

# DRAY + ON CHRONICLE

MARCH  
2020

Volume 43  
No. 2



*Editor – Tony Holmes*

# COMING CHRONICLES

The April Chronicle will be available for distribution to Area Agents on or about **Friday March 27th**. The Editor will be **Margaret Inger (07967 730735)**. Contributions may be e-mailed (as below, best to 'editor@'), or placed in the Chronicle letter box, outside Vickery's store on Drayton Green, **NO LATER than 5.15 pm on Monday, March 16th**.

After this deadline, items get less precedence for inclusion (No guarantees!), & need to reach us by the Wednesday.

**STOP PRESS - ADVERTISERS should note** that the deadline for ads is EARLIER, Friday Mar 13th, due to their preparation time.

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

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

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

to reach the next editor →	<a href="mailto:editor@draytonchronicle.net">editor@draytonchronicle.net</a>
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**Please remember to check** that you soon get a confirmation reply. We do occasionally have emails sent – and they just don't arrive!

2. An **email attachment**, in WORD please (NOT a PDF file!).
3. A good, **black typescript** on white A4 paper or smaller. **BUT** – IF you can type it, PLEASE see numbers #1 & #2 above?!
4. **Hand-written? Preferably not, if more than about a para**. This is 2020, should be a way to type and send it?! (= less work, we have plenty already! & less errors!)

ADVERTISING RATES				
For Block Advert (about 1/12 <sup>th</sup> page)				
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Advertiser Category	1	3	6	12
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Half-size block adverts, normally for one or two inserts, are charged at half the above rates.


**All requests must be accompanied by cash or a cheque made payable to 'Drayton Chronicle'.**

They may be placed in the Chronicle Letter Box, outside Vickery's Hardware Store, Drayton Green, in shopping hours, OR send your requirements :- [advertising@draytonchronicle.net](mailto:advertising@draytonchronicle.net)

DATES for the FOLLOWING Chronicle		
Issue for	Copy Deadlines :- to Editor by (& Ads on the Fri before these)	Chronicle published and available for distribution on Fridays:-
<b>MAY</b>	Mon April 20th	May 1st

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## CHRONICLE NEWS

**Carol & Colin Arnold**, our Distribution Managers, tell me that we could probably do with an extra Distributor.

This would involve perhaps part of a couple of days, every 3 or 4 months, receiving boxes of the next month's issue from the printer, and counting out each agent's allocation, putting them in the bags provided (& labelled – by Carol & Colin, **along with those agents, ALL doing a grand job!!**). It IS helpful – though not essential - if a friend can help with the second phase, as if one person drives round the village, the other one can hop out at each agent's house to drop their copies off.

We have 3 distributors, and a 4th would be handy to go on the rota, helps cover for any holidays too. If it's something YOU could help with, please contact **Carol on 01235 531923**.

### Chronicle Contributions

Yes, we love contributions, without them, editing gets quite tricky! We HAVE for many years invited people to send in all sorts of articles; one thing we DO miss now, with Agents not knocking on doors to sell Lottery tickets, is all the info for our 'Neighbourhood News' item, movers in & out (see p9). So, if you're aware of a new neighbour, or one who's retired to the seaside (?), do please let us know. But if it's a new arrival, maybe check first, not everyone likes publicity?!

So yes, please DO send in your contributions, preferably via email to [editor@draytonchronicle.net](mailto:editor@draytonchronicle.net) – and now we're in lovely colour, we also need more photos (high res if poss), especially those suitable for the front cover (I think we've now had the Sutton Wick pond several times?!).

**This Month's Cover** – Some newer residents may not be aware of this, the **commemorative stone** installed at St Peters Church, to celebrate the **Victoria Cross** awarded to **Sgt. Edward Mott**. The Govt had decided that all (WW1) V.C. winners would get a memorial stone, for their birthplace, the ceremony was fully reported in the March Chronicle, 2017, can be seen in the archive <http://www.draytonchronicle.net>

Sadly I'm not exactly sure who took the photos, which can also be seen on the village website (in 'Gallery' – many more too). That's <http://www.draytonvillage.co.uk> but it was likely Derek Pooley, who took the mass of shots for that issue, many dignitaries and the (substantial!) Mott family. Apologies if the credit should go elsewhere, we just couldn't find the name!

The **Bishop of Dorchester**, (Right Revd Colin Fletcher, OBE), who opened & closed THAT ceremony, is back in Drayton **THIS March (Friday 6th)**, for a Burial Ground consecration service (see pages 4 & 13, we're all invited).

## Local Groups & Clubs

### Drayton Table Tennis Club

The Bidmead team now know their Quarter Final opponents being RAL. This will be a tough tie but of course we hope our three players will win through.

In the Team Cup competition – Handicap Shield, our 6 entered teams have had mixed results although the Corinthians have yet to play as they are in a group of 3 rather than the 4 that applies to most groups. The Artisans and the Dingos are in the same group and played a close match with the Division One Artisans overcoming the Division 3 Dingos.



The Other Division 3 team Eagles lost their match at Grove City but still can go through if they beat next opponents Sandford D. Our two Division 4 teams Fury and Giants also both lost but as they both have two more matches to play things could turn around.

Actually the Fury and Giants are currently first and second in Division 4 so we could be looking at a double success! However Giants have played more matches than their challengers so it remains to be seen if they can maintain the pace.

The Eagles have had a mini revival in Division 3 but still lie in danger of relegation. They will need a very good finish to the season to avoid the drop. *John Gould*

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**March Dates** Ab'don (3rd Fri) 20th; Didcot (2nd Sat) 14th

TVFM news - ring 01235 227266 see website - [Tvmf.org.uk](http://Tvmf.org.uk)

### Drayton WI

### Ann Webb

This month's meeting is our AGM, when new committee members are elected, and an exciting year begins.

It's **Thursday March 12th** at 7.30pm in the Caudwell Day Centre (Gravel Lane).

See you there!

## Red Lion Accommodation

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suite

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



I am delighted to announce that the **Drayton Rainbows** unit has reopened! **Elaine Boorman** has kindly volunteered to help and will be our new Leader; this is very exciting and we are most grateful to her, and also to others who have offered to help her.

Seven girls have joined us, and they will all be making their **Rainbow Promises** as members of Girl Guiding in March. Next month we hope to publish a photo of the event!

Drayton Rainbows are 5 and 6 year old girls and they meet at **5.30 till 6.30 on Thursdays** (in term time) in Drayton Hall.

To register please visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) and look at information for parents, or email us at :-

[draytonrainbows@gmail.com](mailto:draytonrainbows@gmail.com)

**Mary Thompson** {Abbey District Commissioner}

# ST PETER'S CHURCH

(part of the DAMASCUS Parish)

www.damascusparish.org.uk

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

## CHURCH NOTICES

### REGULAR SERVICES

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

### REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

### CALENDAR for MARCH

Tues	3rd	2.30 pm	1st Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Fri	6th	10.30 am	<b>Consecration Service</b> (Bishop of Dorchester)	
Sat	7th	10.00 am	Children's Society Coffee Morning	
Sun	22nd	9.45 am	Mothering Sunday Service	
Sun	29th	11.00 am	<b>*** DAMASCUS Parish Service (at Milton)</b>	

**\*\*\*NB On this day, NO Service at St Peter's.**

### PARISH REGISTER

<b>Funerals</b>	Jan 30th	Robert Astell
	Feb 6th	Arthur William Roberts
	Feb 14th	Gwendoline Constance Price
<b>Baptisms</b>	Feb 2nd	Harper Vaughan

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### YOU STAY – WE PRAY (March)

1st – 7th	Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman Lane; Conifer Drive
8th – 14th	Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close
15th – 21st	Manor Close; The Green
22nd – 28th	High Street; Chiers Drive; Cheers Farm; Halls Close
29th – 4th (Apr)	Friars Mews; Monk Close; Prior Drive; Abbot Crescent

### From the DAMASCUS Ministry Team

#### **Church of England launches energy rating tool for churches - as Synod considers new 'net zero'**

The Church of England is launching an **energy rating system** similar to those used for household appliances. The aim is to help monitor the **carbon footprint** of its almost 40,000 buildings, as General Synod has recently voted on a major new proposal to reach 'net zero' CO2 emissions. The hope is for all parts of the Church of England, from parishes to national bodies, to aim for **ambitious year-on-year reductions in emissions** to reach 'net zero' by 2045 at the latest.

In a first step, parishes are being offered a **new rating tool**, which calculates their **energy consumption**. It will take into account factors including the type of power they use, whether they are on 'green' tariffs, the size of the building and usage.

The Bishop of Salisbury, Nicholas Holtam, the Church of England's lead bishop for Environmental Affairs, said:- "The Church has buildings in every style & material from the past 1,500 years, which pose some unique challenges when it comes to energy efficiency.

"However, churches are not museums, but living buildings serving their communities every day of the week, and being greener isn't about doing less, it's about equipping parishes to get **smarter about energy consumption**.

"Christians are called to safeguard God's creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. Faced with the reality of catastrophic climate change, which will affect the world's most vulnerable people the soonest, **radical and immediate action is our only option.**"

A paper sent to Synod members before February's General Synod also outlined the potential impacts of climate change directly affecting the Church.

It warned parishes that, as impacts start to accelerate, more churches will need to be prepared to play missional roles in their communities, including offering sanctuary in extreme weather events, as was seen at (church) St Cuthbert, Fishlake, following flooding of the River Don last year.

The DAMASCUS PCC is committed to running **energy audits** on all our churches and looking for ways to develop as 'Eco-churches'. Watch this space!

*The Reverend Helen Kendrick  
(Rector of the DAMASCUS Parish)*

#### **Letters to the Editor**

The Editor reserves the right to shorten, clarify or reject any letter. Each letter must bear a legible name & address, and a phone number (please!) in case any text needs verification.

You may request that the name isn't published, and we'll usually abide with this if there's a plausible reason.

## Local Groups & Clubs

### Drayton WIVES

This **January** we had an excellent walk of Drayton new and old. The walk was led by Liz Branson and showed us places that I didn't know were there!! Even if you have lived in a place a long time it's still nice to see it from someone else's perspective and maybe discover places you didn't know about.

The monthly meeting was the **Body Shop** and the talk was by Sarah from the shop at Didcot. Sarah has been with the company for 13 yrs and said it has evolved a lot.

In 1976 in Brighton, Anita Roddick created the company to sell cosmetics which were ethically sourced, natural and cruelty free. Anita started with 25 shops and used bottles from the local hospital to fill them with labels which were hand written.

The original shop was painted green as that was the only colour she had! In 1977 she sold 50% of the business to a local garage owner. By 1984, 87% of the stores were outside the United Kingdom

Now the company sells over 1200 products in 3000 stores in 65 countries. In the UK there are 239, with one locally in Didcot. They sell one **Hemp hand cream** every 9 seconds to both men and women, with the next best seller being Shea butter made from shea nuts from Ghana.

They then started getting involved with organisations such as GreenPeace, and charities combating violence in the home and sex trafficking young people. And it is committed to reducing plastic in the sea where there is more plastic than fish!! In India there are 1.5 million waste pickers who work with the Body Shop to recycle plastic.

Body Shop is committed to 23 countries where it gives work to over 25000 people -- it has recently been taken over by Natura from Brazil but also now owns Avon and an Australian company.

In the shop at Didcot the staff have over 56.5 years experience and offer consultations for makeup and skin care and also offer adult and children's parties; so go and meet them next time you are shopping and **have a pamper!!!**

[Lisa Lammiman](#)

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## OTHER LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP

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



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[**Ed's note**:- **apologies** for the tech glitch last month, when the Wives report was omitted, playing catch-up this time!] >>>

'**This**' month [Ed:- sorry, it's really back before Xmas, hence the text . . .] we had a really enjoyable day out in Salisbury.

The weather was excellent and there was something for everyone. The wonderful Cathedral, the church which had an exhibition of Christmas trees decorated by local groups and we were even treated to carols from the local boys school.

And of course a Christmas market!

We have now had our Christmas party which started with sherry and mince pies, and then a 'name that pub' drawing game. All local pubs and some were named **\*\*very quickly!!!**

[\*\*Doc:- "Do you drink much?" – "No, I shpill mosht of it"]

Then we had our entertainment by local celebrity Pervin who brought her harp and played carols which we sang along to. After all our singing we had tea and cake with 'Secret Santa', a present for everyone. **(also LL)**



# BAPTIST CHURCH

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



REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

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

**HOT NEWS** - BAPTIST CAFÉ with tea, coffee, cake & a chat! Thursdays 11.00 to 13.00, rain or shine, in or out.

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COULD YOU GIVE BLOOD? There was an appeal recently, local TV news, **more blood donors needed.**

You can usually give blood between ages 17 & 66 (a bit older in some cases) but check the guidelines on <https://www.blood.co.uk> and then register. Or call 0300 123 23 23 Go on – make a DIFFERENCE!



## WESTMINSTER VIEW



Our new MP (Wantage/Didcot) is David Johnston (OBE, awarded for services to Social Mobility and Education).

The first weeks as an MP are a whirlwind, whether you've worked in politics or not before. I hadn't, but even as someone who has run organisations it is a considerable adjustment, and it is just as much of one for those who've worked for MPs or Ministers before. One challenge is simply finding your way around: although the House of Commons is supposed to have only 4 floors, all the nooks and crannies mean it has around 65 different levels! [Ed's note:- we did a Commons tour last month, and David is right, the place is HUGE!]

The moment you are elected you begin receiving 150-200 emails every day, but you don't have an office or any staff and so people end up waiting for you to reply a lot longer than you want them to. I try to prioritise constituents in urgent need first, followed by local organisations, as national ones just bombard all MPs regularly whether or not you have any direct connection to the issues they deal with. I have picked up some local campaigns where my predecessor left off, including that to try and reopen Grove station. I've also become patron of two local charities, Play2Give and Secret Santa 365, both of which may well be familiar to you.

Beyond the constituency, I was pleased to get my maiden speech out of the way on Jan 14th, during a debate on education. I was asked to be the Conservative **Co-Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on social mobility**, given my background in running charities that tried to improve social mobility before coming into politics. I have also been elected to the **Education Select Committee**. I look forward to learning how both types of structure can influence policy.

One of the privileges of being an MP is that every week you see more of what your constituency has to offer and more of the great initiatives that local people are involved in. I am writing this in the middle of February having just visited the 21 acre site of the Didcot Railway Centre, getting a great behind the scenes look that I'm keen for my mother, a railway enthusiast, to experience.

I also went along to the **Big Fix Repair Cafe** organised by Sustainable Didcot, in which volunteers mend everything – from toys and clothes, to tools and electricals – so that the items get a new lease of life and don't end up in landfill.

Having just collected the keys to the new home we'll be living in in the constituency, I am looking forward to immersing myself in the community more fully.

<<< **If you need to get in touch with me, email** [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk), **phone** 0207 219 3858, or **write**, c/o House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. For up-to-date info please also see my Facebook page that's [@davidjohnston4wantage](https://www.facebook.com/davidjohnston4wantage)

The **Waste Wizard** is a new online tool to kill the confusion around recycling and help Oxfordshire defeat General Waste. Type in your postcode and the name of any item to find out whether it can be reused, repaired, donated or recycled - [oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard)

# Drayton Wasps FC

## Drayton Wasps Football Club 2020

### Community Re-Integration and Sponsorship



Drayton Wasps Football Club over the last few years has been building a platform so that we can **re-establish** ourselves back into the

community. We now have 2 great competitive teams that are challenging for cup finals and league titles once again.

However, this summer we have plans to **totally redesign the whole clubhouse** not just for the benefit of the club but also with the hope of making it another exciting venue for the whole village to benefit from. This will open the doors to opportunities like youth football and many other things.

This is when we **look to you**, as members of the community, if you would like to help out with our goals.

First of all we are looking for **sponsorship from any local business owner** which would involve getting a **board** outside the clubhouse, a **mention on the sponsorship page** of our brand new website (launching soon) as well as an optional framed Drayton Wasps shirt. This sponsorship would be £250.

Furthermore, to keep up with our goal of reintegrating back into the community, we will be posting all previous monthly results and upcoming fixtures in the Chronicle and on our website. If sponsorship is something you would be interested in, **please contact us** on [draytonwasps@gmail.com](mailto:draytonwasps@gmail.com) or alternatively you can contact Chairman **Pete Ivey** on 07704 166982.

*(Bradley Cox)*

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## Abingdon Reservoir - Latest GARD News

Ofwat and The Environment Agency have responded to water companies' plans by requiring a **major strategic study** to inform fresh plans for water resources across the South-East. GARD will be closely monitoring developments during the research period, likely to be the next three years. In the meantime, GARD will continue to:-

**Keep up the pressure** on the water companies and continue to ensure that government ministers, local MPs, councillors and all other stakeholders are kept well informed.

**Work with** local parish and district councils, and Oxfordshire County Council, encouraging them to engage with the consultation process. Some have registered their interest as stakeholders in the strategic study, and more have agreed to.

**Press our view** that the abandonment of water companies extracting from threatened chalk streams, something which we wholly support, does NOT require the reservoir to be constructed (as is put out in Thames Water and Affinity Water propaganda). In concert with CPRE in Oxfordshire and Hertfordshire we will press for our cheaper, more easily delivered options, using existing reservoirs near London or water transfers from the Midlands to supply the Hertfordshire Chiltern area and take the pressure off the streams.

Additionally:- **Commission an extended study** into the issue of flooding in the reservoir area. We hope this will provide detailed information about the risks for each of the surrounding villages and South Abingdon.

**GARD's AGM** will be on **Tuesday April 28th** at 7:30 pm in the Millennium room, Steventon village hall. We urge you to attend if you can.

We are also looking to **broaden our committee** and would particularly welcome interest from villages other than Steventon. Please contact Deborah Bennett at [gard.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:gard.secretary@gmail.com) for further information.

## Introducing . . . Drayton

(the one in Somerset!)

**Drayton, Somerset** is just 2.3 miles from Langport in the heart of the Somerset Levels and can boast the remains of two Roman villas. We are just a couple of miles from Muchelney Abbey, which was destroyed by Henry 8th during the Reformation. If you look carefully at our assortment of houses you will spot some of the dressed Blue Lias stone robbed from the ruins.

On the **Somerset Levels**, we are surrounded by apple orchards. Cider-making was an important occupation in the village but now we just have one person doing it. Past occupations included lime burners, farmers, willow cutters, cow and pig men, agricultural labourers, carpenters, blacksmiths and gamekeepers. Women were collar makers, shirt makers, glovers and domestic servants. Now we have a number of retired and active servicemen, RNAS Yeovilton being just a short drive away.

With a population of just 379 at the time of the 2011 census, we have a village Hall and 15th century church, but **no shops, school, gas supply, street lighting or public transport.**

Our recently re-furbished pub is the Drayton Crown and villagers were relieved (and thirsty!) when, after a two-year re-fit, it opened again and is now the social meeting point of the village.

On Twelfth Night (January 5), Drayton is only one of a handful of villages left in the country that still carry out the long tradition of **Wassail**. Our Wassail night is not the blessing of the apple tree but to wish goodwill on friends and neighbours. Men from the village call on selected houses and sing their Wassail song outside. At the line 'Oh Maid, Oh Maid, with your silver head pin, pray open the door and let us all in', the Wassailers are invited into the home to partake in a drink, always alcoholic, and quite often mulled cider or wine. They call at around 12 houses and start and finish at the pub, so you can imagine that there are a few sore heads the next day! This tradition has gone on unbroken for hundreds of years and we are very proud of it. For those who have heard of **Cecil Sharp**, the man who collected folk songs at the beginning of the 20th Century, the Drayton Wassail Song was the second one that he wrote down.

We are very proud of our **thatched War Memorial** - just one of only five in the country. It stands on the corner, opposite the pub, displaying the names of our brave men who lost their lives during the Great and Second World Wars. ➔➔

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We still have a **Women's Friendly Society**. This was formed about 150 years ago, when ladies, as with the Men's Friendly, would pay an annual subscription and if anyone fell on hard times, much needed help would be given to them.

They meet in June every year, and like the ladies before them, parade to the church following the banner. After a church service, the ladies make their way back to supper and catch up with the other ladies of the village, and with the ladies of the next village to us, Muchelney.

A prominent resident was **Harry Stone**, born here in 1860. Harry was a photographer, a taxidermist and a naturalist. He lived in Church Cottage which stands opposite our pub and during his adult life, he left a wonderful photographic record of our village. He photographed our houses, our people and their occupations, their children and the parties, Club Days etc, that went on in the village. These photographs still survive and we think ourselves so lucky that we have a peep into Drayton past.

We hope this has given you a glimpse into our lovely village. Please have a look at our website <https://draytonsomerset.co.uk>

*Jacqui Price*

{Ed's note:- There are quite a few other Draytons – this will be a 'regular occasional' feature!}

**ANY WOOL to SPARE?** The League of Friends up at the Churchill hospital would love to receive contributions, so their knitting corps can create some items (toys, gloves, etc) to sell in their cafe & raise valuable funds. To make a gift, well, you **MUST** know of somebody that goes up there?!



# YOUR LETTERS

## Gwen Price

Dear Editor, via email

The members of Drayton Wives are very sorry to hear of the death of Gwen Price.

She was a member of Wives over many years and served on the committee several times. While I was chairman she was on the committee and organised several of the Wives events.

She also wrote the monthly piece for the Chronicle. Gwen made a very valuable contribution to The Wives and she will be sadly missed.

Our condolences go to her family at this sad time.

Josie Midwinter (former Chair of Drayton Wives)



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## **NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS**

A very warm welcome to Emma Stephens & Terry Jones, and their daughter Emily, who have moved into Church Lane from rural France.



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## Mitochondrial Disease Poem

(for the Lily Foundation - Bradley Cox)

Sunlight from the sky may strike my leaves,

Filling me with energy - that's what everyone believes,

But to learn the truth I want you to view me as a flower,

Albeit, a flower with Mitochondrial disease.

I show off my beautiful pink petals as if they are parading,

But deep inside, the energy in my cells is fading,

Each day the life force in my stem feels like it is awaking,

But when I have it bad, you might just catch me shaking.

The Bluebells, Dandelions and Tulips all feel sorry for me,

But I am here to remind them that no one goes scott free,

The Orchids I've bloomed with will also feel the pain,

If I deteriorate and wash away with the rain.

However, the beginning of the end of this disease has finally begun,

Due to research and charitable events made possible by everyone,

The hope and care for families will help to pull this through,

Spare a thought for those affected and think what you could do?

**Thanks for taking the time to read my poem**, I'm trying to make a difference and literally fight for a cure to **Mitochondrial Disease**. 10 million people in the UK suffer from diseases in which mitochondrial dysfunction is believed to be involved, while every day in the UK a baby is born who will develop the disease. It is debilitating, there is no cure, lives are cut far too short. The Lily Foundation is fighting to change this, their ultimate aim to one day find a cure.

I am currently in training for a charity boxing match, trying to raise funds for the Lily Foundation, because I want to help, but I need your support. Every single penny raised makes a difference – if you would like to donate please see my donation link here:-

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/bradley-cox5>

Or if you'd like to donate another way, please contact me via [btcox09@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:btcox09@yahoo.co.uk)

**Abingdon's 'SAFE PLACES' scheme** >>> a reminder :- It aims to provide a **safe place** for people to go if they are feeling lost, worried or threatened and will provide important help for **vulnerable people**, such as those with **dementia, learning disabilities or mental health needs**. Places signed up to help are **Abingdon's Library, & Museum, & Boots, Costa Coffee and the Co-Op**.

## Your District Councillor



This month's report is on the budget, I'm afraid, and the finances.

You may recall that in my election literature, there was quite a bit on **balancing the books and fixing the finances**. Well, we've had our own budget this year, so I can report on how we've done.

**Firstly** – the **financial pressures aren't solely on us**. The cuts in funding sourced through the Government over the past several years have meant huge pressure on all councils (in a recent press article, more than a fifth of councils in the country are going to have to make cuts that would significantly affect the public, and a tenth of councils are in danger of failing to meet their legally statutory services). It used to be unthinkable that a council could effectively go bankrupt – but Northamptonshire County Council went insolvent in 2018.

**Secondly** – the Vale of White Horse District Council has two specific issues with funding. The first was that the level of business rates we are allowed to retain (the vast majority get passed on to central Government) was based on our business tax base the year before Didcot Power Station was to close – **which ripped away 20% of our business tax base at a stroke**. This means we get a very poor amount of money retained from business rates. The second was that thanks to some decisions made by the last administration, we're highly reliant on the New Homes Bonus funding (it's about a third of our income). The Government are **phasing out NHB funding for councils** over the next few years...

The **Five Councils Partnership** was supposed to reduce our costs to help with this – unfortunately, it actually **increased** them. Outsourcing in an attempt to reduce costs also ended up **increasing them**. →> →>

[Ed's Note:- I'm guessing there'll be some people round the village – and especially if they've worked in procurement – who may find that 'increased/ing' quite a head-scratcher?!]

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→> When we came into office, Andrew Crawford (the new Cabinet Member for Finance) knew he had a very difficult job ahead of him. I'm pleased to report that he's done better than I'd hoped. The new budget has **no** cuts to frontline services, **extends exemptions** to Council Tax for disabled people and single parents, and managed to turn a deficit of £1.8 million for the upcoming year into a surplus of £0.14 million. We are, as we feared, going to have to **raise Council Tax** – but only by about £5 per month for Band D properties.

Pulling out of the Five Council Partnership is going to help with costs – as well as improving local responsiveness. We're still concerned about the longer term – there should be a rebasing of the business tax bases in a couple of years and Government are looking at some form of replacement funding stream for NHB (albeit we can't expect it to be nearly as lucrative as before), so we're also looking at potential for merging with South Oxfordshire District Council – but we want to make sure it would improve finances before we seriously consider it (we don't want another Five Council Partnership debacle) – it would force an immediate rebasing of business rates, for example, which should help us out. We do need to be very careful going forwards – fixing the finances longer term will be a more lengthy process.

Anyway, **the summary is**: no cuts to front line services (from VoWHDC level, anyway), books balanced (for now, anyway), a £5 per month increase in Band D Council Tax (I'm sorry – but it's about in line with inflation, anyway), extension to Council Tax exemptions for disabled and single parents, and books balanced this year – but significant challenges still remaining.

That's all for this month. Take care, **Andy Cooke**

This piece was in before, but worth repeating, as YOU can make a difference! It's right to look at the dangers of engine idling and how YOU can help clean your local area's air. The Royal College of Physicians estimate **40,000 deaths a year in the UK are linked to air pollution**, with engine idling certainly contributing to this. **Stopped for a minute? Switch OFF!**

# MORE LETTERS

## Drayton Diners

Dear Editor, via email

It is nearly 4 years since Drayton Diners first met for supper in The Wheatsheaf (then hosted by Geraldine and Austin). Since then we've met (between 4 and 14 of us) on the third Thursday of every month (including December) at about 7.30pm, apart from a break of a few months while Jo and Jake got up to speed.

The only 'qualification' has been for diners (singles, couples or families) to be current or past residents of Drayton (and guests). This would seem to be a good way for new residents (including those on the new estates) to get to know some longer term residents - some of us have been around and became friends in a babysitting circle in the 1980s! - and/or their neighbours.

Jo and Jake also welcome us with a discount on their home made fare. Anybody interested in joining in (there is no membership), email to:- [pause.forthought@gmail.com](mailto:pause.forthought@gmail.com) or speak to Jo/Jake at The Wheatsheaf. We could plan some other food related events for 2020.

*Daniel Scharf*

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## Vicky please, NOT Sheila!

Dear Editor, via email

Please could you inform Drayton residents of a change in phone number for booking the Caudwell Day Centre?

For bookings, please do **not** ring Mrs Sheila Cook, as it's NOW Mrs Vicky Malin, on 01235 539625.

Thank you! *Sian Middleton (Sec, CDC C'tee)*

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## Dad's Army?! (but in Drayton?)

Dear Editor, Abbeymead, Glos

I've been reading an excellent book called 'Abingdon in World War 2', written by Bob Frampton, in which he mentions a Home Guard unit called 'B' Company, in Drayton.

Could any readers please supply any information about the Unit, eg members, training, base location etc?

If you can help, I'm at :- [adesmith@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:adesmith@blueyonder.co.uk)

Kind Regards *Adrian Smith (former Drayton resident)*

[Ed's note:- the request is irrespective of whether or not they had a Boogie-woogie Bugle Boy, of Company B – younger readers, ask grannie/granddad! - this lot certainly didn't! >>]



## Nordic Walking?

Dear Editor, via email

Sutton Courtenay's Nordic Walking Group, with a local British Nordic Walking Instructor (INWA), is running a **free** three week course starting on Weds March 4th, at Sutton Courtenay Rec, 09.30 to 10.30 (poles are provided).

People once trained are then able to join two free walks each week all year, same venue start at 10.15, & finish 11.30.

Any reader wishing to register should contact 'Go Active Gold' [Annalie.Thomasson@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:Annalie.Thomasson@southandvale.gov.uk) as soon as poss.

Kind Regards

*Graham Wells*

# Health Hints!

## DIABETES – On the Increase?!

**Avril Smith** grew up in Drayton and left in 1981 on getting married. She is a **qualified Registered Nurse** with a specialist **Diabetes nursing qualification**, and is very passionate about the disease. She believes that the more people know and understand about this long term condition, the more chance they have of not having to suffer the consequences of poor management and increased risks of other complications such as heart attack, stroke, blindness and lower limb amputation.

Avril writes: We need to talk about diabetes so let's get started! This article [we intend to have an occasional series] talks about the basic **differences between Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes**.

Diabetes is a long-term condition that occurs when the **blood glucose (sugar) is too high**. Blood glucose comes from most of the food we eat, our bodies need it for energy and cell development.

The **pancreas**, a small organ near the stomach, produces a hormone called insulin, which is needed to help take the glucose to the cells. The average daily secretion of insulin from the pancreas of a healthy person ranges from 30-50 units and this can be influenced by certain factors such as **higher intake of food rich in sugar and fats and . . . larger portions!**

To differentiate, there is Type 1 Diabetes (formerly known as Insulin-dependent diabetes or IDDM) and the more common Type 2 Diabetes (formerly Non-insulin dependent diabetes or NIDDM). However in the clinical setting these terms are no longer used as some Type 2 Diabetic patients go on to have to have insulin due to a number of factors, which will be discussed.

People who have Type 1 Diabetes need Insulin to survive. Type 1 diabetes is where the body does not produce any insulin and this group of people need insulin, otherwise they will die.

Type 1 Diabetes is not caused by being overweight or having an unhealthy lifestyle, it's **NOT the person's fault**. It is thought to be **an auto-immune disease** which occurs when the body's immune system attacks and destroys the insulin secreting cells of the pancreas. The exact cause is still being investigated.

With **Type 2**, the body either does not produce enough insulin or there is a problem as it cannot get to the cells, caused by insulin resistance; **this version is by far the most common** and it's estimated that 90% of UK people with diabetes have Type 2.

Several factors are taken into consideration when deciding what is the best treatment for an individual with a Type 2 diagnosis, and this can be as basic as dietary and lifestyle changes. However it is known that Type 2 Diabetes is a long-term, progressive condition and that other treatments and interventions may have to be considered in order to give the person the best options for good health and risk-reduction of further complications.

[Avril's next article will discuss sign and symptoms of diabetes.]



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### Dementia? FoodForTheBrain.Org

“Between **one-third and one-half** of dementia cases may **theoretically be preventable** with changes to lifestyle and nutrition” says Professor David Smith (of FoodForTheBrain.org).

A vast amount of **dementia** publicity has many of us to believe that nothing can be done about this disease until a drug cure is found, and that it's somehow inevitable and **‘in the genes’**.

However, research to date shows that only 1% of the risk of Alzheimer's is actually caused by genes, and that **up to half of the risk of dementia** has been linked to diet and lifestyle factors, that can be changed. **Food for the Brain's aim** is to promote a more proactive message, providing positive steps that we can all take to reduce our risk and give us back a sense of control over our own brain health. We provide a free online Cognitive Function Test that helps identify current cognition levels and specific diet and lifestyle factors to focus on. **See the test here:-**  
<https://www.foodforthebrain.org/alzheimers-prevention/take-the-test.aspx>

Our **6 step eBook** is designed for use following the test to **improve diet and lifestyle factors** by providing practical info on the 6 key steps identified in research. These 6 steps help reduce the risk of cognitive decline and dementia – as well as improve general mental and physical wellbeing and can **be followed by anyone at any age**. See:- <https://www.foodforthebrain.org/alzheimers-prevention/6-prevention-steps.aspx> Overview in diagram>>

[The 'GL' in 'low GL diet' = Glycemic Load, they do explain it!]

# Consecration

**Invitation to the Consecration** of some land in Drayton Parish Cemetery.

There will be a service at 10.30am on Friday March 6th in **St Peter's Church**, led by the **Bishop of Dorchester**, (Right Revd Colin Fletcher OBE) to consecrate the land.

Refreshments will be served in the Church Room afterwards. **Everyone is welcome.**

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## Can WE Help the NHS Help US this Winter?!

Patients are urged to help the NHS help them this winter, and so patients are being reminded to only use Emergency Departments in a **REAL emergency**.

There are a **range of alternative options** available for non-emergency situations to ensure you get the appropriate care you need, and save an unnecessary trip to A&E :-

**Self-care** is the best choice for **minor illnesses and injuries** – a range of common winter ailments can be treated at home with a well-stocked medicine cabinet.

**Local pharmacies** can give advice on several conditions, such as coughs, headaches, upset stomachs and skin conditions, as well as advise on stopping coughs and colds from getting worse.

**NHS 111** has call handlers who can help you choose the right health services for your needs, as well as a website. NHS 111 can put you in touch with a clinician, a GP, book you an appointment at your nearest minor injuries unit. You can also use NHS 111 online, via **111.nhs.uk**

**Minor injuries units** (eg Abingdon) can treat deep cuts, small burns, sprains, sports injuries, & infected wounds.

Your local GP may offer extended opening hours into the evening or at the weekend.

**Most importantly**, only attend Emergency Departments for a **genuine emergency**, losing consciousness, suspected heart attack or stroke, severe breathing difficulties, or severe bleeding that cannot be stopped. **THANK YOU.**



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## U3A – in DRAYTON?

A group belonging to the Abingdon U3A, the **Adventure and Social group**, have recently started to use the Drayton Village hall. You may ask "What is the U3A?". It is a movement of **retired and semi-retired people** who come together to continue their educational, social and creative interests in a friendly and informal environment. Members of the U3A draw upon their knowledge and experience to teach and learn from each other. It is a registered charity, all volunteer run to provide a positive, cost effective and sustainable impact on the wellbeing and future of retired people in the UK.

The Abingdon U3A has been **very successful** and currently has over 400 members, this is probably a little too successful because it has grown beyond the size of its current premises – the Preston Road Community Centre. The U3A now needs a new branch within the area – **Drayton would be an excellent choice**, if **anybody would like to set-up a branch**, this is easy to do and there are a number of people willing to help. Please visit U3A Thames Valley Network if you feel this may be of further interest.



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**Thames Valley Police** have produced a **Home Security Guide** to help residents with a (huge!) range of physical and digital security measures. There is also advice on how to avoid invalidating your home insurance through poor security, and a handy checklist when going away.

See <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk> & search for 'home security' (it's under 'downloads').



## Richard Webber - Oxon CC

### County Council Report

The 'Blame Game' >>

When things go wrong, it seems there is always someone to blame. "Heads must roll!" or, more recently, "Deputy Heads must roll". It seems that if heads of some sort don't roll, we are never satisfied. In politics, at all levels, it seems that this rule is even more fiercely applied than elsewhere. If the social worker did not pick up on someone in trouble, or the train doesn't run to time, or the bus doesn't turn up, or the pothole hasn't been filled, or the streetlamp has been off for months, or my neighbour is annoying me, *someone* is always answerable. Whilst it may be true that everything that goes wrong is always at least one person's fault, society often seems to want to spend more time and energy discovering who is to blame than it does in trying to ensure that the same mistake doesn't happen again.

I wonder how many well-meaning, hard-working people have suffered as a result. I am not talking about scapegoating here – that is unforgivable – I am talking about people who may well have got things wrong, but who are then asked to pay a far too heavy price as a result of society's attitude to blame.

So, why am I writing this? As a District and County Councillor, I am often painfully aware of how blame can be shunted around because no-one is prepared to risk being blamed.

"That's not my job, it's his/hers."

"That's not my department, it's theirs."

"That's not my Council's responsibility, it's the other's."

"I never received the email."

"Government won't give us the money to do it, or to do it better."

I receive more than a dozen or so emails a day requiring me to act. Here is how I apportion blame:- >>



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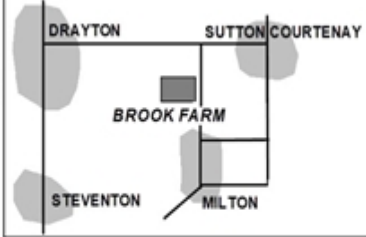
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>> As far as possible, I try to act quickly (Not always successful – my fault).

I nearly (my fault) always manage to pass on to a relevant officer or council department the concerns expressed in the email. Quite often, I have to follow up with a further request (their fault) to get anything done.

Sometimes, in the eyes of the email writer, I am wholly responsible for the issue (not fair, their fault). Sometimes things slip through the net because I thought the problem was resolved (my fault) or because someone at a Council has let it slip (their fault) or nothing can be done (government's fault or everyone's fault).

I am sure you get where I am going with this. In the end, **the only thing that really matters** is that the problem is solved and, if it can't be, it is passed on or up to someone else who may be able to solve it.

It seems that "pinning blame" on someone has become an objective above all else and this does not necessarily create an atmosphere where individuals work best, where councils and councillors work best and where society works best.

Blame properly and fairly applied should improve things. It should always be tempered with patience and understanding that people make mistakes and, in most cases, they are the people most likely to avoid the same mistakes in future.

If you have feelings on any County issues you would like me to hear, **please contact me**:- [richardwebber777@gmail.com](mailto:richardwebber777@gmail.com) or 01235 534001.

**Richard Webber**

(OCC Cllr, Sutton Courtenay & Marcham Division)

### Sudoku Competition

The winner of the Q Gardens ice cream vouchers in the December issue was **Andy Ventom**. The correct answer was 34. Many thanks to all (the many!) who entered.

## Parish Council Tamsin Crane (Chr)

[Ed:- We didn't receive a report of the latest Parish Council news, but as we go to print there's just been a meeting with Miller Homes (yes, another one), so there should be an account in the next issue].

The next Parish Council meeting will be on **Monday March 2nd**, at 7.30 pm, in the Caudwell Day Centre in Gravel Lane. For any new residents (perhaps some old ones too!) Gravel Lane is behind the bus shelter at The Green, across from the Post Office. The Day Centre is at the far end, only limited parking, so do please walk or cycle if you can. As ever, **all are welcome to attend**.

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

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

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Ever Wondered What YOUR Parish Council Does?

COME ALONG to the Annual Parish Meeting  
Caudwell Day Centre (Gravel Lane), March 16th

Kick-off is at 7pm (NB Limited parking!)

All Drayton Residents Welcome – Usually a variety of  
local Groups give a brief chat about their activities



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The **Police and Crime Commissioner** (PCC) for Thames Valley has awarded **voluntary & community organisations** £166,800 from the Police Property Act Fund.

The Fund is created from **money recovered** by the police and the proceeds from the sale of items that cannot be returned to identified owners, including seizures **from criminals**.

There were 169 applications to the current funding round with 42 organisations successful in receiving funding of between £1,000 & £10,000 to support the PCC's Police and Crime Plan objectives. Community and voluntary organisations play an important role in the Thames Valley. We have seen successful recipients providing important services to communities across the area.



[Great pic?! Indeed it is - See page 19 for details]

## Larkmead VETS

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## Neighbourhood Action Group 5

### Amazon Prime scam calls

In the three months between October 2019 and January 2020 over £1 million was stolen from victims as a result of this scam. **One person alone lost over £65,000.**

Victims receive an automated call saying they have been charged for an **Amazon Prime subscription** and are prompted to 'press 1' on their phone keypad to cancel the subscription.

Once they've done so **they're directed to a fraudster** posing as an Amazon customer service representative, who says that the subscription was purchased fraudulently and that remote access is needed to the victim's computer in order to fix a security flaw, and to prevent it from recurring.

They're asked to download a remote access application, often the 'Team Viewer' app, which grants the fraudster access to the victim's computer. That software is then mis-used by the criminal to monitor the victim logging into their online bank account, thus providing their personal and financial details.

There are other variants of this crime, one being where the fraudster tells the victim that they're eligible for a refund on an unauthorised transaction on their Amazon account.

#### Always question uninvited calls, texts or e-mails.

Contact the company directly using a known phone number or e-mail address. **Have the confidence** to refuse requests for financial or personal information. It's easy to get embarrassed or flustered, but it's fine to stop the discussion if you don't feel in control. **NEVER** ever install any software or visit a website as the result of a cold call.

[**Ed's note**:- a dodgy email, supposedly from Amazon (!), should be sent to **stop-spoofing@amazon.com**, you get a detailed reply back. NB, apologies, this 'Fraud & Scams' section just below was omitted last month, due to a lack of space].

### Fraud and scams

Vulnerable and elderly people in our area are being targeted by fraudsters who **claim** to be **under-cover police officers**. Their ultimate aim is to obtain money fraudulently. The victim is told that they can help in exposing corruption within the police force, and that they must deal only with the **supposed** under-cover officers. That if they contact the police themselves it would alert the corrupt officers. The victim is then asked to withdraw money from their bank account (the victim may be coached what to say to avoid alerting bank staff), which will be used as bait to arrest the corrupt officers. In reality it's picked up by the fraudsters.

**Victims say that this is a particularly convincing** and credible scam, with the fraudsters sounding completely genuine. In one instance the victim wouldn't believe the police, when they called to speak to her and to explain that she was a victim of this fraud. She was convinced that these particular officers were corrupt! The effects of such scams on victims can be profound and damaging. The police will **never** ask a member of the public for this type of assistance.

Fraudsters usually target people who **live alone and/or those who are vulnerable**. If you have friends, relatives or neighbours who are **elderly or vulnerable** they are amongst those most likely to be the targets of scams. **Please tell them** about the scam detailed above and also stress that they should never use an organisation's telephone number that's been provided to them by a caller at the door, during a phone call, in a letter or an e-mail. They should look up the number themselves and make the telephone call using a different phone from the one on which they received the call.

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



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### Fake PayPal e-mails

Between October and December 2019 Action Fraud received over three thousand reports about these fake e-mails. Victims reported losing a total of £1,121,446 during this period. Those targeted included people selling electronics, vehicles, phones and household furniture via online marketplaces.

Fraudsters send the victim an e-mail, purporting to be from PayPal, in an attempt to trick them into believing they have received payment for an item. The fraudster then sends a follow-up e-mail requesting a tracking number in the hope that the victim will be rushed into shipping the item before they've had a chance to verify the payment.

**Log into PayPal** and check for any new activity rather than acting on the e-mail or clicking any links. PayPal will e-mail or notify you in the app if you've received any payments.

**Check the basics** by looking out for misspellings and grammatical errors. Phishing scams often mimic the look and feel of PayPal e-mails and request sensitive information, which is something a genuine PayPal e-mail would never do.

**Avoid clicking** on links or downloading attachments. Hover over the link to see if it looks genuine.

Consider using a protected payment method, such as PayPal, for online purchases. PayPal can reimburse you if your purchase doesn't arrive or match the product description.

**Use common sense and steer clear of anything that seems to good to be true!**

If you think you've received a phishing e-mail you can forward it to [spoof@paypal.com](mailto:spoof@paypal.com) without changing the subject line. PayPal will let you know if it's fraudulent.

#### Find more information and advice at:

National Cyber Security Centre <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk>

Cyber Aware <https://www.cyberaware.gov.uk>

Get Safe Online <https://www.getsafeonline.org>

More advice about how to protect yourself against fraud is available on the Thames Valley Police website :-  
<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/personal-fraud/>

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

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

# BLAST *PAST* from the

Usually I venture further back in the **Pop Chart annals**, but I thought I'd check who was charting this time of year, just 20 years ago. Oh dear! Geri Halliwell and the tuneless Mel C were soon to have solo number Ones, as was Craig David with 'Fill Me In' (there's a joke in there somewhere). **Tom Jones & The Stereophonics** did though chart (#4) with the re-released 'Mama told me not to Come', (first a Three Dog Night hit), and **Steps** were roughly in the middle of a long string of hits with 'Deeper shade of Blue'.

Back **30 years** and there was little of note in that month or 2, bar the **B52s** with the now well known 'Love Shack'.

**40 years ago** (can it be that long?!) was a bit better, **Cliff** had a hit with 'Carrie', and the wonderful **Blondie** had 'Atomic' & 'Call Me' in quick succession. **David Essex** (still makes ladies of a certain age go wobbly, I hear) was on his 'Silver Dream Machine', and **Marti Webb**, a great voice and a long-time favourite of Andrew Lloyd Webber (Evita, & many more), had her biggest solo hit with "Take That Look Off Your Face" (she's still going apparently, 76, assorted shows & concerts, and in panto last month!).

**FIFTY years ago** (for real old-timers) and we'd just had at #1 the unusual (!) 'Wandrin Star' (**Lee Marvin**), and one of the greatest songs of all time, **Bridge Over Troubled Water**. The Beatles had 'Let it Be', also charting were **Bob & Marcia** ('Young, Gifted & Black'), but at #1 was 'Spirit in the Sky' (Norman Greenbaum – a one-hit wonder, but what a one!). And soon to be #1 & 2 were **Dana** (All Kinds of Everything), and **Mary Hopkin** (Knock Knock Who's There), then following them was **Christie** with 'Yellow River'.

Can anyone remember **60 years back**?! Here's a few hits for any other ancients out there (and they're good 'uns!) – one **Lonnie Donnegan** with 'My Old Man's a Dustman', the fabulous **Brenda Lee** ('Sweet Nothings'), and the **Everly Brothers** with one of the best of their many great songs, Cathy's Clown. Also in the charts then were the King Bros, with 'Standing on the Corner' . . . Watching all the girls go by, (but you get arrested now!).

In **1990**, looking back at [news archives](#), we were seeing assorted Poll Tax riots on TV (**Margaret Thatcher** had gone from hero – council house sales, & Falklands war – to zero with that policy!!). We'd just seen the first **Mr Bean** on TV, and **Glasgow** was the European City of Culture that year, UK's first. Honestly. Really, it was. We'd just had **FOURTEEN** people killed by **massive storms round the UK**, with massive floods at Towyn (N Wales) when the sea wall gave way (Déjà Vu anyone?!).

This was the year when a **John Selwyn Gummer** made his claim to fame when he (Agriculture Minister) fed a hamburger to his daughter on TV, to reassure the public re Mad Cow Disease (we weren't!), also when **Stephen Hendry** won his first World title (snooker), and somebody called **ALDI** opened their first British supermarket (in Birmingham, but whatever did happen to them?!).

In **America**, they instigated a **smoking ban** on all flights of less than 6 hours, and an Alaska jury found the captain of the **Exxon Valdez** (massive oil spill) guilty of negligence, he was sentenced to pay \$50K restitution, and (don't laugh) to spend 1,000 hours cleaning oily beaches. Also **President Bush** (Dubya's dad) met with reps from 17 countries to discuss **Global Warming** (must have gone well then?).

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# NOTICE BOARD

## FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

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

Our next dates are **March 3rd & April 7th**. If you need **transport or further information** please give me (**Jean Hager**) a call on 531558.

## DRAYTON HALL NEWS

Our stage curtains have at long last reappeared, now in a nice new red colour! **NB** If anyone can find a use for the old ones, originally a gold/bronze shade (very heavy Dralon type material – and a lot of it, each one is maybe 15 feet wide and almost 9 feet high) then please get in touch; we're all supposed to be more careful about just chucking things away these days?!

Before I forget, **grateful thanks** to whoever brought in a new kettle! Last month I had a moan about things getting broken, and we (c'tee) not being told – a kettle was one such item and now a new one has magically appeared!

Our new **exercise class** has started, Mondays at 11.30, it's called **FunFit for over-50s**, and "suitable for all levels". It's led by Carl Davis, who runs several similar things round the Oxford area (ad on page 11, and the first class is FREE).

We have also had a session from **U3A**, who have so many people coming to their Abingdon ones they need more space. They have one on **Friday March 6th** (11am) described as a 'Bring & Share lunch, plus Quiz', and their leaders sent the text on **page 13** to explain things (they're really hoping **someone here will found/lead a local group**). For those who'd like to attend this event in hall, they DO like you to **register with U3A first**.

Now, we're coming up to **dog show** season (spring & autumn), with quite a few clubs having shows or seminars, some folk travelling long distances for them. Many of the shows are not open to the public, but I hear the **Yorkshire Terrier Club** (show on **Sat March 14th** – lunches available) does permit keen owners to show their prize pooch, but you **MUST register** with them first. Website = <http://the-yorkshire-terrier-club.co.uk/> or their Sec is Mrs Pat Mitchell on 01235 833171.

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## YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL CONTACTS :-

**Parish (Clerk)** Lorraine Watling (clerk@draytonpc.org)  
OR phone 07909 176 061;  
**District (VofWH)** Andy Cooke (07507 602911)  
& **Oxfordshire County** richardwebber777@gmail.com



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## LISTINGS

**Advance Notice** – the Drayton Recycling facility is to be closed for TWO days, (bit of a wash & brush up apparently, or as they're calling it, a 'deep clean') - Tues/Weds April 28th & 29th. BUT – April is ALSO when they start their **late-night opening**, to 8pm on THURSDAYS, so beat the weekend crowds then?!

**The Kingfisher (page 16)?** - Oxfordshire Photographic Society is showing 50 of their **favourite images**, until Sun March 15th, in the Cloister Gallery at SOFO (Soldiers Of Oxfordshire museum), in the grounds of the Oxfordshire museum at Woodstock (Park St – closed Mondays). From March 5th, (to May) the same venue also has **'The Art of WW2'** – an incredible collection of works by a wide variety of artists, professional to skilled amateur, depicting scenes as they experienced them. Admission charge (£4-50) applies.

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

**Pelvic Partnership Charity Quiz Night** >> March 7th at Harwell Village Hall, 7.15pm, teams up to 8, £6 pp, the charity is about the treatment of pregnancy-related pelvic girdle pain, email [contact@pelvicpartnership.org.uk](mailto:contact@pelvicpartnership.org.uk)

**Abingdon March Events** which includes free Make Music gigs, the ATOM Science Festival, and a Museum Ice Age day, see [www.abingdon.gov.uk/events](http://www.abingdon.gov.uk/events)

## FOSTER CARERS NEEDED

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

Foster carers receive a comprehensive training and support package along with financial support. **We need a diverse range of people** with different skills and qualities to come forward so that more children are placed in the right home, first time.

The package includes:- a fostering fee, recently increased, so up to £569 per week paid in addition to fostering allowances; local training and unlimited support from a dedicated fostering team; relief care; 24/7 telephone help line; regular support groups; birthday and holiday payments; free membership of Fostering Network. Their website has comprehensive info:-

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

Next info evening, with our team, social workers & other carers is Weds March 18th 6.30 to 8.00pm (Kidlington Baptist Church, High Street Kidlington OX5 2DS). However, please note this isn't a 'drop-in' session, just register an interest on **0800 7835724**.

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

## Hall Diary for MARCH

All events held in Drayton Hall unless otherwise stated

To book the Hall :- bookings@draytonvh.co.uk or call Tony Holmes on

(01235) 531180; see the website :- www.draytonvh.co.uk

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

Sun	1	9.00am	Bowls Club	
Mon	2	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Caudwell DC
Tues	3	2.30pm	1st Tuesday Connections	Church Room
Thur	5	11.00am	Baptist Café (and EVERY Thursday) Tea, coffee, cake and a chat!	Baptist Church
Fri	6	10.30am	Consecration Service (p4 & 13)	St Peter's
Fri	6	11.00am	U3A 'Social' (bring & share, + Quiz p19)	
		7.00pm	Oxford Drama Network (AGM)	
Sat	7	9.00am	Private Function (all day)	
Sun	8	1.00pm	Private Function (child's party)	
Sat	14	10.00am	Dog Show (Yorkshire Terriers p19)	
Sat	15	10.00am	Dog Show (Lapdogs – closed to public)	
Mon	16	5.00pm	<b>CHRONICLE DEADLINE (see p2)</b>	
		7.00pm	PARISH Meeting (p16)	Caudwell DC
Sat	21	9.00am	Private Function (all day)	
Sun	29	10.00am	Dog Show (Boxers – closed to public)	

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## DRAYTON DIARIES

### REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

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

#### MONDAYS

2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session	
11.30 am	Fun-Fit Over-50s Exercise class (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 (via Alexandra Merson 07788 248925)	
1.45 pm	Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm)	Caudwell Day Centre
2.30 pm	First Tuesday Connections (1st Tuesday)	Church Room
7.00 pm	League Table Tennis (three hours)	School
7.00 pm	'RockBox' (to book, see Clubbercise)	
7.30 pm	Bingo Session (over 18s)	Caudwell Day Centre
8.00 pm	Clubbercise (run by Gemma Pearce, see her F'book)	

#### WEDNESDAYS

10.00 am	Pebbles (Baby, Toddler, Carer group)	Church Room
1.45 pm	Whist Drive (ACHLoFriends)	Caudwell Day Centre
2.00 pm	Drayton Wives (Last Wednesday in the month)	
2.15 pm	Badminton	
6.00 pm	Brownies (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 Day Centre
9.15 am	Holy Communion (**)	St Peter's Lady Chapel
9.30 am	Parent & Toddler Group (NB Term-time ONLY)	
11.00 am	Baptist Café (to 1pm)	Baptist Church
2.00 pm	Short Mat Bowling Club Session	
5.30 pm	Rainbows (girls 5 to 7 yrs)	
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)	

#### FRIDAYS

11.00 am	The Friday Club (fortnightly) 202466	Caudwell Day Centre
7.15 pm	ShikiDojo Martial Arts (check w Paul - 07479 824887)	

#### SUNDAYS

(\*\*) For all the latest info re their Services (Thursday communion, & especially Sundays), **PLEASE see our St Peter's Church page**

6.00 pm	Evening Service	Baptist Church
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