



Drayton Chronicle

May 2020

Swarming Season

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CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The next **Drayton Chronicle** will be the June 2020 issue: Editor: **Tony Holmes, 53 Whitehorns Way (531180)**
Key dates for subsequent Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles
June	18th May	29th May
July	15th June	26th June
August	20th July	31st July

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

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Double-size adverts are charged at twice the above rates.

All advertising **MUST** be paid for up-front, either in cash or via a cheque made payable to 'The Drayton Chronicle' and placed in the box at or sent to Vickery's.

Requests for advertisements should (preferably) be emailed to **Stephen Fearnley**, the Chronicle's Advertising Manager, at advertising@draytonchronicle.net 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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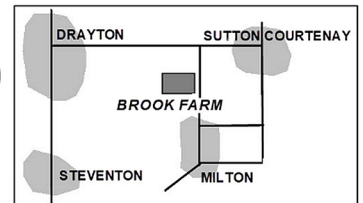


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St Peter's Drayton



Drayton Church dates back to about 1200, notably the south chapel (although this was largely rebuilt in 1897). The north aisle is 15th century, as are most of the windows. The porch is late Victorian but reuses some fabulous medieval gargoyles, which include men fighting lions.

The interior has numerous monuments to the Tyrrells and the Dews. Notice the latter's crest with the horseshoe-eating ostrich as found in medieval bestiaries. It had a medieval rood screen and three-decker Jacobean pulpit until GE Street removed the former and reduced the latter in 1855. The font is 12th century: a boring round tub, but probably the oldest item in the church.

The building's great treasure is a finely carved 15th century altarpiece of Nottingham alabaster. Once so common in English churches, this is an extraordinarily rare survival of the Reformation which had been buried for safety and was only rediscovered when digging out a vault in 1814. Of six panels with a considerable amount of original colouring left, it shows the Assumption of the Virgin, the Annunciation, the Nativity, the Betrayal, the Scourging of Christ and the Entombment. Nearby are an interesting medieval aumbry (cupboard for mass vessels) with original door and some beautiful modern stained glass, to a local vicar, showing the pelican in her piety.

Regular services are suspended due to the current social distancing regulations, but the following are contactable:

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

Website: www.damascusparish.org.uk

Join in 'virtual' services, praying, worshipping and serving.

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, MAY 2020

26th Apr – 2nd May Corneville Road; Crabtree Lane; Lesparre Close

3rd- 9th May Drayton Road; Milton Road; New Cut Mill; Fish-er Close; Marcham Road; Meads Close; Rip-ping-ton Court; Stone Hill

10th -16th May Steventon Road

17th – 23rd May Eastway; Eastway MHP

24th – 30th May Church Lane; Henleys Lane; Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane

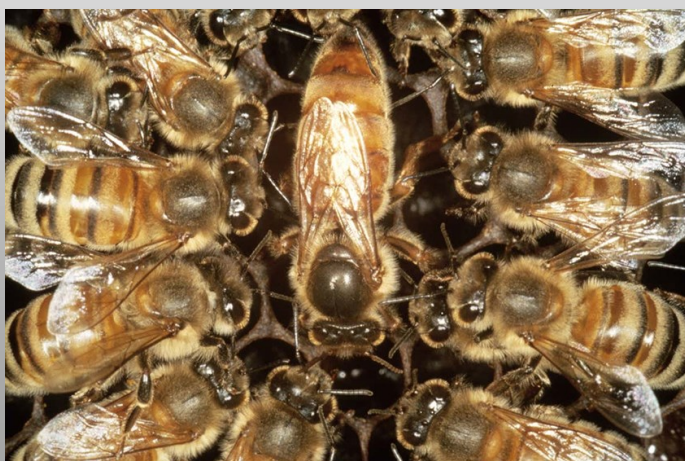
Swarming Season by Andrew Bax

As in much in nature, this is the time of regeneration in honeybees. But honeybees do it in the most dramatic way: they swarm. Swarming is the term used to describe the process in which queen bees, together with perhaps half their colony, abandon their old home to search for a new one. While a small number of designated worker bees hunt for somewhere suitable, the rest of them cluster on a low branch, in a hedge or on a wall. This is the swarm that people sometimes see; it consists of up to 20,000 bees and can be anything from the size and shape of a football to something like a large sausage as illustrated here, but always with a small hollow inside. There the queen waits, surrounded by her subjects.

If the swarm is lucky, a dark, draft-free cavity will be found in a hollow tree, the eaves of a house or a vacant hive, and it flies there immediately. Only about one in five is successful; the rest succumb to attack by birds or are chilled to death by a change in the weather before a new home is found.



Meanwhile, back in the old home, more drama unfolds. In a process that is still far from understood, the other half of the colony has made a collective decision to feed the larvae of a few chosen bees with a special diet – royal jelly.



After a few days the young queen makes a 'maiden' flight in which she releases a pheromone that attracts male bees (drones) – literally, from miles around. They mate on the wing, often at considerable heights. Now fertilised, the queen returns to inherit the colony and she will soon start laying eggs at up to one a minute throughout the summer months. She will be the only queen in the colony; during her lifetime of four years or more she will, herself, swarm a few times and will lay maybe a million eggs – all as a result of that fertilisation on her maiden flight. In contrast, all the other bees – workers and a much smaller number of drones will live only a few weeks in the summer, although those born in the autumn should survive until the following spring. At the height of summer, a colony can consist of at least 50,000 bees and all of them will be the offspring of a single queen.



It is surprisingly easy to catch swarms. An experienced beekeeper will hold a box underneath a cluster and shake it into the box; the box is then inverted and placed on the ground in such a way that flying bees can gain access. Provided the queen is in the box, the cluster will reform inside it. In the

evening, when bees have ceased flying, the box (still inverted) is taken to an empty hive and shaken into it. The hive is quickly closed and the cluster will reform once again but, this time, in the kind of cavity they need as a permanent home. At least, that is what happens 90% of the time.

I belong to a network of beekeepers who respond to calls to catch swarms, which are then used to restock empty hives and, in particular, to help novices get started in this absorbing hobby. So, if you happen across a swarm please phone me on 0771 253 0721 - but do so quickly because they don't hang around for long. If I catch it successfully you will be rewarded with a pot of honey.

North Berkshire Football Leagues (NBFL)



The NBFL leagues have been terminated due to the circumstances with Covid-19. This means all the results and promotions/relegations have become void.

We will not be having a competitive league game until September now, which is very unfortunate but is the best decision for all involved.

Providing all goes well we'll start pre-season in June/July.

Much love and please stay safe.

Pete Ivey (*Drayton Club Chairman*)

Editors note: Drayton have two teams in the NBF leagues. Drayton First play in league 1, whilst Drayton reserves play in League 3.

A lovely moment in this time of lockdown and appreciation of our NHS personnel...Drayton Facebook submission...

I am a district nurse, and I was leaving work this evening (Monday, April 20th) from Drayton village hall. I was made aware that I had a flat tyre.

A lovely couple with a beagle (and 2 daughters at home) kindly changed my wheel. I cannot thank them enough and didn't get their name.

Very much appreciated and not sure if this will reach them.
(They turned off down Steventon road) **Laura Rayfield**

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Thursday to Saturday 5 pm-8 pm.

Sunday 12 pm - 4 pm

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your door step to avoid contact. #viralKindness



The Millennium Green Pond (Sunday 19th April 2020)

Photo: M Ruddick

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP (NAG5) SAFETY CORNER

This information was correct at the time of writing, in mid-April.

CORONAVIRUS-RELATED SCAMS

While not wanting to be alarmist, it's important that everyone's aware that criminals are exploiting the current situation and that uninvited phone calls, e-mails, texts and visitors on the doorstep may not be genuine, despite appearances. Criminals are often very convincing and persuasive. **NEVER** provide personal or financial information no matter how convinced you may be that it's a genuine request. Financial institutions, the police, local authority and other businesses will never ask for your information in this way.

With many communities forming groups of volunteers offering help there's also a concern that fraudsters may pose as volunteers or claim that they've been asked to call by someone well-known in the village. **Please exercise caution** and call the person who's said to have requested the contact. **Use an independent source for the contact details and, if it's a phone call you've received, make the call on a different phone if possible.**

Some of the latest reported scams and fraud from Action Fraud:

Fraudulent e-mails, appearing to be from HM Government, asking for donations to the NHS.

Scam e-mails, purporting to be from HMRC, offering tax refunds and directing victims to a fake website which will harvest their personal and financial details. They often display the HMRC logo, which makes them look reasonably genuine.

There have been reports of phishing e-mails which try to trick people into opening malicious attachments, or into revealing personal, financial or sensitive information.

E-mails purporting to come from the World Health Organisation and the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention offer to provide a list of people infected with Coronavirus in the recipient's area once the victim has clicked on a malicious link, or request payment in Bitcoin.

Two types of doorstep scams have been reported with fraudsters, (1) claiming to be health workers conducting Coronavirus testing and, (2) posing as fake charity workers offering help with shopping and requesting a donation for the bogus charity. The aim of both scams is to obtain personal and financial information.

If you'd like to report an attempted scam or fraud, or have been a victim, please contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or use the online reporting tool on the website at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND REFUSE

If you have, or a member of your household has Coronavirus please ensure that any personal items such as tissues, disposable cloths, face masks etc are put into a rubbish bag, then into a second rubbish bag which should be tied securely. The bag should then be stored away from other waste for a minimum of 72 hours before being placed in your bin.

Bin emptying is mostly running as normal. Vale advises that changes may occur as a result of staff being off sick or self-isolating. If your bin hasn't been emptied please leave it out for three days (including weekends). If it still hasn't been emptied please take it in and put it out again on the normal collection day.

Textiles, batteries and small electrical items collection has been suspended. Please retain these items until collection is resumed. Please do not put batteries or small electrical items into your bins as they can ignite and cause fires in bin lorries.

Household recycling centres are closed and any household waste that can't go into a bin should be retained until the centres re-open.

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

Bridget Haffenden, Area Co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Watch.

E-mail: nhwsuttoncourtenay@outlook.com

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PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION AND DELIVERY SERVICE

A new service, **AbiMeds**, has just launched in Abingdon and the surrounding villages. The information below's copied from the Abingdon on Thames website and, as you'll see below, there's an AbiMeds Facebook page.

The "**AbiMeds**" community medicines delivery scheme has been set up to reduce potential exposure to COVID-19. We have all seen - or experienced - the queues at local pharmacies in recent weeks: many of those waiting are either vulnerable or caring for vulnerable people and the queues not only seriously inconvenience them and risk their health, but also risk the health of the pharmacists and their staff on whom so much depends.



The **AbiMeds** team has been working with Abingdon's Freewheeling cycling group to come up with a solution for nearly everyone wanting prescribed medicines from Abingdon's pharmacies - not just those who are shielding or self-isolating. It is free and operated totally by local volunteers.

Anyone who has a prescription to be collected from Boots or Jhoots pharmacies can phone **01865 818351 between 09.00-16.00 every day except Sunday**. We will also pick up from Avicenna, but that can be arranged direct with them rather than through us. Once the scheme is established we hope to roll it out to more local pharmacies.

Packages collected from pharmacies will be batched by geographical area then delivered, mainly by cyclists. Deliveries will be done 3 days per week - Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday this week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday thereafter. We can deliver to Abingdon and the immediately surrounding villages (Culham, Sutton Courtenay, Drayton, Marcham, Shippon, Wootton and Radley).

Just a few additional points:

- We are not able to take messages or do call-backs: if you cannot get through or the phone goes to voicemail, please try again later.
- If there are any issues with access to your property please mention this when you ring so that arrangements can be made.
- We cannot deal with money: if you normally pay for your prescriptions please discuss with your pharmacy whether you can pay in advance. If that is not possible, sadly we cannot help you, but could direct you to other groups who can.

For more information see our Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AbiMeds>

April Quiz Winner

Congratulations to Richard Talbot of Lockway, the winner with the answer of ANEMONE. The prize of the box of chocolates has been delivered (at a safe distance)!!

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Support our Shops!

Drayton is lucky enough to have many amenities lacking from other villages of our size, and one of them is our three shops. It is easy to forget that those running them and working in them are also suffering from the same privations as everyone else. They have the same problems of social distancing and care for vulnerable family members, and young children too. But they keep on providing the service we take for granted.

Not many villages still have a **POST OFFICE**; it has always been a lifeline, particularly for pensioners, and it is even more important during this difficult time. **DANE'S STORE** provides a full range of groceries and was still selling some of the items in short supply elsewhere caused by panic buying. Peter the Paper Pensioner continues to deliver newspapers around the village while most of us are still asleep. **VICKERY'S** manages to keep open by doing business in a unique way: customers give their order through the (closed) door, make contactless payment through the door (still closed - it works!) and take their goods from a box in the side entrance.

In Drayton, there isn't so much need to go to supermarkets or shop online because we have most of life's essentials in the village. The more we can support our shops now, the more they will be able to support us in the future.

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The Car conundrum...

During these unusual times, you may not be able to get out and about in your car as much as you're used to. Many of you might be wondering what to do with your car if you aren't driving it on a regular basis.

What to do with your car, and how to maintain it, depends on how long you're leaving your car idle. For example, you may be using it to top up on food and supplies or driving it if you work in an essential job or industry. But for many, you may not need or want to use your car for a lot longer, maybe even months.

Remember that even if you're not using it, you'll still have to insure your car unless you make a [Statutory Off Road Notification \(SORN\)](#). You can only make a SORN if your car is being kept off the road.

How long can you leave a car without starting?

How long you leave a car without starting can depend on the condition of your car's 12-volt battery. Most modern cars with a fairly healthy battery should last at least 2 weeks, without needing to be started up to re-charge the battery. If there's any doubt about the condition of the battery, start it once a week just to be safe.

What happens if you don't drive a car for a long time?

Even if you haven't driven for a while your car should be fine. If it's been regularly started and run for 20-minute periods, the battery should work. The tyre pressures should be checked and adjusted before driving. The brakes may have some corrosion on them, especially if the car was wet when it was parked up. Drive carefully and test the brakes as soon as possible. Make sure you use your brakes for the first few miles to clean off any corrosion.

Is it bad to leave a car parked for a month?

Cars are made to be driven but with good care it should be fine. If it's left unused for an extended period of time, follow these guidelines to keep the car ready to drive.

How long can a car sit before the battery runs out of charge?

As we've said above, there are many factors that can affect this. The age of the battery, how the car's been used and the temperature all affect the performance of a battery. If you follow our guidelines your battery shouldn't let you down.

What if my MOT expires?

The government has announced a 6-month exemption from the MOT test, although your car must be kept in a roadworthy condition.

Recommendations to maintaining your stored car...

Tyres

Before driving the car after a long period parked up, check all of the tyre pressures and inflate if needed.



Fuel

Before parking your car up for a long period, it's a good idea to top up with fuel. Not only will this help with other measures, but a full tank doesn't attract condensation, which could cause issues if allowed to build up over time.

Battery maintenance

If you can, connect your car's battery to a mains-powered battery maintainer. If you can't, start the engine once a week and allow it to run for about 20 minutes. This will re-charge the battery and help keep the engine in good condition. It's important to allow the engine to run for this long so the battery can charge properly. In the case of petrol engine cars, it also helps to prevent engines from flooding with fuel. Never leave your car unattended with the engine running.

Garages

Don't run a car engine inside a household garage as the exhaust fumes can be toxic. If you keep your car in a garage, pull it out onto the drive to run the engine to charge the battery.

Brakes

Sometimes when a car's parked up for a long period with the parking brake on, the brakes can seize. To prevent this it's good practice to release the parking brake and move the vehicle a short distance back and forth, at the same time as running the engine. You shouldn't leave the parking brake off unless the vehicle is on private land with the wheels secured using wheel chocks.

Electric Vehicles

EVs and hybrid vehicles have 12-volt batteries, the same as conventional cars. However, they charge differently. Pressing the start button, so the ready light comes on, will operate the charging system. Doing this for 10 minutes once a week should keep the 12-volt battery topped up. Some electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles can maintain their 12-volt batteries if they're plugged in to the mains charger. Check your vehicle handbook for details on this.

Council update from Andy Cooke...

First things first: a **massive** thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who have joined the Parish Council's Community Support Group. The Parish Council Chair (Tamsin Crane) and Deputy Chair (Richard Wade) have led this and should be your first port of call if you are vulnerable and need help. Details will be elsewhere in this Chronicle and have been sent out in leaflets, but if you missed them, if you can volunteer or need help, phone email details are:

Tamsin Crane – 01235 535 933 or email to Tamsin.crane@draytonpc.org

Richard Wade – 01235 532 321 or email to Richard.Wade@draytonpc.org

As well as the Parish Council's excellent community assistance group, the County and District Councils have dedicated support lines (phone and email) to help vulnerable people.

People who have been identified as extremely vulnerable by the NHS and have nobody around to help with day to day tasks like shopping are advised to call 01865 897820 or email shield@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Anyone in this situation that is not considered high risk can call 01235 422600 or email communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

These support lines are open 8.30am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm on Saturday and Sundays. One of the main tasks of these support lines will be putting callers in contact with their local community support group. They can also provide further support.

Other notes from the District Council:

I thought you might be interested in knowing how the entire structure – from the Prime Minister and COBRA through the various groups and all the way to the Drayton Parish Council Community Group fits together (I always like to know what's going on and that there is a plan and a structure can be comforting). It's obviously very different from the day-to-day structure of Local Government.

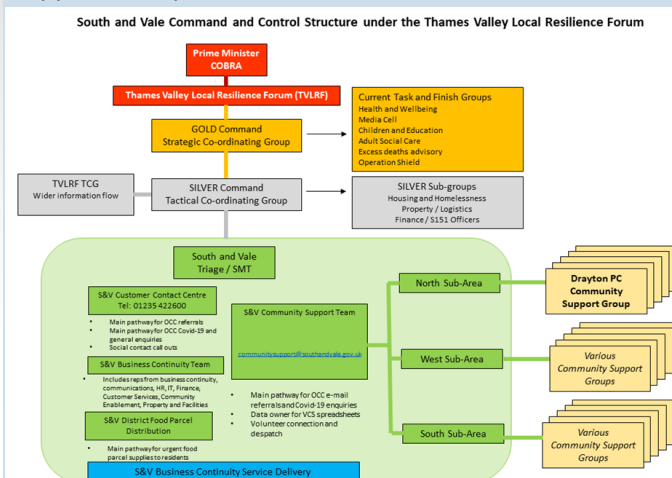
The PM and COBRA are at the top of the chain and beneath them are a bunch of "Local Resilience Forums," all of which are directly briefed and tasked by COBRA. For us, it's the Thames Valley Resilience Forum. These include NHS and military staff as well as Local Authority staff and Emergency Services.

Within that is "Gold Command" – the Strategic Co-ordinating group of the Resilience Forum. At VoWHDC we happen to have a lead representative on Gold Command – the Chief Executive of VoWHDC.

Under Gold Command is "Silver Command", who are responsible for putting the decisions into practice and co-ordinating with all relevant Local Authorities. Vale of White Horse DC has combined forces with South Oxfordshire DC to increase capacity and capability. This is helping to maintain services; as many staff are now seconded to Gold or Silver Command, both Councils are operating with a fraction of their normal staff.

We have formed a Community Support Team (contact details as shown above) to try to ensure no communities fall through the gaps. These liaise with the individual Community Support Groups in order to provide help and assistance where needed and possible.

Here's a graphic illustrating how Drayton Community Support Group fits in:



SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are putting a range of measures in place to help people who are being affected financially by the Coronavirus pandemic, including support for individuals and for businesses.

Support for individuals - council tax

Hardship fund for people on Council Tax Reduction: The government has confirmed details of a £500million hardship fund. Under this scheme, people in receipt of Council Tax Reduction will receive a minimum of £150 off their council tax bill for 2020/2021, unless their bill is less than £150, in which case their bill will be reduced to zero. This is in addition to any support they already receive.

The councils are now working to confirm the amount each individual qualifying household will receive off their bill – as soon as this is complete, revised bills will be issued.

Council tax payments: Where possible, people should continue to pay their bills as normal. If someone is genuinely having difficulty paying they should contact:

South residents -

sodc.counciltax@secure.capita.co.uk / 0345 302 2313

Vale residents - vowh.counciltax@secure.capita.co.uk / 0345 302 2315

People who are currently not being paid, and are struggling to pay their bill, are encouraged to apply for Council Tax Reduction – their account will then be put on hold for 30 days while their application is processed.

To apply for Council Tax Reduction please visit whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ctrs

For more information about support and advice for individuals please visit whitehorsedc.gov.uk/covid19

Advice and support for businesses

The councils are prioritising awarding the extensions to retail rate relief to existing accounts and working to identify eligible ratepayers. Work has also taken place to identify and collate the necessary information to allow the councils to pay Small Business and Retail Grants.

Letters have gone out to ratepayers who we believe qualify. To claim a grant, businesses should complete the required form which can be found at:

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/businessrates (There are still numerous businesses who are eligible who haven't responded to the letter at the time of writing. I've been told that the team are working through applications as fast as possible; please be patient).

Those that can pay their bills should do so as normal, however those businesses who are genuinely having difficulty paying their business rates should contact our business rates team via:

vowh.businessrates@secure.capita.co.uk

The South & Vale Business Support team publishes the latest government advice and support on svbs.co.uk and via twitter (@TeamSVBS), including about rates relief and business support grants. Business can also sign up to receive an e-newsletter via the website.

The website also lists the latest job vacancies for individuals seeking temporary employment, exercises to stay healthy while working from home, and links to mental health organisations.

WASTE SERVICES AND BONFIRES

Waste Services

There is a service disruption plan in place. With shortages of staff due to self-isolation and illness, and the need to bring in new crew members, it's likely that on occasion, crews might not be able to complete their daily rounds. The Council has advised residents:

"If the bins in your street are not emptied, please leave them out for up to three days (including weekends) and we'll try to catch up. If still not emptied, bring them back in and we will empty them on the next planned collection day. We recommend residents wash their hands before and after taking the bins out to practice good hygiene for themselves and the bin crews."

To prioritise critical waste services, non-essential services have been suspended, including new bulky waste bookings and new garden waste subscriptions. Garden waste services **may** need to be suspended entirely (as other councils have done); if so, the Council will pass this information on.

Bonfires

We are urging people not to light bonfires at this time to protect the respiratory health of the vulnerable and to avoid unnecessary burden on the NHS. COVID-19 is a respiratory disease and smoke inhalation can impair people's breathing. In addition to this, with larger numbers of people now working from home and also looking after children, the smoke from such bonfires can cause unnecessary nuisance to your neighbours.

We appreciate the inconvenience for residents due to the Household Waste Recycling Centres being closed for the time being, but we are asking you to stack or bag up rubbish for disposal at these centres when the current emergency is over. Please continue to dispose of your household and recyclable waste in the usual way.

FOOD SERVICES

Food Services Access Map

Oxfordshire Public Health have been working with Good Food Oxfordshire to develop a Food Services Access Map (<https://www.oxford.gov.uk/foodservicesmap>) to signpost the most vulnerable in our communities to community food services such as Foodbanks, Community Kitchens and Food Surplus cafes.

- This is where people can access food if they need it. 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.
- Pubs, restaurants, businesses, and individuals - this is where you can donate food. It's important to contact the service in advance to check what food donations they can take as not all services can handle fresh produce.
- Let us know of any other community food services that you are aware of that are not listed on the map - they are aware that the map is city-centric (it was initially developed in conjunction with Oxford City Council), however they've been working hard to try and add as many services from across the County as possible but this is an ongoing job.

MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SUPPORT

New clinics to support patients with coronavirus

New COVID-19 clinics to support patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are now open across Oxfordshire.

A home visiting service will also become available soon for people suffering from coronavirus who are deemed suitable for this and need support in their own home.

This service is supported by GPs and community staff from Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust (OHFT).

Appointments for the clinics and support are arranged over the telephone either via the patient's GP practice or via NHS111. The clinics are only for patients with a pre-arranged appointment; they are not a walk in facility.

Precautions are being taken in each clinic to reduce the risk of spreading the infection.

New 24/7 mental health helpline launched

A 24/7 mental health helpline has been launched by Oxford Health to take pressure off NHS111 for mental health advice in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

With support from Oxfordshire Mind, it will operate during the coronavirus pandemic to provide people with specialist mental health care as NHS111 receives an increasing number of COVID-19 related calls.

The round-the-clock helpline will make it quicker and easier for people in both counties to get the right advice they need for their mental health and wellbeing. It is operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Like NHS111, people can call when they need to find out when and where to get help and to access support from mental health professionals.

- For adults the number is **01865 904997**.
- For children and young people the number is **01865 904998**

People who already use mental health services should contact services directly using the numbers in their care plan.

Dedicated hotline to support diabetes care

A dedicated hotline has been set up by healthcare partners to help people with diabetes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Designed for patients who need urgent clinical advice, it is hoped that the hotline will give reassurance to patients who are concerned about their diabetic health during COVID-19, and also ultimately help prevent admission to hospital.

The patient hotline number is **01865 857357**, and is available seven days a week from 8am until 4pm. Patients can also email dsnop.ocdem@nhs.net If patients have a query out of hours, they can call **0300 3047777**.

Community Learning Disabilities (LD) Services

These services are still open for referrals, which are being screened and assessments are being conducted remotely via phone or virtually (dependant on preference) wherever possible. Existing clients have been reviewed to identify those with underlying health conditions - at particular risk due to COVID-19 - and those with limited social supports.

The LD team is in regular telephone contact with these people and sharing COVID-19 easy read information in relation to the pandemic.

Telephone support is open for families/carers/providers to advise how to manage behavioural difficulties and change in routine to support with social distancing.

OTHER COUNCIL NOTES

Play parks

In order to minimise the spread of coronavirus amongst children (who can find it hard to maintain social distancing and while they are less susceptible, are not immune – and can also spread the virus amongst family members), all play parks in the South and Vale have been closed.

Car parks

To help key workers and essential journeys, all parking charges are suspended in all District Council car parks across Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire until 1st June (at least). **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DISPLAY A TICKET** - so you do not have to touch the parking machines (which could be a vector for transmission otherwise). Permit holders do not have to take any action on expired or expiring car park permits before 1st June, either.

"I apologise for the length of this article. With the current situation, I'd rather provide more information than you need than not enough."

On a personal note, I've been very impressed with how well Drayton is pulling together as a community during this uniquely challenging and frankly rather surreal time. There are only a very few issues that have arisen (please avoid bonfires, for example – I've been warned that these can be an issue at the moment as people try to get rid of excess rubbish, but they can make respiratory problems worse and are far more likely to be a nuisance to others when everyone is stuck at home).

The efforts we are all making to stay at home and protect the NHS are working – the ever-increasing and frightening number of deaths has finally levelled off. There's further to go – we have to bring the infection rates and fatalities down a long way – but the terrifying exponential growth has been reined in. In essence – **it's working**. We need to keep it up for now. In time, the Government will advise on loosening some of the restrictions step-by-step.

The mental and emotional challenges of the restrictions are affecting many of us – quite naturally. The massive disruption, the destruction of our routines and normal ways of life, and the constant bombardment of news and crisis updates overwhelm us (and yes, I'm aware of the irony that I'm providing a large crisis update here). Please don't hesitate to call the mental health helpline detailed above for help. I have found the following advice (taken from an expert online) very useful; you may as well:

How to cope?

ACCEPT that this crisis is going to last sometime and prepare myself

A: Acknowledge that I am not in control and I need to find a ways of coping

C: Compromise on what I would like to do and work out what I can do

C: know that there will be **Consequences** that are not in my control

E: show Empathy to others, this shows that I and they are not alone

P: be Passionate about caring for myself and those around me

T: Trust in myself that I am doing all I can

Create a routine with the four Ps:

- **Prioritise** what needs to be done during each day
- **Plan** out my day to give the day a structure
- **Pace** myself so that I do not do everything at once
- **Permission** to know I can only do so much, and seeking help and support is not weakness

Take time off from the news and worries:

- Give myself 'news' breaks; I can catch up with the news later
- Create distractions that I enjoy such as books, games, tv, radio, films, online games
- Make sure that I video-link with others so that I can see faces not just words in a text or voices on the phone
- Include some meditation, mindfulness, prayer
- Create an exercise programme that I enjoy, even if walking up and down stairs and some stretches or online yoga sessions
- Set meal and sleep times

The advice above may well not be suitable for you, but I've found it very useful. I also cannot emphasise enough the helpfulness in creating a routine for your day. Psychologists all swear by it and I can say that during my time in the military, whenever on far-flung detached operations and separated out from normal day-to-day life, having a routine to your day makes a massive difference. In addition, we are in a time with unparalleled communications abilities – phoning, using Whatsapp (for video calls as well) and all the various internet tools can make a great difference in reaching out to people.

All of us are going to be frustrated, frightened, sad, or otherwise distressed in the days to come, and so is everyone with whom we're in contact. If we all give ourselves permission to be kind to ourselves and all around us, we WILL get through this.

Stay safe, and all the best,


Andy



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Is there a bright side to COVID 19 emergency?

It seems almost impossible to avoid bad news at the moment. The daily diet of depressing and dire predictions for society, the UK and the world give very few grounds for optimism. As a result, it is very easy to feel gloomy and depressed.

But it isn't all bad news! There are some silver linings! We have all been learning some valuable lessons from the pandemic. Many potential opportunities are presenting themselves.



Locally, we have discovered the vast number of caring volunteers in our communities prepared to give their time to make things better for the most vulnerable – we have found dozens of community organisers; we have seen great work being carried out by the church; we have found hundreds of food and medicine deliverers.

Families are benefitting, as parents working from home have more time to be with their children. Many have become very creative in using their time well and discovering new talents in themselves, for example cooking.

Air is less polluted as less traffic is on the roads and less aircraft are flying.

People are becoming much more aware of nature... the sound of birds is not drowned out by traffic and planes.

Many people are finding that working from home is efficient and more productive. Perhaps this will change the way business works in the future.

Councils are discovering how to use IT better to save money, save time and save the environment.

Government is discovering that the people of this country have retained the ability to pull together and endure hardship and that things are often done best at a local level.

Globally, there may well be opportunities to make a better, fairer, more united world.

Let's hope that, when it's all over, we make best use of the opportunities these extraordinary times are offering.

Best wishes and keep well

Richard Webber Cllr VWHDC/OCC

richardwebber777@gmail.com

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Adaptable Youth Interventions

‘Youth Work has historically responded in times of crisis, as deep within every crisis lies an opportunity for growth’

Over the years, youth work has taken on many forms in a variety of settings, but few have operated exclusively through virtual spaces. The principles of youth work say nothing about being a “social influencer”! But venturing into this “unknown” territory has allowed us to continue to communicate, socialise and engage meaningfully with young people in way we never dreamt of in the past.

As a youth charity, we feel Education, Employment and Training (EET) is core to young people’s empowerment and have been adapting our way of working to meet their needs in these unprecedented times of social distancing and economic hardship due to COVID-19. As soon as school and college closures were announced, we started taking advantage of social media platforms to continue engagement opportunities for young people. Detached youth work is essentially about going into the heart of the community and that is fundamentally what we have continued to do *virtually*.

Utilising the online tools popular with young people, and linking learning material to sources of entertainment, extended our potential for impact. We have embraced it as an opportunity to respond to the changes and challenges Covid-19 outbreak has had on young people, their families and the community. We are providing:

EET Support

- Encouraging young people to set and follow a routine and offering support so that our young people don’t fall behind in schoolwork

Wellbeing and Social Support

- Focused online “support chat groups”
- Bespoke parent support and also useful links to resources in this lockdown period
- Acting on any needs identified due to economic hardship
- Young People’s Mind and Body Gym (You Tube) Channel – developing interactive virtual, one-stop access to fitness regime and activities to challenge critical thinking skills and practice good mental health
- Live interactive sessions – we adapt versions of popular games and invite young people and their families to play
- Developing a suite of issue-based interactive online workshops for young people and parents to access using Zoom.
- Engaging with the village support groups to ensure we are doing our very best to support our community during these difficult times
- Most importantly, providing daily one-to-one support to our most vulnerable young people to ensure their safety

They say the proof of the pudding is in the eating – in the space of just three weeks we have made a good start –two of our young people succeeded in being invited for job interviews after their ‘virtual’ interview practise and more than 40 young people and adults have already joined our Insta Live sessions! Watch this space for more!

We are in the process of surveying young people and their parents so that we can be sure our support is effectively tailored to their needs.

We are extremely proud to be part of a community where so many have pulled together to help others. The ADYP Team – Roxy Elford, Jake Fleetwood and James Quartermain

Do contact any of us on jamesq.ycat@gmail.com, jakef.ycat@gmail.com, roxy.ycat@gmail.com

Tel: 01235 848694 or 07875649008

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YouTube - The Abingdon Damascus Youth Project

Website - www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk

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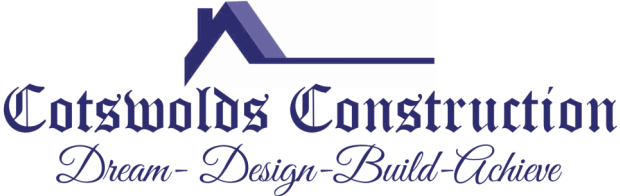
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COVID-19 Community Support Volunteer Programme Update

As shared in last month's edition, Drayton Parish Council is coordinating a response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the shape of a community support team to help people who are self-isolating with day-to-day support such as collecting prescriptions, grocery shopping and doorstep and telephone chats, to name but a few.

The response from Drayton residents has been extremely positive and we now have over 40 volunteers providing much needed help and support in the village. In partnership with other local and district groups, we have been able to coordinate enough support for our fellow residents to ensure they have the support they need during this difficult time. Stepping up to a challenge like this has been no mean feat and shows what can be achieved by the power of kindness and willingness to help others.

We would like to thank all those who have volunteered through our scheme and those who are helping as friends and neighbours, it shows what a supportive and friendly community Drayton is.

We know that new friendships have been forged during these difficult times and will continue beyond the community support activity.

In fact, so positive has this experience been for many, that we are considering continuing with a similar scheme once we have beaten this pandemic. Hopefully by then our volunteers will be able to stop by for a chat and a cuppa rather than having to adhere to the two-metre social distancing rules!

If you or someone you know would like support or if you would like to help, here are the contact details:

Richard Wade (richard.wade@draytonpc.org)

Tamsin Crane (tamsin.crane@draytonpc.org)

Sue Harris (sue.harris@draytonpc.org)

Claire Woollard (claire.woollard@draytonpc.org)

Doris Vickery

Just as this edition was going to press we heard the sad news of the passing away of Doris Vickery. We will no doubt be enclosing a proper obituary in a future issue of the Drayton Chronicle when it is appropriate.



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Drayton Parish Council

Agenda

Notice is hereby given that the Parish Council Meeting will be held remotely on Monday 27th April 2020 at 7:30pm

Published 22nd April 2020

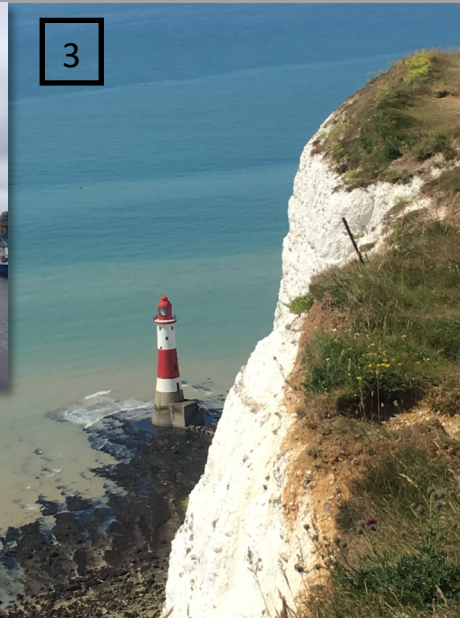
- 1 Apologies for Absence.**
- 2 Declarations of Interest, dispensations or Use of Delegated Powers.**
 To note that the Clerk and Finance Committee used delegated powers to approve the March payments that were due for payment at the beginning of April 2020.
- 3 Report from OCC Councillor Richard Webber and VWHDC Councillor Adrian Cooke.**
- 4 Community Support Working Group** (Richard Wade). To receive and **note** update from the working group.
- 5 Public Participation.** 15 minutes maximum.
- 6 Minutes of the Previous Parish Council Meetings.** To **approve** the minutes of the following meetings:
 - a) Parish Council meeting held on 02nd March 2020
 - b) Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 24th March 2020
 - c) Planning meeting.
- 7 Finance and Personnel Committee** (Patricia Athawes).
 - (a) Payments.** To receive and note the list of payments made at the beginning of April and to nominate the two Councillors who will approve the on-line payments at the beginning of May 2020.
 - (b) Bank Reconciliation.** To **note** the disposition of finance funds on 31st March 2020.
 - (c) Disposition of Council Funds.** To **note** the disposition of council funds at 31st March 2020.
 - (d) Meeting held on 20th April 2020.** To receive the draft minutes of the Finance and Personnel Committee held remotely on 20th April 2020 and to consider the recommendations contained therein.
- 8 Manor Farm to Gravel Lane Footpath.** Discuss blocked access.
- 9 Weed Spraying.** To consider Lee Collins' (Grass Cutter) offer to spray weed killer around the village.
- 10 Allotment Fencing.** Update.
- 11 Correspondence.**
- 12 Items to be noted from Parish Councillors.**
- 13 Dates of the next Meetings.** To be determined as Covid-19 crisis unfolds.



1



2



3



4



5



6

British Waterways
Welcome to the famous
?



7



9



8



10



11



12

Where am I? and what "links" 2 & 9?
Answers next month in the Chronicle

The Olympic Oak
At the 1936 Olympic Games, Christopher Boardman, the eldest son of the original owners of How Hill, was the helmsman of the yacht *Labage* which won the 6 metre class at the Earth of Kiel. The other crew members were Charles Lead, Miles Belville, Leonard Martin and Russell Horner.
A lesser-known fact is that along with their gold medals, the champions of the 1936 Olympics were each presented with an oak sapling on the behalf of Adolf Hitler.
In September 1936, this "Olympic Oak" sapling was planted here.
On the death of the tree, this carving...

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