

DRAYTON CHRONICLE



April 2019
Volume 42 No. 3

Editor
Tony Holmes



Grateful thanks for this cover picture to Georgina Arnold

COMING CHRONICLES

The **May Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on **Friday April 26th 2019**. The Editor will be **Margaret Inger (07967 730735)**, whose debut issue started our year. Contributions may be e-mailed (as below, best to 'editor@'), or placed in the Chronicle letter box, outside Vickery's store on Drayton Green, **NO LATER than 5.15 pm on Monday, April 15th**.

After this deadline, items are given less precedence for inclusion (No guarantees!), and certainly need to reach us by the Wednesday.

STOP PRESS - ADVERTISERS should note that the deadline for ads is **EARLIER, Friday April 12th**, due to their preparation time.

NB :- **Can we politely remind** Contributors that the above **deadlines** are exactly that; It should perhaps be realised that the **later an item is received, the less precedence it gets**.

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS (any doubts, ask the Editor!) All contributions to the Chronicle are most welcome. Be sure to include the name, address and (in case clarification is necessary) telephone number of the author. Contributions can be made :-

1. By **email** to the relevant editor (and please use a **meaningful title**, we get a lot called Chronicle!)

to reach the next editor → editor@draytonchronicle.net

Please remember to check that you soon get a confirmation reply. We do occasionally have emails sent – and they just don't arrive!

2. An **email attachment**, in WORD please (NOT a PDF file!).
3. A good, **black typescript** on white A4 paper or smaller.
4. **Hand-written? Preferably not, if more than about a para**. This is 2019, should be a way to type and send it?! (= less work & errors!)

DATES for the FOLLOWING Chronicle		
Issue for	Copy Deadlines :- to Editor by (& Agents Lottery Packs the Fri before these)	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Fridays:-
June	Mon May 20th	May 31st


ADVERTISING RATES
For Block Advert (about 1/12th page)
--- Number of Monthly 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

Half-size block adverts, normally for one or two inserts, are charged at half the above rates.

All requests must be accompanied by cash or a cheque made payable to 'Drayton Chronicle'.
They may be placed in the Chronicle Letter Box, outside Vickery's Hardware Store, Drayton Green, in shopping hours, OR send your requirements :- advertising@draytonchronicle.net

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CHRONICLE LOTTERY

(Carol Arnold, Hon. Promoter)

RESULTS of the - March - LOTTERY

Prize	Winner	Agent
£25	V Booth Mott Cottages	Tamsin Meredith
£20	Brian Easto Sutton Wick Lane	Keith Clough
£15	M Lowy Steventon Road	Tamsin Meredith
£10	Tony Marks Binning Close	Cathy Norris
£10	J Wooley Abingdon Road	Jayne Henderson
£10	Mrs Sellers Lockway	Sue Ash
£10	C & V Hartley High Street	Doreen Mason
£10	R & J Walker Friars Mews	Tamsin Crane
£10	Mr J Buckland Steventon Road	Tamsin Meredith
£10	Marian Chick Whitehorns Way	Moira Cox

Winning tickets, from 2131 sold, were randomly drawn via computer
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NB If you happen to miss your agent, **tickets are available** from Vickery's (& spare Chronicles too)

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St Peter's Church
Easter 2019



PALM SUNDAY – Sunday 14th April
8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
9.45 am Holy Communion for Palm Sunday

GOOD FRIDAY – Friday 19th April
10.00 am Ecumenical Service:
procession from the Baptist Church, round the village, to St Peter's Church.
Followed by hot cross buns in the Church room.
2-3 pm Meditation on the Cross, in the Church room

EASTER DAY – Sunday 21st April
9.45 am Family Holy Communion

This Month's Cover – some readers may not be aware of the memorial to the 1957 disaster, (Sutton Wick Lane), when a Beverley (transport) crashed soon after take-off. The dog leads relate to a dog-handling team that was on-board (pic, thanks to Georgina Arnold).

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

Local Groups & Clubs

Drayton Table-Tennis Club

First of all, a **big thank you** to everyone who came along to our annual Quiz Night. The event was a great success and we raised some essential funds for the club.



Sunday March 17th saw our 27th Club Championships held at the school. With a big entry we started at 9.30 am and carried on through the day finishing at 5.45pm, with three competitions; singles, doubles and a plate competition (for the players who didn't reach the singles knock out stages). This latter competition was won by **Richard Brown** who beat Robert Mihalache in the final.

Robert also got to the doubles final with partner Will Stephenson only to lose to the paring of **Rob Hudson & Max Waddup** (our youngest entrant). The main singles competition saw two previous winners reach the final, Robbie Greenfield won the event in 2016 whereas 4 time winner Matt Davies last picked up the trophy in 2009. It was a close fought final over 4 games. **Matt Davies** won through to become the Club Champion for a record 5th time!

In the Didcot League Handicap Shield competition 4 of our 7 teams have made it to the last 16. These being the Dragons, Devils, Dashers & Dingos. We hope they will avoid each other in the draw and eventually one or both will contest the Final. **John Gould**

(pictured are the doubles winners, with Alec Winton who presented the trophies – the background is the School Hall)



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Drayton WI

Ann Webb

A brief catch up on the last three months, because my last report is apparently still wandering around the electronic universe, never got to the Chronicle e-mailbox.

January, a meal at the Dog House, very welcome on a cold night. Members heard that one of our recent members, Mrs Millie Cook, had sadly passed away. Arrangements were made to remember her at her funeral. In **February**, we had a visit from the 'Q Gardens' butcher, to explain more about lamb this time. We were given small samples of their products, and leaflets telling us about availability of English produce and the right season to buy it.

March was our **AGM** when our new officers take over, but strangely they look very similar to the last ones! After our official business we invited our four new members to join us, firstly in an informal paper quiz followed by more puddings than a restaurant could provide. An amazing selection supplied by our members and gratefully devoured by us all.

Our new programme is now at the printers and I can't remember what April's subject will be, but they're always interesting! **Do come and find out with me**, it's on Thursday April 12th, 7.30pm, in the Caudwell day centre (Gravel Lane, for any new villagers).

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

CHURCH NOTICES

REGULAR SERVICES

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

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Monday	7.45 pm	Bellringing Practice	Bell Tower
Weds	10.00 am	Pebbles (term time only)	Church Room
Fri	6.30 pm	Choir Practice (1st Friday)	Church Room

CALENDAR for APRIL

Tues 2nd	2.30 pm	1st Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Sat 6th	10.00 am - 12.15	(NB 9.30am for coffee and pastries)	

'A Quiet Morning' to take some time out and simply be still with God.

Please see separate advert (p2) for details of Easter Services

PARISH REGISTER (no entries this month)

YOU STAY – WE PRAY (April)

(March) 31st to 6th	Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman Lane; Conifer Drive
7th to 13th	Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close; Manor Close; The Green
14th to 20th	Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close; Manor Close; The Green
21st to 27th	High Street; Chiers Drive; Cheers Farm; Halls Close
28th to 4th (May)	Friars Mews; Monk Close; Prior Drive; Abbot Crescent

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Letter from St Peter's (the Ministry Team)

From the Ministry Team...Journeying Through Lent

Forty Days. Six weeks. A long time to wander through the wilderness. People often don't look forward to Lent as memories surface of struggling to give up our favourite things. Words like 'sacrifice', 'discipline', and 'self-denial' are often used in ways that suggest that Lent is something to be endured rather than a time of renewal and spiritual growth. Perhaps it feels more like a punishment, or possibly just something you have to get through until Easter finally arrives. But at its heart, Lent is a journey. It's a path that we each have the choice to step onto that leads to the cross and to the empty tomb. Every year Christians celebrate Christ's death and resurrection. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration.

We Journey Together

Along the way, there are hills and valleys, stones to stumble upon, and smooth paths to tread over with confidence; and hopefully along the way, there are moments of clarity where our faith or vision seems a little clearer, even though there will undoubtedly be moments where it seems foggy and uncertain. Why not travel with us on **Palm Sunday** as the churches re-enact Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with a procession. But as Holy Week approaches, the atmosphere of the season darkens and the DAMASCUS Parish will be holding a Service of Shadows (known as 'Tenebrae') which will trace the story of Christ's passion. **You're all invited.** As with any journey, Lent is easier when travelled with companions.

When Our Feet are Tired

Perhaps you joined us as we began our Lenten journey on **Ash Wednesday**, or perhaps you just wondered why some people had been marked in ash with the sign of the cross on their foreheads... The imposition of ashes marks an ancient sign of penitence or remorse. As the cross is made specific words are spoken: 'Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ'. It is this turning away that determines how we travel, and on **Maundy Thursday** everyone is invited to gather for a Supper as we focus on the ways in which we are called to serve each other on our journeys, of faith or none, together.

Where Christ Walked, We Will Follow

When **Good Friday** arrives we will be retracing Christ's journey to the cross and churches across the Parish will mark this journey in different ways. Each a pilgrimage in its own way: whether by procession to the church, through the Stations of the Cross around the church itself, or by quiet meditation. However we travel, perhaps we can take time to journey well with one another, to discover the riches of moving more slowly; and afterwards share in the traditional eating of Hot Cross buns.

The Journey Ends AND Begins in Hope

So as you prepare for Easter this year, will you be ready to celebrate when a joyful dawn breaks upon **Easter Sunday** morning? God is never absent – our task is to encounter God with new eyes and in new ways, in people we meet, places we stop, in nature's beauty and our own thoughts and feelings. Our experiences will have changed us and hopefully because of that, we might grow a bit, both individually and as a community, and maybe by the end, we might even feel a little better about Lent.

You're invited to come along, just as you are, to any of the services taking place across the Parish (details included with the Easter advert in this magazine). **All are welcome.**

The Reverend Dr Karen Hyde

(Assistant Curate in the DAMASCUS Parish)

Drayton WIVES

This month we are spotlighting one of our most charismatic members, **Mrs Betty Biddle**. Betty came up from Cheltenham in 1960 to be with her new husband John. They lived in Sellwood Road in Abingdon before moving to Drayton in 1963 with their new son. Betty had met her husband on a blind date before the days of internet dating, and before the days of 'swiping right or left' ** as the youngsters do now!! (**Ed's note:- no, nor me . . .)

Betty joined the then Young Wives when her daughter was 18 months old. It was then an evening meeting where young mothers could socialize with other young mums and chat.

Betty had a few jobs in her career, going from William Press in Abingdon to a clerk at Bagley Croft to work as a civil servant for the MOD, she also worked for Plessey Communications installing cable for BT, in the exchange in Stratton Way she had to climb ladders in order to strip cables and separate them for wiring to connect to peoples' telephone lines. This was a very hands-on job but does anyone remember her running up those ladders?!!

Then on to be a secretary at Pipaway engineering at Milton Road, a very varied and interesting working life! Then Betty started her retirement and enjoyed being with her dog Ben, her grandchildren and family.

She is still an active member of Drayton Wives enjoying coffee mornings, walks and craft meetings. Betty is also an ardent churchgoer for 50 years with duties such as parochial church councillor, cleaner, coffee maker and sides person.

And Betty is still in love with Drayton because it's always friendly, caring, and always feels like home.

Drayton Wives Birthday Lunch

It was a beautiful February day when we held our annual Birthday Lunch at Coseners House in Abingdon.

Thirty five people attended and all had a good time and an enjoyable lunch. It was so glorious that we could sit outside for our pre-lunch drinks and remember last year when we watched the snow!!!
Lisa Lammiman

(pic = Betty & other 'Wives' – she's seated, not in pink)



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JESUS LOOK-A-LIKE on GOOD FRIDAY



Andrew Gould, dressed up as Jesus, will be carrying the Cross to lead our procession from the Village Green.

The service will start at the Baptist Church at 10.00 am, and then move onto the Village Green for some hymns with the Abingdon Band.

Everyone will then follow the Cross for a short walk round the village to St Peter's for hot cross buns.

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BAPTIST CHURCH

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



REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

6.00 pm **Evening Service.** A traditional form of service, frequently with guest speakers.
(Communion every second Sunday)

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WESTMINSTER VIEW



Ed Vaizey's column (Wantage/Didcot MP; he's presently on the Commons Speaker's Advisory Panel on the Arts, also a patron of 'Kids in Museums')

This month I have met with Ministers to discuss two important local issues: **Health care and rail links.** I met with Andrew Jones, the Rail Minister, and his officials,

also Network Rail and Great Western. The Minister and I led discussions focussing on improvements along the Great Western Railway line, the potential for **reopening Grove Station** as part of a strategic project to develop commuter stations between Oxford and Bristol, and improved connectivity between Heathrow Airport and stations to the west, so one might travel direct to Heathrow from Reading for example. I will be looking at the East West Rail scheme and the Cotswold Line Promotion Group for inspiration in how to build a business case for improvements to commuter services between Oxford & Bristol and hope that colleagues in Parliament with relevant stations might join me.

I also met with Health Minister Caroline Dinenage, alongside colleagues from OCC, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Oxford Health and VWHDC, she and I led discussions on how we could improve **Primary Care provision** in the constituency. We discussed the ongoing situation in Wantage as well as our plans to **develop new health hubs**, both at an improved Health Centre in Wantage and plans for a new health hub in Didcot.

In the constituency I have met with a number of residents and local businesses, including meeting with GPs in Wantage, the Thames Valley Police Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, and a visit to the Environmental Education Centre in Sutton Courtenay hosted by Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust.

If you need to get in touch with me, telephone 01235 768888, write, c/o House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA, or you can e-mail me (quickest) on dicksonce@parliament.uk; Either I or one of my team will get back to you as soon as possible and do what we can to assist. See www.vaizey.com for up to date news. If you'd like to be added to the distribution list, please complete the online form at:- www.vaizey.com

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April Dates Ab'don (3rd Fri) 19th; Didcot (2nd Sat) 13th

TVFM news - ring 01235 227266 see website - Tvmf.org.uk

Drayton Brownies & Rainbows

Brownies, for girls aged 7-10, meets on a Wednesday, and **Rainbows**, for girls aged 5-7, meets on a Thursday, in term time, at the village hall. For further information about **volunteering**, to **help at meetings**, or to register your daughter or put their names on our waiting list, DO please look at www.Girlguiding.org.uk.

Rainbows presently has spaces available - and Brownies could probably squeeze in another girl or two. For more information about **Rainbows**, please call **Victoria** on **07801 447720**, or email to steventonrainbows@gmail.com

For **Brownies**, please call **Laura** on **07916 459435** or email drayton1stbrownies@live.co.uk



About Stonehill Community Garden

Stonehill Community Garden provides **outdoor learning experiences for diverse groups** from the communities of Abingdon, Drayton, Steventon, Sutton Courtenay and Radley.

We provide a **safe space** which offers more than purely a gardening experience. We bring together people of different ages, backgrounds and abilities to get active through learning practical skills around growing, building and working outdoors. Whilst creating the opportunity for people to be outdoors and connecting with the natural world, a sense of community is created through skill sharing and group activities. Our objectives are in line with *Cultivating Communities' Good Practice Guide for Community Gardens*:-

Build community - a sense of community develops through participation and common enterprise.

Reduce environmental impact - by reducing food miles and recycling waste.

Improve nutritional health - by increasing the consumption of fresh, organic, locally grown food.

Create opportunity - via skill-sharing, friendships & learning.

Create purposeful recreation - by getting people growing food and reconnecting with nature.

Stonehill Community Garden welcomes individuals, groups and organisations into the garden each **Wednesday**. Our regular participants include:- **Kingfisher school** for children with special learning needs; **Style Acre**, a local charity working with adults with cognitive learning disabilities; **DAMASCUS Youth Project** for local young people at risk of anti-social behaviour and offending; **ex-offenders** (via the Community Pay-Back scheme); **South Oxon Food & Education Academy**, working with people not in employment, education or training (NEETs); **retired local residents**; local families with young children; & ad hoc groups.

We are a **Community Action Group**, and a member of 'Healthy Abingdon'. We are **always open** to new participants and projects, and we **actively seek to involve local residents and groups**.

Our work since 2016 Since opening over two years ago, we have run **open Wednesday work sessions** to establish a flourishing community space, using the principles of permaculture (earth care, people care, fair share), and **learning by doing**.

With our participants, **we have achieved a huge amount**. We have run projects to create:- A thriving vegetable patch and a fruit cage; composting bins; 2 polytunnels (one now houses a tropical forest garden!); 2 nature ponds; an accessible compost toilet; a straw bale shelter; a cob pizza oven & a wind turbine to provide electricity (and more!).

All of our activities teach participants about sustainable, organic gardening and we are creating a thriving pocket of biodiversity. Equally important to the mission of the garden, and underlying the educational work, is our aim to build self-confidence and social cohesion for all participants. It's a beautiful site, with potential to extend **our reach to further local residents and social groups**.

Impact in the Community Our work is about bringing together groups who may not normally come into contact, who can then work towards shared objectives, and in doing so begin breaking down social barriers. We also build an appreciation of biodiversity, sustainable horticulture and land conservation.

We employ two freelancers to run the garden activities. Our weekly Wednesday sessions are run by our Garden Coordinator, Richard Seemark. We have also employed a freelance fundraiser, Naomi Hope, to support the financial sustainability of the garden.

We work in close partnership with a number of local groups and charities. **Contact Us** :- www.stonehillgardens.co.uk or

Email: info@stonehillgardens.co.uk

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Friends of Drayton School

A big "yee-haa" to all those who came to the Barn Dance in February, we really appreciate your continued support at all our events. It was a fun evening of live music, tasty food and some impressive doh-si-dohs! You wonderful barn dancers raised £688 for school, which is amazing . . . [thank you](#).

We recently had a 'bags2school' event, where people donate their unwanted clothes and these are bought from us to be sold wholesale to Eastern and Western Europe, Africa and Asia. Bags 2 School is a good way to dispose of unwanted clothing, raise money for school and provide a supply of affordable clothing to others. Our latest collection raised £124 for FODSA. We will publish the date of the next one so anyone in the village who wants to can also donate their unwanted clothes, soft furnishings, shoes or handbags.

Our next big event is the **summer fete** which will be held on **15th June** at the village hall field. After the success of last year's fete and festival, we will again have a fun-filled fete for the afternoon and live music starting at 5pm. This year's fete has a Wild West theme, with pony rides, a bucking bronco and lots of cowboy and cowgirl themed games (sling-a-stetson, crush-a-critter, hurl-a-horseshoe . . .) We're pleased that the football club will be running the penalty shoot-out again this year to raise funds for the club; if there are any other local groups who would like a stall on the day please let us know.

And as always, [we are after volunteers!!](#) It takes a lot of people to make the day a success, so if you would like to be a part of the team please email fodsafundraising@gmail.com

Laura Billington

[FoDSA Barn-dancers](#), the Mansfields, Adderleys & Minters



Our recent 100+ Club winners are :-

January (winning £18.75) :- A Brooks and A Turnbull (who's been on a winning streak, so has kindly donated his winnings back to FODSA. **Thank you Adam!**

February winners (£18.50) were :- A Hayter and F Sadler. The 100+ club scheme has **raised £794 so far for the school**. If you would like to take part please email :-

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YOUR LETTERS

Urgent Repairs

Dear Editor, Gravel Lane

I don't know how many of you have noticed the [Baptist Chapel](#) in the centre of the village; it has been there for [one hundred and twenty years](#). It has served our community well: mums and dads, children in Sunday school, choirs, parties, weddings, and funerals.

For the last two years we have run **weekly coffee and cake mornings for all**, which have proved to be extremely popular.

Sadly, due to age, this **village landmark is in need of urgent repairs**. If you feel you could help, to preserve this important building, **any donations** to this worthy cause would be [gratefully received](#). To contribute please contact Jayne Henderson (church secretary) on 522161.

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Could YOU Volunteer?

Dear Editor, High Street

I help with the Abingdon Volunteer Centre, and I wonder if any readers can help with some **volunteer driving**, taking people to medical appointments?

It's a flexible scheme, maybe an expectation of two or three drives per month (a mileage allowance - 45p - is paid).

If you can help, please contact the Centre, (35 Ock Street), 10am to 12.30 weekdays, on 01235 522438.

Yours Faithfully

Doreen Mason

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Help Please – Steventon Road Snaps?

Dear Editor,

via email

I am writing to ask for help from any Chronicle readers who may have some old pictures of a row of houses which were knocked down in Steventon Road to make way for the entrance to Lockway when it was built in about 1960.

As a baby I lived at 36 Steventon Road, and I would really love to have any other pictures of the property for a family history project, so if anyone can help, please could they email me at: adesmith@blueyonder.co.uk

I would be happy to refund any reasonable costs if any of your loyal readership can help?

Many thanks – keep up the good work!

Adrian Smith (ex-Draytonian now in Gloucester)

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MORE LETTERS

Public Art Installation – Working Group

Dear Editor, High Street

Please give this a quick read, as I'm appealing to people to come together to form a working group to decide about public art projects in our village.

One of the benefits of having new houses in our village is that we have been able to **claim money from the developers for artistic improvements** to enhance the attractiveness of our surroundings.

This money has come through from Section 106 of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act, in which the Govt stipulates that a certain percentage of the profit of all new builds must be given back to the community to enhance the area, ie:- traffic calming, tree planting, community building improvements, new community buildings, recreational areas, or in our case, art installations.

This can take the form of anything from an artistic poster showing the cycle routes and footpaths in the village, to sculpture or wrought iron gates, mosaics, stained glass, timberwork, or whatever takes your fancy. **The possibilities are endless.**

To help guide us through this maze, we have a lovely lady on board, with the slightly intimidating title of the Vale of the White Horse Arts Officer, but who's very approachable and keen to help. I shall invite her to attend our first meeting, to show us what can be done. It's to be held on **April 26th, (that's a Friday), 7pm, Caudwell Day Centre.**

In our case, the amount is considerable. We have already received £22,407 and we've £59,100 to come. More information will be imparted at the meeting which I hope you will attend. You might say that this money would be put to better use for our school or elderly people in the village etc., but the fact is that as the law stands, if we don't use the money for the use for which it is intended, **then it goes back to the developer.** And I'm sure none of us want to see that!

So if you would like a say in the use to which our funds can be put **please get in touch with me** so I know roughly how many to expect. We already have a Steering Group with two other members of the Parish Council: Shane McAleavey and Tamsin Crane, and I'm looking for your additional support.

Just hold one idea: if you don't come along to the meeting, don't complain if a giant inflatable giraffe goes up on the Manor Farm site. You have been warned!

Pervin Shahin (Parish Councillor)

(Please email me at pervin@pervinshahin.co.uk if you are interested in coming along)

Flexicare – Specialised Babysitting

Dear Editor, via email

Flexicare is a small local charity that provides free, specialised babysitting for families with a severely disabled child. Flexicare operates within a ten-mile distance of Oxford, plus Wantage and Grove. Hence we serve Abingdon, Drayon, Sutton Courtenay and Steventon. Flexicare has been providing this service for over 30 years, it couldn't work without the help of volunteers, some of whom have been with us since the very early days. We provide all volunteers with the training they need to help our families and we always need more!

Not only is Flexicare unique in being a needs-led community-based service, it also looks after siblings under 14 as well. If this means putting in more than one sitter, so be it. Our families use Flexicare for all kinds of reasons: one-on-one time with siblings, nights out with friends, dental appointments, yoga classes, a quiet cup of coffee. Registered children remain with Flexicare until their 18th birthday, or until they no longer meet criteria for services.

Give us a call (on 01865 321881 or 07342 041388) or send us an email to: admin@flexicare.org if you'd like to **know more, volunteer or refer a family.**

We rely on our local community for our funding, we have a small grant from Oxfordshire County Council but the majority of our running costs we raise ourselves. One of our favourite fundraisers is our **Annual Community Walk....** We have discovered that Snells Hall at East Hendred is a particularly popular venue and we'll be walking and running from there on **Sunday 12 May**. We provide a number of 5 mile routes and a ten mile route, together with a wheelchair/buggy friendly stroll around the village. We encourage runners to start at 8am and if we know you are coming, we'll have bacon rolls ready for your return.

For walkers (some pictured below), registration is between 9am and 10am. There will be a refreshment tent on the Ridgeway at the Scutchamer Knob carpark (with 2 opportunities to visit for those doing the ten mile loop) and lunch for all walkers on their return to Snells Hall. You can sign up (to save time on the day) at www.flexicare.org or just come along, it's a very friendly family event, always much enjoyed.

Jayne Castle (Co-ordinator)



RBL Poppy Appeal - Volunteer

Dear Editor, via email

Due to ill-health, we have a Poppy Appeal Organiser Vacancy, for Steventon. If YOU could become part of our incredible network, please email sbrown3@britishlegion.org.uk or call me on 07458 015792.

Sarah Brown (community fundraiser)



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For New Readers Especially (and maybe some old ones!)



Yes, that very famous “Needs YOU” image, but it’s not Country this time, it’s the team that brings YOU each issue of the Chronicle!

We (= the Chronicle team) have realised that there must be plenty new villagers who have no real idea how our village magazine gets produced, and then distributed round the village into every

letterbox (well, OK, most of the letterboxes, depends if we’re missing any Agents), and all free of charge – though many do buy a Lottery ticket or even several, without which we couldn’t operate, at least on the present funding ‘model’.

Former editor Derek Pooley produced a history document, and I’ve placed a chunk of it in the R-H column, so you can see how we used to do things, before our modern technology. Another instalment will appear in a future issue.

Our IMMEDIATE need (well, IMMINENT), is for a new **Lottery Promoter**, as long-serving team member Carol Arnold has decided to step down, after several decades serving the cause, ably assisted by hubby Colin (must be true, he’s told me several times).

Carol had been an **Agent**, we have a small army of them, doing a **vital role** in selling our Lottery tickets (a key part of Chronicle finances), and delivering each issue; an agent’s ‘round’ might be from 20 houses (a few are less) up to maybe 60. Then she took over as Promoter, and **they’ve refined that process**, making it easier for Agents, and the ‘Distributor’, of which we have several, taking it in turns each month to receive the boxed copies from our printer, and allocating the correct number to each agent, working with Carol’s list and in fact the new bags they’ve introduced.

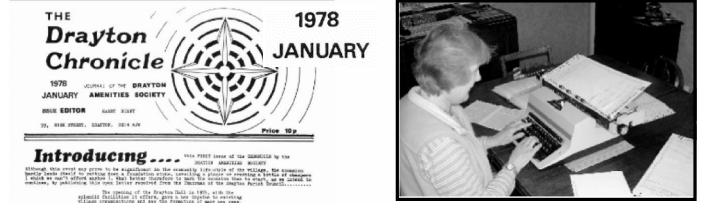
Carol also has some records to keep, monies and tickets from agents, as the Lottery is registered as a Charity, and they have a few legal requirements. **Our grateful thanks to her**, as she now needs to devote a bit more time to work, family and I believe baking (!).

Could YOU become our new Carol? (other names are quite OK!). If you think you could help – whether for her role, or maybe as an agent (we always need more!), then please call her for a chat (01235 531923) or email carolannarnold@sky.com – she’s not stopping next week, so we have a month or two, and you’ll be guided through all that’s required.

We hear from some of our new residents that they like the sort of ‘community spirit’ that Drayton has to offer, and the Chronicle is (we also hear) highly regarded – especially since we moved about 18 months ago to a more upmarket version, colour and nicer paper. **We think there must be some willing souls out there** who’d like to help, the Parish Council has already had some new blood, and we have several new villagers delivering Chronicles, so we are hopeful that we can catch a few more eyes now!

MOVING WITH THE TIMES Derek Pooley

The first edition of the Drayton ‘Chronicle’ was dated January 1978. It succeeded the Drayton ‘Hall News’, which had been published 44 times during the 1970s, to keep villagers informed of progress with fund-raising for the Village Hall. We’re now over some 230 issues, and you can see how things have moved on by looking at the issues pictured for three Januaries: 1978, 1998 and 2018, separated by intervals of 20 years.



Daria Stimpson is seen typing paper copy for cutting and pasting in 1978 but by the early 2000s Geoff Long (then an editor and the Chronicle team leader) with Tony Holmes and I (the lower pic) are using a PC (changed a bit!) to assemble the Chronicle for printing.

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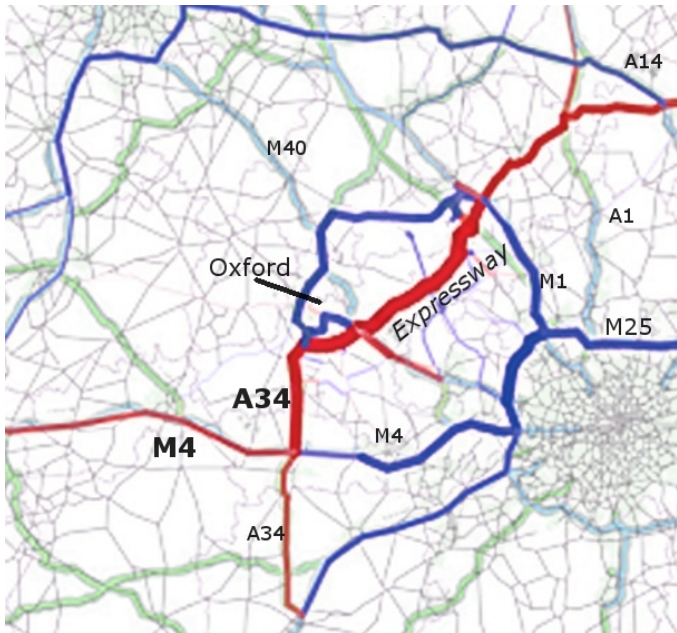
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EXPRESSWAY UPDATE



As mentioned in the Christmas Chronicle, I had the opportunity to go to an invitation-only **consultation event with Highways England** late last year, as the delegate of Drayton's Parish Council. Space precluded too much depth in the Christmas Chronicle.

The local councils have recently declared a climate emergency, so I thought it appropriate to provide a **more detailed update** here.

In summary: the above image is the biggest concern of mine, taken from their 'Strategic Study Stage 3 Report'. The red you see on the diagram is the amount of extra HGV traffic that the Expressway should create (blue is a decrease). The A34 past Drayton should see an extra 1,300,000 HGV movements per year (when the A34 goes down, they would be looking at coming straight through Drayton). This will have a considerable impact on carbon emissions and air quality here.

Consultation

The event was structured as a 'walk-in', with three tables of 'experts' (road construction, environmental issues, traffic planning) for detailed discussion. I did my homework (the Environmental Appendix to the Corridor Assessment Report alone is 525 pages long!) and was armed with plenty of questions.

Important ones included:- Why is a link-road between Oxford and Cambridge using the A34 south of Didcot; it's not exactly on the direct route? (The first objective of their Business Case is: "Provide an attractive and efficient route for strategic car and freight movements between the East of England, South West England and South Wales, releasing pressure on the alternative M25 and M5-M42-M6 National corridors" – so, **its real purpose** is to provide an outer M25). Traffic projections show the road is expected to induce an extra 1.3 million HGV journeys per year. How is this expected to ease congestion or improve quality of life?

Any closure of the A34 for upgrade or accident will lead to all that traffic going through Drayton as it stands. Are there any plans to alleviate that? How much disruption would be caused locally by upgrading the A34 and other works?

Oxford (and the area around) is perennially jammed in the first place, and this won't help matters. How is it going to help anyone to rapidly convey people from one traffic jam around Cambridge to another one around Oxford?

Does anyone really need this megaproject instead of, for example, targeting upgrades to the local road network around Oxford and around Cambridge, accelerating the EW Rail link, and upgrading the A420 to Swindon to provide a faster, cheaper and more targeted way of getting a science-and-engineering Arc?

The flood risk projections take into account only reservoirs constructed before 1975. What about the huge 150,000,000 cubic metre reservoir, the second largest in England and by far the largest ever constructed on a flat plain, planned to be a couple of hundred metres off the A34 and to be constructed at the same time?

Overview Brief

They have selected down to 'Corridor B1' (west of Oxford, up to the M40 at Junction 9) or 'Corridor B2' (south of Oxford from Abingdon straight to the M40 at Junction 8). They're intending to plan out three routes on each of the Corridors for later assessment.

Answers to my questions were unavailable, but I was directed to the 'expert' tables. The representative did say that the ones on "Why is a link-road going south of Oxford?", "How will it help to convey people from one traffic jam to another?" and "Does anyone need this megaproject instead of targeted smaller ones" would be unanswerable here; those decisions are made at Ministerial level.

Road Construction

There's not yet been a decision as to whether or not to widen the A34. If they do, they will try to avoid actually closing the A34; narrowing lanes for roadworks and using a speed limit would be done instead. I pointed out the importance of the A34 to local residents, given the limitations of the local road network, and they took that away as a key point. I also pointed out that whenever the A34 goes down, all that traffic would be going through Steventon and Drayton.

There were **no specific plans** to provide alternative local roads to alleviate traffic from a jammed A34.

They hadn't taken into account the Reservoir and would need to consult further with Thames Water. As well as potentially changing all the flooding calculations, the enormous mass of water pressing down on the Vale's clay floor may cause further problems.

Environmental Issues

The big one here was **the Reservoir** – especially the flood issue. They had assumed that it was unlikely to be built. They rolled out the floodplain maps and confirmed that the location was indeed in a flood-risk area. They would "take away the issue and work on it".

Traffic Planning

They said that their time reduction estimates and traffic projections were **"indicative" and not yet solidly based**. They seemed surprised at my knowing about the induced HGV traffic (I'd printed out the relevant diagram and specifics from their own 'Strategic Study Stage 3 Report') and had no answer for the question of how badly this will jam up the A34, other than to say that things were at such an early stage that they might avoid the A34 entirely (so where would they go instead?).

We discussed linking to the A420 (and upgrading it) rather than the A34 and how that would be better at "improving connectivity between high tech clusters", and waiting to see the benefits of the EW Rail link between Oxford and Cambridge. We discussed the possibility that the OxCam Expressway could be obsolete when it entered operation, due to technology change in, for example, autonomous cars, and they accepted that.

Overall

I was heartened by their willingness to engage in more public consultation, and (apparent) willingness to take away our suggestions. I'm more cynical over how much the Government-level decision-makers will take them on board.

I remain, if anything, **less convinced of the need for this road**. It would be better to deliver targeted local improvements, an acceleration of the East-West Rail link, and a potential upgrade of the A420. There's already a planned upgrade of the A428 between Cambridge and Milton Keynes to go along with these. They would deliver greater benefits more rapidly, at far lower cost, and with far less disruption and environmental impact.

Andy Cooke

GARD Report

Affinity Water publish their plan for consultation – reservoir partnership with Thames Water is the 'preferred option'. Affinity Water published their revised draft Water Resources Management Plan 2019-2024 (known as rdWRMP19) on 1st March. The consultation on this plan runs until 26th April.

As expected, Affinity confirm that their 'preferred plan' is to partner Thames Water in constructing the 'mega-reservoir' next to our villages. They would take an approximately 1/3 share, and the plan proposes to start in 2025, and have the reservoir ready by 2037-8.

Affinity have no better case for needing the water from this reservoir than Thames Water. By their own admission, they have **other possible sources of supply** (water transfers to their Hertfordshire customers either from the Anglian Water network, or from Severn-Trent Water via the Grand Union canal from the River Trent). **These water sources would be available earlier** than the reservoir. Affinity have chosen to prefer the reservoir first, for the same **cynical reasons as Thames**: to build up a huge water surplus in the 2040s and 2050s that they can sell-on by 'transfer' to other water companies in the South-east. 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.

GARD will be responding to Affinity, and making a very strong objection. CPRE Oxon have already come out against this and we hope to co-ordinate our response with local organisations.

We urge all residents to make a strong response objecting to this, and re-iterating our call for a **Public inquiry** before this plan is accepted. **YOU can find out more** about the plan at <https://stakeholder.affinitywater.co.uk/water-resources.aspx>

Affinity have said they are keen to engage with our local concerns and hear them, but so far they have only invited GARD along to the Stakeholders' meeting on 11th April. We hope to press for greater Oxfordshire organisations participation.

We should make sure the Oxfordshire voice is heard by this Hertfordshire water company. The local individual objections to Thames Water's plan made up one third of all individual responses sent in. We must try and dominate the Affinity consultation in the same way. Please copy your responses to me at gard.chair@gmail.com and to local County and District councillors and to our MP, Ed Vaizey.

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Ofwat slam Thames Water and Affinity Water business plans – put them 'in the slow lane' for approval.

As was widely reported in the press, Ofwat, the water regulator, **has issued a damaging report** on several water companies' business plans and said **they are not fit for purpose**. Foremost amongst these are **Thames Water and Affinity**, who have **not received approval to proceed**. This affects the prospects of the reservoir being approved. Whilst it is not, in itself, something that would lead to the reservoir plans being taken off the agenda, it is a setback, and GARD, and local political groups, should push hard to take advantage of this.

Part of **Ofwat's criticism** is that they do not believe that these two companies have sound enough finances to take on the huge debts of building a huge reservoir project (or any other grand scheme, it seems).

Also, **Ofwat have announced** that the companies will be given the ability to raise large sums of money (in some cases over £100M) from customers' bills in order to carry out a proper study of the strategic water resource options for the South-east. This includes proper comparisons of reservoirs, water transfers from the west, and desalination plants.

Whilst GARD has been pressing for many years that such **proper studies should be done** (Thames Water have been trying to avoid this ever since losing the 2010 Public Inquiry), we are concerned that the amount of money raised should not be a burden to consumers, should be efficiently and appropriately spent, and should be subject to proper public scrutiny at the end. We are not clear that this is the case, and **we have a meeting with Ofwat in London on 3rd April**, where we will be asking many questions. We will keep everyone informed.

GARD Annual General Meeting -- will be held on Tuesday 30th April at 7.30pm in the Millenium Room of Steventon Village Hall. The meeting will include an update on the Reservoir situation, and our discussions with Ofwat. **We are always looking for new committee members**, so if you would like to join the committee, (our membership has grown considerably), please contact Deborah Bennett (sec), at gard.secretary@gmail.com

Also, if you wish to **join GARD**, lifetime membership is £10 (under 18s and full-time students £5). You can download a membership application form from our website, which is:- www.gard-oxon.org.uk.

Derek Stork (Hon Chairman, Group Against Reservoir Development)

Letters to the Editor

The Editor reserves the right to shorten, clarify or reject any letter. Each letter must bear a legible name & address, and Tel. No in case any text needs verification.

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or telephone 01865 391833

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www.dorchesterfestival.com

Fed-up-with-Brexit Levity Moment

(Seen on a legal 'blog') > Incredible scenes here at Woolwich Crown Court:- Witness is unable to read the affirmation (that's the "truth, whole truth . ." thing), so the Judge asks the Clerk to read it to him, so he can agree it.

Clerk reads it, and witness replies, "I DO". Short pause. Court erupts with laughter, and Judge pronounces them man & wife.



Richard Webber - Oxon CC

County Council

Given everything that is happening or is soon to happen locally and nationally, I am going to focus on a big issue for everyone in this division, but one which has nothing to do with Brexit or local elections (Ed's note – Well done Sir!). It is the Thames Water (TW) proposal for a new above ground Reservoir between Steventon, Drayton, Marcham and East Hanney. This proposal is the THIRD such proposal since 1990. The last two were turned down. TW are now arguing that the water is needed to supply much of the South East of England – it will supply little, if any water to Oxfordshire.

There are 3 threads to the argument :-

The first concerns **the Science**. **Is a Reservoir needed at all?** The last TW proposal, in 2007, was turned down emphatically because the case for need had not been met by TW. Would water transfer or desalination be a cheaper solution to water need? In the end, it is the scientists who must provide an answer - not just TW's own scientists, but the well-funded and top level scientists from GARD (Group against the Reservoir).

The second concerns **the Law** – in particular, the planning process which has to answer the question – Is this the best place for a Reservoir? And what are the implications for traffic and the environment?

There is, however, a third issue which is often overlooked and unappreciated. It is **the Politics** surrounding the whole proposal. And it is the politics which worry me almost more than anything. The way that the legal process works at present is that TW first approaches the regulator OFWAT with its proposal. There is every reason for TW to want a reservoir – **they will own it**, and it will sit on their balance sheet giving them a major capital asset against which they can borrow. **It will be paid for**, as will the cost of all public consultation (glossy brochures etc) by **TW ratepayers**. At the 2007 TW proposal, OFWAT allowed TW to raise £45m from ratepayers – about half of which was used to pay for legal fees to fight TW's case. When it came to a full legal enquiry, Councils trying to fight the proposal clubbed together to pay for legal representation. They managed to raise less than £1m - paid for through Oxfordshire residents' council tax.

While water companies own assets that ratepayers pay for, and while legal fees on both sides are paid for by ratepayers and council tax payers, there is **little disincentive** for water companies to keep trying their luck every few years.

In France I understand that the state owns the assets such as reservoirs. Private companies are employed by the state to run such assets. **Is this not a better, fairer, more sensible system?**

If you have feelings on any County issues you would like me to hear, please contact me on richardwebber777@gmail.com or 01235 534001. **Richard Webber** (OCC Cllr, Sutton Courtenay & Marcham Division)

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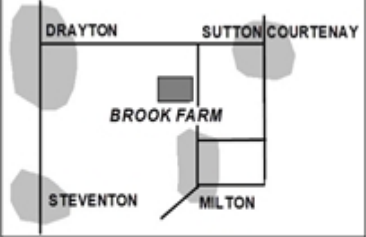
EVERYONE LOVES A WINNER!

Readers may recall the Crossword Comp in the Jan/Feb issue, film-based clues, the answer (the ten highlighted squares) being 'Colin Firth'. **Geoff & Jean Caudle** won tickets to the new Abbey Cinema; Geoff will be familiar to many villagers, (a key organiser of the yearly Carols Concert in Hall - of which he was the architect back in the day), as will Jean, who if you call at Vickery's - & you should! – in the afternoons will very likely be serving you.

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Parish Council Richard Williams

A report of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday March 4th, and the Annual parish meeting (18th) will appear in the next issue of the Chronicle.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on **Monday April 1st**, at 7.30 pm, in the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane. For any new residents (perhaps some old ones too!) Gravel Lane is behind the bus shelter at The Green, across from the Post Office. The Day Centre is at the far end, only limited parking, so do please walk or cycle if you can. As ever, all are welcome to attend.


To contact any members of the Parish Council, all enquiries should be directed to the **Parish Clerk, Lorraine Watling**; she may be contacted at clerk@draytonpc.org or 07909 176061, and she will ensure that messages are passed on. Any Drayton resident may also ask to be added to the Clerk's E-mailing list, so that they receive prior notice of meetings and any relevant documents.

All Parish Council minutes are now **archived** on the village website: <http://www.draytonvillage.co.uk/> which also has a link to **back copies of the Drayton Chronicle**, information on the latest activities of the Drayton 2020 Implementation Committee, and details of other events in the village.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

A very warm welcome to Adam & Milly Shields, who've recently arrived in Greenacres, from Abingdon.



OTHER LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP

Methodist Chapel High St, Milton, Sundays: 10.30 am
Local contacts: Geoff or Jean Caudle, 531409

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Neighbourhood Action Group

Investment scams

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) is warning people aged 55 and above to take the time to check that investment 'opportunities' are legitimate before handing over their money. On average victims of investment fraud each lost £32,000 last year, with a fifth of over 55s and a third of over 75s believe that they've been targeted by an investment scam in the past five years. There's an FCA Warning List <https://www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart/warning-list> - which is an interactive tool to check for firms that the FCA knows are operating without its authorisation. If you don't have online access, consider asking a trusted family member to do this for you, or get professional advice. FCA advice to avoid being a victim of investment fraud is to: -

- 1) Reject unsolicited contact about investments;
- 2) Before investing check the FCA Register to see if the firm or individual you are dealing with is authorised, and also check the FCA Warning List of firms to avoid;
- 3) Consider seeking professional, impartial, advice before investing.

Shed and garage security

As a result of recent shed and garage break-ins the police have issued the following advice:-

Keep your shed/garage in good condition with a close shackled padlock fitted to the door.

Fittings should be bolted through the door and any screws concealed - it's easy to unscrew the ironmongery, steal contents and, in some cases, replace the screws to make it look as if the shed hasn't been tampered with.

By using tamper-proof screws or coach bolts, together with a good-quality pad bar, or hasp and staple, and a close-shackled padlock you will make it harder for thieves.

Prevent easy removal of window glass by using mastic. Fit grilles or mesh to windows to slow down the thief.

Ensure all equipment and tools are locked away when not in use. Ensure ladders are locked to a secure fixture so they can't be used to reach upper windows.

Chain large items, such as bicycles, together to make it much more difficult for a thief to carry them away.

Fit a wire cage inside the shed or garage, where more expensive items can be locked away.

Post-code or mark all property such as lawnmowers, bikes and tools with ultra-violet pens, engravers or forensic marking such as Selecta DNA or SmartWater.

Install a shed/garage alarm.

Install security lighting as a deterrent and use plants like thorny shrubs to act as a barrier at potential access points.

When building a shed put it where it's most visible to you and neighbours. ➔➔

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New 'brushing' scam

This type of fraud involves Amazon sellers setting up an account in a stranger's name, then sending their products to the unsuspecting recipient. The account that's been set up is then used by the fraudster to write fake 'verified reviews' in an attempt to improve their seller ratings. If this happens to you it should be reported to Amazon and you should change your password and order a new credit card. It's likely that your personal information will be involved in a data breach. To check if this might be the case, visit <https://haveibeenpwned.com>, which is a website that tells you whether your data has been part of a breach.

Identity theft is a serious threat. Once a criminal has access to your personal information they can do anything from opening an account in your name and running up debt, to using it to obtain copies of your official documents.

To contact the police call either 101 (for non-emergencies) or 999 (for emergencies). There is ALSO an online reporting tool at www.thamesvalley.police.uk (you'll be contacted within 24hrs of filing a report)

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

If you, or anyone you know, have been affected by a fraud or any other scam please report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or visit the website at <http://www.actionfraud.police.uk>.



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BLAST from the PAST

Usually I venture further back in the Pop Chart annals, but I thought I'd check who was charting this time of year 20 years ago. Boyzone's 'When the Going Gets Tough' was #1, with 'Better Best Forgotten' (Steps – surely not?!) right behind them. Martine McCutcheon was about to have a 'Perfect Moment', & coming up were Geri Halliwell with 'Look at Me' – along with Shania Twain's 'That Don't Impress Me Much' – there's a joke there somewhere?!

Go back 30 years and Madonna (what happened to her?) had just made #1 with 'Like a Prayer', keeping out one of Simply Red's better efforts, 'If You Don't Know Me By Now'.

40 years ago (it can't be that long?!) and Art Garfunkel had just made #1 with 'Bright Eyes', just keeping Squeeze's 'Cool for Cats' at #2. THAT year had a succession of terrific Number Ones, with 'Heart of Glass', 'I Will Survive', 'Tragedy', 'Ring My Bell', 'I Don't Like Mondays', 'We Don't Talk Anymore', 'Cars', 'Message In A Bottle', 'Video Killed The Radio Star', 'When You're in Love With a Beautiful Woman' & Lena Martell's 'One Day at a Time', & Police had another one with 'Walking on the Moon'. Some years are just like that.

FIFTY years ago (for real old-timers) and this was the time for Lulu with 'Boom Bang-a-Bang' (ah, they don't write lyrics like that anymore . . . and that was of course when we COULD win the wretched Eurovision). And Desmond Dekker had a #1 with 'Israelites'. That year we'd just had two great #1s with 'Where Do You Go To My Lovely' (Peter Sarstedt), and one of the greatest ever, Marvin Gaye's superb 'I Heard it Through the Grapevine' (any younger readers, download a copy, discover what you've been missing!).

For very, er, 'mature' folk, I'll jog their memory with a hit from all of 60 years ago, a certain Lonnie Donegan (and his Skiffle Group – younger readers, ask grannie & granddad) – which had the catchy title of 'Does Your Chewing Gum Lose Its Flavour on the Bedpost Overnight' (see the Lulu comment above). That was a live recording apparently (credit to Mr Google here) at the New Theatre in Oxford. Were any villagers THERE that night? (It was just before Christmas, 1958).



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NOTICE BOARD

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

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

Our next dates are **April 2nd & May 7th**. If you need **transport or further information** please give me (**Jean Hager**) a call on 531558.

DRAYTON HALL NEWS

Firstly, a big get-well-soon to two of our Bowls Club regulars, **Bryn Jones & Barry Davis**, also how nice it was to have seen our Sequence Dance guru, **Brian Stimpson**, up and about again after his recent serious injury. While on the Bowls topic, they tell me they do once again have a few vacancies for new members, they have several sessions through the week, social games and league matches, a very friendly club so should be something for everyone?

Our **Gentle Yoga** class has now stopped for a while, Helen is soon to produce child #2 (her sessions were Tuesday mornings), but the Pilates class (9.30am Tuesdays) hasn't changed.

As ever, parents with little birthdays to celebrate, don't leave it too late. Our party 'slots' get booked up quite fast.

Oh, and we do have a **new fitness class**, starting Tuesday April 23rd (7pm), it's called '**RockBox**', comes under the Gemma Pearce group (see her on F'book), and she tells me this new one combines boxing moves, with drumming, with rock music, and "It's a cracking workout!". See her ad (page 3). Sounds very energetic, and for those masochists perhaps looking for a class, we've also **BounceFit** (Mons 6pm) & **Clubercise** (Tues 8pm).

Somebody seems to have forgotten to tell us that one of the lobby doors got whacked with something, putting a nasty crack in the glass, will be quite an expensive repair. We're hoping to repair the damaged kitchen worktop soon, another expensive one, it had survived well over 3 years since the refit, unfortunately people don't seem to treat the Hall's fixtures and fittings as they'd want other people to treat theirs – funny that.

Oh, nearly forgot – anyone lost a **Tambourine**? One was found a while back, tell me the colour, it's yours (number – back page), and we've gained a small lantern, no idea how or why?!

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YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL CONTACTS :-

Parish (Clerk) Lorraine Watling (clerk@draytonpc.org)
OR phone 07909 176 061);
District (VofWH) Stuart Davenport (01235 521078)
& Oxfordshire County richardwebber777@gmail.com

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LISTINGS

Bellringing Group – (at the Church, if you were in doubt!) tell me they have a vacancy or two for some new blood, just pop along and see if you can hit the right note? (see page 4). Musical, and quite good exercise I believe.

Oxford Art Society - have a special selling exhibition through April (2nd to 28th), features members work (paintings, sculpture and print making of the highest quality) by artists in Oxfordshire. Free admission, it's at **Woodstock Museum**, (closed Mondays), & advance notice that during May, they'll have an exhibition of Matisse's 'Drawing with Scissors', (from the last few years of his life), ie:- lithograph prints of those famous cutouts.

Local Dog Warden is on 01235 520202 – as we seem to get frequent reports on the Families Facebook of dogs running around away from their owners?

Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue are looking for on-call firefighters, see their website www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oncallfirefighters for the details, AND they're offering free 'Safe & Well' visits, with a variety of safety checks, see www.365alive.co.uk/safewell or please call their safety helpline 08000 325 999.

Cycle Fans – advance notice that the OVO Women's Energy Tour will be having a stage near here on Weds June 12th, listed to start in 'South Oxfordshire' (exact location not finalised) and finish at Blenheim Palace. Look for more info in coming weeks.

Judy Henman class pic / March issue – we hear there was lots of interest in her picture, and with luck and a following wind, some likely names of the little people in her former class will appear in a future issue! If you missed it, go back & check?

FOSTER CARERS NEEDED

Could you foster? We need **short term and long term** foster carers as well as carers who can just help out for weekends and school holidays for children of all ages from babies to teenagers.

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See ww2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/becoming-foster-carer to find out more details, or call **0800 7835724**. Types of placements are both short & long term and include sibling groups.

Next info evening, with our team, social workers & other carers is Weds May 15th 6.30 to 9pm (Nash Court, Oxford, OX4 2RU).

There's a range of different fostering schemes, and YOU just might make a big difference to someone's life?

Hall Diary for APRIL

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

Mon	1	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Caudwell DC
Tues	2	2.30pm	1st Tuesday Connections (p19)	Church Room
Sat	6	2.00pm	Private Function (child's party)	
Sun	7	9.30am	Dog Show – Griffon Bruxellois (all day)	
Thur	11	2.00pm	'U3A' Crafts Group (Mthly – Small Hall)	
Sat	13	10.30am	Mess Around (franchise – usually sells out!)	
Sat	13	12.30pm	Chronicle Lottery* Deadline	
			(NB * Extra tickets always available @ Vickery's)	
Sat	13	2.00pm	Private Function (child's party)	
Sun	14	9.00am	Bowls Club – Sunday Tournament	
Mon	15	5.00pm	Chronicle Deadline (see p2 – Ads 12th)	
Tues	23	7.00pm	New 'RockBox' class (Gemma Pearce p3)	
Fri	26	7.00pm	Arts Working Group (p10)	Caudwell DC
Sat	27	9.00am	Private Function	
Tues	30	7.30pm	GARD AGM (p13)	Steventon Hall

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Letters to the Editor

The Editors reserve the right to shorten, clarify or reject any letter. Each letter must bear contact info, in case any text needs verification.

DRAYTON DIARIES

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	
6.00 pm	'Bounce Fit' (1hr - Sophie 07791 778388)	
7.15 pm	Drayton Wives Whist (3rd Monday)	Caudwell DC
7.00 pm	Table Tennis (Coaching, one hour)	School
7.15 pm	Badminton (Private Group)	
7.45 pm	Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours)	St Peter's
8.00 pm	Table Tennis (Social Play, one hour)	School

TUESDAYS

9.30 am	Pilates (via Alexandra Merson 07788 248925)	
1.45 pm	Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm)	Caudwell Day Centre
2.30 pm	First Tuesday Connections (1st Tuesday)	Church Room
7.00 pm	League Table Tennis (three hours)	School
7.00 pm	'RockBox' (from 23rd, see p19, and C'cise @ 8pm)	
7.30 pm	Bingo Session (over 18s)	Caudwell Day Centre
8.00 pm	Clubbercise (run by Gemma Pearce, see her F'book)	

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

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

FRIDAYS

11.00 am	The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466	Caudwell Day Centre
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SUNDAYS

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



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