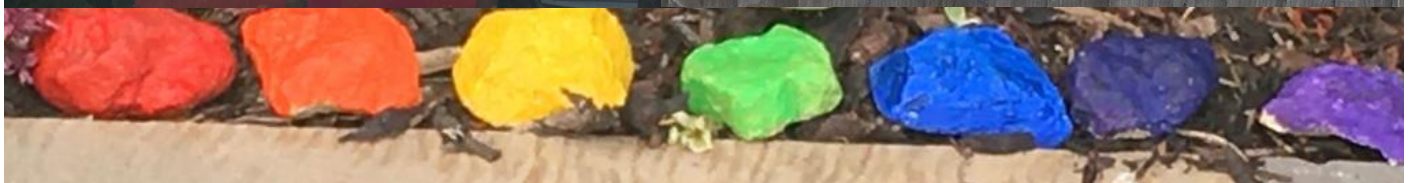


# DRAYTON CHRONICLE



## CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The next Chronicle will be the July issue. Editor: Tony Holmes (Tel: 01235 531180). Key dates for subsequent Chronicles:

### Notes for Contributors

Issue	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
July	15th June	26th June
August	20th July	31st July
Sept.	17th August	28th August

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) your phone number. Without names we will usually not print an item at all. The editor reserves the right to place, edit, shorten or even reject contributions as required.

Please send your contribution by email to:  
**[editor@draytonchronicle.net](mailto:editor@draytonchronicle.net)**

Advertisement requests should be sent to:  
**[advertising@draytonchronicle.net](mailto:advertising@draytonchronicle.net)**

If email is not possible, please place your contribution, either typed or handwritten, in the Chronicle box outside Vickery's hardware store on Drayton Green, or post to Vickery's, 5 The Green, Drayton, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4JA.

After the deadlines, only urgent items will be considered for inclusion and then only if mailed or delivered directly to the Editor's house by the Wednesday following the deadline.

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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

Although our Church building is closed, the church is still alive and well, praying, worshipping and serving.

There are resources for Home Worship on the DAMASCUS Parish website ([www.damascusparish.org.uk](http://www.damascusparish.org.uk)) or join one of the many 'virtual' services such as Oxford Diocese Church at Home at 10.00 a.m ([oxford.anglican.org/livestream](http://oxford.anglican.org/livestream)).

Listen to 'Sunday Worship' on Radio 4 at 8.10am. There is also the Church of England free phone line, 'Daily Hope' 0800 804 8044, offering a selection of prayers, hymns, songs and reflections.

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.

## PARISH REGISTER

### Funerals

Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Joan James
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Judith Dunster
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Eric Raymond Shelton
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Frederick Smallwood
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Doris Ellen Vickery

### A Prayer for us all at this time

God of compassion,

Thank you for all those who have been helping or caring for us all.

Please bless them and protect them.

Be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.

In their loneliness, be their consolation;

In their anxiety, be their hope;

In their darkness, be their light;

In their tiredness, be their strength;

Through Him who suffered alone on the cross,

But reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

# ST PETER'S LETTER

From the Ministry Team...



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

At this time of global pandemic, we live with stark reality of death and life.

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones (37:1-14) was given when God's people were in exile in Babylon. They felt dead, being separated from home, from all that was safe and familiar, and from God. The vision answers God's question: *'can these bones live?'*

In the strange times we are living through we can also feel cut off from God, facing the loss of jobs, businesses, homes or health and with church communities unable to meet physically together in church buildings. This vision assures us that God has power over death and can breathe new life into what is hopeless.

And we have already begun to experience new life. When we were told that we could no longer worship in our church buildings everything felt hopeless, then we discovered a whole new world of using Zoom, Facebook and Youtube in order to offer something new and hopeful. Churches all over the world are discovering how to live stream or pre-record their services and we are discovering new ways of connecting with one another using new technology and rediscovering the telephone to reconnect with others. Community spirit is being revived as neighbours look after one another with simple acts of kindness and coming together to clap for all carers and key workers to show appreciation. New life indeed!

When Ezekiel is told to *'prophesy to the bones'* (4), God brings them back to life: the bones come together and are covered with muscles and skin, and then filled with God's breath to bring new life, by the life of His Spirit.

The Covid-19 virus robs people of their life by suffocation, so that they can't breathe. Our hope beyond the pandemic is that the gift of God's Spirit will bring new life to our lives, churches and world. Life will certainly look very different in the future, but we can be assured that God is with us and that we are safe in his hands.

*'I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.'* (14).

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

### YOU STAY WE PRAY

31 <sup>st</sup> May - 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Abingdon Road; Oday Hill
7 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Binning Close; Haywards Road
14 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman Lane; Conifer Drive
21 <sup>st</sup> - 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close
28 <sup>th</sup> June - 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Manor Close; The Green



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Website for more information: [bettybloomdance.co.uk](http://bettybloomdance.co.uk)

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## LETTER FROM WESTMINSTER

I hope you are all safe and well. It has been easier than I expected to adjust to 'virtual parliament', in which 50 MPs can be present in the House of Commons at any one time and up to 120 of us can join by video link. Back in March, I was not sure it would happen at all given the reservations some of my colleagues had, and yet here we are in May with it working pretty smoothly.



Having been concerned that it would feel strange to give speeches from my desk, I have now done so to speak in the Domestic Abuse, Agriculture and Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination Bill debates, alongside questioning several Cabinet ministers on behalf of constituents.

Virtual parliament has certain advantages, not least the fact that the day before debates, the Speaker publishes a call list which shows exactly who will be called and in what order. This is in contrast to how things usually proceed in the House of Commons, when you can be in there for several hours bobbing up and down and not be called at all! You can also wear jeans on your bottom half as the camera can't see below your shoulders!

That said, like everyone else currently working we're all keen to be back around our colleagues. Whilst some people suggest that the current period will change how everyone works forever more, I'm not so sure. Having had friends move to other countries and being reasonably used to speaking to them by video, it's not the same as being in the same room and I think most people want the interactions that come face to face.

MPs were advised to remain in their constituencies for lockdown if they could, so my partner and I have been in our home in the Didcot area, which we got in February. It has been good to spend an extended period here rather than just the Friday-Sunday period each week and she and I consider ourselves very lucky to have a garden and to be able to take walks around the beautiful environment we now live in.

Where we can, we've been getting out to help the organisations in our community that have played such a vital role during this crisis – from Sofea to the Ray Collins Trust – and remain full of admiration for the many ways they've been helping people during this period. Do visit [www.oxfordshireallin.org](http://www.oxfordshireallin.org) to find one near you.

David Johnston MP | Member of Parliament for Wantage

✉: [hattie.turner@parliament.uk](mailto:hattie.turner@parliament.uk) | ☎: 020 7219 6350

✉: Office of David Johnston MP, House of Commons,

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# NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

## (NAG5) SAFETY CORNER

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

### ABIMEDS PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION AND DELIVERY SERVICE

This community service is available to all residents in Appleford, Drayton and Sutton Courtenay. Call 01865 818351 between 9am and 4pm Monday to Saturday once you know your medicines are ready to be collected - please don't wait until it's urgent. Deliveries are on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays. The number of pharmacies included in the service has increased. Information below has been copied from the AbiMeds website <https://abimed.org>

Please note that AbiMeds doesn't handle cards or cash so if you have to pay for your medicines (i.e. you are not exempt and you don't have a Prescription Prepayment Certificate) then you will need to arrange prepayment with the pharmacy. Some pharmacies take card payment over the phone, shown below. If that is not possible, sadly we cannot help you, but can direct you to other groups who may be able to.

**Avicenna** – fully operational

Take card payment over phone, 01235 520 059

**Boots** – fully operational

Take card payment over phone, 01235 520 056

**Jhoots** – fully operational

Take card payment over phone, 01235 521 456

**Lloyds Peachcroft** – fully operational

Do not take card payment over phone

**Marcham Road Health Clinic** – not operational. They say there's minimal demand but we'll help out if it's urgent. They do deliveries if you do not live close by but, if you do, prescriptions are mostly sent to in-town pharmacies such as Boots.

**North Abingdon (Long Furlong)** – fully operational

Do not take card payment over phone

**Reynolds Way** – fully operational

Take card payment over phone, 01235 535 397

**Tesco** – not yet operational but hopefully by 14th May 2020

### SCAMS AND FRAUD

#### TV Licensing scam

E-mails telling recipients that their direct debit to TV Licensing has failed and that they need to pay to avoid prosecution have been circulating for quite some time.

These scam emails have recently been amended to tell victims that they qualify for a 'COVID 19 Personalised Offer' of six months free of charge. The e-mails contain links to genuine looking sites and aim to steal personal and financial information.

You should never provide this sort of information in response to any form of unsolicited communication, nor should you click on any links in e-mails or texts.

#### Coronavirus-related fraud and scams

Criminals continue to exploit Coronavirus. 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.

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**

#### 'Sextortion' scams

So called because the victim receives an e-mail claiming that they have been filmed watching porn on their computer, and quoting a password that the recipient uses or has used in the past. Payment is demanded in bitcoin. It's thought that the passwords quoted were obtained through old data breaches.

If you receive one of these e-mails don't click on any links and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk).

Visit [havebeenpwned.com](http://havebeenpwned.com) to check if any of your accounts have been involved in a data breach. If they have you should change the password.

You should change your passwords regularly. Always use a different password for each account, which should be between 8 and 12 characters and use at least one upper case character, one numeral and one symbol such as \*, !, #. If you write them down keep the information in a secure location.

#### Suspicious Email Reporting Service

This new service has been launched by the National Cyber Security Centre and the police. In the first two weeks 160,000 reports were received, leading to more than 1,400 links to bogus websites being removed. If you receive a suspicious email please forward it to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) Further information is available at [www.actionfraud.police.uk/news/cyber-experts-shine-light-on-online-scams-as-british-public-flag-over-160000-suspect-emails](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/news/cyber-experts-shine-light-on-online-scams-as-british-public-flag-over-160000-suspect-emails)

If you'd like to report a different type of 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 [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

### DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND REFUSE

**Textiles, batteries and small electrical items** kerbside collections have restarted.

**Bulky waste collections** have resumed. There are a limited number of bookings which can only be made online at [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/your-recycling-and-waste-collections/bulky-household](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/your-recycling-and-waste-collections/bulky-household)

**Garden waste brown bins** can be ordered online at [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/garden-waste](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/garden-waste). The current cost is £49 per annum. They are emptied fortnightly on the same day as green recycling bins.

**Household recycling centres** are expected to reopen on 18 May. Opening hours will be limited to 8am to 4pm, social distancing measures will be introduced and the size and number of vehicles will be limited. This is likely to result in local traffic restrictions around each site to prevent queues blocking the road network. Full details can be found here [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/coronavirus/HWRCreopeningFAQs.pdf](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/coronavirus/HWRCreopeningFAQs.pdf)

**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.

### CONTACTING THE POLICE DURING THE CORONAVIRUS

#### OUTBREAK

**The police request that you only call 999 in an emergency and 101 if it's urgent.**

**If possible please use their online services at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)**

**Please only contact the police about breaches of the 'stay at home' measures if you feel there's a significant issue or serious breach of the restrictions**

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

# DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

## Andy Cooke

Dear all, Another month dominated by Covid-19, of course. I thoroughly enjoyed the VE-Day driveway party last month, as I see many others did. I did notice that virtually everyone was following the social distancing carefully, which was a relief, but it was a lovely day.

The restrictions continue, albeit relaxed slightly. It's crucial to keep to the social distancing – even if not for ourselves, for all the people that we could infect. The famous “R-number” (which governs how many people each infected person goes on to infect) has been pushed below 1, which means that the epidemic is reducing. Let's stick to it - it's working.

I'll give another shout-out to the excellent work being done by the Drayton Parish Council Community Support Group, under Tamsin Crane and Richard Wade. If you need help or can volunteer, their details are:

**Tamsin Crane – 01235 535 933 or email to [tamsin.crane@draytonpc.org](mailto:tamsin.crane@draytonpc.org)**

**Richard Wade – 01235 532 321 or email to [richard.wade@draytonpc.org](mailto:richard.wade@draytonpc.org)**

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

People who have been identified as extremely vulnerable by the NHS and have nobody around to help with day to day tasks like shopping should call 01865 897820 or email [shield@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:shield@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Anyone in this situation that is not considered high risk can call 01235 422600 or

email [communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk)

These support lines are open 8.30am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm on Saturday and Sundays

### Waste Services

We've managed to keep bin collections and waste services going, and even reopen the recycling centres – albeit under strict control. We've reopened the garden waste scheme to new applicants again, and the Council can once again pick up bulky waste items for disposal for a small fee (£40) – it's limited to online orders only and there are only a limited number of bookings available. The address to follow if you need it is below:

<https://eform.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ebase/ufsmain?>

for-

[mid=BULKYWASTEBKNG&P\\_GDPR\\_PARAMS\\_SOVA=VALE&P\\_GDPR\\_PARAMS\\_CFGID=36&SOVA\\_TAG=VALE&ebd=0&ebz=1\\_1588681120514](https://eform.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ebase/ufsmain?mid=BULKYWASTEBKNG&P_GDPR_PARAMS_SOVA=VALE&P_GDPR_PARAMS_CFGID=36&SOVA_TAG=VALE&ebd=0&ebz=1_1588681120514)

This was suspended so that our contractor, Biffa, could concentrate on the crucial kerbside household collections while members of their crew were off sick or self-isolating, but they have stepped up capacity very well and now have sufficient workforce resilience to provide the paid-for service again.

### Bonfires

Once again, as the weather continues to be lovely, I must emphasise that all levels of Government, from Westminster on down, urge people to **avoid having bonfires at the moment**. The smoke can damage the respiratory health of the vulnerable and, with so many people now working from home or shielding, the smoke can cause a great deal of nuisance. Most people are being thoughtful and avoiding bonfires (and remember that the recycling centres are now open again). Please don't have a bonfire.

### Business Grants

A discretionary grants scheme has been announced by central Government, to be administered by local Government. At the time of writing, there aren't many details available, but we know it's intended for some businesses or organisations that have been affected by the Covid-19 restrictions but haven't been eligible before. We also know that we won't have anywhere near as much to hand out as we'd like to have done.

We have a business support newsletter that businesses can sign up for at [svbs.co.uk](http://svbs.co.uk). If you run a local business, please sign up and check this for updates – it should have full up-to-date details of any support we can offer you.

### Council activities

We continue to provide as much of our normal service as possible, with as many people working from home and using remote tools as we can. Site visits for the Planning Department can now resume, as long as they are essential and social distancing measures can be maintained.

### Expressway

Before the Covid-19 crisis hit, we learned the good news that the Government are “pausing further development of the [Expressway] scheme while [they] undertake further work on other potential road projects.” Other indications are that it will very probably be cancelled. It was also conspicuous by its absence from the March Budget – which had otherwise highlighted plenty of major roadbuilding projects around the country.

Although I'm very much in favour of needed infrastructure, the proposed Expressway would have simply been an M25 relief road and poured over an extra million HGV movements a year down a road which might not even have been widened – and come with an expectation of hundreds of thousands of extra houses but no extra funding for local road infrastructure. We've been pushing for it to be cancelled since we were elected, so this is excellent news. It's not final yet, though, so we will keep a close eye on it, of course.

All the best,

Andy Cooke





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# Introducing ...East Drayton, Nottinghamshire

By Ann Stanley, whose family have lived in East Drayton for over 130 years

East Drayton is a small village located in North East Nottinghamshire within the area of the Trent Valley. The 2020 village consists of approximately 100 dwellings inhabited by 300 inhabitants. Its history goes back to at least the time of the Normans and reference can be found to it as Draitone. The village was again small with 33 households recorded having 17 villagers and 16 freemen listed as its inhabitants. At this time the village was part of the Estate of Dunham, one of the King's main manors. The inhabitants of today are predominantly of retired age, with several being aged 80 plus.

The village is listed as a conservation village and has been the winner of the 'Nottinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition' for one of our size on several occasions over the last twenty years. In 2016 it was judged as the overall best kept village in the whole of the county. Several properties have listed building status including the Old Harrow Inn (now a dwelling), The Cottage, The Church of St Peter and two distinct grave stones.

The Church of St Peter was first built in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries and has been subject to damage, destruction and alterations throughout the centuries. The church tower has six bells, with bell ringing practice on Tuesday evening, the bells being rung for all services. The tower is also home to the Village Clock, which was bought by the villagers in 1898. The church is home to two other special features. A leper window is found at the rear and the tower is home to 'cheeses', rings painted on the wall to celebrate the marriage of village people.

The surveyor and architect Nicholas Hawksmoor was born near to the village. He was apprenticed to Sir Christopher Wren and worked on many major projects with him, including St Paul's Cathedral and Hampton Court Palace etc. In 1689 he was appointed Clerk of Works for the building of Kensington Palace.

East Drayton has been an agricultural village throughout its history and still today has five working family farms, largely arable, including one farm with a beef suckler herd and sheep and a further small farm with sheep as well as arable. The main crops grown are cereals, sugar beet, beans and rape. Willow is also grown and harvested and used a biofuel and in the manufacture of paper.

As with many small villages, changes have come about as society changes. The primary school was closed in the 1960s and is now the village hall, small, compact, but nowhere to park. The children have to travel by bus to school, in nearby villages. There are a number of organisations in the village and include, zumba, kick boxing, football and cricket, for those with other interests then it is necessary to travel to nearby locations. A car is really an essential item for those of us who live in this peaceful village, a bus service is available but we have to contact the bus company for it to call. Our beautiful and peaceful village also boasts a pub –the Blue Bell.

My maternal granny was born here in the village in 1889, so this is my heritage.

*This article is part of an occasional feature about other Draytons in the UK and elsewhere, researched by Andrew Bax*



View of the Church of St Peter from Top Street

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# SOCIALLY-DISTANCED VE DAY CELEBRATIONS



On Friday 8th May, in the middle of Lockdown due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, many residents decorated their houses and celebrated the 75th anniversary of VE Day at a safe distance. Here residents of Crabtree Lane enjoy the sunshine. (L-R Pete, Lyn, Brian, Matt, Caroline, Sally, David, Janet, Margaret, Susan)

## Praise for Vickery's Hardware Shop

*Facebook Post Shared on Families in Drayton Facebook Page*

Lockdown small business shopping .... Our front door lock broke and I ordered a new one from B&Q. who said after a 2 day wait that they had none in stock. Cycling by Vickery & Son in Drayton I saw they were open and asked. They suggested bringing the old lock which I did. I pushed the old lock through their letter box. They found one the same dimensions with the same holes. I paid using contactless through their glass door. They left the goods in a tray outside the side door. They also cut extra keys and even with them it was cheaper than B&Q and fitted easily.



Unusual method of doing business at Vickery's

Dear Editor

I started but found it very difficult to deliver my quizzes. Now it is impossible, with lockdown. If you have completed the May one, please drop it in to 20 Steventon Road, OX14 4LE., or Vickery's. The July quiz ends in September and we may be back to normal by then!! Thank you so much for buying the quizzes.  
Love, Judy Henman

To All Our Readers

We would love to receive your letters, articles and photos! Drayton has changed so much during Lockdown - footpaths and cycle tracks used like never before, barely any traffic, louder birds, quieter A34, cleaner air. Are your thoughts turning to working from home on a permanent basis, wondering about joining/starting any local groups: cycling? gardening? sports/exercise? Please write in with your thoughts!  
Email to : [editor@draytonchronicle.net](mailto:editor@draytonchronicle.net)



## DOUBLE MURDER ATTEMPT IN DRAYTON (1876)

Clare Kirk, a Drayton resident and local historian, has come across a dramatic event that took place in our quiet village in 1876—a crime of passion ‘so unparalleled in that neighbourhood that it occasioned quite a thrilling sensation’.

Clare says ‘to piece together the events that led to the attack, and the details of the attack itself, I’ve referred to six newspaper articles in three publications, which reported on the event over a two-month period. It’s been really interesting seeing how details changed over time, as more and more witnesses gave their accounts— a good reminder to search for more versions of a story wherever possible.’

The Beesleys were an established local family. James Beesley was a grocer/fruiterer, born in Drayton in about 1825. He married Elizabeth Caladine, from Sutton Wick in 1848 and they had several children, including Elizabeth in 1860. In 1871 the family lived at their grocer’s shop on Abingdon Road, between the Wheatsheaf and the Red Lion – two pubs still located in the centre of the village. As well as being a shopkeeper, James was a potato and apple dealer.

In 1876, his 16-year old daughter Elizabeth, who went by ‘Bessie’, had formed ‘an acquaintance of a more or less tender character’ with Benjamin Marshall, ten years older than Bessie, who came from London but had recently been spending time in Drayton. Benjamin was a relation of the late landlady of the Roebuck, an inn on Stert Street. He was described as a publican in one source, and of ‘no occupation’ in another. Bessie had known Benjamin for about a year and they had been ‘keeping company’ for about six months (one article said they were engaged). However, the day after Christmas, Bessie broke it off with him. Some said he was of ‘dissolute habits’. Bessie herself said her friends didn’t approve of him and that it was due to her father’s disapproval that she ended the relationship. Initially Benjamin seemed to accept her decision, and to stay on good terms with the family, but the following day, as he accompanied her father James on an errand, he asked James if Bessie would have ‘anyone else?’ James answered, “That is as the Almighty pleases to put into her head. What is to be will be.” Benjamin angrily responded that ‘if she did not have him she should not have anyone else.’

On 30 December Benjamin hired George Goodey, a local saddler, to take him into Oxford, where he purchased a six-chambered revolver. In fact, it was later revealed in court that Benjamin had attempted to purchase a firearm a month earlier. On the way back to Drayton, George noticed that Benjamin seemed ‘put out’. They talked about women and George joked: “I should not put myself out of the way about one woman; there [are] plenty about”, but Benjamin said he ‘loved the very ground [Bessie] walked upon.’ On their way back to Drayton Benjamin stopped off for drinks in three pubs. It’s no surprise then that when he returned to the Beesleys’ home that evening he had clearly been drinking. He entered and left their home several times. On the second time, Bessie was reading a newspaper story about a woman cutting her throat in Hagbourne. She commented “what a dreadful thing it is for them”, to which Benjamin replied, menacingly, “Perhaps you will hear of something as bad or worse before long”. On the third time he entered the home, Mr and Mrs Beesley and their two daughters, including Bessie, were in a small room leading out of the shop. Mrs Beesley went into the shop to serve a customer, with Bessie following, and Benjamin fired a shot at Bessie from behind. He then turned around and fired three shots at Mr James Beesley, one of

which would have been fatal ‘had the bullet not struck his [silver fob] watch, glancing off and only occasioning a superficial wound.’ Later, the watch was observed to have stopped at a quarter past six.

‘Beesley, who is a powerful man, must, we suppose, have been momentarily paralysed by the suddenness and ferocity of the murderous attack and finding himself shot, but he now closed with the ruffian and threw him on the sofa, and while struggling with him another shot was fired.’ James fought with Benjamin for twenty minutes, during which time his wife was able to take the revolver, until finally someone else came to their aid. Meanwhile, his injured daughter had run to Mrs Cornish’s cottage next door and fainted. Police and medical assistance were sent for, and George Goodey rushed to the next village and brought PC (Joseph) Walklett to Drayton in his trap. For a rural policeman, the violent event must have been quite a shock. Medical aid was provided by Dr Slade Innes Baker, a GP from Abingdon, 2.5 miles away, who found that a bullet had lodged in Bessie’s lungs. A week later, it was reported that ‘all attempts to extract [the bullet from Bessie’s body] have been unavailing, and ... she is lying in a dangerous state.

When PC Walklett took Benjamin into custody, the prisoner asked “Is Bessie hurt much?” PC Walklett responded (with deadpan delivery): “I should think she is. She has a bullet in her back.” There was ‘some commotion as Benjamin was conducted through the streets’ on the way to the lockup in Abingdon. On the way to Abingdon, Benjamin ‘smelt of brandy and appeared in a stupefied condition’. He staggered twice due to drink, and was found to be carrying two portraits of Bessie.

Benjamin Marshall was brought before the magistrate in Abingdon two days later, and James Beesley then gave his own account of the events. Benjamin himself refused to make any statement and ‘looked and acted like a madman’. One newspaper said he ‘pretended to look idiotic’. On 15 January, Benjamin was examined again, and this time ‘listened to the proceedings with composure.’ He now knew that Bessie was expected to recover and that he would therefore not be facing possible execution. Mrs Beesley, Mrs Cornish and PC Walklett gave their statements. Finally, on the 18th, Bessie was well enough to attend and give her account. However, the ‘ball’ had not been extracted from her back, so unsurprisingly ‘she was very pale and still weak and allowed to give her evidence sitting.’ Other evidence was given that corroborated the witnesses’ accounts, including the locations of the bullets that had been fired in the home, which paint a vivid picture of the Beesleys’ domestic setting: One bullet had lodged in the piano, another had passed through a case of stuffed birds and struck a wall, and a third had struck an advertisement glass case, leaving a hole in it.

Benjamin Marshall’s trial took place at the Lent Assizes, February 1877. He was charged with ‘feloniously and of malice aforethought shooting at Elizabeth Beesley and her father, James Beesley, with intent to murder them.’ He pleaded not guilty but was found guilty of wounding with attempt to do grievous bodily harm, and sentenced to ten years’ penal servitude. His sentence could have been more severe; ‘The Judge said the jury had taken a merciful view of the case, and he expressed his concurrence with it.’

In 1881 he was a convict in the Woking Invalid Prison, described as a ‘lunatic’. There is no evidence of him in any England censuses after that date.

Bessie survived the attempt on her life. However, at the time that Benjamin was sentenced, the bullet had not been removed from her back. Nevertheless, she went on to have a trade, a large family, and a long life. In 1881, aged 21, she

## DOUBLE MURDER ATTEMPT CONT'D.....

lived alone in a cottage in Drayton, working as a slop worker – someone who made cheap clothing. A few weeks later she married William Prior, a labourer, who was a widower with a young son. Their second son was named James Beesley Prior after Bessie's father. In 1891 Bessie (Elizabeth) had the occupation of 'Tailoress'. The 1911 census shows that Elizabeth and William had 13 children born alive, seven of whom were still living. Bessie lived to the age of 71, passing away in 1931.

*Editor's Note: The full article is available at [www.digupyourancestors.com](http://www.digupyourancestors.com), complete with sources, census records, newspaper cuttings etc.*

## DRAYTON HISTORY SOCIETY

Having spent lots of time in Drayton recently, has anyone else been wondering about the history of the village? The village had a thriving History Society many years ago, and the archives are available to be investigated. The filing cabinet of Drayton information is apparently nicely sorted and contains details of many aspects of village life, including reportedly the 200 year history of Drayton Brickworks, a major employer until the 1950s. (The brickworks covered much of the land now occupied by Lockway and Whitehorns Way, and the only remaining evidence of it is the pond, formerly a clay pit, between the Whitehorns Way spur and the Wheatsheaf.)

Is it time to revive the Drayton History Society? Are there newcomers to the village who would like to know more, or long-time residents who wish they did know more? Are there any original members of the Drayton History Society? Maybe some of the information could be digitised for all to share, and/or especially interesting pieces could be a feature in the Chronicle? If this is something you would be interested in, please email your contact details to:

**[editor@draytonchronicle.net](mailto:editor@draytonchronicle.net)**,

with the subject 'Drayton History Society', or leave a note in The Chronicle Box outside Vickery's. When it is safe to do so, a meeting could be arranged and we can find out what is in the filing cabinet.

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## HOLIDAYS IN THE UK

**Hadrian's Wall** lies between Newcastle and Bowness on Solway. Your editor for the May edition did this 85-mile walk with 2 other couples over a period of 10 days in September 2017. Staying at strategically located guest houses and slightly cheated by having our main luggage transported each day. The weather was fair for that time of year, only got soaked on a couple of days with the eastern end of the walk, through lower country, getting rather boggy and heavy going. Had the opportunity though to spot the number of differing styles of stiles, gates, cattle grids and other obstacles to overcome! The experience of the walk and especially the views and wildness of the escarpment near the Cedar Pass at 'Twice Brewed'.



Then on to the peacefulness of the grasslands in eastern Cumbria, very much in contrast to the ruggedness of the higher pathway with its windswept battlements and hill forts.

A most enjoyable experience to share and, now that far flung travel is looking bleak for some time to come, a few days in the outdoors walking in the steps of the romans and taking in some of our varied countryside can only be highly recommended. As I said we took 10 days at a leisurely pace...I met a guy on another of our walks (South Downs Way) and he had recently run the wall in 19 hrs. The winner of the race did it in 10.5 hrs. Age must have something to do with it.

Maurice (Mo) Puddick



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# DANIEL WINDIATE (former Drayton resident who emigrated to Michigan, USA in 1835)

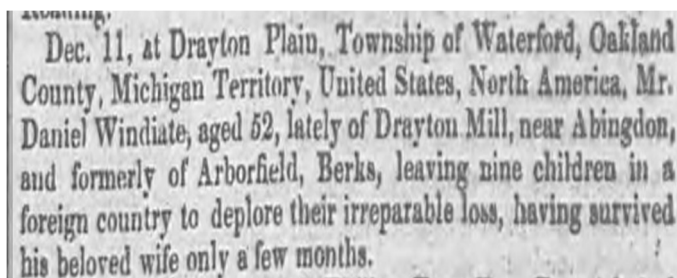
Jessica Feinstein

As a genealogist, I enjoyed "Some Other Draytons" by Andrew Bax in the December Chronicle and wanted to find out more.

The parish records for Drayton can be searched on <familysearch.org>. This collection includes baptisms (1608–1835) and marriages (1609–1835). Typing in the surname Windiate brings up the marriage of Daniel and Martha Mundy in 1823 and several baptisms: Jane (1813, mother Mary); Daniel Moss (1815, mother Mary); Emma (1819); Ann (1821); William (1823); Rebecca (1825); Jennot (1827); Martha (1830); and Mirian (1833). (Another daughter, Mary Winifred, was baptised in 1810 in Arborfield.) For the original records, see the relevant parish pages at <genuki.org.uk>.

The Berkshire Burial Index (<findmypast.co.uk> available at Abingdon Library) records the burial of Daniel's first wife Mary at St Peter's in Drayton in 1816, aged 25, and that of Daniel Moss Windiate (3 weeks old). This provides a clue to Mary's maiden name, and there was indeed a marriage in 1809 of Daniel Windiate and Mary Moss in Monk Sherborne, Hampshire. The website <freereg.org.uk> has the baptism of Mary Moss at All Saints' Church there in 1790 (parents William and Mary), and also the marriage of Daniel and Mary, telling us that they are "of this parish", i.e. Monk Sherborne, and that a William Windiate was one of the witnesses, possibly a brother or father.

Newspapers (e.g. on subscription sites Findmypast and Newspapers.com) contain several mentions of Daniel, including the sale of Drayton Mill and an auction of "abundant growing crops" in Sutton Wick Field in 1835. The *Berkshire Chronicle* has this notice of Daniel's death:



A long letter in the *Reading Mercury* in 1835 tells of Daniel's party of 90 from Abingdon who sailed from Liverpool, and boasts that their wheat "looks better than ever you saw any in Didcot fields". Land was so cheap in Michigan (\$50–60 per acre, or 4s. 3d.) that Daniel could give his sons-in-law a farm each.

Genealogy Gophers <gengophers.com> turned up an 1891 book containing this:

"William Besley ... was joined in wedlock with Mary W. Windiate of Arborfield, Berkshire. Her mother died in the old country in the bloom of womanhood. The husband afterward married Martha Mundy, and by his second union had eight children, two sons and six daughters, of whom seven are still living. Mrs Emma Whitfield and Mrs Marian Cubbins reside in Memphis, Tenn.; Mrs Jeanie Holister and Mrs Rebecca Atwood are residents of Chicago; Mrs Martha Smith makes her home in Saginaw, Mich; and William and Daniel also live in Michigan."

There is much more that can be found, e.g. from archives, land and passenger records, wills, obituaries, family history societies, gravestones, Google, and by collaborating with descendants and

venturing into DNA testing. If you are interested in researching your own family, why not book a free session at one of the Oxfordshire libraries? (when they are re-open).

**Editor's note: the December Chronicle, and all other past Chronicles, are available on the Village Website: [www.draytonvillage.co.uk](http://www.draytonvillage.co.uk). Click 'Chronicle' and 'Archive'.**

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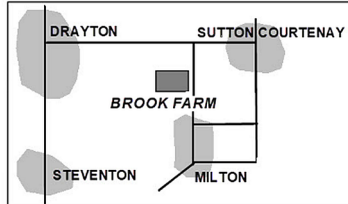
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# COFFEE-BREAK QUIZ

Find 29 Drayton/Sutton Wick road names in the grid (without Street, Lane etc). As a clue, there are 30 jumbled versions of the road names in the list. To enter the competition, write down the 1 road name from the list which does not appear in the grid. Add your name, address and phone number, and place in an envelope marked Wordsearch Competition in the Chronicle Box outside Vickery's. The first correct entry drawn on June 15th will win the prize of two bird feeders complete with peanuts and niger seed.



## Find-a-Road Wordsearch

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M	T	C	C	N	L	M	A	R	C	H	A	M	H	R
A	A	A	B	I	N	G	D	O	N	H	U	O	Y	S
F	I	U	S	P	W	P	R	T	G	Z	L	Y	X	D
D	L	D	H	Y	H	N	T	U	N	L	A	W	C	R
R	L	W	V	C	E	Y	O	N	Y	W	H	H	N	A
O	I	E	B	V	W	L	N	T	T	I	U	C	O	W
F	H	L	I	N	P	E	N	S	T	R	L	R	T	Y
Y	D	L	N	F	H	W	A	E	C	U	E	A	N	A
L	L	O	N	P	W	E	H	H	H	S	B	E	H	
E	A	C	I	R	O	O	G	C	S	L	P	T	V	K
V	M	K	N	X	R	I	L	I	L	G	A	R	E	G
A	M	W	G	N	H	U	F	L	S	X	R	E	T	E
R	A	A	S	G	R	E	E	N	A	C	R	E	S	T
G	S	Y	S	G	N	O	L	R	U	F	E	Y	W	F

## Road Names List

- Clever lion
- Wish Throne
- Beer Cart
- Real Repts
- Hug Pol
- Such Tent
- Loyhl
- Nut Law
- Golf Runs
- Surf Row
- Alms Ma
- Will Fed Foal
- Sad Me
- Owl Yack
- Two Sunk Tic
- Old Fry
- Screen Rage
- Duel Claw
- Vet Sonnet
- Gin Nnibs
- Draws Hay
- No Bad Gin
- Urchhc
- Tea Ways
- Shy Elen
- Ghjh
- Rev Gal
- Hi I Tall
- Hmm A Car
- Hi Refs

Answers to Where Am I? Picture Quiz from page 19, May issue

Casablanca - *Hussein II Mosque*

Newcastle upon Tyne

Beachy Head

Brixham Harbour, *Devon*

Budapest - *Hungarian Parliament building on the river Danube*

Neptune's Staircase – *a series of eight locks on the Caledonian Canal. Built by Thomas Telford between 1803 and 1822, it is the longest staircase lock in Britain. The system was originally hand-powered but has been converted to hydraulic operation.*

Venice – Grand Canal

El Caminito del Rey - *is a walkway, pinned along the steep walls of a narrow gorge in El Chorro, near Ardales in the province of Málaga, Spain*

Burgh-on-Sands, Cumbria – *Statue of King Edward (Longshanks) I, who died near here in 1307*

How Hill Trust, Norfolk – *"Hitler's Oak" presented to Chris Boardman, yachtsman, at the 1936 Olympics*

Dorchester Abbey, Dorchester, Oxfordshire

Lizard Point, Cornwall – *New lifeboat station*

The connection between nos. 2 & 9 is Hadrian's Wall which starts/finishes in Newcastle and ends/starts roughly 6 miles further on from Burgh-on-Sands at Bowness-on-Solway.

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## Continuing my occasional series detailing the HISTORY OF THE WI

**Drayton WI, 1930 to 1949.** These years are probably the most important years in our history, and these notes are taken from each annual report.

**1930** was centred around food production and preservation, folk dance classes for adults and children, a trip to London (zoo and Madam Tussauds), enjoyed by all, and the year ended with a birthday party with cake and entertainment, a good time had by all. **1931:** talks this year ranged from 'loose covers' to the League of Nations, a trip this year was by charabanc to Bourne-mouth, one competition was 'to make a bag to cost no more than a shilling'. The Hall (not the present one!) now has water laid on to the kitchen, and with other repairs we are now in debt.

**1932:** demonstrations include making a 'mackintosh', a choral society was formed, the outing was by charabanc to Southsea (for naval week), the year ended out of debt. **1933/34:** different monthly topics held and enjoyed. In May members collected door to door for the British Empire Cancer Campaign (**£6/6s was collected – that small sum approximates to roughly £454 now, after applying almost 90 years of inflation!**), and road safety posters have been put up round the village. Sixpenny dances were held through the year, raising £20, a new piano was purchased, much to users' delight. Garments have been sent to the Personal Service League, we mended linen, collected eggs, and Christmas gifts were taken to Abingdon Hospital.

**1935:** talks in this year include child's slipper making, care and repair of furniture, and how to use a public telephone. [Yes, honestly, that's what it says – **phones were a new thing back then!**]. Folding doors are being fitted across the hall so we will again end the year in debt. **1936:** a talk given by Cadburys on making chocolate cake. The finances are very favourable considering the doors, and repairs inside and out, events this year raised £17.

**1937:** the May committee was cancelled owing to extensive preparations for the Coronation, one meeting was a talk on air raid precautions!! **1938,** usual meetings attended through the year, funds at the end £20, very successful. The **Young Men's Club** is also proving a success over the three years it has run. **1939:** Numbers have fallen due to changes to afternoon meetings at the beginning of the war, working parties had to cease due to shortage of materials. **The Men's Club has had to close because of call to war, hopefully to resume soon [Ooops!].** **1940,** Numbers have fallen drastically owing to the war, September meeting was cancelled owing to a large group of evacuees arriving from Canterbury and the Hall being used for them. Talks have been uncertain so were given by members when able, and still enjoyed. Several groups and competitions were halted, hope to return next year. 144 tins (that's 200 lbs) of plums were canned and sterilized. A salvage collection was made with the Nursing Association, £4/1s/4d was raised.

**1941:** numbers falling but we carry on, talks included 'the Difficulties of Running a Small Institute', to wartime cookery. A county adviser came to form a committee for fruit preservation, but as it was a poor year for fruit it was abandoned with great regret (a few tomatoes were canned in October). With no speakers available, we entertained ourselves by making toys, these for the children in London shelters, and knitting for friends and relations in the forces. Our 21st birthday is planned, and a cake made from donations from members and it will be the first activity of the New Year.

### Nationally - 1930 to 1940

The number of Institutes continues to grow, 1933 saw the 5,000th Institute formed, at the end of the decade there were 5,534. As the ladies at the top got more well known they started to take up the rights of other women, and push for legislation affecting the physical, mental, and moral well-being of children, the type of education given to children, nutrition, and clothing standards.

Women were appointed as school managers, magistrates, and members of juries, probation officers and policewomen. Things we all take for granted now!!! Then the Ladies moved on to improving the lives of country people, feeding men who worked on the land, the safety of milk for children was questioned, Lady Denman went to Parliament to get milk standards regulated.

At the coronation of King George 6th (May 1937, following the abdication of Edward 8th), the WI was given a stand for 1,000 members to observe the great day.

At the end of this decade the threat of war was looming and the organization was gearing up towards the unknown. Lady Denman was asked to take charge of the Women's Land Army and to be prepared for impending war, they needed to be ready for evacuation duties, but should not enter into ARP duties [NB ARP stands for Air-Raid Precaution, a mass of Air-Raid Wardens - their usual title – had been recruited for cities and towns up and down the land]. As the evacuated women and small children started to arrive, the country women were shocked at the lack of cooking ability and standards of diet, behaviour and personal hygiene of the newcomers. This was a reflection of the homes they left.

1940 showed a decline in the WI membership, women had other priorities! Lady Denman was still heavily involved in the land army, village halls were used for refugees and other uses, so the WI had to find other venues. The work of the WI carried on, food and the preserving of it was a priority, this is where the ladies came into their own so much so that they were lent **canning machines** from Canada for vegetables, and an **extra sugar allowance** for jam making (used under strict control). A big part of their war effort was **collecting all types of metals** ("sorry sir, we need your garden railings!"), and organizing sewing, mending, and knitting groups for refugees. "DIG FOR VICTORY" was a popular WW2 slogan, (so they did!), and they did other tasks like distributing meat pies\* to outlying families and encouraging the National Savings scheme. [\*Lord Woolton, the wartime Minister for Food, lent his name to '**Woolton Pie**', a meat-free alternative, as actual meat was so scarce. You can look up the recipe online, but almost any veggies could be used, along with some rolled oats, a bit of grated cheese, and potato pastry. Apparently, Lord Woolton was often photographed looking as though he was enjoying said pie, but most people reportedly thought it was horrible. However, when the choice was a simple "eat it or starve" it's a choice that becomes easier to make!]

The war being over, and houses being rebuilt, the National Federation expressed its disapproval that the rural houses were not being built with an indoor water supply and an effective sewage system; problems that had become more apparent after housing refugees and the extra strain it put on the waste disposal. **Lady Denman resigned in 1946** (President since 1917!), and in her honour the WI college in Marcham was to be named **Denman College**, to be used for members to learn crafts and other skills never seen before. The college opened in 1948, furnished and equipped solely from donations by members all over the country.

[To be continued next month, **Ann Webb**]



## GARDENING TIPS FOR JUNE

- \* Sow Pumpkins, ready for Halloween
- \* Plant flowers from seed for flowering in later summer and autumn: Limnanthes Douglasii, Nasturtiums, Coreopsis, Night-scented Stock
- \* Lift and store Tulip bulbs
- \* Prune Wisteria to promote flowering next spring
- \* Support tall-growing perennials such as Hollyhocks and Delphiniums with canes
- \* Tie-in new stems of climbing and rambling Roses
- \* Prune late spring shrubs after flowering, such as Weigela
- \* Sow Spring Onions and Broccoli
- \* Plant out young plants: Runner Beans, French Beans, Brussels Sprouts, Courgettes, Squashes, Cabbages, Cauliflowers and Celeriac
- \* Hoe weeds
- \* Protect fruit from birds with nets

(Adapted from Gardener's World)



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# RECIPE CORNER

## Perfect Sponge Cake

110 gm (4oz) Self Raising Flour (sifted)

110 gm (4 oz) Stork Margarine

110 gm (4 oz) Caster Sugar

2 Eggs

1-2 tablespoons Warm Water

### Buttercream Filling

Beat together:

50 gm Butter

100 gm Icing Sugar

1 teaspoon Almond Extract

### Method

Prepare two circular cake tins—line bases with greaseproof paper and lightly grease sides. Heat oven to 180 C (fan).

Beat the margarine and caster sugar until very light and fluffy.

Add one egg with 1 tablespoon sifted flour and beat well. Add second egg with another tablespoon of sifted flour and beat again.

Fold in remaining flour, keeping lots of air in the cake mixture.

Finally, slowly stir in 1-2 tablespoons warm water.

Divide mixture between the two tins and bake for 20-25 minutes. Cakes are done when mixture starts to leave the sides and springs back when lightly pressed in the middle.

Turn onto wire cooling racks. When cool, sandwich together with filling and sprinkle sifted icing sugar on the top.

The cake should look like the one in the photo, which was eaten in about 5 minutes. **Thanks to Pat Morgan for this recipe.**

### Alternative buttercream fillings:

**Chocolate**—substitute 25 gm Cocoa Powder for 25 gm Icing Sugar, and beat with the butter and a tablespoon of water

**Lemon** - beat icing sugar with butter, grated Lemon Zest and 1 tablespoon Lemon Juice

## Gorgeous Granola

2 tablespoons Vegetable Oil

125 ml Maple Syrup

1 tsp Vanilla Extract

350 gm Rolled Oats

50 gm Sunflower Seeds

50 gm Sesame Seeds

50 gm Pumpkin Seeds

100 gm Flaked Almonds

100 gm Dried Fruit (any, chop up if necessary)

50 gm Desiccated Coconut



### Method

Heat up oven to 130 C (fan)

Mix the oil, maple syrup and vanilla in a large bowl. Tip in the dry ingredients, except coconut and dried fruit. Mix well.

Spread onto two flat baking trays and bake for 15 minutes. Mix in the coconut and dried fruit and bake for 15 minutes more.

Leave to cool. Serve with cold milk or yoghurt and add fresh fruit for a great start to the day. Can be stored in an airtight container.

(adapted from BBC Good Food)

## Delicious Roasted Red Pepper Hummus

1 can Chickpeas (rinsed)

2 tablespoons Lemon Juice

2 Garlic Cloves, crushed

1 teaspoon Ground Cumin

Salt and Pepper to taste

1 tablespoon Tahini

4-5 tablespoons Water

2 tablespoons Extra Virgin Olive Oil

1 teaspoon Paprika

1 small Red Pepper

### Method

Cut the red pepper into strips and roast in a little olive oil in the oven for 20 minutes

Place all ingredients, including roasted red pepper, into a blender or food processor and blitz until smooth.

Place in bowl sprinkled with more paprika. Serve with celery sticks, pitta bread etc..

As an alternative, try replacing the red pepper with other flavours such as sundried tomatoes.

(adapted from BBC Good Food)



## Chronicle Deliverer (aka Agent) Needed Please!

Could you help out with delivering the Chronicle in the Whitehorns Way area? If so, please contact Carol & Colin Arnold, 95 Abingdon Road, 01235 531923 or by email [cullimore3@sky.com](mailto:cullimore3@sky.com).

To all existing agents—please could the delivery bags be returned as soon as possible after the round has been completed, so that they can be sorted for the next month in good time. Please drop back into the Chronicle Box outside Vickery's., or to Colin & Carol at the above address.

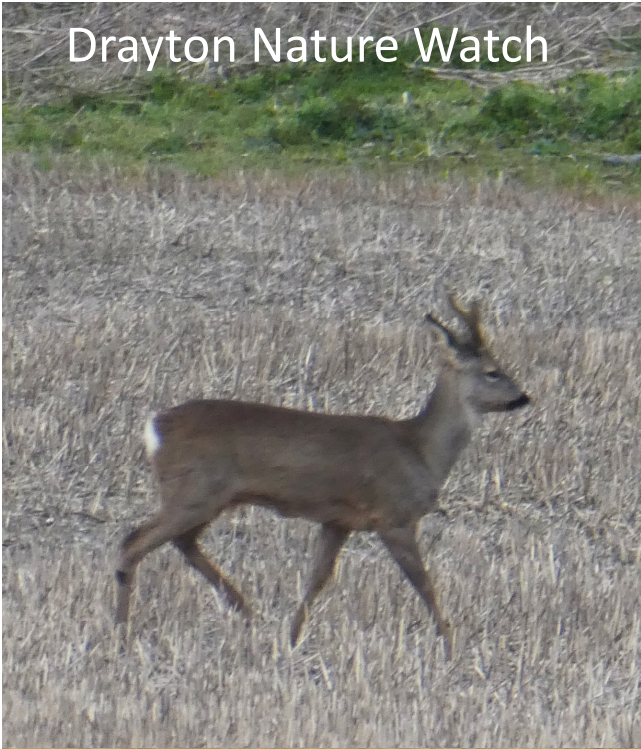
Finally, many, many thanks to the agents who happily volunteered to do an extra round last month, covering those in the Coronavirus 'shielding' category. Your help is really appreciated.

Thank you to everyone involved in keeping the Chronicle 'up and running' during these challenging times.

The Chronicle Team



# Drayton Nature Watch



Photos: Stephen Fearnley

Every effort has been made to try to ensure that this Chronicle is as up to date as possible at time of going to print 26/5/2020.

Printed by  
OxUniPrint  
Unit 10 Oxonian Pk  
Langford Locks  
Kidlington  
Oxford

