

Drayton Chronicle



Drayton Harbor, USA

November 2020

Volume 43 Issue 10

CHRONICLE INFORMATION

The next **Drayton Chronicle** will be the December 2020 issue.

Editor: **Tony Holmes, 53 Whitehorns Way (531180).**

Key dates for subsequent Chronicles:

Issue for	Deadline for contributions:	Issue date:
December	Friday 13th Nov. Adverts Monday 16th Nov. for contributions	Friday 27th November

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

NOTES for CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Requests for advertisements should (preferably) be emailed to **Stephen Fearnley**, the Chronicle's Advertising Manager, at advertising@draytonchronicle.net or placed in the box at Vickery's. If you wish to discuss your requirements, please phone Stephen on **01235 531347**

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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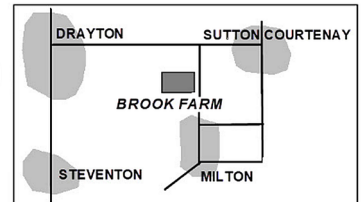


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www.damascusparish.org.uk

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

We are really pleased to say that the church still remains open daily for private, individual prayer!

Sunday – Saturday, 10-4

For everyone's continuing good health, once in the building, please follow the guidelines for social distancing and us the hand sanitiser provided. 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.

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

There are resources for Home Worship on the DAMASCUS Parish website www.damascusparish.org.uk or join one of the many 'virtual' services such as Oxford Diocese Church at Home at 10.00a.m

www.oxforddiocese.online.church

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

Funerals and Burial of Ashes:

28 th September	Roy Franklin
2 nd October	Brian Chapman
15 th October	Bryan Wilfred Bond

Baptism: 6th September Charley- Louise Jayne Poole

YOU STAY WE PRAY, NOVEMBER 2020

1st -7th November Friars Mews; Monk Close; Prior Drive; Abbot Crescent

8th – 14th November Chestnut Drive; Holly Lane; Walnut Way; Willow Way

15th – 21st November Furlongs; Plough Lane; Furrows End; Lammas Land; Virgate; Fallowfield Close

22nd – 28th November Lockway

29th Nov – 5th Dec Whitehorns Way

Pebbles Baby and Toddler Group meet online, on Zoom, every Wednesday morning, during term time, from 10.00 – 10.25a.m. You are so welcome to join us Please email suedraytonpebbles@outlook.com for more information. Look forward to seeing you!





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Letter for Village Magazines

I am writing this letter just after our Harvest Thanksgiving service at church. This year our farmers have struggled with the vagaries of the British weather; too much rain early on and then not enough in the earlier part of the summer. They have also had the problem of getting enough man power for harvest itself with most seasonal workers being unable to travel due to various Covid restrictions. As a result farmers have had to work doubly hard to provide food for the supermarkets. This is a reminder to us that everything we enjoy requires hard work behind the scenes to make it happen.

Our churches made a collection of food for the Abingdon food bank. The food bank gave out a record number of food parcels at the start of the lock down in the spring. Currently demand is lower but we fear that over the winter there are likely to be many people who lose their jobs and then fall through the safety net and end up in need of food and other basics in order to survive. We are continuing to pass on food to the food bank and there are boxes in our church porches if anyone would like to support those who desperately need help in these unusual times.

For our churches, as for every other community organisation this has been a difficult year. We have done our best to provide good quality services since the end of lockdown and we have held some scaled back community events where and when we have been able. Even to do this has required extra work behind the scenes sorting out risk assessments, deep cleaning and all the other things that are required to enable people to feel safe when they come into our buildings. My thanks go to everyone who has made this possible.

We are looking forward to Remembrance Sunday. Regrettably government restrictions make it very unlikely we will be able to meet around our war memorials. We are hoping that it will be possible to hold some services of remembrance outside in graveyards. Please check our web site, www.damascusparish.org.uk or look on church notice boards for details.

Tim Budd (on behalf of the DAMASCUS parish ministry team)

Remembrance Service Sunday 8th November 10:30

This year, in response to the restrictions placed on all of us due to the Pandemic, there have been some changes to the service. It is still taking place in **St Peter's church**, where the War Memorial is on one of the walls. There will still be an act of remembrance, wreaths will still be laid, names read out and a two minutes silence.

To keep everyone safe, the service will be shorter (starting at 10.30), there will be no singing, social distancing will be in place, masks will have to be worn and hands sanitised on entry. The service will be reverent and prayerful, remembering those who gave their lives for us.

St Peter's Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance Sunday 1st November 3pm.



Each year we hold this service for those whom we love and see no longer. Sadly because of the restrictions that are in place on all of us because of the Pandemic- we

thought that it would be safer for everyone to put this service online. 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. **Please visit DAMASCUS parish website, home worship, St Peter's Thanksgiving and Remembrance Service for the link.**

If you are able, and would like to make an individual visit to church that day to place an LED candle in the Lady Chapel in memory of your loved ones, St. Peter's will be open from 12 noon to 4 pm. Members of the church community will be there to welcome you. We all will be wearing masks, keeping social distancing and a place for hand sanitising to help provide a safe environment for us all.

We're planning to have a similar 'live service' of Thanksgiving and Remembrance next May - circumstances permitting.

Rev Meg Heywood.

Street Tag



Street Tag is a new family-friendly game that rewards primary schools, families, individuals and communities for physical activities such as walking, running, and cycling.

Street Tag is turning streets and parks in Oxfordshire into a giant virtual playground. You can play to win rewards for your child's primary school, or as an individual or team of up to six people in Oxfordshire's community league.

Watch your total distance accumulate and see how you far you climb up the local leaderboard. Get ready to push yourself and start your journey to a healthy lifestyle with Street Tag. For more info on how to play, head to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/streettag



The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project

Registered Charity 1098966



Youth & Community Acting Together

The Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project's community work in Drayton is going from strength to strength. Caudwell Close bingo attracted many people out of their homes to safely socialise and have a bit of fun. Our young people are bridging the gap and helping to change the perspectives within their community. Streetwork remains our main way of engaging with the young people so if you have any concerns about your young person please get in touch with the team to arrange a safe socially distant walk to talk.

The team were recently invited to deliver a training webinar for other youth work practitioners by Oxfordshire Youth on creating community connections. The work we have put in during the easing of restrictions has been recognised and applauded and this couldn't have happened without the great people of the Damascus parishes.



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- * Our Covid safe environment
- * Applying for a place
- * Making a donation

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REMEMBRANCE DAY *Let Us Not Forget*

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POPPY APPEAL AND BRANCH AGM

Obtaining a Poppy

We hope most people will wish to wear a poppy in the days leading up to Remembrance Day. We have been informed that house-to-house collections are not permitted this year due to risks of Covid-19. However, there will be trays and collecting tins in various shops from 22 November followed by houses or from behind a table at strategic points with honesty tins.

Remembrance Sunday 8 November.

There will be the usual Service at St Peter's Church, Drayton on Sunday 8 November followed at 1050 by the Act of Remembrance. St Peter's Church is the location of the Village War Memorial, the stone memorial opposite The Wheatsheaf Public House is not the village War Memorial. Please note that social distancing rules will be in force within St Peter's Church. Sadly this year, there will not be a curry lunch after the Service.

Steventon War Memorial Wreath Laying

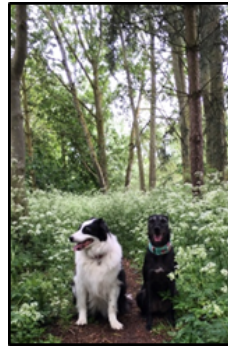
Ceremony on 11 November.

This will take place on the actual Armistice Day at 1050 as usual. All are welcome to attend this short ceremony including the 2 minutes silence but again social distancing rules will apply.

Steventon and District RBL Branch AGM .

In view of the limit of 6 on meetings, the Branch AGM will be held via ZOOM on Monday 16 November 2020 at 7pm. Any member wishing to attend should email the Chairman nickandmaryt@hotmail.com by 11 November, an invitation will then be sent prior to the AGM.

Nick Thompson RBL Branch Chairman. (01235 553775)



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‘Your Mission Starts Here’ – *Spy Oxfordshire* exhibition to open at Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

Opening on Friday 28th October and running until 17th December 2021

The exhibition will shine a light on previously unknown but fascinating local connections to the intelligence world. Oxfordshire intelligence officers were at the heart of the British war effort during the Second World War: from the commandos that knew no fear and wreaked havoc behind enemy lines, to the codebreakers, analysts, and “connectors of the dots” who provided Prime Minister Winston Churchill with unprecedented insights into the Nazi war machine. Everyone featured in the exhibition has been chosen to illuminate a different part of what is called the “Intelligence Cycle”, the process by which intelligence is collected, analysed, produced, and used by the policymaker in the service of protecting national security. In learning the stories of these remarkable men and women, visitors will see that the truth of intelligence is often stranger than the fiction.

While the exhibition will show that intelligence has a lot more layers to it than what we see in spy fiction, there will be plenty to catch the eye of 007 fans eagerly awaiting the release of *No Time To Die*. *Spy Oxfordshire* will feature some iconic film props and replicas on loan to the museum, such as the Walther PPK used by Sean Connery in *Dr. No* and original concept drawings for the PPK/S handgun with dermal sensors - used by Daniel Craig in *Skyfall*.

Winner of October Coffee Break Quiz!

**LOOSE
CANNON**
BREWERY

Congratulations to **C. Yates of Whitehorns Way** who is the lucky winner of the Loose Cannon Brewery prize. As many of you no-

ticed, there were in fact two drinks missing from the grid, not one – so we accepted either ‘coffee’ or ‘Cointreau’, or both, as correct answers. Many thanks to everyone who entered – a great response this month (was it the prize???!). Thanks also for the many nice messages included with the entries – great to hear that The Chronicle is appreciated.

Margaret Inger

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(NAG5) SAFETY CORNER

Information correct at the time of writing, in mid-October.

NHS Covid-19 App

The official contact tracing app is the fastest way of knowing when you're at risk from Covid-19, and you can then let others know. Download the app from the Apple App Store or Google Play. For more information visit the NHS website at: <https://www.nhs.uk/apps-library/nhs-covid-19>

New Mental Health Helpline

- This new helpline has been set up by the Oxfordshire Mental Health Partnership and is available 24-hours, seven days a week. Anyone can call to get direct advice about where they can access the mental health support that's most appropriate for them.
- The helpline number for adults is **0800 783 0119** or **01865 904 997** and for children it's **0800 783 0121** or **01865 904 998**.
- Visit the following link for more information about the helpline at:
<https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/news/24-7-mental-health-helpline-for-buckinghamshire-oxfordshire>
- For more information about the Oxfordshire Mental Health Partnership visit: <http://omhp.org.uk>

Online dating (romance) fraud warning from the police and Action Fraud

- Reports of romance fraud have risen by 26% in the past year, with Action Fraud receiving 400 reports a month from victims in the UK. The total lost by victims between August 2019 and August 2020 was £66,355,239, equating to an average loss per victim of just over £10,000. Reports increased to 600 per month from June to August this year, indicating that the national lockdown may have led to an increase in people meeting and talking to romance fraudsters.
- Criminals are experts at impersonating people and spend hours researching victims for their scams, particularly when committing romance fraud.
- Romance, or dating, fraud occurs when you think you've met the perfect partner online, but they're using a fake profile to form a relationship with you. They gain your trust over a number of weeks or months to encourage you to believe you're in a loving and caring relationship. Their end goal is always to get your money or personal information.

Police forces around the country are working with partners to raise awareness. More information and advice can be found on the Action Fraud and Get Safe Online websites at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/romancefraud?> and <https://www.getsafeonline.org/protecting-yourself/online-dating/>

Keep your online accounts and personal information secure

Get Safe Online has a wealth of information and advice. If you're new to the internet, would like to brush up or skills, or perhaps expand your knowledge, visit Get Safe Online's 'New to the internet' page on their website at <https://www.getsafeonline.org/new-to-internet/>. If you use Facebook the Get Safe Online page has a Facebook Live session every Thursday at 11am at <https://www.facebook.com/GetSafeOnline/>

Neighbourhood Watch

Get to know your neighbours better and feel part of the community by joining Neighbourhood Watch. For more information contact Neighbourhood Watch Area Co-ordinator, Bridget Haffenden, at nhsuttoncourtenay@outlook.com or call 07762 597118.

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



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May 1964, Our year dates were changed from Dec to Dec. now we must run to May. Hence 18 month term. One meeting was lost during the winter of 63, our next meeting was a coffee evening to introduce new members to the way the W.I. works on all levels. During this year our talks included cake icing, Tupperware, needlework pictures, xmas decorations, hairdressing, egg cookery and millinery. The Archives of Windsor Castle were described to us, that would be very interesting! This year we also had a jumble sale and also resurrected our Christmas sale, together they raise £72.15s 9d. £25 was sent to the Almshouse Trust. In the new year a visit to the Chilton Orchid Museum, now sadly gone. The County Council Dressmaking classes were now up and running, held by Rosa Seymour a very good seamstress and teacher.

January 1965 a special meeting was held to discuss the future of our hall, It came about because the hall was second hand when we obtained it forty years ago, and was showing its age. It was needing more than a lick of paint to maintain it and this I think was the beginning of Health and Safety and trying to maintain to these strict rules were too costly for us. The decision was made to offer it to the Parish Council as a Village Hall. The offer was made in January, as no reply was sent some members attended the Annual Parish meeting to ask when a reply to our request would be given!!! After many refusals by the chairman to put it to the meeting we finally got an invite to a meeting in late April only to find it wasn't on the agenda. After a somewhat stormy meeting it was decided to offer the Hall and the Land to the P C. Acceptance was received in June. A consultation with solicitors followed and the Charity Commission was notified, their reply was "as we were a charity we couldn't just give away the building, they suggested that the P C and the W I Trustees should meet and run the Hall between them until situation resolved. The discussions went back and forth for years until it was agreed the Hall would be owned and managed by the Parish. The Drayton Amenities Society was formed to oversee the hall and its running. Had the W I envisaged these problems we may have thought differently.

1965 A combined meeting was held with Shippon, Steventon, Drayton Mothers Union and Young Wives were invited to an Any Questions Quiz, Answers given by 4 men and controlled by a very able question master. The group banner was won by us in May, In November we held a Bazaar with Father Christmas in Snowland this was a great success and raised £54.6s. 8d for funds.

In December we out to dinner at Steventon followed by a game of progressive whist, we also had 3 outings this year to Pavlova leather, Oxford mail and Times and a really big one to The Ideal Home Exhibition, this involved 2 coaches and much organization. This year is the W.I. Golden Jubilee year, all Institutes were asked to make a scrapbook of our village in this year. I have the scrapbook and it is a work of art. How our village has changed. Our member has been voted on to be chairman of Berkshire Federation for a second year and will be attending Buckingham Palace for a garden Party, a great honour.

June 1966 an art exhibition was held so show work done in an art class organized by us, it was very successful. In July the history of Wedgewood was our talk, we also entered the Abingdon Horticultural show and gained fist prize for our display of produce. September, George Pulley spoke on A Policemans Notebook. (he was an old traditional policeman, very like Dixon of Dock Green.) the year carried on with the Christmas bazaar a great success and a wine tasting, most of the ladies walked home in those days so probably all O K if a little Merry. Our first produce Show was held in October this year it took a great deal of organizing but was very well attended and successful. The year ended with another successful Christmas Bazaar.

Anne Webb



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Letter to the Editor:

20 Steventon Rd,
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 OX14 4LE

October 2020

Hello everybody!

thank you so much for buying the quizzes even when they were out of date!! I've never known such a difficult year. Natasha is twenty - One and becoming more and more handicapped. She is very brave + loves to chat on the phone. Her word power improves daily. - She loves to chat and to laugh!

This might be my last year with the quizzes Altogether we have raised £28,000 for her Special Schools since birth, particularly Helen House, Pace + Treloars. The money was

not only quizzes, we put on sales in the hall, Jazz @ concert, golf tournaments, tea parties. Dick made desks for children that went up + down depending on whether they could stand, or sit. + I made ponchos for children in chairs. I've loved doing this! Most of all I'm indebted to my brother in law Don Freeman (who writes the quizzes)

Thank you again
 love
 Judy Herman

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WE NEED YOU

The **DRAYTON CHRONICLE** needs a volunteer or volunteers who would be prepared to act as distributors.

This involves, receiving the delivery of Chronicles from the printers, and dividing them into batches of varying sizes and delivering these to the agents around the village.

Currently our distributors are each doing this no more than four times per year. The more distributors we have the less often each will have to perform the task.

There is also a vacancy for an agent or agents to deliver the Chronicle to 22 homes at the Steventon end of the village, each month.

If you feel that you could help with either of these then please contact; **Carol & Colin Arnold** on **01235 531923** or cullimore3@sky.com and we can arrange for you to shadow one of the existing distributors or agents to enable you to see in depth what is involved.

CHG
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County Report

It seems that the Planning White Paper, consultation and outcome will be pushed back beyond next year's Local Elections. For most of us, this is a relief. If it had gone through unaltered, the implications for our area were many and highly significant. As a potential "Growth area", restrictions around development would be considerably relaxed.



The County Division of Sutton Courtenay and Drayton, which includes Drayton, Appleford, Milton and Shippon, is already under extreme housing pressure. An aerial map of the area shows that there is not much room between each of the settlements. Not much wonder that many residents feel we are in danger of becoming merged into a "Greater Abingdon and Didcot" - rich in employment sites, but unable to move for traffic gridlock.

OCC Highways has been wrestling with the problem of how to manage the increasing pressure on our road system for many years now. So severe has been the problem, that they have been objecting to further development at least until major improvements are in place. The two schemes proposed, based on their traffic modelling - one around Didcot and one at the Frilford Crossroads are at very different stages. Now that the Growth Deal and HIF Fund are signed off, the proposed link road and new bridge over the Thames are funded and, if the planning process goes smoothly (a sizeable "if") these bits of infrastructure will be in place and functioning in 2024. Many still have reservations over the argued benefits of the scheme, but, at least there is a real prospect of some infrastructure being in place *before* the housing. This is something that local politicians on all sides have been calling for years.

Frilford crossroads is at a much earlier stage. Road designs are being worked on, including a Marcham bypass, but there is almost no money in place to pay for it all and certainly not the many millions it will cost. In present circumstances, it is hard to see Government being in a position to provide the funds, so we are all watching this space.

As Sutton Courtenay, Milton, Appleford and a Drayton are discovering, even when the funding *is* in place, a whole lot of other issues emerge.

OCC Highways now say that some housing around Didcot could be allowed because the HIF Bid has been signed. This assumes that we could all cope with extra housing for the 3 years it will take to deliver the infrastructure. I.e. Back to the "infrastructure before housing" argument.

Developers can argue that there is now the capacity for further housing. The new link road and bridge is planned to cope with the 17000 + houses that are being built, and are likely to be built within a 5 mile radius.

Many argue that new roads, in time, simply generate more traffic.

Many others argue that the environmental impact of all the housing and road building will make it impossible to reach any climate change targets.

Others argue that all this focus on our area works against the principle of "levelling up".

And then, of course there is COVID - expected to cost every UK adult £32000 - and that was the end of May estimate.

Perhaps it is time to take a long, hard breath....

Richard Webber Cllr

OCC/VWHDC

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Drayton Harbor, USA and adjacent Semiahmoo Bay make up an Important Bird Area tucked away on the west coast U.S.— Canada border. The quiet, shallow waters come alive in winter, when thousands of waterfowl, including Brant, Northern Pintail, and American Wigeon, gather to feed, shelter, and socialize. What makes the hotspot so special, however, is its proximity to deep water outside the harbor breakwaters. Willingly braving the cold for up-close views of Common, Pacific, and Red-throated Loons, Long-tailed and Harlequin Ducks, and four species of grebe.

I have seen flocks of hundreds of loons flying into Drayton Harbor when the tide changes. A succession of shorebirds, including Western and Least Sandpipers and Dunlin, pass through on migration, and unusual species can turn up anytime. I once was surprised to see a Horned Lark crouching on a breakwater road. Scores of Great Blue Herons, part of the coastal fannini subspecies that is of conservation concern, gather on the bay in breeding season, and Double-crested Cormorants nest near the fishing pier.

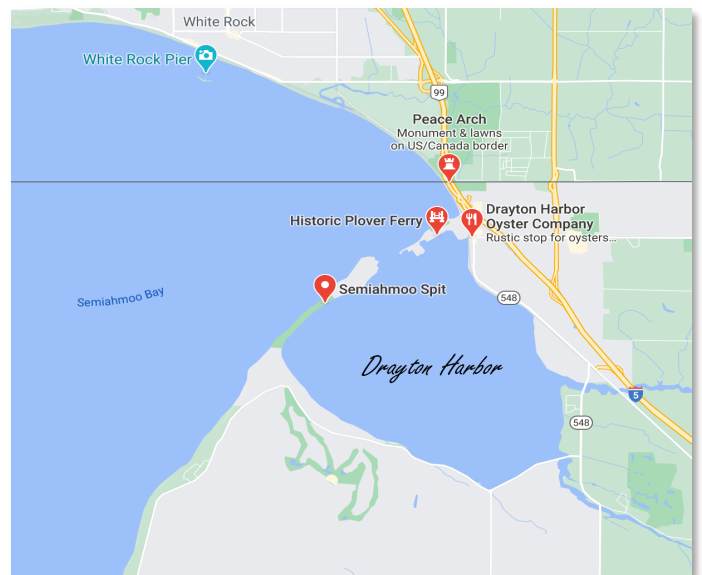
Anne Murray, *Nature Guide to Drayton Harbor and Boundary Bay*



Drayton Harbor Oyster Company; a small, beach-grown and tide-tumbled oyster farm that provides an oyster experience at their local Oyster Bar and Farm. They cultivate and harvest oysters less than a mile from the shop, which allows them to supply a true tide to table freshness.

Native Americans lived in the area around Blaine and Semiahmoo Spit in the centuries before European explorers first passed through in the early 1790s, and in this part of Whatcom County the Semiahmoo – culturally and linguistically a Straits Salish band were predominant. In 1790 the Semiahmoo had a population of about 300.

By the time of the European explorations in the early 1790s, the Semiahmoo had moved their principal village



from Semiahmoo Spit to the shores of Drayton Harbor. They were a peaceful group, not given to warfare unless necessary for defense.

They fished for salmon with reef nets, which were anchored to a reef, with floats attached to the ends of the net to keep it on the surface. Fishermen in canoes attached a rope to the net, and when fish swam into it the fishermen drew the net up. On a good day, they could catch thousands of fish.

In April 1841, a naval expedition led by Lieutenant Charles Wilkes (1798-1877) of the United States Navy sailed around a thin, mile-and-a-half spit north of Birch Bay and into a small, nameless harbor. Wilkes named it **Drayton Harbor**, in honor of civilian artist Joseph Drayton, who had accompanied him on the expedition. Indians and fur traders called the spit Tongue Point; it is now known as Semiahmoo Spit.



Dear Editor,

As we approach the autumn half-term break, I thought I would provide you with a summary of the past few months at our school, as well as setting out some of our plans for the coming months.

Our school community has responded fantastically well to the challenging circumstances we all face. Following the closure of schools in March, our team worked tirelessly to provide remote learning for our 230 pupils. Colleagues swiftly adapted to this new way of working, and though there is no substitute for a child being taught in their classroom, we are very proud of the way that families supported children's

learning. Added to this, staff delivered resources to the homes of pupils who do not have access to the appropriate technology as well as making regular welfare calls to families.

Restrictions began to ease in June which meant that we were able to reopen our school to children in some year groups. Enforcing robust measures, we were able to do this successfully and it was wonderful to see so many smiling faces back in school. In September we reopened our school to all pupils, and we continue to implement a range of strategies geared towards keeping the community safe, including phased drop off and collection times. The most significant change is around the restriction of children in different year groups, or 'bubbles' mixing. However, I am pleased to report that our pupils have very much taken this in their stride. Our school remains a calm and purposeful place in which to learn.

The pandemic and associated restrictions have made us rethink many of the 'set piece' events we would ordinarily run in school. For example, whole school assemblies take place on Zoom, as will our forthcoming parent meetings. With Christmas approaching, we plan on broadcasting our nativity performances in a virtual fashion.


Demand for places at our school remains high, with our Reception class being oversubscribed for several years. Admission to Reception - Year 6 is managed by Oxfordshire County Council. The deadline for making an application for a place in Reception in September 2021 is Friday 15th January 2021. Details on this process can be found here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/infant-and-primary-school>


Ordinarily, we would be well into the routine of welcoming prospective parents into our school for a tour. Unfortunately, under the current circumstances, this is not possible. We are, though, making alternative arrangements and these will be communicated across the community in the coming days.

In the meantime, we welcome enquiries around admissions to our school and these can be made by contacting our office (01235 531316 or office.2560@drayton-pri.oxon.sch.uk)

Thank you for your support - Mr Marc Knight (Headteacher)



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Dear Editor,

Despite not being able to host Macmillan coffee mornings this year we are pleased to report that **£170** has been forwarded to the charity from donations and money paid into the honesty box at our garden gate, for our surplus fruit and veg. A very big thank you to you all.

Yours sincerely,

Liz and Norman Kidd.

Mrs. E. E. Kidd

9 High Street

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(531698)



Drayton, near Banbury

There are two Drayton's in Oxfordshire – or three if you include Drayton St Leonard. The northern Drayton is close to the county boundary with Warwickshire on the A422 to Stratford-upon-Avon. The population of present-day Drayton is just 250 and, like our Drayton, the parish church is dedicated to St Peter. Banbury's expansion has, however, encroached on it and its long history as a viable, independent community is less obvious.

Drayton is recorded in the Domesday Book as belonging to a Saxon thegn, Turchil of Arden. The manor and its estate remained in the Arden family for the next 300 years. For 200 years it then became the seat of the Greville family, a line which ended when one Lewis Greville got hopelessly in debt and sold it. He subsequently murdered the new owner for which he was sentenced to execution by pressing, a grizzly end.

In 1598 the estate was acquired by St Anthony Cope from the nearby village of Hanwell and much of it remained in the family until the death, in 1870, of Elizabeth Sackville-West, great aunt of Vita Sackville-West, the novelist and horticulturalist. In the 20th century, much of the land was sold to Trinity College, Oxford.

Until 1967 the Oxfordshire Ironstone Railway, built during the First World War, ran through Drayton from a quarry in Horley to a junction with the Great Western Railway just north of Banbury. The village is now home to the North Oxford Academy, a co-educational secondary school of some 1000 pupils. Drayton has an attractive, thatched pub, the Roebuck, which continues to trade in these difficult times.

Wikipedia is the principal source for the information and illustrations in this article

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Dear all,



I hate always having to open with Covid-related stuff, but unfortunately I'm still going to have to for a short while.

The second wave is well and truly under way, but at the time of writing (Monday 19th October), there MAY be early signs that it has been brought to a peak. It would be very good if this meant we didn't end up with a "circuit-breaker" short lockdown (although while I'm writing this, it does look worryingly possible. By the time you're reading this, we'll know either way). Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse remain in Tier 1 at the moment (Medium risk).

If Oxfordshire DOES have to go to a higher Tier, the Government have confirmed that businesses can claim grants after TWO weeks of closure (not three, as they'd originally said), with a sliding scale of grants based on rateable value. Full details on our Vale Covid grants pages here: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/business-and-economy/business-rates/financial-support-during-covid-19/>

We're not anticipating that the shielding programme will be restarting immediately, but we have taken steps to prepare for it if it does come about. As I said above, I'm hopeful that the second wave MAY already have peaked (fingers crossed).

Vaccines

Vaccine news has been extremely promising, with two very strong vaccine candidates (Oxford/AstraZeneca and Pfizer) now looking to be presenting their findings in November.

I have heard people worrying that the speed of development might mean that safety corners have been cut: they haven't. The main element that's been removed from the timeline is the normally inevitable lengthy waiting around period between each phase and element of research and testing (write a contract for the equipment, check it, send it out to tender, wait for responses, assess them, let the contract, wait for equipment, set it up, check it works, produce the minimal amount required for the next stage, carry out the next stage, go through all the above for a larger scale test, wait even longer, especially for production, and so on).

In this case, and thanks to the urgency, it was more a case of "you need equipment, well here you go, whatever you want is now waiting for you, now ramp up to full scale and produce absolutely everything you might need and if you don't need it or it's not right and you have to throw loads away, never mind." This allows them to focus straight on trials for safety and effectiveness.

And, in any case, the Oxford vaccine, partly inspired by the way the flu vaccine is amended every year, was designed as one that could be easily modified. It's actually been in train for 12 years and the fact that it had been optimised for another coronavirus a few years back (MERS – testing wasn't completed because the disease was brought under control anyway, and not only was no-one willing to stump up the funds to test a vaccine against a disease that was under control, there weren't enough people catching the virus to carry out tests!).

In short – the bits that have been taken out of the timeline were the ones involving sitting around and waiting for contracts, finances, equipment delivery and construction, production of small amounts rather than large amounts, and so on – and at least one of the leading vaccines has had most of it tested over 12 years, anyway.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

We're working with the County Council on a project to instal Electric Vehicle charging points in a range of public car parks next year. The county council have set up a survey to gather data on residents opinions on electric vehicles, which will inform decisions on public charging infrastructure across Oxfordshire. It's available here: https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult/ti/Park_and_Charge/answerQuestionnaire?

Homelessness

Our Housing Needs team has secured £130,000 across South and Vale to provide support and accommodation for people made homeless as a result of the pandemic. We've managed to prevent (prevention is better than remedy) nearly 80% of potential homelessness cases (for comparison, the average in South East England is 54.9%), which is good – but we'd prefer that to be 100% prevention.

Expressway

Following the encouraging signs that the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway (which, if we recall, would have simply involved increasing the HGV traffic up the A34 by over 1.3 million extra movements per year without any further facilities, no supporting infrastructure for the area (such as the road network around and supporting the Expressway) but an extra 100,000 homes without infrastructure required) might have been kicked into the long grass, we wrote to the Government asking for an update.

Their response was essentially "We're thinking, and we'll get back to you when we get around to it."

It did feel a bit of a brush off, but it's possible that no news is good news in this case.

All the best, and take care,

Andy Cooke



Chicken and Seafood Paella

- 1 tbs olive oil
- 2 skinless chicken thighs cut into bite sized pieces
- 1 small onion (diced)
- 1 small red pepper (diced)
- 1 clove garlic (smashed, peeled and chopped)
- 1 small chorizo sausage (skinned and sliced)
- 1 tsp paprika (optional for extra spice)
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 150g Paella or Risotto rice
- 200g chopped tomatoes
- 450ml chicken stock
- 200g frozen seafood
- Handful of flat-leaved parsley (roughly chopped)
- 1/2 lemon juice and wedges

Heat the olive oil in a large frying pan or wok. Add the onion, pepper and soften for 5 mins.

Add the chicken, chorizo, smoked paprika (if using), thyme and sauté for a few minutes until the chicken is coloured all over.

Add the paella rice, stir for 1 min, then splash in some optional sherry. Once evaporated, stir in the chopped tomatoes and chicken stock.

Simmer, uncovered, for about 15 mins, stirring now and again until the rice is almost tender and still surrounded with some liquid.

Stir in the seafood mix and cover with a lid. Simmer for 5 mins, or until the seafood is cooked through and the rice is tender and has absorbed all the liquid. Do not stir as the best bit is the crunchy bottom. Squeeze over some lemon juice and scatter over the parsley and serve with the lemon wedges. (Serves 2-3)

Drayton Hall News

Hopefully, at the time of writing (about 3 weeks into Oct), this area won't get shifted into one of the Govt's higher 'tiers' of Lock-down rules now affecting much of London & Essex, plus various parts of the Midlands & North. IF that stays the same – famous last words?! – then our groups that have edged back into life won't be further affected.

As I said last month, 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. However, they are hampered by their particular guidelines re distancing (usually coming from a National Association that's consulted with Govt), 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.

We have gained a new group, the 'Heights Tramp & Gym' club (welcome to leader Debbie Saw), as their usual centre isn't available as yet. They're in on Sat mornings, for youngsters, in two age bands. They may also take up a slot on Tuesday afternoons, (after school), for a few weeks leading up towards Christmas, as it seems there is sufficient demand.



Artweeks May Festival 2021

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- May exhibitions will be required to be COVID-SECURE.
- If circumstances cause last minute wholesale changes as they did this year, venues will then be able to choose to mark themselves as Open/Open by Appointment only (as well as postponed/closed).
- Alongside the physical festival, Oxfordshire Artweeks will host a virtual festival over the same period.
- As it is unlikely the festival guide can be distributed in print in the normal way in 2021, it will be produced in digital versions only.

DATES for the 2021 festival are 1st–23rd May, North Oxfordshire May 1st -9th [3rd Bank Holiday Monday] Oxford City May 8th - 16th and South Oxfordshire May 15th – 23rd.

Driving theory test for those of us who never had to pass one!



You are driving along a road that is lit by streetlights, but there are no signs to tell you what the speed limit is. In these circumstances, the speed limit is usually:

- A. 30 mph
- B. 40 mph
- C. 50 mph

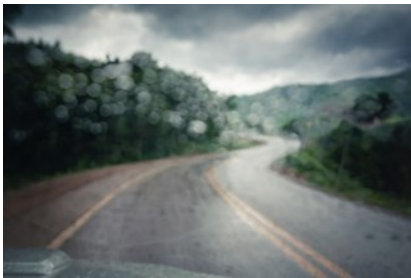
At what times must you avoid non-emergency horn usage in a built-up area?

- A. There are no restrictions
- B. Between the hours of 11.30pm – 7.00am
- C. Between the hours of 7.00pm – 7.00am

There has been an accident and you are first on the scene. What is your immediate action?

- A. Assess and address any hazards present
- B. Call 999 or 112
- C. Remove any casualties from the vehicle

You are driving along when you come to an area that



is flooded. You drive through it but then you need to drive off your brakes. How do you do this?

- A. Pull over and wait 30 minutes
- B. Drive slowly and gently apply brakes when safe to do so
- C. Speed up and brake hard 3 times

When should you update your V5C?

- A. After an accident
- B. After moving to a new house
- C. When you get a new MOT

You are driving in heavy rain. Your stopping distance is likely to be?

- A. Twice the distance from normal conditions
- B. 4 times the distance from normal conditions
- C. 5 times the distance from normal conditions

If you must slow down quickly on a motorway due to a hazard, should you:

- A. Carry out a slow down signal with your arm out of the window
- B. Turn on your hazard warning lights
- C. Sound your horn



Which of these might be severely affected if the tyres are underinflated?

- A. Braking
- B. Gear changing
- C. Suspension



During and after torrential rain, the motorway is causing you visibility problems. Spray is affecting your view of the motorway and affecting general driving conditions. What should you do?

- A. Turn on your hazard warning lights
- B. Turn on your full beams
- C. Turn on dipped beams

While traveling within the legal speed limit, the head-



lights of the car behind flash. What should you do?

- A. Keep driving at the correct speed
- B. Indicate and pull over
- C. Speed up



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