

DRAYTON CHRONICLE

(The UFO Edition)

SEPTEMBER
2020

Volume 43
No. 8

Editor - Tony
Holmes



COMING CHRONICLES

The **October Chronicle** will be available for distribution to Area Agents on or about **Friday Sept 25th**. The Editor will be **Margaret Inger (07967 730735)**. **Contributions** may be e-mailed (as below, best to 'editor@'), or placed in the Chronicle letter box, outside Vickery's store on Drayton Green, **NO LATER than 5.15 pm on Monday, Sept 14th**.

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

STOP PRESS - ADVERTISERS should note that the deadline for ads is **EARLIER, Friday Sept 11th**, due to their preparation time.

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

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

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

to reach the next editor → editor@draytonchronicle.net

Please remember to check that you soon get a confirmation reply. We do occasionally have emails sent – and they just don't arrive!

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

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

| DATES for the FOLLOWING Chronicle | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Issue for | Copy Deadlines :- to Editor by (& Ads on the Fri before these) | Chronicle published and available for distribution on Fridays:- |
| Nov | Mon Oct 19th | Oct 30th |

DISCLAIMER This Journal is published in all good faith and every care is taken in its compilation. The organisers of the DRAYTON CHRONICLE, and its Agents, therefore accept no responsibility for OPINIONS EXPRESSED, nor for the validity of any ADVERTISEMENT, nor for any EFFECTS ARISING WHATSOEVER from the publication.

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CHRONICLE NEWS

Chronicle Contributions

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

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

Oh, and a special SHOUT-OUT to one of our youngest ever contributors, see page 10, **Stanley Kirk's** thoughts re doing our bit for the environment (his future!).

This Month's Cover – Grateful thanks to **Stephen Fearnley** (also our long-serving Ads Manager, **massive thanks from all editors!!**) for spotting a pretty unusual event (well, we THINK it's unusual?!), the arrival (or maybe departure?!) of a UFO a few weeks ago, snapped hovering over some village rooftops.

These particular extra-terrestrial visitors seemed to favour a distinctly 'retro' look for their space-ship, and it makes you wonder if the similar kind of vehicles often seen going to & from the seaside (etc) on Bank Holiday weekends may sometimes contain strange visitors from afar? [and I don't mean Wolverhampton or Doncaster...]

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Local Groups & Clubs

The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

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Youth & Community Acting Together

August was a strange month for the project, with extreme heat and thunderous downpours making it difficult to plan and deliver each week, however, summer projects have kicked off with a bang!!

Our Weekly multi-sport sessions on the field by the Village Hall have been a massive hit and it was good to see young people back out enjoying some games, safely. A massive thank you to the young people for having patience with us whilst we clean the equipment between uses!

We have two new projects that started in August :- IWILL – a Youth Ambassador programme looking at leadership and youth advocacy, and Hearts – Healthy, Empowered, Active, Resilient Teens looking at positive body image and fitness. Both of these projects will continue to run so get in touch with the team to join in!

Keep your eyes open for the team as they continue their streetwork throughout summer! And Stay Safe.

The ADYP Team – Roxy Elford (pictured), Jake Fleetwood & James Quartermain

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

Tel:- 01235 848694 or 07875 649008



Jake Damascus, Roxy Damascus, James Damascus;



Jake_Damascus;
James_Damascus; Roxy_Damascus

YouTube - The Abingdon Damascus Youth Project

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(* Didcot market has got going again, after 'lockdown', please check for local updates nearer the date; Ab'don is running OK; * Re 'local', Didcot has a wonderful Fish Stall, always does well, they come up from Sussex as there's no sea near here!!)

Sept Dates Ab'don (3rd Fri) 18th; Didcot (2nd Sat) 12th**

TVFM news - ring 01235 227266 see website - Tvfm.org.uk

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ACCOMMODATION

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Drayton Wasps Football Club 2020



Following a decision made by the FA, we are very pleased to announce that the new season is set to commence this upcoming weekend September 5th! That

being said, we have had a fair few friendlies last month in order to get everyone's fitness and team chemistry back. If you fancy helping to keep the spirit forged in Drayton over the last few months alive, you are more than welcome to pop down and watch alongside our biggest fans, the Henmans!

Refreshments are available and we are also Covid secure due to regulations.

In terms of our refurbishment, we have made a start on our hygienic facilities, replacing sinks, urinals etc. This is thanks to donations made by those within the community as well as fundraising. We also have kindly been donated a brand new Oak door (RRP £200) by Burgess Reclamation based near Bicester which we shall be installing in weeks to come. A huge thanks to them.

If you wish to keep up to date with fixtures/results and other updates please like our Facebook page Drayton Wasps Football Club. We look forward to seeing you throughout the season!

(Bradley Cox)

ST PETER'S CHURCH

(part of the DAMASCUS Parish)

www.damascusparish.org.uk



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| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
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| Associate Priest | Revd Rosie Bruce | 07707 087131 |
| Associate Priest | Revd Meg Heywood | 537100 |
| Pro-warden | Mrs Linda Johnson | 527521 |
| Pro-warden | Mrs Val Cross | 535183 |

We're really pleased to say that the church is now open daily for private, individual prayer! {Sunday – Saturday, 10-4}.

For everyone's **continuing good health**, once in the building, please would you follow the **guidelines** for social distancing and using the hand gel. **Thank you.**

REGULAR SERVICES – We are very pleased that public worship can now take place following guidelines from the Government and the Diocese of Oxford.

| | | |
|--------|---------|--|
| Sunday | 8.00 am | Holy Communion (2nd Sunday only) |
| | 9.45 am | Sung Eucharist (CW) except 4th Sunday, when a non-Eucharistic Morning Praise is held |

NB:- There will be **NO** Thursday morning Holy Communion Service until further notice.

There are resources for **Home Worship** on the DAMASCUS Parish website or join one of the many 'virtual' services such as 'Oxford Diocese Church at Home' at 10.00am – for which please see website :- oxford.anglican.org/livestream

Listen to 'Sunday Worship' on Radio 4 at 8.10am. Also watch Songs of Praise (BBC1 at 1.15pm). 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

| | | |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| Memorial Service & Burial of Ashes | July 30th | Trevor Slatter |
|---|-----------|----------------|

A Prayer of Hope

Loving God,
Be next to us when we find life hard so that we can lean on you

Be around us in friends when we need help
Be inside us in kindness when others need help
Be behind us when we struggle to make a good choice
Be in front of us showing us what really matters
Run with us when we are having fun and share your joy with us

Hold our hand when we are sad
Through Jesus our friend and Saviour
Amen

YOU STAY – WE PRAY (Sept)

Aug 30th – Sept 5th Steventon Road;
6th – 12th Eastway; & Eastway MHP;
13th – 19th Church Lane; Henleys Lane;
Caudwell Close; Gravel Lane;
20th – 26th Abingdon Road; Oday Hill;
27th – Oct 4th Binning Close; Haywards Road;

From the DAMASCUS Ministry Team

Strange New World ?

She was standing, eyes brim full of excitement and anticipation. New shiny black shoes, bright white ankle socks, a pink lunch box clutched with both hands held in front of her ...a uniform a size too big ...my daughter was ready for her first day at Reception. Many of us at this time of year have children/grandchildren or know of children going into a new class, a new school/college or university. For some it is a time of excitement, as it was for my daughter. For some, a time of nerves and apprehension. It can be all these things for parents and carers too – especially with all the social distancing and hand washing regulations in place and fears of becoming ill.

In the Bible, especially in the part we call the Old Testament, there are many festivals to celebrate and at this time of year around September/October, there is one for 'New Beginnings' – the Feast of Trumpets where Jewish people mark a spiritual new year. It is a time for them to remember the Kingship of God, to consider everyone's place in the world and their own part in the unfolding of God's universal plan, a time for a spiritual awakening. Although Christians believe that Jesus is the fulfilment of all of God's promises to the Jewish people; there is much that we can take from this Jewish festival to help us with the unusual beginnings of the academic year and the situations we find ourselves in the easing of lockdown.

In all the uncertainty taking place it is good to remind ourselves again of the Kingship of God, His sovereignty in the world. The bible is full of stories and poems that assures us that God knows and has a good purpose for each one of us and He is also overseeing his world.

As we consider those we know going to school, further education, let's find ways of being able to support them in fulfilling their potential, to take their place in the community as the people God has in mind for them. Let's take time to listen, to enjoy and celebrate their achievements and to come alongside them in their disappointments. As we do this for those around us, let's not forget that God wants to do this for us too! We also need a fresh revelation of God's love for us and His world – and the part that we can play in the unfolding of His Kingdom in our families, communities, and workplaces.

At this time of new beginnings, may we all be aware of God's loving gaze and His presence alongside, ready to support us. As Jesus said, *'Remember, I am with you always.'* Matthew 28:20

Meg Heywood

(Associate Minister in the DAMASCUS Parish)

Letters to the Editor

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

LOCAL W.I. HISTORY

Continuing the recent series on our history, now at the dawn of a new decade, the 1950s (extracted from the Diaries of the time).

{to be continued next month, with 1955

Ann Webb }

1950 We almost have sugar to spare so we started the year with sweet making, other talks were on Christmas cooking (given by Southern Electricity), 20 questions, adventures in India. In May we met the daughter of the very first president of our WI, we listened as she told us about the early days of Drayton WI. A talk on simple dressmaking was enjoyed by all, and classes in glove making were being arranged for early next year.

The year began with our usual trip to the pantomime, and the children's party followed by the family party, again both very successful. In June a visit to Blenheim Palace was arranged and it turned out to be one of the only summer days of the year. The exterior of the Women's Hall was creosoted and painted, and some items of china were added to the cupboard, we are now well stocked.

The **Grace Long cup** was purchased, to be awarded to the member gaining most points in the monthly competitions (we still did this when I joined but it has stopped now as we don't have the time or the need to make items for competitions each month!). A shrub was presented to Watlington House for the gardens, this was to commemorate the **Festival of Britain** (which was 1951, at London's South Bank, 100 years after the Great Exhibition).

1951 {The written report is quite difficult to read but talks this year included:-} Cycling through France, Hand weaving, Loose covers, small fancy cakes, and life in an American House (given by an American visitor!). {and now the diary writing has got better, a different pen!} The usual parties held, summer fete was held in the garden of Manor Farm. The stage in the Women's Hall had to be rebuilt, the members were pleased with the result and commented that "it was as fine a stage as any in the district". The lighting was also renovated, all this work was carried out by Village tradesmen. →>

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→> **1952** seems to be a missing year, sadly the year the King passed away and we entered the Elizabethan era.

1953 Talks this year included tapestry, smocking, yeast cookery, and "ten centuries of English dress". Lampshade making classes were held, these were enjoyed by all. The summer outing was **a day at Southsea**. The committee began preparations for the children's refreshments, to be consumed after the sports day, (held in honour of the Coronation), but due to the very cold weather it was decided this would be held in the Womens Hall. Judging by the amount of sandwiches and cakes consumed and the happy faces of the children, it was deemed a very successful end to a wonderful day.

To commemorate the event we will build a set of steps from the road to the main door of the Women's Hall. Grateful thanks were recorded for all the help on the day, by the secretary, and for the help given by many local Gentlemen for their assistance, moving tables and chairs from venue to venue. Our finances were good so we sent a donation of 10/6d to the County Treasurer towards the Denman College Finance Fund. [Ed's note:- Ten & sixpence then is worth about £14 today]

Improvements in the Kitchen this year were a new stove to replace the copper, a draining board, and two tables. To conform to police regulations, fire exit signs and fire extinguishers have been fitted. Outside steps have been put at all doors.

1954 Talks through this year started with preparing and trussing a chicken, and the work of a policewoman. There were various travel talks (these Ladies knew how to live didn't they?) and "How to care for your feet!" (due to all that traveling?!). In December, 30 members from Sutton Courtenay joined us to listen and join in with Folk Songs old and new. In April we collected eggs of all sorts to take to the local hospital for the patients, we also had classes on eiderdown making, but the soft furnishing classes were postponed until the next year. Finally this year, estimates were gathered for the remainder of the path from the top of the steps to the door. {here ends this section, see you next month in 1955 & onwards.}

BAPTIST CHURCH

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



REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES >>

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If you need to get in touch with our MP,

email david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk, & for up-to-date info please check out his Facebook page [@davidjohnston4wantage](https://www.facebook.com/davidjohnston4wantage)

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

Letters to the Editor

You may request that your name & address are not shown; however we MUST have those details, and phone number .

GARD Update

It has been six months since our last update but despite the limitations of Covid lockdown and the cancellation of our AGM and planned meetings with water companies, regulators and local stakeholders, GARD officers have continued to mount **vigorous opposition** to the proposed reservoir:

Officers have participated in virtual meetings with Thames Water's Water Resource Forum, the new managing director of RAPID (a group which brings OFWAT and other water regulators together) and representatives from both Water Resources East and Water Resources South-East. These meetings are all ensuring that we stay in touch with policy and development issues.

GARD is most definitely seen by water professionals and the regulators as a well-informed group who have a significant role to play in monitoring and informing the research that has been required by the regulators before any decision on a reservoir can be made.

GARD's professional consultant has completed a detailed critique and concluded that the proposed reservoir would not be resilient to long droughts. We remain very worried that the reservoir plan is deeply flawed and that this limited approach to future needs could result in serious supply issues in a long period of drought.

Elsewhere, we note that the **Chalk Stream and Angler interest groups** have come out in favour of an alternative, early deliverable scheme to remove the need for abstraction from the Chiltern streams. This scheme uses **water transfers** from existing Thames Water reservoirs, and **would be available a decade earlier** than even the earliest Abingdon reservoir date.

GARD believes that this scheme, a permanent and sustainable solution to the Chiltern Chalk-streams crisis (similar to the one we suggested last year), would remove any need for the Abingdon Reservoir as a scheme to 'save' the Chalk Stream habitats.

The flood risk study that GARD has commissioned has been completed and shows that Thames Water's estimates of the necessary flood compensation volume have been underestimated by around 60 – 70%. This was well worth doing and will strengthen our position still further.

Sadly, our AGM has had to be postponed. The committee members have all indicated a willingness to continue in post. We plan to send out a full report to members of activities since the last AGM in Spring 2019 and we are also planning a virtual 'Meet the Officers' gathering in October, which will provide an opportunity for you to ask questions and join in discussion about GARD's future direction and activities.

To avoid costly printing and postage, it would be really helpful to have email addresses for all members. If you have not been receiving updates by email, it is probably because we need to update our contact details. Please email gard.secretary@gmail.com so that we can do this.

Not Your Usual Paper Boy!

Peter Purbrick – paper boy extraordinaire.



I among most, if not all of you, am very grateful for the various support services that have been providing care over the last five months or more. I would like also to thank our local 'paper boy' who has been unfailingly delivering our papers during that period. I use the term 'boy' affectionately as Peter is in his mid-80s. Recently, meeting him on his morning round, I spoke to him and found out some of his interesting background.

Peter was born in Abingdon, the seventh of nine children. His wife Barbara was born in the village in Crabtree Lane. They had four children, eleven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. They lived in Abingdon but Barbara wished to return to the village, which they did just over 20 years ago. Sadly she died in 2012. Peter has stayed in the village and loves it here, "I have been living as though every day was a holiday in Drayton".

He had planned to become a missionary priest and so studied at the Mill Hill Missionary Society excelling in Greek, Latin, French and Biology. Changing course, he joined the RAF with Flying Training Command stationed variously at Merryfield, Leighton Buzzard and Shinfield.

When he returned to being a civilian he joined the MG Car Company as a statistician but after a year moved at his own request on to production. He stayed for 17 years, working on various MG models. After that he joined Henry Booth Leather Co. as a cost accountant, but didn't stay long and moved on to become a double glazing consultant. Later he became Caldecott Infant School caretaker and Tesdale Secondary School site manager until they closed in 1995 at which point he 'retired'. Whilst at the schools he traded as Abingdon (Parkhill) Blinds for 35 years, becoming known locally as the "Blind Doctor"!

Since then he returned to employment, working at the Four Pillars Hotel for seven years and Culham Laboratory for eight years when he retired yet again.

The list of his accomplishments is long and on top of these he has been quite a sportsman. He kept goal for his college, for Abingdon United and for MG Cars. He has received trophies in tennis and rifle shooting (both with MG). Peter enjoyed archery, table tennis, kung-fu, and ran a school for self-defence and physical fitness. He was also a school governor and youth leader. For a while he was a professional entertainer and compère ('Dave Peterson'). Peter has also published poetry, and for a while worked at Tonks Bros (see their ad on page 15!).

Now he is our paperboy. At least that is what I thought. Only now I learn that he is paper boy to the whole village and has been for the last three years. I applaud him!



(Stephen Fearnley)

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How Is/Was THEIR 'Lockdown'?

After the August issue was posted on the Chronicle website archive, we had a couple of emails from former Drayton residents, now in [Australia](#), mentioning their Covid experiences. Here's the one from [Jill Byron](#) :-

I am in Melbourne, Australia. Unfortunately our State is going through a second spike that is far worse than the first. Hopefully it is going to be contained by tough lockdown restrictions.

I have family and friends who work in medical and essential services areas and they are doing it tough. They risk their health every day and some are traumatised by what they witness. I retired at the start of the year – not the year I expected! However it means I can contribute by staying at home. My husband and I only go out to exercise and do our weekly shopping and that has been our pattern since March. We haven't visited our elderly parents or 3 of our 4 children since March even though they live between 20 to 200km from us. It is not such a hardship if it helps to get the virus under control. At least we can see each other virtually.

Thinking of my friends in England. Best wishes, Jill

... and another one, from [Ray Hutt](#) →>>

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On the matter of the Covid, despite fairly bad outcomes across other nations, Australia has been reasonably lucky with the event. The small number of deaths in Australia compared to other countries, whilst extremely upsetting for families, has been a bit of a godsend, as it could have been so much worse. Aged Care nursing homes have suffered significantly though, and has shown up severe failings both at the Federal and Victoria State level.

Fortunately at a family level we have remained untouched by the effects other than from the standard social restrictions - **we live 70km north of Melbourne** so the Stage 4 lockdowns across the city don't apply and we are free to move about within certain scenarios.

We keep an eye on Covid events in the UK and it seems so confused and dysfunctional as public policy appears fractured and not on message - I sense a growing frustration which we are yet to see in any significance.

Australia as a country based on migration has many in the population who will not be able to see their overseas families at all for some time and that makes it harder.

We all hope that the virus will soon reduce to something that can be managed effectively and that we can resume some semblance of normality.

{Ed:- after I replied that we in UK have been bombarded for months with TV channels wheeling out assorted 'experts' often with contrasting opinions, Ray replied:- }

All you said is **the same here** - too much PC and carelessness on many peoples part plus all the 'experts' commentary has wearied the population and they now don't quite believe anyone any more.

Too much political backside protection going on - most workers (or those that have a job) have taken paycuts yet the political 'elite' who keep telling us that 'we're all in it together' seem to have not read that memo yet. I dread to envisage how society will be at the end of it all.

YOUR LETTERS

Grateful THANKS

Dear Editor, Sutton Wick Lane

Following Jane McWhirter's letter of thanks, I would like to write in as well thanking our Parish Council for acting so quickly and being so well organised in helping our most vulnerable residents. They organised an army of volunteers to help with shopping, collecting prescriptions, walking dogs etc. as well as funding a home cooked meal once a week to be cooked and delivered by Bloomers (Jane & Ian McWhirter)

I have spoken to several residents who are eternally grateful to our village community and I know that there are a lot of vulnerable residents who were also being looked after by their friends and neighbours as well.

I also know that we have over 15 NHS Volunteer Responders in our village who are reporting for duty and have been quietly responding to any tasks sent to them by the Royal Voluntary Service in and around our village.

In addition to the above, there were small armies of people in the village and surrounding area making scrub bags and scrubs to keep our NHS going, as well as keeping our local shop Masons going!

My son Sam Mitchell (16), decided to shave all his hair off during lockdown (it took a lot of thinking about!); But his friends and family encouraged him by agreeing to sponsor him if he did! We set the target to £400, and once we hit the target we set a date. **Sam would like to say a huge thank you** to everyone who sponsored him as he raised an incredible £700 for NHS Charities!



We should all be very proud in being part of a very supportive village, a community coming together, during what could have been a very difficult time.

Kind Regards Annette Mitchell

Kaye Attwood

Dear Editor, via email

We very sadly lost a previous member of the Bowls Club, Mrs Kaye Attwood (formerly of Church Street, Drayton) who passed away in July.

She played for many years with her husband Geoff, both were excellent bowlers and played in the league for the Wasps and Rollers. When Geoff died, Kaye presented the club with a silver trophy called The Attwood Cup and every year (for about 18 years now) the club has held a competition in his memory.

Our thoughts and love go to her family at this very sad time.

Kind Regards Val Locke (Chair, DSMBC)

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What JOY!

Dear Editor, Church Lane

There will be those that don't agree with the following sentiments BUT "What Joy" Church Lane is, as we write, a **No Through Road** (road closed signage until September due to necessary works).



No Rat Runners, Very Few Speeders, No Short Cutters, No Kerb Carvers, it's just bliss.

We know it will come to an end - BUT if only it could be a permanent fixture of the lane, we are sure everyone in Church Lane and those who use it for their daily walk - with or without a canine friend - would be safer, calmer and happier (obviously Henley Lane residents will have their own views).

It's such a narrow lane it really does lend itself to being a "dead end" for safety reasons alone.

Kind Regards Tom & Bunty Knight

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MORE LETTERS

Peter Russell

Dear Editor,

My brother Pete passed away on July 9th. Although he lived in Eastbourne, he'd spent a lot of his young life in Drayton, and every time he visited we'd walk the village ending up in one of the pubs.

Peter was the 5th one of our family of ten children; he was born in London, as were all my brothers and sister, the family moved to Drayton in 1942, into what was then a Social Club on Abingdon Road – for Morland's workers – and dad started working there. I was born in 1944.

Although the address was Abingdon Rd, in fact a lot of the garden was in Crabtree Lane, always known as 'Rag Alley', named by a visiting doctor.

There were two big families, the Roberts at the bottom, and us at the top. Peter like all my brothers played football, the Wasps team were from Steventon Rd and Hammers from this end.

I'm going to miss our phone calls and now out of ten children there are only three of us left, but we always talk of growing up in Drayton, all happy times.

M Cox (Russell)



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A Bit Late Now?

Dear Editor, via Email

What a strange letter (Aug issue) from someone moaning about the proposed 'Art' in the village. I've been away from Drayton a couple of years, but still catch up with the Chronicle and my old neighbour.

I can remember the articles about the 2020 group (what, 6, 8 years back?) when it was specified that money would come from Developers, for a variety of public benefits, a small portion of it for 'Art', all part of that Neighbourhood Plan that so much work went into?

The time to complain was surely back then, not this late stage? Did the writer read all that stuff about the plan when it came out, bulletins every month I think, or go along to all those meetings? In any case, the article had mentioned 'signage', the project for a Pavilion and playing fields, including all-weather, at Walnut Meadows is ongoing the last I saw about it (whenever Millers can be nailed down?!), and as for mention of shop-fronts to be "smartened-up", they're privately-owned, look OK anyway, and one was redone not so long ago I'm told!

Kind Regards

P. Sternbrook



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Five CO2 Problems & How to Help

The Problems

Bees - As CO₂ warms up the atmosphere, flowers open earlier, therefore leading to bees not getting enough nectar after their winter hibernation. This is a major problem, as they are the most active pollinators, and they are the ones who pollinate many of our crops.

Ice caps - As CO₂ raises the temperature globally, it does not miss out the Arctic. As it is just a vast landscape of ice, it is melting, killing numerous species in the process. As you may have heard from the news, recently two ancient Canadian ice caps and the last intact ice shelf in the Canadian arctic have melted, horrible news.

Sea level - Following the previous problem, the ice caps melting are causing a rise in sea level, flooding many seaside towns, villages and cities.

Weather - The rise in heat is causing tornadoes to be more frequent, as they are created by a funnel of cold air at the bottom, rising as it warms up.

Wildfires - In many places where it is consistently hot, wildfires are starting, causing the loss of millions of trees, greatly reducing the world's conversion of CO₂ to Oxygen.

Solutions

However, there are many ways in which YOU can help to save nature:

You can limit your time on non-essential electronics such as TVs and consoles, and turn off lights when no one is in the room. Instead of playing video games you could play a board game, which is not only better for the environment but also better for you.

Planes produce vast amounts of CO₂, so in the future, when air travel is not restricted, **try not to go** on long plane journeys if it is possible to avoid it.

Planting trees could help reverse the problem, along with any other plants. Recently, I have been planting some trees here in Drayton as part of our village nature group.

You could try to **reuse plastic items** such as bottles and either refill them or just save them for things like arts and crafts projects instead of throwing them away.

Bee-friendly plants in your garden could help to save multiple species of bee. For example, you could plant some wildflowers or lavender, which bees love.

Stanley Kirk (aged 10)

[Ed's note:- I gather from Stan's mum Clare that she was only minimal assistance with this piece, and could even have been a hindrance, though I'm sure she had a big keyboard in the email process! But, overall, WELL DONE Stanley!]

Your District Councillor



Things are starting to feel – well, not “normal”, but a little less abnormal. This does mean that we’re now in the middle of a phase where **we could easily become too casual about the dangers** and see the exponential growth kick in once again.

As long as we remain sensible about the restrictions remaining in place and our attitude to them, we can continue to keep a lid on Covid-19. The County Council (not the District Council) has been given limited powers to try to handle local flare-ups of Covid-19; hopefully these won’t be necessary as long as people continue to be cautious.

It can close or restrict entry to individual premises, prohibit certain events from taking place, or close a public outdoor place – if there is a serious and immediate threat. If there is a need beyond that, central Government may order local lockdown.

As I write this, the news on the vaccine front appears more and more encouraging. I’m not bringing that up to try to get people excited about a return to “normal,” but to emphasise that while this entire situation may seem interminable, the chances of there actually being a finishing line coming into view are increasing by the week.

We’ve come this far; let’s not throw it away when we’ve done so much.

Reopening of pools, gyms, and leisure centres

Most council-run leisure centres and gyms across the Vale should now be open, following individual assessments based on their respective facilities and availability of space. The following guidelines have to be followed:

- **Customers will need to book a one-hour slot** in advance online, on the Better UK smartphone app – this hour will include the time it takes to get in and out;
- **Customers should turn up at their allocated time**, not early or late and use the provided sanitiser on entry;
- There will be **strict one-way systems** in place to ensure customers can stay safe and practice social distancing;
- **Customers will be required to clean** machines, equipment and other areas they come into contact with after use;
- Gym equipment, pool lanes and dance studios will be operating with **reduced capacity and allocated spaces**;
- **Customers must leave by designated route** after a maximum one hour. The exit will be in a different location to the entrance to maintain a one-way flow;
- Everyone who attends a swim session **should arrive ‘pool ready’** with their swimming gear on under their clothes and having showered at home.

Following discussions with Better (who run the council leisure facilities), it has been decided that **unfortunately it will NOT be viable for the councils to open the outdoor splash pads** and swimming pool in Abingdon this year. The council-run splash pads in Wantage will also **remain closed this summer**.

All sites are very popular with users and it was not an easy decision to take but one where all parties felt there were no other options.



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Car parking

As Covid-19 has blown a massive hole through the Council’s budget (which we’d been so proud to have resolved just a few months ago!), we have had to take another look at the free car-parking policy. It currently costs (across the District) about £300,000 per year, currently subsidised from residents’ council tax (now that the central Government grant for new housing is being phased out).

While cancelling the policy and starting to charge for all parking would help considerably with the finances, we believe this could damage local businesses in our towns. The two hours free car parking is therefore to be **retained**. To try to minimise the financial impact, stays beyond two hours will have to go up by 40p and parking permits will go up by 10%.

Lockdown leisure survey

We have launched a lockdown lifestyle survey, and so far, hundreds of people have already completed the online form. A high feedback rate will provide us with a **much better understanding of the impact of Covid-19** on our residents and a good basis to work on new initiatives to keep residents active, healthy and happy.

If you haven’t already done so, please take part in and share the survey, please see:-

<https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/LockdownLifestyleHowActiveAreYou/> Closing date is **Tues Sept 8th**.

That’s all for now. Stay safe and take care, **Andy**

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

Recipe Time!

It seems that in 'Lockdown', Home Baking has increased dramatically, that, plus we hear a poor wheat harvest this year (too much rain at the wrong time – farmers, eh, always love a moan!?) has led to possible flour shortages at some point.

Bolo de Amêndoa – Portuguese almond cake

Cakes made from ground almonds instead of the more common flour are always fantastically moist, and this traditional Portuguese recipe is deliciously dense. Lightened in flavour with a touch of lemon and cinnamon, serve as is or with whipped cream &/or preserves. It also happens to be **gluten-free**. [60 minutes, + cooling time]

250g of ground almonds

170g of unsalted butter, softened, plus extra for greasing; 4 large eggs, separated

250g of caster sugar; 1/2 tsp sea salt

1/2 tsp ground cinnamon; 1 lemon, zested

1 tbsp of plain flour, for dusting (use a gluten-free flour blend if required); flaked almonds, for sprinkling

& icing sugar, for dusting.

METHOD:- 1 Preheat an oven to 170°C/gas mark 3 and grease a 10-inch cake tin with butter. Line the bottom of the tin with baking paper, then grease the paper with a little extra butter. Dust the pan with flour and tap out the excess

2 Place the butter and ground almonds into a food processor and pulse until combined

3 Whisk the egg yolks and 200g of the caster sugar together until light and fluffy (this will take around 5 minutes in a stand mixer; slightly longer for an electric or handheld whisk). Add the lemon zest, salt and cinnamon and mix until incorporated, then fold the almond and butter mixture into the egg yolks with a spatula. Set aside

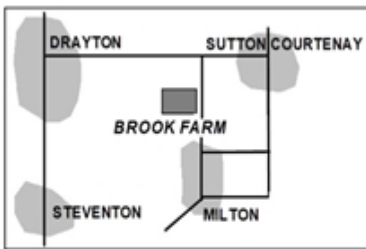

4 In a separate bowl, whisk the egg whites until foamy, then whisk in the remaining 50g of sugar until the whites form glossy medium peaks. Add one-third of the egg whites into the almond mixture and stir to lighten, then fold in another third of the whites, keeping as much air in the whites as possible. Finally, add the remainder of the egg whites, incorporating gently until there are no streaks of white visible

5 Smooth the cake batter into the prepared cake tin and smooth the top. Bake for 35 minutes, or until the cake turns golden brown and begins to pull away from the sides of the tin

6 Transfer to a rack and leave to rest for 5 minutes before releasing the cake from the tin. Leave to cool completely, then scatter with flaked almonds and dust with icing sugar before serving. The centre of the cake will collapse a little as it cools, but this is perfectly normal. [from the 'Great British Chefs' website]



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If you've missed reading a new book or accessing LIBRARY SERVICES - we're pleased to say that local libraries (inc ABINGDON) have started to reopen.

As a library visitor you can expect some important changes to keep you safe:-

- Crowd control measures to enter the library
- Browsing and borrowing times will last for 30 minutes
- Access to public computers and Wi-Fi will be for 30 minutes (& returned items will be quarantined!)
- DON'T FORGET your face-mask (but they're not needed for Under 11 y-olds)

BEE-Friendly?!

Following on from the terrific recent article (May) by Andrew Bax on Bee-keeping, here's some helpful hints about increasing bee numbers in the garden.

Almost every week we hear more warnings about the dangers to bees because of problems with habitat, pesticides and even global warming, but this [website](#) has a MASS of **great advice!**

Unfortunately, it doesn't have a short snappy ID, you'll need to type it in, at some length (but I've seen worse!):-

<https://www.loveproperty.com/gallerylist/86772/how-to-help-bees-22-garden-ideas-to-protect-the-pollinators>



but some of the key points have been listed below, to give you a taster.

You can **build a Bee-hotel** (some old bits of wood, bit of chicken wire, basic tools – the site has a video guide if needed).

Get **more varied plants**, BUT BEAR IN MIND what **bees like**. Apparently they can see colour, like ultra-violet (which we can't!), and especially plants of blue, pink, purple and white tones, so look for those. Lavender, foxglove, heliotrope and crocus are just four. Tubular flowers like honeysuckle and penstemon are good too. There are some **apps** which can help you choose, one is **BeeSmart Pollinator Gardener**.

Bees appreciate some **shade**, and some **water**, and maybe **go easy with that lawnmower** at times, things like dandelions (especially in winter) and clover encourage a greater diversity of the little chaps. They also mention the term '**wild meadow**', which for most gardens just means a small patch, not the size of a bowling green!

And **pesticides, that's a no-no**. It's all very well getting rid of bugs, but not much point if there are no pollinators?!

Flowering fruit & veg are good, so tomatoes, runner beans, raspberries, etc, and they like **herbs** apparently, as many have the colours they like, and the foliage which is usually scented. ENJOY!

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NB:- To see more about Sobell House generally, what they do, how they can help, and their present extra appeal for funds re COVID-19, please see:-

<https://sobellhouse.org/>

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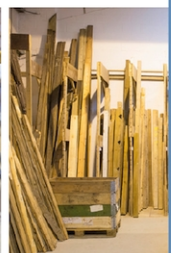
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County Council Report

'Mostly encouraging . .' >>

The local news on Covid in Oxfordshire continues to be mostly encouraging. There has been a spike in figures in part of Oxford City - almost certainly the result of partying by under 30s. This is reflected across the Country with an increase in under-30s cases. The message from the Director of Public Health is clear. Covid is far from over for any of us and if we are to avoid a second spike this winter, we need to maintain social distancing, wear masks when required and to follow Government advice as it is published.

The problem of A level and GCSE grades is firmly in the headlines as I write. Add in the issues around the reopening of schools for the new academic year, and it is clear that Education is going to dominate the news for some time. Allowing all predicted A level grades to stand rather than relying on a hastily drawn up algorithm looks like the only fair way to treat thousands of youngsters. Using algorithm moderated GCSE grades is also going to produce outcomes riddled with unfairness. It is likely that Schools will have to make judgements on who should take which A levels based on their own estimates of pupils' capabilities.

Now that the HIF (Housing Infrastructure Fund) has been signed off guaranteeing enough money to pay for the new roads around Didcot and the new bridge over the Thames, people are beginning to be concerned about some of the consequences. Will this mean yet more houses? How will the road system in our area in Abingdon, around Culham Bridge and at the Frilford crossroads cope?

The OCC Highways team (many of whom live in the area and **are well aware of the issues we all face**) are committed to visiting every parish to explain their thinking and their traffic modelling to everyone. I very much hope that all interested residents will be able to attend the presentations. The timetable for the consultation will be announced very soon.

As the lockdown has progressed, the impact on the mental health of all of us is beginning to show itself. Anti social behaviour and domestic violence is on the increase. Unemployment is rising, the economy is badly damaged and all age groups are affected. It is all too easy to become very depressed. And yet, families have shown enormous resilience to it all, and local communities and Covid Groups have thrived and brought people of all types and all ages closer together than they have been since the last world war. I reckon people are being kinder and more caring towards each other than I ever remember. **I wonder how history will treat this period.**

A very kind friend and neighbour suggested recently that, rather than read my monthly ramblings, people might appreciate the chance to ask questions via parish newsletters on Council related matters. **If any resident would care to email me a question they are prepared to have published,** I would be very happy to send in a reply for the next edition. Alternatively, if a resident wished to send a question to the newsletter, I would endeavour to publish a reply. It would obviously depend on the editor's judgement as to whether or not the question (and answer) were fit for publication.

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

Richard Webber

(OCC Cllr, Sutton Courtenay & Marcham Division)

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Dear Residents,

I hope you are all well, keeping safe, and have been taking advantage (as far as possible and inline with social distancing!) of the recent (extremely!) warm weather.

Covid-19 Action

Although the mandatory lock-down is now starting to be relaxed, the Drayton Parish Council Community programme continues its work, with support of the Drayton Community Trust. During the lock-down period, our programme has been coordinating volunteers to do shopping, collect prescriptions, post letters and undertake a variety of other supportive actions for residents who remain self-isolating or who are otherwise unable to get about. We are extremely grateful to all our wonderful volunteers.

Bonfires!!

Once again, we urge residents to take advantage of the local waste disposal centre near the Golf Course to dispose of household and garden waste, and NOT to have bonfires at home. Not only are they bad for the environment, they cause a nuisance for neighbours, especially those with breathing difficulties (asthma etc). We thank you for your understanding on this.

Suspended Annual Parish Meeting

We are planning to reconvene the suspended Parish Annual Meeting as soon as this is legal and practicable. We will publish the new date, time and location on the Council's website & Facebook page as soon as we know.

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Update on the Village Public Art Survey

At last, Covid 19 and email issues notwithstanding, we have a result! **Thank you very much** to all those who voted for the artist they felt would be able to carry out the artwork most effectively for our entrance signs. The results of your voting were that 'Artist C' (Julie Edwards & Ron Thompson) won with almost 70% of the vote, a resounding victory! They've been informed and are looking forward to working closely with us to (firstly) design a beautiful sign for our village at the three entrances, evoking an image of Drayton's past and present.

The next stage will be to **involve people in the village**, who will be invited to come forward with their suggestions as to which theme or themes they would like to see on the signs. I have received several suggestions already (though had to bin the less polite ones!), so we need to mull those over, and see how we can fit them into the overall design, without making it too 'fussy'.

There are one or two hoops to jump through yet, regarding funding, but we are nearly there. So watch the Chronicle for further news of how those interested can be involved with the chosen artists. I hope we can arrange a meeting with the artists to thrash it out, virus permitting, it wouldn't have quite the same impact on Zoom somehow.

Stay safe, and **thank you again for your participation.**
(Pervin Shahin – Drayton PC)

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

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

Neighbourhood Action Group 5

Courier fraud and scams (Sadly, we hear that one of these recently had a local victim)

Thames Valley Police has issued an alert about courier fraud, which continues to be prevalent in our area.

Courier fraud is the name given to incidents where criminals contact victims by phone, purporting to be a representative of the police, or a reputable organisation, in order to obtain cash, cards and bank details. The police have issued the following advice and information :-

Criminals have used stories such as an unexpected order on an online account (which you may or may not have), or that your bank card has been found on a suspect in police custody and officers want to move your money into a safe account.

There have been recent reports in our area of phone calls to residents from someone posing as a police officer, advising them that there's been fraudulent activity at their bank and that the officer believes the bank is using fake bank notes. The call recipient is asked to withdraw money from their bank account and take the cash home. They then receive another call, asking for the serial numbers on the bank notes. The caller then confirms that the notes are fake and says that a courier will be sent to pick them up. **The notes were not fake and the victims lost their money.**

The majority of those targeted by criminals committing courier fraud are over 70 years old.

The police and reputable organisations will **NEVER** ask you to move money to a safe account, to reveal your banking PIN or full password or send anyone to your home to collect cards, cash or jewellery. Police advice is to **STOP, CHALLENGE and PROTECT.**

Stop and think for a minute before parting with money or information. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

Challenge and question. Could the call be fake? It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore requests and hang up.

Protect yourself and your money. If you think you've been a victim of a scam contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud, the UK's national fraud and cybercrime reporting centre, online at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/> or call them on 0300 123 2040.

Internet security information for parents

Young people live their lives online, and you may already have put boundaries in place to keep them safe. **There are several websites which provide a wealth of information** about social networking, apps and websites for parents and carers of children ranging from the under 5s to the late teens.

Thinkuknow is the education programme from NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline. <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Net Aware reviews the most popular social networks, apps and games. <https://www.net-aware.org.uk> Get Safe Online has a huge amount of information for all internet users, including sections on social networking and safeguarding children. <https://www.getsafeonline.org/>

The Thames Valley Police website has information and advice for anyone concerned about online child abuse at www.thamesvalley.police.uk/police-forces/thames-valley-police/areas/c/2017/hidden-harm/online-child-abuse/ →>>

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** – then of course delete it from your inbox! (this excellent new service is quickly having an effect, please note they DO send you a confirmation email)

Find more online security info and advice at:-

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

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

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

More advice about how to protect yourself against fraud is available on the Thames Valley Police website :-

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/personal-fraud/>



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To contact the police call either 101 (if it's urgent) or 999 (for emergencies). IF POSSIBLE, please use their online reporting method at www.thamesvalley.police.uk (you'll be contacted within 24hrs of filing a report)

Contact NAG5 by calling 01235 848694 or via e-mail to:- neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (NHW)

If you're not a Neighbourhood Watch member, don't live in a street which has a scheme or can't contact your NHW Co-ordinator and need help and support - or know someone who does - please contact Drayton and Sutton Courtenay Area Co-ordinator for NHW, Bridget Haffenden, on 07762 597118 or via email nhwsuttoncourtenay@outlook.com

The Neighbourhood Watch in Sutton Courtenay Facebook page provides a **wide range of Coronavirus-related information** in addition to the usual content, updated daily:- www.facebook.com/neighbourhood.watch.in.sutton.courtenay

→> If you're concerned about the safety of a child call Thames Valley Police on 101 or the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 500. The Abingdon **Damascus Youth Project** works with young people, supporting them within their community and home environment. Visit <http://lycat.org.uk/>



So, for this occasional venture back into the **Pop Chart annals**, who was charting this time of year, just **20 years ago**? Sorry, not a strong month, **S Club 7** (Natural) & **Kylie** (On a Night Like This) were in the top 3, and **Sugababes** (first of several hundred line-ups?!) were seeing their first hit (Overload) creeping up the charts.

Back **30 years** and the **Righteous Brothers** were about to have the biggest hit of the year, their Unchained Melody being in 'Ghost', first a hit for them back in 1965.

40 years ago (can it be so long?!) and the wonderful voice of **Randy Crawford** had just been in the top 3 (One Day I'll Fly Away), and similarly **Barbra Streisand** was soon to be at #1 with Woman in Love. Not quite such a great voice (!!), but **Dennis Waterman** was bringing the well known Minder theme song (I Could be so Good for You) towards the top 3.

FIFTY years ago (for real old-timers) and we'd just had in the top 3 all of **Smokey Robinson** (Tears of a Clown), **Three Dog Night** (Mama Told me not to Come), and **Deep Purple** (Black Night), but this month saw **Freda Payne** hit #1 with Band of Gold, and moving up were **Don Fardon** (Indian Reservation – could we say that now?!), wonderful **T Rex** with Ride a White Swan (first hit single), and **Edwin Starr** with the unusual (for Motown) "WAR".

Can anyone remember **60 years back**?! A certain **Roy Orbison** had just been #1 (Only the Lonely), the **Everly Brothers** had their unmistakable sound in the charts (Lucille), and just below them was **Sam Cooke**, with the evocative Chain Gang.

In **1990**, **THIS was when** Tim Berners-Lee created the first web server, the foundation for the Internet. Things have moved on! On TV, The Simpsons was first shown here. Ghost, Home Alone & Pretty Woman were the highest grossing films, & Goodfellas came out. Sadly we lost Sir Len Hutton, one of the greatest opening batsmen.

In **1980** the last Black Country (Bilston) blast furnace closed, in Poland the Solidarity union was established (after strikes at Gdansk shipyard), and it was the first CND rally at Greenham Common. On TV the BBC started Watchdog, and the "Who Shot JR" episode of Dallas was soon to be aired. The Empire Strikes Back was the highest grossing film, but comedies 9 to 5, Stir Crazy & Airplane! also did very well; [from Airplane! :- in an announcement to passengers, Stewardess :- "There's no reason to become alarmed, and we hope you'll enjoy the rest of the flight. By the way, is there anyone on board who knows how to fly a plane?"]. In this month **Victoria Pendleton** (gold medal cyclist) was born, but we sadly lost **Jon Bonham** (Led Zeppelin), and a few days into October, the wonderful **Hattie Jacques** left us, far too young, with a massive legacy of much praised comedy & dramatic work, which paved the way for a number of other actresses.

This month in **1970**, **Jimi Hendrix** died (overdose) and the next day the first **Glastonbury** festival started. A few days into October, one **Matt Damon** was born (happy 50th birthday – doesn't seem possible?!).

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FOUND (still unclaimed!) a Child's (red) zip-up jacket, AND a pair (size 6) of Streetline Roller-blades (both of those from near the Village Hall).

NOTICE BOARD

FIRST TUESDAY CONNECTIONS

Are you feeling lonely, isolated or in need of some friendly company? Now, in these COVID affected times, the USUAL monthly tea and chat afternoons have had to be suspended, **BUT** the 'support group' aspect is continuing, by phone, with a volunteers rota calling round, at least once per week.

If you'd like a chat, with a friendly sympathetic voice, please call me (**Jean Hager**) on **531558**.

DRAYTON HALL (Lack Of!) NEWS

At the time of writing, August 20th, we have a few of our 'regulars' trying to get their sessions started again, and a couple more planning to in September or October.

Our exercise classes (Bouncefit, Clubbercise, that sort of thing) are hampered by the Govt's guidelines specifying that each user must have a certain area (sq metres) to operate in, and that substantially reduces the number of customers, and the sessions are barely viable, if at all.

We've had quite a few enquiries from new group leaders, wanting a space in a Hall somewhere, I'm unclear if this is due to people wanting to start a new job, or perhaps that their usual Hall has said the Guidelines are all too much, and they're staying closed to 2021.

But whatever the reason, we're keeping the present schedule of 'slots' as it is, so groups that can't restart as yet are safe in the knowledge that they have a slot to come back to. IF the virus chaos doesn't change into the New Year, or perhaps a group or two decides that they cannot see how to restart ever, then we'll review such things then.

LISTINGS

Abingdon Heritage Weekend 2020

European Heritage Days were set up in 1991 – the principle was to throw open the doors to historic monuments and buildings, in particular those normally closed to the public, in order to raise appreciation of Europe's rich and diverse cultural assets and the need to care for them. Heritage Days are now held annually in September in 50 European states.

Abingdon's first big Heritage Open Day was in 2003 and since 2007 they have been run by volunteers, mainly from the *Friends of Abingdon Civic Society* and the *Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society*.

During the early years Abingdon Heritage Open Days (HODs) mainly involved giving people the opportunity to see inside buildings not normally open to the public – in some cases private householders bravely opened up their homes to visitors. Since then the event has expanded to include heritage-themed guided walks, and often an exhibition, usually running for a full week. In some years we have had a mini-festival with family activities as well as the regular elements.

This year's event will of necessity be rather different. Plans include:-

Short Videos of aspects of Abingdon's heritage

Video tours of properties which would otherwise be open

Live-streamed events from the County Hall Museum

Information in windows of historic properties

Self-guided walks using either leaflets or mobile phone technology

A Market Place stall with information and leaflets

Full details of the event, held on **Sept 19 & 20th**, can be found at: <https://abingdonheritage.org.uk>

YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL CONTACTS :-

Parish (Clerk) Lorraine Watling (clerk@draytonpc.org)

OR phone 07909 176 061;

District (VofWH) Andy Cooke (07507 602911)

& Oxfordshire County richardwebber777@gmail.com

FOSTER CARERS NEEDED

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

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

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

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/fostering to find out more details, or please call **0800 783 5724**. Types of placements are both short & long term and include sibling groups.

And you can check for updates on their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/FosteringinOxfordshireOCC/

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

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Drayton (Worcs)

The hamlet of Drayton in Worcestershire must be one of the smallest in our exploration of the world's Draytons. It is in the parish of Chaddesley Corbett and **Freda Griffith**, chair of the Chaddesley Corbett History Society, has kindly provided a detailed account, of which this is a summary.

Drayton is on an unclassified road reached from the A448 between Kidderminster and Bromsgrove, with Belbroughton and Stourbridge to the north. A disused Roman Road passes through it and there is an ancient tump called Barrow Hill Tumulus, thought to be a pre-historic burial mound. The Belne Brook flows through the centre of the village and a dam, crossed by a footbridge, retains the Drayton Pool, once used to power water mills, primarily for sharpening scythes. These mills have largely been converted to houses or have been put to other industrial use.

A waystone on a triangle of grass at a junction of lanes in Drayton marks a corner of Chaddesley Corbett parish and is a welcome feature in the 14-mile walk when 'beating the bounds'. The whole area is intersected by footpaths, green lanes and hollow ways which provide attractive walks for visitors.

The forge in the centre of Drayton is now the workshops and showroom of **Hawk Cricket**, manufacturers of cricket bats and suppliers of associated sporting equipment, selling worldwide. It combines traditionally handcrafted bench work with advanced technical methods to produce the modern shape cricket bat, using willow specially grown for the purpose. It is a family business, as is **Broughton Pianos** which used to occupy a nearby mill but recently relocated to the outskirts of the village. Broughton Pianos is one of the largest suppliers of new and used acoustic and digital pianos in the Midlands. There are other businesses in the village serving local agriculture.

Drayton **no longer has a shop** and, formerly, children would have had to walk to neighbouring villages to go to school. It used to have a '**Tin Tabernacle**', a pre-fabricated chapel made from corrugated iron. The **disused telephone box** has been converted into an **exhibition space for local photos**. There is a large and popular Robin Hood pub. There are some impressive houses and farms in the neighbourhood, including the Grade 2 listed Grove Farm House and Drayton House; there is also a modern house which, in the 1980s, made the national papers for having **two nuclear bunkers** in its grounds!

[thanks to Andrew Bax – & more 'other Draytons' to come!]



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(DRAYTON DIARIES)

Just a little reminder of what the village USED to be doing, just a few short months ago and maybe, hopefully (?) we'll be doing again at some point!

(EX-)REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS

Weekly in Drayton Hall unless stated otherwise

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

MONDAYS

- 2.00 pm Short Mat Bowling Club Session
- 11.30 am Fun-Fit Over-50s Exercise class (Carl 01865 920460)
- 6.00 pm 'Bounce Fit' (1hr - Sophie 07791 778388)
- 7.00 pm Table Tennis (Coaching, one hour) *School*
- 7.15 pm Badminton (Private Group)
- 7.45 pm Bell-ringing (for 1½ hours) *St Peter's*
- 8.00 pm Table Tennis (Social Play, one hour) *School*

TUESDAYS

- 9.30 am Pilates (via Alexandra Merson 07788 248925)
- 1.45 pm Drayton Art Group (until 4 pm) *Caudwell Day Centre*
- 2.30 pm First Tuesday Connections (1st Tuesday) *Church Room*
- 7.00 pm League Table Tennis (three hours) *School*
- 7.00 pm 'RockBox' (to book, see Clubbercise)
- 7.30 pm Bingo Session (over 18s) *Caudwell Day Centre*
- 8.00 pm Clubbercise (run by Gemma Pearce, see her F'book)

WEDNESDAYS

- 10.00 am Pebbles (Baby, Toddler, Carer group) *Church Room*
- 1.45 pm Whist Drive (ACHLoFriends) *Caudwell Day Centre*
- 2.00 pm Drayton Wives (Last Wednesday in the month)
- 2.15 pm Badminton
- 6.00 pm Brownies (term-time / Laura 07916 459435)
- 7.00 pm League Table Tennis (three hours) *School*
- 7.00 pm Short Mat Bowling Club Session

THURSDAYS

- 9.00 am Foot Clinic (1st Thurs) *Caudwell Day Centre*
- 9.15 am Holy Communion (**) *St Peter's Lady Chapel*
- 9.30 am Parent & Toddler Group (NB Term-time ONLY)
- 11.00 am Baptist Café (to 1pm) *Baptist Church*
- 2.00 pm Short Mat Bowling Club Session
- 5.30 pm Rainbows (girls 5 to 7 yrs)
- 7.00 pm League Table Tennis (three hours) *School*
- 7.30 pm Women's Institute Meeting (2nd Thurs) *Caudwell DC*
- 7.30 pm Sequence Dancing (Brian - 01235 531701)

FRIDAYS

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

SUNDAYS

- (**) For all the latest info re their Services (Thursday communion, & especially Sundays), **PLEASE see our St Peter's Church page**
- 6.00 pm Evening Service *Baptist Church*