

DRAYTON CHRONICLE



Photo: Stephen Fearnley

Issue Editor: Margaret Inger Volume 42, No 1

Jan/Feb 2019

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

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

Editor: **Maurice Puddick, 538188**

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 8 February 2019**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.15 on Mon., 11 February 2019**

Printed copies available: **Friday, 22 February, 2019**

Key dates for the subsequent Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.15 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
April	18 March	29 March
May	15 April	26 April
June	20 May	31 May

Archive copies of the Chronicle are available on the Drayton website: 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. 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. 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.

ADVERTISING RATES

Charge for a single Block Advert (about 9cms x 4.5cms)

---- Number of Inserts ----

Advertiser Category:	1	3	6	12
Drayton Resident	£6.00	£16.00	£31.00	£60.00
Non-Drayton Resident	£7.00	£19.00	£37.00	£72.00

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 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 DECEMBER LOTTERY

Prize	Winner	Agent
£25	M Lowy Steventon Road	Tamsin Meredith
£20	Mr & Mrs Mayhew-Archer Chiers Drive	Doreen Mason
£15	D Scharf Abingdon Road	Daniel Scharf
£10	R Jones Sutton Courtney Road	Tussel Humphrey
£10	Mrs Boon Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£10	Mr T Stopps Cornville Road	Ruth Hudon/Val Mann Gladwin
£10	Sliver Abingdon Road	Jayne Henderson
£10	M McMahan Lesparre Close	Duncan Denton
£10	Mr & Mrs Williams Church Lane	Susan Brooks
£10	D. Hicks Sutton Courtney Road	Tussel Humphrey

Winning tickets, from 2218 sold, were randomly drawn by a computer (similar to the Premium Bond Draw)
Deadline for Lottery packs: 12.30 on Saturday 9th February
(To Carol Arnold, 95 Abingdon Road)

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

Lockway welcomes Harper Rose Vaughan, born 06/10/2018 weighing 6lb 15oz. To proud parents Emma and Joe.

A big welcome to Matthew Feates, who has moved into the Dovecote from Abingdon. We would like to wish him all the best.

BAPTIST CHURCH

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

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES



6.00 pm Evening Service. A traditional form of service frequently with guest speakers.

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

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Associate Priest	Revd Meg Heywood	01235 537100
Associate Priest	Revd Rosie Bruce	07707 087131
Pro-Warden	Mrs Linda Johnson	01235 527521
Pro-Warden	Mrs Val Cross	01235 535183

REGULAR SERVICES

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

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

Tuesday 5 th February 2.30 pm	First Tuesday Connection	<i>Church Room</i>
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PARISH REGISTER

Funeral

13th November 2018 Margaret Marina Sharps

Baptisms

25th November 2018 Michael James Gerring
Chester William Oliver

Wedding

22nd December 2018 Paul John Demicoli and Gwyneth
Rosamond Elizabeth Seigal

YOU STAY WE PRAY, FEBRUARY;

27th Jan to 2nd Feb	Furlongs; Plough Lane; Furrows End; Lammas Land; Virgate; Fallowfield Close
3rd to 9th Feb	Lockway; Whitehorns Way
10th to 16th Feb	Lockway; Whitehorns Way
17th to 23rd Feb	Corneville Road; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close
24th Feb to 2nd Mar	Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Road; Meads Close; Rippington Court; Stone Hill

It was good to see everyone at the Christmas Services and thank you for your generosity in supporting The Abingdon Bridge and The Children's Society. We will let you know how much was collected next month.



ST PETER'S LETTER

From the Ministry Team:

St Peter's, Drayton
St Peter & St Paul, Appleford
St Blaise, Milton
All Saints', Sutton Courtenay
St Michael and All Angels, Steventon

Congratulations for having survived the challenges, demands and celebrations of Christmas and the New Year. All is so quickly over and all that seems to remain is a diminished bank account and extended waistline! Whilst many go over the top at Christmas, so some go under with the exhaustion, sadness or loneliness of the festive season.

The third Monday of January is often referred to as Blue Monday, the most depressing day of the year – when all the news, weather and financial reports are at their most depressing. Possibly compounded this year by the political uncertainties, anxieties and anger relating to BREXIT.

We voted for Brexit
When no one knew what was Next
Will the EU now fall?
Will Trump get his wall?
With Jesus as King, he can Fixit

What we need is a renewed sense of hope, certainty, stability and security. The problem is that in our culture these words have become devalued to concepts of wishful thinking, broken promises and security that is anything but. Where can we look for what we and our world desperately need? This year the season of Epiphany has had more meaning and purpose for me than ever before. Epiphany, not a simple extension or ending to Christmas, but literally the season of Revelation or manifestation. The gift of God's son into our world was not just for a selected group or nation, but for all of us. We may have lost our sense of expectation and hope, but the mysterious Wise Men, Rulers or Kings represent the revelation of Jesus to the whole world and the relevance of this gift to our increasingly needy world.

If our greatest need had been for money
God would have sent us an economist
If our greatest need had been for pleasure
God would have sent us an entertainer
If our greatest need had been for technology
God would have sent us a scientist
If our greatest need was for love and forgiveness
So God sent us a Saviour.

Reverend Philip Sutton, Associate Minister, DAMASCUS Parish

LOCAL GROUPS AND CLUBS

DRAYTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Well it's already February and winter will soon pass us by. However, there is still plenty of **table tennis** before spring time arrives! The good news is our Bidmead team successfully negotiated their trick first round tie against the Didcot league newest club – SOFEA. The club is a 'Food' charity in Didcot. They redistribute food to charities across the town, wider community and the wider Thames Valley region and in so doing provide work opportunities for young adults. You may like to check their website -www.sofea.uk.com. So table tennis is a sport for all – whatever your age, shape or level of ability. At Drayton Club over the years we have welcomed a very diverse range of people and are proud that this continues.

On **Friday March 1st** we will hold our annual **Fun Quiz Night** at the school. Always well supported we invite teams of up to 6 people to enter. The cost is £20 per team. Hopefully we may see some new faces attending as well as those who regularly come along. The emphasis is on fun and the questions won't be too taxing!

Our 7 teams will soon be involved in the Handicap Shield. Each will be in a 'mini' league of 4 teams with the top two progressing to the knockout rounds. 36 teams are entered from the 12 member clubs so it will be a marathon not a sprint. It does give the lower division players a chance to pit their skills against the top players, and with the handicap system gives them every chance to do well. I will report on progress in future issues.

John Gould

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field



LOCAL GROUPS AND CLUBS

Football News

On Saturday 5 January Drayton FC were awarded the **North Berks December Team of the Month Award** where they received an official match ball following their unbeaten December which also included making the Quarter Finals of the Berks & Bucks Junior Cup.




Drayton maintained their unbeaten run to seven matches when they shared a point a piece with Compton when they were held to a 3-3 draw at the Drayton Recreation Ground on Saturday 5th January.

Compton took the lead after twenty-five minutes. Drayton levelled the scores when they were awarded a penalty following pushing from a corner and Josh Dennis stepped up to fire the ball home from twelve yards. Then minutes later Drayton took the lead when a fine long cross evaded all Compton defenders and the ball fell to Drayton's Pat Walsh at the far post who fired the ball home. The start of the second half was much like the first with both sides struggling to create any worthwhile chances until the sixty-minute mark when Compton were awarded a penalty which was converted to pull Compton level.

Drayton took the lead on seventy-five minutes when Callum Green ran onto a long through ball and slipped the ball past the out-rushing Compton keeper. Compton pushed forward in the final moments of the game and earned a few corners which were dealt with by the Drayton defence until with just minutes remaining Compton were awarded their second penalty of the game following a late challenge in the Drayton penalty area.

Richard

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LOCAL GROUPS AND CLUBS

Bowls Club

Roll up

Looking back at 2018 it was another very good year for the club celebrating 30 years since the club was founded, winning the County afternoon triple league, also adding some new members, to the membership which now is standing in excess of 50.

Finals day was another very successful day with over 40 members present, 9 finals were competed for on the day, and was followed by a buffet supper which was provided by the ladies led by Val our chairperson, all in all a brilliant day enjoyed by all those that attended.

A full list of the winners of all competitions held throughout the year are as follows:

- Friendly fours inter club competition **Cholsey.**
- Rose bowl triple league. **Barry Davis. Avril Holmes. Bob Strachan.**
- John Berry fours league. **Bryn Jones. Josie Carter. Jose Rostagni. Bob Strachan.**
- Wally Weightman triples. **Libby Weston. Olive Brown. Bryn Jones.**
- Henry Bunce handicap pairs. **Carol Smith. Pat Mitchenson.**
- The Attwood Cup. **Ian Norris.**
- Beryl James pairs. **Doug Rich. Janice Davis.**
- Don Alexander triple. **Anne Hedges. Pat Hoyland. Bryn Jones.**
- Doreen Jones Never won singles. **Frank Turley.**
- Gents singles. **Doug Rich.**
- Ladies singles. **Val Locke**
- Didcot windows open singles. **Bryn Jones.**
- Most improved player of the year. **Brian Winstone.**

The afternoon league at the half way stage 'The Wasps' are top of Division One with a slender lead, and the 'The Hammers' are well placed in Division Two to make a bid for promotion. We wish them well.

Bryn Jones

Drayton Wives

This month I am going to tell the story of the oldest group in Drayton. It was started nearly 60 years ago by Father Lancaster who wanted to bring the two halves of the village together. The older village and the new houses of Whitehorns way.

At first it was called Young Wives and was a place for mothers and toddlers to go to meet other people and not feel isolated. Not so many buses then!!!!

They did a lot of fundraising for the village hall and each year they held a Christmas lunch which was really popular where the gentlemen waited on the ladies.

The group has transformed over the years into the Drayton Wives we know today. We still bring people together and hopefully like Father Lancaster we want the new part of the village to intertwine with the older part.

We hold coffee mornings, craft mornings and monthly meetings plus the all-important days out.

This month our talk was on collectable costume jewellery by Adrian and Jane Jeffries. They buy and sell at Chilton, Hungerford and Benson.

We heard about different styles through the ages starting with Georgian to the present day.

But when selling your valuables, they must all conform to the dealers' 4-point plan:

C for Condition

A for Age

R for Rarity

D for Desirability

With all 4 criteria the jewels could be worth thousands.

All of which can be applied to the very valuable Drayton Wives!!!

The following week we were off to Winchester for culture and Christmas shopping. Everyone had a good time. Even though the weather was not good we didn't let it deter us from enjoying ourselves

Then to end the year we had our Christmas tea with a visit from Father Christmas, sherry and mince pies.

A good year with lots of outings, talks and chit-chat!

Drayton wives has evolved over the years but is still at the heart of the village giving companionship and friendship to all.

Lisa Lammiman



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LOCAL GROUPS AND CLUBS

Friends of Drayton School (FODSA)

As always, Christmas was a busy time for FODSA and school. We started the festive season with a 'make your own Christmas present' craft night. It was a great night with lots of families trying out different crafts, from making bath salts with dried flowers to hot chocolate kits and clay decorations.



Jonah stamping his gift tags



Charlie with his hot chocolate, table centrepiece, bath salts and clay decorations. He had a busy evening!



Ethan with his clay decorations



Here's Monty and Sam Mansfield waiting to see Father Christmas at the Christmas Hour

The annual Christmas Hour was a great success. For one single but very busy hour there were Christmas games, tombolas and Santa's grotto to visit after school; we made a whopping £789 this year and everyone had a fab time.

In the last week of school FODSA members turned into waiters and helped serve children their Christmas dinner, as well as providing Christmas crackers for the event. On the same day we drew the Christmas raffle; there were some fantastic prizes and lots of happy winners. The raffle raised £756.

Santa in his grotto telling a Christmas story to the children



On the last full day of term, there was a 'whole school' trip to Cornerstone arts centre in Didcot to see the Pied Piper, which FODSA was thrilled to be able to help fund. Then that evening we held two Christmas discos (our first disco was so popular last year we needed to have two this year!); lots of dancing and fancy dress fun for all the family, there is a more detailed report in Tegan Meredith's fantastic article on page 18. The discos raised £777.

Since September FODSA has been able to contribute £600 towards school trips, £800 for teachers' "little extras" (£50 per class per term, from Ducklings to year 6), £179 for wrist bands for children to wear on school trips, £180 for Christmas books, £950 towards a production of Peter Pan in school and £1,000 towards the Pied Piper trip, and last but not least £38 on Christmas crackers. A whopping total of £3,747. We would not be able to do this without the support of the families that come to FODSA events, so a big thank you to you. On which note..... Get your cowboy hats at the ready, as the 2019 FODSA Barn Dance is on Saturday 9th February, 19.30 at the village hall, tickets available from Mace and Vickery's.

Our next fundraising target is to buy a defibrillator to have on the school building, hopefully if the Barn Dance is a big success that will go some way towards funding one.

FODSA 100+ Club winners:

November: Number 20, Sally Dixon and number 6, Anna Gurl

December: Number 9, Adam Turnbull and number 24, Val Booth

All winning £18.75

Remember the more people in the club, the bigger the prizes, so, if you'd like to buy some numbers please email fodsafundraising@gmail.com

Laura Billington, FODSA

DRAYTON'S NEW PLAYGROUND

REMEMBER DRAYTON2020?

Andrew Bax

20 December was a cold and blustery Thursday, but it marked an important milestone in the implementation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan produced by Drayton2020. Parish Council chairman Richard Williams is seen here accepting the transfer of the Walnut Meadow play area to Council ownership from the developers, Miller Homes. It is one of the first concrete examples of community benefits that members of Drayton2020 worked to achieve over many thousand man-hours since the project began in 2012. Many more will follow.

The occasion was important for a second reason, too. Everyone has been deeply frustrated by the way Miller Homes seem to have abandoned the site without fulfilling its obligations to complete the roads, drainage and playing fields (as well as some of the houses). However, it is reassuring to learn that Millers have appointed civil-engineer Sarah Reid (pictured) to make sure the work is now done.

Sadly, few of those who contributed their time to Drayton2020 are likely to enjoy the benefits of the new play area, although I may sneak in when no-one is looking. There are some excellent facilities there and they will be great fun for Drayton's children, particularly those living in Walnut Meadow.

Also, for those who don't already know, there is now an excellent, well-lit, tarmac footpath linking Barrow Road with Corneville Road. This enables pedestrians from Walnut Meadow to reach the school, the post office, the Wheatsheaf, Vickery's and the Hall without walking along the man road.



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REPORT FROM GARD

January 2019

The Next Steps in opposing the Thames Water reservoir plans

The consultation on Thames Water's revised draft Water Resources Management Plan 2019-2024 (known as rdWRMP19) closed on 28th November.

GARD submitted a robust paper opposing the plan, and a copy of this will shortly be available on our website (www.gard-oxon.org.uk). Most importantly however, there was a very strong opposition response from local residents, local campaigning organisations and local political representatives at all levels. The proposal by Thames Water to bring forward the construction of the 'Abingdon' Reservoir to start in 2025 is overwhelmingly opposed by local campaign groups and councils, and universally in the locality there has been a call for a Public Inquiry into the plan.

The large majority of the Parish Councils in the area have issued formal responses opposing the plans and all called for a Public Inquiry. This call for a Public Inquiry is supported by the Vale of the White Horse DC, who state that they are not convinced by the Thames Water case, and by Oxfordshire County Council, whose response formally objects to the plan. CPRE Oxfordshire and the Wantage and Grove Campaign Group are also opposed to the plans.

We must hope that Thames Water will listen to the opposition, but their past record does not give much confidence. That is why it has been important that our local MPs, Ed Vaizey (Wantage) and Layla Moran (Abingdon and Oxford West) have called for a Public Inquiry and written to Secretary of State, Michael Gove requesting this. We would like to thank them for their support, and also thank local councillors, such as Mike Fox-Davies (Steventon and Hendred) and Richard Webber (Drayton and Sutton Courtenay) for their hard work in pushing the message and actions through the County Council.

Thanks also to those who wrote individually to the consultation opposing the plans and calling for a Public Inquiry. This time round there were a very large number of individual contributions, many of them copied personally to me, and featuring many forceful and thoughtful arguments. We now await to see Thames Water's response. If you wrote in, you will get an individual answer from them. If you find any of the answers are dismissive or evasive, we would be very pleased if you could share them with us (via email gard.chair@gmail.com), and complain to your MP.

The next step will be for Thames Water's new partner in the reservoir plan (Affinity Water) to publish their revised draft plan. This is expected in March. We will be responding to this, and we hope to co-ordinate our response with local organisations, and that you will all write to Affinity expressing your opposition. Affinity are 'new kids on the block' as far as the reservoir is concerned, and they have said they are keen to engage with our local concerns and hear them. They are less wedded to the reservoir plan as a solution than Thames Water, for whom it seems to have become some sort of sacred cow.

In spite of Thames Water claiming that the reservoir will be needed by the 'South-east in general', Affinity Water (who supply Hertfordshire) are the only prospective water company customer to express any interest. Other SE water companies (South-east Water and Southern Water) have already withdrawn their requests for future supply from Thames Water. **The analysis by GARD shows that the requirements of Affinity can be met by very simple and cheap schemes and improving leakage (sounds familiar?), until at least the 2060s.** Once again the reasons advanced by Thames Water do not stack up, and Oxfordshire needs to convince Affinity that much cheaper and more quickly deliverable solutions are available for their customers.

Please keep an eye out and respond to Affinity's plan when published.

Joining GARD

Our membership has grown considerably over the last year and continues to do so, however, to defeat the Reservoir project and ensure a sustainable water future for Oxfordshire and the South-east, we need even more members. If you would like to join us, or need more information, please contact our secretary, Deborah Bennett, at gard.secretary@gmail.com. Lifetime membership is £10 (under 18s and full-time students £5).

Derek Stork,
Hon Chairman,
Group Against Reservoir Development



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COFFEE-BREAK QUIZ



Exciting news! The second screen at The Abbey Cinema in Abingdon has now opened. With a state-of-the-art 10m screen, Dolby surround sound, a revamped bar and new catering facilities, customers will be able to enjoy light meals and drinks while watching a film. Upcoming films for the month of February across both screens include:

The Front Runner, Mary Queen of Scots, Colette, The Favourite, Stan & Ollie and Breakfast at Tiffany's.

For further details, see

<https://theabbey.ac/web>

or call 01386 425877. Nearest car park is Abbey Close (near the outdoor pool).

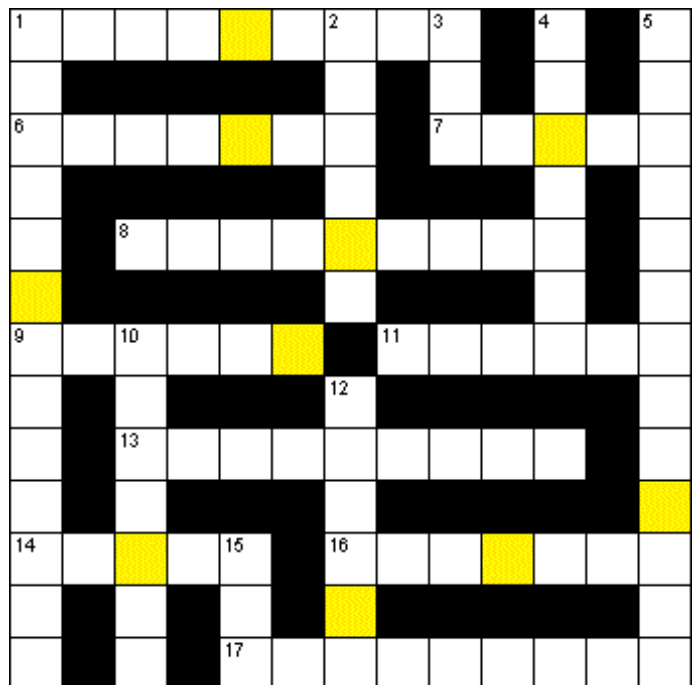
We have a **pair of free Abbey Cinema tickets to give away** to the winner of our competition. Simply complete the crossword and rearrange the letters in the highlighted squares into the name of an actor. All we need is the name of the actor, not the whole crossword. Please write the actor's name, your name and address and your phone number on a piece of paper, place in an envelope marked Abbey Cinema Quiz and leave in the Chronicle Box outside Vickery's Hardware Shop. The first correct entry drawn on February 15th will win the prize.

Across

- Patrick Gates in the 2004 movie, *National Treasure* (3,6)
- Silent movie actor, Charlie (7)
- Psycho character, Norman ___ (5)
- Charles Bronson is Paul Kersey in this 1974 movie (5,4)
- Don Ameche is Art Selwyn in this 1985 sci-fi movie (6)
- Michael Caine is Milo Tindle in this 1972 movie (6)
- ___ Crawford was J Edgar Hoover in the 1977 movie, *The Private files of J Edgar Hoover* (9)
- Cameron Diaz is the voice of Princess Fiona in this 2001 movie (5)
- Robert ___ is Lieutenant Elgart in the 1991 movie, *Cape Fear* (7)
- Jason Bourne in the 2007 movie, *The Bourne Ultimatum* (4,5)

Down

- Costello in the 2006 movie, *The Departed* (4,9)
- 1982 movie starring Ben Kingsley, directed by Richard Attenborough (6)
- ___ Hunter is Rod in the 1988 movie, *Grotesque* (3)
- Walter ___ is Max Goldman in the 1993 movie, *Grumpy Old Men* (7)
- Charles Frohman in the 2004 movie, *Finding Neverland* (6,7)
- Liza Minnelli is Sally Bowles in this 1972 movie (7)
- Frog Muppet (6)
- Errol Flynn is Mahbub Ali, the Red Beard in this 1950 movie (3)



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Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize 2019



The Ridgeway – the oldest road in Britain – historically was a trackway providing a reliable trading route from the Dorset coast along the chalk Downs to the Wash in Norfolk. Today it is not only the oldest road but is also a wonderful resource for all the communities that live along its route, where all can enjoy walking, riding or just being there.

The Friends of The Ridgeway have established an annual arts competition and prize – the Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize. For 2019, it will be held in April 2019 with an exhibition in Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington on Saturday and Sunday 27 - 28 April 2019. The aim of the competition is to bring The Ridgeway to life not only as a long distance trail but also as an artistic inspiration, and to show The Ridgeway, its history and environs, in all their aspects throughout all seasons. The theme of the competition is 'Spirit of the Ridgeway'.

The main points of the prize competition are:

There will be separate classes for painting, sculpture (including ceramics and textiles), photography and writing (poetry or prose);

Competition is open to all, amateur and professional artists;

Art work submitted must be produced in the 24 months prior to closing date;

The results of the competition will be announced, and prizes awarded at the Ridgeway Friends Day planned for 28 April 2019;

The closing date for entries shall be one month prior to the Ridgeway Friends Day (i.e. 31 March 2019);

The full rules of the competition are given in a separate document.

All entrants will receive one year's membership of The Friends of The Ridgeway. Each category winner will receive a keeper prize plus £100. The overall winner will receive a keeper prize plus £250 and a trophy.

To enter applicants should contact The Friends of The Ridgeway. Entrants need to complete the Entry Form and submit it with their art work.

Why not seek artistic inspiration from the Ridgeway and then, through the Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize, share it with all those that love and value the Ridgeway?

Further information can be obtained from:
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YOUR LETTERS

Hidden Milestone

In Drayton Chronicle Vol 41, Issue10, you invited responses to The Hidden Milestone. I for one have known about it for some 50 years; having either walked or cycled past it over the years. I feel it would be a shame to move it as it's part of history to the village where it is. It's not the village's fault Abingdon is getting closer! Maybe the hedgerow surrounding the milestone could be tidied up to improve and enhance this small piece of village history. Also, moving it will make O.S. maps wrong. I'm off to look at my O.S. map now as you've intrigued me to follow this up.

Kind regards

Anne Curtis

P.S. On looking at the O.S map I can see there are quite a few milestones, particularly A417 which I use often. A few I know about, but others I'm going to look out for now.

Hidden Milestone

Having been born and raised in Drayton I have many memories of the milestone located just south of Sutton Wick Road and would hate to see it moved. Many times I walked past it in either direction and familiarity eventually bred the process of knowing it was there but not viewed. I left Drayton nearly 50 years ago to come to Australia and have been back many times as recently as September this year. It would be nice to have it remain where it is - if you move it the mileage will be incorrect with its information.

Kind regards

Ray and Margaret Hutt

Victoria, Australia

Calling all Scrabble Players!

Would anyone be interested in meeting up for a regular daytime game of scrabble? Does such a club already exist in Drayton perhaps? I would love to meet up with other scrabble fans in the village so please get in touch via my daughter Tessa on 07843 376096.

Thank you, Pat

A Wonderful Day !

Dear Editor

Lockway

It's that time of year again when Sylvia, Beryl, and members of the Friday Club, would like to thank Sally and Brenda for cooking such a lovely Christmas dinner, it was very much appreciated by all.

Also we wish to thank Pervin for bringing her wonderful harp and playing Christmas Carols, which everyone sang along with, they enjoyed it so very much.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Kind Regards

Sylvia & Beryl

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COUNTY COUNCIL

Richard Webber

County Report:

Last month I promised that I would devote this article to the most contentious issue facing Oxfordshire – the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway.

It is common knowledge that as a consequence of all the housing we have built and are due to build (assuming we have the bricks and bricklayers to carry out the work), we are excruciatingly short of the infrastructure that should come with those houses. There is now an undeniably serious backlog of roads, rail, bus and cycling provision.

Until recently, appeals to Government for money to address this backlog have fallen on deaf ears. The newly signed “Growth Deal” is offering £150m but the estimated shortfall in what is needed is many times this. Many of us feel that, as a result, the backlog is going to grow. However we feel about the Expressway, there is no denying that if/when it is built, we will have even more houses with no certainty that the road will be able to generate enough money to address the backlog, and every likelihood that it will simply increase the problem further.

There are now a number of protest-organisations across the County – each objecting to the road being built through their patch. Many local councilors are members of such protest groups and this presents a problem for Council Leaders and how they should handle the issue. So far, the Growth Board (the body responsible for producing a unified County response) is sending out some very confused signals on whether or not it welcomes the Expressway.

If Oxfordshire is to make its voice heard, it needs to speak with one voice and find that voice quickly. It seems to me that the holding position that most would sign up to, is that Oxfordshire residents need to understand the justification for the proposal via a full consultation and, given the present infrastructure backlog, the congestion on the A34, the A420 and many other roads, at present they are far from convinced.

As with the Reservoir, this fight will go on for some time – it is certainly far too important to be rushed.

With all the present uncertainties in Westminster, and the consequent uncertainties over how local government is to be funded, it can be hard to remain positive. Like everyone, I am determined to enjoy my family this Christmas – I hope you will enjoy yours. Let’s hope that 2019 will bring some pleasant surprises and solutions to problems where 2018 failed.

Richard Webber Cllr OCC
Richardwebber777@gmail.com
01235 534001

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Williams

Report of the Parish Council meetings held on Mon 10th December 2018 and Mon 1st October 2018

December

A report back was received from the latest meeting with developers Millers on 7th December. This meeting, attended by representatives of the Parish, District and County Councils, as well as Millers execs and their contractors, set a timetable for work on the remaining outstanding issues for the next couple of months, with the next meeting scheduled for early Feb. Notes from this meeting were posted on the Families in Drayton website by parish councillor Andy Cooke a few days before Christmas. As recorded elsewhere in this issue, the new children’s play area on the site was opened on 20th December.

Other matters discussed included the consultation event for the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, and the proposed changes to the planning application to build 28 houses at the back of Halls Close.

January

Updates were received from the Public Art working group, the Allotment working group and the Projects Board.

The Planning Committee was particularly concerned about the developer Blue Cedar’s proposals re. Halls Close, i.e. they wish to remove the condition that 11 of the 28 houses should be designed specifically for, and available only to, the over 60s. As this provision for older people was part of the reason why the application was approved in the first place, the PC has formally objected to the change.

To contact any members of the Parish Council, all enquiries should be directed to the Parish Clerk, Lorraine Watling, in the first instance. Lorraine may be contacted via E-mail at clerk@draytonpc.org or by telephone on 07909 176061, and she will ensure that any messages are passed on. Further information regarding the PC can be found on the village website: <http://www.draytonvillage.co.uk/>

The next Parish Council meeting will be on **Monday 4th February**, at 7.30 pm, in the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane. As ever, all are welcome to attend.

Neighbourhood Action Group 5 Safety Corner

Burglary

With increased rates of burglary in our area the police suggest all residents should review their home security.

- Using timer plugs to turn lights and radios on and off is a simple and inexpensive way to make it look as if there's someone at home. Use them daily, not just when you're away, and vary the times when individual timers switch things on and off. You can also purchase a device with a flickering light, which mimics a television.
- Contrary to public belief fewer burglaries take place at night. Most occur between 3 and 6pm.
- Install external security lights that switch on when it gets dark.
- Vary your routines. If someone's keeping an eye on your property it won't take too long for them to ascertain when there's no-one at home.
- Don't leave curtains closed all day. If thieves gain entry, they risk being seen if they decide to close the curtains to hide their presence.
- Thieves are generally looking for gold and gold jewellery and are very knowledgeable about value. They will take cash but normally ignore laptops, TVs etc.
- Gold jewellery and gold should ideally be kept in a bank vault. If you want to keep jewellery at home it should be kept in a safe, which can't be carried away or hidden in a very unlikely location.
- If you keep items of jewellery at home which have great sentimental value, even if they're not very valuable in monetary terms, give some thought to how you'd feel if they were stolen, and take steps to keep them safe.
- Place your jewellery on a white piece of paper, with a ruler next to it, and photograph every item.
- Mark your jewellery with a forensic liquid such as SmartWater. Visit the website at www.smartwater.com or call 0333 320 7797.
- The police's view is that CCTV is the best burglary deterrent of all.

Vehicle theft

There has been a recent increase in vehicle thefts from villages in our area.

- High profile vehicles are now so difficult to break into that thieves are breaking into houses to obtain the keys. Don't leave car or door keys within easy reach of the front door, or visible through glass doors and windows.
- If such vehicles are stolen the number plates are often cloned then used on a car of the same make and model to carry out crimes, such as burglaries, in another area.

- If you're advertising a vehicle or motor-cycle for sale always be sure that the number plate is obscured or not visible.
- In the cold weather it's tempting to leave your car running, and unattended, while the windows de-frost and the interior warms up. Similarly, don't leave the car running while you just pop into a shop or post a letter. It doesn't take more than a minute for someone to hop into your car and drive away.
- Don't leave possessions in your car and always ensure you close all windows and lock the vehicle when leaving it.
- If you have a portable Sat Nav and cradle always remove them and wipe any suction marks from the windscreen. Thieves will expect to find Sat Navs stored in the glove box or under the seat so always take yours with you when leaving your vehicle.

To contact the police about non-emergencies, use the online reporting tool on the police website at:

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/>. You will be contacted within 24 hours of filing the report.

If you don't have online access, please call 101 for non-emergencies.

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ABINGDON PARKRUN



What do between 250 and 500 people do in Abingdon every Saturday morning at 9.00 am? They meet next to the river roughly halfway between the Nag's Head and Abingdon Lock and, after a short briefing from the organisers, start running, jogging or walking.

Plenty of people from Drayton have been spotted there! They have discovered that it is a great way to get fit in the fresh air, it's free of charge and you can be home before 10.00 am, feeling good and with the weekend ahead. Later in the day they receive an email from parkrun, informing them of their time (which, on a typical Saturday, ranges from 17 minutes to 60 minutes), and more information about personal bests, position etc.

The run is 5km and covers all terrains, from grass to tarmac to gravel and mud. Good shoes make a big difference, but otherwise anything goes clothes-wise. Runners cover the whole age spectrum, and always include a few dogs on leads and participants in pushchairs.

Local resident Mike Shepherd of Sutton Wick is one of the seven Abingdon parkrun volunteer Run Directors. They do an amazing job – probably the most challenging part of which is co-ordinating the small army of volunteers each week who act as motivating marshals, time keepers etc. Parkrun couldn't exist without the volunteers, so many of the runners volunteer themselves one week in ten or so, to ensure that the parkrun continues.

Other parkruns

Some people love the routine of doing the same route each week, getting to know the terrain and the people – but there are also other local parkruns at Didcot, Oxford and Henley and in fact all over the UK and globally. The keenest runners take their running shoes with them in their suitcases and do a parkrun wherever they are on holiday/away for work etc.!

Inspired?

If you are inspired to have a go, all you need to do is register on www.parkrun.org.uk. Once you've filled in your details, you will be able to print out a personal barcode and you simply take it with you - each time you run. When you complete the run your barcode is scanned, together with a position-time barcode which is given to you temporarily at the end of the run. There is no commitment to run again after you've tried it once but, judging from the vast number of people who take part, it is something you can definitely become addicted to!

Margaret Inger



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TEGAN L.C. MEREDITH REPORTS



‘Bird Eye View’

An article from our new school reporter, Tegan from Owls Class.

2019 at Christmas was a treat for Drayton. On the 7th December, FODSA was able to pull off an amazing Christmas hour from 3pm – 4pm. You can't have a Christmas hour without games, luckily there was plenty. This included the tomboler, the lucky dip and a fantastic raffle which was drawn a few days later. Well done to the winners! The Christmas disco was even better. There were two sessions to keep the hall from being over crowded. The disco included things like pizza from Pizza Hut, a raffle you could enter by just giving in your entrance tickets, glow bracelets and free drinks. It was an amazing night and I believe many people loved it. Merry Christmas and have a happy new year! Tegan.L.C. Meredith

Tegan, Kiana, Lucy from Owls



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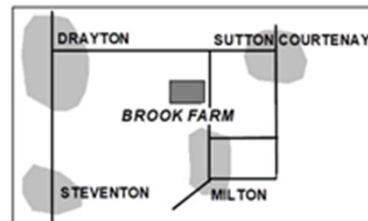


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RECIPE AT THE BACK

Delicious Chicken Jalfrezi

6 green chillies
4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
2 tbsp oil
2 garlic cloves, peeled and finely chopped
5 ripe tomatoes
1 tbsp ground cumin
1 tbsp garam masala
1 tsp ground turmeric
1 tbsp caster sugar
1 tsp flaked sea salt
200ml cold water
2 tbsp low-fat natural yoghurt
1 medium onion
1 green pepper
2 tsp cornflour
1 tbsp water

Method

1. Finely chop the chillies – deseed a couple or all of them first if you don't like very spicy food. Cut each chicken breast into 7 or 8 bite-sized chunks.
2. Heat a tablespoon of the oil in a large, non-stick frying pan over a high heat. Add the garlic, chopped chillies, 3 chopped tomatoes, cumin, garam masala, turmeric, sugar and salt, then stir-fry for 3–4 minutes until the vegetables soften.
3. Next, add the chicken pieces and cook for 3 minutes, turning the chicken regularly. Pour over the 200ml of water, stir in the yoghurt and reduce the heat only slightly –the sauce needs to simmer. Cook for about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally until the chicken is tender and cooked through and the sauce has reduced by about a third. The yoghurt may separate to begin with but will disappear into the sauce.
4. While the chicken is cooking, heat the remaining tablespoon of oil in a frying pan and stir-fry the chopped onion and pepper over a high heat for 3–4 minutes until lightly browned. Add the last 2 tomatoes (quartered) and fry for 2–3 minutes more, stirring until the vegetables are just tender. Mix the cornflour with the tablespoon of water to form a smooth paste.
5. When the chicken is cooked, stir in the cornflour mixture and simmer for a few seconds until the sauce thickens, stirring constantly. Remove from the heat, add the hot stir-fried vegetables and toss together lightly. Serve immediately with basmati rice and mango chutney. Enjoy.



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DRAYTON DIARIES

Hall Diary for JAN & FEB

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

To book the Hall :- bookings@draytonvh.co.uk or call Tony Holmes on (01235) 531180; see the website :- www.draytonvh.co.uk

Fri	25	7.00pm	Private Function
Sat	26	1.00pm	Private Function (child's party)
Sun	27	1.00pm	Private Function (child's party)
FEB	4	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting <i>Caudwell DC</i>
Sat	9	12.30pm	Chronicle Lottery* Deadline (NB * Extra tickets always available @ Vickery's)
Sat	9	7.00pm	FODSA Barn Dance
Sun	10	noon	Private Function (child's party)
Mon	11	5.00pm	Chronicle Deadline (see P2 – Ads 8th)
Thur	14	2.00pm	'U3A' Crafts Group (Mthly – Small Hall)
Sat	16	10.00am	Dog Show (all day)
Sun	17	9.00am	Bowls Club (all day)
Sat	23	6.00pm	Private Function
Sun	24	2.00pm	Private Function (child's party)
Wed	27	2.00pm	NB NOT Drayton Wives this month!

Village Hall Report

Bookings are whizzing in for children's parties, we're very popular for them, so as ever, parents with little birthdays to celebrate, don't leave it too late! Our party 'slots' get booked by people from quite a radius.

Don't forget the FODSA Barn Dance, Sat Feb 9th, they do a terrific job raising funds for the School, and this one is likely to be very popular, tickets at Vickery's, or see the Families in Drayton F'book page.

Something a bit new, just in March (2nd), but I'll mention it now, it's called a Tea Dance, being run by the Conround Eights Square Dance Club, and they'll be back a couple more times in the year.

Now, does anyone know how much a single-storey length of drainpipe might cost? May sound an odd question, but as someone seems to keep wanting to rip one of ours off (corner nearest football pitch), we could pay for you to buy one of your own, as it's more of a nuisance to keep repairing ours. Do get in touch, don't be shy. Oh, and if this is just a bored teenager or two, parents should be aware that we will invoice you if we find out who the culprit is, and chase you through the courts system if needed (we've done it before). Plus you'd be getting some unwelcome publicity.

Lastly, we've wondered about giving an 'Optimist of the Year' award. This would be for the person who, at a December event, opened one of the dummy presents under the Christmas Tree on our stage. Presumably there was some hope of an electronic gadget, a new phone, or at least a box of chocs. Sadly we weren't there to record their shattered illusions when they found . . . an empty cornflakes packet, but let us know who it was, and we'll try and find a consolation prize.

Tony Holmes

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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

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) <i>Caudwell DC</i>
7.00 pm	Table Tennis (Coaching, one hour) <i>School</i>
7.15 pm	Badminton (Private Group)
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours) <i>St Peter's</i>
8.00 pm	Table Tennis (Social Play, one hour) <i>School</i>

TUESDAYS

9.30 am	Pilates (via Alexandra Merson 07788 248925)
11.00 am	'Gentle' Yoga (Helen 07712 646382)
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>
7.00 pm	League Table Tennis (three hours) <i>School</i>
7.30 pm	Bingo Session (over 18s) <i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
8.00 pm	Clubbercise (run by Gemma Pearce, see her F'book)

WEDNESDAYS

10.00 am	Pebbles (Baby, Toddler, Carer gp – p4) <i>Church Room</i>
1.45 pm	Whist Drive (ACHLoFriends) <i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>
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) <i>School</i>
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)

THURSDAYS

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

FRIDAYS

11.00 am	The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466 <i>CaudwellDay Centre</i>
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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 Service <i>Baptist Church</i>

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 normally 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.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday 5th February

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

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