

The cover of the Drayton Chronicle magazine features a photograph of a garden. In the foreground, several bright yellow daffodils are in bloom, their green leaves and stems rising from a bed of dry twigs and fallen leaves. Behind the daffodils is a dense, lush green bush with large, rounded leaves. The title 'Drayton Chronicle' is printed in a large, white, sans-serif font across the top half of the image. Below the title, the date 'February 2020' is written in a smaller white font. At the bottom of the cover, there are two white rectangular boxes containing the editor's name and the volume/issue information.

Drayton Chronicle

February 2020

Editor: Maurice Puddick

Volume 43: Issue 1

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The next **Drayton Chronicle** will be the March 2020 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:
March	17th February 2020	28th February
April	17th March 2020	27th March
May	14th April 2020	24th April

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

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

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

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

Requests for advertisements should be emailed not to the editor but to advertising@draytonchronicle.net Please note that advertisements eventually need to be in Word format, 9cms wide and, for a single block advert, about 4.5cms high. Please head your email and label any attachments with a name distinctive to you, not just 'Chronicle'. Also, make sure the editor or advertising manager acknowledges your email within 2 or 3 days.

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



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Sunday	9.45 am	Holy Communion (CW), except 4 th Sunday when a non- Eucharist Morning Praise is held
Thurs	9.15 am	Holy Communion (CW) Lady Chapel

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Monday	7.45 pm	Bell Ringing Practice	Bell Tower
Wednesday	10.00am	Pebbles (Term Time only)	CR
Friday	6.30pm	Choir Practice (1 st Friday)	CR

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

Tuesday 4th	2.30 pm	First Tuesday Connections	CR
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PARISH REGISTER

Funerals

Friday 10 th January	Helen Marie Allinson
Tuesday 14 th January	Sylvia Pead

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Church Letter — February 2020

Love life: Live Lent!

'How many weeks are there in a year?' a school friend asked me years ago. 'Fifty-two,' I confidently replied, puzzled by her question. 'It's forty-six,' she said. 'The other 6 are lent!' I groaned.

Many of us would remember from school days talking about what we would 'give up' for Lent. It was usually chocolate, sweets or biscuits. Lent – being the time between Pancake day (this year 25th February) and Easter – has become associated with, 'giving up, usually enjoyable things, to become a better person.' It was following Jesus' example of the time he spent in the desert before He began His ministry.



Today there are many articles, books and podcasts about how to become a better person: eat well, rest more, take exercise, meditate, read, do voluntary work, avoid alcohol, be mindful, look at

your carbon footprint ... and so on. The list can often feel very daunting. For many of us, it tugs at something inside. We do want to become better people and leave the world a better place. Sometimes we feel guilty for not trying or for failing. Or, if we do achieve it, we can feel superior to others. So, what do we do with these inner 'side-effects' of wanting to be better?

Christians believe that becoming a better person is something that God does for each one of us by His Holy Spirit. He starts in our hearts. This is what was happening for Jesus when He was in the desert. He was being challenged about what kind of person He was – where did His identity lie? Was it in what he does (turn these stones into bread)? Or what He has (I will give you all the Kingdoms of the world)? Or what others said about Him (do something spectacular – jump off the Temple and come down unharmed)?

Jesus overcame all these temptations that we wrestle with because he believed what He was told earlier. He is God's Son – loved and accepted for who He was. He offers that gift to us today – the gift of becoming a son or daughter of God, loved and accepted. Like a present, it can be received and opened. We don't have 'to try and be better'.

So, this Lent let's ask God to show us a way to become a better person. What part of your character would you like to develop with Him? Being thankful, or kind, or generous, or loving, enjoying something, stopping for 5 minutes to breathe in His love and peace. Starting at Pancake Day, ask God to help you do this activity once each day in Lent. If you forget one day, you can start again the next. This is like practising with the best coach, who always loves you, encourages you and wants you to become the best version of yourself! God is amazingly loving, patient and understanding. At Easter, look back and see how it's gone – and how you are inside yourself. Maybe like Jesus you will hear lovingly whispered, ' Well done, I am pleased with you.'

We hope you enjoy loving life and living Lent!

Meg Heywood, on behalf of the DAMASCUS Team

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Dear Ed.

For some time, we believed it was rabbits eating the flowers on the graves in the cemetery, however it turns out to be deer, as the attached night time photos show. We believe there are at least three deer roaming as the photos show and my son saw one which ran into the allotments. Incidentally there was also a fox in one of the photos.

Jack Buckland



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The next meetings are on: 4th February and 3rd March.

If you require transport or further information, please call me. Jean Hager (531558)



DRAYTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB

The Annual Quiz will take place at the school as usual. This year it will be Friday 28th February. We are hoping to see a few new faces in addition to the usual suspects. Teams of up to 6 a team cost of £20.

Moving onto the action, our Bidmead Cup team played its first round tie in early January. A three person team must be selected from three of our seven Didcot League teams and from 3 separate divisions. That created a few selection issues with unavailability due to illness, birthday celebrations and family illness. However we got the team sorted and John Talbot (Artisans), Peter Wiblin (Crusaders) and Daniel Gifford (Giants) stepping up to the plate. They were drawn away to Letcombe who have always had strong teams in the cups. The match is all about points accumulation not games won. I'm please to report the Draytonians triumphed in a very close tie by 319 points to 315! So they now are into the quarter finals (yet to be drawn) in a competition we have won on several occasions.

Sadly our Newbury League team weren't so fortunate in their Cup Quarter Final versus Thatcham extra Edge. Our team was Matt Davies, John Talbot and yours truly. The opponents started with a point's advantage of 262 under the handicap system. A maximum point's total of 420 was possible for the Drayton team. Entering the final doubles match Matt and John T needed to avoid the opposing pair getting 17 points as they were on 403 but sadly they acquired 18 to take the tie 421-420! Losing by a point was harsh!

John Gould

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DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Happy New Year to all Drayton residents from the Parish Council!

We were very busy in 2019 and it looks as if there will be a lot going on in 2020, with work still ongoing at our three developments (Walnut Meadows, Manor Farm and Dovecote), and projects such as allotment and pathway improvements and the Public Art installations.

Walnut Meadows

Members of Drayton Parish Council met with the developer Miller Homes on 16 December to review outstanding actions. You will have seen some areas have already been re-turfed and reseeded. Contractors are due back on site during the week of 13 January to continue to complete landscaping around the estate; including replanting some trees.

It is envisaged that residential areas at Walnut Meadows will be handed over to the Management Company, and certain communal open spaces to the Parish Council in the coming weeks. The Parish Council continues to work with Vale of the White Horse District Council Planning Enforcement team, Oxfordshire County Council and Miller Homes, regarding the communal 'sports pitch' area.

Manor Farm/Edward Park

All houses have now been built, and Cala is now undertaking the last pieces of the landscaping work around the site, particularly on the public open space which is our "new Village Green". They were aiming to finish this work by the end of 2019, but the intense rainfall hampered their efforts – so we hope this will be finished in the next few weeks. Key projects to be completed include: (i) improving the footpath around the new Village Green which currently is not sufficiently compacted, (ii) installing ramp access to Henley's Lane (alongside or instead of the steps currently in place) to facilitate access to Millennium Green for pushchair, wheelchair and bicycle users, and (iii) creating an access path to Gravel Lane in order to link the east part of the village to the new public open space. The Parish Council is also engaged in ensuring that the Gravel Lane hedge-row is reinstated properly. The intention is that, once the Parish Council is happy that all development works have been completed satisfactorily, ownership of the new Village Green will pass to the Parish Council. We then hope to work with the Drayton Wildlife group to consider planting more trees on the Village Green, and creating wildflower areas in appropriate places around

its perimeter, as envisaged in the landscape plans for this site.

Allotments

An allotments working group has been set up, with Parish Councillors and some allotment users involved. This group will make plans to improve the existing allotment space to make it better for all users. Projects may include additional water and fencing around the perimeter of the site. We will update once decisions have been taken.

Parking on grassed communal areas around the village

It has been noticed that vehicles are being parked on various communal areas around the village, particularly at Walnut Meadows (small grassy verges alongside roads), and around the existing Village Green (the triangles of grass opposite the Post Office). This is causing the ground to become compacted, which prevents water drainage, and stops the grass from re-growing. We realise that in some cases this is done inadvertently – but at the existing Village Green there is plenty of space to park on the surrounding roads themselves. At Walnut Meadows – once the management company takes over ownership of these grassy areas, any replanting of grass will be paid for by the management company, which ultimately is charged back to Walnut Meadows residents through their annual service charge. To help with the maintenance of these communal areas, the Parish Council request that residents refrain from parking vehicles on grassed areas.

Tamsin Crane (Chairperson)

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Drayton Wives



This year Drayton W I reaches 100 years old and I would like to enter each month a brief history of Drayton and its achievements.

Over the next few months I would like to take you on a journey of 100 years of Drayton Women's Institute decade by

decade. The National Federation was born out of tragedy. In the year of Queen Victoria's Jubilee the class system was breaking down. Havelock Ellis published Vol 1 of the Psychology of Sex, There was an uprising of women in Austria and the suffragettes were born. Farming in Canada was suffering, children were dying. The daughter of Adelaide Hoodless was one such child. Adelaide realized something had to be done, She attended a local meeting of the Farming Institute and spoke to the members about the living standards of outlying farmsteads and the loss of so many children. Adelaide followed up her visit by publishing booklets on cookery, hygiene and other information for home life. Gradually things improved and the Women's branch of the Institute was born. It crossed the Atlantic to Anglesey and gradually across England to finally reach Drayton in 1920.

The war was over women had a new found importance and wanted more freedom so when they heard about this group a few ladies of the village gathered together in the Wesleyan Chapel and formed a committee on Dec. 2nd 1920.at which several important decisions were made, Annual subscription to be 2/- and the price of tea to be 1 1/2 or 2d. Drayton w. i. was on its way. The first general meeting was held in the Y.M.C.A. meeting room of the Buffs Hall in the High Street (building next to Winters Corner now a Cottage) on the 16th of December and the subject of upholstery. The Ladies met at 6pm as it was unsafe for ladies to be out late. Finding a suitable place to meet was a problem, it was considered unseemly for Ladies to meet in the Chapel and the Buffs hall was not very suitable either, the school proved even less suitable as the only seating was school desks for small children not ladies of certain years.

A decision was made to find a building of their own, a local land owner gifted a piece of land , a ¼ of an acre opposite the church in Church Lane, a hut was found and erected on the site, painted and curtained by the ladies, ready for a grand opening in 1922.

The wife of their benefactor came to open the building, the day was celebrated by a fete followed by a dance at night. Here followed many years of fund raising holding

dances, gymkhanas and tennis tournaments to keep the building clean and in good repair. A Bath chair was donated for use by any war veteran in need of its use. Our first banner was made from remnants from a members workbox (which we still have) and the first case of vandalism was reported, a window was broken and the notice board scratched. It was also recorded that a Roll of Honor was put on display, presumably war heroes, whereabouts unknown. In 1924 a book of remembrance was opened for whom, we don't know? In 1925 the famous 3d dances began and so did noise complaints so much so that the police were called and had to oversee the next dance. 1926 saw an invitation from the parish council to put forward a lady for membership. Electric light was installed using the Henly system paid for with assistance from a members father, this did away with oil lamps. 1929 saw the first baby born to a member, she was presented with a silver spoon. The decade closed with further dealings with the police over the rowdiness of the football club dances, an agreement was reached to share the cost of policing between the two groups.

Anne Webb

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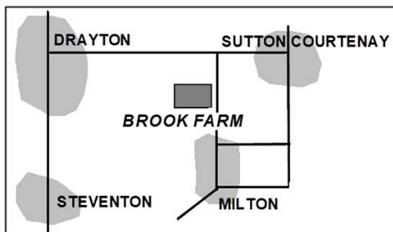


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Councillor Andy Cooke...Happy New Year to



everyone in Drayton and Milton!

The General Election is now in the past. Regardless of who we voted for, or who we wanted to win (or lose), we had a clear result: Boris Johnson and the Conservative Party now have complete control over not just the

Brexit process, but the economy and public services of the country. Whether or not individual voters wanted this, we can at least say there is now certainly a very clear line of accountability. The buck stops in a very clear place.

Throughout the campaign and over the Christmas and New Year period, the Vale of White Horse District Council continued to work hard, although there have been one or two problems with rubbish collection. If this occurs to you, please email me and I can put pressure on for you, as well as ensure that accurate information is presented to the relevant contracts team for the contractors' performance.

I recently attended a Joint Scrutiny meeting (Vale of White Horse DC and South Oxfordshire DC jointly scrutinise certain actions, policies, services, and decisions). This one was focused on the governance of the Oxfordshire Growth Board and on the structure for accountability of the Didcot Garden Town initiative. Both could seem somewhat esoteric, but both have fundamental impacts on all of us.

Oxfordshire Growth Board

The Growth Deal, and the Oxfordshire Growth Board, can be controversial, especially in the level of house-building and the provision (or not) of infrastructure. The Oxfordshire Growth Board consists of members of all of the District Councils in Oxfordshire, plus Oxfordshire County Council, and members of the LEP – the Local Enterprise Partnership. It usually acts to secure additional investment for infrastructure, which is welcome. We looked at the governance, which seemed to be working fairly well, albeit with limited powers. If any constituent council disagrees with a decision of the Growth Board, it can step out of that particular area of the Growth Board – the decisions will still go ahead, but not for that specific Council.

There is also a scrutiny panel, with “backbench” delegates from each of the constituent councils, to aim to hold the Board to account. (As it happens, I’m on that scrutiny panel as well...). We agreed that the powers of the scrutiny panel were highly limited and could do with being increased. The full review of the Oxfordshire Growth Board will be presented in February; I look forward to reading the conclusions (I should get an early sight of it, as scrutineer).

Didcot Garden Town

Didcot has received a major investment undertaking from the Government to deliver 15,000 homes and 20,000 jobs by 231 – together with the infrastructure to support it – and the intent is to turn it into “Oxfordshire’s gateway to future science, applied technology and vibrant communities.” All of which sounds great – but it will impact a lot of us (especially those in Milton – a third of the parish of Milton (at Milton Park) has been earmarked for inclusion in the Garden Town, leading to very understandable concerns about control and oversight. The new “Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board” will come into existence, with voting delegates from each of VoWHDC and SODC, a delegate from Didcot Town Council, a delegate from the five Parish Councils within the earmarked boundaries (one between five, but this can rotate around as the Parish Councils wish, in order to help ensure that any Parish most affected by any particular meeting agenda can be present), and non-voting delegates from the LEP and from Homes England. There will also be three “Sounding Boards” – for Parishes, Businesses, and Residents, meeting twice per year, which will discuss upcoming Garden Town issues and decisions, ensure information is passed to all residents, businesses, and parishes, and represent their views back to the Garden Town Board. All of which sounds promising – we’ll see how it works in practice.

That’s all for this month,

Thanks,

Andy Cooke

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County and District Report



2019 was, for many of us, a tumultuous year. With District Elections in early May, Euro Elections (remember those?) in late May, and a General Election in December – Brenda from Bristol was not on her own. Hopefully, 2020 will be an opportunity for things to settle down – nationally, at least.

On the local front, the year presents at least three main challenges and uncertainties. The first is, of course, Council budgets. For the first time in many years, the Oxfordshire County Council budget has a reasonably healthy look with no major cuts on the horizon. It may be that the Councillor Priority Fund (£15K to each Council Division) is a drop in the ocean of the overall £500m+ budget, but it is very good news that it is to be continued for another year. Doubtless there will be arguments over how any spare money should be spent, but that there should be any to spend is something of a novelty.

The VWHDC Budget does not, as expected, present such a happy picture. Many years of failing to raise District Council tax in line with most other Councils, together with an over reliance on New Homes Bonus, and a reduction in business rate contribution, has produced a perfect storm facing the new administration. VWHDC is not alone with such problems. As a result, Unitary local government is very much back on the table. Nobody wants a repeat of the Northamptonshire debacle.

The second major challenge for 2020 is our local planning and infrastructure. The government drive for growth in Oxfordshire has put enormous pressure on our infrastructure – particularly our road system. Promises of government money have depended on Local Plans being in place. Understandably, residents want infrastructure before more housing. With the possibility of a change in focus to infrastructure in the North of England, we wait to see the impact on our area. There is no doubt that the proposed road from Didcot over the Thames is an essential part of future growth in our area – without it, the local road system will not take any more housing.

The third challenge, and the most important, is the Environment. Whilst everyone knows that it is changes in China, India and the US which will make the big difference, the UK and Oxfordshire should be demonstrating what can be done to reduce carbon output. This means changes in building and planning policies. Changes in what we eat, what we wear, and how we travel. There are growing signs that these things can be achieved without damaging our economic growth.

My family have an end of year game in which we each put into a box 3 predictions for the next year – one national, one local and one for the family. Not many of us got much right for 2019. But that will not stop me from wishing everyone a Very Happy 2020.

Richard Webber Cllr [Richard webber777@gmail.com](#)

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Fen Drayton, near Cambridge

Fen Drayton is a small village with a population of around 1000, situated between the city of Cambridge and the market town of St Ives in Cambridgeshire. The River Great Ouse runs past it to the north. Thanks to a recently constructed floodbank, Fen Drayton itself no longer suffers from regular flooding – at times in the past a rowing boat was needed to get to the pub!



The village has a primary school, a church dedicated to St Mary the Virgin, and a very popular Three Tuns pub. The village hall hosts a monthly community cafe as well as many social clubs from indoor bowls to ballroom dancing. Two attractive tree-lined playing fields are home to the Lions Football Club and the Fen Drayton Tennis Club. The village community is friendly and welcoming, making Fen Drayton a very pleasant place in which to live.

In 2007 the RSPB opened the Fen Drayton Lakes nature



reserve on land between the village and the river. Nearly half the area is water/wetland, and with grassland and woodland the reserve provides habitats for a large variety of wildlife all year round. The Cambridgeshire Guided Busway, which opened in 2011, is the longest guided busway in the world. Linking Cambridge to St Ives, Huntingdon and Peterborough, it runs through the nature reserve – providing a wonderful scenic ride for commuters.

The village magazine, *Fen Drayton Focus* can be viewed on:- www.fendrayton.org

Latest News from GARD

Ofwat has published its response to the water companies' plans. The bottom line is that Ofwat remains unconvinced by the proposals and now requires the companies to work on a study to inform fresh plans for water resources across the south-east. They are also demanding much more effort on leakage reduction. The companies now have three years to complete the study and publish their findings.

This does not mean that the reservoir is off the table. It remains a threat to our area. However, it will be judged alongside other schemes, such as Severn-Thames water transfer, long advocated by GARD.

Ofwat are allowing £450 million for this study. This colossal sum will be raised from customers' bills. We all have an interest and duty to see that it is spent wisely and that the study won't be manipulated to rubber stamp the plans of private investors in the water companies.

It is clear that Ofwat have been listening to the views of local communities and other stakeholders. We need to ensure that this continues to be the case. GARD is working now to ensure that all of the local councils affected by the reservoir proposal work together to coordinate their objections. Acting together, we will be stronger. In the meantime, thanks to a generous donation from a local trust, we will be commissioning a Flooding Risk Study of the reservoir project.

If you wish to support GARD in our endeavours to protect our communities, please contact gard.secretary@gmail.com



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Drayton Village – New Public Art Project (2020)



Drayton Parish Council is seeking artists to design images to be used as distinctive metalwork features for the three main road entrances to the village. We want designs that celebrate Drayton as a village and in its wonderful history as a Walnut Orchard. We shall discuss designs with the artist and work to develop fabrication / manufacturing options. It is likely that artists will be asked to present their final design to the residents of the village in a public forum for viewing and discussion

Anyone interested should send an email entitled "Expression of Interest in Artworks for Drayton village entrances" to publicart@draytonpc.org by 28 February 2019. They should:

- Provide examples of at least 6 previous projects.
- Say if you have previously worked on a project for a public body (e.g. local council.)
- Include an artistic statement and your interest in the project.
- Indicate the approximate timing for producing your final design.
- Provide an indication of the price for your design.

All submissions will be treated with confidence and reviewed only by the Parish Council members and their liaison at the Vale of White Horse District Council. The Drayton Parish Council will consider all Expressions of Interest received by the above deadline and will select an artist by mid-March 2020.

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Unearthing Drayton's Distant Past

Drayton and the whole Vale of White Horse is a rich area for archaeological features and finds spanning Medieval, Anglo Saxon, Roman, Iron Age, Bronze Age, and Neolithic periods. Drayton's earliest known residents built the 'Drayton Cursus' — parallel earthworks (visible banks of soil) immediately to the east of the village — in around 2,900 BC. Archaeological surveys prompted by recent housing developments in Drayton have provided fascinating new windows into this deep past.



In 2015, an excavation was undertaken at land on Abingdon Road - now the site of the Walnut Meadows/Barrow Road estate. A dozen trenches were excavated, including one that targeted a suspected prehistoric barrow. The visible earthwork material turned out

to be post Romano-British but in one area of the trench a much older cremation pit was uncovered. Analysis of burnt material in the pit revealed that the fire had been made with oak and cherry wood. A sample of bone fragments from the pit could not establish whether they were animal or human remains. Within the cremation pit, the discovery was also made of a complete, tiny pottery vessel - just 110 mm tall and 80mm in diameter.

The urn dated from the early Bronze Age (c. 2200–1500 BC) and specifically was a miniature, bipartite (i.e., made in two pieces) collared urn made of a coarse grog-tempered fabric ('grog' is crushed fired pottery of any type that is added as a temper to unfired clay). Its collar featured geometric decoration created from round-toothed comb impressions.



Collared urns are most commonly associated with cremation burials and are distributed over the whole of Britain and into Ireland. The Drayton urn may have contained cremated human remains or a simple, votive offering of animal and organic

remains. It's not known if the cremation pit was an isolated example or part of a much larger Bronze Age ritual site.

As is common with excavations of prehistoric pottery, the vessel separated into many pieces once it was excavated and carefully cleaned. The sherds are now stored at the Oxfordshire Museums Resource Centre and may be viewed by appointment.

Clare Kirk

Hall report

Firstly a big **thank you** to our various users, who put up so well with our lack of heating during November (we brought in assorted temp heaters, but it's a big space to keep warm with radiators & fan heaters!).

On that topic, if anyone has British Gas, or is thinking about them, I'd say stay well clear, or get away, after our experience. Having been with them for many years (they must have installed the warm-air system, probably several versions ago) and having a long-term maintenance contract with them, their service and attitude were awful. It transpired that the problem was in the 'heat exchanger' (like a washing machine drum, but it contains the gas flame, and a large fan blows the warm air round the building). Over time, the flame had burned a hole in the reinforced steel of that exchanger, but apparently, IF the flame is properly adjusted, it doesn't do that! So, we wonder what the regular service visits had been doing?!!

And they have no modern day equivalent system (having taken a month or more to decide that!!). Luckily, we managed to find a new 'boiler' – and a suitable chap who can maintain it.

Oh, and as an aside, if anyone has the misfortune to need temp heating, Screwfix seems cheaper than some!

As an extra part of the work, we had to get some roof repairs, the old flues have become redundant, there were also some associated leaks, not helped by some of the vandalism that's occurred over the years up there. In passing we found that some of the culprits had helpfully inscribed their names in the felt roofing up there. My mis-spent youth was a long time ago, but I can recall that it never occurred to me that trying to bust up somebody's roof was a good idea. And if I had, risking an early spell in hospital from an irate dad, hopefully I wouldn't have been so stupid as to sign my name to it!?

We have a new exercise class, Fun Fit for the Over-50s, Mondays at 11.30 (for an hour), at the time of writing we've had 2 sessions, the attendance I gather increased notably for the second one, so hopefully word has got round. Call Carl on 01865 920460 for more info. I'm told you can go at your own pace, and each session varies.

Not many slots left for the first quarter of the year for our very popular kiddies parties, so hopefully any such parents have already booked?

What else, just time for a moan – the other week we heard that one of the fire doors had been found, open. We presume that someone had opened one, for a bit of ventilation, or perhaps accidentally nudged it in passing, but whatever the cause, hirers should PLEASE CHECK the building is secure when they go.

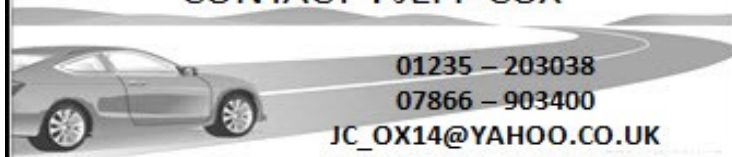
AND – we discovered that the curtain rail for the large end window had been broken, presumably by someone who thinks you open a curtain by pulling down, not across (the middle bracket supporting the pole had been pulled out). We DO understand that accidents happen (as with someone who broke the lid of a kettle before Xmas, Lord knows how – chucked it on the floor?!) – but we'd much rather we were TOLD about it, rather than finding out sometime after!!

Tony Holmes

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FRIDAY CLUB

Sylvia, Beryl and all the Friday Club members want to thank Sally and Brenda for cooking such a wonderful Christmas lunch and to Pervin for playing Christmas carols so beautifully on her harp.

All our members and guests really enjoyed the singing so very much. We also wish to thank all the cooks and drivers who have helped throughout the year, without whom there would not be a Friday club.

Sylvia Bond (531627)

Hall Diary for FEBRUARY

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

(for other regular events, see the R-H column >>)

Sun	2	1.00pm	Private Function (child's party)
Mon	3	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting <i>Caudwell DC</i>
Tue	4	2.30pm	1st Tuesday Connections <i>Church Room</i>
Thu	6	11.00am	Baptist Café (EVERY Thursday) Tea, coffee, cake and a chat Baptist Church
Sat	8	1.00pm	Private Function (child's party)
		6.00pm	Private Function
Sun	9	4.30pm	Darren Cammack (Dog Photo session)
Sat	15	10.00am	Private Function (child's party)
		6.00pm	Private Function
Sun	16	9.00am	Bowls Club (all day)
Mon	17	5.00pm	CHRONICLE DEADLINE (see p2)
Sat	22	7.00pm	Private Function
Sun	23	1.00pm	Private Function (child's party)
Sat	29		Private Function

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
- 11.30 am Fun-Fit Over-50s (*Carl 01865 920460*)
- 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 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 (Gemma Pearce, see her F'book)

WEDNESDAYS

- 10.00 am Pebbles (Baby/Toddler/Carers) Church Room
- 1.45 pm Whist Drive (ACHLoFriends) Caudwell DC
- 2.00 pm Drayton Wives (Last Wednesday monthly)
- 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 (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)
- 7.00 pm League Table Tennis (three hours) School
- 7.30 pm WI Meeting (2nd Thurs) Caudwell DC
- 7.30 pm Sequence Dancing (Brian - 01235 531701)

FRIDAYS

- 11.00 am Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466 Caudwell DC
- 7.15 pm ShikiDojo Martial Art (Paul—07479 824887)

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 Church

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