



# Drayton Chronicle

March 2019

Inside the Bell Tower of St. Peter's Church

*Photo: Andrew Bax*

## CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The next **Drayton Chronicle** will be the April issue:

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

**Key dates for subsequent Chronicles:**

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
April	18 March 2019	29 March
May	15 April 2019	26 April
June	20 May 2019	31 May

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

### NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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--- Number of Inserts ---

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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](mailto:advertising@draytonchronicle.net) or placed in the box at Vickery's. If you wish to discuss your requirements, please phone Stephen on **01235 531347**

## CHRONICLE LOTTERY

Carol Arnold, Hon. Promoter

Lottery results for February. Winners selected at random by computer from 2099 tickets sold.

Prize	Winners Name	Agents Name
£25	M Cook, High Street	Doreen Mason
£20	D Roberts, Windy Ridge Court	Tussell Humphrey
£15	Mr Hamlet, Greenacres	Kieth Clogh
£10	J Moffat, Henleys Lane	Andrew Bax
£10	Mr Evans, Greenacres	Kieth Clogh
£10	Marian Chick, Whitehorns Way	Moria Cox
£10	S Hutchinson, Binning Close	Cathy Norris
£10	E Darter, Whitehorns Way	Moria Cox
£10	Tony Marks, Binning Close	Cathy Norris
£10	Richard & Julie Wood, Lesparre Close	Duncan Denton

**A warm welcome to Dave, Emily and Reggie who have recently moved into Binning Close from Abingdon.**

## BAPTIST CHURCH

Church secretary: Mrs Jayne Henderson Tel: (01235) 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, (01235) 531409

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

# ST PETER'S CHURCH, DRAYTON

## part of the DAMASCUS Parish

<b>Rector</b>	Revd Helen Kendrick	01235 848297
<b>Associate Priest</b>	Revd Meg Heywood	01235 537100
<b>Associate Priest</b>	Revd Rosie Bruce	07707 087131
<b>Pro-Warden</b>	Mrs Linda Johnson	01235 527521
<b>Pro-Warden</b>	Mrs Val Cross	01235 535183

## REGULAR SERVICES

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

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

## CALENDAR FOR MARCH

Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	2.30 pm	First Tuesday Connection <i>Church Room</i>
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	7.30 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	9.45am	Mothering Sunday Service

## CHURCH REGISTER

### Funeral

16<sup>th</sup> January 2019 Mildred Joy Cook

### Baptism

20<sup>th</sup> January 2019 Genevieve Eleanor Bowler- Easton

## YOU STAY WE PRAY, MARCH

3<sup>rd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> March Steventon Road; Eastway; Eastway MHP  
17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March Abingdon Road; Oday Hill; Binning Close; Haywards Road

## Mildred Cook

Ronald Cook and family would like to thank everyone for their kind words and support following the passing of his much-loved wife Mildred. It was lovely to see so many people at Drayton Church on 16th January for her send off.

Many thanks for the generous contributions to the **Thames Valley Air Ambulance** made at the funeral in remembrance of Milly. An amazing total of **£672.84** was raised for this worthwhile cause. Your donations mean that their team of doctors, paramedics and crew can continue to provide a vital service in the local area for those who need it. This amount will keep an emergency response vehicle on the road for 13 days.

*Sarah Cook*

## ART & STUFF

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# CHURCH LETTER

Dear Friends

Last weekend we held a marriage preparation day for couples who are getting married in our churches over the coming year. It is designed to help couples to step back from the wedding preparations and ask some of the bigger questions about how to make a success of their marriages over the years ahead. We discuss everything from who will put the bins out (usually the man) to what are each person's hopes and aspirations for the years ahead. We emphasise the importance of good communication and share our belief that any problem is soluble if tackled together.

For most villagers the main contact point with the church is likely to be Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms. These pivotal events in family lives are times when the church can provide an historic venue, and a place to celebrate or commemorate. Our clergy also provide a level of support and care to families at these times that can be hard to find elsewhere. Most importantly we can help people to glimpse something of God and rediscover a faith in something beyond themselves. Sunday by Sunday we provide a community of friendly caring people who enjoy worshipping together as well as socialising over a coffee. It may take a little courage to enter a building you rarely visit, but there is a warm welcome to be had in all our churches. Lent starts on 6<sup>th</sup> March this year with an Ash Wednesday evening service at Drayton. The weeks from then until Easter are traditionally a time to think more deeply about our faith. We are running a 3-part study course at St. Blaise, Milton on Wednesdays starting on 13<sup>th</sup> March based on a booklet written by the Bishop of Oxford. This will be followed by a quiet day at Drayton on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Please Look out for further information.

*Tim Budd, a member of the DAMASCUS churches ministry team.*

## STEVENTON & DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



Rather to our surprise The Steventon and District Branch was given an award for recruiting the largest percentage increase in members in the Region last year. There is clearly still life in the old dogs yet! Well done.

The next Committee meeting will be held in the Steventon and Sports Social Club at 7pm on Monday 18 March. All members and prospective members are welcome. We will discuss activities for later this year.

This year we remember the outbreak of WW2. If there are any surviving veterans from that war still living in our villages, we would be glad to know. Also, if there are any people who came as evacuees during the war to our villages and are still living here it would be good to know and learn of their experiences. We know of only one.

*Brigadier Nick Thompson (Hon Chairman)*

### Do you need help with your French?

One to one lesson with a Native French speaker to help students with:

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- exams
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- conversational French
- or simply improving your French

**Please contact Cathy on 07554442772**

## DRAYTON WIVES

### A Pilgrimage to Ethiopia



This month's meeting was given by our very own Josie Midwinter along with her two friends Peter and Lottie Sumner. They went on a pilgrimage to learn about the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and to

share in their worship and fellowship of the community.

Josie has been a church minister for 48 years and was the vicar of St Peters in Drayton between 2005-2001.

Lottie started the presentation with "What is a pilgrimage"?

You are prepared to leave the familiar behind, go out of your comfort zone and into the unknown!

They all wanted to experience another Christian tradition of worship, culture and spiritual difference. They looked at how the training of priests is different. Here it is at Cuddesdon in Ethiopia it is in Gondor where you live in huts with a very basic lifestyle. There is lots of chanting with oral training rather than texts.

The Ethiopian church has a core for the Holy of Holy's and round the outside it has a place for the congregation to walk round. They have a lot of wall paintings decorating the church, some are biblical, and some are historical. Some depict the 9 Syrian saints from the 2nd century. The Syrians had trouble with the Romans and 9 Syrians escaped to Ethiopian.

The most impressive scene was the Rock Hewn Churches carved out of solid Rock which had rooms inside. The congregations aren't big but come and go as they feel the need as there are no set times.

The churches are famous for elaborate crosses mainly used for blessings but also as head of a staff which the priests lean on as they pray during the day and night. They stand rather than kneel!! The most important festival is Timkat which is the Baptism of Christ. They have many processions where the Tabat is taken out of the Holy of Holy's and paraded through the streets.

This was founded at the end of the 4th century and is the closest religion to the original Christian Church.

They all enjoyed their time on the pilgrimage and came back very reflective and joyful.

*Lisa Lammiman*

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### Dogs (Fouling of Land Act) 1996

If a dog defecates at any time on designated land and a person who is in charge of the dog at that time fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence. Being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise), or not having a device for or other suitable means of removing the faeces, shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces.

As a responsible dog-walker, I frequently take my dog around the villages of the DAMASCUS group (except for Appleford). I am shocked and embarrassed how often I come across abandoned dog mess in accessible places. This is unpleasant to see, never mind step in, and I wonder whether owners have noticed that their dogs have a reflex that encourages them to defecate where they catch the scent of previous deliveries.

PLEASE could dog-walkers:

- (1) pick up the mess
  - (2) deliver the poo-bag to an appropriate bin (rather than dropping it or hanging it from bushes )
  - (3) observe the NO DOGS notices posted on Recreation Grounds!
- Those who ignore these rules bring every dog-owner in to disrepute.

**Martin Woodgett**

# ProClean

## Housekeeping & Ironing Services

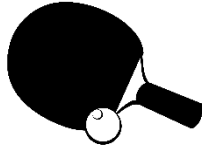
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## DRAYTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB

The Didcot League Handicap Shield competition has commenced. We had two club 'Derbies' in the first week. The Dragons form Div. 1 slayed the Dashers of Div. 4 and the Dazzlers of Div. 2 outshone the Div. 3 Diamonds! The defeated teams can still go through if they succeed in their next two group matches. Our other Div. 1 team the 'Devils' turned up the heat to defeat the visitors from Letcombe. At the time of writing our other two teams are yet to play due to postponements. We are hoping the Dingos will show some dogged determination in their group and the Dynamos will be electric in their efforts to win through!



The Bidmead team are still waiting to learn who will be their quarter final opponents as Abingdon Racketlon & Sutton Courtenay haven't yet played due to confusion over the original fixture date!

In the League we are through the half way stage although the aforementioned Dragons are somewhat behind due to early season injuries causing some postponements. Coaching continues at the school every Monday under Janet Quarry's tutelage. There is a good mix of young players and adults learning the sport and we hope some of them will stick with it to play in the league in future,

John Gould

## Situation Vacant

There was a time when every enterprising schoolboy wanted to supplement his pocket money by doing a paper round. Not anymore. These days newspapers are usually delivered around the village by Peter Purbrick of Caudwell Close, who has been retired for a decade or two. He has been doing up to three rounds for some time now, often while many of us are still in bed. However, he would be happy to relinquish his position if other candidates emerge. Schoolboys, or anyone else interested, should see Ranga in Dane's Store.

*(Editor's note: Intended as a note of appreciation to Peter Purbrick for his public-spiritedness, not as an advertisement from the shop.)*

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## Drayton Rainbows

Rainbows meet on Thursdays during term time in Drayton Hall from 5.30pm until 6.30pm. They are the youngest members of Girlguiding for girls from 5 – 7 years.

For further information about volunteering, to help at meetings, or to register your daughter do look at

[www.girlguiding.co.uk](http://www.girlguiding.co.uk)

Do contact us with any queries:

Mary Thompson email: [steventonrainbows@gmail.com](mailto:steventonrainbows@gmail.com)

or by phone to Victoria Wright 07801 447720

## What a difference a shave makes!

On the 27<sup>th</sup> January at the North Star Steventon, Foss had his beard shaved off to raise funds for local charities. Friends and customers of the North Star paid for the privilege of shaving part of the beard.



Also, during the Christmas period Foss and his side kick Elf circulated the villages of Drayton and Steventon bringing enjoyment to all the village children, again whilst also raising funds.

Combining this with a Christmas Workshop at the North Star in December the total monies raised was **£1031.46. Amazing!**

They would like to express their thanks to Lisa and H at the North Star, Martin and Ashley Thomas at Drayton Golf Buggy Services and Tracey Symm for all their help.

The money raised will be donated to the Steventon Darby and Joan Club, Steventon Friendly Association, Steventon Mother & Toddler Group, Friends of Drayton School Association and The Friday Club at Drayton.

*Courtesy of Dilys Wilding (Steventon editor for March)*



Call Citizens Advice  
consumer helpline when  
you hit problems!

It's time for the January sales - and to the tired shopper it seems as if the

whole country is mobilised in some civil emergency, pouring along the pavements, off buses and into the shops in search of reduced goods. And inevitably everyone else is in competition with you as you swing your loaded shopping bags through the driving snow, pushing the melting slush with your boots, weariedly schlepping from one shop to another, trying to beat closing time, longing for cappuccino... does it sound familiar?

But although the seasonal ordeal might be draining all your energy and enthusiasm, you can still shop with confidence, knowing that the Citizens Advice helpline is there to help you if you have a consumer problem – if you need to return faulty goods, if you've bought something fake or counterfeit, or if something you've ordered hasn't arrived.

The Citizens Advice consumer helpline (03454 040506) is open Monday to Friday 9 - 5 (closed bank holidays). Advisers will answer your call, explaining how you can pursue your claim. They cannot make a complaint or take legal action on your behalf, but they can give you practical and impartial advice, explain the law which applies to your situation, and also pass complaints to Trading Standards for you.

Before you call the helpline, prepare by jotting down the factual details of your problem, such as when you paid for the item or service; how much you paid; how you paid; the seller's name and address; and what you have done so far to resolve the issue.

Citizens Advice can also be contacted in person during opening hours or on Adviceline (03 444 111444). For locations of offices and opening hours

see [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale)

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## Drayton School – Class of '81



I spent many happy years teaching at Drayton School. This photograph was taken of my 5-year olds in 1981. These children were a delight to teach, and all excelled in something. David Bachrach, seated to my left, could sing all the lines of “Joseph and his multi-coloured dream coat” beautifully!

I have managed to name nearly all the children bar three.

I went on to teach in many schools on supply and loved my time teaching – retiring in 2012.

**Judith A Henman**

**Tel: 531651**

## NO DEAL – NO PROBLEM – NO WAY?



In the past few weeks, I have had a moral dilemma. Brexit is not a subject for local government or its representatives, and given the divisive nature of the subject, I have tried to steer well clear. The problem I face is that, as a leader of a political group on Oxfordshire County Council, I have been given briefings from officers charged by government with investigating and assessing the potential impact of a “No Deal” outcome on Oxfordshire and its residents. As a wealthy, thriving County, the risks to Oxfordshire are overall deemed to be low compared to many other parts of the country. However, I have been told that there are real concerns over certain possible impacts. I am also instructed that all such information should be kept confidential. I am told that the reason for confidentiality is that we must not cause panic buying or queueing. But if we wind up with a “No Deal” conclusion, there might indeed be some panic. Indeed, I am aware of residents in my patch who have already stockpiled some food and medicines. I would argue that knowledge of the risks involved with “No Deal” and allowing that knowledge to be part of the argument *now* would reduce the risk of panic.

I understand some people will argue that what I have to say is simply one more manifestation of “Project Fear”. Or is it “Project Reality”? I have wrestled with that for some time.

I believe that the information I have been given, is both independent and a fair assessment of the risks. I must try to balance my duty to those Oxfordshire residents who elected me against the Government instruction to respect confidentiality. Should I keep quiet and just hope that “No Deal” is rejected as an option anyway, or should I demand that such information be put out there as part of the conversation *now*, where it may influence people’s opinions?

What would I say to the residents who elected me when, in the event of a “No Deal” conclusion, I am challenged with “You *knew* there was a risk of this and didn’t *tell* us?”

I am not willing to stay silent for long but would welcome any constructive suggestions in the meantime.

**Richard Webber OCC**  
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## Article of the month

### Six months of driving an e-car (Alun Griffiths)

Late last year, while delivering the Chronicle, Daniel Scharf noticed the electric car charging point installed on our front drive and we struck up a conversation about e-cars. Daniel thought other Drayton residents might be interested in our thoughts as “early adopters” and this article is the result.

I guess the first question is “why an electric car?”. We were going to replace our old diesel Golf and already had a car that will cope happily with long journeys (typically more than 400 miles) so needed something for short trips, like driving to Didcot Parkway or into Abingdon or Oxford. Fuel consumption is lower for short trips than long trips, so it made sense to look at a car that was cheap to run. A hybrid car was one possibility, but these are only 20-30% more fuel-efficient than petrol cars. We keep being told that “the future is electric” so we thought we would try an electric car. We have had a few VW cars in the past so plumped for the e-Golf – the e-Up was an alternative but we’re not from Yorkshire, so put that to one side.

Having decided to go electric, there are a few obstacles to overcome. The first is availability: there are very few second-hand e-cars so we would have to buy from new. The second is cost: the list price of a new e-Golf is about 50% more than that of an ICE\* Golf. Fortunately, there was a government grant of £4500 available for new e-Car purchases and we used an online car broker to negotiate a substantial discount off the list price. The result was that the purchase price of our e-Golf was about the same as the list price of a new ICE Golf. The third obstacle was delivery: in January 2018, there was a six-month waiting time for delivery of a new e-Golf. Fortunately, we were not in a hurry, so placed the order, put down the deposit and waited ... and waited.

I picked up the new car last August, from a dealer in Kent, about 120 miles from Drayton. The advertised range of the e-Golf is about 160 miles, so getting back home should not have been an issue. Driving the car for the first time was a strange experience – there’s no engine noise because there is no engine – so backing out of the parking space in near silence was eerie. The eeriness lasted most of the way home on the M25, compounded by my first attack of “range anxiety” – the fear of running out of power before reaching a charging point – which is apparently a common complaint in newbie e-car drivers. By driving relatively carefully, I got to Reading with about 70 miles left “in the tank” so decided to speed up a little. Unfortunately, the “need for speed” drains the battery and by the time I turned off at Chieveley, the range had dropped to 30 miles. I reached home with about 15 miles left in the battery and a great feeling of relief.

Charging the car is also an issue. You can charge the car from the mains, but this takes 16 hours, rather than 5 hours from a charge point. There is a £500 government grant available to install a domestic charge point, so we put one in with the new front drive. Whichever type of charge point you use, you need to be able to park the car close enough to it to plug in the car, so you either need space for parking at home or a charge point close to your house. Away from home there is a network of charge points – some free (e.g. Waitrose Abingdon) but most are pay-as-you-go. There are about eight commercial companies in the UK who offer charge points, but they all operate independently: we are currently

registered with three. Charging at these points takes about 40 minutes, which is fine if you have shopping to do, or need a break on the motorway, but otherwise adds significant time to a long journey. We have not yet tried this but will do when we have the luxury to make a longer, more leisurely journey.



In terms of cost, the average power consumption of our e-Golf is 16.8 kWh/100 km, which is equivalent to £3.36 per 100 miles at current electricity prices. By

comparison, our diesel Golf was doing around 55 mpg, which is equivalent to £10.80 per 100 miles at current diesel prices, so the running cost of our e-Golf is about one third that of our old Golf. Our actual power consumption is about one third lower than the “official” power consumption published by VW, but then so is the actual fuel consumption of the diesel Golf compared to the official figures. Small things make a massive difference to the range of the e-Golf: for example, driving in the cold weather last month, the range dropped from about 170 miles to 120 miles as soon as I turned the heater on – we can definitely see that the running cost has increased this winter compared to last summer. Although the car will cruise happily at 70-75 mph on the motorway, you can almost see the battery draining in real time, so we just drive a little more slowly. As far as driving is concerned, there is little difference between the electric and petrol Golf – same acceleration, same handling. One thing to note is that all electric cars are automatic, because the transmission system does not require any gearing. The only time this is a problem is when switching to a manual car or back again and either forget to change gear (car stalls – embarrassing) or try to change gear (also embarrassing).

So, was buying an e-Golf a good decision? We bought it for short journeys, and it has exceeded expectations in that respect: it is cheaper to run, quieter, cleaner (no emissions) and the driving experience is better than our old diesel Golf. There are other advantages, such as being able to defrost the car when the car is plugged into a charging point and e-vehicles are currently exempt from road tax. Disadvantages include the higher purchase cost and the need to charge the car at home. It is possible to make long journeys with the car, but you need to allow extra time to recharge en route, which is not always practical. The purchase price should fall as more people “go electric” – something that the government is trying to encourage – and e-cars become more accepted. But for most people I think that ICE (Internal Combustion Engine) cars will be a more practical choice until there is a larger network of charging points – and someone finds a cure for “range anxiety”.

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### SAFETY CORNER

#### Avoiding purse or wallet thefts

There have been a number of recent purse thefts in the Abingdon area. The most common type of theft is known as 'handbag dipping', where offenders remove purses from handbags left unzipped or unattended. Stolen bank cards are often used very quickly by offenders, often even before the loss of the purse is noticed. Thames Valley Police has issued advice, to help to deter thieves and reduce the risk of becoming a victim of pickpockets, as follows:

- Keep your handbag on you, closed or zipped with no valuable items such as mobile phones on display.
- Never leave it unattended or on an adjacent seat or seats in theatres, pubs or on public transport.
- Carry bags in front of you, or diagonally across your chest.
- Try to avoid carrying more cash than you need, either on your person or in your purse or wallet.
- When using a cash point shield your PIN in case thieves are watching in the hope of stealing your card in order to withdraw money. Thieves often work with accomplices. Ensure you quickly return cards to your purse or wallet, fasten it shut and then store it securely in your zipped or closed handbag.
- In cafes or restaurants put your bag on your lap or on the floor between your feet, with your foot on the strap. Alternatively, place the strap through one leg of the chair.

Crimes should continue to be reported by either using the online form on the police website (see link below), or by calling 101. If a crime is in progress you should call 999.

#### Fraud

Fraud continues to be a major concern. Courier fraud, where a victim is encouraged to hand over their bank card and PIN number or cash, to a courier, is still prevalent in our area. We all think we wouldn't be taken in but don't be so sure. Fraudsters are ever more sophisticated and convincing in the ways in which they try to obtain our money. If you are contacted by telephone, e-mail, letter or someone on your doorstep who claims to be from your bank, the police, the council, a utility company, your internet service or telephone provider or other organisation or business please try to remember the following.

Whatever the caller, letter or e-mail may say, don't panic. That's precisely the aim. Stop and think. No genuine organisation will ever contact you asking for your PIN or your full password.

Ask personal callers for ID and then say you'll close the door while you go and make a call to establish their authenticity. If they're genuine they'll understand your caution and be happy to wait. Don't call any telephone numbers shown on their ID. Look up the number yourself.

If you express concern about the validity of a phone call and the caller says they can give you a phone number to ring, to check on them, you should *never* use this number. Make a note of it and then put down the phone and look up the number yourself, using a

source you can trust such as a bill, official letter, phone book or do an online search.

Once you have found the number *never* use the phone you have just put down - the caller will probably still be on the line and will answer the new call you're making, pretending they are your bank, the police or whoever. *Always* use a different phone to make the new call.

#### Never hand over your bank or credit cards and provide the PINs to anyone.

If you believe you've been a victim, please contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or use the reporting tool on the Action Fraud website <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk>. The police will investigate once a fraud has been reported to Action Fraud. In South and Vale there were 117 referrals from Action Fraud to Thames Valley Police in 2018, with 28 of those from the Abingdon area. Throughout the country many more go unreported.

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.

#### Call 999 in the case of emergency.

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



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## Public Art Working Group

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

I've probably lost half of you by now, but for those who are still reading, let me explain. 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. For those who are curious, this money has come through from Section 106 of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act, in which the government stipulates that a certain percentage of the profit of all new builds must be given back to the community to enhance the area i.e. either in 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 of possibilities, we have a lovely lady on board, who has the slightly intimidating title of the Vale of the White Horse Arts Officer, but who's very approachable and keen to help. I will invite her to attend our first meeting, to show us what can be done.

As space in the Chronicle is limited and I haven't room to go into the finances, or possible locations, or legislation as to where the installations can be placed, we would like to invite anybody from the village who would like to come and contribute to our discussions and help to decide what we are going to do. And where we are going to do it!

Please email me at [pervin@pervinshahin.co.uk](mailto:pervin@pervinshahin.co.uk) if you are interested in coming along and joining our group of enthusiasts. No date has been fixed yet, but when I know how many of you are interested in our enterprise, I will hire an appropriate venue and fix a date in April to suit as many as I can. Everyone is welcome. Any age!!! More details will follow in March's Chronicle. Thank you for your patience in reading this, and I look forward to hearing from you very soon.

*Pervin Shahin (Parish Councillor)*

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## Report of the Parish Council meeting held on Mon 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019

The Parish Council has been short of its allotted number of councillors for some time, so it is pleasing to report that two new councillors have joined us recently: Tamsin Crane last

November, and this month Shane McAleavey. We extend a warm welcome to them both and note that a couple of other residents have also shown an interest. Hopefully, when the new Council is elected in May, we will be back up to full strength (11 councillors).

As well as the councillors, 6 members of the public attended the meeting. Requests for financial support were received from the Drayton Chronicle and the Village Hall. Chronicle revenue from the sale of lottery tickets appears to have plateaued in recent years, while the number of pages per issue has increased, meaning that costs have risen. In the past, the PC has helped with the funding of several projects at the Village Hall and is being asked to continue to do so. Both organisations were invited to submit grant applications, which will be considered in due course. A further request for funding was received from Drayton Baptist Church, but unfortunately there exists a law which forbids Parish Councils from contributing to church funds. Although this law dates back to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, it is still extant, as the PC recently discovered in connection with another project at St. Peter's Church.

Following a meeting of parish councillors with Richard Webber (our County councillor), Richard approached the Highways Dept at OCC with a list of priorities for the Traffic Calming scheme in the Neighbourhood Plan. In order to move things along, it was decided to push for items which would have most effect without being prohibitively expensive or complicated to install. The most critical areas were deemed to be the northern entrance to the village, the road junction at the entrance into the Walnut Meadow development, and the High Street between Halls Close and the Wheatsheaf roundabout. The likely timescale is 2-3 years, as obviously the work will need to be phased to minimize disruption to through traffic. Once Highways produces detailed costings, the PC will put together a set of proposals that match the available funds. It is not clear at this stage to what extent wider consultation with the village will be required.

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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> March**, at 7.30 pm, in the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane. Please note that this year's **Annual Parish Assembly** (at which local clubs, societies, organisations etc are invited to come along and report on their activities over the past year) will be on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm (same venue)**. This will be a 'stand-alone' meeting (i.e. no Parish Council meeting to follow on afterwards). The APA is usually held in April, but this is an election year, and so dates have been moved around to facilitate the election timetable.



## Works starts on new community facilities

Work has begun on the largest of three new community facilities at Great Western Park, in Didcot/Harwell. The district centre will include two large multi-use rooms suitable for exercise classes, theatrical performances, community group meetings and parties, plus a number of smaller meeting rooms. A secure area for toddler groups and a cafe will also be incorporated into the building, with plenty of room for storage throughout and a dedicated room for the local policing team completing the layout. The building is due to open its doors this autumn and, once complete, will be gifted to us to operate the building.

## Free business course in Faringdon

A free five-day business course was held in Faringdon on 4<sup>th</sup> February to help people start new businesses and to support independent businesses. We are sponsoring the intensive course being delivered by the Popup Business School at the Pump House in the town centre.

It will include lots of practical sessions, advice, one-to-one coaching and build a support network from everyone attending. Following last year's successful course in Didcot, entrepreneurs attending set up a wide range of companies including wedding photographer, a vegan fast food retailer, a life coach service and an entertainment hire company.

## Empty homes council tax rise

To reduce the number of empty properties and encourage owners to bring the properties back into use, we've increased our charges for the long-term empty homes in the district. Owners will have to pay more council tax on homes that have been left empty for more than two years, with an even greater premium added to their bill after five years and ten years unoccupied. Currently, there are 136 long-term empty properties across the district, many of which have been left that way for several years.

## Vacant shops being filled in Abingdon

More than half the shops that were empty last year are now occupied. The independent shops project began in 2017 with 14 vacant units in the town centre, the council has worked with the property owners and local businesses, which resulted in eight of those units being occupied.

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## First Tuesday Connections

Feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company? Look no further than our monthly tea and a chat afternoon.

You're sure of a warm welcome on the first Tuesday of every month, in St. Peter's Church room from 2.30pm to 4.00pm.

The next meetings are on the 5<sup>th</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

If you require transport of further information, please call me.

Jean Hager (531558)



**EVER WONDERED WHAT YOUR PARISH COUNCIL DOES?**

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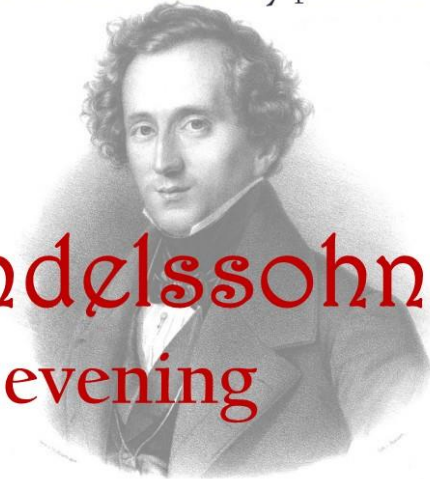
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## Drayton Village Hall Report

Firstly, some good news re, Brian, who's been organising and doing the music for our Sequence Dance Group (Thurs evenings) for some years. After his nasty accident before Christmas, he's now up & about in a gentle way, and hopefully will regain more mobility in due course.

I'll ask again re the Tambourine we had left behind after an event, tell me the colour and it's yours!

The Mess Around franchise presently has a party most months with us (mostly Sunday mornings, a few Sats, all usually sell out), they're trying to organise some weekday parties, perhaps Weds mornings, but more anon.

The Rainbows group (sessions early on Thursday evenings) tell me they've space for a few new recruits, girls aged 5 to 7 I think (they move to Brownies at some point when 7). See back page for contact details.

We're approaching the dog show season in the next 2 months, but we've still a few slots for kiddies' parties in April.

And sadly, at some point there'll be a bit of disruption in the Hall Kitchen, as some 3 and a bit years after the refurb, some careless \*&%\$+! \* managed to do their best to burn some holes in the central worktop.

We're trying to decide what type of top to replace it with, most surfaces have some maintenance issues – and none are cheap! We'll try and pick one of the quieter days to get the work done of course. And another bit of maintenance, we'll try and get the stage curtains cleaned, but that's quite a palaver, they don't fit into the average washing machine or dry cleaner's device, so will need to go away to a specialist firm. Anyone wanting to volunteer to take them down, and put them back up again, let me know!!

Tony Holmes



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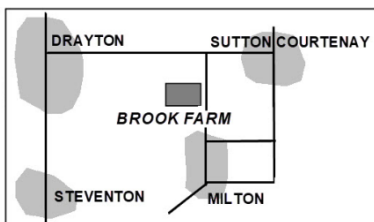
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## Hall Diary for MARCH

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

Sat	2	9.00am	Private Function (all day)
Sun	3	10.00am	2 Private Functions (& 2pm - child's parties)
Mon	4	7.30pm	<b>Parish Council Meeting</b> <i>Caudwell DC</i>
Sat	9	5.00pm	Private Function
Sun	10	1.00pm	Private Function (child's party)
Thu	14	2.00pm	'U3A' Crafts Group (Mthly - Small Hall)
Sat	16	12.30pm	<b>Chronicle Lottery* Deadline</b> (NB * Extra tickets always available @ Vickery's)
Sat	16	9.00am	Dog Show - Terriers (all day)
Sun	17	2.00pm	Private Function
Mon	18	5.00pm	<b>Chronicle Deadline</b> (see P2 - Ads 15th)
Sat	23	9.00am	Dog Show - Lapphunds (all day)
Sun	24	9.00am	Bowls Club - Sunday Tournament
Fri	29	7.00pm	Private Function
Sat	30	9.00am	Private Function (all day)
Sun	31	10.00am	2 Private Functions (& 2pm - child's parties)



# WANT TO

- Lose weight?
- Increase muscle?
- Improve Fitness?
- Update current gym routine?
- Train at local gym?
- Train at home?
- Train in a private gym?
- Train in a local outdoor area?

IF SO CONTACT MICHELLE ON

07769 171434



michellenowlandpt@hotmail.com



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## REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

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

### MONDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
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

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
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>
6.30 pm	Yoga (with Olga - 07880 256107)	
7.00 pm	League Table Tennis (three hours)	<i>School</i>
8.00 pm	Clubbercise (run by Gemma Pearce, see her F'book)	

### WEDNESDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
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 (now on Summer break!)	
7.00 pm	League Table Tennis (three hours)	<i>School</i>
7.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session (for 3 hours)	
7.30 pm	Bingo Session	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>

### THURSDAYS

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>School Ground Bldg</i>
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	
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

8.45 am	Pre-School Playgroup (in Term)	<i>Sch'l Ground Bldg</i>
11.00 am	The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466	<i>Caudwell Day Centre</i>

### SUNDAYS

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

## Suzy Willis & Associates

MCSP HCPC AACP

### CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

Old Lodge, Henleys Lane

Drayton, OX14 4HU

Tel 01235 531269

*Please ring for an appointment*

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