

# DRAYTON CHRONICLE





## CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The next Chronicle will be the November issue. Editor: Maurice Puddick (Tel: 01235 538188). Key dates for subsequent Chronicles:

Issue	Deadline for contributions: 17.00 on Monday:	Printed Chronicles available on:
November	19th October	30th October
December	16th November	27th November

### Notes for Contributors

Contributions to and advertisements in the Chronicle are very welcome. Please send us your letters, reports from village clubs and societies, articles, tips and advice, photos, suggestions etc. 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.

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*Advertisement requests should be sent to:*  
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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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**We're really pleased to say that the church remains 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 continues to take place following guidelines from the Government and the Diocese of Oxford.

**Sunday 8.00 am Holy Communion on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month only.**

**Sunday 9.45 am Holy Communion (CW)**

***N.B** 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 10.00a.m [oxford.anglican.org/livestream](http://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

## Parish Register

### Burial of Ashes

20th August	Dorothea Goddard
7th September	Kathleen Attwood

### Marriages

5th September	Michaela and Sean Mckenna
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### Baptisms

6th September	Charley-Louise Jayne Payne
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# 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

*"Wild flowers full of beautiful colours"  
"Bird song raising spirits to the sky"  
"Thank God for our gardens and the comfort of nature"  
"Loving kindness is the shield".*

These are some of the comments given to me by people who were, and perhaps continue, shielding. During those strange weeks, despite the anxiety and frustration of lockdown, many were thankful of the abundance of nature, and of the green spaces in our villages. You may have explored or discovered new parts of our villages. You may also have seen the kindness of sharing produce, plants, books, toys. You may have tried or seen neighbours growing vegetables and enjoying home grown produce. However, there were shortages too, loo rolls and pasta spring to mind. Home baking was dependant on the supply of flour and eggs. These shortages perhaps serves as a little reminder of how fortunate we are, ordinarily; not to have to worry about food shortages or being hungry.

September and October are months when the harvest is gathered and celebrated. The harvest festival as we know it today, was the invention of a great eccentric clergyman, Robert Stephen Hawker (1803-75) vicar of Morwenstow, N. Cornwall. He was fond of early church history and probably got the idea from reading about Lammas, which was an Anglo Saxon church festival to celebrate the "first fruits" of the grain harvest. Harvest festivals rapidly became widespread in the late Nineteenth century, and have become quite the norm.

This year there is a new normal; social distancing, sanitizing hands, wearing face coverings, are just a few. In this new normal there is time to celebrate harvest, to be thankful for the rural nature that surrounds us. There is also space to share and be reminded of those who are going hungry, and countries where the harvest will not be shared or so bountiful. Yet there are ways to help support those in need, locally and further away. These are ways to show gratitude and thankfulness for the blessing that we have. Donations to local food banks can be placed in boxes found in the DAMASCUS parishes churches throughout the year. The demand on food banks has sadly increased greatly in 2020, and harvest time makes this more poignant. Fair Trade produce can be bought throughout the year too, and is a direct way to support farmers and craft workers. Many of these will be living in countries less able to overcome the effects of the pandemic we are living through.

Details of church services, online services, events during the season of harvest and on to Remembrance, can be found on [www.damascusparish.org.uk](http://www.damascusparish.org.uk)

**The Reverend Rosie Bruce**  
**Associate Priest of the DAMASCUS Parish**

### YOU STAY WE PRAY

27th Sept—4th Oct	Binning Close; Haywards Road
4th —10th Oct	Sutton Wick Lane; Greenacres; Newman Lane; Conifer Drive
11th –17th Oct	Hilliat Fields; Lyford Close
18th—24th Oct	Manor Close; The Green
25th—31st Oct	High St; Cheers Farm; Halls Close





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# LETTER FROM WESTMINSTER

David Johnston MP  
| Member of  
Parliament for  
Wantage



I spent the parliamentary recess visiting as many individuals and organisations as I could. I met with the founders of innovative

companies like Rosemor and Aquobex, whose cleaning and flooding solutions respectively attract custom from around the world. I visited hotels like the Bear and Milton Hill House, hotels being one of the sectors of the economy that has been particularly badly hit by lockdown, with some people being more reluctant to return to their previous way of life. At gyms like tfd Health and Fitness and Fitness Space people are keen to get back their previous way of life – and as a gym-goer myself I understand them! – they just have to book in advance and adhere to a higher standard of hygiene than perhaps they did previously. No bad thing, in my book.

At Farmer Gow's I saw not just what a great family day out the farm is for young and old, but also met the proprietors of successful businesses that Anne Gow has as tenants on the site, from LissieLou, the cake decoration business, to Bark and Berry Dog Grooming and the Oxford Yurt, a pretty impressive glamping site – I've never been glamping myself, but if you like doing so I'd check them out. I was pleased to make my first visit to the Westmill Wind and Solar Farm and delighted they were successful in their bid for Government funding for a new visitors' centre that will increase the number of visitors 6-fold.

Along the way there were lots of other independent businesses, like Didcot Glass and Glazing, Emma's Vintage Style, 30 Something and Bob's Butchers. Charities too, like Children Heard and Seen, which supports the children of prisoners – more on that in a future column. On my Facebook page (davidjohnston4wantage) you'll see I've started 'three questions' with the owners of different organisations to spread the word about organisations people might not have heard of.

On my week off, we went to the Lake District, but unfortunately I crocked my knee on a crag and am currently on crutches! It's my first real experience of having restricted mobility and it does bring home quite how many places are inaccessible for those who need to use crutches or a wheelchair to get around, something I've understood only theoretically before. Parliament is probably one of the worst examples, although I'm grateful I've temporarily been given an office nearer to the House of Commons to reduce the walking I have to do. As ever, if I can help with anything then do get in touch via [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk)

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

✉: Office of David Johnston MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

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# DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

## Andy Cooke

Dear all,

Well, despite us all being thoroughly sick and tired of Covid, it's still rattling along and there are ominous signs of a resurgence. As we feared, in some areas of the country, people have toggled mentally back to "All over, back to normal," and the endemic virus has started to come back up off the floor. However – if we remain cautious, the level of risk remains low.

### Rule of Six

From Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September (the day I'm writing this), the new Rule Of Six has come into force, banning social meetings of groups of more than 6 people from more than 2 households.

Covid-secure venues, such as places of worship, gyms, restaurants and hospitality venues, can still hold more than six people in total. However, within those venues, there must not be individual groups larger than six, and groups must not mix socially or form larger groups. We're told that the main driver of the new surge seems to be in private homes and private gatherings, which is why the rule exists as it does (I was a little confused as to why meeting people at home or in my garden was limited, but meeting colleagues at work was fine; this is the explanation. The cynic in me suggested "meeting anywhere without a card reader present is forbidden," but it turns out there is logic behind it and my cynicism was – in this case – misplaced).

### Testing

Nationwide, Covid testing is under a lot of strain, leading to national issues with availability. This is unfortunate, as testing is crucial to work out where issues lie and who needs to self-isolate. In Oxfordshire, the amount of testing being successfully carried out is the second-highest in the South East, and an additional Local Testing Site (walk-through site that can be accessed on foot or by bike) in Oxford has been established, additional to existing regional and mobile testing units, with more sites being investigated. The new site is at the Oxford Brookes campus in Headington (which is arguably a little far afield for the mooted "access by foot or by bike"). Advance bookings are strongly recommended – people showing coronavirus symptoms should call 119 to book a test or register online at

[www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test).

Government have asked us to pass on the message "We know there is an issue with rising demand and so we are actively urging people not to order or book tests if they are not symptomatic." Personally, I'm a touch confused by this, as one of the key issues with the spread of Covid is the several days when infected people are infectious before they display any symptoms (the pre-symptomatic stage), but I've passed it on and leave it to your personal judgement.

I will stress one other message they've passed on – a single negative test result doesn't mean it's possible to end self-isolation or quarantine early, as the virus can take time to develop and early tests don't mean you're definitely free of the virus and that you won't spread it on.

### VMIC

One Covid-related item of news that's directly relevant to the Vale District Council: the site at Harwell, down the road, received planning permission for the new Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre. In addition, it had already been cleared to start construction in advance of receiving planning permission and the building itself is nearing completion, over a year ahead of schedule. It should be in a position to produce Covid vaccine (once approved) in ten-million-unit lots next year (noting that many millions of doses of most of the vaccines in trials at the moment have already been produced in advance on the hope of them receiving clearance); helping to provide sufficient for worldwide vaccination.



I've had my issues with planning in the past, but I must admit that they've pulled out the stops on this one. I took a photo of the new VMIC site from the air a couple of weeks ago and it looks pretty far along to me. (The VMIC is the grey slab of a building near the centre of the picture, on the lower left of the main site)

All the best, and take care,  
Andy Cooke

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# COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Webber

## Urgent need for consultation.

Covid has inevitably slowed up Council's ability to consult. There is no doubt that, under normal circumstances, all Parish Councils in the area would have had direct face to face presentations and briefings from OCC Highway officers to explain their thinking on the proposed new link road and Thames bridge and how they are planning to manage traffic over the coming years. The apparent silence from the Council has allowed an atmosphere of anxiety and suspicion to develop. That atmosphere is stimulated by the signing of the HIF fund, the now certain funding of the new infrastructure, the SODC Local Plan inspection with the likely passing of plans for many more houses at Culham, and talk of a Radcot Green development on the FCC site near the Power Station. It is understood that traffic modelling has been done and the proposed new road layout around Didcot, Sutton Courtenay, Appleford and Culham will not only cope with the extra traffic the new homes will generate, but will improve current traffic flow.

However, anxieties remain and indeed are growing, of a South Abingdon rat run developing, and increasing damage to ancient village properties with more HGV traffic. But perhaps most damaging, there is a growing suspicion that the wool is being pulled over the resident's eyes and that COVID and its impact on consultation is being used as an excuse to foist yet more housing on an area that is already struggling to cope. Whilst the silence persists, these anxieties will continue to grow.

This article is an appeal to Council's to address the problem of consultation as a matter of urgency and is being copied to OCC Highways for a response.

Meanwhile, with more homes, new roads, a Government Planning White Paper with its own algorithm and a relaxing of rules for developers, plus a return of the Abingdon Reservoir, there is , much to occupy the minds of residents and Councils at present.

O yes, there is also the problem of a pandemic.

Richard Webber OCC

[richardwebber777@gmail.com](mailto:richardwebber777@gmail.com)

01235 534001

## Drayton Football Club Report

Both Drayton sides had a tough run of fixtures at the beginning of the season. The first team were unfortunate to not get any points as they suffered losses against Berinsfield and East Hendred, whereas the reserves have gained 6 out of 6 with 2 big wins against Benson and Faringdon.

We are also pleased to see upwards of 50+ signed on for this season including a handful of young lads from the village. Next month we hope to have major updates on our renovation.

*Up the Wasps!*

Bradley Cox

# PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Tamsin Crane

**Parish Council Community Support Working Group:** The Parish Council would like to thank all the wonderful residents who participated in our volunteering programme supporting those in the village who were self-isolating during the Covid-19 lockdown. These volunteers have kindly shopped, collected prescriptions and undertaken a multitude of other tasks for those in need during the lockdown and afterwards. While the Parish Council's official support programme has been wound-down (for now), this programme has resulted in friendships and connections being forged. It remains to be seen what will happen in the next few months, whether there will be another mandatory national/local lockdown, we hope not. However, in the event this does happen, we will look to restart our community support programme. In the meantime, anyone needing help can contact the NHS volunteer programme which continues to provide support and can be reached by phone at 0808 196 3646.

**Parish Councillor Vacancy:** The Council currently has one vacancy. I would personally like to encourage Drayton residents to consider putting themselves forward to act as Councillor. The Council discusses and makes decisions on a variety of important issues that affect our community. Probably the most significant are planning matters, managing open spaces (including footpaths and playgrounds), managing the allotments and burial ground, and making grants to local charities and organisations. From time to time the Council also coordinates with the Vale of White Horse District Council and Oxfordshire County Council about issues that affect the parish. The Council meets one evening a month (and ad hoc meetings from time to time), and there is a bit of reading of emails and papers in between meetings.

You don't need any particular experience or specialist knowledge (training/guidance are available). In fact, in my view, it is far better if the Council reflects the diversity of our community, and has councillors with different life experiences, abilities, interests, perspectives and opinions. So we actively welcome residents of all ages and backgrounds to get involved. You will be helping shape our community, and influence matters right on your doorstep! Any resident over the age of 18 can apply, as can non-residents with substantial links to the parish. The Council hopes to fill this vacancy by co-option at our October meeting, so the application deadline is 1 October 2020. The elections team at Vale of White Horse District Council or Lorraine Watling, the Parish Clerk ([clerk@draytonpc.org](mailto:clerk@draytonpc.org)), can provide further information about eligibility.

**Allotment Fencing:** Allotment holders will be happy to hear that the Parish Council has approved the installation of fencing to enclose the Allotments, using section 106 funds which are the monies contributed by the developers of the new village developments. This should hopefully reduce the amount of produce being nibbled on by local wildlife!

**Developments:** At **Manor Farm**, the developer has been busy doing landscaping, and it looks like the grass sown on the new "Village Green" here is finally taking root (fingers crossed). Hopefully this means we will have a usable meadow by next Spring, accessible for all villagers via the new access paths (to Henleys Lane at the North side, Gravel Lane footpath to the East, and Gravel Lane road at the South side).

The building work at the **Dovecote** site seems to be nearing completion. A number of playing grounds have been installed but are not yet open, and the Parish Council will be monitoring the status of these.

As regards **Walnut Meadows**, the Council has been in ongoing discussions with the developer and the Vale of White Horse District Council about the large public open space, and is hopeful that a satisfactory resolution can be reached soon to allow this area to be completed as envisaged.



## LETTERS

### Remembrance Day - Sunday 9th November 2020

Remembrance Day this year will be held on Sunday 9 Nov 20. Please note that Drayton's War Memorial is in St Peter's Church, Drayton. The memorial opposite The Wheatsheaf PH commemorates the Jubilees of Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria, this is not the village War Memorial.

Thankyou

Ian Baird  
Deputy Chairman  
Steventon and District Royal British Legion

### Problems with CO2

Dear Editor I was so impressed by Stanley Kirk's feature on *Five CO<sub>2</sub> Problems and How to Help* in the September Chronicle. One day, he and his generation will be able to influence the way this troubled world is managed. There is hope for us all.

*Andrew Bax*

### Problems with CO2

On page 10 of the September Chronicle I am in awe of the contribution from 10yr old Stanley to the problem of climate breakdown, and then on page 11 I learn that my council tax is subsidising town centre parking, when I thought that there was meant to be a green transport revolution. The harm from car emissions to the climate and to the brains and lungs of adults and (particularly) children is known. Research has shown the impact of free parking on town centre retail to be uncertain.

*Daniel Scharf*

### Quizzes

Dear all

I am so sorry that the virus has prevented me from selling many quizzes in aid of handicapped children. I still have a lot of the 'Bunch of Flowers' quiz. They still cost £1.00 but are fun to do. Why not buy several and have a family competition? Lawrence Vickery at the hardware shop has kindly said he will sell some for me. Thank you so much.

Judy Henman

*Treloars Trust provides education, care, therapy and medical support to young people all over Britain!*

### Neighbourhood News

I would like to welcome my son Mark Roberts, his wife Sophie & their daughter Lily back to the village from Abingdon. On 28th August they moved to Abingdon Road. May they be very happy in their new home, lots of love from Mum, Karen & family & Tracey & family.

Thank you, Pauline Roberts

### Date for your diary ...

### Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November 3pm.

Each year we hold this service for those whom we love but see no longer. Sadly, because of the pandemic and restrictions that have been placed on all of us - we thought it would be safer for everyone to put this service online! (Details will appear in the next issue.) In this service there will still be an opportunity to remember your loved ones and to light a candle for them as we pray together, from the comfort of our own homes. We are planning to have a similar service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance 'in church' in May.



*Rev. Meg Heywood*

### Great Fire of Drayton

As we have many new people in the village they may not be aware of the catastrophic fire in the village, It was 1780 which makes this year the 340<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event. It was a really big fire that burnt half the village and a national collection for villagers to help rebuild their houses took place. Perhaps someone would like to elaborate on this event before it gets forgotten..

*Ann Webb*

**Editor's note: no sooner said than done—see page 17**

### Stray Cat?

Does anyone recognise this ginger, un-neutered tom cat? He has a distinctive round face and white bib. He has been around Chiers Drive for several years. Is someone feeding him or should we try and trap him and take him to a Shelter?

*Mrs Blackham*



### Macmillan Coffee Mornings

Two socially-distanced coffee mornings have taken place in Geoff and Marianne Dix's beautiful garden. An amazing sum of £275 was raised for Macmillan cancer. Thankyou to all who helped and contributed.

Jayne Henderson.



# MORE LETTERS



*Scholastic Souvenir Co. Ltd., Blackpool.*

DRAYTON  
Primary



County  
School.

## Drayton Primary School 1954/5

I have attached a photo of the infants class of Drayton school in 1954/5. Yours truly is sitting on the extreme right of the middle row. I know that about five of us still live in the village, and sadly a few have passed away, but it set me thinking about what percentage of our population in the village went to the local primary school. According to my calculations around 14% of our class still live here.

Let's all get our thinking caps on and see if we can come up with a rough percentage.

The teacher was Mrs Fisher, who lived in Marcham Rd, and I'm sure taught many Drayton residents.

Richard (Dick) Talbot  
Lockway

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## Duck House

I noticed in the August edition of the Drayton Chronicle that you had an article regarding The Duck House—Sutton Wick Lane.

We live opposite the pond and rescued what was left of the Duck House so it could be restored.

A friend of ours kindly agreed to renovate it but could only salvage the roof from the original Duck House so has built a new one. He has supplied all the materials needed and we now have a brand new Duck House. We are just waiting for the final mounting to be built before it can be launched again.

It would be nice to announce a date when we do this, so that any villagers who would like to, can come along (socially distancing of course) and support something which our village is now known for.

Best wishes  
Mandy Biddle

*Editor's Note: Look out for further details of the 're-launch' in next month's Chronicle!*





## DRAYTON BROWNIES

It's been a funny old year for us all so far, and for Brownies this has been no different. Our meetings were suspended in March and, given the current restrictions and need to prioritise the return to school, sadly we won't be meeting in person until 2021 at the earliest. The early end to our Spring term meant that a big celebration was missed, with Evie being the first Drayton Brownie to achieve her Gold Award, the highest award a Brownie can earn. She chose to be presented with the badge and certificate at home before moving on to Guides, and we all send our congratulations. Well done Evie!

The fun hasn't stopped at all, as Girlguiding have made a number of resources available online for anyone to have a go at, and we have been sending activities home via email for the Brownies to continue to work towards their badges and awards. Baking and Grow Your Own badges have been very popular during lockdown! There have been a number of Bronze and Silver awards earned already and several girls are on track to complete Gold this term, which is wonderful. It has been difficult for many families and we appreciate everything they have done at home.

If you have a daughter aged between 7 and 10 years old and would like to know more about Brownies, please email Laura at [drayton1stbrownies@live.co.uk](mailto:drayton1stbrownies@live.co.uk). A selection of activities is available online at [Girlguiding.org.uk](http://Girlguiding.org.uk) and you can also register your daughter on the website. Younger girls are welcome to join our waiting list, and there is a Rainbow unit for girls aged 5 -7 years that is also running remotely at present. All the information is on the website.

Laura Hughes

## DRAYTON W.I.

As you may know, it is the WI's birthday this year and we had planned a very happy year!! But as you are all well aware, this year is not the year we were expecting. But we are not easily daunted, our planned summer picnic turned out to be a socially-distanced cream tea in a box, but not to be outdone we met in the Village Hall in the larger hall decorated with bunting, balloons and our treasured banners, so that we could speak and eat without breaking any rules. It was a lovely afternoon and the tea was very plentiful, in fact I had enough left for a second tea the next day.

We also managed to hold a monthly meeting in the small hall with the doors open and chairs spread. The speakers we had were wonderful, they spoke and re-enacted parts that were played by the WVS during WW2. The talk was accompanied by pictures and a sound track that brought it all back to life. The WVS were an amazing group with many branches. It was made very plain to us that the life at home would have been very different if they were not there. The WI could not join in their work but we did help with evacuees and of course preserving fruit and vegetables by canning and jamming them, and sending them to depots to be distributed where needed. The display they brought was amazing to see from a babies gas mask suit to recycling clothing, washed, mended, ready to be handed to people who had nothing. It was enjoyed by all as we resigned ourselves to no more meetings until..... Happy Birthday to our members, and Happy Christmas as well.

Ann Webb



## The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

Registered Charity 1098966



Youth & Community Acting Together

As summer comes to an end the team are back in the planning stage looking for ways to engage young people due to the new government guidelines. Just as the Gazebo Sessions started back up government put an end to those, meaning we have lots of sports sessions coming up in the area for young people, follow our social accounts below to keep updated as to where and when. We have safety measures in place which means we can all enjoy them in safety! We always have football, dodgeball and cricket things with us!

We have been working very closely with some young people to get them in to education, employment or training now exam results are in. Lots of exciting futures lined up!

The team have recruited a new volunteer from a local village who is super sporty and energetic called Emily, so keep an eye out for her at our sessions. Our staff and volunteers all attended a Youth Mental Health First Aid course at the end of August which will benefit all the people involved with us over time!

We look forward to seeing so many smart faces as they return from schools, be sure to follow the team on Facebook – Roxy Damascus, Jake, Damascus, James Damascus and on Instagram – Roxy\_Damascus, Jake\_Damascus and James\_Damascus!

Jacob Fleetwood, Youth Worker The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project (ADYP) Registered Charity Number 1098966

Website: [www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk](http://www.damascusyouthproject.org.uk)

Tel: 01235848694

# NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP (NAGS) SAFETY CORNER

## Scams

Amazon Prime scams, in various guises, are still circulating locally. As outlined in last month's Safety Corner, courier scams are also prevalent in the area, with criminals posing as police officers. If you receive an uninvited or unexpected phone call which asks you for personal, banking or credit card details, or for cash, you should **never** provide them and you should immediately end the call. **Remember that criminals are experts at sounding genuine and completely plausible. They want to make you panic, so that you don't stop and think about what they're asking you to do.** If you've been a victim of a scam or fraud please report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or by using their online reporting tools at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

## Reporting suspicious texts (phishing) and emails (smishing)

Suspicious emails should be forwarded to the National Cyber Security Centre's suspicious email reporting service at [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

Suspicious texts should be forwarded to 7726, which will enable your provider to investigate the origin of the message and, if it's malicious, to take action.

## Cybercrime – how to stay secure online

Fraud and cybercrime are the most common criminal offences in the UK, with analysis showing that 86% of frauds have a cyber element. Here's how you can make it harder for cyber criminals to access your online accounts and devices.

- Install the latest software and app updates. Cyber criminals exploit weaknesses in software and apps to attack your devices and steal your identity. Software and app updates are designed to fix these weaknesses and installing them as soon as possible will help to keep your devices secure. For more information visit the National Cyber Security Centre website at <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/top-tips-for-staying-secure-online/install-the-latest-software-and-app-updates>
- Protect your email account by using a strong and separate password. Cyber criminals can use your email account to access many of your personal accounts and find sensitive information, such as your bank details, date of birth and address. Having a strong, separate password for your email account means that if cyber criminals steal the password for one your accounts they can't use it to access your other accounts.
- Enable two-factor authentication (2FA) on your email account. 2FA is the single best thing you can do to improve the security of important online accounts, such as your email account. 2FA enabled accounts require you to verify your identity by using your password (first factor) as well as a randomised 6-digit code (second factor) that's delivered to your mobile phone. If your password's stolen the criminals will still need your phone. If your phone's stolen, they still need your password. For up-to-date instructions on how to enable 2FA visit <https://www.telesign.com/turnon2fa>
- Use a password manager You should use a different password for each of your online accounts. A password manager's an app on your phone, tablet or computer, which stores your passwords securely so that you don't have to remember them all. For more information visit <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/top-tips-for-staying-secure-online/password-managers>
- Secure smartphones and tablets with a screen lock. Each time you want to unlock your device, or switch it on, you'll be asked to enter a PIN, password or fingerprint. If someone gets hold of your device they'll be unable to access any data on it.

## AbiMeds prescription collection and delivery service

AbiMeds has now ceased delivering prescriptions. Please see their website for suggested alternatives at <https://abimeds.org/abimeds-alternatives>. Other options are to call the pharmacy that dispenses your prescriptions to see if they can deliver, or to ask your local volunteer group or a friend or neighbour if they can help.

## CONTACTING THE POLICE

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

If possible, please use the online reporting services at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

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

Thanks to Mark Hallewell of Binning Close for these photos showing the development of part of the Dovecote estate, and the church if you look closely, taken from the same spot on the Eastway footpath:





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# Drayton, near Portsmouth

John Twine

*Writing from the Hampshire Drayton, John continues our series on Draytons of the world. By an extraordinary coincidence, his son-in-law comes from our Drayton*

The oldest known written evidence of Drayton goes back to 1250 and it was a small hamlet on the outskirts of Portsmouth until it became part of the City of Portsmouth in 1920. Portsmouth is known (amongst many other things) for being the only island city in the UK, but the area of Drayton is actually on the mainland to the North East of the city boundaries. It used to have its own railway station, and there is still a Station Road in Drayton, but the station was disbanded in 1938. One of the oldest buildings is Drayton Manor, which still exists as a private house, and some of



the other older outbuildings are still in the area, all converted now to privately owned houses.

There is only one public house, The Manor House (named of course after the manor), and there are still roads such as Old Manor Way and Manor Court. Indeed, the secondary school, Springfield, which serves the area was previously called Manor Court School. There used to be another pub called The New Inn but that was converted to a restaurant a few years ago

I, myself was born in Portsmouth, on the island itself, and moved to Drayton 32 years ago where we have lived in the same house. Most of the residential houses were built in the 1930s, and as well as Springfield, there are two primary schools (Court Lane

estate agents and a few food outlets including KFC, Chinese and Indian takeaways, a fish and chip shop and pet shops and cafes. There are two churches – a Church of England church called The Church of the Resurrection on the upper hill slopes, and Portsmouth Christian Fellowship, a Christian Free church that uses the main hall in The Drayton Centre. There are also a number of nursing homes/care homes that have been developed in recent years

Drayton Park is a well kept area with children’s playground, tennis courts, football pitches, basketball area, outdoor gym and a cricket pavilion, and is very popular with all ages and for dog walking. All in all, Drayton is a very pleasant place to live with a cross section of ages and families, and is a very friendly community.



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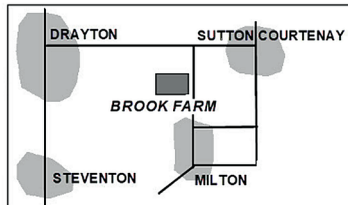
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first correct answer opened after that date will win the prize.

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1. *Coca pin cup*
2. *Klim*
3. *Gas rain*
4. *Change map*
5. *Irai quid*
6. *Why ski?*
7. *Feeeco*
8. *Let coach hoot*
9. *A nice tour*
10. *No mad eel*
11. *Into dancing*
12. *Ate*
13. *Carp aim*
14. *By darn*
15. *Bay isle*
16. *Erbe*
17. *Aid crab*
18. *Eagle grin*

## Drinks

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





Continuing my occasional series detailing the

## HISTORY OF THE WI

Ann Webb

It appears a few of the yearly reports have wandered off. They may be in storage but I will carry on with what I have got. We have now reached 1960,

The year started badly with the booked speaker unable to come, a replacement speaker was found but the general feeling was as it was Maundy Thursday attendance would be low anyway. Back to January, sadly a heavy fall of snow prevented the speaker coming to the meeting. February was a talk and records played to us giving an inside look at Kathleen Ferrier who had the most amazing singing voice in an unusual range for a lady. She had passed away a few years earlier, sorely missed. March, care of indoor pot plants, April already covered may A.G.M. agenda discussed. June a coach was hired to take us to Home Acres (This was a series of wooden huts in the grounds of Denman College, now long gone. ( I went there from the College I was attending to learn about using a cooker with automatic timing, e.g. where in the oven to place different foods to cook at the same time using different areas of heat in the oven.) Imagine having a coach to go to Marcham!!! July, dealing with finances at National level, explaining where our 3/6 subs went. More travel talks followed, our year ended in November with the Annual meeting. We held a Christmas sale, very profitable, and the usual Christmas party was held in January. A fibre glass travel case was presented to a member for her work as a V.C.O. (Voluntary County Organiser) and another member was congratulated for passing her exams to be a V.C.O. she was presented with her badge of office at the Autumn Council Meeting.

1962 Our first meeting this year was held in the Grange because of poor heating in the hall, Mrs Caudwell was gratefully thanked by all. The Chairman of the National Federation urged us all to keep a diary to remember the Highlights of their lives. Again we met in the Grange in February, the subject Flower gardening, The heating has now been replaced by a new oil system( I remember those heaters they were fearsome things, they had to be lit by dropping a piece of burning rag or paper into the top of the stove!! The room smelt of paraffin for some time .) Also new sanitation as well, ( until then it was Elsan Bucket toilets, I remember those as well!) March was a pottery demonstration, April, making jointed toys June, Rush and Cane work this was watched eagerly as we had classes arranged in the autumn. September we were joined by Sutton Courtenay for a film show, October, How to wear and care for our clothes. After all bills paid we decided to put £600 in Defence Bonds at 5% interest, those were the days, £25 was also given to the Alms House Charity., and £15 to Berkshire Federation. The remaining moneys to be kept for hall decoration when needed. In the autumn we learned one of our members had been elected County Chairman. In June we entertained a party of old people from Hackney. In the Spring of the year twelve lucky Ladies went to a Furniture in Earls Court by kind invitation of Mr. Deaney of Didcot, and in September we went to Earlies of Witney the blanket makers.

1963 that winter was best forgotten, never had a winter like it since 47. 1964 will have to wait until next month. See you then.

## 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**.

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## DRAYTON HALL 'NEWS'

Firstly, **GRATEFUL THANKS** to Richard Kerr (Guttering) who kindly offered to make good (at just the materials cost) the guttering and fascia damage we'd had a couple of months ago, a time when we had a group of late teens (and one adult, apparently "known to police") regularly found trespassing on the roof.

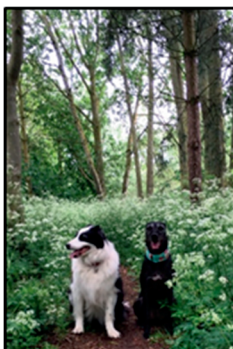
**Please do contact Richard for any similar work** on 07485 409201 or email [Kcleaning1984@gmail.com](mailto:Kcleaning1984@gmail.com) (they do windows too!).

On to hopeful news for our regular hirers, at the time of writing (mid Sept), the Civil Service's hopelessly inept gobbledegook (that gets issued as the Govt's "Rule of 6" guidelines) has been interpreted to mean that quite a few groups ARE in fact **exceptions to that basic rule**, which we've heard so often on TV news bulletins.

**Exceptions** include out-of-school clubs for example, also the wording refers to "Indoor sporting facilities, fitness centres and dance studios can now open", so groups for that sort of activity can get going. Our exercise classes (Bouncefit, Clubbercise, that sort of thing) are going to start, or already have done, BUT are hampered by their particular guidelines re distancing, so users must have a certain area (sq metres) to operate in (varies depending on the particular group).

Group leaders are all clued-up re obligations about social 'bubbles', distancing & cleaning requirements, but some have said they can't restart until the New Year, and their slots will be held until at least then.

Tony Holmes



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Inspired by Ann Webb's Letter.....the

## GREAT FIRE OF DRAYTON, 1780

The Great Fire that swept through the High Street of Drayton in the reign of George III began in a house next to the Wheatsheaf on Sunday 16th April 1780. Upward of 30 houses went up in flames. So catastrophic was it for the village that a wide appeal was launched, and books were opened to receive subscriptions at London, at Oxford and at Abingdon. The appeal was worded thus:

"The loss by this fire has fallen chiefly on industrious farmers and labourers, many of whom have lost their all. Only a few hundred pounds, in value, of the Property was insured.

"The neighbouring gentlemen.... have formed themselves into a committee for the purpose of collecting relief for the sufferers and distributing the public bounty. And in order to make a distinction between those who are totally ruined and others who are partly or wholly enabled to support their loss, it is intended to divide the sufferers into classes and to relieve them agreeably to their respective merits".

In order to help the appeal along, a local poet of the time, one Samuel Harding composed the verses below for distribution.

The appeal realised the sum of £3,066. (This was a considerable sum when the wage of an agricultural labourer, was about 6 shillings a week). Of this £2,614 was distributed, and after payment of expenses, a balance of £344 remained. This was used to buy ground at the lower end of the High Street and to build there on 5 almshouses, and to establish a trust fund for their upkeep.

Some of the names on the Committee's 'Statement of the losses of several individuals' are well known family names in the village today.

The greatest losses, running into many hundreds in each case for property and equipment, were suffered by the farmers. Farmer Thomas Dew's losses amounted to £954 and other farmers with surnames Tyrrell, Cheer and Hunt also lost many hundreds each. The Reverend Fr Wright lost his property worth £507 and with it went all the old registers of Drayton, sadly. William Nevill, wheelwright, also figures in the list of sufferers to the sum of £282, so he must have been a man of substance in the village society of the day. Names like Allwright, Cook, Lyford, Buckle, Kimber, Clarke, Badcock, Beckensale, Winter, Pointer, Belcher, King, Hyde and Wyatt also appear in the list, which runs to 73 names.

A group of 5 names, including Widow Beckley and Elizabeth Lay, were living in houses belonging to a village charity.

Why did the fire spread so quickly? The houses lining the High Street probably dated from the Middle Ages and would have been made mainly of lath and plaster, with wooden beams and thatched roofs. Picturesque they may have been, but when the fire came racing along, fanned by a lively wind, these flimsy buildings went up like tinder. The flames easily leapt the narrow road, and only when they encountered brick or stone could they be halted. Both the Church and The Grange, standing well back, escaped.

Then again, fire-fighting facilities of the village were totally inadequate to deal with such a conflagration. The only water sources available were from the wells of the houses, from the village pond near Mr Bomford's yard and from the ditch which ran the length of the High Street on the side nearest

The Grange. Fire-fighting equipment, kept in the Church, consisted of buckets, ropes, ladders and firehooks (used to pull down the burning thatch).

Little wonder then that the villagers fought a losing battle from the start: The furious clanging of the bells on that fateful Sunday in 1780 prefaced a scene of such utter devastation that the like of it has never been seen before or since in our peaceful village. The one consoling fact that emerges is that there is no record of any lives having been lost.

Eirwen Jones July 1978

*Hark: through the Groves a dreadful Cry,  
It echo's o'er the plains,  
The precious sacks of Corn and Hay,  
Fell victims to the flames.*

*Sad shrieks and cries from cot to cot,  
Each weeping Infant trace,  
And mark the horrid frightful looks,  
Upon each aged face.*

*The village with confusion fill'd  
Whilst multitudes draw near,  
The rapid flames at noontide day,  
Did strike each heart with fear,*

*The sufferers' names I cannot describe,  
Save only just a few,  
But all alike ye generous hearts,  
I recommend to you.*

*To everyone that can bestow,  
Even the smallest mite,  
To each poor sufferer lend a hand,  
I humbly now invite.*

*Avery Tyrrell...Is might loss,  
Thomas, and Robert too,  
Likewise the loss I recommend,  
Of worthy Thomas Dew.*

*John Hyde, an aged honest man,  
Which long time has been blind;  
You that are with compassion fill'd  
Pray bear him in your mind.*

*John Cheer, and William Cheer also,  
Sustained a heavy Loss,  
And many poor distressed souls,  
Endured the fiery cross.*

*John Hunt, John Wyatt shared a part,  
Destruction by the flames,  
John Lyford too, these are few,  
Of these great sufferers names.*

*There was two worthy good Divines  
Submitted there and slav'd,  
Through fire and water, mud, and dirt  
Fain would the village saved.*

*The freighted Warblers left the spray,  
And took their winged flight,  
Whilst mortals were obliged to stay,  
To see the mournful sight.*

*Go see the village drop a tear,  
Drayton in Berkshire's fall,  
Is an object of your Charity,  
I recommend to all.*

Samuel Harding



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# OLD HOUSES OF DRAYTON

(written in 1978)

The first census shows that the population of Drayton was only 484 even as late as the year 1801. Yet a peep at the history of the old houses of Drayton reveals that the village, for all its diminutive size was almost entirely self-supporting and independent for centuries before that.

Of first importance were the farms, the life-blood of the village. The oldest, the Manor, was mentioned in Domesday Book, and even earlier in the Abingdon Chronicle, as being the foundation of this rural community. Today's Manor keeps up the tradition of farming, whilst the old house bears witness to its position of importance over the centuries. It has a timber-framed Elizabethan portion containing a fine Tudor fireplace with the Tudor-Rose cut into the stonework above. The Eastern block was added about 1700 and the Queen Anne doorway, with its Corinthian side pillars in the 18th century.

We know that the land here was divided into West and East Drayton at the end of the 11th century. It is possible that Gilbourne's Farm was the site of the East Manor, whilst the old best Manor remained where it was originally. The central section of this old house dates back to 1580, whilst the front and back portions with the stair-case are seventeenth and eighteenth century additions.

Another lovely old house, originally belonging to the farming community is Lime Close along Henley's Lane. This partly Elizabethan building is a reminder of an early kind of villa e tenure. Unlike 'open-field' farming, 'closes' (enclosures) were reserved for individual cultivation by their owners. These one-acre holdings lined the High Street before the fire of 1780 destroyed them. The Grange was another fine house built originally for the enclosed land of the farmer in the mid-17th century. The extra-wide floorboards in the upper storeys - the width of the tree with the knotted wood untreated - help to date the old house. Sutton Wick Farm is late Georgian with Victorian additions, whilst Sutton Wick House is now converted into flats. It has a date stone 1712.

Connected with the farms were the cottages of the workers. There are several old ones dotted about the village, but the most interesting is Mrs. Taylor's thatched cottage near Elm Close. This is a fine example of an early cruck cottage dating back to 1385. It has six pairs of crucks (curved timbers from ground to roof) which make it unique, as there are usually no more than two pairs. Eight oxen standing side by side gave the width of the bay between two pairs of crucks. Carbon dating of the old soot-encrusted thatch has enabled the restorers to copy the original roof.

Farm carts require wheels, so the wheelwright, combining his skills with that of carpenter, was essential to the independent existence of the village. William Nevill, wheelwright, claiming £282 for losses in the great fire of 1780, was undoubtedly a man of great wealth and standing in Drayton. After the fire, the wheelwright transferred his business to Walnut Cottage lower down the High Street, the property of Mrs. Darter until recently. The old 16th century cottage was the family dwelling house with the workshop in the yard alongside. Fragments of old tools and wheels were found buried in the garden, and a carpenter's saw-pit remained there until fairly recent times. Stout Berkshire wagons, famed throughout Southern England, would undoubtedly have been made there to a high standard of craftsmanship.

Over the way at Forge Cottage, the blacksmith plied his trade under the shade of the spreading walnut tree.

Busy workers must eat, so what better to accompany good home-grown produce than a hot crusty loaf fresh from the ovens of Bradfield 4a cottage in Gravel Lane. This old bakery was built in 1742 and the ovens were only recently removed during modernisation. Another old house that became a bakery was Winter's Corner. This was originally a two-up, two-down cottage built of wattle and daub about 1730. The chimney had 5 flues, each with rungs to enable the little sweep boys to clamber up and down as Tom did in "The Water-Babies". Early in the 19th century extensions were made to the dwelling house and a bakery and flour store added. This was an important village shop supplying bread to the Oxford Colleges in the early 20th century.

Forming an essential link between the farmer and the baker was the miller. New Cut Mill (Bug's Mill) on the Ock, once part of Sutton Wick, had 2 pairs of millstones. It is now a dwelling house.

It carries a date-stone of 1757, which probably refers to the rebuilt section after a fire there in the previous year. The date of the oldest part is unknown, but the present owner has found a Charles I silver shilling and Georgian coins in the grounds. Even more interesting was the discovery of a 12th century steel yard-weight there recently during improvements. This suggests that New Cut Mill dates from Norman times and is therefore almost as old as the oldest mill in England, Abbey Mill in Abingdon.

The larger Drayton Mill, on the Ginge, which had its heyday in Victorian times, had four pairs of millstones and a 'fine wheel with dished spokes'. The Bradfields worked this, with Milton Mill, well into the present century.

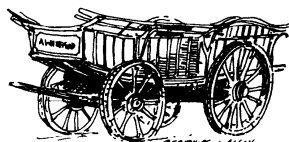
Carting heavy loads was thirsty work for man and beast, so where better to refresh oneself than at The Wheateheaf (an old beer-house before the 19th century) or at the Red Lion (pre-1830) where the old horse trough remained until comparatively recent times. Walnut Cottage, the home of the wheelwright, was originally built as an inn, also, in the 16th century, for the cellar walls had curved, barrel-holding alcoves built into the structure. So it seems that Drayton never lacked suitable liquid refreshment. Likely as not, after a drink, the horse and cart would be driven to and fro through the village pond to clean wheels and hoofs before continuing the journey.

Even in the matter of building, the village was capable of complete independence by providing its own material and skills. After the fire of 1780 had destroyed most of the old houses in the High Street, the villagers set about the task of rebuilding, and the material used was Drayton Brick. Kimmeridge clay was dug out of the pits in the Whitehorns Way area. This was mixed with sand and water, and the bricks were then shaped and dried in the open, and fired in the kiln (at Kiln Road, near Lockway). The bricks were mostly dull red in colour but grey and blue-black ones were also made, and these were used to vary the patterns on the facades of the houses. Most of the houses in the High Street were built at this time, and of Drayton Brick. These include the Almshouses, the farm cottages, Mr. Hall's farmhouse (used to re-house the Vicar after the fire) and also The Old Pound, to the right of which was the walled enclosure for the impounding of stray cattle.

These old houses of Drayton provide ample evidence of the self-sufficiency of the village before the advent of public transport. 'When we add to the list of skills already named, the boot and shoe makers, the dressmakers, the glaziers and tile-makers, the pig farmers and bacon curers, etc, we realise that in spite of its rural isolation, Drayton lacked few of the essential amenities of life in those bygone days.

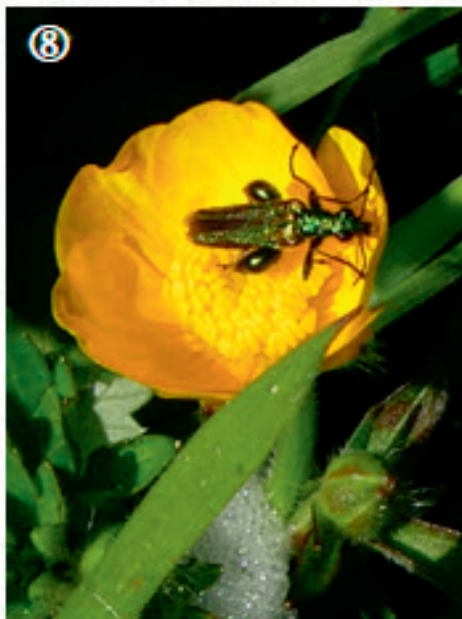
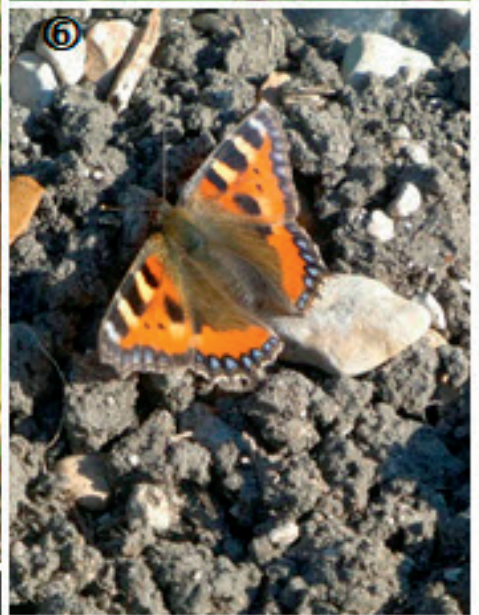
By Eirwen Jones, with sketches by Bill Fuller

August 1978





# DRAYTON NATUREWATCH



Photos: Stephen Fearnley

1) Bee on Foxglove

2) Bee on Campanula

3) Bee on Bramble

4) Bee on Scabious

5) Damselflies in meadow

6) Tortoiseshell

7) Dragonfly

8) Insect on Buttercup

9) Jackdaw tidying up

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 21/9/2020.