

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE



Issue Editor: Margaret Inger

Volume 43, No.3

April 2020

# CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The next Chronicle will be the May issue:

Editor: Maurice Puddick, Tel. 538188

Deadline for advertisements: **17.00 on Friday, 17 April 2020**

Deadline for other contributions: **17.15 on Mon. 20 April 2020**

Printed copies available: **1<sup>st</sup> May 2020**

**Key dates for the subsequent Chronicle:**

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.15 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
June	15 <sup>th</sup> May	29 <sup>th</sup> 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 as follows:

1. 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.

2. If you cannot send your contribution by email, send us a good quality paper version, using fairly large, simple black typescript, without underlining on white paper, A4 or smaller.

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

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

## ADVERTISING RATES

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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

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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

*All public acts of worship in the Church of England have been suspended until further notice. We have also suspended all church meetings and events.*

*St Peter's and all the churches across the DAMASCUS Parish will remain open during daylight hours for private prayer. The Ministry Team will be saying the daily offices of Morning and Evening Prayer on your behalf.*

*Although we cannot worship collectively, we can still pray for one another.*

*Please let us know if you are self-isolating and need help of any kind, so that prayer and practical support can be offered in a safe way.*

### YOU STAY WE PRAY, APRIL;

29 <sup>th</sup> Mar – 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Chestnut Drive,; Holly Lane; Walnut Way; Willow Way
5 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Furlongs; Plough Lane; Furrows End; Lammas Land; Virgate; Fallowfield Close
12 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Lockway
19 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Whitehorns Way
26 <sup>th</sup> April – 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Corneville Road; Crabtree lane; Lesparre Close



It seems a life time away – before social distancing, self-isolating and lock down became the norm – there was a day when the sun shone, church bells were rung, tea and biscuits were enjoyed in a room off St Peter's church – and this picture was taken. Yes, the Bishop of Dorchester had been invited to take a service in St Peter's church to consecrate some land in the Drayton Parish Cemetery. It was a lovely occasion with members of the village, parish council and church coming together to pray for and witness this rare event. A warm thank you to the parish council for initiating it.

Revd Meg Heywood

## ST PETER'S LETTER

From the Ministry Team:

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

On Sunday April 12th, Christians celebrate the oldest and most important festival of the Church: Easter.

Easter celebrates the central miracle of the Christian faith: the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. This event changed everything. It proves that Jesus is God's Son, the ultimate ruler of the universe. It proves that God is true to his promises and purpose: to create a new world in which justice, harmony and love have the upper hand. And it offers us hope for life beyond death in the presence of God, who loves us more than we could ever imagine.

But this year it's different! Because of coronavirus, churches will be closed and there will no Easter services. Nevertheless, there are plenty of ways in which to celebrate at home, either on our own or with our immediate family.

Maundy Thursday is the day we remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples before his death. Why not do a random act of kindness. Or make a special meal or get a takeaway and eat it together with screens and mobiles off.

On Good Friday, we remember Jesus' death on a cross. Apart from eating hot cross buns, spend a few minutes at 3.00 (the time of his death) thinking about all it means. If you have a crucifix, look at it and remember that Jesus died because he thought you were worth it! He shared in the pain and suffering of the world. His death means that we can be forgiven for the ways we mess up and find the strength to forgive others.

If you have children, make an Easter garden together. Remember to pop some small Easter eggs in the tomb of your Easter garden for the children to discover. Then, early on Sunday morning, roll the stone away from the tomb to remember Jesus' resurrection. Read John's Gospel chapter 20, verses 1-18 (if you don't have a Bible, you can find this on the internet). Then enjoy a lovely breakfast. Celebrate that Jesus is risen – conquered death and offers his new life.

You can also join in with 'virtual' services. Go to [oxford.anglican.org](http://oxford.anglican.org) to find details of how.

Here is a prayer to help us through this time:

**O God, help me to trust you,  
help me to know that you are with me,  
help me to believe that nothing can separate me  
from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

# DRAYTON WILDLIFE GROUP

## Drayton's First Tree Planting Day!

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with Drayton Wildlife Group's tree planting event on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. The event was a great success. Despite some cold and windy weather, we had helpers aged from 1 - 80, from Drayton and beyond, turning out to help. Everyone enjoyed themselves, and we surprised ourselves by how many trees we managed to plant. The children were particularly enthusiastic and were a great help. It may have been cold and windy but at least the recent rain meant the ground was soft and easy to dig. We planted about 60 new trees around the recreation ground by the village hall. We used a National Trust mix of mainly small hedging trees – guilder rose, hawthorn, blackthorn and crab apple, with a few bird cherry and corner where there is more room. The trees are only tiny saplings at the moment, but soon they will grow, and most are flowering trees so hopefully in a few years spring will bring a lovely display of blossom around the field. Not to mention, hopefully, songbirds singing in the branches.

In addition to the tree planting, volunteers collected four bags of rubbish, and further rubbish collecting was done later on by members of the football club, so the field should be nice and litter free now. Let's keep it that way! And by the way, dog walkers – please clean up after your dog. We collected at least 20 bags of dog poo left in the bushes, and there was plenty of unbagged muck as well. There is a bin in the lane just next to the village hall – please use that. Remember, young children are using the field.

Unfortunately, global warming is becoming ever more real, with the warm winter, wet and windy weather and floods all over the UK - though thankfully not in residential areas here. We're going to need to fight it on many fronts, but planting trees is one of the simplest solutions, and it has so many other benefits to wildlife and our own well-being too. We are hoping to plant some more trees around the village hall in Autumn, when they have finished their building works, but we could really do with more land to plant on. If we can prove that we have the landowners' permission, and there is public access, we can apply to the Woodland Trust for free trees – so if you think you may be able to provide a planting site please do let us know.

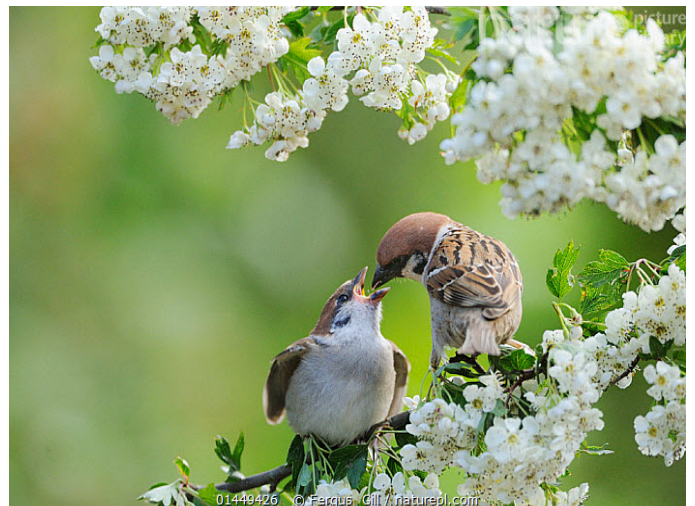
Many thanks to the Parish Council, who have been a great support and donated money for the trees and the tree guards, which are a new kind made of bio-degradable plastic. Thanks also to the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee, Drayton Wasps Football Club, and Abingdon Carbon Cutters for their support, and to Julian Cook who came out to help get us started despite having a cold, and on his birthday!

Please look out for posters in the shops and on notice boards around the village, and on the Families in Drayton and Drayton Wildlife Group facebook pages for notices of upcoming events. Tree planting will be on hold until Autumn now, but there will be wildlife walks and other activities over the summer. If you are interested just turn up at an event, or contact Tracy Jesson on [tjesson@live.co.uk](mailto:tjesson@live.co.uk).

Tracy



# DRAYTON WILDLIFE GROUP: tree planting continued



# LOCAL GROUPS AND CLUBS

## Drayton Football Club

Unfortunately, due to the weather conditions at the end of February and the Coronavirus Restrictions put in place during March, not many matches took place for either teams. The First Team were knocked out in the semis of the cup by Hagbourne United on penalties after a 0-0 draw and a great display from goalkeeper Jamie Jacks. The reserves have not had a game in a month but at the time of writing this they have a huge semi-final cup match against Letcombe Reserves coming up. To keep updated on the fixtures and results, please like us on Facebook- Drayton Wasps Football Club or check out our website- [draytonfc.simplesite.com](http://draytonfc.simplesite.com)

Sponsorship/Donation Update: We have spoken to a few individuals and have decided to reduce the price of sponsorship of the football club to £150. Details on our plans and sponsorship benefits can be found on our website. We also invite any amount of donation to the club if you would just like to help contribute to the future of this community and the club. Please email us at [draytonwasps@gmail.com](mailto:draytonwasps@gmail.com) if you are interested in either of these, or if you have any other questions. Thanks and #UpTheWasps "

Bradley Cox

## Drayton Wives

Due to the ongoing emergency with the Coronavirus it has been decided to suspend all Wednesday meetings and Monday coffee and craft meetings until 11th May. This will be the first coffee morning in May but if anything changes, we will try and let everyone know. So hopefully members can try and pass on the news to their friends.

Let's see if we can all keep calm and stay well until the virus has been overcome!!

Lisa Lammiman

## DRAYTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Our thanks go to all of those who supported the club's Annual Quiz night. Despite some tough questions, I think the teams enjoyed the challenge set for them. We raised some important funds for the club and kept the Treasurer happy. The running costs of a sports club are these days quite substantial and events like these help keep us in the black.

Sadly, our Bidmead team lost their quarter final cup match so the tradition of winning this regularly has to wait another season. We still have teams in the Handicap Shield so hopefully this will see one of them win through.

In the Didcot League, we are close to the end of the season at the time of writing. The Fury team are romping home in Division 4 but may swap places with the Eagles who lie one from bottom in Division 3 with only one match left to play.

The remainder of our teams will stay put with all being mid table in their respective divisions. I will give exact finishing details in the next issue.

John Gould

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# LOCAL GROUPS AND CLUBS

## Abingdon Reservoir - Latest News from GARD

GARD intended to hold its AGM in Steventon Village Hall on 28th April. However, with the worsening Corona virus epidemic, and the expert advice that the situation is likely to persist for some months, we have decided to postpone the AGM until a time in the Autumn. We feel that this is the responsible course of action, in order to play our part in minimising non-essential gatherings and helping stop the spread of infection. We hope that all members will understand the reasons behind our decision.

We will send out the Chairman's Annual Report and the Statement of Accounts to members in April. If you are a member who is not on our mailing list then please email [sharron.jenkinson@gmail.com](mailto:sharron.jenkinson@gmail.com) and we will be happy to add you. We wish everyone a safe time over the next months.

## First Tuesday Connections

Due to Corona Virus concerns, this group will NOT meet in April & May, dates after that will be reviewed when more is known about the virus and its progression.

DURING THIS TIME, Please Note that we shall continue to keep in PHONE contact with all our members on a regular basis, and look forward to restarting at some point (hopefully not too distant?!)

Jean Hager (on 531558)

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# Drayton Dog Walkers

**Did you know that around 25% of households in Drayton have a dog?**

**Did you know that Drayton has a lake?**

As the days get longer and the weather improves and with many new residents welcomed into the village, we thought we should spotlight some of the footpaths and bridleways you can enjoy in and around the village.

## The Millennium Green:

The Millennium Green offers a circular gravelled path around the walnut trees, with benches, a sundial and a small orchard. It is accessible on foot and by pushchair/wheelchair. There are dog poo bins at three of the access points to the Green. Do stop and have a look in the pond - frogs and newts have been spotted.

## Sutton Wick:

A network of footpaths links Drayton to Sutton Wick. The footpaths generally follow ancient routes which would have linked the settlements by the most convenient routes to its open fields. At the end of Sutton Wick Lane a path takes you to the corner of Henleys Lane/Church Lane and another leads round the edge of fields behind the church and the allotments and onto the High Street. There are also two access points onto the Millennium Green from Sutton Wick Lane.

Just opposite the pond on Sutton Wick Lane is a grassy path leading out into open fields towards Oday Hill. Historically, this would have been an important route for farm workers accessing the fields. The Stonehill Community Garden (Stonehill Community Garden Facebook page) can be found on Oday Hill.

**Oday Hill/Drayton "Lake":** Towards the far end of Oday Hill there is footpath to your right, just before Peep O Day Lane which takes you past Drayton lake until you reach the Sutton Courtenay road. All this area was once a landfill site but nature has gradually reclaimed it. The lake is home to a number of species of aquatic birds.



## Henleys Lane/Church Lane

From Henleys Lane a footpath takes you behind the Manor farm development and onto the end of Gravel Lane. By walking through an old metal gate you can then walk across a small triangular field and through another metal gate into a short walled path (called Love Lane) and onto the High Street.

From Church Lane you can access the village allotments via a footpath which links with the churchyard of St Peter's church.

Further along Church Lane you can also walk through the churchyard and on through the parish burial ground, and by taking a path to your right and crossing the High Street you can reach the East Way. Turning left you can eventually reach Sutton Courtenay (having crossed Milton road) or by turning right you reach the Abingdon road. The East Way is an old route linking Sutton Courtenay with Drayton.

## West of Drayton

There are a number of farm tracks that lead from the village towards and across the A34 and beyond. One of these is Barrow Road (a concrete farm track). Once you have left the A34 behind you this is a peaceful spot where deer, skylarks and lapwings can often be spotted. n.b. please note that the footpath to Marcham Mill from is closed as the bridge is out. It

is possible to make this a circular walk, via farm tracks ending on Kiln Lane which emerges near the Wheatsheaf pub.

A bridleway opposite end of Sutton Wick Lane takes you to New Cut Mill. By taking the humped back footbridge bridge over the river Ock you can even walk to Tesco. The bridleway also links with the dog walking field opposite the Morland Gardens development.

## The new developments:

The Dovecote development has a path that links with the East Way footpath.

On the Manor Farm development, a newly constructed looped gravelled path links with the end of Henleys Lane and one of the access points for the Millennium Green.

The Walnut Meadow development has a path which links it with Barrow Road and with the new tarmac footpath to the end of Cornville Road.

We hope this gives you a little taste of some of the many paths around the village and apologies if your particular favourite has not been included.

However, the good news is that Drayton Parish Council are planning to produce a guide later this year, offering suggestions for local walks, indicating their length both in distance and time.



Jill S

# COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

## Richard Webber

**Water, water everywhere  
(but not enough to drink if Thames Water are to be believed).**

Over the past 30 years, Thames Water (TW) have been arguing that, in the near future, we are going to be desperately short of water and much the best solution is a giant reservoir between Steventon, East Hanney, Drayton and Marcham. Indeed, if their predictions had been correct, we would have been facing severe drought many years ago.

To be fair (and I am struggling here), the population and global warming have been increasing steadily throughout that time and TW can argue that we need to be looking at the evidence of need yet again. But with TW's history of poor and somewhat alarmist predictions, it must be right to question their latest evidence via a public enquiry. There is evidence and science on both sides of the argument - evidence and science that needs to be argued in public.

With repeated Environment Agency flood warnings in recent months, and as I look out at muddy paths, sodden ground, full rivers and streams, with full and apparently merging lakes replacing gravel pits, drought hardly seems an immediate threat. TW and their reservoir surely have something to prove.

I confess I am not an angler or a sailor, but I can see that the recreational benefits of the reservoir are tempting. The potential nature conservation opportunity is also appealing - assuming that security issues do not forbid access to the reservoir area.

However, the overriding issue for me is undoubtedly the carbon output of building Europe's largest above ground reservoir over more than 10 years. Our chances of hitting our ambition to be Carbon neutral by 2050 would be very small if TW was to have it's way. Add in large scale housing and road development and the chances are nil.

That is why I remain implacably opposed to the reservoir - at least until TW have demonstrated for the first time in 30 years that the case for need is overwhelming and there is no better solution.

Richard Webber Cllr [richardwebber777@gmail.com](mailto:richardwebber777@gmail.com)  
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# DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Andy Cooke

This is the situation as of today, 20<sup>th</sup> March:  
Updates for Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire are here: <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/news-events/coronavirus-covid-19-information>  
111 online (recommended by medical experts I've consulted): <https://111.nhs.uk/service/covid-19>  
NHS main Covid-19 page: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>  
**Current advice as per 15<sup>th</sup> March**

I can't overemphasise enough the wash-your-hands advice. Soap destroys the structure of viruses and renders them inert, as long as you give it enough exposure to the virus to work – twenty seconds washing should be enough for this. The advice given is that the virus relies on help from the host and its potential victims in order to spread – it looks like it has to be transported by hand to face (and from there into the body through mouth or nose) in order to get in to you. If you obsessively wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol gel, it can't get in (there is a chance it *may* be able to be spread by cough droplets, but even if so, this is short range and a sort of back up route for it).

The virus can survive outside of the host for hours at a time (dependent on the surface it is on) – someone who is infected coughing on a surface or touching it with hands that have recently touched their face (close to the mouth or nose) can deposit live virus onto it – which can then be touched by someone else who could then touch their face or mouth and let it in. It does *not* penetrate skin – it has to be helped into your body, usually by touching the face near the mouth or nose.

Keeping 2 metres away from anyone who may be infected will also help (in case of cough-droplet spread). If you cough, please make sure you catch it in your armpit (NOT your hand). Whenever you touch something that could have been touched by someone else, or touch hands with someone – wash your hands as soon as you can and definitely before touching your face again (it's almost scary how often we all touch our own faces – keep track for a few minutes and you'll see).

## Risks

The most at-risk groups are people with underlying health conditions (primarily heart, lungs, diabetes, hypertension, cancer) or the elderly (especially the over-seventies). These groups will need to self-isolate. Please bear in mind that if you are **not** in these groups, you could easily spread coronavirus to them.

The Parish Council are organising a volunteer network to help with those self-isolating – to pick up food, prescriptions, walk dogs, and so on. More on that from Tamsin elsewhere in the Chronicle today.

## Communication

Try to make sure you keep communicating with those who need to self-isolate with them (telephone, Whatsapp, anything where people can still hear your voice) to help them deal with the prolonged isolation. Help them with getting shopping delivered – you can do this without coming into physical contact; things can be left on the doorstep and distance kept. Keep tabs on each other by phone, Whatsapp, text, Facebook, whatever you can – total isolation can be

psychologically damaging, and social interaction doesn't have to be face-to-face.

We live in an age with more and better communication than ever before. Hearing a loved ones' voice regularly, or even just getting a message, has a great positive effect – never underestimate this.

## Assistance

AgeUK Oxfordshire, has launched a new, free of charge telephone support service offering advice and assistance to older people concerned during this time. For more information visit [www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/)  
South Oxfordshire Food and Education Academy (SOFEA) is expanding its Community Larder network to provide free groceries to as many people as possible. This means delivering hundreds of tonnes of packets and tins, as well as fresh fruit and vegetables to those who find themselves in need. They have set up a JustGiving page and would welcome donations. You can access this page through the link: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sofeacommunitylarder>

Vulnerable people and those in need can access community food services (food banks, community kitchens, food surplus cafes) at locations on this Food Services Access Map <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/foodservicesmap>. Please share this link as appropriate - it's strongly advised that people make contact with them directly rather than just turning up as service provision is changing all the time.

## Further Support

The Local Authorities, together with the central Government are stepping up resources and support in the coming days. The "Local Resilience Forum" will make some announcements imminently on the further help to be provided (they may already have done so by the time you're reading this). They intend to link in with community groups and support springing up, especially via parish councils – so the work the Parish Council is doing will link in with this.

Main Council Buildings are being shut to the general public, but the Council are taking steps to ensure they continue to provide public services. Community centres are likely to be repurposed as key community hubs for further support.

I've said enough for now, so I'll sign off for now – and please, take care of yourselves and your families. Andy Cooke





# PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Tamsin Crane

## 1. Covid-19 Action

Please see the next article which describes the Drayton Parish Council Community programme to support vulnerable groups, during the time of social distancing and self-isolation at home. We welcome any good ideas from residents about how we can help alleviate these issues.

## 2. Suspended Annual Parish Meeting

In light of the evolving Coronavirus/COVID-19 situation, and government recommendations on social distancing, on 15 March 2020 the Drayton Parish Council decided to postpone the Annual Parish Meeting that was supposed to have been held on Monday 16 March 2020. The Council intends to continue to monitor the Coronavirus/COVID-19 emergency, and will reconvene the meeting at an appropriate time, in accordance with government rules and recommendations. We will publish the new date, time and location on the Council's website and facebook page in due course, but expect that the meeting will be held towards the end of May.

In the meantime, please be reassured that the Council intends to continue its work, and at the reconvened Annual Parish Meeting will provide a report of its activities in 2019-2020 and note upcoming projects.

## 3. Updates on Village Developments

The Council's experiences with the developers Millers (Walnut Meadows), Cala (Manor Farm/Edward Park) and Bloor (Dovecote) have been very mixed. On the whole, we have found the Dovecote site to be running well – no significant problems identified to date. However, our experiences with Millers and Cala have been less positive.

The Council is actively and regularly engaging with Vale of the White Horse Planning Enforcement, Oxfordshire County Council and the developers to ensure they deliver what was agreed, which in some cases is long overdue. Since we last met with each developer, some progress has been made, for example, accessible access paths have been installed from the new "village green" at Manor Farm/Edward Park to Gravel Lane and Henleys Lane, but the finished surface of these paths is still not satisfactory. So, the Council continues to seek improvement of this and other items at both sites.

A more detailed update will be provided next month.

## 4. Keeping Village Footpaths Clear

The Council is keen to ensure that all pavements, public footpaths and byways in the village can be safely used

by all residents and visitors, not only pedestrians, but also wheelchair and pushchair users.

The Council is planning on making various improvements to certain public footpaths, but also wishes to encourage residents themselves to do their part. So, we therefore respectfully ask householders to take action to regularly trim/prune any shrubs, trees, hedges in your gardens which border public footpaths. This is to ensure that such vegetation does not overhang the pavements and restrict the space available for pavement users. We thank you in advance for your cooperation on this.

## 5. Dog Poo

I would (once again) urge dog-owners in Drayton to ensure you collect any poo your dog deposits around the village.

Leaving the poo alongside footpaths is totally disgusting and unacceptable, as is dumping plastic waste bags in trees or hedgerows. Foul dog waste poses a real health risk to children, and sadly, make the village a less attractive place for all of us to live.

Please note that you don't have to use a specific dog poo bin, you can use any public bin, or even take the plastic bags home and dispose of them in your own home bin. This is much better than allowing your dog to foul footpaths, which could result in your being convicted of a criminal offence.

## 6. Transport

The Council is aware of reliability issues with the X2 bus service run by Thames Travel. Currently we are in contact with Oxfordshire County Council to find ways to improve this service and provide a better experience and more opportunities to our villagers. If you have been affected by a delayed/missed bus, do get in touch with Thames Travel Customer Care Team at [office@thames-travel.co.uk](mailto:office@thames-travel.co.uk) as well as sending an email to [irma.schoonhoven@draytonpc.org](mailto:irma.schoonhoven@draytonpc.org) so that a record can be kept. In case you are not be happy with the response from Thames Travel, or how they handled your complaint, please submit an inquiry to <https://bususers.org>.

The parish council has noted the lack of cycling paths and connectivity from Drayton to other existing cycling paths. Vale of White Horse District Council's cycling champion will be raising a motion with regard to connecting Drayton to the Science Vale Cycling Network. Further updates to follow.

OCC has encouraged villages to appoint a Fix My Street Super-user volunteer for tackling potholes, drainage issues, sand/salt distribution and other such issues as means of relieving pressure on Oxford County Council Highways department. **If you would like to volunteer**, please get in touch with our Public Transport Representative and Councillor Irma Schoonhoven at [irma.schoonhoven@draytonpc.org](mailto:irma.schoonhoven@draytonpc.org).

Tamsin Crane, Chairperson

## Parish Council continued

### COVID-19 – COMMUNITY SUPPORT VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

Drayton Parish Council is taking action to support the community during this challenging Covid-19 crisis period. We are coordinating a volunteer programme to help those in the village who are self-isolating and need some support.

If you are self-isolating and therefore not leaving the house and need help, our group is here to support you in the following ways:

- Collecting prescriptions from pharmacy
- Grocery shopping (subject to availability in the shops)
- Posting letters
- Dog walks
- Doorstep chats (from safe distance)
- Phone calls or Facetime (for those with that setup)

Delivered items will be left on your doorstep (after bell rung).

**If you would like support, please contact one of our coordinators by phone:**

Tamsin Crane – 01235 535 933 or email to

[Tamsin.crane@draytonpc.org](mailto:Tamsin.crane@draytonpc.org)

Richard Wade – 01235 532 321 or email to

[Richard.Wade@draytonpc.org](mailto:Richard.Wade@draytonpc.org)

The coordinator will then assign you with a volunteer, and we will ask that volunteer to get in touch with you by phone. The volunteer will then liaise with you, to discuss what help you need and when.

**We will give you and the volunteer a password to exchange, so you know that they are genuinely from the Parish Council support group.** Wherever possible we will endeavour to have the same one or two people helping you, so you get used to the volunteers.

**GDPR notice:** please note that if you contact the Drayton Community Support Group to ask for help then that will be understood to mean you are giving your permission that the personal details you provide (your name, address, phone number) will be used by the Drayton Community Support Group to provide you with appropriate support, and to pass on these details to your designated volunteer. Your personal data will only be used for these purposes, and will be deleted from our records on your request. If a neighbour or family member provides your details, then the Drayton Community Support Group will assume that this neighbour or family member has your permission to share your details.

## LETTERS

### DRAYTON WIVES

Dear Sir

I would like to pay tribute to two members of Drayton Wives who have died recently. Georgie Logan who served for many years as Chairman and Judith Dunster who was booking secretary, organising speakers and other events for the group. They both belonged to DW from its early days and contributed to the group and to the whole of Drayton. They will be much missed by friends and family and by members of Drayton Wives.

Josie Midwinter  
Former Chairman

### Queens Guide

Over the last 3 years, Drayton resident Georgina Arnold has been working hard to achieve the highest award possible in the Guiding movement. This is The Queen's Guide Award. There are many elements to this award, including: Service in Guiding, Developing a personal skill, Community action, Outdoor challenge, Residential experience. Each of these is divided into several sections. She has now completed all of the requirements and has had her work scrutinised by the Chief Guide, and it has been signed off as completed.

The award was provisionally presented on the Thursday night of the recent 2020 Gang Show, in which Georgina was a cast member. She is now waiting for an invitation to attend the official presentation in London, at which the award is usually presented by a member of the royal family.

In the picture of the provisional presentation from Left to Right; Karen Clarke (mentor for outdoor challenge), Sue Bisson (County President, Georgina, Angela Peel (County commissioner) Jo Lees (Queens guide mentor and advisor)



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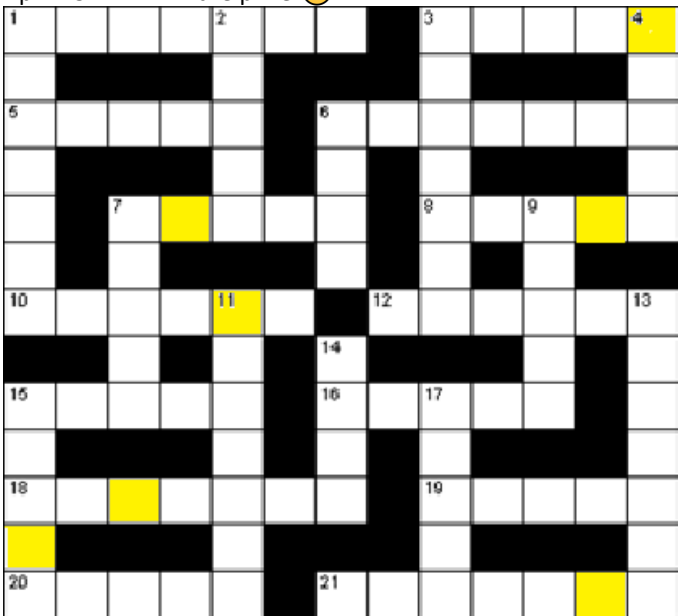
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Waitrose Abingdon have kindly donated a nice box of chocolates (RRP £20) for the winner of our crossword competition. To enter, simply complete the crossword, and rearrange the letters in the yellow squares into the name of a flower. All we need is the name of the flower, not the whole crossword. Please write down the answer, your name and address and phone number, place in an envelope marked 'Waitrose Competition' and leave in the Chronicle Box outside Vickery's Hardware Shop. The first correct entry drawn on April 15<sup>th</sup> will win the prize 😊



**Across**

1. State capital of North Carolina (7)
3. Capital of 8 Across (5)
5. Mediterranean island south of Sicily (5)
6. Smallest of the Great Lakes (7)
7. Capital of South Korea (5)
8. West African country (5)
10. The world's second longest river (6)
12. Capital of the Philippines (6)
15. Egyptian desert (5)
16. Major European river (5)
18. State capital of Nebraska (7)
19. Asian river (5)
20. Paris subway system (5)
21. Montgomery is the state capital (7)

**Down**

1. Bucharest is the capital (7)
2. State in the Rocky Mountains (5)
3. Located in the northern Leeward Islands, \_\_\_ and Barbuda (7)
4. Hawaiian greeting (5)
6. Capital of Norway (4)
7. Country on the Iberian Peninsula (5)
9. Town in Australia's Northern Territory, \_\_\_ Springs (5)
11. South American river (7)
13. State capital of Maine (7)
14. Tehran is the capital (4)
15. State capital of Oregon (5)
17. One of the Balearic islands (5)

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[flexicareoxford](http://flexicareoxford)

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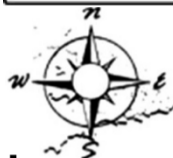
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## VALE NEWS

The council is increasing its response to the Coronavirus situation while monitoring and following the latest government and medical advice.

- We are reviewing our business resilience plans daily so that we can continue to deliver our front-line public services to residents.
- We have created a dedicated section on our public website to provide the latest information on our current response to the situation, but also to announce any changes to service delivery. <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk>
- We have cancelled or postponed any public event or activity that was predominantly aimed at people in high risk groups, until further notice.

Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizen's Advice, as of the 18 March is no longer offering face-to-face appointments to try to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus. Please note, previously booked appointments will be changed to a telephone appointment. Residents will still be able to talk to advisers by telephone. Advice line: 0300 330 9042 Monday to Friday 09:00 to 17:00

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/>


South Oxfordshire Food and Education Academy (SOFEA) is expanding its Community Larder network to provide free groceries to as many people as possible. This means delivering hundreds of tonnes of packets and tins, as well as fresh fruit and vegetables to those who find themselves in need. They have set up a JustGiving page and would welcome donations. You can access this page through the link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sofeacommunitylarder>

A county wide website has been set up to share and discover community support for COVID-19 across Oxfordshire. This website will signpost to local support groups, to organisations working remotely so residents can receive guidance through email, telephone and social media. Please share this with your community contacts. [www.oxfordshireallin.org](http://www.oxfordshireallin.org)

### Suzi Wild

Community Liaison Officer




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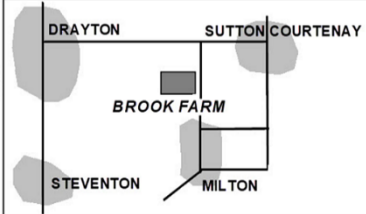
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# Neighbourhood Action Group 5 Safety Corner

## Scam phone calls

- Neighbourhood Watch in the NAG5 area has received numerous reports of phone calls claiming that 'loft lagging' fitted recently has been found to cause condensation, and has been declared substandard by the government. These calls appear to be opportunist and come from local numbers.
- A recent call to a NAG5 resident asked if he was still receiving scam phone calls. When he said that he was he was asked to confirm his name and address so that the caller could be sure the details were correct. Once the victim had done so he was asked to provide his banking details so that a direct debit could be set up to help prevent scam calls. Fortunately he realised it was a scam.

## Reporting incidents to the police

The police stand a greater chance of catching offenders within the first hour following a crime or offence. If you wish to make an immediate report please call 101 as soon as possible, enabling the report to be logged and quickly passed on to any officer(s) who are in the vicinity. Please note that the police are aware of issues or crimes only if they're reported and officially logged. **Always call 999 if you suspect a crime is about to be committed, or if there is one in progress.**

## Burglaries

- There has been an increase in daytime burglaries in Abingdon. If you're suspicious about a vehicle which might be associated with break-ins, please take the registration number and call 101 to report it to the police, who will check the details against their database. **Always call 999 if you suspect a crime is about to be committed, or if there is one in progress.**
- Ensuring windows, doors, side gates, sheds and garages are locked helps to deter break-ins. Clearly marking mowers, tools and garden equipment with your postcode makes them less desirable to thieves.

## Cyclists

Some cyclists are cycling on footpaths in the dark, without lights. This is potentially very dangerous to both cyclists and pedestrians. Cyclists should use marked cycle paths or cycle on the road.

## Doorstep sellers

A reminder that if residents don't buy from doorstep sellers it will dissuade them from returning. Refuse to buy politely but firmly and close the door. Call 101 if you feel threatened.

## Parking

Inconsiderate parking at drop-off and pick-up times near schools is ongoing. Please do not put the safety of your child, or other children, at risk by obstructing dropped kerbs with vehicles.

## Coronavirus (Covid-19)

Neighbours who are self-isolating, or who are staying at home to protect their health, may be feeling very alone. A simple

phone call and/or an offer to help with shopping might make all the difference.

**To contact the police about non-emergencies please use the online reporting tool on the Thames Valley Police website at: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk>. You will be contacted within 24 hours.**

**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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# Not-too-serious TIPS AND ADVICE for working from home/self-isolating

## Working from Home?

Are you disciplined enough not to be distracted? Bored or lonely without work colleagues? Used to physically moving around?

The top tip is to get into a routine: get up and dressed at the usual time. And try some of these apps:

**slack** – a workplace chat app

**selfcontrol** – temporarily blocks websites such as Facebook, Instagram, eBay (or any others you may choose)

**coffitivity** – ‘recreates ambient sounds of a café to boost your creativity and help you work better’ - choose from Morning Murmur, Lunchtime Lounge, Brazil Bistro and others

**Deliveroo** – launching a no-contact food delivery service, leaving food outside the door

**Join.Me** – for meetings - similar to Skype for Business, Ring Central, Google Hangouts

**workrave** – provides regular reminders to take a break and avoid Repetitive Strain Injuries

**trrello** – for managing projects and sharing ideas using pin up boards and mood boards

**wunderlist** – for those that need/love To Do lists

*(from The Good Web Guide)*

## Not WFH but not able to leave home?

*Try some of these:*

### Gardening for April:

- Prune Hydrangea, Buddleia, Lavender
- Feed shrubs
- Seed and grow Annuals
- Stake Perennials
- Feed the lawn
- In sheltered areas, plant out hardier veg such as broad beans, beetroot, carrots, leeks and lettuce
- Start a Culinary Herb Garden



*These tips and many more from:*

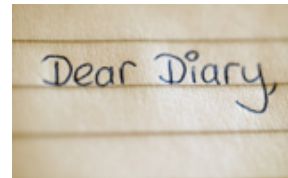
[www.sundaygardener.co.uk](http://www.sundaygardener.co.uk)

### Cooking:

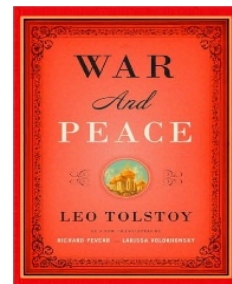
- Use those ingredients that never get used at the back of the cupboard! (if in date)
- Cook/bake something completely new
- Have a look at Michelin-starred Chef Massimo Bottura's free 'Kitchen Quarantine' cooking classes on Instagram.

### *More ideas:*

- Reconnect with old friends and acquaintances. Surprise a friend with an actual letter.
- Meet up with friends virtually via FaceTime, Zoom, Houseparty, Skype etc. Eat at the same time. Play games.



- Start a diary/novel
- Declutter – try eBay, Gumtree, or save unwanted goods for charity shops/Drayton Recycling Centre
- Sort out the photos
- Read
- Make a video
- Sing and/or dance
- Learn an instrument
- Do some First Aid Training



- Play cards/board games
- Learn a language
- Learn some computer software
- Watch a TED Talk
- Do some art – start with pencil drawings of a still life - move on to pen and ink, pastels, acrylics. Create your own cards.



- Go on a virtual museum/gallery tour, e.g. [www.eyerevolution.co.uk/](http://www.eyerevolution.co.uk/) for Tate Modern [www.louvre.fr](http://www.louvre.fr) Louvre [www.museivaticani.va](http://www.museivaticani.va) Vatican Museums

- Do a free online course
- Dust off the sewing machine and create something.
- Do some woodwork (a bird box?)
- Do some decorating.
- Listen to new genres of music. Create some playlists.
- Feed the birds
- Exercise – do yoga/pilates etc. (see back page – Hall Report)
- Plan a future fantasy holiday. It may become reality.



**NB: please send more suggestions to [editor@draytonchronicle.net](mailto:editor@draytonchronicle.net) if we are all still at home next month.....**

*Finally.....every effort has been made to try to ensure that this Chronicle is as up to date as possible at time of going to print (22/3/2020).*

## BACK PAGE

### Drayton Hall News

Well, "Hall News" is suddenly a tricky topic, as we've been swiftly overtaken by this wretched Covid-19 Virus, and all the associated issues. Not much of a surprise, but all **classes and groups** have suspended their sessions for a while, until after Easter, as a first guess, then with a review to see how things are, and the latest Govt advice.

Hopefully people aren't too gripped by panic, and by the time this edition hits doormats, there is some better news. I know of someone who is making a good recovery! At time of writing (mid-March), I see that Singapore, about half the size in area of Greater London, and half the population, has had zero deaths, and according to reports, is creeping back towards normality.

We could also be considered to be much better off than countries like San Marino, or the Faeroes, and Iceland, where the incidence of virus cases per capita is vastly higher than anywhere else. Oh, and as an aside, flu, boring, trad old flu, kills from 15 to 20,000 folk every year in UK, depending on the weather, and which variety turns up that year, and gets little mention in the Press, or all the other media options now available. It doesn't cause mass distress or daft long queues in supermarkets either!!

I see that people are **asking about exercise, if cooped up at home?** **Gemma Pearce**, leader of two of our suspended classes, (RockBox & Clubbercise), tells me:- "Yes we've got tons of exercise videos and

we're **live streaming various classes on Facebook every day next week**" {she means week beginning 23rd, this issue should hit doormats at the far end of that week}. "Please direct people to **our website or Facebook page**, see [www.gemmapearcefitness.co.uk](http://www.gemmapearcefitness.co.uk) & Facebook="Gemma Pearce Fitness".

Looking forward to a virus-free time (!) we are continuing with research and plans for a revamp of the Hall, where some changes should (hopefully!!) appear in the summer and autumn. Progress will depend on how simple (or not?!) it is to extract the allocated 'S106' housing funds from the Vale, but I'll keep all fingers crossed. Then wash them all of course - **let's be careful out there** (Hill Street Blues).  
Tony Holmes

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## NEW TELEPHONE SUPPORT SERVICE FOR OLDER PEOPLE



A new telephone support service has been launched by **Age UK Oxfordshire**, offering advice and assistance to older people concerned during this time.

Call **01865 411 288**, leave your name and phone number and you will get a call back as soon as possible.

Assistance includes a friendly, weekly call to see how you are and to problem-solve if you are facing practical problems.

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