

# *Drayton Chronicle*

*September 2019*



*Photograph by Andrew Bax*

*Editor: Maurice (Mo) Puddick*

*Volume 42, Issue 8*



# CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The next **Drayton Chronicle** will be the October issue:  
 Editor: **Margaret Inger (07967 730735)**

## Key dates for subsequent Chronicles:

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.

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
October	16th September 2019	27th September
November	14th October 2019	25th October
December	18th November 2019	29th November

## 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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## Chronicle Lottery Results for July 2019

Winners selected at random by computer from 2045 tickets sold

Prize	Winners Name	Agents Name
£25	Mrs Pearson Whitehorns Way	Pat Percival
£20	Lyn Jones Eastway	Teresa Burnage
£15	Phillip Allen Sutton Wick	Keith Clough
£10	R & P Hayle Gravel Lane	Isla Smith
£10	L Ricketts Steventon Road	Tamsin Meredith
£10	P Bachrach Abingdon Road	Jayne Henderson
£10	N Howell Brook Sutton Wick	Keith Clough
£10	Mr Stopps Cornville Road	Sue Hewitt
£10	J Hewitt Conifer Drive	Liz Branson
£10	Mrs Jones Newman Lane	Therese Webster



### "Staddle stones", spotted by the editor whilst visiting the Cowdrey Estate in Sussex.

The base stones taper towards the top with an overlapping cap stone placed above, making it almost impossible for a rodent to climb up and into the hay or grain stored above.

The air could freely circulate beneath the stored crops and this helped to keep it dry.

Thank you Nadine for your letter to the Chronicle, more needed!

Hi, Tony. (Editor)

I do enjoy reading the Chronicle, though Ian and I have been moved up to Scotland for 13 years now. And I always enjoy checking to see who on Abingdon Road has won the Chronicle lottery in a given month (smile).

I'm sure that someone before me has identified 'staddle stones' those rat-preventing 'stone mushroom' (which definitely caught my attention when I first moved to Drayton back in 1982).

Cheers! Nadine White, Whithorn, Scotland



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<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	Holy Communion (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 SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	2.30 pm	First Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	10.00am	Pebbles new term begins	Church Room
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	9.45am	DAMASCUS Parish Service at Steventon	

(N.B NO Service at St Peter's on this Sunday)

### PARISH REGISTER

#### Wedding

Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> August	Anthony Charles Poole and Hannah Louise Brown
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### YOU STAY WE PRAY, SEPTEMBER:

1 <sup>st</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Furlongs; Plough Lane; Furrows End; Lammas Land; Virgate; Fallowfield Close
8 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Lockway; Whitehorns Way
15 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	Lockway; Whitehorns Way
22 <sup>nd</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Corneville Road; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close
29 <sup>th</sup> Sept – 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fisher Close; Marcham Road; Meads Close; Rippington Court; Stone Hill.

## Church Letter — September 2019

### Dear Friends

One of the joys of holidaying in the English Countryside is being able to look round the parish churches which form a centre piece in most English villages. More often than not they are left open and visitors are encouraged to look around and tarry awhile.

They are full of interest with hundreds of years of history mixed with up to date displays giving a glimpse of the communities that use the buildings today. They are oases of calm where one can sit for a few minutes and contemplate life and there is usually a peace that derives from the centuries of prayer that have been offered week by week in these buildings.



These churches are not museums. They each have a congregation, large or small, that keeps them alive and ensures that they are still at the centre of their communities. As pubs and shops have shut it becomes ever more important to preserve what were these “community centres” and to ensure that they remain open and welcoming to all.

You don't have to be on holiday to enjoy a visit to a church of course our local churches are all open and welcoming so if you haven't found your way in for some time why not go and spend a few minutes in the building. In the midst of what seems to be an uncertain future for our country our churches remind us that we have survived and flourished down the centuries and will doubtless continue to do so.

Of course you are especially welcome to join us for our worship Sunday by Sunday. Our congregations are ordinary people united by a simple faith that God loves us and by a desire to do all they can to make our villages more caring communities. We would love to get you better.

**Tim Budd** (Lay member of the DAMASCUS ministry team)

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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.

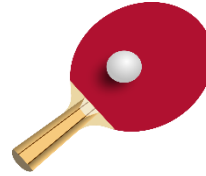
You're sure of a warm welcome on the first Tuesday of every month, in St. Peter's Church room from 2.30pm to 4.00pm.

The next meetings are on the **3rd September** and **1st October**.  
If you require transport of further information, please call me.

Jean Hager (531558)

## DRAYTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB

The club Pre Season Meeting took place recently. Thanks to the Village Hall for the use of the Lounge. As this was our team selection meeting there was a good attendance.



[This Photo](#) by

We clarified that the school has agreed to our fixing the broken curtain in the school hall. With this to do, we've bought a new curtain rail that we will install over the school summer holiday period. It is essential we cover the window glass area as reflections can hamper our playing ability (for those that show any)! We also agreed to try LED lighting in two of the overhead spotlights as this will reduce the number of times we have to replace failing halogen bulbs. Hopefully the lights will give adequate brightness.

The meeting was presented with a spreadsheet of alternatives for the 7 teams we will run in the Didcot League. There will be two teams entered in each of Div 1, 3 & 4 with one team in Div2. It was decided to rename each team and agreement was generally reached on the new names to be applied.

In addition it was agreed we will enter one team in the Newbury league Division 1. This is due to Upton Table Tennis Club having folded and two of their former players joining Drayton. Upton ran a Newbury League team and our club will take up that vacant place.

Janet Quarry will recommence her coaching for the club as from September with sessions running every Monday from 7 pm – 8 pm.

We now look forward to the new season and will return to the tables on Monday September 2<sup>nd</sup> with the Leagues season starting later that month.

John Gould

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## PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE



Dear Drayton residents,

**New Councillors:** I am happy to announce that at the July and August parish council (PC) meetings four residents were co-opted as councillors – being a mix of newcomers and some longer-term residents. This means we now have a full

complement of 11 councillors.

**Walnut Meadows/Miller Homes:** the PC is aware of the ongoing issues at this development, and is actively working (alongside the District and County Councils) to ensure these are resolved satisfactorily as soon as possible. A meeting is scheduled with Miller Homes and VOWH next week to discuss status and action items.

**Blue Cedar/Halls Close:** Blue Cedar is pursuing an appeal to remove the planning permission condition which requires that 11 of the 28 houses should be designed specifically for, and available only to, the over-60s. As the PC originally approved the planning application specifically on the basis that housing would be provided for older people, the PC has again formally objected to the proposed change. We await the decision.

**Infrastructure:** in response to requests for a pedestrian crossing on the High Street, the PC has formally proposed this to the responsible body – Oxford County Council. We will report back in due course on where and when it will be installed. The PC has also asked OCC to consider certain traffic calming measures, and Richard Webber has reported that these are under consideration.

**Public Transport Liaison Representative:** many thanks to Daniel Scharf for his many years acting as the PC's public transport liaison representative, in his valiant efforts to get our village moving! One of our new councillors Irma Vastakaite is now taking on this role, and will liaise with bus companies and other authorities to try to ensure a timely bus service.

**Abingdon Reservoir/GARD:** Thames Water/Affinity Water's plans to develop the Abingdon reservoir are still ongoing, as is GARD's campaign. Derek Stork of GARD gave an update at the August meeting; the key point being that Dr Therese Coffey MP (Parliamentary Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Life Opportunities), indicated at a parliamentary debate in July that the reservoir was likely to receive "a warm welcome". The PC has joined GARD and other organisations to make a Freedom of Information request to understand on what basis Dr Coffey made this comment, so we are in possession of all relevant facts to understand fully and properly assess the impact (whether positive or negative) for Drayton.

**Village "look and feel":** having moved from a big city, I personally cherish living in a village, and am keen like others to maintain its rural feel as much as possible. Residents have made interesting suggestions to the PC about wild meadows, herb planting, encouraging bees, and the PC welcomes volunteers to help develop and organise these ideas. On a similar topic, the PC gets a lot of emails about untidy grass verges. In fact, Oxford County Council is responsible for cutting verges that adjoin any public highway, and you can report problems to OCC online via "fixmystreet". The PC is responsible for grass cutting at the village green, the PC burial ground, the Lockway playground, the Lyford Close BMX track, the village hall football pitch, and some areas on Sutton Wick Lane. Our caretaker keeps these in good shape but please do let us know if anything looks untidy.

The PC is aware that the Sutton Wick pond is looking a bit sad, and so we are investigating if and how it can be improved. The VOWH is carrying out a "deep clean" in the village on 28 November – 4 December which involves litter picking, sweeping and removing weeds/moss on pavements. Please let us know if there are any particular areas we should highlight to them.

**Admin matters:** The next Parish Council meeting will be on **Monday 2 September at 7.30 pm**, in the **Caudwell Day Centre** in Gravel Lane (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). All residents 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](mailto:clerk@draytonpc.org) or 07909 176061, and will ensure that messages are passed on to the right people.

**Tamsin Crane**

*Chairperson, Drayton Parish Council*

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## Drayton Wives

Our walk this month took us to East Hendred and the lovely Champs Chapel.

This was built in 1453 for Carthusian monks and now contains a wonderful selection of village artefacts, documents books etc. It is well worth a visit but do check times on the web site.

Then we started our walk looking at St Augustines church with the famous faceless clock. On to West Hendred and to the Holy Trinity Church where one of our members (see picture) showed us how to tell the time in olden days by putting her finger in the hole in the wall and becoming a sun dial. Normally a stick was used!!!! A lovely walk around a very interesting village.

## Orient Express

Our monthly meeting was Christine Wootton talking about her travels on the Orient Express.



Christine and a few friends took the Orient Express to celebrate one of them recovering from cancer. After being treated very well in the Pullman Lounge they boarded the train. The train is separated by glass from the rest of the station so no-one can accidentally wander on!

They were shown there sleeping carriages where everyone has a steward to cater to their every whim. The carriages were still original and there was even a place to hang a fob watch. One of them was

lucky enough to have the 1920's carriage where Agatha Christie stayed. I wonder if that's where she wrote Murder on the Orient Express?

Evening meals were a formal affair with fabulous food, silver cutlery and china plates. Beats a soggy British Rail sandwich. The journey ended in Venice where they stayed in an excellent hotel on the Grand Canal. Included in this was a drink at the Grand Cafe in St Marks square which is one of THE most expensive places.

They went to Burano an island in Venice which is famous for lace making and the coloured houses which are used to guide the fishermen home. Each family has a different coloured house.

Then onto Florence where they were brought down to earth and stayed at normal hotels. They went to Lucca which is twinned with Abingdon but weren't given any special favours.

Then they flew back home after having a wonderful holiday which they would never forget. **Lisa Lammiman**



Thank you for the beautiful Basket of flowers. I very much enjoyed counting all the Money and will do it again, if you start again.  
Trudi.



## Trudi Buckner

has been involved with the Chronicle for over 35 years, she was originally just an agent but quickly became part of the team running the Chronicle Lottery. In those days the tickets were a two part affair with one part being given to the purchaser and a counterfoil on which agents had to write the customers details. Each of these counterfoils then

had to be folded and placed in a suitable receptacle, when this process had been completed the receptacle was taken to a variety of locations around the village for the draw to be made.

Another responsibility that Trudi undertook was to be an observer to ensure that the draw was carried out correctly and in accordance with the rules. The rules also required there to be a minimum of three people present when the money was being counted and ensure that the income matched the ticket sales. For the last few years the draw and money counting operation has been carried out on Trudi's dining table. This continued right up to the last ever draw in July.

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## August Council Report...In the current atmos-



phere, it is very difficult to understand what might happen next. Almost everyone has their very own prediction of how things will turn out. Most of the predictions range between gloomy and utter despair. In order to cheer ourselves up, some friends and I played a game of "determined optimism" where each of us had to come up with three good things which could happen in the next year and how they might be achieved. It is a game I recommend to

everyone, but the problem is that we all wished the world to be in different places so it is by no means a guaranteed way of spreading peace and harmony.

At VWHDC, what to do with the Local Plan is occupying everyone's minds. Much will depend on the HIF grant (£250m) and whether or not this will be guaranteed if either SODC or VWHDC were to decide to withdraw their plans in order to modify them. For VWHDC, this is particularly critical as their Plan is dependent on the delivery of "Valley Park, Didcot". Without the HIF money, OCC cannot afford the road improvements needed to deliver it. OCC would then be compelled to object to the plan which might then fail. In which case, the whole Vale would be back to coping with speculative development all over the District.

No-one wants that and we are all waiting for some clarity from Government. Unfortunately for Oxfordshire, Government is rather preoccupied at present so maybe to keep calm and sane, I will continue to play the "determined optimism" game.

**Richard Webber Cllr**

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## Councillor Andy Cooke... First off – my apologies



for missing out a report last month. I sent it in after the deadline: my mistake entirely (I had a bunch of similar deadlines at work and for family matters and I confused them).

Housing enforcement is very much on everyone's mind in the Council, and I think Drayton is one of the places where we've had it worst. We're sick and tired of delays to agreed provision and infrastructure, and

the way too many developers seem to casually ignore their requirements. I am personally very much in favour of controlled house-building: the house prices we see around here, caused by scarcity, price our children out of the market, which is why I was delighted by Drayton passing its Neighbourhood Plan and setting up controlled building – but if the Plan is bypassed, and if developers fail to deliver what was promised, residents will very naturally and rightly get angry and disillusioned with the entire thing.

The new Administration is making it very clear that we expect and require enforcement action to be taken. Yes, we recognise that it can and will take time, but if we don't start, it'll take forever. The planning guidance for enforcement is being beefed up with a presumption towards action (I know this for a fact; they let me draft big chunks of it...). We also want existing Neighbourhood Plans (such as our own) to be given more "teeth" and weight in the Local Plan and future planning decisions.

Included in this is the strong guidance that the Council *will* fight speculative attempts at planning erosion, such as the Blue Cedar attempt to erode the planning conditions that they managed to bull through on appeal at the site behind Halls Close.

As an aside, more and more people have been getting annoyed at the overgrown verges. While this is a County Council area, I conferred with Richard Webber who clarified that OCC are now only funded for one cut per year and tend to aim to make it later in the year – but if it's getting dangerous (and, in some places, it is), you can flag it up on [fixmystreet.com](http://fixmystreet.com) and it has to be actioned.

Full Council met on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July and passed a number of actions and resolutions. Important amongst them were the establishment of a Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (declaring a Climate Emergency is all well and good, but you actually have to do something about it) and a motion to oppose the proposed Expressway - and use the funding to accelerate and enhance and electrify the East-West Rail link and improve local transport infrastructure.

Readers of the Chronicle will know my long-standing scepticism over the "Ox-Cam Expressway" (which apparently needs to use the A34 and pass by Drayton and Milton, which seems rather the long way around for something sold as linking Oxford and Cambridge...), and will be unsurprised that my maiden speech was in support of the motion to oppose the Expressway.

It would devastate the local environment, cost many billions and provide nothing for twenty years, anyway (by which time changes in car usage and capabilities, such as autonomous cars,



could make it an expensive and damaging white elephant), and deliberately induce well over a million extra HGV movements per year up the A34 plus many extra car journeys as

well, and without upgrading local infrastructure to cope. It is, as given away in the Business Case, actually intended as a sort of outer M25 (which explains why it comes south of Oxford – it has to, to link down to the M4 and further south to the southern ports). Of course, when the A34 goes down, which is not an infrequent occurrence, that's an extra million HGVs to come through Steventon and Drayton and into Abingdon.

I do think that the Council doing everything we can to stop this deluded megaproject is very important for residents of Drayton. The negative impact of it would be huge, the increased congestion considerable, and the consequences permanent. There is so much better infrastructure we could fund that would arrive far sooner, far cheaper, and with far less impact on the environment (maybe even improving the environment).

Andy

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Dear Drayton Residents,

I would like to introduce myself as a newly appointed **Public Transport Representative (PTR)** of Drayton Parish.

I took over from Mr. Scharf who did a great job and thank you to him for his effort and commitment to improve the X2 service in the village.

As Drayton Parish has only two buses running through the village (X2 of Oxford Bus company and 34 of Stagecoach) it is vital they are being run as optimally as possible and that we have a say in any decisions relating to these routes.

Please feel free to contact me via email at:

[irma.vastakaite@draytonpc.org](mailto:irma.vastakaite@draytonpc.org) if you have any public transport related comments or concerns.

**Irma Vastakaite**

## Burglary:

Robert Zasada pleaded guilty to burglary and assaulting a police officer. He committed a burglary in Stonhouse Crescent, Radley at about 2am on the 18th February this year during which a VW Sharan was stolen from outside the property. Later that morning the vehicle was involved in a road traffic

collision in Radley Road, Abingdon. Police officers arrived at the scene where Zasada assaulted one of the officers. He will be sentenced at a later date to be confirmed. Crime reduction information was delivered to residents of Mattock Way by PCSO Moquet and PCSO Wright after an attempted burglary on the 5th July, where offenders attempted to force open a front window. Access was not gained. The Abingdon neighbourhood team will be out and about in Marcham on Saturday the 14th September. The team will visit properties to sign them up to our Thames Valley Alerts system which allows the user to receive messages from the Police about their local area, security advice, meetings etc. By working together we can build community resilience to deter burglars from targeting homes within the area!



## Anti-social behaviour (ASB):

The team has seen an increase in reports of antisocial behaviour in the Abbey Meadows area including the outdoor swimming pool and near The Abbey Cinema. We have had reports of young people accessing the swimming pool after it has closed, putting their safety at risk. The area is being patrolled by the neighbourhood team during the evenings to try and prevent this behaviour. If you wish to ASB please call 101 or 999 in an emergency. 45 Wilsham Road, 208 Saxton Road and 140 Gainsborough Green have all had closure orders issued. The closure orders were granted following concerns around ASB and safeguarding at the properties. A closure order is issued on premises where there is a persistent nuisance or disorder and states that the premise is out of bounds to anyone except the occupants (and in some cases a few people who are specified on the order). This is usually for a three month period. Anyone else entering the premise during the closure order can be arrested.

Please get in touch/follow us using the following:

**E-mail:** [AbingdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:AbingdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

**Twitter:** @tvpsouthandvale

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale](http://www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale)

**Phone:** 101

**Always phone 999 in an emergency**

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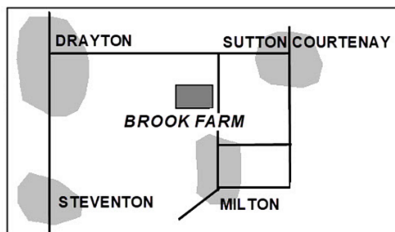


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## A survey to health-check Britain's hedgerows



The hedgerows that criss-cross our countryside are not only an iconic sight, but a vital habitat and corridor for many of our native species. However, they are becoming increasingly fragmented which is threatening the wildlife that depends on them.

So, this August, wildlife charity People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES), is launching a new national survey, [the Great British Hedgerow Survey](#), encouraging the UK to health-check the nation's hedgerows in an attempt to safeguard the future of this important habitat.

The survey offers instant feedback about the health of each hedge, as well as tailored advice on what type of management will ensure it thrives in the future. The results also provides conservationists with vital data helping build a national picture of the health of Britain's hedges.

The survey attracted the attention of BBC Countryfile, and earlier this month presenter Helen Skelton joined PTES' Key Habitats Project Officer Megan Gimber and Dormouse & Training Officer Ian White in Warwickshire, to find out why hedgerows are in need of more wide-scale management. They explained what the new survey involves and why PTES is calling for people to take part. The episode will be broadcast this Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August on BBC One.

### Who can take part?

[The Great British Hedgerow Survey](#) is aimed at landowners, farmers, wildlife groups and anyone interested in healthy hedgerows, who are encouraged to complete hedgerow health-checks online.



Hedge Sparrow  
Photo: Editor

Landowners and farmers already assess the health of their hedges to guide their ongoing management, but by taking part in [the Great British Hedgerow Survey](#), they will receive detailed and tailored management advice which will introduce the idea of managing hedgerows in a cycle.

For wildlife groups and individuals, the website also provides a handy place to store and display the hedgerow data they collect. Taking part will contribute valuable information to a national dataset that will inform conservation decisions in the future.

## Why should we care about hedgerows?

Historically we've lost about half our hedgerows since WWII. Although the rates of direct hedge removal have been reduced, we are still seeing the loss of hedgerows simply through the way they are managed.

Megan Gimber, Key Habitats Project Officer at PTES, explains: *"With 70% of UK land being agricultural, hedgerows offer the safest route for wildlife to travel across farmland. Sadly, many hedgerows are becoming 'gappy', which fragments this amazing network, and without more sensitive management, many hedgerows are at risk of being lost altogether. This is problematic, especially when we're seeing a fall in numbers of the animals that depend on them, such as hedgehogs, bats, hazel dormice and the song thrush"*



Example of a 'gappy' hedge—Barrow Road, Drayton, Courtesy of Miller Homes.

## Hedgerows and wildlife facts

- One study counted 2070 different species in just one 85m stretch of hedge
- 55% of the priority species associated with hedgerows are dependent, or partially dependent on hedgerow trees
- Poor quality, gappy hedges are detrimental to several farmland bird species
- Since different shrub species flower and fruit at different times, having a wide diversity of plant species extends the flowering and fruiting period. This benefits nectar and pollen feeding invertebrates, and their predator species
- In Britain, habitat fragmentation is thought to be a limiting factor for the distribution of some species and a threat to the survival of others. Corridors play a vital role in the preservation of a number of species deemed to be 'at risk' from the impact of habitat fragmentation
- 16 out of the 19 birds included in the Farmland Bird Index, as used by government to assess the state of farmland wildlife, are associated with hedgerows.



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## A Big Step to Tackle Climate Emergency

We have set up a new Climate Emergency Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the council's cabinet and ensure we meet our environmental responsibilities.

The committee will be politically balanced and will meet in public. It will also work together with partner organisations and local businesses and community groups to help reach carbon reduction targets and minimise damage to our environment.

## Councillors Oppose Oxford/Cambridge Expressway

Councillors have agreed to oppose the building of the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway in favour of more sustainable transport projects. The decision was taken at a full Council meeting on 17 July. The Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr Debby Hallett has written to the Secretary of State for Transport requesting that:

- the proposal be abandoned and funding invested in the East/West rail link, cycling infrastructure and public transport instead
- all Department for Transport schemes be subject to full public consultation
- Government development policy to prioritise rail and



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## Vale writes to government about local plan



We have had to allocate land to meet some of the housing needs for Oxford City, which it could not find space for. However, we are now asking for this to be revisited, because the figures from the housing

needs assessment for Oxford City date back to 2014.

The Deputy Leader of the Council, has written to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, to raise concerns; because the Local Plan Part Two would remove land from the Green Belt, and allocate thousands of houses in the Vale that Oxford cannot find space for. We believe it would be wrong to do this if it turns out Oxford ultimately doesn't need to find space for as many houses.

## OVO Energy Women's Tour

We were so glad that the rain held off for 12 June, when the OVO Energy Women's Tour pedalled through our district. Vale

towns and villages played perfect hosts to the riders with hundreds of school children going out to line the route and plenty of organised events to make the most of the



day. Watch the video below for a flavour of the race day.

## Have Your say on Polling Stations

We are carrying out a review of the polling district and places and would like to hear about your experience of using them in the recent elections. We'd like to know whether changes need to be made to the buildings or locations and about possible new venues.



We would particularly like to hear from disabled residents and carers about their experience in accessing the polling stations. Visit the website before Fri. 27th Sept for your input.

[www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)



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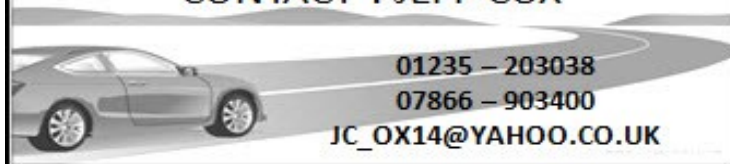




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# Hall Report

Just a note this time about a slightly unusual booking for us, it's a **HAMSTER show** (Midland Hamster Club), Sat Sept 21st. And it's not just hamsters, they have a **pet show class** too, more informal than the main hamster showing and judging. For the pet class, you can bring a **rabbit**, or pretty much **any rodent** (maybe ask if you've a capybara or coypu to bring?!), so maybe **gerbil, rat, guinea pig, chinchilla**, oh, and **hamsters** too! You can register them up to 1.45pm (£1 each I think), but they like them in a secure cage/carrier, not a shoe-box, etc! And they should have some food, and a water supply, or a piece of fruit or veg. Judging will be at 2pm. They give rosettes right down to 7th place!

If you've a show hamster to enter, they need to be registered by 10am, and they're in all day. **Casual visitors ARE WELCOME**, it's free entry, they have animals for sale, and lots of expert advice is on hand if needed. Doors open by about 9.30 am.

For more info, please see:

<http://www.midlandhamsterclub.co.uk>

I think the show secretary is a Wendy Barry

For all those thinking about a child's birthday party in the coming months, SORRY, October weekend dates are all gone (dog shows – we have a lot, & they have to book very early – or other bookings), and the last spot in November has just gone too (a couple of weddings, a couple of dog shows, and kiddies parties that booked early).

Oh, and a reminder to our regulars, can you please remember to try and turn off all the lights when you go, AND the water heater (some call it an 'Ascot') in the kitchen if you've used it – else it can sit bubbling away all night!

**Tony Holmes**

## Drayton Hall Diary for September

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated. To book the Hall:- [bookings@draytonvh.co.uk](mailto:bookings@draytonvh.co.uk) or call Tony Holmes (01235) 531180; see website:- [www.draytonvh.co.uk](http://www.draytonvh.co.uk)

Mon 2	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting Caudwell DC
Tue 3	2.30pm	1st Tuesday Connections Church Room
Thu 5	11.00am	Baptist Café (EVERY Thursday)
		(Tea, coffee, cake and a chat!)
Sat 7	9.00am	Private Function
Thu 12	2.00pm	'U3A' Crafts Group (Mthly –Small Hall)
Sun 15	11.00am	Private Function
Mon 16	5.00pm	Chronicle Deadline (p2 – Ads Fri 13th)
Sat 21	10.00am	Private Function (Hamsters Show– all day)
Sun 22	1.00pm	Private Function
Thu 26	11.00am	Baptist Café - MacMillan Coffee Morning!
Sat 28	6.00pm	Private Function

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## REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise.

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

### MONDAYS

2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session
6.00 pm	'Bounce Fit' (1hr - Sophie 07791 778388)
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 (Alexandra Merson 07788 248925)
1.45 pm	Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm) Caudwell DC
2.30 pm	First Tuesday Connections (1st Tuesday) Church Room
7.00 pm	League Table Tennis (three hours) School
7.00 pm	'RockBox' (to book, see Clubbercise)
7.30 pm	Bingo Session (+ 18s) Caudwell Day Centre
8.00 pm	Clubbercise (run by Gemma Pearce, see her F'book)

### WEDNESDAYS

10.00 am	Pebbles (Baby/Toddler/Carer group) Church Room
1.45 pm	Whist Drive (ACHLoFriends) Caudwell DC
2.00 pm	Drayton Wives (Last Wednesday in the month)
2.15 pm	Badminton
6.00 pm	Brownies (term-time / Laura 07916 459435)
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 DC
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
5.30 pm	Rainbows* (girls 5 to 7 call Vicky 07801447720)
	* Suspended until Sept relaunch – do register with Vicky
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 (Paul - 07479 824887)

### FRIDAYS

11.00 am	The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466 Caudwell DC
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### SUNDAYS

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

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