

DRAYTON Chronicle



Carrying the Cross
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The Kite's view
of Drayton time
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Drayton's
Faberge

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The D in DAMASCUS
page 4



In,
around
and above
our village



Flying over the
Millennium Green



She may safely graze

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CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The **Drayton Chronicle** is published under the auspices of the Drayton Community Trust, charity number 255846

The next **Chronicle** will be the **June** issue:

Editor: **Tony Holmes, 53 Whitehorns Way (531180).**

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 11 May 2018**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.00 on Monday, 14 May 2018**

Printed copies available: **Friday, 25 May 2018**

Deadline dates for subsequent Chronicles

can always be found on the Drayton Chronicle website; <http://www.draytonchronicle.net/deadlines.html>

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

Please make sure you **always include your name**, address and (in case clarification is necessary) telephone number. Without names we will usually not publish an item at all.

Please also note that the editor must ensure that each Chronicle fits exactly into a multiple of 4 printed pages. The editor therefore reserves the right to place, edit, shorten or even reject contributions as required to achieve this.

Contributions should preferably be sent to us by **email** to editor@draytonchronicle.net. They should either be embedded in the email as **plain text** or attached as a **rich-text** or **Microsoft Word** document! Photographs are most welcome and should be attached as jpeg or png files, **not embedded in documents**.

Requests for advertisements should be emailed to advertising@draytonchronicle.net. Please note that they will eventually need to be 9cms wide and, for a single block advert, about 4.5cms high, preferably as a Word file.

Make sure that the editor or advertising manager acknowledges your email within a few days.

We do still accept typed or hand-written items. In the latter case **please write the names of people and places in capital letters**.

These contributions should either be 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 deadline at the top of this page, only urgent items will be considered and then only if emailed or delivered directly to the **Editor's** house by the Wednesday following the Monday deadline.

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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 Vickery's or sent there (address above).

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

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CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Carol Arnold, Hon Promoter

RESULTS OF THE APRIL LOTTERY

Prize	Winner	Agent
£25	Margaret Jones, Halls Close	Ali Bone
£20	Mrs L Dymock, Steventon Road	Janet Dale
£15	Mr Moyna, Abingdon Road	Jayne Henderson
£10	Peacey, Steventon Road	Judy Henman
£10	Ian Rogers, Abingdon Road	Julie Brown
£10	Mrs Pacey, Church Lane	Susan Brooks
£10	Mr T Scaysbrook, Lockway	Sue Ash
£10	Mrs Booth, Abingdon Road	Julie Brown
£10	Maillol, Abingdon Road	Daniel Scharf
£10	Mrs Jones, Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough

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YOUR LETTERS

Proposed allotment rent rise:

The Chronicle has received two letters commenting on the Parish Council's proposal substantially to increase allotment rents from March 2019 (see page 17).

Dear Editor

As an allotment holder for over 20 years, I am concerned about the intended annual rent rise for 2019 from £15 to £50 for a plot. Rents rose £3 for 2016 so the increase of £35 (over 230%) is excessive, especially in one rise.

I appreciate the Parish Council has a dilemma. The increase in housing is expected to result in more village residents wanting an allotment but the supply is currently limited as no suitable land is available for additional plots. Action has recently been taken to alleviate the situation (including dividing vacant plots into two half plots, capping plot holdings and restricting future plot allocation to village residents) but this is a short-term fix. Housing developers have earmarked funds for allotments but, unless more land is identified, this will not solve the lack of supply. Could developers not provide land rather than funds?

The Council's Finance Committee minutes for November state that the increase in rent is to reflect "the value/shortage of plots" and "costs". The allotments are a village amenity, providing many social benefits (fresh air, exercise, companionship) and I do not believe that limiting access by using price is acceptable as it discriminates against those with less disposable income. If the rent rise prevails then I would hope to see substantially improved facilities such as more water troughs, increased hedge trimming and protection on all boundaries to deter intruders. The new rent is above that for nearby villages and towns (Didcot also offers a pensioner reduction). The cost of maintaining the allotments appears to have been limited to occasional hedge trimming.

Over the years, there has been a turnover of plot holders. Some decide they are no longer capable of physically maintaining the plot whereas others discover that their dream of having an allotment does not tally with the reality of tending a plot in all weathers and coping with the disappointment when crops do not survive to be harvested by the plot holder. Rent is just one of the many costs of cultivating a plot.

Based on the reasons currently provided by the Parish Council, I question the appropriateness of the rent rise. It will not solve the lack of land. As I believe the cost of a village amenity is of general concern I urge residents to read more and form their own opinion. The Parish Council has published a document for public consultation and there is more detail of the rent rise in the minutes published on the Drayton village website (meeting minutes for Finance Committee, November 2017 and Parish Council, December 2017).

Yours sincerely

Mrs. J. Atkins

Editor's note: The second letter, from Daniel Scharf, was actually sent to the Parish Clerk but copied to us at the Chronicle.

Dear David,

It has not been easy to understand the reasons behind the increase to £50, but the relevant Minute says, "...to reflect current costs and value/shortage of allotment space." To unpack that,

Costs - there is no record of what 'costs' are included,

Shortage - this cannot be relevant given the substantial sum being made available to increase supply,

Value - is extremely subjective and requires consultation.

The actual test the PC should have considered would have been the 'reasonableness' of the rent to the tenants. ➔

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➔ Points for the PC to consider:

1. There should have been a proper and adequate public consultation before the decision was made (a fundamental principle of public law) and the decision should be set aside (as if it was never made) until that proper consultation has been carried out. This probably implies the need for a public meeting before such an extraordinary increase was even proposed.
2. The issue of unused plots has been raised. This is not a material consideration (see the Allotment Act). The proper response to unused plots is found in the rental agreement which is for the PC to serve notice on those who breach the tenancy agreement and not some 'collective punishment'.
3. The proposed rent rise would be counter-productive; most likely to give rise to more unused plots.
4. The sudden rent rise is tantamount to offering the allotments over the last few years under 'false pretences'; on the reasonable assumption that rents would be index linked.
5. The legal test of what an allotment holder could reasonably be expected to pay should reasonably take into account what has been charged in the past and what is being charged by neighbouring parishes. These rents are in the region of, and in no case significantly greater than, the £15 rent being charged in Drayton.
6. Allotment holders invest much more in time and money than just the rent. They generally keep the ground in 'good heart', maintain or increase the fertility and contribute to local food, minimizing food miles.
7. The increase also appears 'unreasonable' in the context of public opinion. Almost everybody discussing this issue has been looking for 'ulterior motives', e.g. suppressing demand, wanting the land for building or burial ground etc.
8. The rise would be 'regressive' by most affecting those least able to pay.
9. **The response to increased demand** is that £34k is being made available specifically to provide the new plots deemed necessary to the grant of permissions for the new houses. There is a duty to spend it for that purpose.
10. The PC has not written to all the landowners clearly stating its duty to provide allotment land.
11. There is suitable land available adjacent to all the new housing

In summary, the PC seems to have taken into account matters that are not relevant and have not fully or properly taken into account all relevant matters. On these grounds the PC could and should resolve to rescind the decision. If it again wants to consider a disproportionate rent rise then the process should start again with a public meeting.

The PC should start the process of finding the land on which to increase the supply of allotments.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Scharf



ST PETER'S CHURCH

part of the DAMASCUS parish

Rector	Rev'd Helen Kendrick.....848297
Associate Priest	Rev'd Meg Heywood.....537100
Associate Priest	Rev'd Rosie Bruce07707 087131
Pro-warden	Mrs Linda Johnson527521
Pro-warden	Mrs Val Cross535183

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday	8.00 am	Holy Communion, only on the 2nd Sunday of the month
	9.45 am	Sung Eucharist (CW), except the 4th Sunday, when there is non-Eucharist Morning Praise
Thursday	9.15 am	Holy Communion (CW) in Lady Chapel.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Monday	7.45 pm	Bell Ringing Practice	<i>Bell Tower</i>
Wed.	10.00 am	Pebbles (term time only)	<i>Church Room</i>
Friday	6.30 pm	Choir Practice (1st Friday)	<i>Church Room</i>

CALENDAR FOR MAY:

Tues	1	2.30 pm	First Tuesday Connections	<i>Church Room</i>
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YOU STAY WE PRAY, MAY:

1st to 5th Church Lane, Henleys Lane, Caudwell Close, Gravel Lane; 6th to 19th: Abingdon Road, Oday Hill, Binning Close, Haywards Road; 20th to 26th: Sutton Wick Lane, Greenacres, Newman Lane, Conifer Drive; 27th to 31st: Hilliat Fields, Lyford Close, Manor Close, The Green.

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS **Jean Hager**

If you are feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company, why not come along to our monthly tea and chat afternoons. They are usually held on the first Tuesday of the month in St Peter's Church Room from 2.30 pm to 4.00. The teapot is always at the ready and you can be sure of a warm welcome. Our subsequent two dates are **01 May** and **05 June**. If you need transport or further information, please give me a call on 531558.



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DAMASCUS PARISH LETTER

Back in January I joined a group of 25 people from the Diocese of Oxford on a pilgrimage to Ethiopia. We went in order to spend a couple of weeks studying the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and its history. The country has had links with Judaism since the Ethiopian Queen of Sheba married Israel's King Solomon, getting on for 3000 years ago, and Christianity has been the state religion since the fourth century AD, so our own Christian heritage looks modern in comparison.

The church today is thriving, with well over half the population identifying as Christian, and the church is very much part of the life of the country. Church life is full of colour and ceremony. We witnessed the two-day festival of Timkat which celebrates the Baptism of Jesus. The first day is marked by huge processions through the centre of major cities and people gather in their thousands to view massed choirs and priests in colourful costumes carrying replicas of the Ark of the Covenant through the streets. On the second day there are large out-door services where people are invited to renew their Christian Baptismal vows and are sprayed with holy water or invited to swim in huge swimming pools filled for the occasion.

The Ark provides a visual reminder of God's covenant with his people, made first with the Jews, and then extended to all people through Jesus. The Easter Story we celebrated here a couple of weeks ago is the culmination of this story, of God coming to earth to share his love for us, his people. Jesus, through his death and resurrection, created a covenant relationship in which God offers each of us his presence, his love, and the gift of eternal life. We are called to respond to that love by joining with the Ethiopian Christians in remembering our common Baptismal vow to 'Turn to Christ'. His offer remains open to all.

Tim Budd

Editor's note: Tim is a lay member of the DAMASCUS parish ministry team and is based in Sutton Courtenay.



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VILLAGE HALL

Tony Holmes

As I write (mid April) we're just preparing for an initial meeting, trying to prioritise likely improvements to the Hall. It's a long list, but I'd expect things like heating, loos and insulation to end up at the top, with quite a few more suggestions to consider, including our never-ending storage problem!



If anyone would like to come and help us, it's the Committee's AGM on Monday May 14th (7.30pm), so if you've got some new blood to offer, we'll be electing the 'officers' that night. By all means chat to Ann Webb (chair) on 531418 (or email ann.1@btinternet.com) for more info.

Advance notice of the Drayton Fete & Festival, Sat June 9th (2pm and on into the evening, live music & hog roast after 5pm); it's billed as a Day of Fun, raising money for the School and other local Community Groups, so do mark it up in your diary.

A small army of helpers has been organising it all, and I see on the list of attractions are (amongst many more) Bouncy Castles, Morris Dancers, Magic Peter, and Balloon Modelling, though if you're going to have a go at the Archery, better mind you're aiming away from those just mentioned?!

Oh, and another reminder for parents, we're getting if anything even busier for kiddies' parties, so don't leave it too late!

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

We would like to give a belated welcome to Calum and Beckie Mackay who moved from Abingdon into Sutton Wick Lane a couple of months ago.

Also, welcome to Mark and Helen Bower-Easton who have moved into Newman Lane from Dulwich South London.

And finally, we welcome Chris McAnaw and Emma Cross who have moved into Lockway

The Chronicle hopes that all couples will be very happy in their new homes

Congratulations and best wishes to Rob and Hannah of Binning Close on their recent wedding.

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, where you will find registration and sponsor forms and more information if required.

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DRAYTON SCHOOL

Marc Knight

It has been a busy few months in school. The school continues to place a high emphasis on enrichment, particularly in relation to educational visits. Since the turn of the year visits to the Oxford story museum, Warwick castle, Youlbury outdoor adventure centre, Bletchley Park, 'Crocodiles of the World' and 'The Living Rain Forest' have taken place. Visitors to the school have included African drummers and a circus workshop.

The school continues to grow, with over 170 children on roll (compared to approximately 130 in 2015). We are now what is known as a 'single form entry' school, which means that we have a class for each year group. In order to cope with this demand for places the local authority built a new classroom which opened in October 2017.

The school was inspected by OFSTED in early March. We are pleased to say that the school was judged to be 'good' in all areas. We are very happy that the inspector Sarah Hubbard, who is OFSTED's lead for primary English, identified the school's many strengths. For example, she noted 'Staff, pupils and parents recognise that the school has progressed, so much so that the headteacher and his leadership team leaders now provide support to schools within the local partnership. In particular, the headteacher has developed the expertise of his senior and middle leaders. They now make a greater contribution to moving the school forward'.

We are particularly pleased that she acknowledged how significant school leaders believe the arts to be, writing 'The emphasis that the headteacher places on academic excellence, as well as the arts, inspires and energises the entire community'.

Sarah went on to talk favourably about behaviour in the school by stating 'The pupils with whom I spoke praised the school highly and all said they felt safe while at school. One said it was a 'wonderful place'. All the pupils in this group agreed that the school had got better over the last couple of years, citing improvements in pupils' behaviour in class.'

The outcome of the inspection is testament to the hard work of everyone involved in our school community. We knew that our school is a vibrant and wonderful place to be, but it is pleasing for this to be echoed by a significant outside agency.

The hard work doesn't stop there, though. We have begun to make some changes to our curriculum which will strengthen the excellent teaching and learning which is currently in place. Added to that, we have recently set up a breakfast club while at the same time taking over the running of the after-school club.

As ever, we are very happy for people to visit our school to find out more about what we do. Please contact our school office (531316) to arrange a tour.

OFSTED INSPECTION

Derek Pooley

In his article above, the head teacher of Drayton Community Primary School, Marc Knight, notes that it was recently inspected again by OFSTED, the Office for Standards in Education.

The school was again judged to be a 'good' school, with much for the head teacher, the teachers, the governors, the parents, the village - and of course the pupils - to be pleased about. The inspectors were particularly impressed/amused to find some of the pupils exploring where and how they might use the adjective 'pestilential', perhaps about Drayton Parish Council's proposed allotment rent increases!!

We in the Chronicle Team are pleased to congratulate Marc and everyone else involved in achieving this result.

See the link below for the full report.

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/drayton-community/UploadedDocument/767d7c3b6f2c4598b1bcf29c72c5bdae/ofsted-march-18.pdf>



FODSA NEWS

Maria Grundy

Chocolate Hour

We all had such a fantastic time at the Chocolate Hour last month. The children loved playing games for sweet treats and hunting for clues in the playground during the Easter Hunt and of course, the chocolate fountain was a real favourite! An amazing £557 was raised. Thank you to all who came along to join the fun and to everyone who helped.



Drayton Fete and Festival

The Drayton Fete and Festival is fast-approaching, and we have some amazing activities booked in including Magic Peter and Orinoco Scrapstore. There will also be many fantastic stalls run by members of our community and local groups and of course lots of traditional games to keep everyone entertained. BMW, featuring our very own Mr Wooster, will be headlining the stage in the evening and we are very excited to also be welcoming Sam and Stu, JAE, Beard of Destiny and White Trash Freaks. It's going to be such an amazing event for the whole family!

If you are interested in a stall on the day, please contact Maria Grundy (fodsasecretary@gmail.com).

Finally, congratulations to our 100 Club winners for March and thank you to everyone for your continuing support.

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AND ALL AROUND

1ST DRAYTON BROWNIES

Annette Mitchell

We would like to welcome Abigail to our pack and hope she enjoys her time with us.

We finished last term by making Pom Pom animals with the traditional method of winding wool around a cardboard circle and then snipping the circumference to achieve a fluffy, woollen pom pom! Then we made a knickerbocker glory, with jelly, fruit cocktail, ice cream, cream and sprinkles! Sorry we didn't take any photos as they were all eaten quickly!



On our last day of term, we made chocolate nests and some beautiful 'Faberge' sequin eggs.

Editor's Note: Annette also sent in a picture of one of their 'Faberge' eggs, so colourful that I have printed it on the front page.

We hope everyone had a lovely Easter break. This term we are doing two Challenge Badges called the Expelliarmus and Mythical & Magical. Harry Potter fans will recognise Expelliarmus as a magic word spoken when disarming another's wand! We have lots of wonderful activities to do, ending with a trip to Harry Potter Warner Brother Studios and a Magical Mythical party on our last day. Watch this space!

Meetings are held at Drayton Village Hall, on Wednesdays during school term from 6pm – 7.30pm, open to all girls aged between 7 – 10 years old. Either email drayton1stbrownies@live.co.uk or visit www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/

Further details are available from:

Ruth Hudson (Brown Owl) on 01235 205111
Esther Deabill (Tawny Owl) on 01235 528502
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We are in Drayton on Fridays. For alternative locations and more info please check:

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YOUTH AND COMMUNITY TRUST Ann Webb

The Drayton Youth and Community Trust is looking to replace its secretary and the treasurer. This involves very little work in any one year but can also provide, sadly, only a small amount of cash now, to be donated to village organisations that are connected with young people or run for young people.

We meet once a year to receive requests for money and pay out what we have. The secretary's job is to advertise, using a Chronicle advert, the opportunity to apply, to collate replies and minute the meeting. The treasurer collects and collates the accounts and has control of the cheque book etc. We are looking for village people with, if possible, grown up children or no children, to give a balanced and unbiased decision when needed. Can you do this? if so please contact me by phone or email. ann.1@btinternet.com or 01235 531418.

SHOUT OUT TO OXFORDSHIRE! Mark Watson

Hello Drayton! I'm writing to you tell you about a new feature we're launching soon for local people who might like to make an appeal to Radio Oxford listeners. Perhaps your council or Councillors would like to take advantage of this free service, or you may know of some local groups who would?

 **Shout Out** 
to Oxfordshire!



It's called 'Shout Out Oxfordshire' and will give community groups, clubs, charities, etc. the chance to make a 45 second appeal to our listeners, free of charge, which will be repeated every day for at least a week and go on the BBC Radio Oxford iPlayer for a month. It could be used to ask for more members or volunteers, donations of items, skills or time, more people to use a community service, or something else, but not money.

If you would like more details of how to take part, please email mark.watson@bbc.co.uk with some basic info about the appeal (including any deadline), or if you know someone else who might like to have a go, please tell them. If you want to chat about this, please call me on 01865 889022 anytime between Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am to 4pm.

Editor's Note: Mark Watson is a broadcast journalist, producer & music manager at BBC Radio Oxford

DRAYTON SEQUENCE DANCE CLUB

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MORE ALL AROUND

DRAYTON WIVES

Rosemary Barlow

The speaker at our March meeting was Alan Copeland who is always so enthusiastic about his subject and shows lots of visuals. This time he was speaking about Eccentric London and pointing out details of the many monuments and buildings that we take for granted when visiting our fantastic capital. Trafalgar Square houses the smallest Police Station in the country which was in constant use before the days of radio. Modern additions on the surrounding plinths include a ship in a bottle and a blue cockerel. Alan had even photographed the book that Prince Albert is holding on the magnificent Albert Memorial in Kensington Gardens The book was engraved with the old Crystal Palace which burnt down in 1936.

Thanks to our Chairlady Josie Midwinter, who arranged for fifteen of us walkers to participate in an invigorating walk around Bagley Wood, permission had to be given by St Johns College who own the wood. We were all ravenous when we arrived at The Tandem in Kennington which was extremely busy but fortunately a table had been reserved for all of us booked ahead by Josie.



Our AGM will be held on the 25th April when there will also be a quiz and a display of craft work. Delicious cake will be served baked by one of our generous members.

COME AND JOIN US!

Lisa Lammiman

Drayton Wives is a local group with a long history. It started 50 years ago as a place for young wives to go. Now we are open to everyone who would like to join us.

So, if you are new to the area or have lived in Drayton for a long time and are thinking about becoming a member of a local group we are very friendly! We meet for coffee and chat, craft classes, speakers and great walks around the countryside plus an occasional coach outing.

If you would like to visit us, you would be very welcome at any of our coffee mornings which are the second Monday of the month at the Caudwell Day Centre at the bottom of Gravel Lane. We start at 10.am. The next coffee mornings are: 14 May, 11 June and 9 July.

Alternatively, please telephone me on 07949275641

W.I.

Ann Webb

This month we met a friend of the village. Sue Harris came to tell us about her life in speech therapy. Something that most of us take for granted, the ability to speak and speak clearly is at times almost unobtainable to some people. Without the help of these people silence would be their life and communication unattainable. This occupation involves study in so many areas it was amazing to listen to. Thank-you Sue it was fascinating.

Next month we have Gary Hibbins coming to tell us about the work and life of The Abingdon Bridge, an organisation that helps young people in difficulty, in so many ways. If you wish to join us we meet every second Thursday of each month in the Caudwell Day Centre at 7.30 pm. Next meeting: May 10th; come and try us; we will be delighted to meet you.



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TABLE TENNIS CLUB

John Gould

As reported in the last issue our Bidmead Cup team trying to retain the trophy were away to Upton in the first round. The next round saw us get lucky and a bye into the semi finals was the prize! We will play either Wallingford or Sutton Courtenay for a place in the final & a chance to retain the trophy.

In the league, our B team secured runners up spot to ensure Division One will be their fate next season. They will lose Scott Muil who is moving to South Wales. We will be sorry to see him go but wish him & his family well. Our F team in Division 3 found the going tough and will be relegated back to Division 4. Hopefully the experience will see them have a good season next time around.

The Handicap Shield quarter finals will see Drayton A, C & D teams playing and hopefully they will progress through. The A team have Abingdon D, who they beat last year in the same competition. The C team face a daunting trip to Letcombe A – the team who knocked them out last year! The D team will play another Division One side, Moreton A. These will be three tough opponents, so fingers crossed at least one of our trio will progress!

Our 26th Club Championships will take place on 13th May, so a report will follow in a later edition.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Paul Francis

Steventon and District Royal British Legion Branch, which includes Appleford, Drayton, Milton and Sutton Courtenay, are holding a special, Fathers'-Day Curry Lunch on Sunday 17th June in Steventon Village Hall. Please put this in your diary now!

The lunch, provided by Tiffins, will include chicken, lamb and vegetarian curry dishes with ice cream to follow. There will be a bar, kindly provided by the Steventon Sports and Social Club, and also a raffle. Everyone is welcome to come along, regardless of whether or not you are a member of the Legion. It is excellent value at £11 per head, children under (18) £7 and under 6 free. For us to get the quantity of food correct it is important that you book in and pay in advance.

Booking and tickets are available from:

Nick Thompson (RBL Chairman)

27 Stocks Lane, Steventon, Abingdon, OX13 6SS

Tel: 01235 832077

Please enclose payment and a stamped addressed envelope. Cheques should be payable to N H Thompson.

Please note that this is not a fundraising event but that if any surplus should be made this will be donated to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

MILLENNIUM GREEN

Jane McWhirter

First, thanks to all who came along to the Easter Egg Hunt, despite the gloomy morning. I lost count, but I would say we had at least 60 children running around, and all seemed to get a good haul of chocolate! After the cost of the eggs we raised just under £150 to help with the upkeep of the Green. A special thank you to Brian Eastoe who kindly donated lots of eggs to help the morning go so well.

The boundary hedge that was destroyed last year has now been replaced with new fencing and a hedge of native hedging plants has been planted. This has been completed by our own contractors as we are still awaiting settlement from Mr Lynch senior through our solicitor. The temporary fencing will be removed and returned to Drayton Construction who kindly lent this to us for a somewhat longer period than we had expected. This was a great relief as hiring this would have pushed up costs significantly. The boundary is now once again secure and hopefully the new small hedging plants will soon establish.

Our next clean-up morning has been planned for Saturday 5th May from 10 - 12.30, please come along and show your support and give us a hand.

Finally, a polite reminder after a recent event - please be mindful and respect all users of the Green and keep all dogs under control.

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the walkers view of Drayton time – cf the kite's on page 1



OXFORDSHIRE ART WEEKS

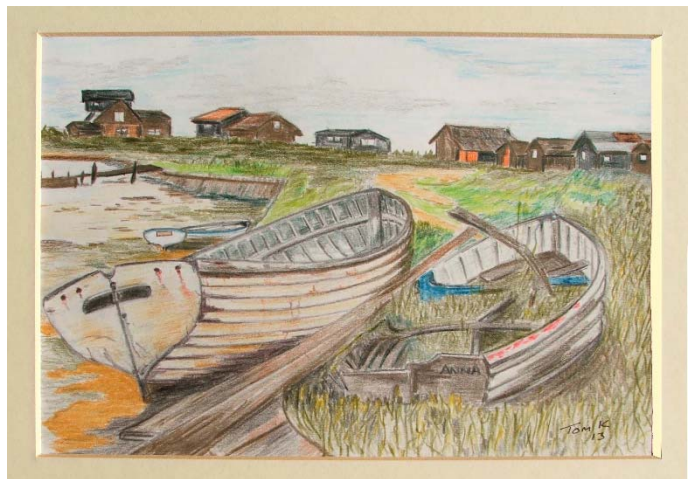
Bunty Knight.

This long established and artistically heralded annual county-wide event will be coming to **South & Vale Oxfordshire from Saturday 19th May to Monday 28th May inclusive** (North & West Oxfordshire 5-13th, Oxford City 12-20th). Many local artists in towns and villages around the Vale area will be opening their studios and workshops, exhibiting and working on painting, ceramics, glasswork etc. There is a suggested local visitors' trail which can be found on line at www.artweeks.org/festival.... or by picking up one of the information booklets from Vickery's Hardware Store, or from the Library in Abingdon.

Exhibiting in Drayton will be Art Week participant, retired Design Engineer and local Amateur Artist Tom Knight who will be having open house and studio at Spindles, Church Lane, Drayton from 11am to 4pm daily 19th to 28th May inclusive.



Tom's main interest is creating, using mixed media, pictures of unusual buildings or marine subjects which he paints taking inspiration from the photos he has captured on his travels around the British Isles, but he also has a new collection of 'cats-eye view' paintings which are quirky, fun and collectable. This together with greeting cards and postcards of his many subjects forms the majority of his exhibition. He will also be working in his studio on a new painting during the open week.



Everyone is very welcome, but we regret we have no disabled access – parking off lane is limited but available. Refreshments including home-made cakes will be on hand, served on the veranda (weather permitting) with donations to the British Red Cross welcomed.

Tom's wife Bunty Knight will also be exhibiting her stunning light catchers using antique crystal, glass, ceramic and other reclaimed aged materials. We look forward to welcoming you to our studio.

SO LONG, FAREWELL

Richard Williams

An Appreciation of David Perrow and Tom Shebbeare.

For the Parish Council a huge change is in the offing, in that we are about to say goodbye to David Perrow, our Parish Clerk, who has decided to take a well-earned rest and stand down from the post. David has been the Clerk in Drayton for eight years now, and in that time, he has (I do not exaggerate) transformed the way the Parish Council operates. When he first applied for the job, in 2010, he was not appointed – the job went instead to a local lady. The panel felt that David was so over-qualified for the post that he was unlikely to stay any length of time.

Well, the lady found the job not to her liking after a couple of months and resigned, so it was offered to David after all. It was surely Drayton's lucky day that he was still available, and even more so that he confounded all predictions by staying to the present day. The opening lines of David's CV state 'Senior information manager with track record in strategic planning, change and project management. Budget and operational experience covering HR, facilities management, buildings/health and safety/security; IT & reprographics; learning resources/e-learning'. In short, a bit of everything, and how true that turned out to be.

I should add that David was managing budgets of millions of pounds - up to the £30 million mark, for organisations with up to £10 million in income. He has worked in Oxford at Templeton College and the Bodleian Library, in London at the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), and many other places besides. How, or for that matter why, he came to work as Drayton's Parish Clerk remains something of a mystery: I'm only glad he did. His work ethic has been extraordinary; his grasp of detail likewise. Through all the years of developing the Neighbourhood Plan, he has been, as Tom Shebbeare put it, our secret weapon. To the folks who like to quote the old saw about no man being indispensable, I would say only this. In the vast majority of cases, you would be right. David is the exception who proves the rule. This Parish Council, and the village as a whole, owes him a huge debt of thanks. Like Tom, David has many other commitments and interests to keep him occupied.

We wish him well and hope to keep in touch.



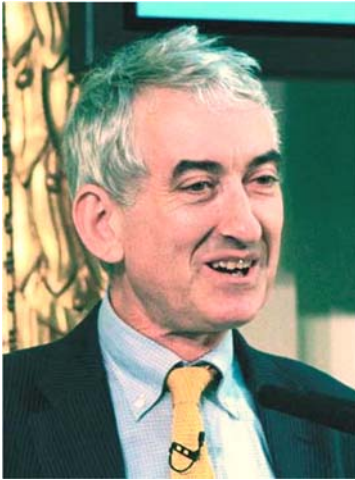
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SO LONG, FAREWELL....

Continued

Sir Tom Shebbeare:

⇒ Sadly, Drayton is about to lose not just one, but two people who have made outstanding contributions to the life of the village.



The second is Tom Shebbeare (Sir Tom, to give him his full moniker), who is moving away from Drayton to North Oxford. Tom was a founding, and very active, member of the steering group of Drayton 2020, the group of volunteers who put together the first 'large village' Neighbourhood Plan to be approved in the Vale of White Horse. He has also chaired the Drayton 2020 Implementation Committee, the successor body to the steering group,

for the last three years.

Going back further into the past, Tom, together with members of the Drayton Community Trust, and other residents who shared the vision, was largely responsible for the creation of the Millennium Green. Around 20 years ago, this land was actually scheduled to be sold off for housing by its owners – the National Trust (of all people!), but Tom and friends literally rescued it for the village, by persuading the Trust to sell it well below the market valuation. Persuasion in fact is one of Tom's great gifts! He has always been unfailingly positive and 'can-do' in his approach – a problem solver, and exactly the sort of person you want on your side.

He will be greatly missed in Drayton but, being the kind of person he is, I have no doubt he will find new community projects to engage him in Jericho.

We wish Tom all the best for the future.

DCT AGM

Andrew Bax

Annual General Meeting




The Drayton Chronicle and the village website are published 'under the auspices' of the **Drayton Community Trust**. Recently (and from time to time over the years) the Trust has also been involved in fund-raising to improve village facilities.

This is your opportunity to contribute to the discussion on such matters. The meeting is open to the public and takes

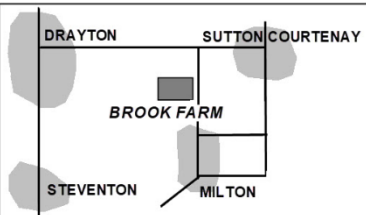
place at 7.00pm on Tuesday 12 June in the Caudwell Day Centre.



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EASTER WALK OF WITNESS John Henderson

The Good Friday 'Walk of Witness' is an ecumenical event that has been staged for many years now. This year we processed from the Baptist chapel to St. Peter's via the Green, Henley's Lane, the old Methodist chapel and Church Lane; the procession was 50/60 strong. The pictures are: outside the old chapel. halfway along Church Lane and (on page 4) in the churchyard at St. Peter's.



Photos from Stephen Fearnley, including those on pages 1 & 4



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NEW EXPRESSWAY?

CPRE

The Chancellor has backed the National Infrastructure Commission's concept of an Oxford to Cambridge 'Growth Corridor' of a million new houses, of which 300,000 would be in Oxfordshire. That would be equivalent to six new cities the size of Oxford; or to put it another way would more than double our present housing stock and population by 2050.

Part of the growth scheme is a new Expressway – a Motorway in all but name – from Oxford to Cambridge, to "facilitate" the development. At the moment, this transformative change is being proposed without any public consultation.

The Council for the Preservation of Rural England (CPRE) in Oxfordshire is demanding a full statutory public consultation followed by a Public Inquiry and is asking local residents to join its call for a Public Inquiry by contacting their local councillors, MPs and the Secretary of State for Transport.

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The show is a collaboration between Reg Waite, Chairman of Vale of White Horse District Council and Kieran Hearty (The Hearty Party Productions).

All proceeds will go towards the Chairman's chosen charities:
The Children's Air Ambulance and The Alzheimer's Society.



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THE CHRONICLE RECIPE

Carol Arnold

Mars Bar Slice:

Makes about 9-12 pieces

Ingredients:

100g (4oz) Butter
3 X 65g (2½oz) Mars Bars
75g (3oz) Rice Crispies
100g (4oz) Plain Chocolate



Method

1. Lightly grease a 15cm (6in) shallow square tin with butter. Cut the Mars Bars into thin slices and place in a large pan with 75g (3oz) of the butter. Leave the mixture over a low heat until melted and then beat until smooth.
2. Stir in the Rice Crispies and then spread the mixture into the prepared tin. Chill in the fridge for 1 hour or until set.
3. To finish, place the chocolate and the rest of the butter into a small bowl and rest it over a pan of simmering water until melted. Spread on top of the set mixture and return to the fridge until set. Cut into squares to serve.

Extras

- ❖ Add grated orange zest or a splash of dark rum to the Mars Bars while they are melting.
- ❖ Stir in a few raisins or currants into the mixture with the Rice Crispies.
- ❖ To give a shiny glaze, place under a hot grill for a few seconds just before serving.

As you will see, this is a very quick and easy recipe. The slices eat well as a pudding with vanilla ice cream or pouring cream.



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NAG5 SAFETY CORNER

Bridget Haffenden



Help to keep children safe while they are online:

Thames Valley Police has recently been raising awareness of online child abuse as part of their Hidden Harm campaign. The internet plays a huge part in most of our lives, especially for younger people and, while it brings a great deal of positive opportunities, it can also be misused by some people. It's therefore really important that everyone understands the risks

associated with being online and takes some simple steps to help to keep children safe when they are online.

- **Understand the types of social media available to children and young people, including age restrictions.** Net Aware has been developed by the NSPCC and O2, and can help you to explore sites, apps and games that young people use most. <https://www.net-aware.org.uk>
- **Know what your child is doing online and talk to them about it.** No matter how old they are it's important to have regular conversations about the types of sites they're accessing, what the dangers are and how they can stay safe. The NSPCC's Share Aware pages at <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware> give some good advice on how to start these conversations.
- **Set-up and manage parental controls on all your family's devices.** Watch our videos on how you can quickly and easily do this on a PS4 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1yLlxN1oSo> and an Xbox One at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7uXwiBsp3ts>. You can also call the free NSPCC and O2 Helpline on 0808 800 5002 to chat to an expert advisor.
- **Reassure your children that they can talk to you about anything that's worrying them.** We can all do our best to keep children safe online, but sometimes things can go wrong, so it's important that they know where to go should this happen. Encourage them to talk to you or, alternatively they can contact Childline on 0800 1111 for free confidential advice and support.

Message in a Bottle and Message in a Wallet

When the Emergency Services are called to the home of someone who has collapsed or been involved in an incident, they are faced with many questions. Inside the small, plastic, 'Message In a Bottle' container is a yellow form on which the owner has provided vital information - medical conditions, regular medications, allergies, doctor's details etc. ➔

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➔ This information could obviously prove critical in deciding any appropriate treatment or other necessary action. The bottle is placed inside the fridge on the door shelf just above where the milk is kept and a green sticker is placed on the outside door of the fridge. A second sticker is placed on the inside of the main entrance door. The 'Wallet' folds, concertina style, to the size of a credit card and should be kept in a wallet or purse. Ideally you need a bottle and a wallet so that the information's available if you have either an incident or accident at home or while you're away from home.

NAG5 has stocks of these two items, which are available free of charge. Please order yours by calling 07762 597118 or by emailing neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com Please ensure you provide your name, a contact telephone number or email address and also tell us which village you live in.

N.B. Apologies to all who have already placed orders for the delay in getting them to you. You will be receiving them shortly.

Reports of thefts from vehicles

The police have had several reports of vehicle break-ins in the local area. When leaving your vehicle please consider the following.

- Remove everything – including removeable stereos and sat navs – from your vehicle. Don't leave anything in the glove compartment.
- Close all windows and the sunroof.
- Lock your vehicle, using the alarm system if you have one.
- Park in garage or on a drive whenever possible. Otherwise park in a well-lit/busy area.

If you see anyone, or any vehicle, acting suspiciously in the area call 101 (non-emergency number) or call 999 in an emergency.



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

Contact NAG5 by calling 01235 848694 or e-mail neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com

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FALSE CLAIMS OF TELEPHONE PREFERENCE SERVICE:

Fraudsters are now cold-calling, falsely stating that they are calling from one of the well-known UK telecommunication service providers. They call victims claiming to provide a 'Telephone Preference Service' - an enhanced call-barring service, which includes barring international call centres.

The fraudsters ask victims to confirm/provide their bank account details, informing them that there is a one-off charge for the service. Victims instead see monthly debits deducted from their accounts, which they have not authorised. The fraudsters often target elderly victims.

In all instances, direct debits are set up without following proper procedure. The victim is not sent written confirmation of the direct debit instruction, which is supposed to be sent within three days.

On occasions when victims attempted to call back, the telephone number provided by the fraudster was either unable to be reached or the victim's direct debit cancellation request was refused.

During 2017, there were 493 Action Fraud Reports relating to this particular fraud.

Editor's Notes:

THE UK Telephone Preference Service (TPS) is a free service.

It is the official, central opt-out register on which you can record your preference not to receive unsolicited sales or marketing calls. **It is a UK legal requirement that all organisations (including charities, voluntary organisations and political parties) do not make such calls to numbers registered on the TPS unless they have your consent to do so.**

Organisations with which you have an ongoing relationship, for example those who regard you as a customer, (or in the case of charities - a donor) may well have obtained your consent during the early stages of your relationship with them and will therefore be entitled to call you even if your number is registered on TPS, unless you tell them specifically that you object to their calling you for marketing purposes.



However, the main failure of the TPS is that most fraudulent callers simply ignore the law and call you whether or not you're registered.

Some help is available in those circumstances in that most telecom service providers offer technological protection from such unwanted calls, e.g. BT Call Protect, also usually included with your service package at no extra cost.

These often:

- automatically divert known nuisance callers to junk voicemail
- let you block numbers by category – like international callers or those whose number is withheld.
- let you choose specific numbers to divert

LIVESTOCK WORRYING BY DOGS J Williams

Livestock worrying is becoming an increasing issue especially now that spring is here and the lambing season is well under way. It is important that dogs are kept under control to protect the livestock as well as you and your pet.



Don't let your dog disturb their peace!

Livestock that are killed or injured as the result of an out of control dog is a criminal offence. During such attacks dogs can be injured too.

There are simple ways to keep both your pet and livestock safe.

- Keep your dog on a lead – dog walkers that use open access land must keep their dog on a short lead (a maximum of two metres) between 1 March and 31 July. If near livestock this applies **at all times**.
- Stick to paths and public rights of way – often areas of private land may have footpaths running through them. Mostly, these paths are to the edge of fields to minimise disruption to any livestock in that area, it is important to follow these paths.
- Look out for and follow signs – most land owners will display simple 'Keep your dog on a lead' signs, however, at this time of year, some livestock owners restrict access to their land to protect their animals. It is important to follow this advice.

Even well-behaved dogs can cause stress and disruption to livestock. It is your responsibility to ensure that your dog is under control at all times.

For more information on this issue and ways to report rural crime, please visit the Thames Valley Police website.

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PARISH ASSEMBLY

Richard Williams

Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Assembly for 2017-18

Housebuilding is now proceeding apace in Drayton! The PC is well aware of the annoying disruption caused by roadworks along the Abingdon Road, and also in the High Street. However, the traffic hold-ups are only temporary. Where the road layout has been re-designed – for example at the Hilliart Fields junction, hopefully the result will be seen, eventually if not immediately, as an improvement. We cannot say the delays are over by any means – for example, work at the entrance to the Walnut Meadow site has not yet begun, but progress is being made, albeit more slowly than we would like.

Of the four housing sites currently under way, I think it would be fair to say that, so far, Walnut Meadow has been the most problematic. This is largely down to poor communication between the developers, the Vale of the White Horse, and OCC, with no one being wholly responsible. It's worth pointing out that both our local authorities have been hit so hard by cuts in funding that one has to question their ability to carry out what ought to be key functions. In the case of the Vale, the Planning Enforcement department is clearly overloaded with work, but this means that important inspections are being devolved, by default, onto the parish, which has neither the resources nor the staff to cope. Similarly, the Highways Department of OCC is decidedly strapped for cash, a situation which has hardly been helped by the recent Arctic weather. There was already a backlog of road repairs to deal with. But, again, as motorists (and cyclists) will be especially aware, the winter conditions have led to a serious deterioration in the state of the roads. The current Highways Dept view is that, for the moment, potholes are their overriding priority; everything else will have to wait.

Following a recent meeting between the parish and all the other interested parties at County Hall on 13th March, we can confirm that the lighting scheme for the Walnut Meadow/Abingdon Road junction has finally been approved, and other problem areas such as the drainage arrangements for the public areas of the site, seem at last about to be addressed. There are legal aspects to all this which take time to get sorted out, but bureaucracy aside, it's envisaged that the site should be ready for handover by the late summer of this year. Fingers tightly crossed at this point. ➔



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The CALA site at Manor Farm has brought different challenges. With luck, the worst of the road works in Abingdon Road have been completed, but there are certainly issues around the borders of the site, and in particular the way the hedges and trees along the Henleys Lane/Gravel Lane pathway were stripped out in toto. We have brought this to the attention of CALA and their sub-contractors and will work to ensure that this path is replanted and the hedges re-instated. The path surface itself needs additional work.

The site South of the High Street caused some problems with early deliveries blocking the main road during peak periods, and roadworks near the Wheatsheaf junction. So far though, nothing on the actual site has been referred to the parish as a cause for concern. Our Drayton 2020 Implementation Director, Nigel Porter, is our liaison man for all the sites. Nigel has a civil engineering background, and long experience of working with developers. He keeps us informed of any issues which might cause difficulties further down the line.

Responses from near neighbours of the Eastway site suggest that they are unhappy that work does not seem always to be proceeding in accordance with the planning application – at least one house features an extra storey - and greenery has been removed without authorisation. The most controversial aspect of the site has been the second application to build an extra three houses, i.e. in addition to the eight in the original application. This was interpreted by the parish, and by the Vale, as a deliberate attempt to avoid paying Section 106 contributions. 10 or more houses constitutes a 'major' development, and by splitting the application, it seemed the developer was trying to sneak in, as it were, under the radar. The Vale planning committee was angered by the apparent cynicism of this ploy, and consequently refused the second application. The developer has now appealed their decision. In truth, the chances of winning this case at appeal are very slim, and the Vale councillors knew this, but wanted to send a message all the same.

There is a fifth site, to the rear of Halls Close, where the developers have submitted a few further minor changes to the application. (**Editor's note:** Since the Parish Assembly this application has been approved by the Vale.) It is hoped that they will provide a pavement on the east side of Halls Close, to cater for the increase in pedestrian traffic which is bound to occur if and when the new houses are built. The pyracantha bushes have been cut back by the PC to facilitate this.

Returning to the subject of road traffic, the 40 mph speed limit between Drayton and South Abingdon is now in force (reduced from 50mph). The PC tried hard to get the 30mph limit on the Abingdon Road extended from Walnut Meadow a couple of hundred yards further north, beyond the bend, but the police would not support this. In fact, they didn't support the change to 40mph either, so to have secured this at least is an achievement. In time, we hope to employ traffic calming measures at the northern approach to Drayton, which, if implemented, would also make the Walnut Meadow junction a little bit safer. OCC have had a team working on this for many months now, so we look forward to hearing their proposals before too long.

A working party met to discuss proposals to restrict traffic from using Henleys Lane/Church Lane as a rat run. It is true that the inconvenience and danger caused to residents of these roads has been greatly exacerbated by road works on the B4017, but the problems are of long standing. ➔

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PARISH COUNCIL

continued

⇒ and the PC will shortly consult with the village on options to improve the situation. OCC have indicated they are not opposed in principle to changes, but it is the parish that will have to foot the bill as the Highways Dept. has no budget for the work.

Elsewhere in the village, there have been dramatic improvements to the Millennium Green. Now, for the first time, there is a gravel-surfaced path that completely circles the green. Tremendous thanks are due to Jane McWhirter and her team of volunteers from the Millennium Green Trust. They have had regular maintenance weekends to cut back old growth, plant new stuff, and generally keep the whole area in trim. Grass cutting is much more frequent than before, and the end result is that the Green has never looked better. Jane has also been brilliant at arranging imaginative and fun events on the Green – last year's Alice in Wonderland themed picnic for example. Sadly, these efforts have not always been rewarded by good weather, but that's the English summer for you.

The next major project in the pipeline, and a critical part of the Neighbourhood Plan, is the construction of a new sports pavilion and multi-use games area (MUGA) on the Walnut Meadow site. This development has to take place in conjunction with the preparation of the sports pitches on the same site, and the latter has been held up due to work by Millers and their sub-contractors being a long way behind schedule. Part of the cost of the pavilion and MUGA will be funded by Section 106 developer money, but we need grants, and will also have to take out a substantial loan from the Public Works Loan Board. The PC needs to be assured that the drainage on the pitches is satisfactory before it will accept the handover of the land, but when this is all resolved – hopefully by the late summer- we would hope to move the project on.

A parallel project is the construction of a new pre-school, but unfortunately this has stalled for the time being due to uncertainty over the future of the pre-school following an unsatisfactory OFSTED report. The architect's plans are in place and the quantity surveyors have prepared costings, but it remains to be seen how this situation will develop.

We have had some personnel changes over the year. We've lost two councillors since last May, and gained one, but as we started the year one down, we are still two people short. New blood, needless to say, would be welcome. We have a new village caretaker, Chris Wilmott-Smith, and he seems to be settling well into the task. But sadly we are about to lose two people who have made an enormous contribution to the village, Tom Shebbeare and David Perrow (**Editor's Note:** Richard's tributes to David and Tom are on pages 10 & 11)

Finally, I should like to thank all of the Parish Councillors and our Deputy Clerk, Chris. They have turned out conscientiously and in all weathers to meetings which often went on for a dauntingly long time. They have contributed to the work of the Council in countless ways, mostly cheerfully, sometimes grumpily (usually with good reason), but they have 'put in a shift', 'done their bit', whichever way you choose to describe it. The point being that what they are doing is local democracy in action. At a time when so many people feel less and less in control over their own lives, getting local people to participate in the community and take part in local decision-making has, arguably, never been more important.

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ALLOTMENT RENT CONSULTATION

Drayton Parish Council proposes to increase the charges for its allotments in a year's time:

The revised charges (to be effective March 2019) are: £50 (full plot); £25 (half plot) and £37.50 (intermediate).

The Council also resolved that when full-sized plots fall vacant they should be divided to provide offers of two half plots to those on the waiting list.

Increased rents were last charged from March 2016 (1 year's notice required). Annual charges are currently £15; £7.50; or £11.25, depending on plot size .

The number of houses and families in Drayton is due to increase by a third in the next few years. There is currently a waiting list for allotments and some people have to wait a considerable time to obtain an allotment. Whilst there is some money from housing developers for extra allotments, at present no land has been offered for sale or rent to the Council for additional allotments to be provided, so it is expected the waiting list will grow unless action is taken now.

Current Drayton allotment rules mean that:

- Only Drayton families can now be allocated any new allotment plot
- Any full allotment which becomes free will be divided into two and offered to two families on the waiting list
- A second half plot can only be offered if there is no one on the waiting list
- No new tenants can be offered more than one plot or existing tenants add to their holdings beyond their current holdings if more than one plot is already held

Whilst the proposed rent increase is substantial the Council feel that £1 per week is a fair charge for the benefit of a full-size allotment, and that the change in rents and regulations will encourage sharing of the current allotment land so that more Drayton families can benefit from using the allotments.

Public Consultation: Your views are sought on the proposed increase. Send your comments to the Parish Clerk by email to draytonclerk@gmail.com or by post c/o 12 Loddon Close, Abingdon, OX14 3TB by **13th May 2018**

NO LOCAL ELECTION

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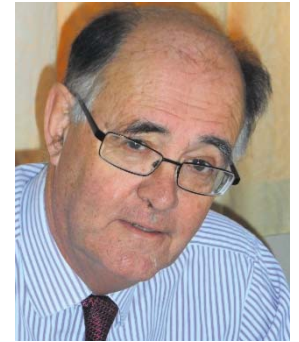
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COUNTY COUNCIL

Richard Webber

With Growth Deals, Expressways and Reservoirs, there is much to talk about affecting the residents of Oxfordshire. However, these issues will be occupying us for many more months and for that reason, I propose to give these issues, important though they are, a miss this month and focus on a long-standing issue that has affected us all for many years now – the issue of **enforcement**.



There is a growing public perception that local councils are not willing or not prepared to carry out enforcement action to support their rules and regulations. Complaints over the lack of enforcement of speed limits are increasingly common. The police will point out that their resources are increasingly stretched and that their priority is to cut crime.

With cutbacks in the numbers of police officers, council officers and environmental health officers, there are now far fewer people available to enforce our rules and regulations than ten years ago. There are fewer parking wardens on the street and more and more obstructive and anti-social parking. Complaints over noise and smells seem to take longer to resolve than ever before. Conditions applied to planning applications seem to be increasingly ignored or flouted.

All this leads to a lack of trust in and damage to the reputation of the authorities. Whereas shortage of funding and people has certainly not helped, and doubtless, the authorities have not always been as quick to or as keen to react to breaches of regulations as they might have been, there is, I believe a more striking reason for the perception that enforcement is not happening.

In almost all cases, the laws that support enforcement are too loose and not fierce enough. To persuade someone to abide by a regulation, the law often says that the public authority must have tried many times over a period to get the perpetrator to co-operate. Some offenders can play these laws to their advantage for years.

Planning, in particular, is beset by problems of this sort. Plans to build houses, waste disposal plants and quarries is always going to be contentious. An apparent reluctance by authorities to enforce conditions helps to bring the whole planning system and the planning authorities into disrepute.

Much of this could be solved by wholesale revision and tightening of the laws surrounding enforcement. With so much being planned for Oxfordshire, residents need to know that rules and regulations are there to be obeyed and will be strictly enforced.

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WESTMINSTER

Ed Vaizey

Three pieces of excellent news on new investment in roads and infrastructure this month. The first is about the A34, the bane of many of our lives. After months of campaigning by myself, local MPs, councils, LEPs and the A34 Action Group, the government has agreed to fund some much-needed safety improvements. Upcoming changes will include improved laybys and digital signage, which will change depending on traffic flow. A new sign has also been recommended, to make it clearer to HGV's where they are not allowed to overtake. Removal of vegetation from junctions was another recommendation and this will be improved.



The second piece of news concerns support for new infrastructure for the new homes being built in our area – an issue that is raised with me regularly. The government has announced up to £150 million to build much needed bridges, roundabouts and roads and £60 million to support new affordable homes. In total the government has committed up to £215 million of funding.

Finally, I was very pleased to open the Harwell Relief Road last month. The road will provide a route from housing development west of Didcot at Great Western Park and Valley Park to Harwell Oxford Campus and support delivery of planned housing growth. The road will make the journey to work easier for the five thousand people who work at Harwell Campus and I am particularly pleased that it will relieve the pressure of through traffic on Harwell village.

Last month I received 523 items of correspondence (emails and letters) from constituents. Subjects raised with me included local infrastructure, Brexit and new data protection rules.

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 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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DRAYTON DIARY

FOR MAY

Regular Events are listed opposite

Events are at Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise. There are many private events taking place in the Hall which are not listed. To book the Hall call Tony Holmes on 531180 or visit www.draytonvh.co.uk

Mon	7	7.30 pm	Parish Council	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
Thur	10	2.00 pm	U3A Crafts Group	<i>Small Hall</i>
Sat	12	12.30 am	Chronicle Lottery deadline	<i>Vickery's</i>
Sat	12	6.00 pm	Sequence Dance Club	
Sun	13	10.00 am	'Mess Around' Party (Franchise)	
Mon	14	5.00 pm	Chronicle copy deadline	<i>Vickery's box</i>
		7.30 pm	Hall Committee AGM	
Sun	20	9.00 am	Bowls Club	

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REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

MONDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
11.00 am	Seniors 'Gentle' Yoga (call 07712 646382)	
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
6.00 pm	Bounce Fit (call 07791 778388)	
7.00 pm	Table Tennis - coaching and social	<i>School</i>
7.15 pm	Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday)	<i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.30 pm	Badminton	
7.45 pm	Bell Ringing Practice	<i>St Peter's bell tower</i>
8.00 pm	Table Tennis (Social Play)	<i>School</i>

TUESDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
9.00 am	Pilates (call 07788 248925)	
1.45 pm	Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
2.30 pm	First Tuesday Connections (1st Tuesday)	<i>Church Room</i>
6.30 pm	Yoga (call 07880 256107)	
7.00 pm	League Table Tennis (until 10.00 pm)	<i>School</i>
8.15 pm	Clubbercise (call 07811 209242)	

WEDNESDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
10.30 am	Pebbles (Babies & Toddlers – in Term)	<i>Church Room</i>
1.45 pm	Whist Drive (until 4.00 pm)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
2.00 pm	Drayton Wives (last Wednesday)	
2.15 pm	Badminton	
6.00 pm	Brownies	
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.00 pm	League Table Tennis (until 10.00 pm)	<i>School</i>
7.30 pm	Bingo	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>

THURSDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
9.00 am	Foot Clinic (First Thursday)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
9.15 am	Holy Communion	<i>St Peter's Lady Chapel</i>
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group (in Term Time)	
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
2.00 pm	Wives Whist (2nd Thursday)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
5.00 pm	Rainbows (call 07801 447720)	
7.00 pm	League Table Tennis (until 10.00 pm)	<i>School</i>
7.30 pm	W.I. (2nd Thursday)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
7.30 pm	Sequence Dancing. (call 01235 531701)	
7.30 pm	ShikiDojo Martial Arts (Small Hall / 07479 824887)	

FRIDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
11.00 am	DiddiDance (call 07922 668740)	
11.00 am	Friday Club (fortnightly - 202466)	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>

SUNDAYS

8.00 am	Holy Communion (2nd Sunday)	<i>St Peter's</i>
9.45 am	Sung Eucharist (Praise Service 4th Sunday)	<i>St Peter's</i>
6.00 pm	Evening Worship	<i>Baptist Church</i>