	Oxford Drama Network (AGM)
Sat	21	7.00pm	Charity Quiz (FoDSA)
Sun	22	2.00pm	Private Function (Child's party)

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## REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

**NB PLEASE** – if an entry is wrong – **DO tell an editor** (page 2)

### MONDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
11.00 am	Seniors 'Gentle' Yoga (Helen 07712 646382)	
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
6.00 pm	'Bounce Fit' (1hr - Sophie 07791 778388)	
7.15 pm	Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday)	Caudwell DC
7.00 pm	Table Tennis (Coaching, one hour)	School
7.30 pm	Badminton (Private Group)	
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours)	St Peter's
8.00 pm	Table Tennis (Social Play, one hour)	School

### TUESDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
9.30 am	Pilates (via Alexandra Merson 07788 248925)	
1.45 pm	Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm)	Caudwell Day Centre
2.30 pm	First Tuesday Connections (1st Tuesday)	Church Room
6.30 pm	Yoga (with Olga – 07880 256107)	
7.00 pm	League Table Tennis (three hours)	School
8.00 pm	Clubbercise (run by Gemma Pearce, see her F'book)	

### WEDNESDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
10.00 am	Pebbles (Baby, Toddler, Carer gp – p4)	Church Room
1.45 pm	Whist Drive (ACHLoFriends)	Caudwell Day Centre
2.00 pm	Drayton Wives (Last Wednesday in the month)	
2.15 pm	Badminton	
6.00 pm	Brownies	
7.00 pm	League Table Tennis (three hours)	School
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	Bingo Session	Caudwell Day Centre

### THURSDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	School Ground Bldg
9.00 am	Foot Clinic (1st Thurs)	Caudwell Day Centre
9.15 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's Lady Chapel
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group (NB Term-time ONLY)	
11am-1pm	Baptist Cafe	Baptist Church
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
2.00 pm	Wives' Whist (Mthly – 2nd Thurs)	Caudwell DC
5.30 pm	Rainbows (girls 5 to 7 years, call Vicky 07801 447720)	
7.00 pm	League Table Tennis (three hours)	School
7.30 pm	Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thurs)	Caudwell DC
7.30 pm	Sequence Dancing (Brian - 01235 531701)	
7.45 pm	ShikiDojo Martial Arts (check w Paul - 07479 824887)	

### FRIDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	Sch'l Ground Bldg
11.00 am	DiddiDance (Tatiana for info – 07922 668740)	
11.00 am	The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466	Caudwell Day Centre

### SUNDAYS

8.00 am	Holy Communion (2nd Sunday)	St Peter's
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (Family Service 3rd Sunday)	St Peter's
6.00 pm	Evening Service	Baptist Church

## MISSED OUT ON YOUR CHRONICLE?

If by any chance your Area Agent is unable to deliver your Chronicle one month you can collect a copy from Vickery's shop in the week after normal delivery time. Lawrence has very kindly agreed to keep a small stock for us each month.

**DISCLAIMER:** This Journal is published in good faith and great care is taken in its compilation. The organisers of the DRAYTON CHRONICLE, and its Agents, therefore accept no responsibility for OPINIONS EXPRESSED, nor for the validity of any ADVERTISEMENT, nor for any EFFECTS ARISING WHATSOEVER from the publication.

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